MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Some higher ed officials support discrimination bill, but most keep quiet

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Feb 17, 2017

ST. LOUIS • Few education institutions are speaking up about a Missouri House bill that narrows protections in the state’s workplace discrimination law.

Leaders from the University of Missouri System, which has almost 24,000 employees in the system office and the four campuses, testified in favor of the bill during a committee meeting this week.

The bill would make it impossible for employees to file discrimination lawsuits against other employees, forcing suits against employers themselves and capping damages for those who win. It would also require employees to prove that their protected status — race, religion, sex, etc. — was the driving factor behind their mistreatment rather than just a contributing factor.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Kevin Austin, R-Springfield, said the bill would align Missouri with federal standards.

That alignment is the key issue for the University of Missouri System, according to system spokesman John Fougere.

“Federal anti-discrimination laws that are enforced nationwide provide sufficient protection and would allow us to continue to strongly combat discrimination without exposing the University to increased unnecessary liability and defense costs,” he said in a statement.

In the statement, Fougere makes a point of touting the UM System’s discrimination rules for going “beyond what is required.” The university recognizes a few protected classes that the state doesn’t, including sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. At a meeting last week, the system’s governing board updated the school’s sex discrimination rules to, among other things, bolster anti-discrimination training.
No other public four-year university or community college has taken a stance on the bill, though an assistant vice chancellor and associate general counsel for Washington University did testify in favor of the bill during the public hearing this week.

While the university lawyer, Joseph Sklansky, made a point of identifying where he works and what he does during the hearing, he said he was speaking on his own behalf.

Sklansky was a member of the school’s former Coordinating Council for Diversity Initiatives who has dealt with past employment discrimination lawsuits on behalf of Washington University.

He told the committee Monday night that the bill would correct overreach from a 2005 court decision that changed criteria for such lawsuits.

The result of the court decision “is a regime where allegations trump evidence, where proof that the defendant actually caused the alleged harm is no longer required and where defendants have no choice but to either pay money to settle baseless allegations or else expend substantial financial and other resources to defend such claims all the way through trial and appeal,” he said.

Sklansky couldn’t be reached for additional comment.

Washington University spokeswoman Jill Friedman said Sklansky took a vacation day to attend the hearing.

“This legislation has been considered many times in recent years,” Friedman said in a statement. “Washington University never has advocated for the proposal and we have no intention of doing so.”
THE TRIBUNE'S VIEW

How to legislate anti-discrimination

Last week the University of Missouri caused a bit of a stir when it announced support for a bill under discussion in Jefferson City that would limit the scope of lawsuits claiming discrimination, particularly a provision requiring a higher hurdle of proof to recover punitive damages.

To collect damages, a plaintiff would have to prove discrimination is the "motivating" factor rather than merely a "contributing" factor, as current law requires.

UM said it is working with the sponsor of the bill to make sure higher education is included in exemptions for state and local government. Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, opposes the bill, saying its passage would stymie most discrimination cases.

Proving discrimination is devilishly hard, "motivating" or "contributing" notwithstanding. Lacking some sort of overt statement or other obvious stimulus for adverse action, knowing what is in the mind of a perpetrator is a mystery.

Given this level of imprecision, court findings are imprecise, sometimes criticized for findings of guilt or innocence.

I'm not sure what difference substituting "motivating" would make. It is a more demanding word than "contributing," but proving either is the rubbbery part. Kendrick says he is surprised the university would enter this debate, given its controversial nature, but the larger landscape seems so chancy I don't blame the university for seeking something resembling more clarity.

Objectionable outcomes cited in the discussion have involved allegations of discrimination against blacks as well as whites. If the new bill is passed, I doubt at the end of the day anybody will be able to tell whether substituting "motivating" has made a difference, but you can see how partisans are moved to argue the point, some assigning unholy intent simply because they support or oppose the proposed change in the law.

Let's recognize the motivation for the debate without assigning too much blame to the debaters. They are working in a sea of imprecision.

HJW III

I believe that man will not merely endure. He will prevail. It is the writer's privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart.

William Faulkner
MU Health makes up most of ethics hotline calls, again

University of Missouri System sees 123 total reports in 2016

By Megan Favignano
Columbia Daily Tribune

For the fifth year in a row, most of the University of Missouri System’s ethics and compliance hotline calls last year were from MU Health Care.

Michelle Piriano, interim chief audit executive for the UM System, discussed the annual report’s 2016 data with the Board of Curators at a meeting earlier this month.

For calendar year 2016, the UM ethics and compliance hotline received 123 initial reports, with 66 of those coming from MU Health and 20 from MU. Most of the hotline’s calls related to higher education came from the flagship campus. The hotline received 14 reports from the Kansas City campus and just two from the Rolla campus. The hotline did not receive reports related to the UM System or the St. Louis campus last year.

The hotline reports received in 2016 pertain to medical-related allegations included billing and coding issues, falsification of medical documents and disclosure of confidential health information.

Of the 123 calls received in 2016, 52 were investigated and 20 of those were listed as being “substantiated with appropriate action taken,” according to the report. Another 28 were forwarded to other internal or investigative processes, and 11 were listed as pending at the end of the year.

Piriano said hotlines have been found to be the most common way to detect occupational fraud.

According to a 2016 report from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, organizations with hotlines were more likely to detect fraud through tips.

“Hotlines are also credited as an effective way of encouraging employees to report misconduct who might otherwise choose not to do so, and without fear of retaliation,” Piriano’s annual report reads.

Ethics or compliance abuse can be reported to the hotline in six areas: financial, medical/health, human resources, research, athletics and environmental health and safety.

Since 2012, MU Health has accounted for the majority of the hotline’s reports.

Of the hotline’s 122 reports for calendar year 2015, 95 were...
from MU Health. And in 2014, the hotline received 67 reports from MU Health out of 129 total reports.

But the 2016 amount is the first time the number of calls from MU Health decreased from the previous year since 2010.

Mary Jenkins, MU Health and MU School of Medicine spokeswoman, said since August 2012, the health system has made the confidential hotline more visible among its students, faculty and staff.

“We have really increased our efforts to educate employees about the hotline,” Jenkins said. “While I can’t be sure there’s a cause and effect, I do know that we’ve really increased our internal communications with the hotline information.”

The health system promotes the hotline and reminds employees it is everyone’s responsibility to report suspected ethical breaches, Jenkins said. MU Health sends a daily newsletter — which goes to 10,000 health system students, faculty and staff — that includes the hotline’s information.

The hotline phone number also is listed on the health system’s intranet, Jenkins said. When employees go to the employee-only web page, they see the hotline’s information. She said MU Health has seen a jump in views to that homepage: rising from 1.6 million unique views in 2013 up to 4.1 million in 2015 and 4.8 million in 2016. “We’re not surprised that many of the hotline reports come from health system employees,” Jenkins said.

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Next year, extra university funding dependent on graduates' employment

ISABELLA ALVES

Feb 17, 2017

JEFFERSON CITY — Students aren't the only ones who have to take tests. So do their schools, but the schools are getting paid for it.

For the past three years, higher education institutions have partaken in the Missouri performance funding model, which funds institutions based on their performance in five categories.

The funding system was put into law in Senate Bill 492, and was first implemented in fall 2013. School officials say they appreciate any additional source of revenue, but because the funding can fluctuate wildly from year to year, schools can't count on it. And the formula itself will become more elaborate next year, when an additional criterion is applied that will examine whether students are getting jobs related to their education.

Missouri grades institutions on five measures: student success, degree attainment, student learning quality, financial responsibility and graduates in applied technology.

Out of the 23 institutions measured in the state, 15 met all five frameworks for their funding goals this year, and eight institutions met four out of the five frameworks. None of the institutions scored lower.

The new, sixth measure will be unique to Missouri, as no other state is using it as a framework for performance funding. It will grade institutions on the number of students who are employed in the fields they studied within the first year after graduation.

Right now, the Department of Higher Education is researching ways to implement this measure.

Leroy Wade, deputy commissioner for higher education, said the department will probably end up using a survey issued to graduating students. Wade said the survey would ask if the student
has gotten a job and if that job matches up with the degree they earned, among other questions. Follow up would be done over the next year.

"What institutions would do is administer this survey to each graduating class, and then use the data to construct this measure and decide, 'Are they being successful or not?'" he said.

The department has until July 2018 to come up with a way to accurately and reliably use this measure as a framework for implementation, and then it will become part of the criteria for performance funding.

Zora Mulligan, state commissioner for higher education, said this new framework would reflect the workforce reality students are graduating into.

"It's a very fluid workforce, and so you can be a very successful graduate and not be working in the specific discipline (in which) you were educated," she said. "But it is important that you're working at the level that (your) level of education put you at," Mulligan said.

The Funding

Institutions already get core funding. If the state were going to provide more, 90 percent of that would come through the performance funding model, and the other 10 percent would be provided to maintain equity between institutions.

But the performance funding is unreliable. Each year, the amount appropriated changes based on what lawmakers decide. This causes variations that can range from $100,000 to millions from year to year, depending on the size of the institution.

For schools such as State Technical College of Missouri, this means it can use the money to buy new equipment, but not anything long term. The college's chief financial officer, Jenny Jacobs, said she is grateful for any funding the state gives them, but because the funding is unreliable, it's hard to plan for it.

"It's not something we can use to fund recurring expenses," Jacobs said.

Unreliable funding poses challenges for smaller schools, because they can have a harder time meeting performance measures. One reason is that students who excel sometimes leave to go to larger programs.
State Rep. Donna Lichtenegger R-Jackson, said smaller schools need to be recognized for what they do for the bigger schools in the state, but their budget and funding sometimes doesn't reflect the services they provide.

She said students often start at regional schools like Southeast Missouri State and then move on to bigger schools such as Missouri University of Science and Technology because it's less expensive for the students to start at the smaller schools. She said she thinks schools like Southeast Missouri State University should get some type of recognition for getting students accepted and graduated from the programs at the bigger institutions.

Jacobs also said she wished people understood how her college performs and consistently meets its performance funding goals.

Harris-Stowe State University has seen its performance funding drop each of the past two years.

James Fogt, vice president of information technology, said there have been several presidential transitions for the university in the past few years. This resulted in various changes in strategies for the university, which made it difficult for the university to meet funding measures.

Harris-Stowe State University's mission is to provide education for underserved students. A lot of students end up taking remedial classes because they came from underperforming high schools, Fogt said. This hurts performance funding because two of the measures have to do with student success and the quality of student learning.

Mulligan said performance funding was designed with the success of all sizes and types of institutions in mind. She said that if there were problems for institutions meeting the frameworks, that there are tools in place to help the institutions, which could be things like more teacher training.

Mulligan did say she thinks that, with the recent budget withholds in public education, "funding challenges will create difficulties for institutions across the board."

Lichtenegger also said budget cutbacks can create a cyclical problem for the institutions, but performance funding shouldn't be a problem because it fluctuates so much for the institutions. It was already a factor that wasn't heavily depended on.

"We need performance funding to look at the areas where we need people, where the jobs are," Lichtenegger said. She said the schools who educate students in highly demanded jobs "should get credit to catering to a specific type of person."
Ryan Rapp, interim vice president for finance and CFO for the UM System, said performance funding is so new that it's hard to say what the impact is, but so far it's been beneficial for the UM System.

Over the three years that performance funding has existed, the UM System has received $57.1 million. Rapp said this number is significant and that the system is happy to participate in the funding measures, but the measures were things it was focusing on anyway.

"If you're not able to meet the five measures, it definitely could financially harm the university, but I think it's also intended to incentivize universities to pay attention to these things," Rapp said. "I think you'd be hard pressed to find any institution in the state or in the country that would say the things we're being asked to measure here aren't of importance to the institution."

Lawmakers have yet to decide how much money will be appropriated for performance funding for fiscal year 2018, which begins in July. Regardless, Mulligan said the department would still like to collect data using performance funding models even if no money is given out.

Supervising editor is Mark Horvit.

Reported assault on MU campus

By Taylor Petras


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Police Department is investigating an assault that reportedly happened near the Virginia Avenue Housing Complex Sunday afternoon.

Police said they were notified of the assault around 2:30 p.m.

According to an email from MUPD that was sent to students around 9 p.m., the suspect is described as a white man in his late 20s to early 30s. He was wearing a black shirt with dark
Police said the suspect approached a female and tried to talk to her. He then reportedly continued to follow her, hug her, kiss her on the neck and tried to kiss her on the lips.

The victim was able to get away unharmed.

In the email, MUPD said officers were investigating another similar incident that possibly happened near the Virginia Avenue Garage around the same time. Investigators were still working to get more information on the second incident Sunday night.

MU investigating two alleged assaults on campus


The University of Missouri Police Department responded Sunday afternoon to an assault near the Virginia Avenue Housing Complex.

According to a notice sent through the MU Alert system, a male suspect believed to be in his late 20's, early 30's approached a female and engaged in small talk. He then allegedly followed the victim, kissed her on the neck and attempted to kiss her on the lips.

The female victim resisted and the suspect let her go, according to the report. The victim was able to walk away unharmed.

MUPD said they are also investigating a second, similar incident that might have occurred near Virginia Avenue Garage at about the same time and is attempting to get more information at this time.
MUPD issues crime alert of sexual assault near Virginia Ave. garage

By Zia Kelly

The MU Police Department received a report of a sexual assault of a female student near the Virginia Avenue Parking Structure at about 2:30 p.m. Sunday, according to an email to students and staff that went out at 8:58 p.m. MUPD has yet to identify the suspect.

The department was also notified of, but has not been able to confirm, a second instance of assault that they believe the same suspect might have committed.

MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer said the student who contacted MUPD about her assault — which, according to the email, involved the suspect following her, then hugging and kissing her — said she heard of another person who had been assaulted in the same way, around the same time and location.

The student was able to resist the suspect’s advances and walk away unharmed.

MUPD reached out to the potential second victim but has been unable to get in contact with them. It is unclear whether they are an MU student.

According to the email, the suspect is a white male in his late 20s or early 30s with no facial hair or glasses. He was reported to have been wearing a black shirt and dark pants this afternoon.

If you have information regarding this crime, contact MUPD at (573) 882-7201.
Scientists find way to predict older people's falls three weeks before they happen

By Sarah Knapton

Generated from News Bureau expert comment: MU Technology Helps Older Adults Living With Congestive Heart Failure

Falls could be predicted in older people three weeks before they happen using sensors in the home which monitor gait.

The ground-breaking system devised by US scientists is designed to alert medics to changes so they can intervene before a potentially lethal stumble.

Early tests have shown that it can help people stay in their own homes for years longer.

It is made up of several wall-based movement sensors which measure walking speed and length of stride as older people are moving around their homes.

Experts from the University of Missouri, found even small changes can predict if an elderly person is about to suffer a dangerous fall. Risk goes up more than four times if their walking speed slows.

For example when walking speed decreases by 5.1cm per second, pensioners have an 86 per cent chance of toppling within three weeks, compared to just a 20 per cent chance with no change.

They also found a drop in stride length of 7.6cm predicted a 51 per cent chance of OAPs tripping within three weeks.

The scientists developed the technology to help elderly residents live independently for longer.

Falls are one of the main causes of broken hips in the UK and can reveal undiagnosed health problems. One in three pensioners has had at least one in the past year at a cost of £2.3 billion a year to the NHS.

Elderly patients are three times as likely to die following a ground-level fall compared to their under-70 counterparts.
Lead researcher Professor Marjorie Skubic, from the University of Missouri, invented the system after her mother-in-law suffered a bad fall and damaged her shoulder.

She recently fitted the system into her parents' home in South Dakota for her mother's 93rd birthday in the hope it will allow them to stay there until their death.

"You can make a big difference to how someone is going to age," she said. "There was this assumed curve that there had to be a decline, but what we are showing is there doesn't have to be a decline, that you can in fact keep people up at a high level until they die.

"I pray that my parents die in their sleep, in their own beds, in their home. If they can die in their own home where they've been completely independent all this time that is a complete win. That is really squaring the life curve."

Falls in elderly people can often be caused by underlying infections, weakness or clashes with medication, so the system picks up problems early enough so that changes can be made, or rehabilitation given before a potentially fatal tumble happens.

The system has already been trialled on 23 elderly people with an average age of 85. It helped them remain independent for twice as long as those living in other settings.

Those monitored by the technology stayed in their own home for an average of 4.3 years, compared to 1.8 years for those who did not have it.

Elsewhere scientists have begun a project to fit thousands of digital sensors to elderly people in the hope it could help detect the very first signs of Alzheimer’s disease.

The high-tech wristbands which have been given 2,200 older people in Boston, in the US, measure everything from sleep, to balance and fall risk, to heart rate.

Scientists hope the three-year project will reveal subtle physical changes that develop during the first stages of the disease and provide an alternative test for picking up the illness.

Currently it is difficult to diagnose Alzheimer’s and requires a number of tests.

Speaking at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Boston, lead author Rhoda Au said the devices could make the process more simple.

"It's really labour-intensive to bring people into the lab for conventional dementia tests,” she said.

Although there are currently no treatments for Alzheimer’s disease, it is hoped that within the next decade, drugs to help stave off dementia will be available. And it is likely that they will work better if the disease is caught in its earliest stages.
Fellow researcher David Knopman, a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, said: "The idea of preclinical Alzheimer's disease is that, for people who are destined to develop dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, in the years before they become overtly cognitively impaired, there might be subtle things that change in their daily behaviour that, if we knew what to look for, would disclose who might be at risk."

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**CBS Affiliate in Wichita, KS**

**High Levels of BPA Found in Some Dog Food Cans**


AP EXPLAINS: Why there's a U.S. surge in mumps despite vaccine

BY MIKE STOBBE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feb 17, 2017

NEW YORK — Fifty years ago, mumps was once a childhood rite of passage of puffy cheeks and swollen jaws. That all changed with the arrival of a vaccine in the late 1960s, and mumps nearly disappeared.

But now the U.S. is in the midst of one of the largest surges in decades. Arkansas has been hardest hit, but schools and college campuses in many states have been contending with outbreaks. At MU, 341 cases have been identified since August, according to the Student Health website.

Some basics about the illness and the situation:

WHAT IS MUMPS?

Mumps is caused by a virus. It's contagious and spread through coughing and sneezing. Common symptoms are fever, headache, and painfully swollen salivary glands that can cause puffy cheeks. Most cases occur in children and teens who spread it at schools and dormitories.

Some people never have symptoms. In most others, it is a mild disease that people completely recover from in few weeks. Sometimes it can lead to complications: hearing loss, meningitis and swollen testicles. In rare cases, infections lead to sterility.

HOW COMMON IS IT?
Before the vaccine, roughly 200,000 cases were reported each year. Then the numbers dwindled to around 200 a year. But some years, cases have jumped up. In 2006, there were nearly 6,600 cases, most of them college students in the Midwest.

Cases surged again last year, reaching 5,300 — the bulk of them in Arkansas, Iowa and Oklahoma. High numbers have continued this year, mostly in Arkansas and Missouri, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

WHO GETS THE VACCINE?

The mumps vaccine is part of routine childhood shots. U.S. health officials recommend that by age 6, all children get two doses of a combination vaccine against mumps, measles and rubella. The vaccine is highly effective when children get the shots on schedule, they say, and there has not been any new, mutated mumps strain going around to change that. Yet, most of the children who got sick recently were fully vaccinated, health officials have said.

THE VACCINE DIDN'T WORK?

No vaccine is perfect and it's expected that some people who get the shots will still get mumps. Also, some research suggests that 10 or more years after the second dose, immunity may fade enough to allow outbreaks to take hold. During some outbreaks, like one currently at MU, students and others have been offered a third booster dose to increase protection and snuff out the outbreak.
Mizzou hopeful vaccine clinic stops mumps outbreak


By Taylor Petras

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Nearly 1,300 University of Missouri students received a third dose of the MMR vaccine this week during a three-day clinic after an outbreak of the mumps during the fall semester.

"My dad told me that I should definitely get it and I was just kind of worried that it's been going around," said Andrew Monson, a junior at MU, who got the vaccine Friday.

"It stings a little bit, but it was worth it," said Lily Fitzgibbon, a senior, who also went to the free clinic.

Dr. Susan Even, the executive director of the Student Health Center, said another 2,300 students reported getting a third vaccine over Christmas break. Even said the university is still seeing cases of the mumps.

As of Feb. 16, there have been 341 probable and confirmed cases of the mumps identified in MU students.

"We're hoping that with the combination of the vaccine, the vaccine clinic and also the fact that more students are going to be out and about in less enclosed spaces, that those kinds of things can help reduce the number, the contagiousness and the spread," she said.

Even said the state health department is covering the cost of the vaccine for the clinic. She said there may be another, smaller-scale clinic soon if there are vaccines left over.

"We'd like to keep immunizing, because we think that's still going to be one of our best chances of all the other things everyone is already trying," she said.

"I feel like it was more of an outbreak last semester. I'm less worried about it now," Fitzgibbon said. "I don't know as many people that are catching it right now, but I still felt
getting the shot would be a good idea."

The Columbia/Boone County Health Department has seen another 38 cases of the mumps that do not involve MU students since Aug. 22.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 27 states have reported 495 cases of the mumps so far in 2017. Missouri has already reported at least 50 cases, making it the state with the second-highest number of mumps cases behind Arkansas.

Even said it's hard to say why the number of mumps cases has gone up in the state.

"I think if we knew or understand that, we would really be ahead of the game," she said. "I don't think anyone really understands it."

Mizzou has to go 50 days without a confirmed case of the mumps to be considered "mumps free."

Sheena Chestnut Greitens strives to balance roles as professor, first lady, mom

By Natalia Alamdari

COLUMBIA — Two posters hang side by side on the wall of Sheena Chestnut Greitens’ office — one declaring "Welcome to Pyongyang," the other commemorating North Korea’s missile program.

Behind her desk is a painting of women in military uniforms gathered around an issue of Workers’ Daily, a North Korean newspaper. Greitens’ decor embodies her research specialty: East Asia and authoritarian regimes.

Books on the region, including her own published in August, fill her shelves, as well as family photos with her husband, new Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, and older son Joshua. She hasn’t had a chance to print more recent photos with 8-month-old Jacob.

**Greitens, 34, joined MU’s political science department in January 2015.** After taking parental leave for part of the fall semester, along with accompanying her husband on the campaign trail, Greitens returned to the classroom at the start of the spring semester not only as a professor, but as first lady of the state.
While her return to campus was met with curiosity from students, Greitens tries her best to keep her dual roles separate. The first day of classes even comes with a warning to students not to come to her with any issues with the governor or his administration, said Casey Edwards, a junior in Greitens’ class.

The couple’s roles do overlap occasionally. The governor made an appearance at the opening of MU’s Institute for Korean Studies on Feb. 9, sitting ramrod straight as his wife gave a speech. The public reception was followed by a private dinner at the Governor’s Mansion.

On Feb. 2, Gov. Greitens slashed higher education funding in his budget recommendation, pushing the intersection of their careers further. But, the first lady said, she doesn’t "speak for the governor’s office."

"When I’m on campus, I’m not here as the first lady, I’m here as their professor," Greitens said. "My role is to teach and do research. My time is really a hundred percent devoted to my role as a professor and researcher."

In the classroom two days a week, Greitens teaches a course on American foreign policy in Asia to undergraduate students, while also leading doctoral classes on democracy and dictatorship.

She spends the rest of her week writing lectures, working on research and overseeing the Institute for Korean Studies, which she co-directs with MU history professor Harrison Kim.

"Working with her is efficient, but at the same time makes you think," Kim said. "She asks big questions, but also pays a lot of attention to detail. She’s the whole package."

**A push to learn more**

When Greitens was in the third grade, her family gained a new member. Catherine Chestnut, only a baby, was flown over from Seoul, South Korea.

Greitens — at the time Sheena Chestnut — couldn’t stop asking questions about her new sister.

What was Catherine’s life like back in Korea? What did that part of the world look like?

Driven by her curiosity, the Chestnut family embraced its newly adopted member’s Korean culture. They learned to cook Korean dishes. If there was a Korean-American event in Greitens’ hometown of Spokane, Washington, they were there.

Greitens’ fascination with Korea didn’t stop with childhood. Driven by deeper questions, she focused her political science degree at Stanford University on the region.

Remembering watching the fall of the Berlin Wall on TV as a child, she wondered: Why had communism survived in North Korea when it literally crumbled in Europe?

And so the studying began.
At the start of her sophomore year, Greitens took a one-month exchange trip to South Korea. Her senior thesis on North Korean smuggling networks ended up getting published in International Security, an academic journal so competitive that it was difficult for professors to get published, let alone undergraduate students, Zack Cooper, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said.

"She was doing work ... that many people try to do in graduate school," Cooper said. The two have known each other for about 12 years.

Her senior year, Greitens decided to take up Mandarin Chinese and continued learning the language through graduate school at Oxford as a Marshall Scholar.

Studying at Oxford confirmed her desire to pursue teaching and research on East Asia.

"I wanted to able to do research to help understand a lot of the issues that were shaping East Asia and American involvement in Asia today," Greitens said. "I also wanted to be able to share that knowledge with others."

In 2007, Greitens began her doctoral degree in political science at Harvard University. It was there that she met Missouri’s future governor in 2009. After two years of leading his nonprofit, The Mission Continues, the Navy Seal was visiting the university to give a talk on veterans and leadership in public service.

"A mutual friend introduced us in a small group," she said. "After that event, we went out for hot chocolate. That was it. That was the beginning."

Two years later, the couple married and moved to Eric Greitens’ home state of Missouri. In the fall of 2012, she applied for an opening in MU’s department of political science — a position for someone well-versed in democracy and dictatorships, specifically in East Asia.

Greitens was hired in 2012, wrapped up her doctoral degree and started working as an assistant professor in January 2015.

As an educator, Greitens said she hopes to leave students understanding the relevance of what they’re learning and how even things that happened across the Pacific can still relate to home.

When discussing the Chinese Civil War, she tells students about Edgar Snow, a Missouri School of Journalism alumnus who wrote the earliest accounts of the Chinese Communist Party. A lecture on the Korean War comes with an explanation of MU’s Korean exchange program, one of the first in the nation, that was spearheaded by President Harry Truman.

**Taking on new roles**

Greitens spent most of the campaign season at home with her sons, making sure 2-year-old Joshua got to bed on time and taking care of Jacob, who was born in June leading up to the primary election in August.
When possible, the whole family would hit the campaign trail on the weekends, traveling to parts of the state Greitens had yet to experience.

"I’m a Missourian by choice," she said. "I had met students from all over Missouri, but I often hadn’t been to their hometowns. I really enjoyed getting to know the state in a very different way that ended up being a lot of fun."

Greitens said she juggles her roles as professor, first lady and mother one day at a time, making an effort to be home most nights of the week for family dinner.

"My husband and I really see ourselves as a pretty normal, two-working-parent family with small kids," Greitens said. "We both love what we do. It’s really important to us to do our jobs, to do them well."

Greitens has already started work on a new book project, interviewing North Korean defectors and refugees on their experiences resettling into democracies around the world.

"Many of the people I’ve worked with and that I’ve met over the years who come from North Korea have several funny stories, or often very poignant and touching stories, about the moment that difference really came home to them," she said.

Greitens said she also hopes to dive deeper into her role as first lady as her boys get more settled into their new home.

In the past, Missouri first ladies have taken up a cause to support while their husband holds office, much like the national first lady.

Drawing inspiration from her sister Catherine, Greitens said she hopes to advocate for adoption services and foster care in the state.

"Having an adopted sibling is something that is really important to me," Greitens said. "It’s something that as a mother, as a teacher and now in this new role (as first lady) I really care about. So I’m excited to find out from people what we can do to support that system and make it work better."
The World Can Expect More Cybercrime From North Korea Now That China Has Banned Its Coal

By Charlie Campbell

On Sunday, China suspended imports of North Korean coal for the rest of the year, in a move widely seen as a punitive response to the assassination of North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un’s older half-brother, Kim Jong Nam, who was close to the Chinese leadership.

The 45-year-old was poisoned at Kuala Lumpur airport and died on his way to hospital. Two women — one Vietnamese and one Indonesian — and two men — one Malaysian and one North Korean — have been detained in connection with his death. Malaysian police also want to talk to four other North Koreans who apparently fled the country soon after the attack.

Kim Jong Nam was estranged from his homeland and mostly lived in the semiautonomous Chinese territory of Macau. That he was essentially under Chinese protection makes his death especially galling for Beijing, which has grown increasingly wary of Pyongyang’s erratic behavior and pursuit of nuclear weapons.

The moratorium brings Beijing into compliance with February’s U.N. Security Council resolutions over North Korea’s nuclear program. (China had signed up to the unprecedented economic measures, though implementation had been spotty owing to a clause that allowed trade deemed essential for the “livelihoods” of the North Korean people.)

That loophole has now narrowed, and the suspension of coal imports will hurt Pyongyang’s pockets — coal is responsible for around half of North Korea’s foreign-currency acquisitions — and increase pressure on the regime. It will also be welcomed in Washington; President Donald Trump has long argued that Beijing has not been strict enough on its secretive eastern neighbor.

However, one likely consequence will be a spike in illicit methods of currency generation — especially cybercrime. North Korea already has an elite squad of 6,800 state hackers who are engaged in global fraud, blackmail and online gambling, together generating an estimated annual revenue of $860 million, according to the Korea Institute of Liberal Democracy in Seoul.
"Their illicit activities have always been highly adaptable," says Professor Sheena Greitens, an East Asia specialist at the University of Missouri. “Cybercrime would likely become a higher priority in the regime's eyes if other avenues of revenue generation are closed off.”

Pyongyang’s hacking prowess first garnered global attention following the 2014 attack on Sony Entertainment Pictures, in apparent revenge for the satirical movie The Interview, which ridiculed the Kim clan. However, North Korea's ability to wage online warfare has been under development for decades. “In the 21st century, war will be [waged as] information warfare,” late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the father of both Kim Jong Un and Kim Jong Nam, said in 1995.

North Korea has hacked more than 140,000 computers at 160 South Korean firms and government agencies, South Korean police told Reuters in July, reportedly planting malicious code in preparation for a massive cyberattack in the future. North Korea is also the chief suspect in the attempted heist of $1 billion (it netted $81 million) from Bangladesh Bank, the country's central bank, last February. Before this came raids on a bank in the Philippines in October 2015, and Tien Phong Bank in Vietnam two months later.

According to analysts at Internet security firm Symantec, all three raids used code identical to the Sony hack. “We’ve never seen an attack where a nation-state has gone in and stolen money,” Eric Chien, a security researcher at Symantec, told the New York Times. “This is a first.”

Attacks have already increased in size, frequency and boldness since the imposition of last February’s U.N. sanctions. In May, North Korean agents stole the personal details of 10.3 million users of the Interpark e-commerce firm in South Korea. They then attempted to blackmail of the firm’s board for 3 billion won ($2.6 million) of untraceable bitcoin.

Generally, North Korean hackers operate from cities in northeastern China — most often Shenyang and Dandong — where they are sent by their government to work for Chinese IT firms. (Their below-market wages are collected directly by the North Korean state.) At night, however, they engage in all manner of illicit activities. Hacks typically fall into three categories: revenue generation, information gathering or the planting of malicious code to undermine enemy states — principally South Korea and the U.S.

On Aug. 7 last year, North Korean hackers in Shenyang accessed South Korea's cybercommand intranet through a server in the Defense Ministry's main information center, according to Yonhap news agency. South Korea’s Defense Ministry said some 3,200 computers were contaminated with malware, though denied that sensitive information was stolen. "As one of the military's two integration servers was jointly linked to the Internet and the intranet, it allowed the hackers to gain access to the intranet," a ministry official told Yonhap.

Hacks are especially likely to ramp up as Pyongyang searches for ways to fund the final stage of its quest for a nuclear-armed ballistic missile capable of hitting the U.S. mainland. Although North Korea remains one of the world’s most impoverished regimes — its official economy was worth just $28.4 billion in 2014, according to South Korea's central bank — the Kim regime has
still invested an estimated $1.1 billion to $3.2 billion toward developing a nuclear deterrent. An atomic bomb is considered a trump card by Pyongyang that will guarantee the regime’s survival, and Kim Jong Un will pull out all the stops to get over the final hurdle.

Eclipse to be turned into mega-movies

By Jonathan Amos

More than 12 million people - from Oregon to South Carolina - live on the path of darkness that the Moon will cut as it sweeps in front of the Sun.

Nearly four times that many live within a two-hour's drive. And then there are all the tourists who will flock to America to witness the spectacle.

It makes the eclipse a wonderful citizen science opportunity.

"By going out and looking at the Sun we take part in this time-honored tradition of citizen science," says astronomer and artist Prof Tyler Nordgren from the University of Redlands in California.

"Edmund Halley during an eclipse in 1715 in London asked people to go outside, look up and see if they could see the total solar eclipse and measure the length of totality, and by that he was able to help refine the orbit of the Moon," he told BBC News.

You might think that with all the space telescopes trained on the Sun these days there is little the citizen or even the keen amateur can contribute. But total solar eclipses are special because they afford particularly favourable conditions to study the tenuous outer atmosphere of the Sun called the corona.

It is in this superheated "gas" of charged particles that the solar wind originates, and from which billions of tonnes of matter can occasionally burst towards the Earth to disrupt satellites, communications and even electricity grids.

The corona is outshone by the Sun's surface, its photosphere. And satellites will block out this glare using devices called coronagraphs or occulters. But these are usually so wide that they also obstruct a doughnut of light immediately above the edge of the star.
"The spacecraft block out not only the Sun but also a whole lot of light around it, otherwise there would be scattering all over the image. And so we have that whole region uniquely to observe in white light from the ground at total solar eclipse," says Jay Pasachoff from Williams College, a veteran of 65 eclipses.

And he wants members of the public to get in on the act.

One key project in the planning is the Citizen Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse (CATE) project run by the National Solar Observatory.

It is making available 59 identical telescopes and digital cameras to universities, schools and astronomy clubs along the path of the eclipse (another 40 observing kits are available to purchase).

Participants are being trained to gather images of the corona from their locality that can then be spliced together with everyone else's to produce an uninterrupted 90-minute video.

Citizen CATE will rely on dedicated, calibrated equipment. But a similar venture plans to make use of the countless photos that will be taken on the day with general pocket cameras and smartphones.

The Eclipse Mega Movie Project is supported by the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and a number of colleges, observatories, and corporations.

The initiative has a core band of photographers, but the public will be able to participate with the aid of an app that will offer advice on getting the best image quality and provide the means to upload pictures.

The 21 August event is the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in the US since 1918.

The Moon's shadow begins its journey across Earth's surface - the path of totality - out in the Pacific.

It makes landfall near Newport in Oregon at 10:16 local time (17:16 GMT; 18:16 BST); and leaves the continent close to the Atlantic coastal city of Charleston, South Carolina, at 14:49 local time (18:49 GMT; 19:49 BST).

The location that will experience full darkness for the "greatest duration" is just outside the town of Carbondale, Illinois. Totality there will last 2 minutes and 40.2 seconds.

So many people are expected to try to view the eclipse that the American Astronomical Society has set up a taskforce to advise urban and rural communities on how to prepare for the expected population surge.

Prof Nordgren works a lot with the National Parks Service: "I'm going to be at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in eastern Oregon."
"They have six parking spaces and a porta-potty, and yet they're expecting maybe 20,000 people to come there on that day."

And taskforce colleague, Angela Speck from the University of Missouri, added: "We need to have communities ready for the influx of people that are coming, and that means things like emergency services, road traffic control, food and water. Especially water - the eclipse is in August."

Nordgren, Speck, and Pasachoff were speaking here in Boston at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

State Music Festival organizers consider other venues besides Mizzou


By Sara Maslar-Donar

COLUMBIA, Mo. - For a half-century, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Music Festival has been held on the University of Missouri campus.

MSHSAA puts on dozens of festivals and competitions throughout the year for sports like basketball and activities like music or speech and debate. This year, the music festival will be bid out to any city statewide that wants to host it in 2018.

"In all things that we do with our state level events, we have a bid process," said Davine Davis, MSHSSA's executive director. "It's trying to treat everything the same way and give other parts of the state the opportunity to host if they would like to."

Megan McConachie of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau said she was surprised MSHSAA decided to bid out the festival, but understood the need to be fair to all cities.

Any city that believes it has the resources to support the festival can submit an application bid
and turn it in to MSHSAA by March 6. The MSHSAA board will decide the venue at its meeting in the Ozarks in the first week of April.

The music festival brings in about 12,000 people to the city annually, with about a $1.3 million economic impact.

Other festivals, like Roots and Blues or True False Film Festival, garner about $860,000 and $2 million, respectively.

McConachie said those numbers might not seem like they make a dramatic impact at face value, but in the long run, the city benefits greatly.

With sales tax revenue at an all-time low in Columbia, Chamber of Commerce president Matt McCormick believes that festivals and sporting events are of the utmost importance for the community's economy.

"When we have visitors from outside the community come in for our festivals, it gives them the opportunity to shop at stores they might not have in their own community," he said. "That new dollar sales tax money coming in is also what's used to help pay for safety, security and our roads."

The community is a key player in keeping many festivals in Columbia, especially those that the Convention and Visitors Bureau has to bid out because many of the festivals and events that come to Columbia are not a guarantee.

For instance, low community engagement was a main factor in the loss of the MSHSAA state basketball tournament to Springfield, still a sore spot for many Columbia leaders. Springfield raised $80,000 in mostly private donations last year to lure the tournament for 2018-2022.

The state music festival costs about $35,000 to put on, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau is hoping most of the money can come from local community members and businesses.

"Whether or not the CVB will be giving any funds will depend on the community's support," said McConachie. "We're going to see how that looks before we decide exactly how much we potentially may need to contribute."

Financial support isn't the only thing MSHSAA is looking for. The organization will also be looking for a warm welcome in the community atmosphere for the festival.

"I think as a community, we need to look at these holistically and across the board," said
Broadway Hotel and Hampton Inn and Suites owner David Parmley. "We certainly shouldn't take anything for granted."

**Grammy-winning group visits Columbia for community workshops, performances**


By Jared Koller

COLUMBIA – **After winning their first career Grammy Sunday night, Third Coast Percussion celebrated the next day by flying into Columbia to headline this spring’s Mizzou New Music Initiative.**

Julia Gaines, Director of the School of Music, said the group of four musicians provides a truly a unique musical experience.

“They happen to hit things as percussionists, but they will hit everything from what you’d assume is a concert snare drum to a flower pot or piece of wood,” Gaines said. “They hit just about anything. Most people have most likely never heard anything like it.”

The ensemble’s headline performance will take place Friday at 7 p.m. in the Missouri Theater.

Jacob Gotlib, Managing Director of Mizzou New Music Initiative, said the group can go beyond just whacking objects to using electronic instruments, building instruments live while performing and playing traditional instruments in a novel way, like contracting the skin of the drum to change the sound.

“It’s not classical music like Bach or Beethoven or Mozart,” Gotlib said. “Most of the music is new, written by living composers, frequently experimental, uses sounds, instruments, techniques that often have never been heard before. They tend to be drawn to music that makes drums sing.”
A Chicago based group formed in 2005, members David Skidmore, Robert Dillon, Peter Martin and Sean Connors took home the Grammy for “Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance.”

The goal of the Mizzou New Music Initiative is to bring in guests and performers to help K-12, undergraduate and graduate students explore all aspects of composition. Third Coast Percussion is especially unique with a skill set allowing interaction from elementary programs to university residencies to professional recordings, concerts and large-scale percussion events.

“The fact that Third Coast is able to reach out in all these different ways, involve all these different kinds of students and work with all these different groups in the community means that this kind of music can find a home,” Gotlib said. “The whole community can be involved in this new, very interesting way of making music.”

Since arriving in Columbia on Monday, the group has presented to the entire School of Music at convocation, performed with the MU percussion ensemble, given an interactive presentation at Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School and lead reading sessions with local composers.

While the Mizzou New Music Initiative regularly brings in upper-echelon talent, it's rare for a group's involvement level in the school and community to reach this level.

“I think it’s real special for our students that we’re able to bring in these guests,” Gaines said. “It costs money, and not every school can do this. We consider it a real privilege to introduce our students and the community to Third Coast Percussion.”

Gotlib said, “Frequently when we bring in guests they work primarily with composers and the composition department, but Third Coast Percussion’s involvement, both in the school and community, has been quite a bit more extensive.”

Collaboration like this is one of the biggest benefits of the Mizzou New Music Initiative, as it teaches students about all aspects of the composition process.

“The extent of collaborative relationships is very unique between the people who write the music and the people who play,” Gotlib said. “This is something that is developed together, and it was very interesting for our composers and percussionists to see how that plays out.”

Gaines said she believes bringing in new voices like Third Coast Percussion reinforces for students the potential success that’s out there, which is one of the most exciting parts.

“They are a successful group of four musicians, not associated with the symphony, making a true living making music,” Gaines said. “We’re encouraging our students that they can truly make music with any three individuals they want. Who would have thunk a group of four drummers could just win a Grammy? We’re thrilled that they’re here to tell our students how they did it and how our students can adopt some of the things they’ve done.”
Third Coast Percussion also holds an emerging composer partnership every year where the winner gets to write a piece of music for them to perform. Gotlib said it’s purely coincidence that this year’s winner is a Mizzou alum, Jose Martinez, who spoke with students and worked with the group this week in preparation for a later premiere in Chicago.

“To have a student comeback and say ‘I was here at Mizzou and Mizzou prepared me for this next step to work with Grammy winning ensembles’ is something that I think is very inspirational for all our students,” Gotlib said. “It shows them a series of possibilities, maybe in their future, for ways of making music, for ways of building life and a path through music that maybe they hadn’t considered before.”

Tickets for the performance are at concertseries.org or the Missouri theater box office. While Third Coast Percussion is the main featured guest this semester, the Mizzou New Music Initiative brings in new guests throughout the spring with sessions and performances open to the public.

**Trump May Try to Kill AmeriCorps**

Administration's draft list of programs to eliminate includes the national service program, which has provided $2.4 billion in student aid, as well as humanities and arts endowments.

**NO MU MENTION**

*By Scott Jaschick, February 20, 2017*

The Trump administration is circulating a list of programs to eliminate -- and it includes the Corporation for National and Community Service, the agency that finances AmeriCorps, which places young people in service positions in which they earn money for student aid or to repay student loans.

The list, revealed by *The New York Times*, also includes the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, previously reported to be targets for elimination in the first Trump budget. Both the NEH and the NEA support campus programs, and their advocates in higher education are already seeking support to save the agencies.

The *Times* article noted that the list indicates that final decisions haven't been made, but all of the programs on the list have for years had conservative critics who want to end them.
In the case of AmeriCorps, the program was a major initiative of President Clinton, and has long been associated with him. Hillary Clinton, in her campaign, vowed to expand the program. While many have praised the program for promoting service among young people and providing them with money for college, the program has been stymied by tight budgets and has never become as large or influential as President Clinton envisioned.

AmeriCorps has been a meaningful source of money for college for its participants. For a year of service, students can receive a grant equivalent to the maximum Pell Grant to use for future college costs or to repay student loans, and students may receive up two of these educational awards. (The maximum Pell Grant for 2015-16 was $5,775.)

Since 1994, about 1 million people who were AmeriCorps participants have received education grants that total more than $2.4 billion. *Story continues.*