University Concert Series is in trouble

What has been apparent in Columbia in recent years is now threatening to take its toll — and the bigger they are, the harder they fall.

In all probability, no community of 125,000 in the United States has the abundance of high-quality entertainment enjoyed by Columbians. We are blessed with no less than two dozen concert halls and theaters offering that quality entertainment no less than 300 nights a year and that doesn’t include the many cozy, small groups playing gigs in bars and restaurants for tips, the enjoyment and a couple of cold brews.

Music lovers have choices from blue grass to hard rock to the classics and opera, Broadway and folk. Theaters offer truly enchanting evenings from the middle schools, high schools, colleges, youth programs such as TRYPS and PACE, and productions by half a dozen different community theater companies — topped by the professionals who fill the Blue Note, give us the Missouri Symphony Orchestra and the University Concert Series.

It takes many to operate each. Costumes, staging, performance rights, music libraries, contracts for performers and guarantees for professional tours and this competition for the local entertainment dollar has brought many of the organizations to consider the future.

One of the first to feel the financial pinch is also one of the biggest — The University Concert Series. For almost 110 years, the concert series has been a Columbia fixture and the St. Louis Symphony has missed only one year or two of that long run.

The concert series was strictly classical until a quarter-century ago when Mike Dunn was hired to expand it to include country, Broadway, rock, jazz, comedy, circus, Las Vegas, opera and the classics. Jesse Auditorium was filled with some of the world’s great orchestras, ballets, operas from Europe and road shows from the latest on Broadway such as “Rent,” “Avenue Q,” “The Color Purple” and groups like “Stomp” and comedians galore.

For 60 years, the concert series has been the heart of the Clark’s entertainment calendar. All others rotated around it. We’ve had seats H-1 and H-2, orchestra left, for decades and enjoyed the offerings of Bill Bondeson and Mike Dunn and appreciated the house management wizardry of John Murray. Then things changed.

The concert series and KRIA had both been under Dunn’s guidance, answering to Jackie Jones, vice chancellor for administrative affairs. The university then changed to make things better by making them worse. Dunn moved to KRIA and the School of Journalism and the concert series is under new and unfamiliar leadership. At the same time, fate dealt a hard blow. Jesse Hall and nearby Swallow Hall underwent a two-year renovation and Jesse Auditorium was closed, sending everything to the Missouri Theatre. Goodbye, Broadway and a lot of other things.

There was only a small loading dock there, serviced by a narrow alley. No major shows could be scheduled.

The combination of change in administration and the loss of Jesse Auditorium brought a sudden downturn in attendance for the series in this highly-competitive battle for Columbia’s entertainment dollar.

This year, in an effort obviously to renew interest in the series, a total of 40 productions was scheduled — some outstanding, some not so much. Almost all, split between the Missouri Theatre and Jesse Auditorium, have drawn sparse crowds and even sparser financial returns.

John Murray found himself in an unfamiliar role, working in an office and not handling the physical properties first hand.

The series must pay for itself, so it is now facing an unsure future. Murray has been replaced by Robert Wells, who has the experience of serving as the marketing director for both KRIA and the concert series under Dunn and as the sales manager for the concert series after the change occurred.

So what happens next? Considering what has happened in many other areas of erosion at Mizzou, there’s really no telling. No one asked me, but here’s Ol’ Clark’s take. First, Mizzou will overact.

Second, I want to keep seats H-1 and H-2 and enjoy great entertainment in both theaters. So just give me nine super-quality productions at Jesse and six quality shows at the Missouri Theatre and Ol’ Clark and the entire community will rejoin the program. That’s one a month during the school year at Jesse. Schedule to sell out Jesse and bring back the glitter and glow of greatness and aim high. Middle of the road will get you more red ink in this market. Fifteen shows maximum, not 40, is worth the effort. If you need a list of what the public will buy, give me a call at 573-474-4510. I’ll swap advice for seats H-1 and H-2, orchestra left. Is that a deal?

Bill Clark's columns
Potential student fee would include TigerWiFi updates

By Elena Cruz

The Division of Student Affairs has proposed an update to TigerWiFi through the Student Services Enhancement Fee, which will be on the ballot in March.

If passed, the fee would implement a $35 charge to each student per semester, $5 of which would be directed toward expanding Wi-Fi and technology services. The remaining $30 would go to MU’s libraries, counseling center, leadership and service programs, student unions and other campus activities.

“Essentially, the student enhancement fee is a response to a satisfaction survey that was taken last April,” said Okey Ukaga, the student communications coordinator for the fee. “It incorporates a lot of different areas on campus that basically needed maintenance.”

On the technological side, the money would be directed toward improvements in TigerWiFi speed, especially in high-density areas such as the Student Center, Memorial Union and Stankowski Field.

“By redesigning for density, we would allow more clients to perform bandwidth-intensive tasks simultaneously without negatively impacting each other,” said Bryan Roesslet, Division of Information Technology associate vice president and chief technology officer.

These updates would impact the activities the wireless system is built to handle.

“Streaming a movie, for instance, uses many more resources than browsing the web,” Roesslet said. “The current design targets ubiquity — coverage of as much of the usable interior space as possible. If we were to receive additional funding to address the user comments we receive, we would redesign the coverage of the seating area to facilitate density to the extent allowed by the additional funding.”

The current system cannot match the level of activity, resulting in the slow internet connections students experience. This is especially clear around noon on Wednesdays, when activity levels peak, Roesslet said.

“I do feel like there needs to be a lot of improvement so that those aren’t excuses to why students can’t complete their work or function in an academic setting,” Ukaga said.
The idea to improve MU’s internet accessibility, as well as the chosen amount to fund the modifications, was a result of a student survey randomly distributed last April.

“Essentially [the responses] mostly centered around Wi-Fi. That was obviously the main concern currently. It’s slow and terrible,” Student Fee Review Committee Chairman Bill Vega said.

Vega said the money would also aid in infrastructure and software updates such as airplay and “smart technology.”

“The technology piece of the fee would generate $275,000 per year,” SFRC staff adviser Alysha O’Neil. “The needs far exceed what the fee can provide, but the $5 can make an impact in the areas with the highest density of students.”

Although there have been many operational updates to the Wi-Fi system, the system hasn’t been replaced since summer 2015. If passed, the Student Enhancement Fee would go into effect this fall.

MU Faculty Council approves new faculty misconduct standards

ANDREW KESSEL AND DANIEL KONSTANTINOVIC, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The MU Faculty Council gave initial approval on Thursday to a measure broadening the standards of how to discipline faculty members for general misconduct.

The new standards would put administration in charge of bringing the case of complaints made against faculty members, Faculty Council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said after the meeting. In the past, he said, if someone made a complaint, the burden to bring a case fell to the complainant, forcing them to remain involved throughout the process.

The resolution also eliminates the need for a hearing when the circumstances of misconduct aren’t serious enough to require one. This would allow department chairs or deans to handle
disciplinary matters without going through an often cumbersome hearing process, Trachtenberg said.

In a later interview, Trachtenberg cited the process of firing former MU assistant communications professor Melissa Click as an especially cumbersome disciplinary process that would be made simpler under the new standards.

Click drew harsh criticism from the public after she called for "some muscle" to remove a student journalist from a campus protest in November 2015. She was fired three months later after many, including Missouri legislators, raised confusion about who should file a complaint to report misconduct and how the process works.

The resolution was proposed by the Intercampus Faculty Council, which consists of three representatives from each of the four University of Missouri System campuses. With approval from the faculty council, the proposal now returns to the IFC, which will also have to approve it.

Bill Wiebold, an IFC member representing MU, told council members that the resolution arose in response to incidents involving faculty members at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The IFC used MU’s current faculty bylaws as a model for the resolution, Wiebold said, because none of the other UM campuses had enacted similar regulations for general misconduct.

Council member Jeffrey Rouder took issue with a section of the resolution that states faculty members could be subject to sanctions for "neglecting or refusing to perform reasonable assigned academic duties, or quitting duties without due notice."

Trachtenberg agreed to notify the IFC that members of the council thought that wording was too broad. There are still chances for improvements to be made to the draft, Trachtenberg said.

Another section explained that faculty members should avoid creating the impression that they represent the university when they speak as private citizens.

Other business
MU Police Chief Doug Schwandt told councilmembers that the rate of alcohol-related hospitalizations among students has increased since last year. Schwandt said he believes students are consuming hard liquor at higher rates compared to beer, which is contributing to the problem.

“Everyone in this room knows that this is the most common issue we have on campus in regards to students,” Schwandt said.

Schwandt did not present any data about the hospitalizations at Thursday's meeting.

Most alcohol-related incidents happen at bars downtown, he said, but MU Police doesn’t patrol there to avoid getting involved in crimes unrelated to MU.

Christy Hutton, assistant director for outreach and prevention at the MU Counseling Center, also spoke. She encouraged the council to be proactive in watching for signs of mental health problems in students and to reach out to them about seeking help.

In other action, the faculty council exercised its power to banish the sun. Seriously.

The council approved a resolution “commanding the sun to hide its face,” on Aug. 21, referring to the solar eclipse that will pass over Columbia this summer.

"Those untutored in the intricacies of faculty authority might scoff at the prospect of Faculty Council affecting the sun’s radiance," the resolution read. "The sun’s obedience to Council’s orders would remove all doubts and settle all disputes."
Faculty Council passes eclipse resolution

Document orders sun to hide on Aug. 21

By Rudi Keller
Columbia Daily Tribune

The University of Missouri Faculty Council is determined to show it is a body not to be toyed with.

On Tuesday, members unanimously passed a resolution designed to command respect. The council ordered the sun to hide its face at 1:32 p.m. Aug. 21 and remain hidden for 2½ minutes.

"In times past the authority of the Faculty Council was unquestioned, and the mere thought of its awesome power caused mortals to quake with fear," the resolution states. "In recent years the light of shared governance has dimmed, causing some to question whether the power of the Council indeed matches the reports of legendary tales."

If the sun obeys, the resolution continues, it would "remove all doubts and settle all disputes."

The tongue-in-cheek resolution, offered to the council by Angela Speck, director of astronomy at MU, is the latest effort to raise awareness of the total solar eclipse that will happen on the first class for the fall semester. Faculty who have classes scheduled at that time are encouraged to cancel and make up the period later in the year.

"We've been planning for the eclipse for a really long time and this year, the faculty council is actually the one overseeing what happens with the eclipse, so it is a really awesome thing that faculty council is totally endorsing what is going to happen in just under six months' time," Speck said.

The path of the eclipse crosses the United States from the Oregon coast to South Carolina. It is the first total eclipse visible from Central Missouri since 1442, before Europeans lived on the North American continent, and the last until 2505.

Eclipses are easily predicted based on the motion of the moon, Earth and sun, and the exact dates of ancient events can be calculated by how eclipses were recorded. Before the general diffusion of scientific knowledge, awareness of an eclipse to come could give great advantages to political, military and religious leaders, Speck said.

In 1504, Christopher Columbus was in Jamaica following a shipwreck and awaiting the return of his fleet to make repairs. Using knowledge of an impending lunar eclipse, Columbus told uncooperative natives that God was angry and would make the moon rise red with wrath.

"He used it to scare the locals who weren't helping him fix his ships," Speck said.

The MU administration respects the Faculty Council and its "awesome power" as stated in the resolution. MU New Bureau executive director Christian Basi said.

"They have the power to expand the minds of our students," Basi said. "Through their super powers of scientific inquiry and discovery they extend life from the discoveries they make in their labs. They create businesses from mere thoughts and now they are commanding the sun? What can they not do?"

"We have full confidence in their power to make the sun disappear. We sure hope it will come back."

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University of Missouri Health Care Offers Free Health Screening

By David McPherson

University of Missouri Health Care will offer advice on how to minimize the risk of fall injuries at a health fair at Columbia Mall on Saturday.

Nurses and an on-site occupational and physical therapist will recommend how people can improve their strength, balance and overall health.

Clinic nurse Kassie Campbell said the trauma caused by fall injuries is a significant threat to the elderly.

“We know that in the 1500 patients that we saw last year at our trauma center, half of those patients were actually caused from fall injuries themselves. It’s the second leading cause of trauma that we see here at the University of Missouri,” she said.

According to the National Council on Aging, falls are the leading cause of fatal injury among older adults, as every 19 minutes an older adult dies from a fall.

Columbia Mall property management associate Stephanie Smith said the Frank L. Mitchell Junior Trauma Center will set up several health testing stations for the public.

“They are doing assessments of anybody free of charge, they will be providing blood pressure checks as well as balance assessments and hand-grip strength tests,” Smith said.

MU health will run the fair in the H&M Court from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.
History's future: An inside look at the new Historical Society complex

BENNITO L KELTY, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — Twice as much gallery space, including sections devoted to Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham. A multipurpose room that seats 250, a gift shop and classrooms for public use.

That's a glimpse of what will be on the inside of new headquarters of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

The new complex will be named the Center for Missouri Studies, which is also the name of an educational initiative the State Historical Society began in 2014.

Architectural drawings of the exterior of the three-story Center for Missouri Studies at Sixth and Elm streets were released in August.

As the April 19 groundbreaking approaches, the Historical Society is sharing drawings and descriptions from the architectural firm Gould Evans of what the 75,000-square-foot building will look like on the inside.

**Gallery space will double the 3,000 square feet that’s available at the Historical Society's current headquarters adjacent to Ellis Library on the MU campus.**

Joan Stack, curator of art collections for the State Historical Society, said the extra gallery space will accommodate more works of George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton in permanent displays.
There will also be sections devoted to works from a collection of over 15,000 editorial cartoons, drawings, paintings and lithographs.

Benton, an American artist from Missouri famous for murals like “A Social History of Missouri” in the state Capitol, will have two separate galleries.

One gallery will display drawings and lithographs including Benton's drawings from Mark Twain's “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” “Tom Sawyer” and “Life on The Mississippi.”

The separate section will feature all 10 of Benton's World War II paintings, including “The Year of Peril Series” held by the State Historical Society.

Bingham's section will feature the celebrated paintings "Watching the Cargo" and "General Order No. 11," a selection of his portraits and his 19th century lithographs.

Stack plans to use other gallery space for rotating exhibits.

“We’re hoping to use the space to open up a lot of interesting topics,” Stack said. “We hope to help people better understand how arts reflects all aspects of history.”

The new building is expected to be finished in 2019.

The 3,400-square-foot multi-purpose room will seat 250 for events and 200 for dinners. The room will be outfitted with movable seating, staging and audio and visual equipment paid for with the same construction bonds used to finance the $35 million building.

Mary Ellen Lohmann of the State Historical Society said events in the multi-purpose room will mostly be planned by the organization, but the intention is to make the room available for public events as well.

The Center for Missouri Studies will also afford opportunities for traveling exhibitions by the Smithsonian Institution, Lohmann said. Events like the African American Experience in
Missouri Lecture Series, which have been held in Jesse Auditorium and Stotler Lounge, will be held in the multi-purpose room.

The second floor will house a research center where the public can examine more than 4,000 maps, over 3,975 newspaper titles dating back to 1808 and historical artifacts such as journals kept by William Clark during his 1798 trip down the Mississippi River.

Laura Jolley, assistant director of manuscripts with the State Historical Society, said that more manuscripts such as maps and letters will be on location instead of in storage, and a committee responsible for adding material to the archives will be able to accept more submissions.

A boardroom and two classrooms featuring whiteboards and seating for 30 will also be available for public use.

The third floor will house administrative offices, a conservation lab and digitization lab, all of which will be closed to the public.

The conservation lab, which is responsible for treating damaged material like tears and stains on documents, will use the extra space to start repairing large documents that have been waiting for more than 15 years, including the Missouri Statehood petition from 1817.

Lohmann said she expects the new center to create opportunities for students and residents. The Center for Missouri Studies fellowship, which carries a $5,000 stipend, will be able to increase the range of topics available for study and may increase the number of applicants it can accept.

The State Historical Society will also be able to offer more internships, Lohmann said. These internships will be more interdisciplinary and not restricted to history students.

The complex will border Elm Street on the south end of the lot. A two-story parking garage with private financing is planned immediately to the north of the new headquarters. The Heinkel building will remain.
The building’s design is intended to replicate Missouri’s geological features. The top of the building is shaped to look like river lines on a map while the building will be limestone-clad.

The new location was selected with the idea of being more visible to Columbia residents, not just MU.

“We have a unique role as part of the university and Columbia,” Lohmann said. “As a part of the district, people will find us in a way they couldn’t before.”

University Professor Becomes Missouri's First Lady

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — 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 illustrates her research specialties: 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 her older son, Joshua. She hasn't had a chance to print more recent photos with 8-month-old Jacob.

Greitens, 34, joined University of Missouri'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 also as first lady of the state, the Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/2m4hY4A) reported.
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."

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 be 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 Political Science Department, 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.

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."

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**DeVos vs. the Faculty**

*Professors tell students "what to say, and more ominously, what to think," new education secretary says in her first sustained criticism of higher education.*
NO MENTION

By Scott Jaschik

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos offered few details of her views on higher education during her confirmation hearings.

But on Thursday, in a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference, she sharply criticized faculty members and accused them trying to indoctrinate students. She devoted only a paragraph to higher education in a relatively short speech, but she captured lots of attention. Here's what she said, after asking how many in the audience were college students:

"The fight against the education establishment extends to you too. The faculty, from adjunct professors to deans, tell you what to do, what to say, and more ominously, what to think. They say that if you voted for Donald Trump, you're a threat to the university community. But the real threat is silencing the First Amendment rights of people with whom you disagree."

DeVos opened her speech by saying that she wasn't worried about what "the mainstream media has called me lately."

Past education secretaries have offered plenty of criticism of higher education. Both Margaret Spellings (under a Republican administration) and Arne Duncan (under a Democratic administration) have raised questions about college costs, accountability and measures of student learning. But secretaries after William J. Bennett (in President Reagan's second term) have not generally been culture warriors.

The CPAC crowd loved the speech and cheered DeVos on.

The American Council on Education declined to comment. As did the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a group that has criticized many colleges as not being sufficiently committed to free speech.

Via email, Michael B. Poliakoff, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a group that has argued for a traditional and more rigorous college curriculum, expressed sympathy for some of what DeVos discussed. "Our colleges must do a better job preparing graduates for citizenship in a free society, which relies on robust debate, not safe spaces," he said. "For too long, higher education has allowed these principles to erode. It's a real problem when multiple cases of the 'heckler’s veto' go unpunished; when a significant percentage of students believe it acceptable to bar journalists from a public assembly if they believe they will not write favorably about their message, freedom of the press is under assault; and it simply does not bode well for a free society when – as a Gallup poll shows – a significant percentage of students favor restrictions on political views that others might find offensive."

Many faculty advocates were critical. On social media, many expressed surprise that DeVos singled out adjuncts, who have relatively little power or job security and many of whom say that as a result they avoid politics or anything that might offend some students.
Others noted that while there have been many studies showing that faculty members -- especially in residential, traditional colleges -- lean left, there isn't evidence beyond occasional anecdotes of indoctrination of the sort DeVos described.

Neil Gross, the Charles A. Dana Professor of Sociology at Colby College and author of s new book, *Why Are Professors Liberal and Why Do Conservatives Care?* (Harvard University Press), said via email of the DeVos speech: "In one way, these lines are standard conservative fare, red meat for the CPAC crowd. But coming from an administration that’s said little else about higher ed, it’s worrisome. It suggests they see colleges and universities, and the faculty, as the political enemy -- and not much more."

Rosemary Feal, executive director of the Modern Language Association, said via email: "The role of faculty members is to teach students how to think, not what to think. That the secretary of education would apply such a gross generalization to all faculty members 'from adjuncts to deans' tells me she could benefit from visiting college classrooms to see how higher education really works."

Patricia McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University, who has attracted attention for her willingness to criticize what she sees as falsehoods coming out of the Trump administration, said via email that the speech was "a terrible start" for DeVos as education secretary.

McGuire elaborated: "Shame on the secretary of education for making such an anti-intellectual, anti-academic speech! Has she visited any colleges recently and listened to any of the robust discussions in and out of class, seen the demonstrations and disruptions that are often part of campus life, read the papers and theses that challenge all forms of conventional wisdom, listened to the students at spoken word nights and public forums of all kinds? Does she think that students don’t have their own well-stated opinions on political issues? She speaks of college students as if they are children -- does she know that nearly half of college students are adults, that 25 percent or more are parents, that millions are working professionals while earning degrees?"

Added McGuire: "My students at Trinity are certainly not silent nor some kind of vacuous victims -- they are constantly speaking out and seeking the best possible opportunities to learn. Does she understand why students go to college -- to learn, to learn how to be persuasive, to soak up the knowledge that faculty can impart, to learn how to think logically -- yes, sometimes faculty DO tell students 'what to do' (here’s how to conduct the experiment), 'what to say' (here’s a suggestion for how to make a more persuasive argument) and 'what to think' (let’s examine that concept more critically…) For goodness sakes, she seems to be in favor of IGNORANCE rather than education. But her insinuation that faculty indoctrinate passive, flaccid students is just another 'alternative fact' for the alternative reality of the new administration."
MU student wins prestigious scholarship for cochlear implant users


By Garret Bergquist

COLUMBIA — When Mary Jane Rogers learned she had won a rare scholarship, she couldn't believe it.

"I was so flattered," she said Thursday afternoon. "I don't quite know that I'm completely worthy."

Rogers lost her hearing to a bacterial meningitis infection at age 3. She spent the next few years wearing hearing aids and working with a speech pathologist in St. Louis, but her hearing wasn't truly restored until she received a cochlear implant in 5th grade.

"Just communicating with the world was, quite honestly, quite an issue," she said.

Rogers took to writing to express her feelings. She kept a journal and wrote poetry. Some of her works were published in an anthology at her elementary school. When she realized writing was something she was good at, she decided to pursue it further.

"I just realized that that was the strongest way I had in communicating with the world," she said.

**Rogers is now a master's student at the Missouri School of Journalism.** She wants to pursue a career in advertising and is researching ways to make advertising more inclusive of people of color, LGBT people and those with disabilities.

"I had a really unique journey, but so did a lot of other people, so it's something to take into account that your own perspective isn't the only perspective out there," she said.
Over the weekend, Rogers was one of five people nationwide to receive the Graeme Clark Scholarship. Named for the inventor of the cochlear implant, the scholarship awards up to $2,000 a year to college students who use this type of device. According to the scholarship's website, it is awarded based on academic achievement and commitment to "the ideals of leadership and humanity."

Rogers received her scholarship at the annual Cochlear Celebration in Florida. She called it "the most inspiring experience of my entire life." Rogers said she got to connect with other cochlear implant users and even offer advice to deaf students who are getting ready for college.

After graduating, Rogers said she plans to work as a copywriter for an ad agency in Chicago. She eventually wants to become a creative director for an advertising firm.