MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

August 22, 2016
Mizzou's freshman class is smaller but hopes are high, following a tumultuous year
By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, Mo. • It may have been happenstance that the person who helped Mallorie Gregory unload her son’s things from her car into his new University of Missouri dormitory was the student body president.

But she saw an opportunity. Her son, Jalyn Powell, is African-American, and so is the campus’ undergraduate student leader, Sean Earl. So she made sure they discussed the racial tension and tumult that has come to define Mizzou’s most recent year.

“It was a light conversation, but I had to address the elephant in the room,” Gregory said.

She asked Earl about the social climate on the Columbia campus following a slew of protests that occurred last fall, centered largely around matters of race. The events triggered the downfall of the school’s top two leaders — as well as deep divisions within and outside the campus community.

In the aftermath, recruitment efforts have been rattled, resulting in projections of the smallest incoming freshman class in almost a decade.

Gregory described herself as a concerned, aware parent but said she is more than confident that the campus is a good environment for her son.

She still had probing questions for the student body president during freshman move-in day Wednesday.
“I asked him if people are still hurting, and he assured me that the campus is in a place of healing,” said Gregory, who drove in from Mount Prospect, Ill., a northwest Chicago suburb. “He had a lot of hope.”

Campus recruiters say the events of the past year have created dual recruitment challenges — ones that might hinder black and white students alike from attending a campus that many have equated with strained race relations.

But as students moved in last week, the parents of several incoming freshmen said the recent campus tumult was not a deterrent to enrolling their children.

**Mizzou move-in day**

It’s move-in day at Mizzou! Students carry in truckloads of clothes, comfort items and things they can’t leave home without as the begin a new school year.

Elliott Jones’ daughter transferred to MU from Louisiana State University. The change made sense because the family had recently moved to O’Fallon, Mo.

“We were aware of the social unrest,” said Jones, who is African-American. “We won’t let that perturb the spirit of education.”

Bob Kernell used to live in Columbia before moving to Kansas City. He moved his youngest son to Mizzou, the family’s home away from home during football season.

“I think there were poor decisions all around (last fall),” said Kernell, who is white. “It doesn’t matter what side. But I know Columbia is safe, and my son has been a Tiger from the start.”

Incoming students say they aren’t fazed either.

Meghan Nothdurft, who is white, said she thinks college campuses are arguably the bedrock for these types of discussions and protests.
“I get that it’s a bigger deal, but I’m from St. Louis, and I’m around this (discussion) all of the time,” said the Hazelwood resident.

And she’s right. It is a bigger deal. Amid the protests, University of Missouri System president Timothy M. Wolfe resigned, and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin also left his office, for a lesser, research-oriented role.

Politically, the events triggered diverging narratives. Conservatives, including many in the Missouri Legislature, sharply criticized the school for capitulating to the demands of a few. They point to Melissa Click, an assistant professor who gained infamy when captured on video threatening a student photographer during the campus protests, as Exhibit A of a liberal campus run amok.

That sentiment, campus leaders have previously said, has hurt recruitment in some rural areas.

But so too, have Mizzou leaders been concerned about luring African-American students, who bring lingering concerns about last year’s incidents of racism.

Mark Myers, an African-American man whose youngest daughter is enrolling as a freshman, said he was impressed with the way the student body pulled together, and he largely liked the way the university handled the issues on campus last fall. He was able to get more than just headline news from his older daughter, who was a senior journalism student last year, he says.

His freshman daughter, Morgan, received a diversity scholarship and plans to study nursing. She said her sister helped convince her that she was making the right decision coming to Columbia from their home in Glenwood, Ill., a southern suburb of Chicago.

“I was a little nervous at first,” she said. “That happens everywhere. It’s just not highlighted, or maybe people don’t stand up for it like they do at Mizzou.”
Other challenges

The final count of the incoming freshman class and overall enrollment won’t be known until Monday, the first day of classes. In May, the university reported 4,738 students paid the required enrollment fee. That’s down from 6,209 students who paid the fee during fall 2015. Officials say at least some of the decline in freshmen is due to demographic trends that have resulted in a smaller pool of high school graduates.

Enrollment is just a part of the challenge Mizzou faces in the upcoming year.

For starters, the school is under the direction of temporary leadership.

Michael Middleton, who previously served as Mizzou’s deputy chancellor, is now the interim leader of the University of Missouri system while a search for his replacement continues. The hope is to have a replacement by the end of 2016. The top spot at Mizzou, meanwhile, is occupied by Interim Chancellor Hank Foley. Athletic Director Mack Rhoades departed in July and was recently replaced by Jim Sterk.

Ideally, those leaders are seeking not only to stabilize the campus, but to make progress on an agreement on race relations, student recruitment and hiring that was born from last year’s protests. The eight-point agreement, which some experts have called unrealistically ambitious, calls for administrators to increase the number of black faculty and staff on campus to 10 percent by the 2017-18 school year from 2.8 percent last year.

Middleton has said that working toward those goals is a priority but has yet to outline specifics for how to proceed. The first step on Mizzou’s campus was the creation of the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, to which the administration pledged $1.5 million to help get training, programming and other needs off the ground.

On Friday afternoon, UM System officials sent a brief statement about the coming year.
“We are excited to once again celebrate the UM System’s core mission of teaching, research and service, our commitment to the constant improvement of the university experience for all of our students, and the remarkable resilience of Missouri’s premiere public university illustrated by our 177 years of being an asset to the state of Missouri,” Middleton said in the emailed statement.

Administrators at Mizzou were not available to comment for this story to discuss the significance of the coming school year or plans to continue to address concerns that were raised about diversity and inclusion last fall.

A campus kickoff event later this month is the students’ chance to hear from administrators on what they’ve been planning this summer, according to an email announcement that went out to the campus.

According to the email, Foley will discuss “new initiatives.” Missouri Students Association President Sean Earl said that is part of a larger rebranding effort.

Earl said he is largely pleased with the amount of progress made during the summer by campus leaders, even though most of the administrators are holding interim roles. He called Foley’s tenure “refreshing.”

“He’s interim, but he’s not just going to sit there,” Earl said.

Engaging students

For students, however, Earl said this year is about engaging the student voice.

“Leaders are so receptive to student input right now,” he said. “They take the student voice seriously after everything that happened. That heightens student responsibility. We have opportunities to sit on committees and voice our opinions, but only so many (students) are willing to do that. If we want to make a change, we have to do our part.”
Maya Hill, an incoming freshman from Kansas City, sounds like the new student Earl is looking for.

Hill said she saw coming to MU as an opportunity to be part of the solution. As an African-American woman, Hill hopes she can use her voice to help move the university through this time.

“I think it’s always exciting when you’re part of a solution,” she said. “I could have run away from Mizzou or written it off as them going through something that I don’t want to deal with, but by being there and voicing my thoughts, I get to be part of the solution.”

Hill comes to Mizzou from a private school background where she said she didn’t see “the racial turmoil that’s happened in the community” around her.

“It’s hitting me like a train now, though, because I’m going to a school with 30,000 individuals who are dealing with these changes and challenges. These are things I haven’t had to talk about before.”

Legislators hope for a quiet year at Mizzou, focused on learning
By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Legislators were among the biggest critics of the University of Missouri last year. Two state representatives from Columbia, both vying for the Boone County state Senate seat, are hoping this year will be different.

“Generally speaking, it is my hope that we use the University of Missouri less as a political football in the years to come,” said Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia. “I think both sides are guilty of that.”
Rowden said there is no shortcut “to regain the trust, short of doing the job and doing it well,” but he is confident in Mizzou’s interim leaders.

“We’ve been producing competent students in the workplace for decades as the premier higher education institution in the state, and we will continue to do so, and that has to be the story going forward,” he said.

Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, agrees that the positive things happening around campus took a back seat last year, and he hopes that doesn’t happen again.

“There’s a lot to work on, but there are literally thousands of great things going on that we didn’t hear about last year,” Webber said. “People need to remember that every day students are going to class, developing new skills, and thousands are graduating each year and going into the workforce.”

A Legislature-appointed committee is investigating the University of Missouri system and continues its work reviewing administrative structure, governing rules and diversity programs, among other things.

Among those on the eight-person University of Missouri Review Commission are former UM System President Gary Forsee and Jeanne Sinquefield, who serves on the university’s Steering Committee and is married to GOP mega-donor Rex Sinquefield.

**Mizzou alumni plan to mentor, keep an open mind this year**

*By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Open heart, open ears and open eyes are what Ted Ayres said he’s bringing as the Mizzou Alumni Association president following the tumultuous fall 2015 on campus.
The alumni association is growing, too, with support this year from the newly revamped Black Alumni Network. During its inaugural year, African-American alumni membership increased by 12.5 percent.

Ayres said his hope for the year is to listen to students and find ways that alumni can help students with areas of need, from mentorships to scholarships.

“There were a lot of alumni who didn’t understand, didn’t agree and were unhappy after last year, and that’s putting it mildly,” he said. “I’ve heard some alumni say directly or indirectly that they don’t want to have anything to do with the university again. Unfortunately, that mentality loses sight of the bigger picture, but people are free to make those decisions.”

Those alumni who are still around are the ones who remember how important the university is socially, economically and financially, Ayres said. He looks forward to working with them.

Erika Harrison, chair of the Mizzou Black Alumni Network, said the “eyes of the world” are upon the university, and the coming year is MU’s chance to shine.

“I told people we can get mad at the school and cut them off, or we can be active in changing it to make it better for the next generation,” Harrison said. More than 1,000 African-American alumni have chosen the latter alongside Harrison. “We’ve all had varying experience but we still love our alma mater.”

The network, which existed before but hasn’t been active for several years, will provide scholarships and a mentoring program that is still in the works.

Both Harrison and Ayres work in higher education. Harrison is an equal opportunity specialist at the University of Houston, and Ayres is the director of community engagement and opportunity and general counsel emeritus at Wichita State University.
Mizzou faculty look toward diversity requirement, free speech committee this fall

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The University of Missouri faculty council’s committee on student affairs has had a busy year.

But the entire reason the faculty is there is for the students, faculty council chairman Ben Trachtenberg said, so it’s time well spent.

Like others, Trachtenberg hopes the coming year will be an opportunity to continue to highlight what Mizzou does well, such as education and research. But he’s not diminishing the importance of discussing what happened last year and how to move forward as a campus.

Faculty members are paying close attention to a trial effort by the College of Arts and Sciences to enforce a diversity course requirement.

The effort is still in planning stages as the college looks to identify which courses should count to fulfill a diversity requirement.

The concept is similar to the requirement that students take writing-enhanced classes.

The faculty council is also involved in a joint committee with administrators and students to address free speech, protests and public spaces on campus. Before the summer, the committee drafted a list of rules that the campus community can give input on through the coming months.
Trachtenberg said the idea came from a level of uncertainty last fall about what the rules were during protests. He used the example of while protesting is allowed, it's not OK to do so in an ambulance bay or in a classroom where students are taking an exam. The rules also provide details about reserving campus spaces.

“Some amount of line drawing is necessary,” he said. “There are constitutional constraints on what a public university can regulate, and so this needed to be done carefully.”

Former student leader, activist hopes for change for his alma mater

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The University of Missouri has empowered campuses across the nation to have a voice on issues involving diversity and inclusion, according to former student leader and activist Payton Head.

After graduation, he joined the National Campus Leadership Council in Washington as a policy fellow. Head also contributes to the Huffington Post.

“This is a chance for administration to restore faith not only for the students but for the nation,” Head said. “People are looking at Mizzou right now and wondering what they’ve done with the time they’ve been given.”

Head keeps tabs on his alma mater. His good friend, Sean Earl, succeeded him as the president of the Missouri Students Association.
Though many of the student activists who protested meetings, parades and all over the campus have graduated, Head said there are still activists on campus who are monitoring the progress by the university and who could protest again.

“I hope that everyone has had time to reflect, time to heal of course and time to think about what’s important,” he said. “This was about the student experience.”

Head was among the first to protest, but he still describes MU as “an incredible place to grow.”

He works with student governments nationwide now who are working through diversity issues, similar to MU. Those rarely reach the level of national publicity that the Columbia campus did.

“Stuff goes on down there, but it’s a model, too,” Head said. “It’s important to be an example — that’s why we’re the ‘Show-Me State.’”

Eryn Harris: Finding her voice and giving a new meaning to self-love

When she was 10 years old, Eryn Harris and her family visited an aquarium while on a trip to Atlanta. Harris asked to borrow her mother’s camera to photograph the jellyfish. She was immediately fascinated with the camera. That allure continues today as she pursues a digital storytelling degree at Mizzou.

When she came to Mizzou, she planned to follow in her father’s footsteps by pursuing a business marketing degree. While growing up in Florissant, Harris admired her father’s work as a sales manager for Pepsi, Dr Pepper and Snapple.
“I wanted to do what he did,” she said.

Her first semester at MU consisted mostly of math and economics courses, as is usual for a business marketing major. While exploring elective course possibilities to take in the spring semester of her freshman year, Harris came across a digital production class taught by Katina Bitsicas.

“As soon as I saw that, I knew I wanted to try that class out,” Harris said.

She took the class, liked it and then enrolled in the advanced digital production course. Harris soon realized it was time to switch majors. “I found something I love,” she said.

The first project Harris worked on as part of her new major was a piece she titled “This is Me.” In the video, nine women speak candidly about insecurities they have had about their bodies.

“I’m big in promoting the idea of loving yourself,” Harris said. “In order to love yourself, you also have to appreciate your flaws. All of these girls share their stories about how they went through different insecurities.”

In the video, all nine women remain on screen – in nine separate boxes – throughout the video, each taking her turn describing insecurities she has experienced. “I wanted to portray it as the ladies were listening to each other,” Harris said.

“The viewer is able to connect with the honest statements the women make on screen,” Bitsicas said. “Eryn’s use of timing in the work, where a conversation between the women forms on screen, allows a place for the viewer to insert themselves into the work.”

At the end of the piece, the tone shifts as one of the women talks about all of the things she loves about herself. “I am so uniquely and marvelously made in God’s eyes,” the woman says, “and that’s how it’s supposed to be.”
Harris entered “This is Me” into the Rewriting Realities contest, sponsored by the Multicultural Certificate, and won first place in the digital storytelling category.

Another project of Harris’ titled “My Queen” is a narration of a poem. In “My Queen” a woman is shown on screen throughout the piece while a man’s voice is heard reading the poem, which was written by recent Mizzou alumnus Wycla Bratton.

“It’s the opposite of my first piece,” Harris says. “It shines a light on the African-American woman and shows how valued, appreciated and cherished she truly is. It is a man appreciating a woman, not just for her looks but for the way she carries herself and the things that she inspired him to do.”

Harris’ best asset, according to Bitsicas, is the ability to take an idea and translate it into a visual work in multiple media.

“She doesn’t think of her ideas in a cut-and-dry fashion,” Bitsicas said, “but rather is open to exploring multiple facets of her ideas. She isn’t afraid to explore the tough concepts and make the viewer think about the issue in a new way.”

Harris’ stories come from what she finds important to her as a young woman.

“I’m inspired by your everyday hard-working woman, who is often overlooked or torn down by others,” she said. “My goal is to give a new meaning to self-worth, self-love and being a woman.”
MU classes start Monday amid projections of lower enrollment

By Roger McKinney

Sunday, August 21, 2016 at 12:00 am

The school year opens Monday at the University of Missouri with what likely will be the smallest incoming freshman class in 10 years.

MU officials have projected about 1,400 fewer first-time freshmen than last year, for a class size of 4,800.

However, the number of students on campus to start the semester won’t be known until a first-day count that takes place Monday, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Overall, about 2,600 fewer students are expected to attend MU classes this fall than last year. Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and other MU leaders have cited numerous factors to explain the drop, from changing demographics to more competition in recruiting high school graduates to the leadership turmoil and student protests over race issues last semester that made national headlines.

The reduced enrollment has led to large budget cuts and hiring freezes, and officials caution the smaller class sizes could be the new normal. This year’s reduced enrollment might cost the university $36 million in lost tuition.

First-year business students, unfazed by the unrest, on Friday were settling in to their rooms at the new Brooks Hall, which will house 293 students at 1007 Tiger Ave.

As the new residence hall opens, another one is under construction, to open in the 2017 fall semester.

Two residence halls, Laws and Lathrop halls, with 680 total beds, are permanently closed, to be demolished by August 2017.

Excellence Hall won’t be used this academic year, based on the projections of decreased enrollment. Part of Respect Hall, which also was to be shuttered, will be used to house single graduate students and for short-term guest housing, Basi said.
Sean Lirot of Chicago and Scott Brainard of Kansas City, Kan., are roommates at Brooks Hall.

“We have a nice view of the football stadium from our window,” Lirot said.

Both said their decisions to attend MU were not affected by the protests on campus last year that resulted in the resignation of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe. MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned the same day amid faculty dissatisfaction with his performance and protests by graduate student assistants seeking better pay and benefits.

Brainard said he already had made his decision about a university and that nothing he heard or read changed his mind.

“I thought it had a good business school,” Lirot said of MU.

Mark Patzius of Wildwood said he paid attention to the protests on campus but that the turbulent fall of 2015 and its aftermath wasn’t a deal-breaker. He said he had visited the MU campus many times and that he loves the atmosphere. He said his older siblings also attended MU.

“I knew what a great town Columbia was,” he said.

The five-story Brooks Hall on the southwest corner of campus has an area of 89,061 square feet. Single rooms are about 145 square feet, and double rooms are about 195 square feet. The building uses water conservation methods and a solar water-heating system.

Brooks Hall and the residence hall being built next to it cost $39.2 million to construct.

Basi said there still were about 650 available spaces in residence halls at the end of last week.

“We anticipate additional requests for housing now and through the first week of classes,” Basi said.

MU students hopeful for university's comeback in new school year

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=fd530c8a-ed66-47a0-b05c-f7a49cc24cca
COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Classes at the University of Missouri will officially begin Monday, but early projections say there could be fewer students on campus this year than in years past.**

Although the official numbers won't be out until mid October, the university started preparing toward the end of the 2016 school year.

University spokesperson Christian Basi told ABC 17 News back in April that the decline itself counts for $20 million dollars of a $32 million budget shortfall.

From the November protests to multiple department heads leaving to a reduced university budget, Mizzou had some new significant challenges to face.

ABC 17 News spoke with students on campus a day before the new school year starts to get their reactions. A majority of the students were very hopeful that the university would make a comeback.

"Everyone around here seems to love it, so I would say as long as your students are happy that's the no. 1 thing for sure," Joey Kuhlman, a junior majoring in Political Science said, "I think we're in a good place right now."

However, one student that ABC 17 News spoke with says he doesn't think the university will make a comeback, saying the university's reputation is over.

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**MISSOURIAN**

**Class of 2020 'walk' into their future at MU**

GRACE HASE, 9 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **A group of students symbolically walked into their future at MU on Sunday evening. Or at least, they thought they were going to walk.**
"It was a lot more physical activity than I expected," Caroline Apel said with a laugh. "I thought it would be a walk, but it was more of a jog."

The Tiger Walk, which has been an MU tradition since 1995, occurs before classes begin as a way of welcoming freshmen into the university. Students run through the columns toward Jesse Hall, and are met with Buck’s Tiger Stripe Ice Cream on the other side. This year, it was the class of 2020’s turn.

Before the band started playing and the "M-I-Z's" and "Z-O-U's" began, new students waited eagerly, unsure of what to expect.

"I'm going to try not to get trampled," Madison Sturr said.

Nick Leiser also wasn't sure what to expect, but said he was still excited to be there. He's from Minnesota, and didn't know anyone at MU when he arrived.

"I know it's a tradition, so why not follow a tradition?" Leiser said.

After black and gold balloons floated into the air, a sea of thousands of freshmen stood in front of Jesse Hall, chattering about what had just happened.

Austin Jacobs was one of the first people to make his way through the MU Columns.

"It was a lot of fun," Jacobs said. "I was right at the front, so we were leaving right as the climax of it was happening. It was a lot of energy."

Lily Grant, who is a freshman and a Columbia native, was happy she finally got to be a part of the MU tradition she heard so much about growing up.

"I think it's very unique to our university. I had never been," Grant said. "I wanted to be a part of as many freshman activities as I could be, especially since I'm not living on campus."

Freshman Sierra Ashton was thoroughly pleased as she ate her ice cream.
"I thought it was really cool," Ashton said. "It was crazier than I thought, kind of like Black Friday."

Fellow Tigers,

Congratulations on being a part of the proudest family in the Southeastern Conference! At the University of Missouri-Columbia, we strive to promote a campus culture of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence. As we come out of an unprecedented year, we want you all to know that we can only progress as a community with every student doing their part to promote an inclusive environment.

As you embark on your journey this year, take the time to get know your fellow students and get involved on campus. Mizzou has so much to offer, and it is up to you to take advantage of every opportunity that is offered! Tradition is a major part of the Mizzou community; our university has a long history, some parts better than others, but some of our history has set the tide for our nation. We encourage you to get involved with our traditions, such as Tiger Walk, athletic events, Homecoming, etc.; make the most of these moments and seize every single day. Mizzou and the Missouri Students Association are dedicated to creating an inclusive campus for every student to feel empowered, and to help them know that they are valued here. We are stronger when we work together, and together we can make Mizzou a better place for everyone.

With the class of 2020 coming in, we are preparing ourselves for a fresh start. I look forward to all of the amazing things that we as students will accomplish this year. If there is anything that myself or other members in MSA can do for you, please feel free to email us at msa@missouri.edu.

Fight Tiger!

Sincerely, Sean Earl MSA President
America in crisis: Author says we've seen it before

Generated from News Bureau press release: When Facing Crisis, American Democracy has Always Risen to the Challenge

Americans see their nation in a steep slide, polls reveal, crashing down in a heap of wanting leadership, dysfunctional lawmakers and out-of-touch policies. Only doom can follow the gloom.

Not so fast, Dr. Alasdair Roberts says.

True, survey respondents have consistently put the United States on the sinking side of “right track/wrong track” questions. Most recently, 6 in 10 Americans have the nation heading in a bad direction.

But Roberts, a professor at the University of Missouri’s Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, thinks the United States has experienced this direness in the past and came out of it just fine.

“We’ve gone through this before,” he said in a telephone interview from Columbia. “There’s a trough where things look bad, where the mood of the country is very sour. And that’s partly because we’re still trying to sort out what the problem is and no one has figured out a formula, figured out a story that explains how the country moves forward.”

His latest book, “Four Crises of American Democracy,” speaks to exactly this point. He identifies periods in the nation’s history when citizens doubted their system of government. The current situation, the professor said, requires context.
“We’ve gone through these moments of democratic malaise before,” Roberts said. “It’s about the country rethinking the paradigm that defines what government does and what the goals of government ought to be.”

One of these times came in the 1970s, when President Jimmy Carter, in a speech to the American people, said the nation suffered from “paralysis and stagnation and drift.” (Though popularly regarded as his “malaise” speech, the professor pointed out, Carter never actually used that word.)

Roberts said that such troubling times have not proven fatal to the United States. Rather, these moments in history led to democratic shifts that required time to sort themselves out.

In what Roberts calls the “crisis of discipline,” Americans in the 1970s feared the government had become burdened with demands impossible to accommodate.

This led to three decades of government rollbacks, beginning in the Ronald Reagan administration and continuing with the presidency of Bill Clinton, who announced in his 1996 State of the Union Address that “the era of big government is over.”

Voters today find themselves not entirely comfortable with the small-government model, Roberts said, but also skeptical about federal agencies being able to competently deal with problems.

“People are not happy with the paradigm that has governed public policy for the last 30 years,” he said. “They want to go in a new direction, but we’re still not quite sure what that direction is.”

Roberts also cites the “crisis of mastery,” from 1917 to 1947, driven by concerns over the nation’s economy and national defense, and the “crisis of anticipation,” more current and propelled by pessimism that government can’t respond to long-term issues like immigration and climate change.
Writing about the “crisis of representation,” the author looks at a time between 1890 and 1920 when many Americans believed the system favored the rich. Women could not vote, nor could most African-Americans.

“What’s going on in that period is lots of people saying democracy is a sham. To borrow (Donald) Trump’s words, I suppose, the system is rigged,” Roberts said. “The rhetoric we’ve heard lately about the power of the 1 percent, that’s actually a concept that was brought into play at that time.”

Author of five previous books, Roberts got his law degree at the University of Toronto and earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in public policy at Harvard University. He serves as co-editor of the scholarly journal Governance.

“Four Crises of American Democracy” will be published in December by Oxford University Press.

MU to hold active shooter training as classes officially begin

Watch story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=dbc9262f-151f-45c6-a345-9a4fc2f43e00

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri will hold the first of two active shooter trainings Monday.

Tomorrow’s training will coincide with the start of fall classes at Mizzou.

The event will take place at 10:30 a.m. at Jesse Hall on Mizzou's campus. The second training is happening September 12th.
Both trainings will be hosted by Mizzou’s Division of Operations, the MU Police Department and the Department of Emergency Management.

MU officials say they want everyone to have the opportunity to learn how to react in the event of a violent attack.

Last spring, safety officials at the university also filmed an active shooter training video.

Both trainings are free and open to the public.

All That Annoying Fidgeting You Do Might Actually Be Good for Your Health


Researchers at the University of Missouri have found that people with restless, fidgety legs may have an advantage in one key area of their health. A triumph for those of us who feel constantly judged for our jittery tendencies.

One-year countdown for total eclipse of the sun begins Sunday

EMMA BEYER, Aug 19, 2016

COLUMBIA — Sunday marks the one-year countdown to the first total eclipse of the sun in Columbia since July 1442.
As a "prequel" to the solar eclipse, MU professor Angela Speck will be giving away special glasses to safely view the solar eclipse and selling promotional T-shirts and baseball caps from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the Orr Street Farmers and Artisans Market in the North Village Arts District.

The eclipse booth also will feature two telescopes equipped to let the public safely view the sun.

Speck, professor of astrophysics and director of astronomy at MU, has been preparing for years for the Aug. 21, 2017, eclipse.

The "path of totality" — a 70-mile-wide band — begins in Oregon and runs diagonally across the U.S. to South Carolina. Columbia is situated in the heart of the path of totality: The sun will go behind the moon for 2 minutes and 37 seconds.

Speck believes Columbia, with its central location and hospitality industry, will become a magnet for eclipse watchers and scientists. She's creating a social media campaign to raise awareness using the hashtags #Eclipse2017 and #SkySelfie.

"It's going to be huge," Speck said.

Amy Schneider of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau said there will be at least two organized venues for viewing the eclipse. One will feature entertainment; the other will be more for "serious views," she said. Both venues will feature food and bathrooms.

The locations haven't been finalized, but Speck said Cosmopolitan Park and Columbia Regional Airport are under consideration.

"This is an unprecedented event," Schneider said. "We don't know how many people will come."
MU Astronomers Demonstrate Upcoming Solar Eclipse


Mizzou announces softball coach Ehren Earleywine will remain

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

COLUMBIA - Missouri formally concluded a 4 1/2 -month investigation Friday into alleged verbal abuse of players by softball coach Ehren Earleywine, who will remain coach of the Tigers.

Earleywine, who The Star reported Thursday would be retained, said he was relieved to see the process come to a close.

“I deeply regret the attention this has brought to our program and University,” Earleywine said in a statement from the MU athletic department. “I do understand that the University was
obligated to review the allegations. As I’ve said previously, I fully recognize that I need to improve in certain areas, and I am committed to working on those areas moving forward.”

Earleywine, a native of Jefferson City, is 453-154 in 10 seasons at Missouri, a .746 winning percentage. He’s guided the program into the NCAA Tournament each year, including eight Super Regional appearances and three Women’s College World Series berths.

“I’m grateful to have the opportunity to continue to coach this program, and I’ve said a thousand times, I love this place with all my heart and look forward to being the coach here for many years to come,” Earleywine said. “The support our program receives means so much, and I am grateful for our fans. Hopefully, we can now refocus on maintaining the great softball tradition we have built here and put this in the past.”

That seems to be a primary objective for Mizzou athletics as well.

“We have an opportunity moving forward to build on the rich competitive success of the Mizzou softball program,” interim athletic director Sarah Reesman said in a statement. “I look forward to working together with Coach Earleywine to provide a great total experience for our student-athletes.”

Reesman remains the interim athletic director until newly hired Jim Sterk settles in Columbia, a move that is expected as soon as next week.

As part of the investigation, Missouri made it clear that certain aspects of Earleywine’s behavior must change.

“We have had productive conversations with Coach Earleywine and he understands our expectations moving forward,” said MU senior associate athletic director Tim Hickman, who oversees softball. “While the process was a lengthy one, we know it was thorough and fair, and we’re now at a place of resolution. I am pleased to work together toward the continued success of our softball program under coach Earleywine.”

Interim MU chancellor Hank Foley announced Aug. 5 that Earleywine had been cleared in a separate investigation by the school’s Office of Title IX and Civil Rights, finding that he hadn’t violated federal non-discrimination statutes. Friday’s announcement also brings the athletic department’s investigation to a close.

MU said details of the Title IX and athletic department investigations are protected as a personnel matter and will not be released publicly.
Missouri began investigating Earleywine in April after former athletic director Mack Rhoades, who resigned to become Baylor’s athletic director last month, received complaints from team members. The investigation proceeded quietly until May 7, when the Tigers softball team’s Unity Council announced that the players were playing in protest of the investigation.

The rhetoric from the Unity Council ramped up after a first-round exit during the Southeastern Conference Tournament the following week, before Earleywine asked MU’s players to drop the protest on May 13 in the text message to several media outlets, including The Star.

The Tigers’ players confirmed May 18 that the protest had ended. Missouri won its NCAA regional before losing to Michigan in super regional play without Earleywine ever being suspended, but the investigation dragged on.

While the Earleywine investigation is over, he still faces potential challenges. Seven players, including pitchers Paige Lowary and Tori Finucane, have transferred since the 2016 season started.

Stories also ran in:

Columbia Daily Tribune
Missourian
Associated Press
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Southeast Missourian
Ehren Earleywine to remain Missouri softball head coach

BROOKS HOLTON, Aug 19, 2016

COLUMBIA — After a nearly four-month investigation process, the 13th-winningest coach in NCAA Division I softball history will remain in the University Field dugout.

The University of Missouri Office of Title IX & Civil Rights and the department of athletics' investigation into the Missouri softball program and head coach Ehren Earleywine has officially come to an end, according to a Friday news release from Mizzou Athletics. The investigation into player complaints about Earleywine's coaching style found no infractions on the head coach earlier this month.

Senior associate athletics director Tim Hickman, who is also the softball administrator, said he hopes the program can continue its winning ways under Earleywine, who led the team to a 42-16 record and an appearance in the Super Regional stage of the 2016 NCAA Playoffs last season.

"We have had productive conversations with Coach Earleywine and he understands our expectations moving forward," Hickman said. "While the process was a lengthy one, we know it was thorough and fair, and we're now at a place of resolution. I am pleased to work together toward the continued success of our softball program under coach Earleywine."

The investigation into Earleywine was initiated by former athletics director Mack Rhoades in April. The team responded by playing a game under protest of Rhoades and the athletics department on May 7. Star pitcher, junior Paige Lowary, announced her transfer from Missouri to Oklahoma in July. Fellow pitcher, senior Tori Finucane, transferred to Minnesota just a month later.
Earleywine said he was relieved for the process to reach its conclusion and hopes to continue coaching at Missouri for many years to come.

"I deeply regret the attention this has brought to our program and university," Earleywine said in the release. "As I've said previously, I fully recognize that I need to improve in certain areas, and I am committed to working on those areas moving forward."

During the investigation process, Earleywine acknowledged his use of inappropriate language with his players, and met with a sports psychologist to improve his communication skills.

"Hopefully, we can now refocus on maintaining the great softball tradition we have built here and put this in the past," Earleywine said.

Missouri concludes internal softball probe, retains coach
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri says it has wrapped up an internal investigation of its softball program and Ehren Earleywine will remain its coach.

The school announced the development in a statement Friday without disclosing the reasons for the inquiry by the athletics department and its Office of Title IX and Civil Rights. Missouri called it a personnel matter it can't discuss publicly.
Earleywine says in a statement that while he’s relieved the investigation is over, he regrets the attention it drew to the program and school. He added without elaborating that he recognizes his "need to improve in certain areas" and is committed to doing so.

Earleywine has coached at Missouri for 10 years and has two seasons left on his contract. He makes $155,000 a year.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

AUGUST 20, 2016 8:36 PM

MU’s bronze-medal wrestler J’den Cox represents his country well

BY VAHE GREGORIAN
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RIO DE JANEIRO - One second J’den Cox was cloaked in an American flag and engulfed in euphoria and running around the mat and roaring from the bottom of his soul.

In the next, the pride of the University of Missouri and Columbia Hickman High School scrambled toward his family and hoisted himself into the stands at Carioca Arena 2.

So many of all their tears and so much of his sweat flowed together that he figured the ground was flooded by the time he left.

Look at them all swarm each other and their faces beaming and contorting with just too much feeling.

And you’d never know the celebration wasn’t for an Olympic gold medal but a bronze won in the final seconds over the protest of Cuban Reineris Salas Perez, who was disqualified when he failed to finish the last six seconds of the match when a pivotal call correctly went against him.
Yet the luster wasn’t diminished but enhanced by what it had taken for Cox to get to this moment after a day that illuminated the true champion he is in every way.

As he gazed down on his medal and considered that now and forever he would be an Olympic medalist, he thought of it as, sure, a wonderful thing in itself.

But much more.

It was testament to representing his country with his utmost — including with the resolve to shrug off what might have been a crushing defeat earlier in the day.

It was testament to the real way of the world.

“I represented my country the way that life is,” he said. “Made mistakes, had to overcome and got to ... maybe not where I wanted to end up, but I got to where I needed to go.”

It’s a lot easier to keep going when everything falls right, of course.

So the entire key to this day was Cox’s character and ability to live one of his credos when he needed it most: not to linger in failure.

That’s a great thing to say and believe, but maybe pretty hard to execute.

Especially after he narrowly lost the semifinal that would have sprung him to the gold-medal match ... at least in part because he didn’t know he was losing due to a scoring nuance in a branch of the sport, freestyle, that he still is learning.

“I choose to enjoy what I do and realize I’m still alive, I’m still breathing and have joy in what I do and let it be the past,” he said. “... Time-traveling is not invented. Until that day comes, I just have to learn how to accept” defeat.

Which in this case is to say ... get over it within hours.

That was something Cox managed so seamlessly that it even “blew my mind,” said longtime coach Mike Eierman — a man who preaches that “you have to learn how to lose in order to win at wrestling,” yet found himself devastated by what had happened earlier.

At the pinnacle of competition he’d imagined for 16 years and aspired to in earnest for maybe 10, for a flickering few seconds Cox believed he’d beaten 2015 world silver medalist Selim Yasar of Turkey in their 190-pound bout to earn the right to compete for gold.

Then, kneeling on the mat he locked eyes with his brother, Drae, and read either his lips or vibe and understood, “You didn’t have criteria — you didn’t win.”
So, suddenly, Cox had lost after winning his first two matches.

It was in part by virtue of misunderstanding a technicality of scoring (a caution) that left him thinking he had the advantage when it was 1-1.

It also was in part because severe hearing loss in his left ear kept him from hearing coaches and family yelling that he was behind into the final 30 seconds, making his last desperate take-down attempt too late despite a U.S. challenge.

This was all on him, said Cox, who only heard “you’re losing” in the last few seconds.

It was a painful lesson.

But if you think a cruel setback would define his day when he still had a chance at bronze, well, you don’t know J’den Cox.

A few minutes later, with characteristic eloquence, he had moved on to the big picture: He didn’t have time to sulk.

A few minutes after that, he materialized in the second deck of the arena and called out below to his mother, Cathy, wondering if she had managed to bring in Cheez-Its.

Alas, she hadn’t because she didn’t think they’d make it through security.

“We’re so proud of you,” she yelled up to him. “Are you good?”

Seeing a hint of a reluctant grin, she said, “Yeah, I see the smile. …

“Be proud of yourself. Yeah, happens. But you know what, four more years, we’ll be in Japan (for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics). I’m going to Japan. You’re taking me to Japan!

“Alright, we’ll see you on the medal stand. Love you!”

After he indeed rallied to win the bronze medal, it seemed that the absence of Cheez-Its was his only real distress in between.

“It hurt,” he said, laughing. “That’s some salty goodness right there.”

But he adapted, first with crackers instead of his favored snack.

Then by prevailing in a match he led 1-0 into the final seconds when his corner appealed a call that resulted in a two-point takedown for Cox.

In the heat of the moment, Salas Perez refused to finish the match, a gesture that Cox didn’t begrudge him.
But Cox went out of his way to reach out and shake the hand of the departing Cuban coach.

And that was just one of the ways that on a day of lessons learned, Cox also taught.

Yes, as a pure competitor.

But even more so with reassuring and honorable perspective.

He reminded us, yet again, that you can be fierce and still grounded.

And that it needn’t be mutually exclusive to be a world-class athlete and balanced enough to be able to play five instruments and compose and sing your own music.

And to answer ... “classes” when asked what’s next, when he gets back to Columbia this week and gets to return to normal life and reunite with his Mizzou wrestling brothers.

Minutes before the first session of the day, about 45 minutes before he was to begin competing, he wandered into the arena to survey the scene.

He beheld the entourage on hand to see him: friends and the 11 family members clad in T-shirts bearing Biblical scripture from Isaiah 41:10 and a silhouette of him (instead of an actual image out of concern the real thing could constitute an NCAA violation).

Then he did what nobody does before wrestling at this level, an emotionally primal competition in which most retreat within themselves.

He went over to his family and got and gave hugs and kisses.

“It was beautiful,” he said, adding that it was “warming” to talk to them and get “those final I-love-yous.”

It’s one thing to be this way with family, naturally, but quite another to be as thoughtful about adversaries.

But to watch Cox wrestle was to be struck just as much by his integrity as the agility and scrambling ability and quickness and resolve that nearly enabled him to reach the gold-medal match.

He stood tall in victory and defeat, it turns out, pivot-points that can bring out radically different reactions from less-admirable competitors.

So here was Cox offering defeated foes hands-up and pats on the back between periods and moving to vigorously hug Yasar.
All because he seems to see opponents more as brothers than enemies and insists deserve his blessings.

That’s why when asked why it matters to him to treat them that way, he said about one of the most moving things you’ll ever hear about the essence of all this.

“It matters to me because ... this is a tough, grueling sport,” he said. “We all travel hundreds of thousands of miles to come to one venue (and) ... get our faces ripped off by another human being.

“And for six minutes ... excuse me for saying this, (of) going through hell and beyond of just pulling people and yanking people and pulling this and going through (that)... and losing weight and all this crud that’s going on and the crowd and the atmosphere. ...

“It’s a beautiful, wonderful thing that’s out of pure chaos.

“So I want to show these guys ... that I respect them from coming out on the mat, respect them for facing another human being and putting everything they have on the line. Every single time ... They do that, and that’s amazing.”

It’s amazing, too, to see it that way in the midst of what might have been a debilitating loss that made bronze feel even more special than it was.

“I enjoyed embracing the hardship,” he said, “and I enjoyed every bit of this journey.”