MU raises more than $8M in inaugural Mizzou Giving Day

Generated from a News Bureau press release: MU Donors Give $8 Million on First Mizzou Giving Day


By Max Cotton

COLUMBIA — Various MU colleges and organizations will have more money in their budgets after the university's inaugural Mizzou Giving Day raised close to $8.3 million from nearly 3,600 donations.

During a 24-hour period from 12 p.m. Wednesday to 12 p.m. Thursday, people donated money to the MU organization or college of their choice.

The College of Veterinary Medicine raised the most money — more than $2 million. The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the College of Engineering and the College of Education also broke the $1 million mark. Student Affairs had the most contributions with 733 donations.

"We're very excited about the results," said Todd McCubbin, the executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association.

He said though there was not a hard monetary goal, the results exceeded expectations.

As a part of Mizzou Giving Day, donors could choose which college or organization they wanted to donate to by going to the event's website. The minimum donation was $10, but according to McCubbin there were multiple donations of more than $1 million.
"It was such a positive day for the University of Missouri, especially in the social media realm," McCubbin said.

"I'm grateful for the tremendous grass-roots outpouring of support from our Mizzou family," said Tom Hiles, the university's vice chancellor for advancement, in a press release.

Next year's Mizzou Giving Day has not been scheduled, but they plan to do it again.

First Mizzou Giving Day rakes in $8.2 million for university

Generated from a News Bureau press release: MU Donors Give $8 Million on First Mizzou Giving Day

By Marie Bowman

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=12e69c9b-50c1-44cb-8711-f5cb92f97b38

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Office of Advancement officials have announced that the first Mizzou Giving Day raised a total of more than $8.2 million through 3,590 gifts.

Mizzou Giving Day, which took place from March 15 to March 16, was the university’s first 24-hour campaign to raise support from the MU community.

The highest number of gifts went to the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the College of Engineering, the College of Education and the College of Arts and Science raised the most money, while Student Affairs, the School of Journalism, the College of Arts and Science, the College of Education and the College of Engineering.

“Mizzou alumni and donors have a long history of stepping up to support the university,” said Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign tri-chair Richard Miller. “Mizzou Giving Day showed how the Mizzou family can truly make a difference when we work together. We had gifts of all sizes come in from donors around the world, but they all shared a common interest in the continued success of the University of Missouri.”
Giving Day raises $8.2 million

Almost 3,600 donors contributed an average of $2,284 each during the 24-hour Mizzou Giving Day that ended at noon Thursday, the University of Missouri reported.

MU raised $8.2 million total from faculty, staff, parents, alumni and friends of the university for the one-day donation blitz that is part of the $1.3 billion fundraising campaign called Mizzou: Our Time to Lead.

The giving day leaders, MU reported in a news release, were the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the College of Engineering, the College of Education and the College of Arts and Science in terms of money raised. Education, engineering, and arts and science also led in the total number of gifts, sharing the distinction with Student Affairs and the School of Journalism.

Those schools will benefit from challenge gifts provided by private donors, the news release stated.
University of Missouri makes plan to cover budget gap

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri's Columbia campus will cover a $17 million gap between budgeted spending and available revenue with the help of the medical school and campus operations.

The university released figures Thursday outlining how unrestricted reserve funds could make up for lost state revenue that was withheld in January by Gov. Eric Greitens, the Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/2mWABdm) reported.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley at a faculty meeting Wednesday announced a formula under which each unit on campus will be taxed based on its ability to carry additional financial burdens.

The School of Medicine and campus operations are the two biggest contributors, with the medical school providing $3.1 million and campus operations providing $1.65 million.

Foley said the plan only addresses the shortfall in the budget year that ends June 30. The next fiscal year's gap is expected to grow to as much as $50 million, and will be covered by cuts and continuing to draw down reserves.

Foley created the Resource Allocation Model Committee and the Capital Financing Advisory Committee to address the ongoing financial issues. Each committee is made up of four faculty members, two staff employees, three students and three leaders nominated from campus.

"We are in this together and we are going to have to make very difficult decisions as a group," Foley said.

The financial crunch developed as Greitens announced he was withholding more than $146 million in general revenue appropriations to balance the state budget. Nearly $84 million of that amount was
withheld from college and university budgets, leaving the University of Missouri $20 million short of its budgeted revenue.

MU committees to advise administrators on budget


By Lexi Larson

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri announced Thursday that two new committees were created to advise MU administrators on the university's budget.

They are the Capital Finance Advisory Committee and the Resource Allocation Model Committee.

Each budget will have a specific purpose, MU News Bureau Director Christian Basi said.

"The Resource Allocation Model Committee is a committee that has been developed to look at our budget structure for the long term," Basi said. "How do we budget, how do we allocate certain revenues,"

Basi also said this committee will look at how MU can have a more predictable budget in the future.

Basi said the Capital Finance Advisory Committee was set up to specifically look at how funds are allocated for capital improvements.

"Typically those are improvements that are related to buildings," Basi said. "Either building new ones or renovating older structures to better fit the needs of our students today."
Basi said the committees are needed because MU will be under a significant amount of financial stress for the next few years.

"It was necessary to put these two committees together to take a look at how are we budgeting now, are there ways that we can be doing it better, are there ways that we can make it a little bit more predictable from year to year, and be able to move forward with long term strategic goals."

Basi said committees like these have existed in the past, but new ones were created to analyze the budget even closer.

"We've always done a very thorough job of trying to plan for our budget, but what these two committees are really challenged is looking at it at the long term."

Basi said individuals serving on the committees will not be paid.

"We are very grateful for the service and the time that they are putting in, and it's very important that we have their voices on the committee because they'll be representing students, faculty and staff."

Each committee will include four faculty members, two staff members, three students and three leaders nominated from the campus.

The committee positions have not been filled yet.

Basi said the university is looking for nominations now.

"As soon as we are able to we will get the committees filled," Basi said.

Basi said the committees will hopefully begin advising relatively soon.

MU Health Care revenue up $58M, report to Curators shows
MU Health Care reported at a University of Missouri System Board of Curators meeting Friday that its net revenue is $44 million ahead of its year-to-date budget.

So far, the 2017 fiscal year has seen more discharges, patient days and a record number of births than previously budgeted for. But most of the revenue gain has come from greater than expected numbers of inpatient and outpatient surgeries, according to Jennifer Doll, director of finance for the School of Medicine and controller for MU Health Care.

"Our surgical volume is always something we pay close attention to, as we look at both our inpatient and outpatient volume, as that's a substantial amount of our revenue base," Doll said.

The biggest increase in the number of surgeries has been 9,009 year-to-date outpatient surgeries this year, compared to 8,176 last year.

"We're really looking at very strong operational income at this point," Doll said, noting that the actual $50.5 million operating income is much greater than the anticipated $20.3 million.

MU Health Care Compliance

The other item on the agenda for the meeting was MU Health Care's compliance with the recommendations from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General.

The quarterly compliance report was presented by Peggy Ford, chief compliance officer for MU Health Care.

"We are so far progressing very well," Ford said. "We are on track to finishing our first enforcement year on a very positive note."

MU Health Care includes the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the University of Physicians and the School of Health Professions, as well as the hospital and the clinic.
Last year, the Office of Inspector General gave MU Health Care the following requirements for an effective compliance program:

- Assign a compliance officer and compliance committees.
- Create plans, policies and standards of conduct, including a Code of Conduct Manual.
- Monitor and audit at-risk areas.
- Provide open lines of communication, which includes use of the UM System-wide Ethics and Compliance Hotline.
- Provide training and education for committee members.
- Enforce disciplinary standards.
- Act on any issues detected.

Ford reviewed the amount of training employees receive in compliance, which can be more than five hours depending on an employee's job. She also said 76 percent of MU Health Care's roughly 8,100 employees "deemed covered under the corporate integrity agreement" have completed their required training.

MU Health Care has until June 30 for the rest of the employees to complete the compliance training.

Ford also said the Office of Compliance and Quality had reported to the Office of Inspector General that the university would be appointing three new members to the Board of Curators and losing one member, Pamela Hendrickson.

Ford also reported that in regards to the compliance risk assessment required by the Office of Inspector General, MU Health Care is on track to finish between 25 and 30 audits, special projects and on-going monitoring reviews.

"We are happy to report that that information is on track and things are moving along well," Ford said.
"Our hotline number continues to be, by far, the most effective means of communicating compliance and ethical issues," she said, "and this is in respect to whether you're in health care or not."

According to Ford, each call concerning MU Health Care is forwarded to her and investigated, and the results are compiled and forwarded to the executive compliance committee.

"We are getting these investigations done in the appropriate manner," she said.

She continued: "If the calls go up, if the volume goes up, I can tell you from a compliance perspective, that's good news because that means we are really promoting this (phone) number. We want people to use it. We want them to feel comfortable."

Ford also noted that the university completed its monthly screening to ensure it does not do any business with any vendors and does not employ any individuals who have been disbarred or are otherwise ineligible from participating in federal health care programs.

Ford did not address the enforcement of disciplinary standards.

If MU Health Care fails to meet the requirements, it could be excluded from federal health care programs such as Medicare or Medicaid, according to the inspector general's website.

The corporate integrity agreement was entered on June 30, 2016 with the Office of Inspector General and the first year of compliance will end on June 30, 2017.

MU Health Care reports strong finances

Operations took in $44 million more than budgeted
By Rudi Keller
University of Missouri Health Care continues to enjoy a strong financial performance, earning $30 million in net income over budget projections through the first seven months of the fiscal year.

Hospital controller Jennifer Doll reported the latest figures Friday to the Health Affairs Committee of the Board of Curators. MU Health Care is growing the number of patients it serves, a trend that is helping the bottom line, she said.

“It is very likely we will continue the growth we have seen,” she said.

All health care operations took in $534.9 million so far, $44 million more than budgeted. Areas where MU Health Care is providing more services than budgeted include patient days at 5.3 percent more than anticipated, outpatient surgery at 11.6 percent, and infant deliveries, which beat expectations by 12.8 percent.

Those increases are helping the university improve its position with a key benchmark, the Moody’s Investors Service’s standards for an “A” rating. During fiscal year 2016, MU Health met only two of six measures while through January of the current year, it is meeting or exceeding four of six measures and closing the gap on the final two — debt to capitalization and days of operating cash on hand.

“We are abnormally growing compared to other places in the United States, and people are working really hard to say 'yes' every day to that growth,” interim CEO and COO Jonathan Curtright said. “Our volumes have been outstanding.”

The health care debate in Washington is creating uncertainty for the market but GOP proposals for replacing the Affordable Care Act don’t restore some payments cut by the 2010 law. MU Health Care anticipates that some payments will decline, Curtright said.

“In the next year, we do anticipate there will be some cuts that will be attributed to the ACA and just changes to health care reimbursements in general,” he said. “We anticipate that and we have managed for that.”

The rosy picture for health care system finances is a contrast to academic operations, where MU is digging into reserves to cover $20 million in state budget cuts for the year ending June 30. The cash shortage next year could grow to as much as $50 million due to additional state budget cuts and an expected decline in enrollment.

The health care system contributed $3 million for campus operations to meet the need for $20 million. How much and whether the health care system can do that or more in the coming year is still being discussed, Curtright said.

“We are actively working through what that is going to be and it would be way too premature in making a prediction in what we will need to do in order to be supportive,” Curtright said.
The hospital needs to be financially strong for the long term, he said. The operating surplus is an important part of that, he said.

“The idea of just pulling a great deal of money out of the hospital system is just not financially viable,” Curtright said.

Coalition of Graduate Workers Discusses 'Sanctuary Campus' Label for MU

By Julien Coquell-Roeim

The Coalition of Graduate Workers (CGW) at the University of Missouri is discussing ways to make the school a "sanctuary campus" for students who may be in the United States illegally. The organization held a listening session on Wednesday. Students, faculty, staff and community members discussed policy ideas to present to the university.

Under a sanctuary label, the university would have to protect students and immigrants in this country illegally from federal agents without a warrant. 28 universities have claimed this status so far. Eric Scott, the coalition’s chair, said the organization did not come up with a final version of the demands. However, he said the project is similar to other sanctuary campus movements across the country.

“The main idea is that the university should not cooperate with the federal government except when required by a warrant or something like that,” Scott Said. “There should not be voluntary collaboration when it comes to disclosing immigration status or cooperating with the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement on trying to arrest and deport undocumented people or immigrants.”

Executive orders signed in the first days of the Trump presidency paved the way for more deportations, and fostered concerns on the future of DREAMers, the recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The DACA, signed by President Obama in 2012, provided protection to immigrants who had arrived before they were 16 from deportation. It also offered them the possibility to apply for a two-year work permit.
Scott says the Coalition members became interested in this issue after they realized some graduate student employees were affected by policies from the Trump administration. After the signing of the first travel ban, the CGW addressed a letter to the university’s leadership asking for guarantees of protection for international students. Scott said he found the statement released by the university was an insufficient response.

“I understand that the university may feel like it's in a difficult political situation here because there are certainly a lot of powerful people who are not disposed to treating immigrant and undocumented people very well,” Scott said. “But I think that's why it's our job, as members of this university and as members of the Columbia community to show why we think this is an important valuable policy and why it's something worth fighting for.”

Although it is illegal for a city to claim the sanctuary label, Scott says he believes MU could become a sanctuary campus, by putting the immigrant status of students under the protection of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws.

“It does require taking a brave stance and saying that the university is willing to speak up and fight for these populations,” Scott said. “It may lead to some backlash, we're not going to lie. But I think it's important and it is crucial to our mission as a university.”

Scott said he hopes to present the demands to the university by the end of the semester.
Since 2008, the MU College of Engineering undergraduate population grew by more than 1,000 students. In that same time period, the School of Health Professions enrollment has nearly tripled, according to data from MU’s division of enrollment management.

College of Engineering Dean Elizabeth Loboa said that the enrollment growth over the last decade is a positive reflection of the college, but that the college has not been hiring faculty at the same rate.

"The challenge we're facing in the College of Engineering is the student-faculty ratio. If you look back in 2006, the student-faculty ratio was about 20 to 1," Loboa said. "We are now at a 32 to 1 student-faculty ratio. That is a bad situation for both faculty and students."

Loboa said that on average, other Association of American Universities schools have student-faculty ratios that hover around 22 to 1 and top colleges of engineering try to keep their ratios below 20 to 1.

"This allows faculty to be performing at the highest level of research while also maintaining excellent teaching," Loboa said. "So we are in the process of hiring a lot more faculty in the areas of biomedical innovation, big data analytics and sustainability in food, energy, water and smart cities. Successful faculty hires in these areas are really critical for us to continue graduating the engineers that the state of Missouri needs while also making sure we can maintain that top-level research AAU productivity that we want to be doing at the college."

School of Health Professions Dean Kristofer Hagglund said the program has not experienced any problems with increases in student-faculty ratio. He said enrollment increases at the school have been met with corresponding faculty hires.

However, proposed budget cuts to MU and the University of Missouri System might complicate the school's situation.

"The pending budget cuts may limit our ability to hire faculty members or other employees," Hagglund said. "If student enrollment continues to increase in our school in the face of budget cuts, we will meet that with curricular or teaching innovation."
Sheila Grant, the associate dean for research at the College of Engineering and a bioengineering professor in the College of Engineering and College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said she has seen her class sizes and amount of sections grow over the past eight years.

"Growth is good, but it needs to be controlled growth," Grant said. "That required us to increase class sizes from, in some cases, 30 students to 60 students. We also had to offer more sections of these courses. So our faculty had to teach more and more, giving them less time to research and do other service activities that they are also required to do."

Carolyn Orbann, an assistant professor of health sciences, said she has also seen certain section enrollments creep up over the past eight years, but said the school has generally been able to keep them under control. Orbann has involved with the MU program since 2011.

"As people get things like research leaves, and I was on maternity leave in the fall, we might have to let one section creep up a little bit, but we are usually able to keep the other ones low," Orbann said.

Grant also said the bigger class sizes impact students as well, making it more difficult to interact with students on a consistent basis and limiting undergraduate research opportunities.

"That's the sad thing, when you have bigger class sizes, the interaction with your students decreases because there are more of them," Grant said. "In addition, we really pride ourselves on having our students do a lot of undergrad research. But you can imagine we're at a carrying capacity of a certain number and we just can't get all these students who want to work in our lab working in our lab because there's too many of them and not enough of us."

Both deans said they believe the increases are in part, because of the increased demand for students who are involved in the health and engineering industries. Higher salaries also play a role. For engineering majors, the average starting salary is $55,587 and for all health sciences, the average is $44,372, according to the Michigan State University Collegiate Employment Research Institute.

"The growth reflects a broader interest in health care in general," Hagglund said. "We spend 18 percent of our GDP on health and health care. It's a terrific area to work in."
With the UM System facing a fiscal crisis, it may well decide to capitalize on the two schools' growth by using a differential tuition model. The UM System Review Commission recommended the university charge different tuition rates based on major. Engineering and nursing, which at MU is its own entity, the Sinclair School of Nursing, were two majors the report highlighted. The report also suggested increased tuition for courses in accounting and personal financial planning.

At the March 9 MU Faculty Council meeting, MU Interim Chief of Staff Brian Millner floated an idea of differential tuition for majors that have higher cost structures or lead to higher paying careers.

Grant sent two of her children through MU's College of Engineering, so as a parent, she understands that students and parents don't want to pay higher tuition. However, as an educator, Grant thinks the tuition structure would benefit the college.

"If we want to keep growing the college with the same amount of faculty, that's not going to work. We are going to eventually reach a carrying capacity that we just can't take on any more students," Grant said. "If someone really wants to get an engineering degree, I don't see it deterring them. You come into the program because you want to be an engineer."

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**Editorial: Questioning state tax cuts**

By Henry J. Waters III

In a rare example of partisan accountability, Missouri House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzgerald said of the 2015 tax law passed by his fellow Republicans, “I think if we’d have had the correct information, we wouldn’t have passed it.”

In 2015 the corporate tax cut bill was estimated by budget and revenue officials to reduce revenue by about $15 million and, by the popular calculation of its partisan supporters, would produce much more in revenue growth from business stimulation. Instead, corporate tax revenue dropped $155 million the first year.
The author of the 2015 bill, Republican Sen. Will Kraus, says the purpose was to keep Missouri companies from leaving the state and encourage out-of-state firms to come aboard, but Democratic State Auditor Nicole Galloway says the legislation was an example of poor budget projection. She plans to review policy decisions that possibly led up to current budget shortfalls. “Policymakers must be accountable for their decisions,” Galloway says.

I see several large issues here.

First, we should expect net revenue losses when taxes are cut. Studies over time show this effect, contrary to the argument commonly made by conservatives.

Second, the potential effect of state auditors is enhanced when they are of the minority political party. Though I have confidence in the nonpartisan good instincts of Nicole Galloway, unless auditors are endowed with superhuman instincts, they are likely to be slightly more enthusiastic when they discover miscalculations by incumbents of the other party. I don’t think we should assume they would shade their findings, but they might be a bit more vigilant in deciding what to pursue.

Missouri auditors have a good record of avoiding favoritism, but the office has often been a steppingstone to further political achievement. Galloway is not known to have such ambitions, and so far she shows good energy in pursuit of official mischief, regardless of the target. As a Boone County Democrat, you might think she would have a tendency toward the University of Missouri, yet her most recent report chastised UM for the way it documented and reported high-level administrative salaries.

The sort of performance-based auditing Galloway suggests regarding the effect of tax policy on budget outcomes can have an impact on future policy decisions, but auditors typically steer clear of second-guessing legislative policy decisions unless some clear malfeasance can be shown. That legislators erred in assumptions about the budgetary effect of corporate tax cuts is not malfeasance. It’s an error in judgment that should be corrected with a classic political fix involving good disclosure and citizen reaction.

So, I’m interested in what Galloway has in mind when she says, “Policymakers must be accountable for their decisions.” If the auditor simply highlights causes and effects of legislative budget decisions, a good purpose might be served, but if she slips into criticism of decisions fairly within the political realm, she could get close to the line.
New concert series director faces rescue mission

Bill Clark

The reaction to a recent column about the future of the University of Missouri Concert Series was almost unanimous — it must continue to bring the best of entertainment to Columbia. Many folks told Ol’ Clark so.

I recently explained here the problems that plague the 108-year-old series steeped in the history of excellence brought to our town by an endless procession of the world’s best, be it symphonies, instrumental virtuosos, comedians, ballet, opera, the best of Broadway and Las Vegas, pop stars, Nashville showstoppers — you name it.

In the past half-decade, the concert series, which must pay for itself through ticket sales, sponsorships and contributions, has not.

Renovation of Jesse and Swallow halls, forcing a move to the smaller and less accessible Missouri Theatre, coupled with a major change in administrative direction at MU and the ever-expanding excellent theater and music alternatives in Central Missouri in search of the entertainment dollar, meant something was bound to give. Money, or lack of it, speaks loud and clear.

That administrative change meant Mike Dunn, who had been the director of both KBIA and the concert series for 20 years, stayed on at KBIA but shared time with the School of Journalism, not the concert series.

After three concert series directors came and went, Robert Wells has been handed the role of rescuer.

What he inherits is a fan base that has found venues that offer lower ticket prices and ample parking, and cater to a variety of interests that cost less to stage.

In an effort to keep a strong fan base, some 40 dates — ranging from kids’ shows to game shows, the St. Louis Symphony, Beatles wannabes, the Moscow Ballet, Chinese acrobats and John Mellencamp — were scheduled for 2016-17 and drew less than half a house.

Evidently more is less, and less leads to ...?

That’s the question before Robert Wells, Vice Chancellor for University Operations Gary Ward and you, the paying public.

Time is short to contract a quality 2017-18 season, and the University of Missouri is famous for moving forward at a glacial pace, which means Wells has an unenviable task ahead.

And who is Robert Wells?

Born in Arkansas 54 years ago, he came to Columbia at age 3. His father, Jim Wells, was the first principal at Fairview Elementary School and filled that role for 33 years. One of four children, Wells attended West Boulevard Elementary School, West Junior High and Hickman, where he was a trumpet player in band, did musical theater and was vice president of the senior class of 1980.

After a year at Arkansas State University, he returned home to earn a degree in business administration in 1985 from MU, then worked for five years for Royal Typewriter in Atlanta.

He married Lisa McFarland, whose dad, Walter, also had been an elementary principal in Columbia for many years, and the couple came back to Columbia to stay in 1990 and begin a family. Two daughters, Ashton, 26, and Chelsea, 24, both survived the concert series and remain involved with music.

After a series of jobs, Robert landed with Mike Dunn at KBIA and the concert series as a sales rep, then, for many years, as the sales manager.

When Dunn left the concert series, Robert stayed and
for the past 2½ years has remained the sales manager.

With Dunn, veteran facilities manager John Murray and former Vice Chancellor Jackie Jones all gone, Robert is the last connection with what has been a great century of world-class entertainment.

The University Concert Series is an embedded foundation in the history of our community. It is as much a part of our past and our future as the football program or University Extension. All three came to MU about the same time.

We will keep you posted.
Lack of training contributes to burnout

By Jeff Hoelscher

Studies have shown that early childhood education programs can have a positive impact on a child’s success later in life. However, the annual turnover rate nationally for teachers of preschool-age children is approximately 30 percent. Researchers at the University of Missouri School of Medicine have surveyed early childhood teachers and identified factors that may lead to stress and burnout.

"We know from previous research that early educational programs can benefit future school achievement, job performance and social behaviors," said Laine Young-Walker, an associate professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the MU School of Medicine and lead author of the study. "However, many early childhood educators are not formally trained, requiring them to learn on the job. Our study assessed teachers’ perceptions of the challenges they face and their commitment to educating the very young."

Young-Walker’s team surveyed 100 educators and care providers from 13 early childhood programs in Boone County, Missouri. Participants were selected by invitation from facilities enrolled in the Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support program, a countywide initiative that assists early learning centers in establishing and maintaining effective learning environments. The survey included questions relating to job commitment, stress and support.

"It is clear that these educators are devoted to their profession," Young-Walker said. "Ninety-two percent agreed that they were committed to their work. However, the survey also provided insight into the challenges they experience."

More than 75 percent of those surveyed wanted more training opportunities. The majority of teachers surveyed felt that the training they received covered information they already knew. More than one-third of the teachers agreed that students’ negative behaviors interfered with their work and resulted in significant stress. Seventeen percent frequently felt like leaving their jobs, and 15 percent already planned to do so.

"A follow-up analysis indicated that 38 percent of the early childhood teachers surveyed were at risk of burning out," Young-Walker said. "Our analysis points to a combination of their high commitment to the children they care for, and a perception that they do not have the educational support they need to address challenging behaviors in the classroom."
The research team believes the data may be used to help address teacher needs and improve retention.

"Teachers of young children play a central role in the prevention of behavioral problems in schools, yet they often are the least prepared to do so," Young-Walker said. "High levels of challenging behavior in the classroom contribute to teacher stress and burnout. Without additional training specific to early education, these teachers will not have the necessary tools to help themselves or their students."

The study, "Supporting Professional Development Needs for Early Childhood Teachers: An Exploratory Analysis of Teacher Perceptions of Stress and Challenging Behavior," was published in the February 2017 issue of the International Journal on Disability and Human Development. The researchers have no conflicts of interest to declare related to this study.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

EDITORIAL: Switching focus from D.C. to MU

By Henry J. Waters III

This week, for a day at least, attention moves from Washington, D.C., to Columbia Missouri.

Admittedly it took a double-header of local events to upstage the Donald Trump show, but we had a twofer, one raising hopes and the other, fears.

University of Missouri Athletic Director Jim Sterk hired Cuonzo Martin to replace Kim Anderson as head basketball coach. Although Anderson was popular, Martin shows more immediate potential to turn the program around. He is a native of East St. Louis, Ill., an area of more player potential than Mizzou has been able to exploit lately. Moreover, Martin has a winning record with NCAA Division I teams, and he is highly regarded by past associates for his hard work, recruiting ability and other attributes of likely success.

"He’ll get it done," said Kyle Moats, the athletic director at Missouri State, where Martin took the team from an 11-20 record his first year to 26-9 two years later on his way to three winning seasons as head coach at Tennessee. Most recently he has been winning at the University of California, Berkeley.

Most intriguing in the short run is Martin’s potential for attracting Michael Porter Jr. to join the Tigers. Columbian Porter Jr. planned to play for the University of Washington, where head Coach Lorenzo Romar has just been fired, likely ending Michael Porter Sr.’s tenure as Romar’s assistant coach. Maybe Martin will hire Porter Sr., giving Porter Jr., widely regarded as the best
high school player in the nation, good reason to follow back to Columbia, where his sisters play for Coach Robin Pingeton’s women Tigers.

Why not? It all makes sense. Don’t bet the entire farm. It might not happen.

Meanwhile, over in Jesse Auditorium, interim Chancellor Hank Foley was delivering grim news to his MU faculty. Enrollment at MU is scheduled to remain substantially lower for the next few years than it was in 2015, and proposed university state funding for the coming year is the smallest in four years.

Give Foley credit for laying it on the line. No time for sugar-coating — time for facing facts and making plans. Foley wants faculty to help name committees to consider cuts to MU operating and capital budgets.

House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick hinted at the basic reality surrounding state funding. He indicated he thought UM had gotten more than its share of funding in years past and approved increases for other state colleges and universities that are “high priorities for a lot of members.”

MU should get a healthy share of state funding. As the flagship campus, it offers programs that can’t be gotten anywhere else. As the largest state campus, it has spawned more influential graduates including a number of members of the General Assembly. But a look at the electoral map reveals Republican voter domination everywhere except the two big cities and Columbia.

All of this means managers of the university, and the flagship campus in particular, are in for several seasons of dealing with limited resources.

MU will weather the storm. The campus and its parent system have substantial reserve funds, and operations will allow for cutting back without ruination. In due time, fortunes will turn. From state funding, on average, MU never will be deprived relative to comparable institutions but never will be among the most munificently funded, either. System and campus leadership is stabilizing. Hang in there.

It's a match! MU medical students learn their residency placements on Match Day

ROSEMARY SIEFERT, Mar 17, 2017

Generated from MU Health media advisory.
COLUMBIA — Excitement, nerves and anticipation buzzed through Acuff Gallery as MU School of Medicine students ripped open envelopes revealing the next step in their careers as physicians.

The reveals were part of Match Day, an annual, national event where medical students find out where they will do their residencies. Students are placed into residency programs based on a process of interviews, applications and rankings.

Amid cheers and whistles, students shared their excitement.

"The opportunities are endless," Jay Patel, 26, said. "It's a big step in any medical student's life."

Patel will be specializing in pulmonary and critical care at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Family and a love for big cities influenced his decision to apply at UIC. He said the school was the obvious choice and that he was confident he would get matched with his first preference.

"I'm glad Mizzou prepared me well," he said. "I had zero doubts." .

Another student, Sara Tepe, 27, will stay at MU for her residency.

"I'm excited to stay close to friends and it's good knowing the faculty," she said. "I'm training someplace I feel at home."

Ninety-six percent of this year's graduating class received a match, which is above the 93 percent national matching average, said Laine Young-Walker, associate dean for student programs. Twenty-five percent of the 97 medical students placed will continue residency training at MU, 38 percent will go to other locations in Missouri and 32 percent will continue their training in high-need primary care fields such as internal medicine, pediatrics and family medicine at various facilities throughout the country.

"From now until graduation, there's nothing but excitement for our fourth-years," Young-Walker said.

Young-Walker said she knows that the time spent preparing for residency is hard and stressful and that some students might not realize it yet, but they will impact hundreds, even thousands of lives.
"This is just the beginning of the excitement for them — achieving a dream that some of them might have had since they were little," she said.

Murder charges possible in I-70 crash tied to kidnapping

Generated from a News Bureau expert pitch

By Alan Burdziak

Though the intent to kill might not have been present in the circumstances surrounding a teen girl’s death in a March 7 fatal crash, state law allows for the prosecutor to file murder charges against two women suspected to be responsible.

It is unclear whether murder charges are being considered for the women, who are each charged with three counts of kidnapping in the case, Demetres S. Washington, 31, and Mackenzie N. Quiovers, 22. Boone County First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Tracy Gonzalez declined to comment, citing the pending investigation.

However, the facts of the case that have been released, if proven to be true, would make it a prime example of why the felony murder rule exists, Ben Trachtenberg, associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law, said. The legal doctrine dates back to the 1790s, when it was first used in Pennsylvania, and varies slightly from state to state, but it allows for murder charges to be filed against a defendant when someone is killed during the commission of a felony.

“This is a situation where, if you think we should have a felony murder rule at all, facts like these, where someone is killed while fleeing a kidnapping” are circumstances that support having the rule, Trachtenberg said.

Shianna Mays, 13, died March 10, three days after she and four others, including her mother, Washington; Quiovers; and her brother and sister were injured in a crash on Interstate 70. According to Columbia police, Washington and Quiovers took the children, the other two ages 9 and 10, from their grandmother’s house in northeast Columbia in the afternoon March 7 and left in a Pontiac Grand Prix.
The children’s aunt, Dianna Mays, and grandmother followed the Pontiac in a Toyota Highlander, eventually getting to I-70 westbound near Route J, where Mays tried to force Washington to take the exit. Washington instead swerved in front of the other car, hitting it and spinning several times before the Pontiac hit a guardrail and overturned, according to a probable cause statement. All five people in the Pontiac were taken to University Hospital, where Shianna Mays was pronounced dead March 10. The condition of the other two children is unknown.

Quivers and Washington have both been charged but have been allowed to be released from the Boone County Jail as they continue treatment for their injuries.

Almost every state in the U.S. has a felony murder statute, including some in which it can be a capital offense. In Missouri, the law allows for prosecutors to file second-degree murder charges, whereas in some jurisdictions it is first-degree murder. That allows for a maximum penalty of life imprisonment instead of death as first-degree murder is the only capital offense in Missouri.

Many states allow for the enhanced charges for dangerous felonies, but in Missouri it can be for any felony in which someone died as a result, Trachtenberg said. It is up to the prosecutor’s discretion, but he said it is mostly used in cases that deal with rape, robbery and kidnapping, “inherently dangerous felonies,” as opposed to someone dying of a heart attack from the shock of learning they’ve been the victim of identity theft.

If Gonzalez decides to enhance the charges against the two suspects, or either of them, she would not have to prove that anyone wanted to kill the girl. Trachtenberg said for felony murder to be proven, the prosecutor would have to show that the defendant created the risk of death to the person.

“And the risk became reality, assuming the allegations are accurate,” he said.

No attorney was listed in online court records for Quiovers and Washington.

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**Los Angeles Times**

**The August eclipse is the 'most spectacular thing you'll ever see,' especially in Missouri**

By Emery Styron

It is the most spectacular thing you will ever see. Once you see it, you will never forget it,” Astronomy magazine senior editor Michael Bakich promises viewers of the first total solar eclipse to cross the United States in 38 years.
To celebrate, Bakich is planning “the biggest event on Earth” in Missouri on Aug. 21. Put his party at St. Joseph’s Rosecrans Memorial Airport on your travel calendar.

Quirky events help make Missouri a viewing destination: “Get Your Eclipse on Route 66” in St. Clair. Renew your vows or get hitched for the first time at former mule capital Lathrop’s corona-lit “double-ring” wedding ceremony. Toast totality in the midday dusk along the Mississippi River with Hemman Winery’s Totality wine.

Experienced travelers will appreciate the practical considerations as well: major airports in Kansas City and St. Louis, longer eclipse durations than at other sites, and highway and hotel infrastructure that can handle hordes of sun-seekers.

The line of totality sweeps from St. Joseph, in the northwest corner of the state, to southeast Missouri. Four and a half million people live within a half-day drive.

Kansas City and St. Louis, the state’s two biggest metropolitan areas, along with college town Columbia, will be ready, Bakich said. But some smaller towns may not be. “It’s not like a zombie apocalypse. Zombies don’t need food, healthcare and gasoline,” he said.

St. Louis has been getting calls from London, Germany and Sweden for the last two years and has stocked 400,000 pairs of viewing glasses. Eclipse Task Force volunteer Don Ficken said, “They don’t call us ‘Gateway to the West’ for nothing.”

Because many highways to the eclipse sites radiate from town, he suggests staying a few days in one of St. Louis’ hotels, touring the Arch, zoo and Anheuser-Busch brewery, then finishing with an eclipse day trip.

You can also headquarter in Kansas City, take in a Royals game, enjoy barbecue and ride the downtown streetcars, then scurry north for the celestial spectacle. Hint: Stay north of the Missouri River or in St. Joseph; traffic might get heavy on Aug. 21.

Or book rooms in St. Joseph, another gateway city, birthplace of the Pony Express and jumping-off point for gold rush forty-niners. Bakich expects 100,000 at his bash at the Rosecrans Memorial Airport. It’s just one of five viewing events in town.

Columbia, smack on the eclipse path and halfway across the state, is home to the University of Missouri Tigers so it is used to handling crowds and holding festivals. Its events target both serious and casual viewers.

Camping and/or lodging and special events are slated at the 42 state parks along the eclipse route. Ride a bike in the midday dark in Katy Trail State Park or watch the eclipse next to prehistoric petroglyphs at Washington State Park.

In Missouri or elsewhere, don’t miss what eclipse consultant Kate Russo called an “eerie, awe-inspiring, unsettling, beautiful and often overwhelming” experience.
“Totality is what it’s all about,” said Bakich. “The difference between a partial eclipse and a total eclipse is like the difference between watching the Super Bowl from inside the stadium or staying out in the parking lot.”

A dozen eclipse dos and don’ts:

1. **Monitor weather conditions.** Dress for conditions and drink plenty of water.

2. **Allow time for travel and other necessities.** You don’t want to be stuck in traffic or a port-a-potty when the show begins.

3. **Prepare now.** Aug. 21 may be the most requested vacation day in history.

4. **Make it an eclipse weekend.** Take in related activities in locations touched by the moon’s shadow to get full value from your trip.

5. **Stay flexible.** Unless you are certain the day will be clear, don’t lock yourself in. If it’s cloudy before the eclipse starts, you’ll want to move to a better location the earlier the better.

6. **Record the temperature drop with a video camera.** Attach a digital thermometer and watch to a white background. Shoot occasionally from 15 minutes before totality until 15 minutes afterward.

7. **Watch for the moon’s shadow.** If you’re viewing from a high elevation, you may see it approaching at about 1,500 miles per hour, twice the speed of sound. It may also darken thin cirrus clouds.

8. **During totality, take a few seconds to scan the horizon.** You’ll see sunset colors all around you. In effect, those locations are where sunset (or sunrise) are happening.

9. **Get a filter.** Cardboard eclipse glasses with optical Mylar lenses cost about $2 and filter dangerous infrared (heat) and ultraviolet radiation. Another safe filter is a No. 14 welder’s glass, also about $2. No filter? Make a pinhole camera. It can be as simple as two pieces of paper with a tiny hole in one of them.

10. **Bring a chair, sunscreen, an umbrella, snacks and drinks.** You’ll be standing or sitting outside for hours.

11. **Take pictures before and after totality but not during.** Record your viewing site and the people you’re with, but don’t fiddle with your camera and forget to look at the eclipse. No picture will match what your eyes will reveal.

12. **Experience totality alone.** You’ll be with others, but during totality itself, mentally shed your surroundings to focus on the celestial.
Report: Low grain, animal prices putting pressure on farmers

By Rudi Keller

High yields and slackening growth in global demand for farm products are tightening margins for farmers and making it more difficult to pay debt for land and equipment, according to a new report from the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri.

Consumers saw some benefit last year as the market prices for meat and grain fell. The retail cost of food purchased for consumption at home fell, according to the report, and small increases in restaurant prices meant overall food costs remained virtually unchanged over the year.

“In 2017, we do expect to see a little more price inflation but not dramatically so,” institute Director Pat Westhoff said Friday at the Abner W. Womack Missouri Agriculture Outlook Conference.

The conference drew about 100 farmers, lenders and agribusiness representatives to the Bradford Research and Extension Center for discussion of commodity prices, financial issues and global demand. The baseline outlook, provided by institute staff members Julian Binfield and Scott Gerlt, is for continued pressure on prices until grain stocks and meat supply are more in line with demand.

“Part of the cure for low prices is low prices,” Gerlt said.

Using wheat as an example, Gerlt said farmers are reporting one of the smallest wheat plantings on record. That should result in a 500 million bushel decline in production, the report predicts, from 2.3 billion bushels to 1.8 billion.

Wheat prices peaked in 2012 at nearly $8.60 per bushel and the average price this year is expected to be $4.44 a bushel.

“There is just not a lot there to encourage wheat production,” Gerlt said.

The price spikes in 2012, which also took corn and soybean prices to high levels, occurred during a major drought year in the United States. Meat producers reduced herds and prices in
that market spiked in 2014, with beef producers receiving about $2.40 a pound for steers to be fattened for market. Prices this year are expected to bring producers about $1.40 a pound for similar animals.

Farm debt equaled about 11 percent of farm assets in 2012 but rose to nearly 14 percent of assets this year.

“Part of the problem is that many people expected the good times from 2010 to 2012, or 2014 in the case of livestock, to continue and made investment choices and decisions based on those high prices,” Westhoff said. “Now things are much tighter, and keeping current with those debts is more of a challenge.”

The outlook in Missouri is not as dire as the picture in some areas, Westhoff said. Land values did not increase as much as other states and good yields for corn and soybeans have helped offset lower prices, he said.

“We are probably not as bad off as some other states could be,” he said.

Global demand and currency values are factors that will directly impact prices farmers receive, Binfield said. For the past decade, growing demand from China has helped support prices but that growth is slowing, he said.

Much of the growth in world population will occur in India and Africa, creating opportunities for exporters, he said. India consumes only 1 percent of U.S. food exports. If tariff and non-tariff trade barriers can be lowered, he said, the market could be substantial.

The Indian government projects a 14 million animal increase in the country’s dairy herd and a 2 million ton increase in butter consumption, Binfield said.

“If India were to import just a small proportion of that, it would have a big impact on world markets,” he said.

While consumers are paying less at the supermarket, the report shows that taxpayers are paying more to support farmers than expected when the 2014 farm program was enacted. The bill changed commodity support programs to protect farmers from declining prices.

Most farmers chose what is called Agricultural Risk Coverage, which compares current yield and prices to benchmark levels averaged over time, issuing payments when farmers receive less than the benchmarks. Another program, called Price Loss Coverage, is expected to be more popular if the program is renewed in 2019 because it offers payments when prices fall below set levels.

While the previous program paid out about $5 billion annually in support payments, costs for the two new programs exceeded $8 billion in each of the past two years due to falling prices.

At the same time, crop insurance payments, which peaked at about $13 billion in 2012, were only about $1 billion last year.
Conditions haven’t changed enough for outlays to fall dramatically, Westhoff said.

“It will move downward from the last two years but it will be higher than anticipated than when the farm bill passed,” he said.

**Portrait of a town: MU professor labors to preserve pictures of Mississippi hometown**

By Aarik Danielsen

Even the best writers can admit the mathematical relationship between pictures and words.

If the conversion rate really is one to 1000, O.N. Pruitt’s photographs have tens of millions of words to add to the story of one Mississippi town.

A small fraction of images from the “Possum Town” collection are on exhibit at three Columbia venues. Longtime journalist and University of Missouri professor Berkley Hudson and four friends have been working on the project for decades.

Yet the photographs reach farther back in time — telling the history of their hometown — and further inside, getting into the very marrow of what it meant to grow up in Columbus, Miss.

‘PICTURE MAN’

Hudson remembers Pruitt as Columbus’ “picture man.” There were other photographers in town, he said. But Pruitt established himself early, and left the studio more than most, documenting every conceivable aspect of life in Columbus.

In the early 1970s, several years after Pruitt’s death, friends of Hudson’s visited the studio of his former assistant, the man who had purchased his business.

One friend, Mark Gooch, was establishing a folklore project and thought there would be great details in Pruitt’s collection. Pruitt’s successor told Hudson, Gooch and their friend Birney Imes, that he was planning to create some calendars from of Pruitt’s old negatives. The idea sounded strange, and didn’t seem to do justice to the collection’s promise.
“In the meantime, the negatives are just deteriorating — you can smell it. It’s a really intense, vinegar-like smell,” Hudson said.

The three friends formed a partnership with Jim Karns and David Gooch and, for more than a decade, negotiated purchases of Pruitt’s negatives from several parties. Their instincts told them the pursuit was significant, Hudson said.

“The five of us realize this is an incredible trove of images — we don’t even really know what’s in here, but we know it’s the visual story of our town,” he said.

DEPTH OF FIELD

Those instincts led to an investment of time and money — and that investment has more than paid off. Hudson said the images have unlocked countless stories about Columbus in the first half of the 20th century.

Pruitt’s photographs tell of a Columbus connected to the wider world. One portrait captures a black farmer, Sylvester Harris, who petitioned President Franklin D. Roosevelt for help saving his homestead. Roosevelt responded, and Harris was memorialized in a song by blues artist Memphis Minnie. On the strength of its backstory, the photo was widely published, Hudson said.

A picture of a traveling carnival act features, among others, boxing great Jack Dempsey and Lillie Mae Faulk, the mother of Truman Capote.

“What we began to see is that these individual pictures of this crossroads town in Northeast Mississippi opened up incredible doorways in art and culture and literature and race relations,” Hudson said.

Those images hint at ways in which Columbus intersected with larger American culture. A number of notables were either born in Columbus or passed through for a significant period of time. Among them, writers Tennessee Williams, Eudora Welty and Charles Henri Ford; baseball broadcaster Red Barber; and bluesman Big Joe Williams.

Pruitt’s images didn’t just widen Hudson’s understanding of his hometown. They transported him to its very painful depths. In conversations with Pruitt’s associates, Hudson and Co. learned about a “secret” set of negatives that documented the lynchings and executions of black townspeople.

The Columbus five weren’t blind to the hard racial truths of their region, but had never heard a word breathed about these killings.

One image captures an awful double lynching. The picture became the basis of a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee poster encouraging voting rights. Hudson was also astonished to see it flash before his eyes in the recent True/False Film Fest documentary “I Am Not Your Negro.”
Images of lynching have an unsettling history of their own. Before being legislated out of popularity in the early 1900s, people sent postcards bearing images from lynchings they attended through the United States mail.

Although these postcards passed from favor, they still existed in a more clandestine form in communities such as Columbus. Photographers like Pruitt kept a few for posterity and they were viewed in small, secret groups, treated almost like pornography, Hudson said.

The violence in these images underscores the complexity of Columbus, as it was and was captured by Pruitt. The white photographer took pictures of all sorts of people, regardless of skin color.

“In some cases, everyone appears equal before the lens. But out in the public space, you see how race plays out,” Hudson said.

This dynamic is visible in less dramatic ways, as in a picture of Hudson’s father’s gas station. A group of white men stand in the foreground; a black man leans against the building, at a noticeable distance from the other subjects.

There is little judgment to be read in Pruitt’s images. The photographer showed up whenever and wherever something needed to be documented. He answered the call of medical professionals, the police and others. Whatever Pruitt felt about his time and place falls somewhere outside the frame.

“He photographed everything. He was an omnivore” visually, Hudson said. “As to what he believed about race, I don’t know. ... I’ve never been able to determine that.”

**CLOSING THE CIRCLE**

Pruitt’s images have had a profound effect on Hudson. It has, in a way, heightened his senses. Both what was lovely and unsightly about Columbus have come into greater focus.

“I have a deeper sense of sadness that I can at least explain where that sadness comes from,” Hudson said. “And I have a deeper sense of appreciation for all the people, no matter their class, their race, their gender, of what they survived.”

Hudson and his friends felt a certain responsibility to be good stewards of these images. For some time, however, the boundaries of that role were unclear.

While pursuing his doctorate at the University of North Carolina, Hudson was mentored by venerated black artist Deborah Willis. Her encouragement helped him feel a sort of permission to press deeper into the questions of racial violence that Pruitt’s images posed.

Willis identified the importance of the images — they captured “the complexity” of life in a segregated community, Hudson said.
“You see the love that goes on; you see the theft that goes on; you see the horror that happens; you see the intimacy that happens,” he added. “And you see it all within a context. It’s in black-and-white, but everything is not black and white.”

The University of North Carolina is now the permanent home of Pruitt’s work. An appraisal revealed 88,000 negatives belonging to Pruitt and approximately 45,000 more taken by his assistant. The five friends from Columbus entered an agreement with the school to be “curators for life,” Hudson said.

The preservation of these images, and their display in Columbia — which Hudson called a test run for future exhibits including one, hopefully, in Columbus — beats back the sentiment that to bring up troubling parts of history, or to mention race at all, is to dwell in the past or sow present division.

Hudson has a longer view of the South than most. While talking about Pruitt’s work, a detail here or phrase there would lead him to pull a related book off his shelf or point to a photograph on his office wall. There is a deep web of connection to be found here, and it should be faced.

“Both James Baldwin and Faulkner said these two things that are very close,” Hudson said. “Faulkner’s quote is ‘The past is not dead. It’s not even past.’ ... James Baldwin said, ‘The past is not past. The past is present.’ ”

“I think if you take the time to look at these pictures, you ask yourself, ‘What is it about human beings — why do we behave the way we do?’ ” he added.

People within a society make a choice about whether to see another race as beautiful or ugly; we must ask ourselves, he said, why and how we make the choices we do.

Though Columbus is more than 500 miles from here, Hudson sees a need to study its visual history with our own moment in mind. Hudson, who has served his school as chair of the Faculty Council Committee on Race Relations, noted for example that MU’s campus was built by slaves.

“Is it 1839? No, no, it’s 2017,” he said. “But we have to acknowledge how we’ve made a lot of progress and how we’ve got a whole lot more progress to keep making. If we ignore our history, it’s to our disadvantage.”

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In a Polarized Climate, Free-Speech Warriors Seize the Spotlight

By Sarah Brown MARCH 19, 2017
Greg Lukianoff is a relentless campaigner who has traveled to dozens of campuses in the past 16 years to decry threats he sees to free speech. More often than not, he’s also tuned into Twitter. But on Christmas Eve, the president and chief executive of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education was off the grid.

Meanwhile, George Ciccariello-Maher, an associate professor of politics and global studies at Drexel University, was sending a tweet. At 7:48 p.m. on December 24, Mr. Ciccariello-Maher wrote, "All I Want for Christmas is White Genocide."

Even on a holiday, it didn’t take long for the professor’s provocative words — which he intended as satire — to awaken the social-media outrage machine. Conservative news outlets pounced. As the controversy boiled, Drexel faced calls to fire Mr. Ciccariello-Maher. Meanwhile, the professor’s supporters called on Mr. Lukianoff’s organization, known as FIRE, to come to his aid.

"Where are you on this Drexel shit Greg," one Twitter user wrote on December 26.

Mr. Lukianoff, who was in New York with his family and trying to keep up with a rambunctious 1-year-old son, sighed.

"Can you give us a couple days?" he recalled thinking.

Throughout its 18-year history, FIRE has prided itself on its ability to quickly come to the defense of students and professors ensnared in free-speech and academic-freedom disputes. That fight looks a lot different than it used to. "We’re at a stage where so many people are interested in this topic," Mr. Lukianoff says, "and the information moves so quickly." First Amendment controversies play out in minutes, not days. Now FIRE’s staff members say even they can’t always gather facts and research fast enough.

Mr. Ciccariello-Maher wasn’t fired or disciplined, but he faced a public rebuke from Drexel officials for his choice of words. His case was one of several that recently propelled campus free-speech issues to the forefront of the national consciousness.

Over the years, FIRE has drawn criticism from some college administrators for, in their view, blowing the scope of free-speech threats out of proportion. The organization tends to cherry-pick a handful of extreme examples, these critics say, and use them to make sweeping statements about the state of expression at all colleges. In the grand scheme of higher education, they say, the number of campus speakers disinvited in a given year is minuscule.

At the same time, though, new flashpoints are appearing on FIRE’s radar with increasing frequency: professors who make provocative statements, students who protest speakers, colleges that, in FIRE’s opinion, overreact to such situations by shutting down constitutionally protected speech. Last year FIRE received about 900 requests from students, professors, and others to intervene when they felt their rights had been violated, and Mr. Lukianoff says he expects more in 2017.
“A lot of what they're doing is feeding or having a symbiotic relationship with the sort of conservative outrage machine.”

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As protests against racism and demands for safe spaces swelled at the University of Missouri, Yale University, and dozens of other campuses in the fall, the story proved popular. It raised FIRE’s profile as a leading voice against a climate on campuses where, as Mr. Lukianoff and Mr. Haidt wrote, "everyone must think twice before speaking up, lest they face charges of insensitivity, aggression, or worse." (The timing of its publication with the protests was a coincidence, Mr. Lukianoff says; he’d been thinking about writing such a piece for years.)

FIRE staff members say that many student activists that fall were rightly using their free speech to call attention to what they saw as racial injustice at their institutions, and that conversations about race and diversity that wouldn’t have occurred otherwise took place on many campuses.

What distressed Mr. Lukianoff was the significant number of students who were demanding, for instance, that publications be punished for running columns that took contentious stances, as was the case at Wesleyan University, or that people be fired for taking a stand on something, as was the case at Yale.

In the fall of 2015, Nicholas Christakis, a professor of social and natural science at Yale and leader of a residential college, was confronted by a group of mostly black students in a campus courtyard. At the time a heated debate was taking place over an email about Halloween costumes sent by his wife, Erika Christakis, who wrote, "Is there no room anymore for a child or young person to be a little bit obnoxious … a little bit inappropriate or provocative or, yes, offensive?"

A group of student activists was demanding that the Christakis be removed from their residential-college positions. Story continues.

Canada's Moment

A Trump effect? Many Canadian universities are reporting large gains in international applications at the same time some American universities are seeing declines.

NO MU MENTION
Leigh-Ellen Keating, who directs international services for Brock University, in Ontario, just attended a student recruiting fair in Mexico. “The table was flooded with people, which is not historically what I have seen with the Mexican market,” she said. “They just want to go to Canada, and historically I think a lot of them would go to the States.”

“It didn’t hurt,” Keating continued, that the recruitment fair coincided with an anti-Trump rally in front of the hotel where the fair was held. She suspects some of the rally participants might have popped over to check out college options in Canada. President Trump is highly unpopular in Mexico. He kicked off his campaign by depicting some Mexican immigrants as criminals and rapists and has pledged to deport millions of immigrants who are in the country illegally and build a border wall.

“Mr. Trump, he’s not bad for our recruitment strategy,” Keating said.

At a time when many American universities are reporting declines in applications from international students, some universities north of the border are seeing increases on the magnitude of 20 percent or more. At the University of Waterloo, in Ontario, undergraduate international applications are up by 25 percent and graduate international applications have increased by 41 percent. At McMaster University, also in Ontario, international applications have increased by 34.4 percent compared to the same time last year.

At the University of Toronto, applications from international undergraduate students increased by slightly more than 20 percent this year over last year. Driving the growth are big increases in applications from the U.S. (up 80 percent), India (up 59 percent), Turkey (up 68 percent) and Mexico (up 63 percent, but from a small base). Richard Levin, Toronto’s executive director of enrollment services and the university registrar, attributed the gains in part to the “generalized effect of global events drawing attention to Canada and Toronto in particular as a kind of safe, inclusive, stable space.” Story continues.