MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Study of Arts Nonprofits Shows Donations Drop as Audience Numbers Rise

Generated from News Bureau press release: For Arts Nonprofits, Attendance at Events Unlikely to Influence Donors

Despite a growing culture of performance measurement, the empirical evidence does not provide strong support of its relevance among donors. A plausible theoretical reasoning is that better performance outcomes create the image of success, making organizations look less needy. These results call for more research on the link between performance outcomes and philanthropy.

Over the years, NPQ has repeatedly published research findings that throw plenty of doubt on the assertion that donors need to see measurable outcomes for their philanthropic investments. Maybe sometimes they just want to listen to music.

A new study of arts and cultural nonprofit organizations from the University of Missouri suggests that there is no evidence that donors are influenced by high attendance numbers; in fact, it may be just the opposite, since higher attendance is linked to higher earned revenue.

The study, “Do donors care about results? An analysis of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations,” was published in Public Performance and Management Review and analyzed data from the Cultural Data Project (CDP).

“Performance measurement has emerged as a new way to ensure accountability of nonprofit organizations that rely heavily on charitable giving,” said Mirae Kim, one of the study’s authors and an assistant
professor in the MU Truman School of Public Affairs. “Philanthropic culture has long emphasized greater accountability of nonprofit organizations, often creating strict measures that can impact how a nonprofit operates. However, we found that arts nonprofits that perform better according to philanthropic standards are not necessarily rewarded with more contributions from individual donors.”

“A plausible explanation for our findings is that better performance—for example, strong attendance—creates an image of success,” said Cleopatra Charles, Kim’s co-author and an associate professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark. “This can make the organization appear less needy, which may lead to donors being less inclined to support them.”

This study can be added to other research-based evidence that donors are simplistically fixated on measurable outcomes when choosing recipients of their generosity. Sometimes, in fact, need and more subjective judgments of quality should be part of the picture.—Ruth McCambridge

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Researchers find childhood depression might be preventable

Generated from News Bureau press release: Early-Life Language Stimulation, Skills May Prevent Childhood Depression

COLUMBIA - The amount of language a child is exposed to at a young age could determine his or her risk of childhood depression.

MU Professor of Education Keith Herman and other researchers found that low levels of language stimulation at the age of three puts kids at three times the risk of having depression by the third grade.
In this study we wanted to go back earlier in development to see what sort of things happen in early life that might predict low academic skills and in turn depressive symptoms. And it's all based on this idea that the two real big social risks for future depression for children are how confident they are at school in terms of academic entry and their social skills,” Herman said.

However, Herman said this is preventable.

"Depression is actually preventable, and I think that surprises some people to hear that. I think the public is inundated with information largely from the pharmaceutical companies leading them to believe that depression is mostly a genetic or physiological problem," Herman said.

He said while there is a physiological basis for depression, there is also an environmental element to it that can be controlled and prevented.

Three activities he said you should do with your children to prevent childhood depression during toddler years is to avoid baby talk.

"So talking to children is a big thing and not baby talk. We need to talk to kids in sentences with big words and small words exposing them to language rich environments," Herman said.

Another way to increase the amount of language your child experiences is to expose them to a lot of printed texts.

"Not only books, but as adults noticing all the different types of print that exists in the world that surrounds kids, and pointing it out to them like road signs with texts on it. Pointing out ingredients in labels. There are just opportunities to expose language to them," Herman said.

He even suggested changing the way you play with them.

"Some can be how you play with your child we talk about descriptive play which is a particular way to play with your child where you're not asking them questions while you're playing; you're actually describing what you're doing as an adult and what they are doing. Have parents think about it as giving them a play-by-play," Herman said.

The study followed more than 500 hundred children's development from birth until the eighth grade.

Mizzou receives $10 million gift for football facility
By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago
COLUMBIA, MO. • One week on the job and new Missouri athletics director Jim Sterk has already resurrected plans for a new football team facility south of Memorial Stadium.

On Thursday, the athletics department announced a $10 million donation to go toward the new facility that Sterk estimates will cost around $75 million. Once squashed by former AD Mack Rhoades, Sterk plans to build the project former Missouri coach Gary Pinkel envisioned for the program several years ago.

Sterk, whose term officially began Sept. 1, began discussing facility plans with first-year football coach Barry Odom the day he arrived on campus last month. Even though Rhoades scrapped Pinkel’s plan for a facility south of the stadium, Odom pushed Sterk to explore the concept.

“I asked him and wanted input from him on what would he like to see,” Sterk said. “What would help him the most? That’s where we got where we’re at.”

Mizzou is still configuring specific plans for the facility, but Sterk said it will be attached to the stadium’s south end and include a locker room, training room, weight room and coaches’ offices. Those resources are currently located in the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex, west of the stadium across Providence Road. The facility’s locker room can also serve as the team’s game-day locker room, Sterk said. The project will be accompanied by new scoreboards and premium seating options on the south side of the stadium.

“We could present the game-day experience a lot better,” Sterk said.

The $10 million donation came from an anonymous donor from the Kansas City Sports Trust. In June 2012, the Kansas City Sports Trust gave Mizzou $30 million for a facilities overhaul to coincide with the school’s entry into the Southeastern Conference. The donation was part of the school’s $102 million facility’s upgrade that renovated Memorial Stadium, baseball’s Taylor Stadium, softball’s University Field, plus the school’s golf and tennis facilities.
“Having new facilities and facilities that are comparable in the SEC help elevate the program in the eyes of the potential players that would entertain coming here,” Sterk said. “It’s a step in the right direction and is part of the rebuilding and rebranding of Mizzou.”

Sterk said he hopes the football upgrades will push Mizzou into the top half of the SEC when it comes to facilities.

“There’s been a lot of construction and facility development in the SEC,” he said. “We’re behind that. I learned that even before I came in terms of talking to (former SEC commissioner) Mike Slive and (current SEC commissioner) Greg Sankey. They invited Mizzou into the SEC and knew that was an issue. Some of that’s been addressed with the stadium, the east side renovations. This is just another piece of that and was on the radar of Coach Pinkel and Mike Alden in the past. We’re just getting to it now and putting it to the forefront.”

After Mizzou joined the SEC, Pinkel first started talking about his wishes to build a plush new team facility south of Memorial Stadium. Rhoades favored a more inclusive building that would incorporate all MU athletes at a different location. In the spring, after Odom had replaced Pinkel as head coach, Rhoades said all of the school’s proposed locations for the project centered on the site of MATC. Rhoades has since left for the AD job at Baylor.

“Mack was trying to encompass all the athletics department into one building,” Sterk said. “What we’ve tried to do with this is really focus on the needs and what’s going to help football more quickly … and really focus on what Barry felt was important for his program.”

With Rhoades’ plan Sterk was concerned where the football team would be housed while the MATC was renovated for two years.

“That’s one of the first questions I had,” he said. “Then, asking Barry where would you prefer it, he focused on having it at the stadium.”
Sterk said previous donations plus projected $25 million in bonds gives Mizzou around $55 million for the new project. Once approved by the UM system board of curators, Mizzou could start focusing on construction plans by the spring.

“That gives us a fighting chance to get this done quicker rather than later,” Sterk said. “The quicker we can have for Barry great pictures of what it looks like and when the construction will take place, that will help with his recruiting classes.”

Sterk has talked to Pinkel about his involvement with the process. Pinkel is under a three-year contract to serve as an ambassador and fundraiser for the athletics department.

“Gary is obviously heavily invested and wants Barry to succeed,” Sterk said. “He wants to help. We’ll work out ways. He can obviously tell his story very well why the need is there and he has in the past. He’ll be part of that. As will Barry.”

“The Kansas City Sports Trust has such a generous history of giving to Mizzou, and we’re very grateful for their continued commitment,” Odom said. “We’ve said from the start that we can’t do this alone — we need support from our fans to get where we want to be, and this is an amazing statement of support. I’m excited to get to work with our administration and our architects to develop plans that will showcase Mizzou in a first-class manner.”

Once more money is secured MU will address a second phase of football facilities: a new 100-yard indoor facility. The current Devine Pavilion is 18 years old and not full length. The third phase would be a renovation of the MATC.

In other sports facilities news …

Mizzou’s new softball stadium is under construction and could be functional by March, Sterk said. If there are any construction delays, University Field will serve as a backup option.

Sterk said Mizzou plans to install artificial turf at Taylor Stadium, which is new coach Steve Bieser’s preference, by the 2018 season. “I told him you’re in luck because I put in the first
collegiate FieldTurf field at Washington State and it worked out great," Sterk said. "It’s because baseball season in college is from January to May. If it was from May to September you’d want or could have natural grass. He’s got to be able to scrape off snow and play half an hour after a rain storm. That will help."

“What’s amazing about that, and I had to be convinced myself, but you can look from the stands and it looks like a grass field," Sterk added. “But they do everything except the pitcher’s mound. Even the batter’s box."

Sterk said there are no plans to re-install natural grass on Faurot Field.

Lastly, Sterk said he anticipates he’ll be called to testify in former San Diego State women’s basketball coach Beth Burns' wrongful termination suit sometime next week. “It’s a good group of people I’m with who will be testifying,” he said. “The president, vice president, (men’s basketball coach) Steve Fisher and I will all be called in at some point in time. It’s unfortunate it came to that, but we’ll be there.”

Mizzou changes course on new football facility
By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7 hrs ago

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coach, Rhoades said all of the school’s proposed locations for the project centered on the site of MATC. Rhoades has since left for the AD job at Baylor.

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$10 million donated to Mizzou Athletics for new football facility

COLUMBIA, Mo. - An anonymous donor has given $10 million to University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics.

The announcement came Thursday morning, two days before the Tigers' football home opener.

The gift will be used for the building of football facilities, which are being developed by athletics officials and campus facilities.

Director of Athletics Jim Sterk said the new facility will be at the stadium's south end zone. A new weight room, locker room, medical training facility, and coaches' offices are expected. Sterk also said "premium seating" could be available for sale as well. Sterk took the athletic director position last month after spending six years at San Diego State University.

Sterk hopes the gift will encourage others to help Mizzou achieve its goals of building high-quality football facilities, putting the university in the "upper echelon of the Southeastern Conference."

"Making this facility become a reality is critical to our commitment in providing one of the best student-athlete experiences in the country," Sterk said.

He went on to say the facilities have "the ability to attract the best and the brightest, to attract and retain coaches, to build the momentum of the program as far as support externally. So all those things are intertwined and are needed to help that student-athlete experience."

Sterk estimated the cost of the project at around $75 million, but that price could go up or down as planning continues. Specific details and the scope of the campaign and the project will be announced at a later date.

Head football coach Barry Odom also said the project can't be done alone, and the school needs support from its fans.

"I'm excited to get to work with our administration and our architects to develop plans that will showcase Mizzou in a first-class manner," Odom said.

Sterk said he's been working with Odom on his vision for the new facility.

"We talked about what had been planned before. I asked him and wanted input from him from the start. What did he like and what did he see? What would help him the most? And that's how we got to where we're at."
Mizzou season ticket sales are down this year, with about 40,000 sold compared to 45,000 last year. The 5-7 paired with last year's protests on campus have brought the national image of Mizzou down in some people's eyes.

Sterk said one of the biggest concerns from boosters and donors was how he was going to rebuild the brand of Mizzou.

"I heard that when I looked at the job that this place is not what it is perceived to be in this last year. I think it is a place of inclusion and diversity and growth and a great place to go to school ... And I want to help build that brand back and we can be a part of the building back of the brand and the expectations of people and what they think of the University of Missouri."

MU Athletics receives $10 million donation

COLUMBIA - A new facility is on the horizon for the University of Missouri Football team.

The athletics department announced Thursday that it received a $10 million donation from Kansas City Sports Trust for the project. The facility is estimated to cost around $75 million.

New athletic director Jim Sterk said, "I know Coach Pinkel and Mike Alden had talked about it. What's really a change is really focusing on the south end zone. That's where we think it'll be. Where, exactly, we're not sure, it could be centered in the back or it could be on the side a little bit but we're really still exploring and deciding what to do."

Showing monetary support to the university's athletic department is not new for the Trust; it donated $10 million in 2004 and $30 million in 2012. The 2012 donation was the largest amount in MU athletic department history.

Sterk said he hopes new facilities will make the university more competitive.

"There's been a lot of construction and facility development in the SEC and we're behind that. I learned that, even before I came as far as talking to Mike Slive and Greg Sankey as they invited Mizzou into the SEC, they knew that was an issue," Sterk said.

He said the amenities of the new facility will open up the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex (MATC) and give more space to other Mizzou sports.
"A lot of the service areas that are involved with football - the weight room, the medical training area, the locker rooms - those are areas, and then probably the coaches offices and recruiting areas would be involved in it," Sterk said.

Mizzou Head Coach Barry Odom said in a statement this kind of support is important.

"We've said from the start that we can't do this alone - we need support from our fans to get where we want to be, and this is an amazing statement of support," Odom said.

Sterk said he hopes the donation will have a ripple effect and do good for more than just the football program.

"Having new facilities and facilities that are comparable in the SEC help elevate the program in the eyes of potential players that would entertain coming here. I think it's a step in the right direction and I think it's part of the rebuilding and the re-branding of Mizzou," Sterk said.

There is no timeline for the start of the project.

Mizzou receives $10 million donation for football facility upgrades

COLUMBIA — Football facility upgrades at the University of Missouri were announced on Thursday.

The university revealed a Kansas City sports group donated $10 million toward the construction of the football facilities, which had been discussed for several years under former head coach Gary Pinkel.

"We are so pleased to make this announcement today," said athletics director Jim Sterk in a statement. "The Kansas City Sports Trust has stepped up with a tremendous leadership gift that demonstrates true philanthropic giving. We're so appreciative of this support, and we're hopeful
that this will encourage others to join in and help us achieve our goals of building football
facilities that put us in the upper echelon of the Southeastern Conference. Making this facility
become a reality is critical to our commitment in providing one of the best student-athlete
experiences in the country."

Specific details and scope of the campaign and the project will be announced at a later date after
plans are approved and finalized, according to the university.

"The Kansas City Sports Trust has such a generous history of giving to Mizzou, and we're very
grateful for their continued commitment," said head coach Barry Odom in a statement. "We've
said from the start that we can't do this alone – we need support from our fans to get where we
want to be, and this is an amazing statement of support. I'm excited to get to work with our
administration and our architects to develop plans that will showcase Mizzou in a first-class
manner," Odom said.

Mizzou had announced in July the school had broken a fundraising record of $170 million,
which brought the total number of funds raised for The Mizzou: Our Time To Lead campaign
total to $762 million.

At the time, it was more than halfway to the $1.3 billion goal announced at the campaign's
launch.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Two-day free speech symposium to be held on MU campus**

CARLIE PROCELL, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Almost a dozen speakers will address issues and debates about freedom of
expression on college campuses in a symposium at MU.

The event, called the Price Sloan Symposium for Media, Ethics and Law, will take place on
Thursday, Sept. 15 and Friday, Sept. 16. Speakers will include law professors, journalism
faculty, attorneys, social scientists and media and culture commentators, according to an MU
news release. The event, put together by the MU School of Law and Missouri School of
Journalism, is free and open to the public.
Kansas City Mayor Sly James will present the keynote address, while Kirsten Powers and Sally Kohn, of Fox News and CNN respectively, will participate in a keynote debate.

Ben Warner, an assistant professor of political communication in the MU Department of Communication, said it’s important to talk about freedom of expression on college campuses because universities are often the settings for activism and debate.

“I think a lot of the controversy surrounding freedom of expression and censorship has always existed on college campuses,” said Warner.

One of the speakers, Benjamin Holden, a teaching assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Media, said he was inspired to teach media law after taking a class in communications law at MU.

“Ever since I took Communications Law with Dale Spencer in 1984, I’ve always been interested in free speech, the first amendment and the importance of transparency and openness to a democratic society,” Holden said.

The symposium is primarily funded by the Price Sloan Fund for Media, Ethics and Law at MU, along with the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University, the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, and the Mizzou Advantage.

Boone County to Hold Active Shooter Training in November on University of Missouri Campus

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=c917822d-aa21-49b6-a281-63fc5febd0f4
University of Missouri graduate student council calls for union recognition, expanded tuition waivers

Graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri want recognition of their graduate assistants’ union, expanded waivers to cover supplemental fees and rules for social media monitoring by campus administrators.

In four resolutions passed during the semester’s first meeting of the Graduate Professional Council, the students also asked for a more open process for establishing supplemental fees and assurances that promised increases in minimum stipends would not strain already tight departmental budgets.

Three of the four resolutions passed without significant dissent, council spokesman Joshua Bolton wrote in an email. The fourth resolution, addressing social media monitoring, received support from about 60 percent of council members, he wrote.

All of the resolutions address issues that have grown out of the decision in August 2015 to cancel individual health insurance plans for graduate assistants. The decision was quickly reversed, but it sparked an organizing campaign that has raised the profile of graduate assistants as a campus constituency.

The university responded with increases in minimum stipends, to $15,000 this year and $18,000 next year for doctoral students with at least a half-time appointment, and promises that the health insurance would continue.

The university should drop its opposition to the union graduate students voted to represent them in collective bargaining, the Coalition of Graduate Workers, the resolution on union recognition said. Major public universities such as the University of California system and the University of Michigan have graduate assistant unions, and the National Labor Relations Board recently ordered that private universities must recognize graduate assistants as employees, according to the resolution.

The resolutions about supplemental fees and stipends both say “the unfortunate refusal of the university administration to recognize CGW threatens to leave the employee-specific interests of graduate-professional students inadequately protected,” forcing the council to act on those issues.
The coalition in May sued the university seeking recognition. That lawsuit, pending in Boone County, is in the early stages, and no hearings are scheduled. The resolutions are not explicit endorsements of the union but a call for MU to recognize the April vote where 84 percent of the graduate assistants taking part supported the union, Bolton wrote.

“We think the matter should be determined by graduate workers themselves and not by an unaccountable outside party,” Bolton wrote.

The UM System hired Michael Kaemmerer, of McCarthy, Leonard and Kaemmerer LC, at $330 an hour to defend the university’s position. UM System spokesman John Fougere declined to comment on the resolution.

Supplemental fees were the subject of a report by State Auditor Nicole Galloway that questioned whether a sharp rise in the fees was being used to circumvent a state law limiting tuition increases. As state per-student funding has declined, Galloway noted, new and increased fees have meant the cost of attending a four-year state university has risen faster than inflation.

Unlike some fees that are approved by students, the supplemental fees are not discussed with the Student Fee Review Committee. The fees are poorly understood and not covered by waivers that cover tuition for graduate assistants, a resolution said.

The resolution asking that increased stipends not come from department budgets was passed because the accounting has not been transparent, Bolton wrote. The increases for graduate assistants should “not cause harm to workers that are the most vulnerable on campus, with examples of those being non-academic staff and adjunct faculty,” he wrote.

An open records request revealed two instances of social media monitoring of closed groups by the MU News Bureau. The resolution seeks a policy to prevent surveillance and sharing of social media comments by individuals, which “can have a chilling effect on the spirit of campus engagement.”

The news bureau did not respond by deadline to questions about the resolutions.

MU's Pinkel navigates life as retired coach
By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, MO. • He kept checking his watch.
It’s time for pregame meal, he thought. That means kickoff is a few hours away.

Except Saturday’s kickoff was 700 miles east in West Virginia. Gary Pinkel was in Columbia, by himself. What does a newly retired coach do on game day with no game to coach?

He gets coffee.

**Pinkel has spent the last 46 autumns playing or coaching college football. Now, with another season about to kick off, he was out of the game. Gone, just like that.**

With company coming over to watch Mizzou play West Virginia, Pinkel left the house for some coffee.

“I got emotional for about two or three minutes,” he said this week during an hour-long interview at Lakota Coffee Company in downtown Columbia, his longtime early-morning hangout. “I knew it was going to happen. I just didn’t know when it was going to happen.”

Pinkel returned home Saturday to a house full of friends and family to watch Barry Odom’s debut as the Tigers’ head coach. Pinkel, with guests to schmooze and grandkids underfoot, watched the 26-11 defeat unfold with a coach’s eye. He analyzed down and distance situations and thought about schemes and personnel, as if he’d never left the sideline.

“My wife told me, ‘I was going to buy you a headset so you could wear it around the house,’” he said. “She got a few chuckles out of that one.”

Last fall, Pinkel’s 15th year at Missouri, the program’s career wins leader announced his decision to step down with three games left in the season. In the spring he’d been diagnosed with follicular lymphoma, a form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He wasn’t sure how he’d spend the healthy years he had left, but he knew it wouldn’t be on a football field.

Now, nine months into retirement, Pinkel, 64, is navigating his way through a stage of life that doesn’t come with a playbook. He feels good these days but has to monitor his diet and stress level.
“I went from one of the most stressful jobs that exists to zero stress,” he said.

Pinkel’s under contract with the university to serve as an ambassador and fundraiser for the athletics department, a job that pays him $950,000 over three years. He’s committed to helping Odom and new athletics director Jim Sterk raise money for a new team facility south of Memorial Stadium, an idea squashed by former AD Mack Rhoades but resurrected under Sterk in recent days.

“My focus is to help Barry, help him get resources to take Mizzou to a different level than I took it,” Pinkel said. “That’s where my passion is. I’m going to be here the rest of my life. I’m working another two and a half years (under contract), but after that I’ll be working forever as long as they want help. Because I’ve just got a passion for the University of Missouri. And I want them to be successful.”

“Gary is obviously heavily invested and wants Barry to succeed,” Sterk said Thursday. “He wants to help.”

Otherwise, Pinkel spends most of his time doing things that weren’t possible as a head coach the last 25 years at Toledo and Mizzou. Like what?

“About anything I want to,” he said, laughing.

He travels, either to his place in Florida or to visit his sons and their families in Kansas City and Sedalia. In June, he hopped on a plane to Cleveland and went to Game 3 of the NBA Finals to watch his beloved Cavaliers beat the Warriors.

“I came home with T-shirts and everything,” he said. “When they won Game 7 I went crazy. I could never do things like that before.”

He reads more than ever. More fiction these days.

“I like James Patterson,” he said.
Pinkel wakes up each day with a schedule to keep busy but still wants to find some hobbies. Maybe golf or fishing, he said.

On Saturday, Pinkel will embark on a new challenge: tailgating. The Tigers host Eastern Michigan in their home opener at 6:30 p.m. He'll spend the day visiting with alums around the stadium. He’s got plans to travel to the Florida game next month. Just don’t look for him on the sideline.

“Barry and I are friends, and he’ll do a great job,” he said. “But I’m not going to be the shadow.”

Pinkel worked as a guest analyst for the SEC Network during bowl season but decided against doing more TV work this season. The time commitment was too much.

“You leave home Thursday or Friday and get back Sunday or late Saturday night,” he said. “And they’re all away games. All of a sudden I’m away three days a week? I told Missy, ‘I’m not going to do that. It defeats what I (retired) for.’"

The last few months Pinkel has come to realize the costs of his coaching career: the late nights at the office, the recruiting trips, the constant travel. With more family now than ever before — he has eight grandkids and two stepchildren with Missy, whom he married last year — it’s a bittersweet awakening.

“I loved what I did in coaching, but I wasn’t home a lot,” said Pinkel, whose daughter Erin lives in Columbia with her family. “I talked to all three of my kids. I have great relationships with my kids. But I unloaded.”

Pinkel apologized for spending so much time away from home.

“They said, ‘We earned tremendous benefits from what you did also,’” he said. “They said, ‘Dad, you always came home when you could.’ I wasn’t out having drinks with buddies. I hardly ever golfed because it took too much time. I told them I felt pretty good about that.”
As for his career, Pinkel doesn't hold many regrets. He’d like to change the outcome of five or six games, he said. But he doesn’t brood about last fall’s controversy, when he supported a group of black players who joined sides with a campus protest and boycotted team activities for three days. He’s made peace with his stance, though unpopular with some fans and boosters, and feels good about the campus’ direction. Mizzou just set a single-year fundraising record. Enrollment is down but MU’s retention rate ranks third in the school’s history. He wishes both facts got more publicity.

“The healing is taking place,” he said. “The university will overcome this.”

Away from the game for the first time since he strapped on youth shoulder pads in Akron, Ohio, 55 years ago, Pinkel especially misses the players. He attended a practice last week, tried to go unnoticed, but when the defensive linemen jogged from one drill to the next, each player stopped and hugged their old coach. Pinkel had tears in his eyes.

“That was the best feeling you could ever get,” he said.

“But the thing I’ll miss the most,” he continued, “is getting on that sideline and putting my headset on. Now it’s ‘Let’s go.’ I went into a complete zone. I’ve told people I never heard those cannons (on Faurot Field) go off one time. These aren’t soundproof headphones. You can hear some things, but that’s the truth.

“I loved that.”

Dairy Industry Killed Off 500,000 Cows In Alleged Price-Fixing Scheme
Major United States dairy producers will pay $52 million to settle an antitrust class-action lawsuit accusing them of slaughtering more than 500,000 cows to reduce milk supply and inflate prices.

“This cow-killing program exploited both the animals and the consumers, and resulted in the early deaths of half a million cows,” attorney Cheryl Leahy told The Huffington Post in an email. Leahy is general counsel for Compassion Over Killing, an animal protection group that spearheaded the suit.

The settlement means that anyone who purchased dairy products in one of several states between 2003 and 2011 could be entitled to a cash payout.

Class action firm Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP filed the suit in 2011 on behalf of dairy consumers, against dairy lobbying group National Milk Producers Federation and industry cooperatives Dairy Farmers of America, Land O’ Lakes, DairyLea Cooperative and Agrimark.

The suit states that Cooperatives Working Together, a trade group led by the NMPF, oversaw a “herd retirement program” between 2003 and 2010. That “retirement” program consisted of dairy cooperatives buying out entire herds of cattle — primarily from small farms — and sending them for early slaughter. (“Spent” dairy cows are typically slaughtered for cheap ground beef, Leahy said, though she couldn’t speak to the fate of each cow in this program.)

This limited the supply of raw milk, thus driving up prices for products like yogurt, cream and cottage cheese, according to the suit.

“Cooperatives Working Together actually had information about its so-called ‘dairy herd retirement,’ program on its own website, along with economic analysis … showing how much the industry profited from the program,” Leahy said. “We took that information and analyzed the applicable law.”

At least some of that data is still online. A 2009 analysis by Scott Brown of the University of Missouri-Columbia found that between 2004 and 2008, herd retirement added an average $0.59 per 100 pounds of milk. Brown did not immediately reply to a request for comment from HuffPost.

But CWT claims that the program was not about prices. The group’s website includes a “frequently asked questions” section about the program, which it characterizes as a “voluntary self-help farmer-funded program that allowed dairy farmers who wanted to stop farming, to exit farming altogether.”

Jim Mulhern, NMPF president and CEO, called the settlement “the most sensible and responsible course of action” in a statement, while noting that the defendants were not found guilty of violating any laws.
“It is important to note that the court has found no antitrust violation and CWT makes no admission of wrongdoing in this settlement,” he said. The group declined to comment beyond the prepared statement.

That said, Leahy is still counting the decision as a victory.

“This settlement sends a message to the dairy industry that they cannot harm people and animals out of simple greed without any accountability,” she said. “They are not above the law.”

Taxi voucher program to fill transportation gap

Transportation is a common barrier for Boone County residents who are low-income, elderly or disabled and trying to access health care.

Anthony Nichols, mobility management coordinator for Central Missouri Community Action, said he has made 474 ride referrals since the organization’s transportation program started in October 2015. Of those, 270 were in Boone County.

The leading reason people seek transportation assistance, Nichols said, is to get to medical appointments and the pharmacy.

Boone County Community Services is funding a new taxi voucher program — designated only for low-income residents trying to get access to health care. The county will fund the program at $5,000 every three months, totaling $20,000 for a year, from the Community Health Fund, which garners $500,000 annually from the Boone Health Center lease with BJC Health Care.

Community Services Director Kelly Wallis said the program, which is expected to start this month, is a pilot project and will be evaluated once the first year is completed.

Taxi vouchers will be distributed only if there are no other transportation options available, Nichols said. “When everything else fails, then we’ll use the taxi voucher,” he said.

Central Missouri Community Action will administer the vouchers to individuals living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Someone living in a three-person household, for example, is eligible for the service if the total household income is at or below $40,180.
CoMo Connect, Columbia’s public transit system, offers reduced fare prices for riders who are disabled, 65 or older, Medicare or Medicaid recipients and low-income at nearly 200 percent of the federal poverty level. A low-income rider in a three-person household is eligible if the household income is at or below $37,296. The city also offers a separate ParaTransit service, which operates by appointments made in advance.

**Transportation barriers cause patients to miss appointments, which can be detrimental to their health,** said Lanis Hicks, professor with the University of Missouri Department of Health Management and Informatics. By missing appointments, patients don’t receive necessary health monitoring from their doctors, like A1C testing for diabetics, Hicks said.

Patients who miss face time with their therapists, she said, tend to go off their medications when they start feeling better and their problems can reoccur.

“Once they go off, it takes time to get their bodies back in balance if they’ve dropped their medication,” she said.

ABC Taxi, a Columbia-based taxi service, was selected for the voucher program. ABC Taxi initial pickup rates are $5 for people in wheelchairs and $2 for other riders and $2.35 per mile, Nichols said.

After calling about 10 taxi companies, he said, ABC Taxi was the only one that offered wheelchair accessibility.

Chuck Graham, chair man of the Columbia Disabilities Council, raised concerns about the lack of wheelchair-accessible taxis in a letter submitted to Mayor Brian Treece and the city council.

He wants the city to offer two grants annually to incentivize taxi providers to have wheelchair-accessible vans, giving residents with disabilities the chance for on-demand transportation.

Graham said the commission sent surveys to taxi providers requesting information about their accessibility. Of the replies, none offered lift-equipped taxis, he said, and the commission members weren’t aware of any. Graham said he was unaware ABC Taxi offered accessible vans, noting the company might not have returned a survey form.

CoMo Connect buses on all six routes are wheelchair-accessible, but some residents’ needs are more extensive, making them better suited for the city’s lift-equipped bus service, ParaTransit.

ParaTransit runs from 6:25 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. It doesn’t operate on Sundays. Rides must be scheduled one business day before the trip by 5 p.m. The operating hours limit people in wheelchairs from enjoying evening dinners, church services and other activities at night or on Sunday, Graham said.

Riders must submit an application and a note from a medical provider, such as a doctor or physical therapist, to qualify for ParaTransit.
OATS Transportation rides must be scheduled seven to 10 business days before an appointment, according to its website, and it doesn’t operate on the weekend.