MU tech expo turns ideas into life-changing products

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=e08fa2bf-88c5-48cc-9c77-8dc26d29b5c8

COLUMBIA – A great idea is hard to develop into a real-world innovation without the proper resources.

Fortunately for some, the Missouri Technology Expo is an opportunity for researchers and developers to meet with investors and business professionals with the expertise to put a product on the market.

The annual expo is also a chance for Missouri’s top research institutions to show off their technologies and possibly have that technology turn into something that could benefit people around the world.

Technology from numerous fields including life sciences, engineering, software, and health sciences were presented to investors and business experts attending the expo.

The expo has led to success stories, including a 2013 pitch by MU professor Fu-Hung Hsieh and his team, which received recognition from national media outlets. Their soy-based meat substitute is sold at over 10,000 stores nationwide and manufactured in Columbia.

Last year, a pitch given by MU faculty Hao Li and Qingsong Yu led to a $7 million investment for the technology they developed that is currently being used in the dentistry and orthopedic fields.

One of the key people in charge of putting together this expo hopes this success continues.

“We hope that there’s some meaningful connections made between researchers, and entrepreneurs, and investors, and really the community to understand the process of taking a new innovation and actually creating a product from that that’s going to have a real world benefit,” said Chris Fender, Director of the Office of Technology Management and Industry Relations at MU.
Chicken giant Tyson Foods buys a stake in vegan start-up Beyond Meat

**Note:** Beyond Meat is a chicken alternative invented at the University of Missouri by Fu-hung Hsieh and Harold Huff.

Beyond Meat sells plant protein that “looks, feels, tastes and acts like chicken without the cluck,” as the product packaging for its faux poultry reads. That was good enough for poultry giant Tyson Foods Inc., which acquired a 5% stake in the El Segundo-based vegan start-up Monday.

For Beyond Meat, whose products are in 7,500 stores nationwide, the fresh capital would boost product development and distribution while still leaving it an independent, privately held company, according to the company’s founder and chief executive, Ethan Brown.

“I’m pleased to welcome Tyson as an investor and look forward to leveraging this support to broaden availability of plant protein choices to consumers,” Brown said of the deal.

Further terms of the investment were not disclosed.

For Tyson Foods, the move is a fast way into a rapidly growing alternative-foods segment, which could account for as much as a third of worldwide protein consumption by mid-century with a market value of as much as $108 billion, according to Lux Research.

“It meets our desire to offer consumers choices and to consider how we can serve an ever-growing and diverse global population, while remaining focused on our core prepared foods and animal protein businesses,” said Monica
McGurk, executive vice president of strategy and new ventures at Tyson and president of its Tyson Foodservice division.

Other major food companies have made similar moves into the growing vegan and organic markets, in part to burnish their sustainability images.

In February, agriculture giant Archer Daniels Midland acquired Harvest Innovations, a soy protein company specializing in oils and gluten-free ingredients. In July, France’s Danone, best known for its Dannon brand yogurt, bought WhiteWave, which specializes in organic and plant-based alternatives to dairy products, in a deal worth $12.5 billion.

Besides catering to changing consumer preferences, food companies are increasingly concerned with the drain on natural resources that comes with raising animals for meat, said Sara Olson, a research analyst with Lux.

“The more corn and soybeans we’re feeding to animals instead of to people, the less efficient it is,” Olson said. “There is concern that we really can’t feed a whole planet with meat.”

In addition to investing in companies already in the alternative meat market, large food corporations also are setting up innovation teams to investigate use of alternative proteins as ingredients for existing products, Olson said.

Tensions remain between traditional meat companies and their plant-based competitors. In the case of Beyond Meat, Tyson joins the Humane Society of the United States, a participant in previous funding rounds that has criticized Tyson’s treatment of animals. Bill Gates, another investor, is a vegan who is active in animal-cruelty campaigns.

“We’re thrilled to see Tyson investing in the company too,” said Paul Shapiro, the Humane Society’s vice president for farm animal protection. “Americans want to diversify their protein sources with more of it coming from plants, and Tyson is positioned well to help them do that.”
Brown said Tyson will not have a seat on Beyond Meat’s board and will not exert influence over the company’s direction. “It is just an investment at this point,” he said. “We’re looking at ways to collaborate, but it doesn’t require that. The idea is to get acquainted and to see where it goes from there.”

**Report says Ohio University president is being considered for University of Missouri top job**

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

Officials are mum after a report that Ohio University's president might be on the shortlist to come lead the University of Missouri System.

Richard Vedder, a professor emeritus at Ohio University, told the Post-Dispatch Thursday night that a faculty member on the search committee called him and at least one colleague, asking about the performance of Ohio University President Roderick McDavis.

"It was clear to me that the interest in him was significant and serious," Vedder said. "That suggests to me that he is pretty high on their list."

University of Missouri System spokesman John Fougere declined to identify whether McDavis is among the presidential candidates.

"The search committee for the next UM System president has had the privilege of considering a number of qualified persons from a national pool, and throughout our considerations we have pledged to maintain candidate confidentiality," Fougere said in a statement.

The private search is expected to stay quiet until sometime in November or December when officials announce the new president.
MU professors inquiring about Ohio University president for UM System position

RUTH SERVEN, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Professors at Ohio University have been getting calls about their outgoing president, Roderick McDavis.

Roderick McDavis is currently president of Ohio University. He has announced that he will step down in June 2017.

Courtesy of Ohio University

McDavis, Ohio University's first black president, may be on the short list for the UM System presidential job, according to Richard Vedder, a distinguished professor of economics emeritus at Ohio University.

"I think I can say, and this is speculative, but I think he's in the running," Vedder said Thursday.

He said he received a call from an MU faculty member on Tuesday asking about his impressions of McDavis, who has been president of Ohio University since 2004. The MU faculty member made it clear that he was not on the official presidential search committee, and Vedder did not recall his name.

Vedder said another Ohio University professor also reported getting a call.

He said he was initially skeptical about McDavis's potential as a candidate; Ohio University is smaller than Missouri, and is not a member of the Association of American Universities. But the
more he thought about it, he said, the more he realized that McDavis might be able to address MU’s racial tensions.

"Maybe the curators have taken the view that they need to put an end to all of that, and having an African-American with a good history of diversity, broadly speaking, would help," he said.

McDavis is also very supportive of collegiate athletics, Vedder said; he's a member of the NCAA Board of Directors. He suggested that McDavis might be interested in moving to a school that is part of the Southeastern Conference.

In his time at Ohio University, McDavis created relationships between the school and historically black colleges, but, Vedder said, he's also had a rough relationship with faculty and students, and has received votes of no-confidence in the past.

"He had a very, very rocky start, but I think things have gotten better since then," Vedder said. "The board of trustees love him."

The school has also seen a drop in its national rankings and in state research funding, according to the Athens News.

McDavis announced earlier in the year that he would be stepping down in June 2017. He also indicated at that time that he would look for another job.

The University of Missouri has been searching for a new president to helm its four campuses since the beginning of the year. Former UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned Nov. 9 amid campus protests and Mike Middleton was appointed to serve as interim UM System president on Nov. 12.

The presidential search committee has been meeting with candidates for the position. No public announcement was made at the last Board of Curators meeting on Friday.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said Thursday the university would not comment on any possible presidential candidates.
MU professor Stephanie Shonekan, an associate professor of ethnomusicology and director of the Department of Black Studies, said she and other members of the presidential search committee were deeply committed to the need for confidentiality, and as far as she knows, no members have broken that promise.

"I don't know who these people are and what they found out or think they found out," Shonekan said.

She said she would not comment further on any potential candidates.

Ohio University president being vetted for UM System president

An OU professor said he was called by an MU faculty member to discuss his opinions of the president.

Ohio University President Roderick McDavis is being considered for the position of president of the UM System, according to an OU economics professor.

Richard Vedder, a distinguished professor of economics emeritus at OU, told The Maneater Wednesday that he received a call from an MU faculty member Tuesday who spoke with him about McDavis.

Vedder said the faculty member, an economics professor whose name Vedder did not remember, said he was not a member of the presidential search committee but “implied that he was working with a search committee.”

“We talked for quite a while,” Vedder said.

The faculty member asked Vedder for his thoughts about McDavis.

Vedder said the faculty member did not say how close the search committee is to making a decision.

“I got the idea the number was whittled down,” Vedder said.
McDavis, who is OU’s first black president, has been president since 2004. He announced earlier in the year that he will be stepping down from his position in June 2017, The Athens News reported. The Athens News also reported that McDavis will seek employment elsewhere.

“There are and will be other challenges and opportunities that will present themselves… I want to keep myself open to that,” McDavis said during a press conference earlier this year, according to The Athens News. “I’m blessed with good health, and I have a lot of energy.”

The UM System has been without a permanent president since Tim Wolfe resigned last November following race-based student demonstrations and demands for his resignation from activist group Concerned Student 1950.

Vedder said there are “a lot of people who like” McDavis, but he also pointed to more negative factors surrounding McDavis’ presidency at OU: The school’s ranking has gone from 98th to 129th between 2005 and 2015, and research funding has decreased, according to a March story published by OU’s student newspaper, The Post. According to US News & World Report, the university currently sits at 146th for national universities.

“Looking at the reports, they don’t all look good,” Vedder said.

The Post previously reported that tension existed between faculty and McDavis. Vedder, along with other professors, previously sent letters of concern to OU’s Board of Trustees and voted no confidence in McDavis’ leadership. Beth Quitslund, the former chair of OU’s Faculty Senate, told The Post in 2014 that relations between the the president and faculty had improved over time.

“It’s been a matter of both faculty and the president consciously working on ways to communicate with each other better,” she told The Post.

McDavis has worked to increase OU’s enrollment — between 2005 and 2014, enrollment increased by about 43 percent, according to The Post, though this year’s freshman class had about 90 fewer students compared to the 2015 freshman class. MU’s 2016 freshman class, in comparison, decreased by almost 1,400 freshmen from the previous year.

Vedder said he is surprised McDavis is being considered for the presidency given his age — McDavis will turn 68 later in October.

“Anyone that age who becomes president is not going to last” for more than around five years, Vedder said.

But, Vedder said, five years or fewer seems to be the norm for the length of UM System presidents’ tenure. The past three presidents all served for fewer than five years.

Vedder also said going from OU to the UM System seems like a natural progression given that the UM System is larger and considered to be “more prestigious,” which is one reason McDavis might be interested in the presidency.
McDavis always attends sporting events at OU, Vedder said, which is another reason why he could be interested.

“Rod is a big supporter of sports, especially football,” Vedder said. “And Missouri’s an SEC school.”

Vedder said other faculty members at OU were also contacted to talk about McDavis.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said the presidential search committee has no comment about McDavis being a finalist.

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

OU’s Office of the President also declined to comment.

The UM System has been searching for a new president since January and is in the last stages of the presidential search. In the past few weeks, the presidential search committee has met with candidates in Kansas City and St. Louis, and the Columbia Tribune reported last week that the search could soon potentially present its final recommendation to the Board of Curators.

**MU reports show long history of sanctions, allegations against Delta Upsilon fraternity**

More than a month before the University of Missouri and its national headquarters temporarily suspended Delta Upsilon fraternity for a report of racial slurs toward black students, MU’s Office for Civil Rights and Title IX received reports alleging that members of the fraternity gave pledges drugs to be used to incapacitate and sexually assault women.

The allegation is one of many over the last 15 months leveled against Delta Upsilon, according to documents the University of Missouri provided to the Tribune on Thursday.

“Active members of Delta Upsilon fraternity allegedly provided each new member with three pills and instructed them to drug women for the purpose of incapacitating them prior to engaging in sexual activity,” MU Title IX Administrator Ellen Eardley wrote in a letter to Delta Upsilon's
MU chapter. “It has been alleged that new members are required to engage in such conduct in order to complete the initiation process.”

The information was reported by numerous people who contacted the office and was circulated on social media, Eardley wrote.

Delta Upsilon has been sanctioned numerous times since last year after reports of underage drinking, at least one assault, physical abuse and other violations of MU’s student conduct policies and regulations. The fraternity is on temporary suspension after a Sept. 27 incident in which members reportedly shouted racist and sexist insults at two black female students outside Delta Upsilon’s house on Tiger Avenue at Rollins Road. MU suspended the fraternity Sept. 28. Delta Upsilon International also temporarily suspended the MU branch.

Both MU’s Office of Student Conduct and the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX are investigating Delta Upsilon, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. He said he could not disclose which reports each office is investigating.

A member who came to the door at Delta Upsilon’s house Thursday afternoon referred a Tribune reporter to the national office for comment. When asked how the national office could respond to allegations of potential criminal conduct locally, he said, “All comments go through them.”

Ashley Martin, Delta Upsilon International’s director of communications, emailed the Tribune a statement from fraternity Executive Director Justin Kirk, saying the national office has placed sanctions on the MU chapter dating back to 2014.

“Delta Upsilon International Fraternity continues to work closely with the University of Missouri to investigate recent issues, some of which we have just learned of within the last few days,” Kirk said. “We will not condone or tolerate the type of behavior alleged in these incidents, and the chapter remains on a temporary suspension as our investigation continues.”

**History of sanctions**

Since August 2015, Delta Upsilon has faced at least 18 sanctions from MU, including being placed on disciplinary probation the day before the racial slur reports, according to the documents. The sanctions were in response to an assault, a theft, inappropriate behavior toward police and at least four incidents of providing alcohol to minors.

Jordan Goldberg, residence hall coordinator for Wolpers Hall at the time, in August 2015 emailed several people in the offices of Student Life and Residential Life about two women who were found extremely intoxicated in the dorm. One was taken to a hospital and another recovered in her room with her roommate’s help.

Delta Upsilon was sanctioned Sept. 25, 2015 for providing alcohol to each of the women, who were underage at the time. The fraternity would be sanctioned again June 29 for members' theft of a stop sign and then again on Sept. 1 for violating university policy and providing and
distributing alcohol. The fraternity was placed on probation Sept. 26 for supplying alcohol to a
minor.

MU police Chief Doug Schwandt emailed Janna Basler, associate director of student life, early
on Sept. 10 to let her know of a list of issues at the fraternity the night before. A woman had
drank too much and then slipped and hit her head when she returned to her dorm that night,
resulting in a trip to a hospital. At 12:34 a.m. Sept. 10, Columbia police were called to the Delta
Upsilon house for a report that a 20-year-old woman drank too much. Officers were called again
43 minutes later for an assault in which a man was pushed down a flight of stairs. At 2:31 a.m.
an MU police officer made a traffic stop in which a passenger jumped out of a car and ran into
the fraternity house, Schwandt wrote. Columbia police did not file any reports about the
 underage drinking and assault calls.

Julie Drury, senior coordinator for the Office of Student Life, sent a letter to Delta Upsilon on
Sept. 13 requesting that fraternity leadership set up a hearing on three violations from Sept. 9 and
10. She had sent a similar letter to the fraternity on Sept. 1 for two violations.

MU police and EMS personnel responded to a medical emergency in Brooks Hall shortly after 8
p.m. Sept. 19. There, a woman was pantsless, drunk and had smeared feces on the wall. Her
friends told police they had gone to their sorority house for about a half hour and Delta Upsilon
for about 90 minutes. Two of her friends told police they believed she had been drugged. She
was taken to a hospital and a urine sample was sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime
Laboratory for testing. The documents released by MU did not include the test results.

Hazing reports

Delta Upsilon also has been accused of hazing. According to a Residential Life report dated Aug.
22, 2015, two staffers found a drunk man with a bloody hand wrapped in tissue sitting in the
lobby of the fourth floor of Lathrop Hall. The man said he was a Delta Upsilon pledge and told
leadership Adviser Kelsey Schaffrin, "I can't talk about it. They made us fight each other."

The report also said members of Delta Upsilon recorded pledges being hazed and posted the
video to the social media app Snapchat.

Basi, MU’s spokesman, said university investigators in both the Office of Student Conduct and
the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX are aware of all the allegations against Delta Upsilon.
The fraternity will remain on temporary suspension while both investigations are underway.
When the investigations are done, a student could face discipline from a verbal warning to
expulsion. The fraternity could be punished by no longer being recognized as a student
organization.

“In that case for an organization, they would no longer be able to participate in any activities nor
would they have access to our facilities,” Basi said.

Any person or group that is disciplined by either office can request a formal or informal appeal
hearing. Basi said the offices share information with police during their investigations.
Fraternities and sororities own their houses and the land on which they sit. Columbia police have jurisdiction over Greek houses and in the last year, officers have been sent to Delta Upsilon 21 times for various reasons, according to online dispatch logs. Columbia police Officer Latisha Stroer, a department spokeswoman, said there are no active investigations into assaults or sexual assaults at Delta Upsilon’s house.

MU police sometimes assist Columbia police in calls at Greek Houses. In an email MU police Officer Steven Verble wrote to Schwandt, which he forwarded to Basler about the events of Sept. 9 and 10, Verble was not surprised at the activity at the fraternity.

“I don’t know what good it will do, but DU seems to have returned in full force as the usual problem it is,” Verble wrote, “and I wonder if you could pass that along to your contacts in Greek Life or Student Conduct.”

Fraternity responds to investigation into Delta Upsilon

Delta Upsilon is now responding to investigations into the Mizzou chapter of the fraternity that came before allegations of the use of racial slurs. Some of those investigations involve people being sent to the hospital with alcohol poisoning and allegations that members were giving initiates drugs to help them have sex with women.

Missouri chapter executive director Justin Kirk emailed a statement to ABC17 News Thursday morning. In it he said the chapter has not met all fraternity or university standards in recent years.

Kirk said they have been working with the university to investigate recent incidents. He said it supports the suspension of the fraternity by the university.

Delta Upsilon had also implemented its own sanctions to address the behavior and bring the chapter up to standard.

Those include:

- Conducting an internal membership review in 2014 and removing 90 of 132 members.
- Reorganizing the chapter and revising the chapter’s operating procedures.
• Employing a masters-level student affairs professional to live in the chapter house full-time.
• Hiring off-duty police officers to walk the house during high-risk times.
• Revising the policy on guests and alcohol to ensure safety and accountability.
• Requiring members to attend International Fraternity-sponsored educational programs on loss prevention, chapter operations, and values-based recruitment and leadership development.

Kirk said they are working with the university to investigate recent issues: "Some of which we have just learned of within the last few days."

He said the international fraternity does not condone or tolerate the behavior alleged in the incidents and the chapter will remain on temporary suspension.

ABC17 News also contacted the university with questions on these alleged incidents being investigated, including hazing incidents as well as a letter from the Title IX Office about allegations relating to DU members making pledges drug women to have sex with them that was apparently captured through social media posts.

University spokesperson Christian Basi said Thursday morning they can't comment on specific investigations or incidents.

"I can tell you that MUPD works closely with our Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX," Basi said.

He said when a report is made, it's forwarded to the appropriate office, which will then take action.

Discipline can range from a verbal warning or expulsion for students or a verbal warning to losing recognition as a university student organization for groups.

At least two open investigations into drugging at Delta Upsilon

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri officials have at least two open investigations into the potential use of "date rape" drugs at Delta Upsilon fraternity.
ABC 17 News first reported Wednesday through an open records request the series of incidents that led to a temporary suspension of Delta Upsilon in late September. The fraternity was given disciplinary probation just a day before a racially-charged incident with students in the Legion of Black Collegians ended up in DU front lawn on September 27. The national organization placed its Columbia chapter on emergency suspension the next day, and the school's Office of Student Conduct continues to investigate that issue.

DU received probation after several issues arose from parties on August 27 and September 10. A 20-year-old woman was taken by ambulance for an alcohol overdose, a man was pushed down a flight of steps during a fight and an 18-year-old girl tripped and hit her head after drinking too much at DU during the September incident. The fraternity had been given two warnings prior to that by the school for underage drinking and "failing to comply" with University police during a theft investigation.

ABC 17 News uncovered a letter from the Title IX Office informing the fraternity of a possible investigation into use of "date rape" drugs. The letter, dated September 13, said the office received numerous contacts from students, along with social media posts that claim "active members of Delta Upsilon fraternity allegedly provided each new member with three pills and instructed them to drug women for the purpose of incapacitating them prior to engaging in sexual activity."

The letter from Title IX Administrator Ellen Eardley goes on to say, "Should my office receive any information indicating that there is any veracity to the allegations that Delta Upsilon promoted sexual misconduct and hazing, an investigation will begin immediately."

MU spokesman Christian Basi told ABC 17 News Thursday he could not comment on the status of that particular matter.

An MUPD police report details a medical call on Sept. 16 for an 18-year-old student acting strangely in Johnston Hall. The woman was naked from the waist down, the officer wrote, and had "smeared feces" on the walls of the hall. She eventually went to the hospital with a friend and the police, telling them she had been drinking at several places, including DU. She did not see how made her drinks at that fraternity, according to the report. At University Hospital, officers took samples of her urine to test for drug intoxication that night. She also told officers she did not remember whether or not she had sex that night.

Officer Bryanne Gawlik also wrote that the woman did not see who made her drinks that day.

Major Brian Weimer confirmed that investigation is still open.

Ashley Martin, DU national director of communications, told ABC 17 News the fraternity has "worked tirelessly and collaboratively" with the school to investigate these reports, some of which they had just learned about. Martin pointed to an "internal membership review" at Mizzou two years ago that led to the removal of 90 of its 123 members. They also reorganized chapter policy, including alcohol and guest rules.
"We will not condone or tolerate the type of behavior alleged in these incidents, and the chapter remains on a temporary suspension as our investigation continues," Martin said in an email. "We are committed to holding all members to our code of conduct, and our investigation will help us determine whether our Missouri Chapter can positively contribute to a safe, enriching and inclusive campus environment."

While individual students could face expulsion for any violations of student conduct, Basi said the fraternity as a whole could see "withdrawal of recognition" by the university. That means the fraternity could not use school spaces for anything, and it would be unable to participate in events like Homecoming. A group that receives such a punishment could either appeal, or reapply for recognition, depending on the punishment laid out by the Office of Student Conduct.

MISSOURIAN

A new system of participation

CHLOE KENZY, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — A new Homecoming system is in effect this year, with more groups and organizations involved and more opportunities to win.

The system is divided into four levels of participation that include differing amounts of time commitment, money and number of members.

The idea is to allow smaller groups of about 20 to compete, as well as groups of 250 or more. In previous years, there were three categories based on affiliation: Greek life, residence halls and campus organizations.

This year, four winners will be chosen from within each level of involvement:

Black and Gold: Participation includes nominating royalty, providing 25 volunteers for a service project, joining the blood drive and decorating The District.

Columns: Participation includes nominating royalty, providing 25 volunteers for a service project, joining the blood drive, decorating The District and the flag football tournament.
Truman: Participation includes nominating royalty, providing 25 volunteers for a service project, joining the blood drive, decorating The District, the flag football tournament, parade, creating a pride or spirit banner and selling Homecoming merchandise.

Traditions: This all-in participation includes nominating royalty, providing 25 volunteers for a service project, joining the blood drive, decorating The District, the flag football tournament, parade, creating a pride or spirit banner, selling Homecoming merchandise, performing in the talent show and decorating the campus.

“We are really excited about it,” said Katelyn Entzeroth, a member of the Homecoming Steering Committee.

“Hopefully 10 years from now, every student and every organization will feel like they are a part of Homecoming.”

Lee Henson Access Mizzou Awards honor those working to create a more accessible MU

Dozens of members of the MU community filled the Great Room in the Reynolds Alumni Center on Oct. 10 to celebrate the Lee Henson Access Mizzou Award Ceremony.

Named after the man who created the Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator position at MU, the Lee Henson award was created in 2014 by the Chancellor’s Committee for Persons with Disabilities to honor those working to make MU a more accessible campus.

Jim de Jong, executive director of the Great Plains ADA Center, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. De Jong has devoted more than 26 years to ensuring accessibility.

“I think we’ve always heard about how it takes a village to raise a child, and I think what I’m learning lately is that it takes accessible and inclusive campuses to raise a nation,” de Jong said.

The event recognized a staff member, student, faculty member, student group and campus organization.
Susan Lever, a chemistry professor, won the staff award for the years she served as chair of the Chancellor’s Committee on Diversity.

“I have a simple motivation, and I’m sure I share it with all of you in the room, and it is to help others achieve their dreams. Pure and simple,” Lever said.

Junior Allison Romano won the student award for her work as the philanthropic chair of her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. Under her leadership, the organization raised $52,000 for Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center, a nonprofit organization that uses horse riding as a means of therapy for those with special needs. The donation was the single largest gift that the center has received to date.

“I really am thankful for all the challenges and opportunities that Mizzou provides me,” Romano said.

Jessica Brownfield, an interior decorator who works with the Department of Residential Life, won the faculty award for her efforts to ensure “universal design” for all residence halls. Universal design ensures the accessibility and inclusivity of public spaces.

The Mizzou Unity Coalition took the student group award. The disability access group was recognized for their “Integrating Tigers” program and their efforts to combine disability groups with larger diversity groups on campus.

Mizzou Creative won the campus organization award for their work to create accessible websites and software.

“We’re all super stoked to have been recognized in this way,” said Jason Rollins, associate director of Mizzou Creative.

Maggie Henson, the late wife of Lee Henson, briefly spoke in support of the award recipients.

“I appreciate all that you’re doing to keep up with the work that he started here,” Henson said.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Sonny Vaccaro Plans One Last Push Against the NCAA

They called him when the case went to trial, and they called him when the rulings came down. And when the Supreme Court declined this month to hear the matter of

Everyone wanted to know how he felt about the court’s action, which let stand rulings that found the NCAA had violated antitrust laws but allowed colleges to continue restricting payments to players beyond their full cost of attendance.

They also wondered: What was Mr. Vaccaro, a former shoe marketer turned athlete advocate, going to do next?

Anybody who knows Sonny knows that the O’Bannon case was his baby. He helped dream up the lawsuit, which pushed the NCAA to pay players for the commercial use of their images, and he lined up the plaintiffs, including Mr. O’Bannon, a former UCLA basketball star, whom he met as a teenager. Over the past half-dozen years, as the case wound its way through the federal courts, Mr. Vaccaro hardly missed a hearing, working as an unpaid consultant for Mr. O’Bannon’s lawyers.

Considering that the case has consumed so much of his life, Sonny is taking the news in stride. He once saw O’Bannon as his last hope to help players. Instead, he says, the case has inspired him to find new battle fronts in his fight for athletes’ rights.

In recent days, he has consulted with Michael Hausfeld, the lead plaintiffs’ lawyer in O’Bannon, and Charles Grantham, a former executive director of the National Basketball Players Association, about enlisting new plaintiffs to challenge a variety of NCAA restrictions.

As they see it, the O’Bannon case found the NCAA guilty of a restraint on trade, so all the other NCAA restraints are up for debate. That includes limits placed on high-school athletes as well as rules restricting players’ rights once they are enrolled in college.

In 2007 he quit his $500,000-a-year marketing job and began railing on hypocrisies he saw in the NCAA’s system. Since then he has spoken at more than three dozen colleges, encouraging students to join his fight against the association. (On Monday he will talk to students at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.)

He hopes to expand his audience, moving from business and law schools into major-college locker rooms. When football players at the University of Missouri at Columbia said they planned to boycott a game last year over a university leader’s response to racial incidents, it planted a seed.
"I would have loved to go down there and speak on the back of a truck," Mr. Vaccaro says. If a protest like that ever happens again, he says, he wants to be there.

College athletes have demonstrated in a variety of ways, including by kneeling during the playing of the national anthem to protest racism. Two years ago, football players at the University of Oklahoma sat out practice to protest leadership problems at a fraternity whose members had been captured on video chanting racist slurs.

In 2013 dozens of football players, including the entire starting offensive line at the University of Georgia, wrote "APU," for "All Players United," on their wrist tape in support of plaintiffs in the O’Bannon case and other federal lawsuits arguing for improved treatment of players.

Some athletes, seeking to eliminate what they considered "unjust" NCAA rules that create academic and financial hardships for players, have run into roadblocks. In 2014, when football players at Northwestern University tried to unionize, coaches and administrators campaigned against the idea.

Mr. Vaccaro hopes to counter such measures by enlisting other people to educate players about their rights. His job, he says, will be to provide the spark.

"You’ve got to have the war," he says, of his efforts to provoke the NCAA. "Because they’ll never pay attention if you don’t."

‘Arbitrary’ Limits

His latest idea is to challenge restraints he sees on high-school athletes, who he says must abide by NCAA rules before they even commit to a college. For example, he says, why are Division I recruits limited to five official visits? He wants to know what’s behind such a limit, which he considers arbitrary, and what right colleges have to restrict athletes from more paid trips to different campuses.

He also questions the scholarship limits outside of the major sports, which often leave players with little aid. For example, he says, why are colleges allowed to distribute only the equivalent of about 13 scholarships in men’s track and field when many teams have more than three times as many athletes?

Even benefits that wouldn’t seem to cost colleges much money, such as a room in a residence hall, are limited outside of the so-called revenue sports like football and men’s and women’s basketball. With all the money flowing into the major programs, he says, there’s no reason why every athlete shouldn’t get free lodging, if not room and board.
And if colleges are allowed to cover thousands of dollars in travel expenses for the parents of college football and basketball players whose sons play in prominent bowl games or NCAA championship events, why can’t programs provide the same allowances for the parents of runners and wrestlers?

NCAA restrictions on player transfers are problematic, too, Mr. Vaccaro says, particularly in men’s basketball, where some 40 percent of Division I athletes either change colleges or drop out by the end of their sophomore years. Under current NCAA rules, players who change colleges lose a year of eligibility. The rules governing players, Mr. Vaccaro says, should not differ from those for coaches, who can leave without such penalties.

David vs. Goliath

In recent years, the wealthiest NCAA programs have signaled an increasing openness to providing more benefits to players. As a result, the association is not likely to go even further and eliminate its restrictions on players unless it is forced to in court, says Mr. Grantham, the former head of the NBA players’ union, who is now director of the Center for Sport Management at Seton Hall University.

That should keep lawyers like Mr. Hausfeld busy — assuming Mr. Vaccaro can find more players willing to attach their names to lawsuits. Mr. Vaccaro has deep connections in youth basketball. But he knows the challenge of finding plaintiffs, understanding the risk it poses for players who are still competing.

But there are signs that some of the most-talented high-school athletes are willing to exert their power before they enter the NCAA system, says Ellen J. Staurowsky, a professor of sport management at Drexel University who has written extensively about players’ rights.

In some cases, she says, star recruits have tried to negotiate scholarships for their teammates. And a growing number of high-school athletes have reneged on their verbal commitments to colleges without facing repercussions.

"I wouldn’t underestimate the power of athletes," says Ms. Staurowsky, who co-founded a faculty coalition that has pushed for college football and basketball players to be paid. Through social media, many young athletes have learned the importance of expressing their views and controlling a message. But they are also realistic, she says, knowing that colleges often limit them from speaking out once they sign their letters of intent.

"They know that door’s going to shut," she says, "once they do the deal."
Ms. Staurowsky, who has known Mr. Vaccaro for nearly a decade, says she would also not underestimate his impact. As he proved in the O’Bannon case, she says, "it took something to get to the right lawyer, and it took something to encourage players to sign onto the case."

Whether any of the new challenges he is proposing have legs, however, is unclear.

"At this point, it’s still a David versus Goliath thing," Ms. Staurowsky says. "It’s winnable, but you have to hit it just right."

Mr. Vaccaro is also collaborating with Kenneth Feinberg, a lawyer who specializes in alternative dispute resolution, on the Former College Athletes Association, a group they helped set up in 2011 to negotiate with colleges over potential new benefits for players. And he plans to step up his work with current athletes to help them organize.

"I’m ready now, I can rally. And they’re more vulnerable than ever," Mr. Vaccaro says of the NCAA. "If I get an audience, I feel I have a chance to win."

**Boycotts and Rallies**

Mr. Vaccaro, who is 77, helped shape college sports into the big business it is today. As a former executive with Nike, Adidas, and Reebok, he signed wealthy athletic departments to multimillion-dollar marketing contracts, providing his companies exclusive rights to outfit players.

But as the money got bigger — the NCAA now brings in almost $1 billion a year — Mr. Vaccaro found it harder to justify the fact that none of it was going to the players, outside of their scholarships. (He was accused of using his influence to steer players to certain colleges, a charge he has denied.)

**Trump on Higher Ed**

In most sustained comments on colleges in the campaign, GOP candidate worries about student debt, endorses income-based repayment, blasts institutions with "bloat" and large endowments, and vows to protect students' free speech.

**No MU Mention**
In an unexpected development in a most unusual presidential campaign, Donald Trump devoted about six minutes in a speech in Ohio Wednesday to higher education policy.

He expressed concern about student loans, endorsed income-based loan repayment, blasted colleges for administrative "bloat" and not spending their large endowments on students -- and he vowed to protect student free speech. Trump framed the speech as being about his concern about student loans. He said student debt in the United States is "a crisis" and "very unfair," adding, "you graduate from great colleges," but "there are no good jobs."

Student debt "should not be an albatross," he said. "Students should not be asked to pay more on loans than they can afford."

Trump proposed that student loans be based on graduates' incomes, with repayment capped at 12.5 percent of borrowers' income. Further, he said that if borrowers repay for 15 years, they should be free from all student debt. Income-based repayment is of course not a new idea -- the federal government's existing income-based plan does much of what Trump suggests -- and has also been endorsed by Hillary Clinton.

Jason Delisle, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, on Twitter noted in a series of comments that Trump has proposed freeing borrowers of debt about 15 years, while President Obama's plan ends such debt after 20 years, and President George W. Bush proposed that debt be cleared after 25 years. "Trump running to the left of Obama," Delisle wrote, adding that Trump was "talking some very regressive and bad ideas on student loans here."

Amy Laitinen, director of higher education at New America, said there aren't enough details to know if the plan is progressive or regressive. "It's clear that income-driven repayment polls well," she said via email. "I doubt Trump's supporters would believe he's proposing something that could be interpreted as being to the 'left' of Obama in terms of a 12.5 percent income-based repayment plan (the way I heard it, it would be the only repayment plan). If so and there were no income cap, then it would be super progressive, because everyone would pay a flat percentage and there would be no cap. If it's like current IBR, it would be regressive because the benefits accrue largely to wealthier graduate students [rather] than poorer undergrads and there is an income cap."

**Questioning College Spending**

Trump also vowed to force colleges to cut tuition rates.
"If the federal government is going to subsidize student loans, it has a right to expect that colleges work hard to control costs and invest their resources in their students," Trump said. "If colleges refuse to take this responsibility seriously, they will be held accountable."

And he said that accountability would include ending the tax-exempt status of colleges and universities with large endowments that do not use those funds to cut tuition rates. Colleges need "to spend endowments on their students, not themselves .... They need to use that money to cut the college debt and cut tuition, and they have to do it quickly." Many college leaders have criticized attacks on university endowments, noting that large shares of college endowments are restricted in their use, and that some of the most generous colleges and universities in the country on financial aid are among those with the largest endowments.

Trump also said colleges could save money by eliminating the "tremendous bloat" in their administrations.

While Trump blamed colleges for rising tuition, he also blamed the federal government. He cited a controversial 2015 study by Vanderbilt University that said it spent $150 million a year to comply with federal regulations. Trump cited the $150 million figure and said he would work to roll back regulations that lead colleges to spend in that way.

But as critics noted when the study came out, about $117 million of those costs related to federal research regulations, which are a sizable issue at a major research university such as Vanderbilt. So most of the $150 million had very little to do with what undergraduates pay.

Trump ended his talk by vowing to protect student free speech -- although he did not detail how he would do so.

Laitinen said Trump was focused in the wrong direction on factors that explain tuition increases. "He pointed to the debunked Vanderbilt regulation numbers rather than focusing on other drivers of college costs including state disinvestment," she said.

Terry Hartle, a senior vice president at the American Council on Education, said via email that "there have long been rumors that he would announce some higher education proposals that would pay particular attention to student loan repayment. Still, given the tenor of the campaign over the last week, it was a surprise that he outlined his plans at this point. In some cases, like income contingent repayment, it's pretty clear what he intends. But with some ideas,
such as endowment spending, it's hard to know what he intends. We will look forward to examining these ideas in more detail."

Robert Kelchen, an assistant professor of higher education at Seton Hall University, said via email that this was "the most that I've heard him talk about higher education during the campaign. His basic income-driven repayment proposal (12.5 percent of income for 15 years) isn't too far from other proposals, but it sounded like he might be interested in ending public service loan forgiveness and moving those people into a less generous plan. The ideas of pressuring colleges to use their endowments and reducing regulations are pretty typical Republican higher ed stances."

Added Kelchen: "The broad ideas presented in this speech felt like they could come from a generic Republican politician, an unusual occurrence in this strange election year."

Indeed, many policy observers were scratching their heads Thursday night at a Trump who seemed aware of policy details in higher education. Said Barmak Nassirian, director of federal relations and policy analysis at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, "Despite the characteristic bluster and the usual Trumpitudes about capping costs and solving problems through negotiations, I was actually surprised by how lucid he was in describing his loan plan: 12.5 percent of income for 15 years. It's not that simple, but, honestly, not too bad for any presidential candidate and amazingly proximate to recognizable reality for Trump."