Formula tells buffets how to cut back waste

A new formula that calculates the economic and environmental production costs associated with meats and vegetables—such as fuel, transportation, and fertilizers—may help reduce food waste at “all-you-care-to-eat” facilities.

About one third of all food produced for human consumption in the world is lost or wasted, according to a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization study. And while waste occurs in all stages of food production, some of the largest losses occur at all-you-care-to-eat (AYCTE), buffet-style facilities.

“Most research on food waste at the consumption phase has focused on institutions such as schools and hospitals rather than on individual households,” says Ronald G. McGarvey, assistant professor of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering and of public affairs at the University of Missouri.

“With this new research, we have developed a formula that food-service managers can use when deciding how to store, prepare, and serve food. We anticipate that using this new formula could considerably reduce food waste on college campuses and in other AYCTE facilities.”

To develop the formula, researchers investigated the environmental impact of food waste caused by overproduction in the University of Missouri Campus Dining Services. The setting, which includes all-you-care-to-eat facilities, is of particular interest to planners as increased chances of discarded leftovers exist.

“In buffet-style restaurants, the tendency is to produce more than is actually consumed or than can be re-used in the buffet lines the next day,” McGarvey says.
Working with Esma Birisci, a doctoral candidate in the industrial and manufacturing systems engineering department, McGarvey analyzed the carbon emissions of three common food items, French fries, chicken sandwiches, and beef ravioli.

The environmental and monetary costs of throwing away beef ravioli were up to 39 times more than throwing away French fries.

“Farm equipment used to feed and maintain livestock and to plant and harvest crops uses a lot of diesel fuel and other utilities from fossil fuels,” McGarvey says. “When people waste food, these fuels, as well as fertilizers, also are wasted.”

Based on their estimates, the team developed a production planning formula taking into account the resources used to produce the food that is more accurate and provides a better picture of food waste.

Food-service managers should estimate how much food to cook with an emphasis on producing more vegetables than meat. These kinds of calculations will help keep food waste at a minimum while lessening the environmental impact.

“Institutional food-service providers face a common planning problem—how much food to produce in the presence of uncertain demand,” McGarvey says. “However, there is growing awareness of the environmental costs associated with food waste.

“Employing this new formula we’ve developed may incentivize AYCTE managers to calculate the environmental costs associated with their production decisions thereby reducing the environmental impact of food waste.”

Future research will aim to develop software tools to help food service managers with production and inventory ordering decisions. The findings appear in the *International Journal of Production Economics*. 
New Formula Could Reduce Food Waste

Generated from News Bureau press release: New Food-Ordering Formula Could Lead to Less Food Waste in Buffet-Style Restaurants

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=6fa8d2f7-94fe-430d-8725-68d8796e9c2a

Ohio University president being considered for University of Missouri president

The president of Ohio University, Roderick J. McDavis, is being vetted for president of the University of Missouri, an emeritus professor at Ohio University said Wednesday.

Richard Vedder, a distinguished professor of economics, said he spoke Tuesday to an MU economics faculty member who asked about McDavis’ qualifications and how the president was perceived. He said he did not recall the faculty member's name and said the faculty member was not a member of the Presidential Search Committee.
"I would guess just based on the tenor of the conversation that they were down to a list of relatively few persons," Vedder said. "The extensiveness of the questioning was more than a perfunctory kind of thing."

News that McDavis is being considered was first reported in the Athens News.

McDavis, president of OU since 2004, will be leaving his post at the end of June, the News reported. McDavis, 67, is the first black president of OU. When he announced plans to leave, he said he intended to seek other employment, the News reported.

“There are and will be other challenges and opportunities that will present themselves … I want to keep myself open to that,” McDavis said during the news conference, the News reported. “I’m blessed with good health, and I have a lot of energy.”

The UM Board of Curators met last Thursday morning in closed session for three hours, a meeting that came after two days of final interviews by the Presidential Search Committee. Curators and members of the search committee have not revealed how many finalists were interviewed and how many were recommended to the board for consideration. No names have been released.

UM spokesman John Fougere declined to comment on any specific candidates being vetted for the top post.

"The search committee has had the privilege of considering a number of persons from a national pool and throughout our considerations we have pledged to maintain candidate confidentiality," Fougere said. "Therefore, we will not comment on any possible candidates as we continue our search efforts."

Pam Henrickson, chairwoman of the Board of Curators, said at a news conference Friday that no additional meetings of the search committee are planned. The new president of UM will take over from interim President Mike Middleton, who has held the post since Tim Wolfe resigned Nov. 9.

The campus turmoil that led to Wolfe's resignation could be why McDavis is an attractive candidate, Vedder said. During his tenure, McDavis has worked to increase enrollment and improve the university's finances, Vedder said.

"The University of Missouri wants to reach out to all constituencies, not only on campus but throughout the system," Vedder said. "Having an experienced African American as president of the university would be one way of achieving that objective."

McDavis had a rocky start, with faculty and student votes of no confidence soon after he took over. The Post, the student newspaper at Ohio University, reported in March that the school had fallen from 98th to 125th in the U.S. News and World Report rankings and from third to sixth in research funding among Ohio public universities.
The school's Board of Trustees "loves him now and thinks he could have walked on water," Vedder said. The academic community has been more negative, he said.

"The big rap against McDavis is he has not strengthened the academic programs of the university and they may have weakened under his leadership," Vedder said.

Possible UM System President Candidate Identified

Watch the story on KMIZ: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=47e9791e-9f2f-4826-a8f2-96742aa8826a

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Only on ABC 17 News: Investigations into MU's Delta Upsilon

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=fd3908a5-0a64-449d-b02b-aa2961b6979b

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Delta Upsilon, the University of Missouri fraternity under investigation for a racially-charged incident last month, had been placed on disciplinary probation just one day prior.
ABC 17 News poured through a year's worth of documents detailing investigations into the University of Missouri-Columbia's DU chapter.

ABC 17 News requested information detailing violations of university policy and state law by the fraternity after reports of members using racial slurs. The results of that investigation could lead to grave punishments for the fraternity, considering it was already on probation.

The incidents that landed them on probation began in late September started in late August, with reports of a party serving alcohol at the house. Not many details are given on that incident, but the situation came to a head the next month.

A police report from September 10 revealed an officer responded to a Gillett Hall where an 18-year-old student said she drank "too much" at the fraternity house and fell when she returned to her room. While ambulance staff came to her room, she turned down a trip to Boone Hospital.

Officer Steven Verble later wrote that his wasn't the only police call involving Delta Upsilon in some way that night. Columbia police, he wrote, responded to three calls in two hours - one for an "alcohol overdose" involving a 20-year-old woman, an assault call "where a male subject was pushed down a flight of steps," and a male passenger in a car running from a traffic stop in the DU parking lot and into the house.

"Unfortunately, CPD did not take any reports about their incidents," Verble wrote in an email to MUPD Chief Doug Schwandt. "I don't know what good it will do, but DU seems to have returned in full force as the usual problem it is, and I wonder if you could pass that along to your contacts in Greek Life or Student Conduct."

The Office of Student Conduct said DU was responsible for three violations, according to a letter on September 26 from Julie Drury, senior coordinator of the Office of Student Conduct. The office handed down eight sanctions, including disciplinary probation, a status that wouldn't stop DU from participating in campus activities, but "to alert all members that any additional violation of University policy while on probation will result in more severe sanctions being imposed."

Two days later, Drury came back to temporarily suspend the fraternity, around the same time the DU national organization laid down an "emergency suspension."

DU executive director Justin Kirk did not return an after-hours email for comment Wednesday.

Other sanctions from the Sept. 10 incident include an "alcohol event probation," which limited the amount of allowable events with alcohol, such as alumni events or formals. DU cannot have alcohol of any kind in its house for this semester. The current rules prohibit just "hard liquor." The fraternity must complete alcohol education courses for the university to "consider" allowing beer and wine for the next semester.

The reports ABC 17 News obtain go back to August 2015. Two incidents were reported to the Office of Student Conduct, both involving underage drinking at the house. On September 11 that
year, the office gave DU an "official University warning" for providing alcohol to a minor. Emails from Residential Life staff show several students the night of August 24 suffered from possible alcohol poisoning. At least one female told staff she was "surprised at how intoxicated she became" from drinking at both DU and the Farmhouse fraternities, but never lost consciousness, and said she would be "much more careful" drinking in the future.

Other women that night reported feeling like they had been given drugs at other fraternity parties. It's not clear if those fraternities were ever punished for the incidents listed in the emails.

DU was warned again in June 2016 for "threatening or intimidating behaviors" and "failure to comply with University officials." A heavily redacted police report from April 14 of that year starts with police seeing someone walking at Fifth Street and Turner Avenue with a stop sign over his shoulder. The police report lists at least two people involved in a misdemeanor theft and resisting arrest case, and believed one of them was drunk at the time.

The rest of the incident report is redacted, but an email from DU member Martin Cram gives some insight. Cram said police came to the house near midnight that night looking for an "unidentified male" that went to the DU house. Cram couldn't find the person, based on the officers' description, and offered help later if possible, and after speaking with his lawyer.

On June 29, the university punished DU for the incident, giving another warning and requiring an apology letter from members to MUPD. While the Office of Student Conduct said it didn't know who specifically was responsible That letter apologized "on behalf of all undergraduate members" of DU for the April incident.

"In light of recent incidents involving police officers in our country, we realize the necessity for cooperation and dialogue," the letter said, its author redacted. "This incident has afforded a learning opportunity for our members."

The packet includes an undated document titled "Delta Upsilon Recalibration Plan," intended to "ensure the negative stigma the fraternity has attained this school year will not be how the fraternity will continue moving forward." Events include speeches from Columbia attorney Bill Tackett about city laws, a speech from Michael Ross, a motivational speaker from Ohio, and weekly presentations from associate members. Roles of house staff members and the fraternity's "judicial system," a way to keep other members accountable for their actions, would also be tackled.
Audit suggests changes to UM System's diversity, equity practices

RUTH SERVEN, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — An audit has recommended big and small changes that would adjust how the University of Missouri System handles sex discrimination, diversity complaints and equity on its campuses.

Potential revisions to the UM System's Collected Rules and Regulations would update language and add best practices for diversity, equity and inclusion to the system's policies.

Proposed revisions include:

- Implementing a system-wide preferred name policy, which identifies circumstances in which students can use a preferred name instead of a legal name. MU extended its preferred name policy last month.

- Considering contributions to equity, inclusion and diversity as a factor in promotion and tenure decisions. Schools such as Pomona College in California and Oregon State University have adopted policies that encourage faculty and staff to consider diversity issues in their teaching and research.

- Expanding definitions of sexual misconduct and consent.

- Expanding the definition of people protected from sex discrimination to include pregnant women.

- Clarifying equity resolution processes for resolving complaints of discrimination, harassment or sexual misconduct.

- Adding an additional process to address institutional complaints of discrimination or harassment. Complaints can already be made against students, staff or faculty, but this process would allow for complaints made against an entire campus or department.
Many of these changes reflect best practices of universities across the country. Allowing preferred names, accommodating pregnant students and considering contributions to diversity are all trends in higher education.

Continuing race-related protests have drawn attention to the system’s need to update its rules, and a report released in 2015 about a Title IX investigation at MU also drew attention to the need to reorganize the process of investigating sex discrimination. In December, MU centralized reports and investigations of discrimination in the new Office of Civil Rights & Title IX.

Proposed revisions are being looked at by the Intercampus Faculty Council — which includes representatives from MU, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Missouri-Kansas City and Missouri University of Science and Technology — and will be sent to each campus in the system for comment.

The review is part of the system's $1.1 million diversity audit, which was launched in May to create focus groups, conduct interviews and review diversity policies.

The audit is on schedule and is expected to wrap up at the end of the year.

Harris-Stowe is among the colleges to land a $5 million grant to boost minority STEM graduates

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 13 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • A $5 million grant announced Wednesday could be seed money if a band of college leaders play their cards right.
The goal is to more than double the number of minority graduates in science, technology, engineering and math fields by 2021.

Leaders from eight schools gathered at Harris-Stowe State University Wednesday for the announcement, with the help of Gov. Jay Nixon and a representative from the National Science Foundation.

The $5 million grant comes from the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Partnership within the federal foundation. It goes specifically to the Missouri alliance of eight partner schools, including Harris-Stowe, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Missouri-Columbia, St. Louis Community College, Washington University, Truman State University, University of Central Missouri and Lincoln University.

“This is a game changer,” Harris-Stowe Provost Dwyane Smith said to a crowded auditorium.

If the schools meet their goal of graduating 125 percent more college students from a little less than 300 in 2014 to 630 in 2021, the Louis Stokes Alliance will grant another $5 million toward the effort.

About 65 percent of all minority undergraduate degrees in STEM fields statewide come from these eight schools, Gov. Jay Nixon said Wednesday. He said boosting these graduates helps meet “a critical demand” for more STEM employees in the Missouri workforce.

Through the grant, participating schools will create bridge programs for the summer between students’ freshman and sophomore years — which is seen as a crucial time for student retention — as well as a rotating symposium and will allow colleges to hire more mentors, among other things. There’s also an effort within the grant to help transition students from St. Louis Community College on to a four-year university to finish their degree.

About 600 colleges nationwide received similar grants. There are 45 other “alliances” of schools.
A. James Hicks, a program leader for the NSF Louis Stokes program, said it was important that Missouri is part of this national effort to increase racial diversity in STEM fields.

“I’m here to make a down payment,” he joked, later adding that the NSF “expects good things” from the large diverse coalition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, community colleges and two top-tier research schools.

MISSOURIAN

Missouri Tech Expo offers technology opportunities for entrepreneurs

TYLER WORNELL, 22 hrs ago

Generated from News Bureau media advisory: University of Missouri to Hold Mid-Missouri Innovation Week Events

COLUMBIA — People looking to launch or expand their businesses using emerging technologies will find themselves among the like-minded Thursday at the Missouri Tech Expo.

Part of "Bringing Up Business: Mid-Missouri's Innovation Week," the expo will include presentations from keynote speakers George Chronis, CEO and chief technology officer of Foresite Healthcare, and Joe Boswell, CEO and co-founder of ThermAvant Technologies.

MU inventors will pitch their technology advancements and ideas in the areas of engineering, life sciences, health sciences and software technologies. The event will also include panel discussions and networking sessions.

The expo is being held at Bond Life Sciences Center at MU from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday. It is open to the public, and general admission tickets are $40 which includes all sessions, lunch
and refreshments. Tickets for MU students, faculty and staff are $20 with meals, or free for sessions only.

Group discounts are available and registration is available online.

Local entrepreneurs and start-ups benefit from local resources

Just because someone runs a small business doesn't mean their contribution to the local economy is small as well.

"Most of the net permanent jobs, 60 percent in fact, come from small businesses," said Greg Tucker, the state director of the Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers. He said small businesses are defined as companies with 100 employees or less. Small businesses are also usually more established in the community. Entrepreneurs are usually starting a new venture.

Steve Wyatt with the University of Missouri Office of Economic Development said Wednesday the economic impact of a local start up or small business might not always be immediately obvious.

Veteran's United was actually a business that began in Columbia. "They are a major employer here in Columbia," said Wyatt. "When they first started people were probably not aware of what they were accomplishing and yet they've a tremendous success and a tremendous impact on our community."

There are several specific resources available to entrepreneurs in Columbia and the wider mid-Missouri community through REDI and other organizations.

One event combines many resources and brings them together under one roof. Mid-Missouri's Innovation Week began last Friday and continues through this Friday and it provides workshops and events for entrepreneurs and start up companies to perfect and present their ideas and even foster the
In the past few years, more and more resources have been popping up for these new and small businesses.

There's services like ours, the Small Business Technology Development Centers, there's the Mizzou Venture Mentoring Service, there are lots of organizations that work hard to connect, we call it the local ecosystem, to bring all these resources together so that we can pool our resources to better help these small businesses and entrepreneurs," said Tucker.

Tucker said small businesses often have to compete with online sales that don't really have that homegrown feel to them and don't care about the local community as much. That sales tax spent online is then lost to the local economy.

So when mid-Missourians see the benefit to small business, Wyatt said they can help foster their growth because when that business is strong in mid-Missouri it will help them benefit from a strong, local economy.

"Tap into some of the local start up businesses and maybe give them a chance to be able to provide you with goods and services," he said.

Missouri pushes initiative for students to take more classes and graduate quicker

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 2 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • In an attempt to address college affordability, Missouri rolled out a new initiative Wednesday morning, flanked with the Legislature’s support.

The “15 to Finish” initiative encourages college students to take 15 credit hours each semester, increasing their odds of graduating on time and leaving college with less debt.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education is tag teaming with the national nonprofit group Complete College America to provide Missouri’s two- and four-year colleges with promotional materials and ideas to personalize the initiative for each campus.
The effort is to break through the idea that because 12 credit hours per semester is considered full-time to receive federal financial aid, that that’s enough. This is especially important in an era where the average college student changes majors multiple times.

Complete College America estimates that fewer than one-third of students in Missouri public schools are taking 15 credit hours each semester. Students need to take at least 15 credit hours to be considered “on time” to graduate.

The same research found that almost 60 percent of students are taking 12 hours a semester. Both numbers are much higher at the University of Missouri-Columbia, the state’s flagship campus.

Graduation rates are factored into a school’s success in Missouri’s performance-based funding system. Two-year schools are judged on a four-year graduation rate and four-year schools by a six-year rate.

Zora Mulligan, Missouri commissioner of higher education, said the challenge with the new initiative was “convincing people that it can be done.”

Some schools will argue that their students face too many responsibilities outside of the classroom, such as work and families, and therefore these students need to have reasonable schedules.

Mulligan said the new initiative could force colleges to think critically about what requirements for a degree might not be necessary and fix or eliminate those.

The challenge of students with many outside responsibilities is exactly the concern at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

“We are very well aware that our students take a longer time to complete their degrees,” said Alan Byrd Jr., dean of enrollment services at UMSL.
Before this initiative, the campus started making strides toward pushing its more traditional students with merit scholarships to take 15 credit hours. The four-year graduation rate is at the highest in UMSL’s history.

He said the push came with case-by-case advising efforts, which leaders will probably continue to do alongside the “15 to Finish” initiative.

“Lots of our students are holding full-time jobs, making it more difficult to have students managing a workload of 40 to 50 hours per week and classes,” Byrd said. “But we’ve done this already. We’ll just work case-by-case, look at their work schedule and class schedule. In many cases, our students find they can pick up an online class to get them those extra three credit hours.”

A new initiative to save college students time and money


COLUMBIA - Missouri launched its "15 to Finish" initiative Wednesday to help college students save money and graduate on time. The initiative will encourage college students to take at least 15 credit hours each semester.

Legislator signed the initiative in June. On Wednesday officials from more than 100 colleges and universities from across Missouri met to discuss the initiative.
The Missouri Department of Education said the initiative is needed because fewer than one third of college students in Missouri take 15 credit hours. The department said that makes it almost impossible for students to graduate on time.

Pete Ozias, director of undergraduate advising at the Missouri School of Journalism, said over all he believes the the initiative is a good idea.

"Many academic units strive to get students to balance realistic semester loads. 15 credits seems to be a happy spot for most students," Ozias said.

He said the Missouri School of Journalism was actually ahead of the legislation.

"We have made steps recently to adjust our curriculum to be in that place prior to the legislation," Ozias said.

Ozias said the initiative may help seniors.

"There is a financial incentive senior year when students are approaching that graduation point, and they are graduating on time."

But he believes the initiative may not work best for everyone.

"The students that could be affectively negatively by it would be maybe students that change their majors along the way. I'm not sure how that fits into the '15 to Finish plan,' Ozias said, "Non-traditional students that work or have families can't take 15 credits a semester."

**One University of Missouri student, Sarah Dumas, agreed.**

"Fifteen credit hours is definitely do-able for the majority of students, but sometimes there are special circumstances that stop people from being able to do that," Dumas said. "Whether it's work or just mental health stress because some classes require more time and attention than you can do if you have 15 credit hours."

Ozias said there are pros and cons with any legislation; it depends how it's implemented.

"My hope is that the people that represent the colleges of Missouri are going to be at the forefront advising how that should roll out," Ozias said.
Hurricane Matthew increases need for donations in MU blood drive

COLUMBIA - The effects of Hurricane Matthew were felt in mid-Missouri on Wednesday, as MU's homecoming blood drive aimed to produce more than its original set quota.

With the death toll from the hurricane climbing to 38, the American Red Cross is looking to blood drives across the country for help.

Craig Jackson with the American Red Cross in Columbia said 18 blood donation operations and 1,500 units of blood were lost as a result of the storm.

"So we hope to have an overage, so we can help supply those hospitals down there, to where they're not receiving, they're not able to do blood drives because people can't get out. They're flooded, they're stuck," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, MU's homecoming blood drive, which runs October 10-13, is the largest student run in the United States. He said he is hopeful the quota of 1,150 units a day can be exceeded.

"We've fallen shorter, we were a 1,135 the first day, 1117 the second day, so we are a little under that, so we really want to push and try to get up 1,300 units today and that'll put us in pretty good shape," he said.

A student leader with the MU homecoming blood drive, Kelsey Ethington said, "Turnout has been pretty good. The first day was a bit slower, but yesterday picked up, so we are hoping that today and Thursday are our busy days."

Jackson said six tubes of blood are tested from each unit donated for 15 different illnesses, ranging from HIV to Zika. After passing those tests, each unit is checked once last time by the hospital it is delivered to before transmitted into another person.
Expat Americans are mostly pro-Clinton — just listen to these guys in Germany

At an anti-Donald Trump rally here, Leah Morris registered for an absentee ballot in her home state of Oregon and explained why many other Americans living abroad were doing the same.

“We can make a crucial difference this year,” said the 27-year-old freelance editor. “Even if we’re not directly engaged in what’s going on in the United States, this election really matters to us.”

She plans to vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton, who political analysts predict will be the candidate of choice among millions of expatriates.

The vast majority of U.S. citizens overseas have college degrees, placing them outside the less educated demographic that heavily favors Republican Trump. Experts say Trump’s unpopularity abroad could also influence those voters.

“It’s likely that these voters will be more likely to be put off by Mr. Trump’s positions on international affairs, immigration and trade,” said Jay Sexton, a political scientist at the University of Missouri who has studied how expatriates vote.

If the presidential election is close enough, those voters could be a critical factor, said Mark J. Rozell, a political scientist at George Mason University. “I don’t think many people really know that and certainly very few analysts are talking about it,” he said.

Estimates of the number of potential U.S. voters abroad vary widely, from 3 million to 8 million. Most live in Canada and Mexico, but there are more than 200,000 in Great Britain and more than 100,000 in Germany.

They include members of the military, exchange students, businesspeople, scholars, IT specialists, musicians, basketball players and English teachers. Surveys have found that about a quarter moved abroad because of romantic relationships with foreign citizens.

Expatriates were given the right to vote in federal elections — in their last state of residence — through the Overseas Citizens Voting Rights Act of 1975. Most do not exercise that right and so for a long time were never considered much of a factor in politics.

That changed after the extraordinarily close 2000 election of President George W. Bush, whose critical 537-vote advantage in Florida came in part from delayed overseas ballots, according to Sexton.
He said votes from abroad played a key role in the election of two Democrats to the U.S. Senate: Virginian Jim Webb, who won by 9,329 votes in 2006, and Minnesotan Al Franken, who won by 312 votes in 2008.

In the 2012 reelection of President Obama, 606,425 expats cast absentee ballots, according to a study Sexton conducted for the Rothermere American Institute at the University of Oxford.

No data was available on how they voted, but available indicators suggested they favored Obama. Of the $6 million in campaign contributions from abroad in that race, about $5 million went to his candidacy.

Traditionally, Republicans have benefited from the overseas military vote while Democrats did better among civilians, researchers said.

Democrats are expected to maintain an overseas advantage once again this election. In Berlin, it’s not difficult to find Americans who plan to vote for Clinton.

“I’d guess more expats will be voting for Clinton because living outside the United States makes you more open to what’s going on around the world as a whole,” said Robert Gutowski, a trombone player and music teacher in Berlin who was stationed in Germany and stayed there after leaving the Army in 1990. “You’re more sensitive to what’s going on.”

He votes in the swing state of Virginia and still relishes the power he felt in helping elect Webb in 2006. “It was the first time that I really felt like I had made a difference,” he said. “I felt like every single vote really did count. It was a great feeling, very empowering. I definitely don’t want to ever miss an election.”

Ray Amador, a graduate student in physics at Berlin’s Humboldt University, said he was so concerned about being eligible to vote back home in Pennsylvania that he flew there to make sure he was registered.

“I just want to make sure that Trump doesn’t win,” he said. “People are always asking me about Trump. He’s already made life more difficult for me even though he’s only a candidate.”

Trump supporters are harder to find.

“We feel a little outnumbered but we’ll fight on,” said Thomas W. Leiser, a 69-year-old businessman from Texas who has lived in Germany for eight years and heads the Republicans Overseas chapter there.

Leiser said he wishes politicians would take expatriate issues more seriously and in particular simplify the income-reporting requirements for U.S. taxpayers with foreign bank accounts.

“The core group supporting Trump isn’t living abroad,” he said. “But I do find a lot of people who say in private they will vote for Trump. But you’re not going to see them putting a Trump bumper sticker on their cars over here. Germans just don't understand his type of personality.”
Majority of women diagnosed with breast cancer after screening mammograms get unnecessary treatment, study finds

More than half of breast cancers newly diagnosed in the United States are likely cases of mistaken identity that subject women to needless anxiety, treatment and expense, researchers reported Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study also found that the value of mammograms as a life-saving tool has been significantly overstated. Instead, the introduction of more effective treatments should get most of the credit for improving survival rates among women diagnosed with breast cancer, the researchers concluded.

The findings cast fresh doubt on the value of universal breast cancer screening for women over 40 with no family history of the disease. They also underscore that breast cancer — the most common form of cancer among American women — is a far more complex disease than initially believed.

The hope that early detection would consistently save women’s lives accorded with scientists’ limited understanding of cancer in the mid-1970s. Experts believed that a small breast lump was almost always a harbinger of a tumor that would, with time, grow and spread.

Catch and treat it early, their reasoning went, and you will see one less woman coming in later with a large and aggressive cancer.

But medical researchers have come to recognize that a tumor’s genetic make-up, as well as the interaction between tumor and host, are better predictors of its progression than the tumor’s size upon discovery. One woman’s tumor might reach 2 centimeters and then stop growing for many years. Another’s might progress from undetectable to a dangerous 5 centimeters in a matter of months.

It was a new, more complex picture of breast cancer. And it undercut the idea that early detection and early treatment were essential to save lives.

“The mantras, ‘All cancers are life-threatening’ and ‘When in doubt, cut it out,’ require revision,” Dr. Joann G. Elmore, a physician and epidemiologist at the University of Washington, wrote in an editorial that accompanies the study. The “well intentioned efforts” of doctors, she wrote, are exacting “collateral damage.”
As breast imaging became widely available in the early 1980s, physicians told women that catching tumors early, before they could be felt by hand, was key to their survival.

Advocates quickly began pushing for universal screening programs. By the mid-1980s, an American Cancer Society awareness campaign told women over 35, “If you haven’t had a mammogram, you need more than your breasts examined.”

It’s now clear that physicians, activists and the media “quite simply have overstated the value” of mammography, said study leader Dr. H. Gilbert Welch, one of the first researchers to raise questions about overscreening.

Whether motivated by true belief, commercial gain or fear of litigation, he said, those forces have been slow to accept that when all women get mammograms, some will respond to scary findings in ways that do more harm than good.

In 2016, physicians in the United States are expected to diagnose 246,660 new cases of invasive breast cancer, along with 61,000 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer (sometimes referred to as ductal carcinoma in situ, or DCIS).

The analysis of data from the National Cancer Institute suggests that the majority of abnormalities picked up by screening mammograms would likely never become deadly if left alone. Still, patients and their physicians routinely attack small lump with biopsies, diagnostic work-ups and treatments that can be risky and debilitating.

Welch, who teaches community and family medicine at Dartmouth University’s Geisel School of Medicine, and his team tallied the number of breast cancer findings and the size of the tumors found in women over 40 who were diagnosed with breast cancer between 1975 and 1979, before screening mammography became widely available.

They compared those figures with breast cancer findings between 2000 and 2002, when screening was widespread.

For both groups, they tracked how women were treated and whether they were still alive 10 years after diagnosis.

The team observed that as more women got routine mammograms, more breast cancers were diagnosed. The additional cancers tended to be smaller, or to be confined to spaces, such as milk ducts, where they had not invaded normal tissue.

If catching tumors while they were still small were a way of nipping large, aggressive tumors in the bud, then widespread screening should have reduced the number of large tumors discovered on mammograms. But the rate at which large and aggressive tumors were found remained “essentially unchanged” between 1975 and 2010, the researchers found.

“The introduction of screening mammography has produced a mixture of effects,” the authors explained. To a modest extent, mammography screening was having the desired effect of finding
dangerous tumors before they had grown large. For those women — estimated to be about 20% of those whose small tumors were detected by screening mammography — early treatment was potentially life-saving.

But the other 80% of women likely would not have died of breast cancer had their tumors never been detected in the first place.

Ironically, as mammography became more widespread and technically better, screening was doing a better and better job of finding these harmless tumors: while lumps smaller than 2 centimeters represented 37% of mammogram-detected abnormalities in the early years of the study, they represented 67% of a much larger pool by 2010.

By comparing changes in mortality rates over time for women diagnosed with tumors of various sizes, the researchers calculated that improvements in breast cancer therapy were responsible for at least two-thirds of the reduction in deaths, according to the study.

**Dr. Michael LeFevre, a University of Missouri physician who was not involved in the new study, said while the findings offer only rough estimates of mammograms’ harms, it helps counter a powerful narrative about routine breast cancer screening for all women.**

“When a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and survives, she instinctively believes that the mammogram ‘saved her life,’” said LeFevre, a member of a federal task force that recommended more targeted mammography screening for women. More likely, he said, it has upended her life without prolonging it and it’s time for physicians to help their patients understand that.

UCLA breast cancer specialist Dr. Patricia Ganz said the study was a useful reminder that “if we just keep doing what we’ve been doing, we’re exposing lots of people to treatment they don’t need or can’t afford.”

At the same time, she said she understands patients’ — and physicians’ — impulse to act.

“People don’t want to regret” their responses to a frightening finding on a mammogram, said Ganz, an oncologist at UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. But the truth is, “any activity we do in healthcare has the potential to do harm. You just always hope that the benefits will outweigh the harms.”

Welch acknowledged that the new findings will do little to clarify who should get mammograms, and how often.

But they should prompt patients and their doctors to consider that aggressive treatment of a small lump will not always lead to better health. Women should know that just as with prostate and lung cancer, deferring treatment until a tumor reveals its aggressive nature “is a choice,” he said.

And because small lumps are almost exclusively found on mammograms, the study is an important reminder that “indiscriminate testing can be a recipe for being made sick,” he added.
Missouri appeals court denies relief in 1982 Hyde Park murder case

By Jesse Bogan • St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • Had Rodney L. Lincoln been sentenced to death for the 1982 slaying of JoAnn Tate and the slashing of her two daughters in a Hyde Park apartment, his most recent claims of innocence may have been handled differently by the criminal justice system.

Lincoln, 71, who was convicted for manslaughter and two counts of first-degree assault, is serving two life sentences at Jefferson City Correctional Center for the crimes.

He now argues that the trial was inadequate because expert analysis of hair that placed him at the scene has been discredited by DNA and because a then-7-year-old daughter of the victim, now in her 40s, has recanted damning eyewitness testimony.

He argues that records about the young witness’s being coached and making impeachable statements were withheld and that his trial attorney was ineffective at exposing the matter.

These claims, however, didn’t sway the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District.

On Tuesday, the appeals court ruled that it will not examine Lincoln’s “actual innocence” claim unless the Missouri Supreme Court clearly states that such claims will be examined in non-death penalty cases.

“Because the Missouri Supreme Court has not recognized a freestanding claim of actual innocence in cases where the death penalty has not been imposed, we are not at liberty to expand Missouri habeas jurisprudence to permit consideration of the claim in this case,” Appellate Judge Cynthia L. Martin wrote in the ruling.
Sean O’Brien, one of the attorneys representing Lincoln in the appeal, called the ruling “scary.”

“The literal holding of the court is that innocence is not a good enough reason to release a prisoner,” said O’Brien. “In other words, this is not a miscarriage of justice to sentence an innocent person to die in prison of natural causes?”

Greg Mermelstein, deputy director of the Missouri Public Defender System, said the case raised the issue of whether the constitution protected the right to a fair trial or the innocence of people who have been wrongly convicted.

“The Western District is more concerned about procedural fairness than fair outcomes,” Mermelstein said. “Even if the petitioner is actually innocent, the court won’t give him relief, because the court is concerned only about procedural fairness and finality of convictions.

“Where is the finality for innocent people who sit in a prison cell every day of their life hoping someone will look at the outcome of their case? To say that your trial was procedurally fair, but reached a wrong and non-correctable result, is little consolation.”

Rodney Uphoff, of the Missouri Supreme Court Criminal Procedure Committee, said he was surprised by the ruling and viewed it as a punt to a higher court.

“Normally, one would think that the DNA evidence would raise some real concerns about the reliability of the conviction,” said Uphoff, professor emeritus at the University of Missouri School of Law. “The case is ripe for a potential injustice because of what we know about the fallibility of eyewitness testimony.”

The appellate court upheld a June 16 ruling by Cole County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Green, who believed Lincoln had fair trial in 1983 and upheld the judgment. According to Green’s ruling, Lincoln didn’t make “a clear and convincing showing of actual innocence that undermines confidence in the correctness of the judgment.”
Green did not find credible the daughter’s recantation, triggered 33 years after the initial trial by a television program suggesting another culprit, serial killer Tommy Lee Sells, who was executed in Texas in 2014.

Martin wrote in Tuesday’s appellate ruling that the court did an “exhaustive review” of the petition records. “Because the jury convicted (Lincoln) based primarily on (the young daughter’s) testimony, and not on the now discredited expert witness testimony (of the hair), (Lincoln) cannot establish that his conviction violated his due process to a fair trial.”

Martin wrote that a review of the trial transcript shows that that the young witness was “thoroughly cross-examined” at trial.

O’Brien said he and an attorney with the Midwest Innocence Project would soon seek to have Lincoln’s case appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court. Lincoln had dated Tate about a year before her death. Lincoln had served prison time before her murder for killing a man in a drunken dispute in 1973.

**MISSOURIAN**

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MU School of Medicine dedicated to improvement**

KATIE SMITH, 1 hr ago

Is studying every day exhausting? Yes, but I know it will be worth it.

Do I sometimes want to fast forward past my boards? Of course, but what second year doesn’t?

**Have I ever regretted my decision to come to the University of Missouri School of Medicine? No, not one time.**
The School of Medicine consistently scores nearly 10 points higher on STEP1 (the important board) than the national average. This year, every single fourth year was matched to a residency.

Year after year, residencies respond on surveys that Mizzou students are some of the best prepared to begin their careers as physicians. These are all reasons I do not doubt my choice. There is so much to be proud of — from our new campus in Springfield to our huge commitment to getting physicians to underserved areas.

This does not mean we do not have our issues. Diversity and mistreatment are two of the big ones, but we know this, we are currently working on it, and we were before our reaccreditation.

Since the moment I stepped into the school as a student, I have been told (at least five times) about our reporting system for mistreatment and to report anything I deem to be unfair.

It is then reviewed by a panel of faculty and students who decide what further steps to take. And steps have been taken that are starting to make a difference.

The school has created a new position, the dean of diversity and inclusion who specifically is working toward making our classes more diverse. More funding has been allotted for scholarships for minorities and programs that show underrepresented students the opportunities in medicine and to support them.

These are complex issues, and I am not surprised that a complete 180 has not happened in the last six months. But the work to get there is happening.

The truth is every single medical school goes through this process of reaccreditation every eight years, and for each school, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education provides feedback on areas that need improvement.

This is a normal process to continually improve medical education, and frankly, I am proud of Mizzou’s constant commitment to improve.
A Title IX Win for Accused Students

In rare decision, Education Department finds Wesley College violated law when it ignored its own policies and due process rights of students accused of sexual misconduct.

No MU Mention

Wesley College, in Delaware, violated the gender discrimination law Title IX when it disregarded the due process rights of students accused of sexual misconduct, the U.S. Department of Education announced Wednesday.

The decision is unusual. Over the last five years, the department’s Office for Civil Rights has opened Title IX investigations into nearly 200 institutions where students have accused administrators of mishandling their reports of sexual assault and harassment. Very few of those investigations were prompted by accused and disciplined students, and even fewer have concluded with a finding in those students' favor.

“It is the first time that the agency has found Title IX violations in response to a complaint by a disciplined student,” said Erin Buzuvis, an expert on Title IX and director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies at Western New England University. “But I'm not particularly surprised by the outcome, in the sense that it is justified by the facts.”

In March 2015, the college learned that several fraternity members had filmed a man and a woman having sex without the knowledge or consent of the woman. A day later, the college notified four male students that they were being charged with violating the college’s sexual misconduct policy for filming and sharing the video. One of the students was the male student in the video with the victim, while the other three were accused of colluding with that student to plan and implement a secret live digital stream of the sexual encounter.

All four students were expelled from the college within the week.

One of the male students, however, maintained that he was innocent, and the female student also told administrators that she did not believe that particular student was involved. She reiterated this belief to the college even after the male student was expelled, according to the Education Department, saying the other three male students had later admitted to her that they were solely responsible
for the live stream. The college told her and the accused student that there would have to be an appeal in order to have the ruling reversed. The accused student submitted an intent to appeal form, citing the female student’s new evidence. The college rejected his request. The student’s expulsion remained in place, and he eventually completed a trade program at another institution. His mother later filed a complaint with the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights.

During its investigation, OCR found that the college not only ignored the accused student’s right to due process but also its own established policies and procedures.

The college never interviewed the four accused students, and administrators never provided the men with a copy of the incident report or the college’s investigative findings. The college imposed an interim suspension ahead of the hearing, banning the students from campus and attending class, while not giving them an opportunity to challenge the suspension. The college’s Title IX policy specifically stated that accused students must be interviewed, provided with relevant documents and given a chance to show why an interim suspension would not be necessary.

Typically, according to Wesley’s student handbook, students accused of misconduct will first meet with administrators at what the college calls an educational conference. It is at this meeting that the student is informed of his or her options, which include either entering into an administrative plea deal of sorts or scheduling a formal hearing with a judicial board.

In this case, there was no educational conference, according to OCR’s report, with the college skipping ahead to the hearing. When the accused student appeared for what he thought was going to be an educational conference, he was actually attending the formal judicial board hearing. The student did not provide any witnesses or other forms of evidence, as he was unaware that he had already reached the “final step in the process,” OCR said.

The entire process took seven days, though the college’s policy allows investigations to last as long as 60 days. OCR also found that the college handled several other reports of sexual misconduct between 2013 and 2015 “in an inequitable manner.”

Following OCR’s investigation, Wesley agreed to reinvestigate all cases it mishandled during that time frame, including the student’s case at the center of the investigation. It must also provide training to students, professors,
administrators and staff members; revise its Title IX grievance procedures; publish an antiharassment statement; and create a new Title IX committee. “As a community, we affirm the inherent dignity and advocate for the safety and well-being of all our students,” the college said in a statement Wednesday.

“Wesley College appreciates the insights and recommendations provided by the Office for Civil Rights and will incorporate them into our ongoing efforts of providing our students and community an educational environment that is second to none.”

In 2011, the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights issued a Dear Colleague letter that urged institutions to better investigate and adjudicate cases of campus sexual assault. The letter clarified how the department interprets Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. For the past five years it has been the guiding document for colleges hoping to avoid a federal civil rights investigation into how they handle complaints of sexual violence. The letter kicked off a dramatic increase in such investigations, with hundreds of students filing Title IX complaints against their institutions.

At the same time, accused students began suing institutions for disciplining them, arguing that OCR’s guidance and enforcement had caused the pendulum to swing too far in the opposite direction and that colleges were rushing to judgment in order to comply with federal law. Republican lawmakers and civil liberties groups have made a similar argument, taking particular umbrage with the department’s interpretation that Title IX requires colleges to use the lower preponderance of evidence standard of proof when deciding sexual assault cases. The department is now facing three lawsuits over its guidance.

While accused students have seen a string of recent legal victories (more than a dozen accused students have won lawsuits in the last year), some students have instead turned to OCR for assistance, filing their complaints under the same statute as victims of the crime they were accused of. Advocates, experts on Title IX and civil liberties groups said this week that they believe this is the first of those complaints to result in a finding in favor of accused students.

A department official said Wednesday that this is not the first time OCR found a college in violation of Title IX over due process concerns, pointing to a case at the University of Virginia last year. That case was largely focused on victims, however, with the treatment of accused students being among many issues cited by the department.

“Ultimately, this is a welcome recognition of basic due process,” said Will Creeley, vice president of legal and public advocacy at the Foundation for
Individual Rights in Education. “But it’s not a real corrective to OCR’s continued longstanding lack attention to due process rights. OCR has not paid attention to due process rights throughout the past five years, so it’s not surprising that administrations in their rush to comply with OCR’s mandates have thoroughly neglected to pay attention to due process protections. In some sense, OCR is reaping what they’ve sown.”

Buzuvis, of Western New England University, said OCR’s finding demonstrates that campus policies and how they are carried out are what is often flawed, not the Education Department’s interpretation of Title IX.

“Even though Title IX is often blamed when institutions engage in investigation and adjudication tactics that are unfair to the accused,” she said, “this outcome hopefully clarifies that Title IX not only does not require such tactics, it prohibits many of them as well.”