



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Mizzou students share life lessons, skills with Memphis kids over winter break

Generated from News Bureau media advisory

Watch the story: <http://www.wsfa.com/story/37246604/mizzou-students-share-life-lessons-skills-with-memphis-kids-over-winter-break>

MEMPHIS, TN (WMC) -College students from University of Missouri are helping out kids in Memphis.

The kids at Youth Villages have come from tough family situations and now live and rehabilitate at Youth Villages in Arlington.

Mentors from Mizzou spent their winter break to come and help them.

"A lot of our kids have experienced some very difficult times in their lives before they come to us, so having the confidence and the ability to engage with that they're not quite familiar with is a very important skill for them," Youth Villages Dogwood campus director Nicole Fannin said.

The kids even taught the Mizzou students a lesson, showing off their drum skills.

"It was definitely a moment for them to be in a position where they gave us knowledge from something they have perfected through practice here, and so that was a really cool moment where they got to be leaders for us," Missouri senior Madeline Cocos said.

It's not only drumming--the 12 Mizzou volunteers have spent the entire week playing games like kickball, hot potato, and team building activities.

The most important thing for them was gaining confidence and building relationships.

"We just hope that any one of us or all of us together can be the reason that a kid smiles or laughs, at least once," Cocos said.

Cocos is on her fourth Mizzou alternative break and plans to become a teacher when she graduates this year.

"That's why I've been doing service trips so often is because I look at every single time I get a chance to do one as a way to practicing principles I can use in my classroom and beyond," Cocos said.



CBS affiliate in Savannah, Georgia

Good News: Mizzou students volunteer in Coastal Empire

Generated from News Bureau media advisory

SAVANNAH, GA (WTOC) -Winter break is over, but some students are in the Coastal Empire picking up tools instead of books.

The Mizzou Alternative Breaks Program is in Savannah. Students from the University of Missouri are volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, helping to improve the housing in Savannah.

The students will spend a week in town on a service trip - one of dozens the Mizzou program is involved with across the country. They are getting hands-on experience with projects in town, including framing, painting, putting up siding, all while volunteering their time to the less fortunate and gaining real-world perspective.

"We got really lucky getting paired with Habitat for Humanity. It's an incredible organization. We love everything that they do, all the communities that they serve, so we're really excited to be here," said Adriana Desai, who is participating in the alternative break program. "It's crazy to think just the other day I was back home for Christmas break, and then we come down here and it's incredible to see everything, and it makes you feel really good. That's not why we're here. We're not here to make ourselves feel good. We're here to make an impact."

The Mizzou Alternative Breaks Program was founded in 1991 and is coordinated, led, and implemented entirely by students.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

UM System enacts cost-cutting transportation measures

By Columbia Daily Tribune

The University of Missouri System plans to save up to \$2 million from cost-cutting fleet vehicle policies based on recommendations from a statewide task force.

The UM System has been part of the Missouri Chief Operating Officer's Fleet Management Taskforce, which generated the recommendations, since October. The changes will result in an immediate annual savings of \$1.5 million to \$2 million and will begin Feb. 1, the system said in a news release.

UM said it will update business policies with the following changes:

Reduction of the mileage reimbursement rate from 50.5 cents/mile to 37 cents/mile for travel by personal vehicle.

Development of a new Trip Optimizer tool, to help travelers determine the most cost effective means of travel.

Collaborating with the state on longer-term initiatives including bulk fuel purchases, asset disposal and a fleet management system.

The task force is made of private sector fleet managers and industry experts, including the Missouri Office of Administration, Department of Conservation, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Transportation and the UM System.

UM System to cut mileage reimbursement in cost-saving effort

By Brendan Crowley

The University of Missouri System could save up to \$2 million by changing how it handles its fleet of vehicles, including a cut to the mileage reimbursement rate it pays employees.

The system announced the changes after the Chief Operating Officer's Task Force on Fleet Management released its recommendations Thursday. At the direction of Gov. Eric Greitens, Missouri Chief Operating Officer Drew Erdmann asked the Hawthorne Foundation to create the task force in October.

The task force is part of Greitens' push to cut costs throughout state government, which included eliminating 30 government cars from the state fleet. The vehicles were mostly sedans from the Missouri Office of Administration carpool, which several state agencies share, said Cindy Dixon, the office's general services director.

Along with cutting the mileage reimbursement rate from 50.5 cents-per-mile to 37, the system will use the Enterprise Rent-A-Car "Trip Optimizer," which shows if it's cheaper to reimburse miles or to rent a car, according to a news release.

The system already has a contract with Enterprise that allows it to rent cars at an affordable rate, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. The "Trip Optimizer" will help it decide whether to rent a car for a particular trip.

On average, the rental car is the cheaper option, when it's used. In fiscal year 2017, the system paid \$4.3 million to reimburse employees for 8.6 million miles at a rate of 50.5 cents-per-mile, Basi said. Cars the system rented in the same fiscal year were driven just under 4 million miles and cost just more than \$1 million.

The rental car rate of 26 cents-per-mile is below even the new reimbursement rate. While the rental car is cheaper on average, in some cases it will be more cost effective for employees to use their personal vehicles, Basi said, and the "Trip Optimizer" will help make those decisions.

Vehicles owned by the system cost 44 cents-per-mile to operate. But those vehicles are used on a daily basis for things like construction, maintenance and landscaping, Basu said, and it wouldn't be feasible to replace them with rentals.



UM System updates finance policies, could save up to \$2 million

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri System officials announced on Thursday that they will update policies and initiate cost-cutting measures regarding the university's fleet starting in February.

The decision comes after recommendations were made from a statewide taskforce. The taskforce was designed to help manage the state's fleet of vehicles more efficiently and effectively.

"This is just one more opportunity for us to deliver upon our commitment to be good fiscal stewards and identify administrative and operational efficiencies system wide," UM System Vice President for Finance Ryan Rapp said.

The UM System will update business policies regarding methods of transportation and vehicle. Officials will reduce the mileage reimbursement rate, they will create a new trip Optimizer tool, and will collaborate with the state on longer-term initiatives.

"The University is pleased to be part of this effort," UM System President Mun Choi said. "As with all of our recognized cost-savings, this will allow us to continue to invest further in the success of our students, faculty and staff and bring value to the citizens of Missouri through community and economic development."

MU Kinder Institute joins Missouri Bicentennial Alliance

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch

The University of Missouri's Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy is now part of a group of organizations partnering to develop events to mark Missouri bicentennial in 2021.

The partnership, called the Missouri Bicentennial Alliance, was recognized at the signing ceremony at the Missouri Governor's Mansion, the University of Missouri said in a news release.

The Kinder Institute supports the research and scholarship of MU faculty, undergraduate and graduate students who seek to explore questions related to the history, theory and practice of constitutional democracy.

The institute plans to provide expertise on early American and political history to the Bicentennial Alliance in two upcoming projects and sponsor a series of conferences and lectures, culminating in the publication of an edited volume of historical essays, the university said.

The Washington Post

Democratic elections in Poland face a new threat

By Kamil Marcinkiewicz and Mary Stegmaier

Mary Stegmaier is an assistant professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Her research focuses on voting behavior, elections, forecasting and political representation in the U.S. and abroad.

The democratic backsliding in Poland continues under the leadership of the [Law and Justice](#) (PiS) government. Over the past two years, PiS has gradually stripped the [judicial branch](#) of its independence and tightened its grip over the [media](#).

PiS has now taken aim at Poland's election process. The Polish Senate supported the election reform bill on Dec. 21 and the lower house of the Polish Parliament, the Sejm, passed it early this morning. Now the bill will go to President Andrzej Duda for his decision.

The electoral law reform proposes a set of seemingly innocuous changes. However, two administrative reforms within the bill concerning the National Election Commission and the National Election Bureau could centralize PiS's control over elections and further weaken democratic checks and balances in Poland. Here's the story.

The role of Poland's National Election Commission

The Polish National Election Commission (*Państwowa Komisja Wyborcza*, or PKW) oversees the entire electoral process. It is responsible for the registration of parties and candidates, manages the voter rolls, supervises elections and announces final election results. Furthermore, PKW monitors party finances and can withhold state subsidies for parties.

PiS proposes to change how the PKW members are selected. Currently, the PKW consists of nine active or retired judges who are nominated by the nation's courts. The Constitutional Tribunal, the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court each get to nominate three members.

The proposed law would give the Sejm power to nominate seven of the PKW members, while the Constitutional Tribunal and the Supreme Administrative Court would nominate just one member each. The Supreme Court — which protested loudly against the [politicization of judiciary](#) in 2017 — would lose its representation in the PKW.

Under the proposed changes, the parties with representation in the Sejm would nominate the seven PKW members in proportion to their share of parliamentary seats, but no party would be allowed to nominate more than three members. On the surface, this regulation appears to prevent one party from dominating the PKW.

Here's the problem: PiS already controls the Constitutional Tribunal, following [actions](#) taken in 2015 and 2016. Thus, if PiS remains the [strongest party](#) after the 2019 parliamentary election, it

would control at least four of nine PKW members. The [judiciary laws](#) passed in December 2017 will likely secure the crucial fifth seat in the PKW for the government.

Therefore, the proposed electoral reform combined with the recent judicial reforms could enable one party — at the moment, PiS — to control the constitutional body responsible for overseeing the election process.

And what about the National Election Bureau?

The National Election Bureau (*Krajowe Biuro Wyborcze*, or KBW) is the institution that provides administrative support for the PKW. Currently, the PKW selects the executive of the KBW. Under the proposed reform, the PKW will lose the freedom to independently choose the executive of the KBW.

Instead, the president, the Sejm and the Senate will nominate one candidate each. The PKW would then select the executive from one of these three. Because [PiS controls](#) the presidency and has an absolute majority in both houses of Parliament, the executive of the KBW, in practice, will be nominated by the ruling party.

The KBW coordinates the technical, financial and organizational aspects of the election process. In light of the frequent political conflicts and Poland's [deep political divide](#), it is essential that the person controlling the KBW is trusted by all parties and considered impartial. The shift to a politicized nomination process could erode confidence in the KBW's fairness.

What else is at stake with these electoral reforms?

Other proposed reforms, such as limiting mayors to two terms and shifting the length of local, county and regional legislative bodies from four to five years, could permit PiS to strengthen its power in the long run. However, this hinges on popular support for the party in the future. Further, the new definition of a [valid vote](#) has raised concerns because it introduces ambiguity into what ballot markings count. The new law also embraces some progressive ideas such as obligatory [participatory budgeting](#) in larger cities.

Overall, the bill contains a number of minor changes, some of them innocuous, others less so. Changing the way the National Election Commission members and the executive of the National Election Bureau are selected would appear to continue the reforms aimed at centralizing power and eroding Poland's checks and balances. These changes, if signed by the president, would seem to represent yet another step in Poland's [deconsolidation of democracy](#).

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Missouri statutes clearly outlaw non-consensual photos; 'blackmail' issue is less clear](#)

By Kevin McDermott and Sky Chadde St. Louis Post-Dispatch 10 hrs ago (2)

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens has admitted having an extramarital affair, but he vehemently denies the explosive related allegation: that he snapped a photo of his partly undressed mistress, without her consent, during a sexual encounter and then threatened to publicize the image if she exposed their affair.

“No violence. No picture taken. No threat of blackmail,” Greitens’ attorney, James Bennett, reiterated Thursday in a written statement to the Post-Dispatch.

The specific denial of a “picture taken” is important, because even that — just the snapping of a nonconsensual photo — could be a crime in Missouri. And it’s possible the state’s law on the subject could become tougher this year.

“Both federal and Missouri law protect people’s reasonable expectations of privacy that they won’t be photographed in a state of nudity or partial nudity without their explicit consent,” Sandy

Davidson, law professor with the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia, noted in emailed statements to the Post-Dispatch.

Greitens' mistress told her then-husband in 2015 that Greitens bound, blindfolded and partly undressed her in a consensual sexual encounter — but then snapped a photo without her consent. She said she only knew it had happened from seeing the flash through the blindfold.

“You’re never going to mention my name, otherwise this picture will be everywhere,” Greitens then told her, she claimed in that conversation — which her husband was surreptitiously recording.

Missouri is a “one-party consent” state, meaning the then-husband didn’t break any laws by secretly recording the conversation.

The alleged taking of the photo is another matter.

Under Missouri law, the crime of “invasion of privacy” includes creating “an image of another person” by any means, “without the person’s consent, while the person is in a state of full or partial nudity and is in a place where one would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.”

That offense alone — taking a compromising photo without a person’s consent, even without disseminating it or threatening to — is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail.

That law was updated last year, but it stems from a scandal in the mid-1990s, when the owner of a tanning salon in Buffalo, Mo., was accused of secretly videotaping teenage girls who tanned nude at his business.

The case against the man hit a snag when then-Missouri Attorney General (and future governor) Jay Nixon found that Missouri had no law against surreptitious videotaping. He was ultimately able to charge the man under the state’s child abuse statutes, because the victims were minors. The law was subsequently changed to make it illegal to secretly gather nude or semi-nude imagery.

Invasion of privacy becomes a felony offense in Missouri if the person taking the nonconsensual picture subsequently “distributes the image to another ... or permits the dissemination by any means, to another person, of a videotape, photograph, or film.”

In that case, the crime is a Class E felony, punishable by up to four years in prison.

No one has claimed that Greitens carried through on his alleged threat to distribute the photo.

Though Missouri's invasion-of-privacy statute is stronger now than it was a generation ago, the state still doesn't have a law specifically addressing "revenge porn" — wide online distribution of compromising imagery without the subject's consent with intent of causing distress — as more than 30 other states do.

In December, Rep. Jim Neely, R-Cameron, filed a bill to address revenge porn. A similar measure didn't go anywhere last year.

"I have no idea whether that legislation would get any more attention or not" this year, he said Thursday.

The allegation of a threat of blackmail could be complicated because the allegation, even if true, is that Greitens wasn't seeking money, but silence.

Criminal blackmail "entails making a demand, a quid pro quo," said St. Louis attorney Paul J. D'Agrosa. "There has to be a demand for something of value for it to be a crime."

But St. Louis attorney Scott Rosenbloom argued that a hypothetical situation in which someone demands silence with the threat of embarrassment, while it doesn't fit the typical definition of blackmail, could qualify as criminal extortion.

"Basically it's putting somebody under duress ... to gain some benefit," he said.

MISSOURIAN

SANDY DAVIDSON: Greitens' personal life becomes political tragedy

SANDY DAVIDSON

Sandy Davidson, Ph.D., J.D., teaches communications law at the MU School of Journalism. She is a curators' distinguished teaching professor and the attorney for the Columbia Missourian.

On Wednesday night, Missouri's governor gave his State of the State address, but that evening the news quickly became more of a state of the unions address — the unions between Eric Greitens and his wife, between Greitens and an unnamed woman, and among Greitens, his party and his constituents.

Locally, KOMU, near the end of its 10 o'clock evening news, aired breaking news that KMOV Channel 4 in St. Louis had reported that Gov. Greitens had not only had an affair with a woman but also that the woman's now ex-husband claimed that Greitens, in effect, had threatened her with blackmail.

The KMOV story includes transcripts of part of a tape-recording that the ex-husband had secretly made between him and his now ex-wife. The story is [available online](#). On the tape, the woman discusses what had allegedly transpired between her and Greitens. Because Missouri is a one-party consent state when the question is whether a party to a conversation can legally tape-record, the man broke no law in recording that conversation without her consent.

Soon the internet lit up with stories from other news organizations, some that already knew about the story but were not disseminating it until they had more solid proof. National media such as The New York Times and CNN then started disseminating the story.

The governor admitted to the affair, which happened in March 2015. But the affair is only part of the story, which includes overtones of bondage and allegedly of Greitens taking a picture of the woman,

without her consent, in a state of undress and then threatening to reveal that picture if she ever told about their sexual relations. Greitens denied the blackmail claim.

The bondage allegation is likely fodder for pundits. “Fifty Shades of Grey” too easily evokes “Fifty Shades of Greitens.” But the story’s “ick” factor is truly elevated by the overtones of possible blackmail by threatened use of a non-consensual photograph.

The legal and ethical questions arising from this situation are many. First, there is the ethical question of airing the story. In part, it’s a story about an ex-husband’s revenge. Ethically, should news organizations give him this kind of platform? Legally, so long as the allegations are true, they can be aired because the story is newsworthy.

The newsworthiness test has two parts. The first question is whether the information to be disseminated would be “highly offensive” to a “reasonable person.” The second question is whether the information is newsworthy, or of “legitimate public concern.” Even if the material’s dissemination would be highly offensive to a reasonable person, it may be distributed if it’s of legitimate public concern.

Sexual affairs of politicians used to be regarded by U.S. media as pretty much off-limits. The attitude was, perhaps, more of a European-type attitude: Politicians have their political lives and they have their private lives, and sexual matters belong in the private-life category. Some members of the media, for example, knew about sexual indiscretions of President John Kennedy but chose not to air the stories.

The 1988 presidential campaign marked a sort of tipping point on whether sexual relations fell into the private or public category. Democratic front-runner Gary Hart had a relationship with Donna Rice that sank his candidacy. A picture of them on a boat called the “Monkey Business” summed up the situation. A headline could have read: “Rice causes Hart problems.”

But Bill Clinton snagged the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination in spite of allegations swirling around him of sexual harassment and affairs, including with Jennifer Flowers, who even made publicly available for a small fee a tape recording of her purportedly talking with her alleged lover, Clinton.

Given the current political climate, could someone now be taken seriously if he or she had “bimbo eruptions,” to use Hillary Clinton’s infamous putdown?

But the allegations in Greitens’ situation go further — taking a photograph of a person in a state of partial nudity without that person’s consent and threatening dissemination of the photograph if the victim talks about the sexual relationship.

Federal law, the Video Voyeurism Protection Act of 2004, says: “Whoever ... has the intent to capture an image of a private area of an individual without their consent, and knowingly does so under circumstances in which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.”

In Missouri in 1994, the owner of a tanning salon in Buffalo got caught after videotaping 83 young women. Then-Attorney General Jay Nixon was at a loss to find a statute that covered the situation. So in 1995, Missouri passed a law that says basically the same thing as the later federal law. Missouri Revised Statutes §565.253.1, reads: “A person commits the crime of invasion of privacy in the second degree if: (1) Such person knowingly views, photographs or films another person, without that person’s knowledge and consent, while the person being viewed, photographed or filmed is in a state of full or partial nudity and is in a place where one would have a reasonable expectation of privacy....”

Missouri has yet to pass a “revenge porn” law to cover situations where a disgruntled ex-partner in a relationship posts pictures of his or her “ex” in a state of nudity. A majority of states (38 or so) do have revenge-porn laws.

And then there is the overtone of alleged blackmail in Greitens’ situation.

But this story is probably less about law than about a political disaster. Arguably, Gov. Greitens suffered his sinking-of-the-Titanic moment on Wednesday night. Or maybe it was more a sinking of the Lusitania by a torpedo, a disgruntled ex-husband.

This is a personal and political tragedy for Eric Greitens. Is it the end of his political career? The Billy Bush tapes did not sink Donald Trump’s bid to be president but did cause a few rough waves. The

question is whether Eric Greitens can ride out some rough waves or whether his political boat has been irrevocably swamped.



Columbia Honors Leaders in Diversity Efforts

By AVIVA OKESON-HABERMAN

NO MU MENTION

Lincoln University interim President Mike Middleton grew up in a segregated Mississippi. He lived through the lynching of Emmett Till, the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and the March on Washington.

“Until you’ve lived with the segregated drinking fountains and bathrooms and the daily marginalization in every aspect of life — the way you see your parents and yourself being treated with no logical explanation except racism and the way you see your community disadvantaged by that kind of white supremacist mentality — you don’t know.” Middleton said. “It’s hard to read it in a book and get a complete understanding of what that does to a community and to our country.”

Middleton was among 11 other individuals and seven groups nominated for the 2018 Columbia Values Diversity Awards. The city held a celebration Monday, Jan. 11 recognizing the work individuals and groups played toward creating a more inclusive and diverse community.

Keynote speaker Kevin Powell said more education on segregation and the civil rights movement is needed in order to create an inclusive community.

“We cannot continue to throw out words like ‘diversity’ and ‘inclusion’ if that diversity does not include the education that you have,” Powell said.

This education includes conversations that are uncomfortable, he said.

Middleton said the award ceremony recognizes leaders in diversity efforts and helps attendees network.

Mayor Brian Treece presented Brian Jones and Stacye Smith of Shelter Insurance and Veterans United with 2018 Columbia Values Diversity Awards.

Jones said Shelter Insurance sponsored an expo where minority and women contractors could network with larger businesses.

Columbia is a good place to address issue of inequality, Middleton said.

“We’re a small enough of a population. We’re a manageable city. We’ve got intelligent people all over the city. We’ve got resources.” Middleton said. “We ought to be able to solve these problems if we just get ourselves on the same page and do the work that needs to be done.”

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Offspring of Purdue’s Controversial Kaplan Purchase Now Has a Name

NO MU MENTION

By CHRIS QUINTANA

The offspring of Purdue University’s purchase of Kaplan University has been christened Purdue University Global. [In a news release](#), Purdue said the name would become official if the regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission, approves the deal.

That review is scheduled for February 22, according to the news release. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education have already signed off on the deal.

“Our campuses are typically named after the physical locations where they hold classes. Purdue University Global can be accessed from anywhere in the world, at any time,” said Purdue's president, Mitch Daniels. “The name proved appealing and meaningful to our various stakeholders – most importantly prospective students.”

The new name omits mention of Kaplan University, which currently serves 29,000 students online and in person in Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, Maryland, Maine, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Betty Vandebosch, president of Kaplan University, would become chancellor of Purdue University Global.

“The name is respectful of Purdue’s exceptional reputation, but also distinct from Purdue’s other campuses,” she said.

Purdue’s decision to buy the for-profit university has stirred debate since news of it broke in April. Faculty members and students questioned the [public university’s motives](#), with one equating the deal to selling the university’s brand to Wall Street. Others have [raised concerns](#) that Kaplan would retain control over the institutions it currently has while receiving a facelift from the Purdue brand.