Stem cell transformation provides insight into osteoporosis

Generated from News Bureau press release: Watching Stem Cells Change Provides Clues to Fighting Osteoporosis in Older Women

COLUMBIA, Mo., Oct. 5 (UPI) -- Watching how stem cells transform can provide clues for fighting osteoporosis in older women, according to a study released by the University of Missouri.

Osteoporosis is a disease characterized by a substantial weakening of the bone. Bones in this condition have larger holes and spaces than usual. The disease primarily affects the elderly.

Scientists have long theorized stem cells can be utilized to uncover cures and new treatments for a variety of diseases, including osteoporosis. The biggest challenge, University of Missouri researchers say, has been the inability to watch stem cells transform. By focusing on fat-derived stem cells transforming into bone cells, they say they have taken a critical step forward.

"Stem cell treatments and therapies hold tremendous promise in treating a range of diseases and injuries; however, there is still a lot to learn about how stem cells grow and convert to needed tissues," MU engineering dean Elizabeth Loboa said in a press release. "We need the ability to observe and monitor the process without impeding it; therefore, our team decided to analyze and study a new approach to monitoring stem cells as they transform into tissues we may need to treat disease."

In the study, published in Stem Cells Translational Medicine, fat-derived stem cells taken from participants of various age groups were examined using electrical cell-substrate impedance spectroscopy, or ECIS, as they transformed into bone cells. Researchers found that cells taken from older participants transformed more rapidly, but with lower levels of calcium.

"This is the first study to use ECIS to predict and monitor the potential of adipose cells transforming into bone cells," Laboa explained. "Results demonstrate that ECIS can potentially be used to screen for osteogenic potential of hASC, track the stages of osteogenic differentiation for quality control purposes and better explain the underlying biological causes of variability among donors -- and since the results typically are in 'real-time,' this technology could be incorporated into future manufacturing to track hASC throughout the process."
When Racism Reappears, How Can a Campus Show It Has Made Any Gains?

By Sarah Brown  OCTOBER 06, 2016

For many black students at the University of Missouri at Columbia, last week felt like déjà vu. Another racially charged remark. Another demonstration. Another statement from university leaders expressing their outrage and stressing their commitment to "fostering an inclusive campus environment."

Two black female students had told the campus police that some of their white peers had hurled racial slurs at them on campus late Tuesday.

Frustrations poured out on Twitter. "Racism is still alive at Mizzou," wrote one. "Living while black is a disability on Mizzou’s campus," added another.

The incident was a sharp reminder of the simmering tensions over race relations at Mizzou. Last fall, the campus was rocked by protests that toppled two university leaders and inspired similar demonstrations across the country.

Since then, the University of Missouri system has hired a chief diversity officer, started a diversity audit, and created a group of faculty, administrators, and a student to review diversity efforts across the four campuses, recommend changes, and figure out how to measure any such changes. The flagship campus has set aside more money to increase faculty diversity and begun requiring diversity training for all faculty, staff, and incoming students.

But students, who are on campus for only a few years, want to see quick cultural change. Last week’s incident suggests to some students that, despite all of the things
university leaders say they’re doing, the campus racial climate hasn’t improved since last fall. They wonder whether Missouri officials are all talk and no action.

Experts stress that one year isn’t nearly enough to undo decades of racial problems and that an incident like this one doesn’t necessarily indicate that race relations aren’t improving. After all, college officials can’t prevent every racist remark from being uttered on their campuses.

But they say that Missouri and other institutions can create an environment where such behavior is unacceptable. What the fraternity-house incident suggests, they add, is that there is not yet a critical mass of white students, faculty, and staff at Missouri who are serving as allies in combating racism.

How can Missouri measure whether those efforts to spur institutional change are proving successful? Seeing how the campus community responds to incidents like the one last week is one way of gauging whether race relations have improved.

The day after the slurs were reported, Missouri’s leaders put out a statement explaining the steps they had taken in response — which contrasted with what many students saw as a sluggish response last year to racial unrest. A spokesman for Missouri did not respond to a request for additional comment this week.

For students, it’s often a question of personal experience, said Kimberly A. Griffin, an associate professor of higher education at the University of Maryland at College Park who studies the experiences of underrepresented students on campuses. While structural changes might be starting to improve campus inclusion in a broad sense, Ms. Griffin says, students tend to care most about what they’re seeing and feeling on an individual level.

A Call for Intervention

Reuben Faloughi, a doctoral student in psychology at Missouri, said that as far as he knows, white students at the fraternity house didn’t step in last week and tell their peers to stop insulting the black students. While he stressed that most members of predominantly white fraternities don’t engage in such offensive behavior, he said the lack of bystander intervention needs to change.

For the past year, university leaders have been laser-focused on addressing the issues raised by Concerned Student 1950, the group that led last fall’s protests, said Mr. Faloughi, who was one of its founding members. But he hasn’t seen officials engage many white students in their efforts.
That means, he said, that many of them have never had to grapple with the significance of the protests — or understand the implicit biases they might have against minority students.

Shaun R. Harper, executive director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania, said he sees similar gaps at many campuses where students protested last fall.

"So many of these efforts are just about trying to meet the list of demands that were issued by students," he said, "without understanding that there’s this larger explanation for why students of color have these experiences that they were protesting to begin with."

At Missouri, 78 percent of students are white, Mr. Harper noted. "No corrective diversity effort will succeed there or at any other place that’s demographically similar if there’s no attention paid to the 78 percent."

The burden of educating those students shouldn’t be placed primarily on black students, said Calvin L. Warren, an assistant professor of American studies at George Washington University. "It’s unfair for some students to have to bear this very heavy and dense weight of trying to solve anti-blackness on a campus," Mr. Warren said. "That’s not their job."

The university has started requiring all incoming students to go through diversity training. But Walter M. Kimbrough, president of Dillard University and a scholar who researches historically black colleges and black men in college, said he’s skeptical that a required training is the best way to reach white students. Such a mandate could provoke a backlash, he said.

Mr. Kimbrough said faculty and staff should take the lead in embracing roles as anti-racist allies. That means regularly attending events held by multicultural student organizations, he said. That means listening to minority students — and believing them — when they talk about difficulties and challenges they experience on campus.

Those faculty and staff could then serve as an example to white students and build bridges across cultural lines, he said. For instance, the faculty adviser to a predominantly white student group might suggest to members that they collaborate with a multicultural group on an event or service project.

"I don’t see a lot of faculty, staff, and administrators getting out of their comfort zones," he said.
Shift in Culture Needed

When racist incidents occur on a campus, it’s not just about the administrative response, said Beverly C. Daniel Tatum, a former president of Spelman College, the private historically black institution for women in Atlanta. "You can’t create a culture from the president’s office," she said. Where, she asks, are the voices of white student leaders?

Ms. Tatum cited a statement made by the student-body president at Texas A&M University earlier this year as a sign of progress on that campus. Tensions had surfaced after a group of black and Latino high-school students visiting the university were insulted by white university students and told to "go back where they came from."

Joseph Benigno, the student leader at the time, who is white, uploaded a three-and-a-half minute YouTube video asking students to reflect on "how an individual on our campus became so emboldened in their racism that they were able to openly yell slurs at a group of black students on campus." He addressed students who had openly wondered whether the slurs had been fabricated: "My message to you is simple: Stop."

The statement released the day after the recent Missouri incident by the university’s Panhellenic Association, the umbrella organization for predominantly white sororities, was perhaps the most strongly worded of any made by Missouri students last week.

"The hateful speech of our friends is crippling, the deafening silence of our community is deadly," the association wrote. That’s a group the university should look to as a partner in improving the racial climate, said Mr. Kimbrough, of Dillard.

Other signs of progress on race relations — such as the results of campus-climate surveys — won’t be measurable right away. Missouri opened one such survey to students, faculty, and staff this week, and many of the questions ask about racism and offensive or hostile conduct. The survey does not ask participants to verify that they are a Missouri student or employee.

Institutions like Missouri should also try to integrate efforts to promote inclusion into all aspects of campus life, said Ms. Griffin, of Maryland. It’s often not the first experience with diversity education that really changes a student, she said; it might take two or three lessons for them to start sinking in.

Colleges could make that happen by revamping their residence-hall experience, encouraging students to interact with peers who don't share their background during
programs or meals, she said. And the university could offer more service-learning opportunities that bring together diverse groups of students.

"Just as much learning can take place over dinner having a conversation or with a roommate as it can in the classroom," Ms. Griffin said. "How are we creating environments that allow that to happen?"

University of Missouri asks students, faculty and staff to take campus climate survey


COLUMBIA, Mo - The University of Missouri is asking students, faculty and staff to complete a survey on the current campus climate.

The survey opened Tuesday and is scheduled to close on November 4th.

On the MU website that links to the survey it says "We seek to create an environment characterized by openness, fairness and equal access for all students, faculty and staff."

It also says the survey is designed to provide information about both positive and challenging aspects of the campus climate.

It says the survey is an opportunity for students and others to describe personal experiences and observations and to offer suggestions for change that might enhance campus.

The website says participation in the research project is voluntary, but it is offering incentives.

Once someone has completed the survey, the website says they will have the chance to enter a weekly drawing to win prizes, including a year of free parking.

MU says all answers will remain confidential.

Our ABC 17 News crews were able to take and submit the survey without it asking for any sort of verification of enrollment or employment at MU.
Among the questions on the survey was one asking those taking it to rank the campus climate on certain dimensions by using a one to five scale, with one being "completely free of racism" and five being "constantly encounter racism."

Others ask those taking it if they have encountered or seen any exclusionary, intimidating, offensive and/or hostile conduct that has interfered with the ability to work, learn or live at MU.

**University of Missouri presidential search in final stages**

KANSAS CITY — A committee named in February to search for a new University of Missouri president wants to finish its work Wednesday with a recommendation for the Board of Curators, committee co-chairman Jim Whitaker said before going into a closed session.

The 16-member committee, which includes the nine curators, met for more than 12 hours Tuesday at the Kansas City Airport Marriott hotel, bringing finalists back for their second interview. Members convened a second day of meetings at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Throughout the process, committee members have maintained secrecy about the number of candidates being considered and worked to prevent the candidates from being seen as they come and go for interviews.

“Hopefully we will have this completed this afternoon,” Whitaker said. “That is our goal.”

Whitaker and co-chairwoman Cheryl Walker, a St. Louis attorney and former curator, represent alumni on the search committee, which also includes two faculty members, a staff member and two students. All 16 members have a vote on the recommendation, but only the curators have a vote on the final selection.

A search firm, Isaacson, Miller Inc., is helping with the process at a cost of $150,000 plus expenses.

The curators are scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus. The agenda for Thursday morning includes a closed session scheduled to run about four hours.
When the committee was named in February, the curators were given a projected timeline that called for completing the selection by late November or early December.

“Our timeline is very fluid, but that is our objective,” Whitaker said of finishing Wednesday. “We sure hope that occurs.”

The search committee was created in February to provide a broad-based panel to screen candidates to replace Tim Wolfe, who resigned Nov. 9 under mounting pressure from protests over racial issues on the Columbia campus.

The Concerned Student 1950 protests brought a national spotlight to the university at a time when administrative turmoil already had weakened both the campus and system administration. Wolfe had tried unsuccessfully to get the curators to fire R. Bowen Loftin as chancellor, but Loftin did not survive in his job when Wolfe was forced out.

Columbia campus interim Chancellor Hank Foley, University of Missouri-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George, UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton and Missouri University of Science & Technology Chancellor Cheryl Schrader were in the hotel for the committee meetings. Foley said he was there to assist the committee in any way he could.

Wolfe was named president in December 2011 to replace Gary Forsee. The increased role of the search committee was a partial response to criticism of the process that selected Wolfe. The curators appointed an advisory panel for that search, but members were kept in the dark until two finalists were chosen. Before the committee could be informed of the choices, one of the candidates withdrew, leaving Wolfe as the only name to be considered.

Since the University of Missouri expanded to four campuses in the 1960s, the average tenure of a permanent president has been about five years. Wolfe and Forsee were the first presidents since the expansion who did not have an academic background.

University of Missouri fraternity accused of hazing was on probation for earlier alcohol incident

The alcohol poisoning incident that sent a Kappa Alpha pledge to the Boone Hospital Center emergency room last Wednesday was the second time this semester a pledge from the fraternity received medical treatment for drinking too much.
The fraternity already was on disciplinary probation for the first incident when the University of Missouri placed Kappa Alpha on temporary suspension Monday while it investigated charges of hazing a pledge by encouraging a vodka chugging contest, MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email to the Tribune. Basi did not say when the first incident took place.

MU’s Office of Student Conduct took the action and required all Kappa Alpha members to attend an alcohol education program, “Raising the Bar for Greek Students,” which is provided by the MU Wellness Resource Center, Basi wrote.

“The fraternity was warned that any additional violation of University policy while on probation would result in more severe sanctions being imposed,” Basi wrote.

Under Kappa Alpha alcohol policies, members are not allowed to have hard alcohol at the fraternity house at 1301 University Ave., and students younger than 21 are not allowed to drink at all. Lynn and Mike Zingale said their 18-year-old son was found near death on a bed at the fraternity last Wednesday, nine hours after members put him there with a backpack on his back to prevent him from rolling over while unconscious.

The Zingales said their son was in a medication-induced coma for two days to allow the alcohol to leave his system. Both the MU chapter and the national fraternity office have been slow in getting them information about what happened, they said, but they are happy with the way MU has been handling its side of the investigation.

The local chapter and the national organization have been slow to provide details about why rules prohibiting hard liquor, sober monitors and underage drinking were not followed, the Zingales said.

“What we are trying to do is get people a vision of what we are feeling as parents,” said Lynn Zingale, the student’s mother.

Columbia police also are investigating the incident as a possible violation of a state anti-hazing law.

Interim University of Missouri Chancellor Hank Foley declined to discuss the investigation of last week’s incident at Kappa Alpha fraternity, calling it a “delicate situation” Tuesday.

Foley was in Kansas City at the hotel where the University of Missouri Presidential Search Committee was meeting.

Columbia firefighters and paramedics were called at 10:19 a.m. last Wednesday to the Kappa Alpha house, where they found the Zingales’ son unconscious. When he arrived at the Boone Hospital Center emergency room, his respiration rate was three breaths per minute and his blood alcohol content was 0.45 percent — more than five times the legal limit for driving.
In a Kappa Alpha Order incident report, chapter President Jacob Lee wrote that the pledge became involved in a vodka chugging contest with other pledges and in the presence of full members of the fraternity.

The incident report said the older members told the pledges they were not required to participate, but Zingale said her son told her the older members encouraged it and kept count of how long each pledge could drink without stopping.

The national fraternity is working to complete a full investigation, Jesse Lyons, assistant executive director for advancement at the national fraternity office, wrote in an email to the Tribune.

“Kappa Alpha Order continues to send our thoughts to the young man and his family,” Lyons wrote. “The national administrative office is in an ongoing investigation and is working with university officials. At this point, there are still more questions than answers. When the investigation is concluded, we will then act based on the facts.”

The national fraternity also suggested the Zingales were not cooperating with the investigation.

“We have attempted to speak to the young man’s family to discuss the situation but to this point have only been able to exchange emails with his father,” Lyons wrote.

The family is only communicating with the national fraternity by email to have a complete record, Zingale said. The national fraternity office has been slow to give information and instead wants the family to define the potential violations of campus and fraternity policy, she said.

“In writing, my husband has asked them questions. They will not answer the questions,” she said. “Because of the treatment we have received thus far from Kappa Alpha, we will only communicate by email.”

**MISSOURIAN**

**Suspended MU fraternity was already on probation**

KATIE KULL, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU's Kappa Alpha Order fraternity was already on probation for an alcohol-related incident when a pledge was sent to the hospital last week after a vodka-chugging contest.
The fraternity was placed on temporary suspension Monday following the second incident.

Kappa Alpha Order's first disciplinary probation was set through Dec. 20, and the fraternity was notified that any other violations of university policy while on probation would result in stricter sanctions, MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email.

As part of their probation, fraternity members were required to attend an alcohol education program called "Raising the Bar for Greek Students" through the MU Wellness Resource Center, Basi said.

During the second incident on Sept. 28, an 18-year-old fraternity pledge participated in a vodka-chugging contest with other fraternity members and pledges.

The pledge was taken to the hospital several hours later when he was unresponsive after fraternity members tried to wake him from sleep. The 18-year-old woke up on Sept. 29 from a medically-induced coma and has been awake since, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The chapter's risk management statement says, "the possession, sale, use and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages while on chapter premises by a minor are strictly prohibited."

The statement also says that hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing is defined as "any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule." The use of alcohol can be considered hazing.

An investigation into the second incident is ongoing.
University of Missouri frat suspended over 2nd hazing report

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri is investigating a report of hazing involving excessive alcohol at a fraternity that had been disciplined earlier this semester for another alcohol-related hazing incident, a university spokesman said.

The Kappa Alpha fraternity already was on probation through the end of the fall semester when the university temporarily suspended it Monday while looking into allegations of hazing another pledge with alcohol, university spokesman Christian Basi told The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://j.mp/2dS3cy2).

Basi said he could not provide additional details about the nature of the second incident during the investigation, but in a Kappa Alpha Order incident report, chapter President Jacob Lee wrote that the student had been in a vodka-chugging contest with other pledges.

Lynn and Mike Zingale said the latest incident involved their 18-year-old son, who she said was hospitalized a week ago and placed into a medication-induced coma for two days to allow the alcohol to leave his system. She said his blood alcohol content at the time was 0.45 percent, which is more than five times the legal limit for driving.

"What we are trying to do is get people a vision of what we are feeling as parents," Lynn Zingale said.

Jesse Lyons, assistant executive director for advancement at Kappa Alpha's national office, said it's also investigating the incident.
"Kappa Alpha Order continues to send our thoughts to the young man and his family," Lyons wrote, saying later, "there are still more questions than answers. When the investigation is concluded, we will then act based on the facts."

**MUPD reports significant drop in liquor law arrests**

COLUMBIA - **October marks the annual Alcohol Responsibility Month at the University of Missouri and it comes as MUPD says the number of liquor law arrests has decreased drastically.**

Kim Dude, the associate director of Student Life said, “There are a couple of reasons why that number might go down. One reason is that our students are making better choices – the high risk drinking rate has gone down 25 percent the last five years. But part of it is also that the police don’t have enough funding to have police officers on the streets to actually make those arrests.”

In 2013, the MU Police Department had 444 liquor law arrests, but last year that number had dropped to 193. The police said the number of arrests is a result of fewer police officers on the streets.

“Currently we are in the process of increasing the number of police officers from 41 right now to 50. We are doing hiring and training at the moment,” Lt. Kevin Rodgers said.

Alcohol Responsibility Month was started Wednesday with a fair at Lowry Mall, where students got free items and advice about MU’s alcohol initiatives. They include the “Stripes” car service that takes students safely home from a night out.

Rodgers said, “A lot of effort is put into this from both us and the University of Missouri. The number of arrests really depend on the students’ behavior, and I think initiatives like the Stripes car service helps people be more responsible going to and from the establishment.”

Dude said it is important to educate students to make the best choices possible.
“The choices students make on alcohol are going to have an absolute impact on their success as a student and as an adult,” she said.

COLUMBIA (AP) - The University of Missouri will now offer a minor on Middle East studies.

The Columbia Missourian reports that the new program starting this fall will allow students to choose 15 credit hours from 11 disciplines, including art, archaeology, history, literature and religious studies.

Nathan Hofer, who holds a doctorate in religious studies with a primary emphasis on Judaism and a secondary emphasis on Islam, directs the new minor.

Hofer said he wants students to have a framework to understand that the Middle East is more diverse, religiously and politically, than most people understand.
According to assistant professor of history Victor McFarland, students often do not get the chance to learn about the region beyond what they read in news headlines.

Big Midwest solar eclipse to occur in 2017

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Watch the story:
http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d7f0c1ae-2ca5-4af1-b0a6-eecb283f5b97

KIRKSVILLE, Mo. — Students learned at one Heartland university on how they can witness one of the biggest astronomy events in Missouri's history.

Dr. Angela Speck, Professor of Astrophysics and Director of Astronomy at the University of Missouri gave a solar eclipse talk at Truman State University on Wednesday night.

On August 21, 2017, there will be a total solar eclipse visible from a large swath of the U.S. Including right here in the Heartland.

This will be the first total solar eclipse across the Midwest in nearly a century and the first one to be seen from Missouri in since 1869.

"It's certainly going to be one of the biggest days. I actually think that this is going to be competing with the Apollo moon landings. When you think about the impact that this can have and the number of people we can reach, it's going to be that big."
Speck broke down in her presentation why solar eclipses happen and how to observe them safely. She encouraged wearing eclipse glasses. She hopes the hype of people wanting to see this historic event will pick up over the next few months.

Click [here](#) to where you can get more information on the August 21 solar eclipse.

### House of Representative candidates talk University of Missouri funding

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Local candidates running for the Missouri House of Representatives got to speak on several issues Wednesday night, including University of Missouri funding.**

Candidates for the 44th, 45th, 46th and 47th Districts took part in the forum held by the University of Missouri's Pi Sigma Alpha and Political Science Club at the Rhynsburger Theatre on Mizzou's campus.

When candidates were asked what they would do to stop another tuition increase for students attending the University, candidate Tom Pauley (D), 44th District, touched on the funding cuts made earlier this year.

"There has been and there will continue to be attacks on this University," Pauley said. "I think we need to do everything we can to stand up and stop that."

He went on to say, "When the majority (of the legislature) is taking it out on us by taking funding away and hurts this University, I think we need to argue seriously and work very hard to stop that."
"All this controversy at Mizzou about a year ago stemmed from the protests and everything that happened subsequently after the protests started, especially when the football team got involved," Rep. Chuck Basye (R), 47th District, said. "It's really what perpetuated a lot of problems. It all came down to one thing, a lack of leadership."

Basye said it was not only the lack of leadership, but the lack of appropriate actions. Things were happening rapidly, he said. "The more it happened, the worse it got with my colleagues. A good part of my colleagues don't have ties to the University. They have no concern for the University, like I do. I'm a graduate. It took a lot of effort to get that under control, but I think we did the best we could."

"It's imperative that the Boone delegation does completely support the University," said 47th District candidate Susan McClintic (D). "We saw that, as your question alluded to, that did not happen in the past. It's imperative we take care of the largest employer in our area, the major driver in our healthcare."

Many agreed the institution was not only a top priority, but a main artery for Mid-Missouri.

"The University of Missouri is the foundation of Mid-Missouri," said 44th District candidate Cheri Reisch (R). "I will go to bat for the University so that funding will remain, or increase, not decrease."

"We need to make sure that all of our programs at the University have what they need to do what they're there to do," said William Lee (I), 45th District candidate. "to train students so they have the tools when they exit the University to enter the workforce in a functional capacity."

Others pointed to numbers. 45th District Rep. Kip Kendrick (D) said, "We've seen it happen where 60% of the money comes from the state, 40% throughout the country from the student. Now, it's completely shifted in the opposite direction - closer to 70% coming from the student."

Rep. Kendrick said this was due to a number of things including tax cuts that benefit multinational corporations and wealthy Missourians. "Then, you lose money to be able to spread out to the middle class and students have paid as a result of that."

"I think that is obviously hurting the amount of money that can be allocated to higher education," agreed Martha Stevens (D), candidate for the 46th District.

Don Waterman (R), also a candidate for the 46th District, drew on numbers he said he found from 2004. "The Missouri budget appropriated $377 million for the University. In 2014, it was $395 million. Yes, it went up a little bit, not a great amount, but yet, if the percentage that
supported by the state has gone down, then that means expenses have gone up by a significant amount. So where is that coming from? I think that's something that needs to be looked at as well."

**Study abroad rates continue to climb, breaks record of past years**

During the 2014-15 school year, 5.3 percent of undergraduate students participated in the study abroad program, nearly 4 percent higher than the national average.

**MU Study Abroad Director Barbara Lindeman said the office is still finalizing data for the 2015-16 academic year.** However, the previous year’s percentage broke the record for the number of students who studied abroad.

“During 2014-15, Mizzou sent a record number of students abroad with 1,473 students participating, which was 22% of the undergraduate class,” Lindeman said in an email.

She said the 22 percent is calculated based on the Institute of International Education’s formula, not the entire undergraduate class.

“Undergraduate study abroad participants [are] divided by the number of undergraduate degrees conferred that year,” Lindeman said in the email. “In this specific calculation we further use the IIE data definition for undergraduate participants, which includes only degree-seeking students who are U.S. citizens/permanent residents.”

The national average of college students studying abroad was 1.5 percent in the 2013-14 academic year, according to NAFSA: Association of International Educators’ website. Lindeman said in the email that she is aware that planning for going abroad is a major factor in assisting students to actually travel. The program has focused on getting students involved as early as possible.

“Mizzou has implemented a number of new initiatives to help increase the percentage of students who study abroad,” she said in the email. “We have increased our outreach to incoming students to encourage early planning for study abroad.”

In 2015, the International Center began a program titled Operation Passport in an effort to prepare undergraduate students for future abroad trips.

“Under Operation Passport, we’ve contacted nearly 5,000 domestic first time college students enrolled at MU for fall 2016,” Lindeman said in the email. “We also have expanded our focus on
addressing financial barriers through offering workshops on conventional and innovative ways to fund study abroad and by identifying additional scholarship funding.”

Lindeman said the program has expanded internship opportunities.

“In addition, we have increased programing and outreach to encourage study abroad participation by students who have traditionally been underrepresented or underserved, including students from historically underrepresented majors such as Health Professions, Pell-eligible students and first-generation college students,” Lindeman said in the email.

MU is increasing efforts to raise study abroad rates for all schools and colleges.

“In absolute numbers, the College of Arts and Sciences sends the largest number of students abroad, followed by the Trulaske College of Business, School of Journalism, College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources and Health Professions,” Lindeman said in the email. “If you take into account the size of the college, Journalism has the highest undergraduate participation rate, followed by Business, CAFNR, then HES.”

Junior Katherine Hayes recently traveled to Greece through MU’s “From the Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire” program and blogged about her experience with a Greek family.

“In all my time in Greece, I never expected to be so lucky — to be able to say that I not only learned about the history, language and landscape of this magnificent country, but I also learned about the people,” she wrote in the blog. “I learned about their families, their traditions and the values that they hold dear.”

Drew Dumas, the School of Journalism’s Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, said he has pride in the journalism school’s success with sending approximately one third of its students abroad.

“The majority of the students are going abroad for internships,” Dumas said. “We have three international programs which are in London, Barcelona and Brussels, and two domestic ones in New York and D.C.”

Domestic travelers are challenged with the task of finding their own internships, he said. However, the school works with major companies that are specifically looking for MU journalism students.

Dumas graduated from MU in 2010 and went on to live in New Zealand through Education USA, where he advised high school students on continuing their higher education in the U.S. He said he is passionate about studying abroad, as he believes it grows students in more ways than most people realize.

“I think if you’re going to be reporting on your own culture and your country’s politics, at some point you need to be outside of your culture and looking in on it,” Dumas said. “All of that is critical at any level of journalism whether or not you plan to work domestically; you need to
have a global framework and reference. And from a networking standpoint, journalism isn’t just national. When you go abroad, you meet people you will run into again.”

Lindeman said students enjoy studying abroad.

“Students returning from study abroad consistently report that their study abroad experience was one of the highlights of their time studying at MU,” Lindeman said. “Students who study abroad learn more about the world and themselves, gain new perspectives on their academics and develop transferable skills for the global workforce.”

MU Hosts Photo Event for Breast Cancer Awareness

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=00535cc0-7810-4e29-9bb1-720b5cbe41d5