Analysts: Clinton debate strategy for Trump needs altering

By Ben Wolfgang - The Washington Times - Thursday, September 22, 2016


To be successful in Monday’s debate, Hillary Clinton may have to suppress her inner policy wonk.

While it goes against the nature of the former senator and secretary of state, scholars said her history shows that she’s better off when she avoids the kinds of specific policies and details she excels at.

In her long political career, dating back to debates in her 2000 Senate bid, her 2008 presidential campaign and again this year against Sen. Bernard Sanders for the Democratic nomination, her best moments have had little to do with policy.

But when specifics did come up — such as a misstep on drivers licenses for illegal immigrants in 2007, or a rambling answer on fracking at a forum earlier this year — she’s suffered.

“When we’ve polled debate viewers, the candidate that is seen as spouting the most facts and figures and technical policy language is seen as the loser of the debate,” said Mitchell McKinney, director of the Political Communication Institute at the University of Missouri. “If one takes their task as trying to prove to the American people that they are smarter than their opponent, that they know more, that doesn’t play well on the debate stage.”

Mrs. Clinton has far more experience with debating than Mr. Trump, a political novice who first took to a debate stage in August 2015, firing barbs and spreading controversy from his very first answer.
MU Researcher Says Changes in Brain Activity Leads to a Decrease on Physical Activity

Generated from News Bureau press release: Deactivation of Brain Receptors in Postmenopausal Women May Lead to Lack of Physical Activity


Stories about this research also ran in the following areas:

Waco, TX
Rockford, IL
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Fort Myers, FL
Albuquerque, NM
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Grand Junction, CO
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Duluth, MN
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Sherman, TX
Boston, MA
Peoria, IL
Parkersburg, WV
Terre Haute, IN
South Bend, IN
New test helps kindergarten teachers identify lagging students

Generated from MU News Bureau press release: New Teacher Screening Tool Can Help Identify Failing Kindergarteners Early

COLUMBIA - Researchers found a way to predict a kindergartner's future success in school, and identify if they may fall behind academically or socially before they do.

This test was developed by one unanswered question MU Professor of Special Education Melissa Stormont had.

"We know that kindergarten teachers are very good at being able to gage children’s readiness, but what we don't know about so much is what exactly they are using when they think about a child's readiness. So that's been a line of research recently for myself and for my colleagues from the Missouri Prevention Center," Stormont said.

A short screening test allows kindergarten teachers to rank children on a scale for three specific questions to determine their readiness for kindergarten and future grades.

"How is this child comparing in terms of their overall readiness for kindergarten? How is this child fairing compared to other children at this school in terms of their academic performance? How are these children or this child fairing in terms of social behavioral readiness," Stormont said.

The questions may help identify the attention a child needs in order to succeed.
"It's basically just there to help those 15 percent of children who do struggle and to trigger some supports early on so we can eliminate the discrepancies that will develop between them and their peers overtime," Stormont said.

She recommends teachers evaluate their students about six weeks to two months into kindergarten in order to identify issues they may have and take the next step.

Stormont said, "What we want to do next is to figure out what skills are they lacking. According to this research some of the social behavioral skills they lacked were highly related to behaviors that require self-regulation; following directions, playing well alone, playing well with others and the correlations with destructive behavior weren't as strong"

She said the screener "definitely needs to be thought of as a lens for increased focus on instruction."

Small changes in teaching could make a big difference for these children, she said.

"I would see it as trying to develop small group lesson plans for those children."

She said there should be increased focus on mini social skill lessons or ways to incorporate support for following directions.

"It can be anything as simple as increased proximity to children, increased praise for them for following directions, additional prompting or first and always instruction. Making sure children know what the expectations are because we can't assume that they do coming into kindergarten," Stormont said.
Mizzou lets students change names

Friday, September 23, 2016
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS -- The University of Missouri said Wednesday it will allow students to change their names on their student ID, transcript and diploma.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported effective immediately, students can get a new ID with their preferred name.

This comes two years after allowing students to change their first and middle names on class rosters and their student email.

There's no timetable on when transcripts and diplomas will reflect name changes.

Alumni also will have the opportunity to have their transcripts or diplomas reprinted with an alternative name.

"We think it's long overdue and should have been done with those changes a few years ago, but we're so happy it's (happening)," said Jack Miller, a junior at the University of Missouri and communications officer for the campus' Triangle Coalition, which forms part of the campus' LGBT organizations.

University spokesman Christian Basi said the change is something administrators have wanted for quite some time.

Students can change their names to anything they want -- including a name typically associated with a different gender -- as long as the new name is not derogatory.
A name change is free, but there's a fee of $15 to replace a student ID.

The Triangle Coalition argued charging transgender students the fee is unfair.

"We will be talking to administrators about this. We think it makes more sense to charge the much smaller fee of a few dollars that incoming freshmen pay," Miller said.

According to Basi, the change is necessary because of the technology used inside the cards.

The campus ID cards are used to pay for meals in dining halls and to get into some campus buildings.

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**Mizzou implements preferred name policy**


COLUMBIA- **The University of Missouri implemented its new Student Preferred name policy.**

The policy will allow students to enter their preferred first, middle and last name in the campus course websites, Blackboard and Canvas. The program is also expanding so that preferred names appear on ID cards, transcripts, diplomas and other locations if legal names are not required.

Students who would like to change their name on their ID cards are required to pay the $15 fee to get a new card printed.

Instances in which preferred name will be used include, but are not limited to:

a) Class rosters  
b) Residence hall rosters  
c) University identification cards
d) Transcripts (if requested in myZou)  
e) Diplomas (if requested in myZou)  
f) Wherever it is not necessary for the legal name to be used

"We have many students from different backgrounds and cultures that want to use another name other than what's listed on their birth certificate, their legal name," said MU Spokesperson Christian Basi.

As long as the students "preferred name" is not inappropriate, the university will ensure that it appears instead of the student's legal name.

Rio Chacon, a student who recently went through a name change told KOMU 8 News, "It's a good step for trans individuals and whoever wants to change their name. I think it was necessary, it's been necessary and it was way overdue."

The University of Missouri reserves the right to deny or remove any preferred name for misuse, including but not limited to misrepresentation, attempting to avoid legal obligation, or the use of derogatory names, with or without notice in accordance with University Collected Rules and Regulations.

The university also told KOMU 8 News that alumni are now allowed to get a new diploma with their preferred names, but they will have to pay for the reprint fee.

For more information on this new policy, you can visit the registrars office website.

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**MU interim chancellor updates alumni on diversity**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **On Thursday, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley updated alumni on what he says is progress at the university.**

In a note sent to alumni, Foley said MU leaders are working hard to ensure campus is a more inclusive place for all students, faculty and staff.

He said the university is working hard to rebound from a 5% drop in enrollment. Leaders have made some key hires already, but they are still actively searching for deans.

Foley's note also said Mizzou had a new TV commercial in select market and encouraged everyone positively impacted by Mizzou to share their story.

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 Exam - A Year In Review: Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Missouri

**One year after Peyton Head, former University of Missouri student body president, shared his experience of being called a racial slur on the MU campus on Facebook, leadership from the University of Missouri System and MU held a press conference to review the progress of the last year that began with student protests calling for systemic action against racism.**

Protests by a student group, Concerned Student 1950 began on October 10, 2015 during MU's Homecoming parade. Students stood in front of, then UM System President, Tim Wolfe's car to address their frustration with lack of action after racists incidents on campus. Protests continued as students felt Wolfe's response was inadequate. One student, Jonathan Butler, went on a hunger strike calling for Wolfe's resignation. When football players joined the cause and refused to play until Wolfe stepped down, national attention was drawn to MU's campus. On Nov. 9, 2015 Tim Wolfe resigned from his position as UM System President.

Last week, Mike Middleton, interim president for the UM system; Hank Foley, interim chancellor for the university; Kevin McDonald, UM System Chief Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Officer; and Pam Henrickson, the chair of the UM Board of Curators addressed the progress of the initiatives the UM System and MU have taken in response to last fall.

"We recognize as an institution and as a system that our community, both our campus community, our local community, and our national community have an interest in this subject matter," McDonald explained. "We identified this as an important time to be able to check-in and provide information about our progress to date."

McDonald laid out four areas in which the UM system is examining the existing programs, and looking to add more initiatives to increase diversity and inclusion: access and success, campus climate and intergroup relations.

**Access and Success**

McDonald said that the MU counseling center has hired two psychologists of color, a post-intern of color and additional intern of color that serves as the center's first diversity coordinator. This step aligns with one of the demands presented by Concerned Student 1950 to the University on October 20, 2015 calling for an increase in mental health resources and outreach.

McDonald said they are, also, reevaluating the existing scholarships and financial aid for minority students, as well as investing in programs to increase enrollment of underrepresented populations.

In terms of faculty, Foley announced a $1 million investment to recruit minority pre-faculty fellows to MU with the hope of keeping them on as faculty members. MU has also added $600,000 to it's Faculty Incentive and Excellence Fund to target the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty.

McDonald said the goal is to double the number of faculty of color in the next four years, from 6.7 percent to 13.4 by 2020. While this goal is of the same sentiment of the demands made by Concerned Student 1950 last fall, the students' demands were on a quicker timeline. They had asked for an increase to 10% in two years, but after Wolfe's resignation they increased their number to 15 percent.

In order to also focus efforts on retention, McDonald said there will be the creation of an eminent scholars program to pair newly hired assistant professors and a prominent researchers in their field, along with a new partnership Southern Regional Education Board to provide mentorship and support to minority faculty.

**Campus Climate and Intergroup Relations**

This fall marked the beginning of a new student orientation program called Citizenship at Mizzou. McDonald said it is a required interactive program for incoming students that "focuses on making individuals aware of the differences that exist among us and the important impact that exposing themselves to and engaging with this diversity will have on their academic and social journey at Mizzou."
Both McDonald and Foley emphasized that the upcoming campus climate survey will help measure the success of that program and other initiatives, as well as guide further diversity efforts.

**Education and Scholarship**

McDonald stressed the importance of a curriculum that incorporates diversity. To encourage this he announced the creation of inclusive excellence grants for research involving diversity and inclusion and a partnership with the National Center For Faculty Development and Diversity, an organization dedicated to providing mentorship and research support for diverse faculty.

**Institutional Infrastructure**

"The right infrastructure can be key factor in sustaining our diversity and inclusion efforts," McDonald said.

MU and UM System will seek private donors, corporate and foundation partners to support these efforts, as well as continue to develop multicultural alumni networks.

McDonald explained they are developing an Inclusive Efforts Frameworks that will allow them to annually assess these efforts and transparently share progress.

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**MISSOURIAN**

**Arrest made in sexual misconduct outside MU Student Center**

SAMANTHA STOKES, 22 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU Police arrested a man on suspicion of sexual misconduct and other offenses after an encounter with a woman on Wednesday morning outside the MU Student Center.

MU Police Maj. Brian Weimer said Richard Lee Henderson, 25, approached the victim, who was sitting on a bench outside the Student Center about 6:40 a.m. Wednesday. Henderson exposed himself and masturbated on the victim, Weimer said.
The woman left her belongings near the bench and ran, Weimer said. Henderson took some of those belongings, including the victim's cell phone, he said.

Police used the victim's phone to track down Henderson, Weimer said. Officials did not issue a warning to campus because Henderson was arrested quickly and did not pose a danger, he said.

Henderson was arrested on suspicion of two counts of sexual misconduct, assault, felony stealing, receiving stolen property and resisting arrest. He was being held Thursday morning in Boone County Jail with bail set at $4,500.

MU police accuse man of indecent exposure, stealing


COLUMBIA - A man was arrested on multiple counts Wednesday by the MU police after an indecent exposure report was made.

25-year-old Richard Lee Henderson was accused of stealing, assault, receiving stolen property, resisting arrest and two counts of sexual misconduct.

A female victim reported to MU police that she was sitting outside the Student Center around 6:39 a.m. when a man, identified as Henderson, approached her and exposed himself.

The victim ran away and left her phone and backpack. She used another phone to call the police department and, when officers went to the bench, the victim's phone and other items gone.

MUPD said Henderson fought with officers during the arrest and was taken to Boone County Jail.
ST. LOUIS — Gov. Jay Nixon praised the ground Missouri has gained on treating autism during his tenure as governor in an address to a conference at the MU Thompson Center on Autism Thursday.

Nixon said more families are receiving better treatments for children with autism thanks to changes in what treatments insurers must provide.

“When I first became Governor, awareness of autism and its impact was just entering the mainstream. Many families didn’t know where to turn for help. Here in Missouri, we set out to change that, and we did,” Nixon said. “Today, thousands of families throughout Missouri are able to afford applied behavioral analysis therapy for their children because of the law we passed in 2010. Together, we are building a future where all children have an opportunity to live up to their God-given potential.”

In 2010, Nixon signed HB 1311, which required insurance companies to cover applied behavioral analysis up to $40,000 a year. The costly therapy is also considered one of the most effective in treating autism.

Nixon touted this year’s state autism report, which found that thousands more Missouri children have benefitted from the treatment.

Nixon has also used the budget to address autism. The FY 2017 budget includes $5 million to expand the Thompson Center for Autism in Columbia and $500,000 to expand services at the Mercy Kids Autism Center in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties. In June, Nixon announced $5.5 million in state funding for a new Inter-Professional Autism Clinic in Kirksville, which would provide comprehensive autism services in northeast Missouri.

The petition is gaining speed with over 2,000 supporters as of Thursday evening.

A student petition created Wednesday to reinstate Ellis Library hours that run 24 hours and 5 days a week, which they provided students last year, now has more than 2,000 signatures.
Ellis Library currently closes at midnight from Sunday to Thursday, and at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday because of budget cuts. The petition was created by senior Gabriella Martinez.

**To preempt the change in hours, last year, Matt Gaunt, director of advancement for MU Libraries, proposed a library fee that would provide $13 million in funding each year at its peak.** The idea was to implement a fee per credit hour, beginning at $5 and increasing by $2 each year so that by the year 2022, students would be paying an additional $15 per credit hour. After a student referendum, the proposal failed with 54 percent of students who voted voting against it.

Many students said there was a communication error between the advertisement of the policy and the actual consequences of not approving it. Sophomore Edward McKinley said he blew off the library fee proposal because he viewed it as the university charging more money. He said he felt like the consequence of not voting for the proposal “was a footnote.”

“[The proposal] could’ve been communicated more effectively,” McKinley said.

Junior Shahrukh Naseer agreed. He said that while trying to gather support, many students “didn’t know what the vote was for” or “how it would affect them.” Only now, when the library is closed during what students consider crucial studying hours, do they regret not voting in favor of the proposal, Naseer said.

Martinez said she believes the libraries should be better funded.

“The University of Missouri is an ACADEmic institution and the library, of all places, should be one of the main amenities the university should be funding,” Martinez wrote in an email. “This is a great school with multiple amenities, so the university shouldn't have to raise tuition rates to keep the school library open.”

Martinez, Naseer and McKinley all said they voted ‘yes’ on the library fee.

McKinley said it’s difficult to concentrate when his alternative study area lacks the environment of the library.

“I’m actually in here right now doing homework, and outside there’s loud music,” McKinley said. “It’s easier to go to Ellis, [where] everyone around you is studying.”

Martinez and Naseer decided to make it their priority to expand the library’s hours again: Martinez started the petition, and Naseer created a GoFundMe webpage.

Martinez said in an email that she decided to create the petition after realizing she had only one more hour left in Ellis before the building closed, but she still had hours worth of studying to do.

“The whole point of my petition is to encourage the university to reconsider their decision to cut funds from Ellis,” she said in the email. “Changing the hours back to being open 24 hours would benefit all the busy students who attend the university.”
Martinez’s petition is gaining speed, with over 2,000 supporters in fewer than 24 hours. Students, alumni and parents have signed it. She said her goal is to bring attention to Ellis Library and to show the university that students depend heavily on the library.

Students also took to social media to talk about the petition and efforts to increase Ellis’ hours, including tweeting at the Missouri Students Association’s Twitter account and the accounts of President Sean Earl and Vice President Tori Schafer.

Schafer responded by asking students to reach out to MSA senators and the Missouri General Assembly.

Naseer said he received an email from Kathleen Peters, the assistant director of business administration for MU Libraries, after he began the GoFundMe, asking him to take down his website because it was violating university policy.

Initially, he said he was disappointed, but shortly after, he was informed that the libraries would be starting a campaign to raise funds. Seeing that Naseer was ready to take money out of his own pocket to keep Ellis open, they asked for his input and help, he said.

“I think the university is beginning to take steps in the right direction, and hopefully we can start seeing results soon,” Naseer said.

MU Library spokeswoman Shannon Noel Cary said in an email that she hoped the petition and actions from the students would “demonstrate to the administration that students see the library as a high priority.”

Cary said in an email that the library fee, if passed, would have also provided more services than just keeping the library open 24 hours.

“It would have given us a dedicated revenue stream,” Cary wrote in the email. “We needed this revenue to provide the best possible services (including keeping the buildings open), to provide access to the resources needed for a world-class research institution and to provide learning spaces equipped with technology that keeps pace with today’s learning environment.”
KRCG Investigates Koster’s Claim that Government Support for Higher Education is Decreasing

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=9912cd71-08a0-44b2-a96e-cd30d254535f

Swallow Hall renovations complete, Laffere and Stewart still undergoing work

According to independent consultants, 40 percent of each of MU’s 41 buildings needs to be repaired.

As a part of the Mizzou 2020 strategic plan, various buildings on campus are undergoing renovations or have recently reopened after the completion of construction.

Lafferre Hall and Stewart Hall are currently undergoing renovations. The university is planning the construction of the Applied Learning Center, a new building for the Trulaske College of Business. In May, renovations on Swallow Hall were completed.

The buildings were chosen because they have a Facility Condition Needs Index of over 0.40. This means that an independent consultant has determined that over 40 percent of a building needs to be repaired or replaced, Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said.
“We can renovate the building and improve safety and improve HVAC, electrical, bring it up to
code to today’s standards, we can fix the ADA issues, and we can make the building useable for
today’s students and faculties,” Seville said. “Swallow Hall is the perfect example because that
building was built in 1893 and has had very little renovations whatsoever.”

Currently, there are 41 buildings at MU with a FCNI of 0.40 or greater. The university hopes to
renovate or replace 10 buildings within this FCNI range by 2020, according to the June Mizzou
2020 strategic plan update.

While the university does fix day-to-day repairs, such as leaks and more pressing needs, their
strategy is to pool its money to fix entire buildings, as opposed to scattering resources all over
campus. Fixing every maintenance issue on campus is too costly, Seville said.

“We’re changing one whole building over so that instead of it having an FCNI of 0.75, it has an
FCNI of 0; everything in it is fixed and basically new,” Seville said.

The renovations to Lafferre Hall and Stewart Hall, which have FCNIs of 0.91 and 0.50,
respectively, include creating more lab space. Planning for renovations to McKee Hall, which
would have including replacing the former women’s gymnasium, has been halted due to a lack of
funding, Seville said.

Lafferre Hall will be completed in December and Stewart Hall construction, which began this
summer, is scheduled for completion for the spring 2018 semester.

The Applied Learning Center, which is in the planning stages, will include “a trading floor,
c creativy lab, entrepreneur team collaborative space and storefront, and active-learning,
technology and video conference teaching spaces,” according to the June Mizzou 2020 strategic
plan update.

“The campus chooses [which buildings to renovate or replace] depending on the need at the
time,” Seville said. “For example, with Stewart Hall we have a need for class lab space on
campus, and that building can be renovated to increase the number of class labs and class lab
stations.”

Swallow Hall had a project cost of $16.9 million. The Lafferre Hall renovations are estimated to
cost $44.6 million. The Stewart Hall renovations have an estimated cost of $18 million.

Swallow Hall, which had an FCNI of 0.54, now has a new 100-seat auditorium and over 8,300
square feet of new space.

Originally built in 1893, Swallow Hall has only undergone renovations once before, in 2000
when the witches’ hats atop the building’s towers were restored. Swallow Hall houses the
anthropology, American archaeology and art history departments.
“Things have changed,” chairwoman and professor of anthropology Lisa Sattenspiel said. “The world is different from when this building was built, and it’s now a building that’s ready for the future.”

Swallow Hall’s most recent renovation began in May of 2014 and was completed this past May. During renovations of this scale, faculty must move out of the building.

“There was clearly some disruption, totally expected,” Sattenspiel said. “I don’t think [the displacement] was as bad as I feared, but it definitely had an impact, and we’re all much happier now that we’re back and we’re also happy because this is such a nice building and we missed it.”

Though the renovations at Swallow Hall have modernized it and created more space, the building has lost some of its charm, Sattenspiel said.

“It was sort of a funky old classic anthropology building,” Sattenspiel said. “Everybody loved the old building. We’re anthropologists, and anthropologists like old stuff and places with lots of character.”

Before the renovation, Swallow Hall had wood floors and woodwork around the doorframes.

“[The renovation] needed to be done, we all knew it needed to be done, and the university did it well,” Sattenspiel said. “The building has ended up being a place that we can all be happy with and proud of in spite of losing our creaky wood floors.”

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**Yahoo info breach could even affect most infrequent users**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - While Yahoo's data breach may not include financial information, one computer science professor says it should still prompt some password changes.

The San Francisco-based tech giant reported Thursday a massive theft of account information, telling its users at least 500 million accounts may have been compromised in a 2014 hack. The
company blamed a "state-sponsored actor," and encouraged potentially affected users to change passwords. A statement said Yahoo is working "closely with law enforcement on this matter."

**Prasad Calyam teaches in the University of Missouri’s computer science department, and counts cybersecurity as one of his specialties.** He said the full extent of the hack is not yet apparent, since it's not clear exactly what information was included in the stolen accounts. While it might not contain financial information, Calyam tells ABC 17 News the information could still be valuable.

"You worry about the accounts where people put their whole lives, and their emails, bank accounts and passwords for other systems," Calyam said, "and somebody meticulously going through that could really cause a lot of danger."

Suspicion of a hack first arose in August, according to CNN Money, when a someone tried selling information from 200 million accounts. The Yahoo breach could be the largest to a private tech company. In 2012, LinkedIn reported a theft of 117 million accounts. MySpace reported earlier this year that 360 million accounts had information stolen. Yahoo said information like password security questions and email addresses may have been stolen. No "unprotected" passwords were stolen, but Yahoo "invalidated" security questions used to access some accounts. Yahoo, which was bought by Verizon this summer for more than $4 billion, did not explain the reason for delay between the suspected 2014 hack and its disclosure Thursday.

Chalyam said even the lightest user of Yahoo should take note of the hack.

"Things are linked," Chalyam explained. "You link several email accounts to several other email accounts, and you might have some information, some email account you think is not important, but maybe is the gateway for something else."

Chalyam recommended a change of not only a Yahoo password, but passwords for all online accounts. With increased connection from one platform to another, he said the "mesh" of online security can weaken if something fails. Chalyam said a password of at least eight characters, with upper and lower case letters and special characters included, make strong passwords. Utilizing these from the start stop people from being "reactive" to news of a data breach, Chalyam said.
MU doctors describe their preparations for a super bug

COLUMBIA – Health officials are warning people to take extra precautions for super bugs as the summer is ending.

Even though there are vaccines that help people fight off viruses, a new E. coli strain is creating concern.

A 12-year-old girl picked up the latest case of the sickness after traveling with her family to the Caribbean. Two days before she was scheduled to come home, she developed a fever and bloody diarrhea.

Dr. Susan Even, chief health officer for MU, said the super bug responsible is not currently in Missouri. But if it were to reach the state, doctors would be ready to take extra precautions based on what the state tells them, she said.

“We’d be taking our cues from the state health department and Centers for Disease Control,” Even said.

Though antibiotics are often prescribed to patients who are ill, Even said they can create resistant strains of viruses.

“I think that being aware that overuse of antibiotics can contribute to the sick and contribute to antibiotic resistance is really an important thing,” Even said.

The E. coli super bug can enter through a cut and make the person sick. It is typically transmitted through touch or saliva. Unlike the flu virus, is not spread through the air.

With flu season approaching, Michael Cooperstock, M.D., medical director of MU Health Care’s Infection Control Department, said people need always be ready for the virus.
“Influenza outbreaks can happen as early as October and can last as late as May,” Cooperstock said.

He also advises getting vaccinated between now and November.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised against using spray flu vaccine.

Even said flu shots are best for those who have not already gotten vaccinated.

“They’re available in lots of different locations now, in addition to your primary care or your regular care physician,” Even said.

There will be 6,000 flu vaccines donated to Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services from MU Health Care this year. They will be used to provide free flu vaccinations to children at Boone County public schools.

Exam - English Class At University Of Missouri Examines Rhetoric Through Race

There’s a class at the University of Missouri that everyone has to take. It’s called Exposition and Argument, but students and teachers usually strip it down to its “numerical name:” English 1000.

Donna Strickland, Director of Rhetoric and Composition, says that class is an environment that isn’t found many other places on campus.

“I mean these small classes where people can have these intimate conversations,” Strickland said.

Students come across the country and enroll in this introductory course, a course that is offered on many campuses. Except, this campus is in Columbia, just two hours away from Ferguson,
where a police shooting ignited the Black Lives Matter movement. And the University of Missouri is a campus that made national news last year with protests over racism.

“I think that talking about race matters. “It’s not that, I don’t think we always have to focus our English 1000 courses around race, but it just seemed in that particular moment for that be a possibility,” Strickland said.

Strickland oversees the 50 or so instructors who teach the four thousand students that take composition every year. Some of the instructors had approached her with questions on how to talk about what was going on. So Donna issued an invitation. She asked if people wanted to meet. They could talk about how to start conversations about race, how to navigate discussion, their motivations, types of questions, texts to use—whatever they wanted.

Corinna Cook is one of the instructors who chose to focus on race in her class. In her class they read books and watched films focusing on experiences of race in America. The students said they didn’t know this would be the topic when they signed up, and some were hesitate to open up. However, they decided as a class to be open and honest.

Strickland doesn’t think anyone should be required to teach race. She says she wants instructors who are committed to doing their own internal work, to processing and thinking and searching.

“And I think that’s important. That’s the other thing, right? Some people will say, 'Oh, I don’t want to do it because I’m afraid I’m going to say the wrong thing.' Actually having that fear means you’re actually going to be okay. And so one of the things that’s been really important is just to be okay with discomfort,” Strickland explained.

The students and teachers who do this work are looking at big, amorphous things—things in progress. They’re sitting in a classroom in the middle of campus in the middle of a state in the middle of this country. They’re working on how to be in this spot.

“I mean I want to live in a society in which I don’t feel like I’m part of the problem. I want this for myself,” Strickland said. “Not that I’m doing this as charity work. I’m doing this cause it matters. It matters to me, it matters to all of us.”
New AD Sterk moves Mizzou's agenda forward

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 7 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, MO. • Growing up on a dairy farm in rural Washington, Jim Sterk knows physical labor. Chores began at 5 a.m. before school and lasted into the night after football practice in the fall, basketball in the winter and baseball in the spring. His older brother was tasked with milking the cows while Sterk did the dirty work: feeding the calves, cleaning up stalls, shoveling silage.

As Missouri’s athletics director, Sterk, 60, faces challenges in his new role — perhaps more than most of his peers in the Southeastern Conference — but nothing that compares to life on the farm.

“I enjoy what I do and don’t consider it hard work,” Sterk said Thursday. “Hard work is the physical labor that people are getting up in the morning and doing. Those are harder jobs.”

Less than a month into his new job since leaving San Diego State, Sterk has already produced results in areas where his predecessor stalled. Two weeks ago Mizzou received a $10 million donation earmarked for a new football team facility attached to the south end zone of Memorial Stadium, a project first conceived by former football coach Gary Pinkel then scrapped by former AD Mack Rhoades. With an estimated cost at $75 million, the project is on the docket for discussion at next month’s Board of Curators meeting in Kansas City. Sterk plans to formally introduce the proposal for approval in early 2017. Missouri is about $20 million away from having the resources for the project.

“We’re in a good place,” said Sterk, who met with a select group of reporters for an hour-long interview at Mizzou Arena. “Hopefully in the next few weeks ahead and months ahead we’ll announce more gifts that help support that.”
From there, Missouri plans to raise funds for a new 100-yard indoor practice facility — estimated cost, $24 million, Sterk said — that will free up the Devine Pavilion for other Mizzou teams to use.

As the Tigers (1-2) continue their first season under coach Barry Odom, football is clearly the priority for Sterk, though not without its challenges. The aftershocks of last year’s 5-7 season and team boycott were on display at Memorial Stadium the last two Saturdays: Attendance for the Sept. 10 game against Eastern Michigan (51,192) was MU’s lowest for a home opener since 2006, while Saturday’s crowd against Georgia (57,098) was MU’s smallest for a home SEC game, more than 14,000 short of the stadium’s capacity. A drop in attendance was expected considering season ticket sales are down about 12 percent from last year, but Sterk described the situation as “an opportunity.”

“We really haven’t been aggressive on the outbound sales side of things from a ticket standpoint,” he said. “I think there’s a huge upside to what we’re doing here.”

“We won’t see any benefits probably until next season,” he added, “but we’re well on our way to changing that and being more aggressive going after people and letting them know, you can go to the game, here’s the price, it’s affordable.”

Part of that strategy, Sterk said, will be reconnecting with former season ticket holders who didn’t renew their tickets this year.

“We won’t give up on them,” he said.

In other football discussions, Sterk believes Mizzou can push for a neutral-site game in St. Louis quicker than Kansas City because of the Rams’ departure, but he’s sensitive to taking a home game away from the local market.

“There’s a lot of infrastructure (in Columbia) that football supports,” he said. “The economic impact here, I’ve heard, is over $200 million as far as athletics and 87 percent is probably football. So it’s a big deal to move a game. It has to make sense from that standpoint.”
Looking ahead to future schedules, Sterk was surprised to see MU’s previous regimes scheduled series that required road trips to several non-power conference schools — at Wyoming in 2019, at Memphis in 2021, at Middle Tennessee in 2022, at Miami-Ohio in 2025 — and indicated he wouldn’t pursue such arrangements in the future.

As for Kim Anderson’s men’s basketball program, Sterk will use the upcoming season to evaluate the staff’s future — with less emphasis on the coach’s nine- and 10-win seasons the last two years.

“The past two years you kind of set it aside,” he said. “It’s there, but … I can look at it with a fresh set of eyes of what’s happening this year. What’s going on? Where does the program go from here? It was an unfortunate situation he inherited. So, I think he feels really good about his team that he has. … I look at it as, is there progress being made? What direction is the program going? Is it going up or going down?”

As he settles into his new role, Sterk has made a point to “calm everyone down” in a department that’s been rocked by turbulence the last two years, including Rhoades’ surprising departure for Baylor after just 14 months on the job. Sterk has rearranged some duties within his senior staffers but has kept the core intact.

“We need to focus on our jobs,” he said. “I’m not a Queen of Hearts (saying), ‘Off with their heads and we’re moving on.’ I’m not that way. We’ll be strategic about what we do.”
New A.D. Jim Sterk on state of Mizzou athletics: ‘It’s not like it’s broken’

BY TOD PALMER
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COLUMBIA - New Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk met with a group of reporters on Thursday, and no topics were off limits, including his brief foray as a thespian during high school and college or growing up on a rural Washington dairy farm.

But he also spent plenty of time discussing more meaty subjects as he digests his first month with the Tigers.

Sterk shrugged off the notion he inherited a chaotic mess after he was hired last month as new Baylor athletic director Mack Rhoades’ replacement.

“I think there’s a lot of great things going on, so it’s not like it’s broken,” Sterk said.

MU’s prominence as the state’s flagship school and a member of the Southeastern Conference along with the town of Columbia enticed Sterk to leave San Diego State, but he also said he believes he can make a difference at the school.

Sterk, who signed a seven-year contract in August, also doesn’t plan on retiring soon.

“I’ve always joked that I have three daughters and I would have to work until 85,” Sterk said. “That’s probably not far from the truth, but I haven’t thought about retirement. I thought maybe 75 or something like that. I’m an optimist that way.”

Men’s basketball remains a challenge, Sterk acknowledged, but he’s already had several conversations with third-year coach Kim Anderson.

Progress will be the barometer for Anderson moving forward, given the difficult situation he inherited, but the Tigers need to improve from a 19-44 overall record and back-to-back 3-15 finishes in conference.
“You take that into account that, the past two years, you kind of set it aside,” Sterk said.

“It’s there, but I’m new and I can look at it with a fresh set of eyes of what’s happening this year and what’s going on and see where the program goes from here. It was an unfortunate situation that he inherited, so I think he feels really good about his team.

Sterk — whose wife, Debra, remains in San Diego to sell the couple’s house — declined to lay out specific goals.

“I don’t look at it that way,” Sterk said. “Is there progress being made? What direction is the program going? Is it going up or is it going down? That’s how you look, I think, in the end. ... He’s the coach until he’s no longer the coach. Hopefully, he has a great, long tenure here and that I help support him at a critical time in his tenure here and that we enjoy some great successes together.”

Sterk also said his hiring provides a “fresh start” for Missouri softball coach Ehren Earleywine, who was the subject of an internal athletic department investigation and a Title IX investigation last spring.

Earleywine isn’t on a social contract with the Tigers’ athletic department, which outlines expected behavior, according to Sterk.

“He’s looked and analyzed internally what he needs to do,” Sterk said. “From the department, we are doing the same thing. Is it a clean slate? No, but it’s a fresh start, for sure. He has that opportunity, so I’m excited about moving forward with him.”

Sterk didn’t see any parallels between Earleywine’s situation and that of former San Diego State women’s basketball coach Beth Burns, who he fired for improper physical contact with an assistant coach.

Sterk testified at Burns’ wrongful termination trial last week in San Diego, an issue he also addressed Thursday: “I’d do it again. I felt like I had to protect employees within the department.”

The Earleywine investigation centered on alleged verbal abuse of players and not allegations of physical abuse.

Among other pressing issues for Mizzou athletics:

- HOK, an architecture firm with offices in Kansas City, is on retainer to design the proposed football facility in Memorial Stadium’s south end zone, which received a boost earlier this month with a $10 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust.
“I think it is in endorsement of what we’re planning to do and a precursor to others,” Sterk said. “I’m hopeful that’s the case. It’s not an endorsement of me, per se. I think it’s an endorsement of the program and what (first-year coach) Barry (Odom) is doing with football.”

Shoring up the stadium’s infrastructure — originally, it was built on a landfill — is an integral part of the project, which also will include new locker rooms, meetings rooms, a weight room, sports medicine facility and coaches’ offices that overlook the field.

“I think we need to be unique and create something,” Sterk said. “That’s kind of what I challenge the architects.”

Sterk also said, while Memorial Stadium’s capacity doesn’t need a boost, there is a need for additional premium seating.

“We are 97 percent sold out of our east-side premium seating,” Sterk said. “I have a good friend that’s in the apartment business. When you’re in the 90 percent filled range, it’s time to build. Premium seating will be a part of that as well. Not necessarily a capacity increase, but maybe taking some of those top rows ... and creating a premium seating area.”

Sterk hopes to present information to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators at its October meeting.

“It will probably be after the first of the year as far as approval, so we got a lot of work to do to get it to that point,” Sterk said.

• The second phase of planned facilities upgrades remains a full-length indoor practice facility, which could be located adjacent to the new south end zone complex and will cost approximately $24 million.

Devine Pavilion, which is used by other sports — including baseball, softball, women’s soccer and track and field — during inclement weather will remain.

The new full-length facility also could be built on one of the Kadlec Athletic Fields, located behind the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex.

• There are no current plans to demolish the Hearnes Center, which Sterk said was an enjoyable place to watch volleyball on Wednesday and remains a terrific venue for wrestling and other sports.

MU will invest $1 million to improve the airflow in the Hearnes Center, but there are no “firm or final” plans for the future of the Hearnes Center.
“It’s not blowing up in the near future.” Sterk said.

• Sterk said it’s not possible to install a turf baseball field at Taylor Stadium in time for the 2017 season, but he wants it to happen as quickly as possible — perhaps in time for 2018.

• Sterk doesn’t plan to hire a deputy athletic director.

Instead, Mizzou’s senior associate athletic director for development, Brian White, will absorb many of former deputy athletic director for external relations Wren Baker’s duties.

Baker was hired in late July as North Texas’ athletic director.

Meanwhile, executive associate athletic director and senior women’s administrator Sarah Reesman effectively will become the athletic department’s second in command, running day-to-day operations when Sterk is away from Columbia.

Sterk offers more details on football facility

The area directly south of Memorial Stadium has a humble history as a landfill. Its future is far more glamorous.

In a meeting with reporters Thursday after his first month on the job, Missouri Athletic Director Jim Sterk provided some more details about plans for the new football facility that will attach to the south side of the stadium.

Sterk said the structure will have a football weight room, coaches’ offices, meeting rooms, a sports-medicine center and a locker room. There will be a view from the new football facility into the stadium. There also will be more premium seats for fans.

“We’re 97 percent sold out of our eastside premium seating,” Sterk said. “So I have a good friend in the apartment business, and when you’re at a 90-percent-filled rate, it’s time to build. So premium seating, I think, will be a piece of that. Not necessarily a capacity increase but maybe taking some of those top rows in the south end zone and creating a premium seating area.”
The first phase of the project is expected to cost about $75 million. The recent $10 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust gave the project momentum, and Sterk said he hoped to have some more announcements in the coming weeks and months. Sterk said Mike Slive and Greg Sankey — the former and current Southeastern Conference commissioners, respectively — had told MU officials the school was behind the curve on facilities and “really needed to look at that.”

The second phase of the project would include a 100-yard indoor football practice facility, with an estimated cost of $24 million. Sterk said that, too, could be located south of the stadium. Another possible location is on the current football practice fields west of the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex.

One issue with building south of the stadium is its landfill past.

“There’s a lot of rock and hillside and dump. … It’s the foundation, and what do you have to do to make sure it’s not shifting? It’s above my pay grade on the engineering side, but we’ll find out what we need to do,” Sterk said.

Sterk said he doesn’t want to pattern MU’s new facility after any other school’s version and has challenged architects to come up with something unique. Sterk said he will provide information about the project to the University of Missouri board of curators in October and present plans for the board’s approval in early 2017.

The project has varied in scope and location as athletic directors changed in the last few years. In December 2014, Mike Alden announced plans for a south end zone football facility, but his successor, Mack Rhoades, favored an expanded MATC that would serve all athletes. Sterk said he decided to return to the south end zone concept after meeting with Coach Barry Odom and touring the current facilities.

Sterk said he has enlisted former Coach Gary Pinkel to help sell donors on contributing to the project.

“Gary can help convey the message of ‘why?’ with our donors and supporters,” Sterk said. “He’s gone toe to toe with the SEC and can really tell first-hand what it’s like. He’ll have more time than Barry at this point in time, so I plan to use him that way.”

On the topic of facilities, Sterk said any plans to replace the Hearnes Center were “down the road” and that MU was preparing to sink more money into the 44-year-old arena, which hosts volleyball, wrestling, gymnastics and indoor track meets.

“It’s surviving,” he said. “We’re going to be spending some money this year on air flow. I know that’s been an issue there. It will be a significant amount. It will be a million dollars or more just on the maintenance of that. Long-term, I think they’ve looked at” tearing it down, “but nothing that’s anything firm or final. That’s out there. That’s one that I’ve asked them to really look at and analyze. ‘What are we really spending on an annual basis there?’ ”
The attendance at Saturday’s SEC football opener against Georgia was 57,098. That was Missouri’s smallest home crowd ever for an SEC game. The two previous home games against Georgia drew more than 70,000.

One possible reason for decreased attendance is that some fans were so disappointed by the university's response to November’s football protest that they have sworn off attending games.

“I haven’t ran the analytics of who was not there,” Sterk said. “That would be interesting to see. We’re down somewhat in season tickets, but we’re up in premium sales. People are spending more money that way. I think we have some work to do on the outbound ticket sales side, and we’re taking action that way. We won’t see any benefits probably until next season, but we’re well on our way to changing that and being more aggressive going after people and letting them know that you can go to the game and here is the price.”

Sterk said the athletic department will try to win back fans who cancelled their season tickets after last year.

“I’m sure our ticket staff office called them, but we won’t give up on them,” Sterk said.

— Sterk was asked about the job security of men's basketball Coach Kim Anderson, who in entering his third season. Sterk said he has spoken to the parents of recruits and addressed the topic of Anderson’s future, saying that any coach who says with certainty he will be at a school for the next four years is “full of crap.”

“I basically told them that Kim inherited a tough situation, and so, yeah, you take that into account,” Sterk said. “The past two years, you kind of set that aside. It’s there, but I’m new, I can look at it with a fresh set of eyes. What’s happening this year? What’s going on? Where does the program go from here?”

Anderson is 19-44 overall and 6-30 in SEC play. Sterk said he won’t determine Anderson’s future based on a set number of victories this season.

“I don’t look at it that way,” Sterk said. “Is there progress being made? What direction is the program going? Is it going up, or is it going down?”

— Softball Coach Ehren Earleywine survived a lengthy Title IX investigation over the spring and summer. Sterk said he wasn’t aware of any social contract dictating Earleywine’s behavior moving forward.

“He’s analyzed internally what he needs to do,” Sterk said. "I think from the department, we’re doing the same thing. Is it a clean slate? No. But it’s a fresh start for sure.”

— The movement started by San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick to sit or kneel during the national anthem to protest racism and police brutality hasn’t affected college football because teams are in their locker rooms during the playing of the anthem. That is not the case with some other college sports, including basketball.
Sterk said he was scheduled Thursday to join an SEC conference call with an agenda that included national anthem protocol. Sterk didn’t offer any insight on his position on the issue, saying, “I don’t know.”

— Sterk spent four hours on Sept. 13 testifying in the wrongful-termination lawsuit filed by former San Diego State women’s basketball Coach Beth Burns. Sterk fired Burns in 2013 a month after she completed a 27-7 season.

Among the stated reasons for the dismissal was Burns’ treatment of subordinates, including assistant coach Adam Barrett, whom she was caught on video elbowing during a game. Sterk had previously given Burns good performance reviews.

On the decision to fire Burns, Sterk said Thursday: “I’d do it again. I felt like I had to protect the employees within the department. I had to make a decision that was a hard decision, because” she was a “successful coach that had been to a Sweet 16 but a situation that had escalated to a point that we had to do something.”

Sterk said Missouri was aware of the lawsuit before it hired him.

— Sterk said he would not hire a new deputy athletic director. He promoted Brian White to the role of associate athletic director for development, and he will fill many of the same duties that Wren Baker had under Rhoades. Sterk said associate AD Sarah Reesman will be his “chief of staff” and will be second in command.
Sterk will not hire a deputy AD. Instead, he’s given some external duties to senior associate AD for development Brian White, who takes on some of the tasks carried out by former deputy AD Wren Baker. He’ll oversee ticket sales among other things. Executive associate AD Sarah Reesman will serve as Sterk’s chief of staff and will run the department as d facto AD when Sterk is unavailable. Executive associate ADs Tim Hickman and Bryan Maggard will carry out their current roles.

On staff morale after Mack Rhoades’ quick departure, Sterk said, “Part of what I needed to do was calm every one down. We’ve been able to do that. We need to focus on our jobs. Hopefully people feel that way with me. I’m not a Queen of Hearts (saying), ‘Off with their heads and we’re moving on.’ I’m not that way. We’ll be strategic about what we do.”

FACILITIES

Sterk expects to announce more donations earmarked for the south end zone football team facility, in addition to the $10 million gift secured two weeks ago. Information about the project — with an estimated cost at $75 million — is on the docket for next month’s Board of Curators meeting in Kansas City. Sterk plans to formally introduce the proposal for approval in early 2017. Missouri is about $20 million away from having the resources for the project.

The first order of business with the proposed facility site is the foundation. The lot south of Memorial Stadium is built on a landfill.

Part of the facility construction will likely include the addition of premium seating options in the stadium’s south bowl. Mizzou has sold out 97 percent of its east side premium seating. “I have a good friend in the apartment business,” Sterk said, “and when you’re in the 90 percent it’s time to build.” The seats won’t necessarily increase stadium capacity but will replace the top two rows of the south end zone seating.

The new facility will house a game-day locker room, weight room, training room, offices and meeting space. The building will have views that look into the stadium. It won’t necessarily be modeled after any other school’s facility.
“I think we need to be unique,” Sterk said. “That’s what I’ve challenged the architects and what the donors want to see, something that works for us and fits into our stadium that looks good and can help enhance the game day but also every day (usage).”

The second phase of the facility plan will be a new 100-yard indoor football practice facility with an estimated cost of $24 million. The new indoor will be built in addition to the current indoor facility, perhaps on the current grass practice fields behind the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex or back behind the south side of the stadium.

The new football facility will also free up the MATC and give other teams more room to use that building. A third phase will MATC renovations.

As for the Hearnes Center, there are no current plans to demolish the 44-year-old building. MU will spend at least $1 million this year to maintain the building’s utilities, Sterk said.

**REVENUE, DONATIONS, TICKET SALES**

Sterk is hopeful the $10 million donation becomes “the precursor to others,” he said.

“We’re receiving positive support,” he said. “People can see what’s going on on the field and Barry (Odom’s) leadership. it’s not an endorsement of me per se but an endorsement of the program and what Barry’s doing with football. Those people who have been around and seen what the competition is and what he needs to move the program forward.”

The aftershocks of last year’s campus turmoil were on display at Memorial Stadium the last two Saturdays: Attendance for the Sept. 10 game against Eastern Michigan (51,192) was MU’s smallest for a home opener since 2006, while Saturday’s crowd against Georgia (57,098) was MU’s smallest for a home SEC game, more than 14,000 short of the stadium’s capacity. A drop in attendance was expected considering season ticket sales are down about 12 percent from last year, but Sterk described the situation as “an opportunity.”
“We really haven’t been aggressive on the outbound sales side of things from a ticket standpoint,” Sterk said. “I think there’s a huge upside to what we’re doing here. I think we have a football team from looking at the two-deep depth chart, there’s only four seniors on offense and only five on defense. You take the No. 16 team in the country (Georgia) to a 1-point loss … all of us are still heartbroken over that…and we made five mistakes. If you just make one mistake we probably win that game. We’re not going to turn the ball over five times. It shows a huge upside that we can get people excited about. They are excited. Even though they’re heartbroken they’re still excited about what happened Saturday.”

Sterk said it would be interesting to run some analytics to learn more about what fans were at the game Saturday and which ones stayed home.

“We’re down in season tickets (sales), but we’re up in premium seating sales,” he said. “People are spending more money that way. I think we have some work to do on the outbound ticket sales side. We’re taking action that way. We won’t see any benefits probably until next season, but we’re well on our way to changing that and being more aggressive going after people and letting them know, you can go to the game, here’s the price, it’s affordable. You can make a great game of it.”

Improved communication with fans is essential, Sterk said. And that includes reaching out to former season ticket holders who didn’t renew their tickets this year.

“We won’t give up on them,” he said.

**FOOTBALL SCHEDULING**

Sterk said he’s open to exploring neutral-site options in Kansas City and St. Louis and said he believes MU could arrange a game in St. Louis sooner because of the Rams’ departure. But he’s sensitive to taking a home game out of the local market in Columbia.

“Because we are the flagship we have an opportunity to bring those things (to other cities), but it has to a balance,” he said. “There’s a lot of infrastructure here that football supports. The
economic impact here I’ve heard is over $200 million as far as athletics and 87 percent is probably football. So it’s a big deal to move a game. It has to make sense from standpoint."

Missouri’s future nonconference schedules are all but set for the next several years, including six road games at schools outside of the five major conferences: Connecticut, BYU, Wyoming, Memphis, Middle Tennessee and Miami-Ohio.

“My friend at Wyoming (AD Tom Burman) was afraid I was going to cancel the game right away,” Sterk said. “I go, ‘What the heck are we going to Wyoming for? It made sense at the time (form Missouri to schedule). I’m not going to change that right now. Actually Wyoming in September’s not that bad. Now if it was November I’d definitely get it off there.”

s but didn’t go as far to say he’ll break those contracts.

“I probably wouldn’t (schedule a game in) Wyoming, but I’ll enjoy going to Wyoming when we play,” he said.

BASKETBALL

Asked about the men’s basketball program and third-year coachKim Anderson, Sterk started off by sharing what he told recruits and their families this weekend during their campus visits:
“From my standpoint, anyone that tells your son they’re guaranteed they’re going to be there, they’re full of crap,” he said. “There’s no guarantees in life. I basically told them Kim had inherited a tough situation.”

“You take that into account,” he continued. “The past two years you kind of set it aside. It’s there, but … I can look at it with a fresh set of eyes of what’s happening this year. What’s going on? Where does the program go from here? It was an unfortunate situation he inherited. So I think he feels really good about his team that he has. It may not be the talent level (he wants), but in basketball there’s five people on the court. There’s not just one individual. It’s a team sport. If they play together, who knows what happens.”
Sterk won’t set a minimum number of games Anderson has to win to keep his job.

“I don’t look at it that way,” he said. “I look at it as: Is there progress being made.? What direction is the program going ? Is it going up or going down?”

Attendance at men’s basketball games is part of how you evaluate “the ups and downs,” Sterk said. “It’s not THE factor but it’s one of the things you look at.”

More on Anderson: “You’ve got to attack it that he’s the coach until he’s no longer the coach. Hopefully has a great, long tenure and that I helped support him at a critical time in his tenure here and that we enjoy some great successes together. … He’s a great team player. There hasn’t been anything he’s brought up that he needs help with. We’re in a great place there.”

OTHER TOPICS

• Sterk was scheduled for an SEC conference call today to discuss national anthem protocol in regards what’s going on around the NFL this season. College football teams are in the locker room during the national anthem, but athletes in other sports are on the field during the song, including basketball. Sterk declined to comment on his stance on having a policy regarding anthem protocol.

* Sterk testified last week in the wrongful termination suit filed by former San Diego State women’s basketball coach Beth Burns, whom Sterk fired for allegedly mistreating other staff members. “I had to protect the employees within the department and make a decision,” Sterk said. “It was a hard decision because a successful coach had been to a Sweet Sixteen, but the situation had escalated to the point that we had to do something. Would I do it again? Yeah, I would. I had head coaches afterward tell me they respected me for that decision, that I didn’t let the wins and losses get in the way of making the right decision. That’s how I feel about it.”

* On softball coach Ehren Earleywine, who was retained after a lengthy investigation by the school’s Title IX Office, Sterk said, “He’s looked and analyzed internally what he needs to do.
From the department, we’re doing the same thing. Is it clean slate? No, but it’s a fresh start for sure. He has that opportunity. I’m excited about moving forward.”

* On the baseball program, Sterk said MU is committed to installing artificial turf for the infield and outfield in time for the 2018 season. “Collegiate baseball is played January to May. Our weather is unpredictable to be able to really hone their skills and rise to a new level.”

* On Gary Pinkel’s role in MU athletics, Sterk said, “He was really successful in building the program, respectability, and winning a couple division titles when no one thought that could happen. He’s uniquely qualified to help. I’ve used him talking to him about what the football program needed. That was part of all that decision when I looked at the south side. He was part of that. Barry was the main one. Gary can help convey the message of why with our donors and supporters. He’s gone toe to toe with the rest of the SEC and can tell first-hand what it’s like. He’ll have more time than Barry at this point in time. I plan to use him that way.”

* On his early impressions of Odom, Sterk said: “Talk to any of the kids on that team. They’ll go through the wall for that coach. There’s a reason for that. He cares about them. He’s going to help them whether it’s on the football field, whether it’s academically or career, whatever. That makes a difference. It’s a big enterprise. You’re playing at the highest level, but it gets down to personal relationships.”

BACKGROUND

Sterk shared some of his personal story. He grew up in rural Washington on his family’s dairy farm where he had chores every morning at 5 a.m. and again after sports practices in the evening. He played football, basketball and baseball in high school and also participated in the choir, band (he played the trumpet) and starred in a school play production of “Flowers for Algernon.”

“I believe in that holistic education in getting experiences in all fronts,” he said. “It was neat.”

Without prompting he recited a line from the 1972 performance.
“Algernon’s brain had decreased in weight compared to a normal brain and there was a general smoothing out of cerebral convulsions as well as deepening and broadening of brain fissures,” he said, laughing.

WHY MIZZOU?

So, why again did Sterk leave San Diego for the middle of Missouri?

“I really truly thought I was on vacation every day,” he said. “I never lived in a place with palm trees. (I was) ready for a challenge. I was not looking for that but it piqued my interest as I started to delve into it. The excitement of being a flagship and I’ve been in a land grant (school) before and I understand that it has reaches across the state and extension offices all over. I really like that.”

“As I talked to people about Mizzou I heard passionate, passionate comments that what the national press perceived (last fall) that’s not as you proceed from all the things that occurred, that’s not that place,” he said. “I studied it further. Obviously the opportunity to be in the SEC was another (reason). The success in the short term the (football) program had is good. It’s not like coming to a place that can’t win. I think there’s a lot of things here we can build upon. … And I felt like I could help, make a difference.”

Sterk isn’t too concerned about the interim leadership at the chancellor and university system president level.

“There’s a board approved by the governor that can move (MU’s agenda) along,” he said. “It’ll be helpful when (the president job) gets done sooner than later, but overall athletics isn’t going to change. We’re not going to change out of the SEC. There’s not going to be big changes in that way. Obviously you need that person and those positions to support athletics. I would think at this institution if they hire the interim (chancellor or president) or attract someone else, they’ll understand that’s a vital part of the mission of the institution.”
More Aid for the Needy
The percentage of students receiving federal Pell Grants has grown as incomes have fallen.

No MU Mention

A new report from the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics found that the percentage of both independent and dependent students who received Pell Grants increased from 1999 to 2011. In 1999, 19 percent of dependent students -- or those who relied on their parents' income -- received the grants. That figure increased to 35 percent by 2011. Among independent students, the percentage of recipients increased from 25 percent in 1999 to 48 percent in 2011.

Those numbers correspond with decreasing median family incomes. In 1999, the median family income for dependent Pell Grant recipients was $29,500, after adjusting for inflation. That number decreased to $26,100 by 2011. For independent students, the median income declined from $14,300 to $12,700.
"This really reinforces the growing need for the Pell Grant," said Bill DeBaun, director of data and evaluation at the National College Access Network, a nonprofit organization that advocates for low-income students. "We know that the Pell is a great policy instrument promoting postsecondary access and opportunity to student groups that need it the most and who have the least access to opportunity. The decreasing median income from the report is there. It's very well targeted even as the demand grew."

After the recession, there were some concerns that the expansion of the Pell program would lead to less targeting or focus on low-income students. In 2008, for instance, the maximum Pell award was $4,350. That number has increased to $5,815 this year. But to address worries about rising costs of the program, the Obama administration in 2011 cut year-round access to the grants.

"The independent student income, it's about the level of federal poverty level for one person," said Lauren Walizer, senior policy analyst at the Center for Postsecondary and Economic Success. "With the maximum Pell, they're getting a boost of income by almost 50 percent. By extending to year-round Pell, if they get another semester's worth of Pell, that would boost their ability to engage in college."

Pell Grants are structured on family income and how much money families are expected to contribute toward students' college educations. Raising the maximum amount of money is one way of boosting the flow to the neediest students, but it can also increase the number of people who qualify for some Pell Grant funds. In 2008, there were
6.1 million Pell Grant recipients. That number grew to about 8.2 million recipients in 2014, according to federal data. Sandy Baum, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and an expert on financial aid, said higher-income families are receiving Pell Grants, especially if they have more than two or three kids in college at the same time. But besides exceptions like those, she said, the federal grant is going to people who have significant financial constraints.

Congress has been working to restore year-round Pell. This past summer the U.S. Senate attempted to restore the year-round measure, which would let students receive two of the need-based grants in one year to help pay for summer courses. But the U.S. House of Representatives rejected the proposal.

"You should be able to take your credits whenever you need them," Baum said.