



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

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# Missourinet

## Mizzou to lay off 20 employees; university cites a decline in state funding and an enrollment drop

By Brian Hauswirth

**The University of Missouri-Columbia is laying off 20 employees.**

**MU spokesman Christian Basi tells Missourinet 20 administrative employees in MU's Division of Operations will be laid off, effective July 1.**

Basi says the 20 employees' responsibilities include Mizzou's physical plant in Columbia and the safety of campus.

"This is the toughest decision that managers and directors at the university have to make, and it is very, very difficult for us to tell individuals that we do not have the resources to continue to employ them," Basi says.

Basi emphasizes that the layoffs will not compromise the University's safety.

He says the layoffs are due to a decline in state funding and an enrollment drop.

"We are under increasingly difficult budget stress and have to make these decisions," says Basi. "We're at a point now where our budget shortfalls are cutting into the core of our operations."

Basi says total enrollment in the fall of 2016 was 33,266, with 4,772 freshmen. In the fall of 2015, total enrollment was 35,448, with 6,191 freshmen.

The "Columbia Daily Tribune" reports Gov. Eric Greitens restricted \$31.4 million from the state's current fiscal year budget for UM.

The 20 laid-off employees will receive transitional benefits.

"Which include some additional pay as well as benefits, and assistance in finding another place of employment or another position on campus," Basi says.

Outplacement services that will be offered include resume-writing assistance.

He says the laid-off employees will receive at least four weeks of pay and a maximum of 26 weeks, depending on years of service.

Basi says the layoffs are expected to save the university \$1.7 million in salary and benefits.

Basi also tells MissouriNet that five administrative employees in the Mizzou Operations Division will retire.

The University of Missouri website notes Mizzou is a \$2.2 billion enterprise.

The website says MU students “represent every Missouri county, all 50 states and 120 countries.” It says there are 305,000 alumni.



## **MU's Division of Operations lays off 20 employees amid state budget cuts**

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mus-division-of-operations-lays-off-20-employees-amid-budget-cuts/435336507>

By Alyssa Toomey

**The University of Missouri's Division of Operations informed 20 employees this week that they will be laid off.**

The news comes amid a decrease in enrollment and unprecedented budget cuts from the state.

MU spokesperson Christian Basi confirmed the layoffs to ABC 17 News on Wednesday. He said five staff members will also be retiring within that division and those positions will not be refilled.

"These decisions are never easy," Basi said. "However, the university must adjust our staffing levels to ensure the long-term economic sustainability of Mizzou."

He added that "those employees who were laid off will be provided transition benefits, and they will receive priority consideration to be rehired as positions become available."

Each school and unit is responsible for balancing its budget. Because of financial troubles, some leaders have begun to restructure their departments, which includes layoffs, Basi said.

UM System President Dr. Mun Choi has been warning of possible layoffs amid significant budget cuts from the state. Gov. Eric Greitens' proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year cuts funding for higher education by more than \$100 million. An additional \$37 million has been withheld from the UM System's current budget. Choi has said he expects \$57 million in cuts to the system's permanent funding.

"While we will do whatever we can to ensure we treat all our staff members as humanely and compassionately as possible, I want to share with you that we are facing some significant challenges," Choi said at a news conference last month.

In addition to layoffs, it's a possibility some programs will be cut. One MU student said she has faith in the student body, despite the recent troubles.

"Even with budget cuts and program cuts and different things like that-I know there are students that are going to rise up out of that," Brooke Wiggins told ABC 17 News.

The UM System announced its budget-planning process for the upcoming fiscal year earlier this week. College, division or department leaders at MU have until April 28 to decide how they will supply their portion of the reserve funds that will be used to make up the university's \$20 million shortfall in its current budget.



## [Local festivals, high school competitions impact MU admissions](#)

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/local-festivals-and-high-school-competitions-impact-mu-admissions/435255520>

By Sara Maslar-Donar

COLUMBIA, Mo. - [According to the University of Missouri's Vice Provost for Economic Development Steve Wyatt, what's beneficial to the city of Columbia can also be beneficial to the University of Missouri.](#) In this case, festivals and high school competitions that take place in the city.

"We both rise together and we both win together," said Wyatt.

Wyatt considers state competitions and festivals that bring high school students from across the Midwest to MU as an admissions boon for parents and students considering higher education.

"It's like everything: if you have a positive impression, you're going to continue in that direction," he said. "If they're not coming here and having those, then they're probably having those somewhere else and we'd rather for them to have those life-changing experiences here."

More people in Columbia means more dollars in the budget by way of shopping or eating out. With city sales tax at an all-time low, those dollars are especially crucial to fund fire and police.

"It's very beneficial to the city having busloads of young people coming, parents coming, all of those things that end up expending those resources," Wyatt said.

This weekend, the Missouri State High School Activities Association board will meet to discuss the future home of the state music festival. It's been held at the University of Missouri for decades, but MSHSAA decided recently to bid it out to any city or town in Missouri that would like to host.

Wyatt said with activities like the state music festival being bid out, the community needs to come together to make sure they aren't losing events that bring dollars and students to Columbia.

"Everybody wins," he said.



## **Business owners say UM System cuts impact mid-Missouri economy**

By Mark Slavit

**COLUMBIA — University of Missouri System President Mun Choi sent a warning to leaders on all four campuses about his school's money problems.**

The President's email prepared for an overall budget cut of up to 12 percent for next year.

The University of Missouri is Columbia's biggest employer, and economic development officials said when Mizzou loses money, so does mid-Missouri's economy.

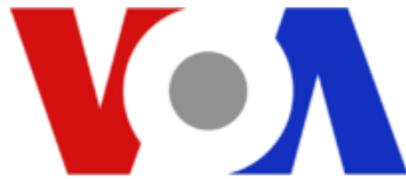
Choi's mass email warned of upcoming state budget cuts and lower enrollment numbers.

The University of Missouri System will likely lose \$37 million in state funding this fiscal year and \$57 million in state cuts next fiscal year, Choi said.

Dave Griggs, a Columbia business owner and a Boone County economic development official, said University of Missouri cuts would have a negative impact on everyone in mid-Missouri.

"I don't care whether you are building houses or selling floors or selling cars," Griggs said. "If there is less money in the economy, you have less market opportunities to sell things to."

President Choi planned to discuss the budget during a public meeting in May and planned to approve a final budget for next year in June.



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## **Study Says Hitting the Weights, Jumping, Could Help Bone Density**

By: Carol Pearson

Generated from News Bureau press release: **[Weight-Bearing Exercises Promote Bone Formation in Men](#)**

Watch the story: <https://www.voanews.com/a/study-weight-training-bone-density/3796873.html>

When people think of osteoporosis, they usually think of women, but men can get osteoporosis, too.

Osteoporosis literally means "porous bones." Normal bones look somewhat like honeycombs. But with osteoporosis, the bones become so thin in places that even a simple stretch can result in a bone fracture.

Risk factors are smoking, drinking, having a family history of osteoporosis, and leading a sedentary lifestyle.

Two hundred million people have osteoporosis worldwide and that number is expected to shoot up dramatically. The International Osteoporosis Foundation projects that the global incidence of hip fracture will double by 2025, and nearly triple by 2050, when it will affect more than 6 million people.

At least one study says hip fractures will increase in men by 310 percent. Hip fractures in women also are projected to rise by 240 percent.

These fractures can be fatal, so there's a huge need for preventive strategies. One is exercise, but even active people can have low bone density, which may lead to osteoporosis.

Missourian Dean Hargett bikes more than 160 kilometers a week, but he was shocked to learn it did nothing for his bones. He found out he had low bone density.

"It alarmed me...I don't want to have fragile bones," Hargett said.

**A decrease in bone density could lead to osteoporosis. Pam Hinton, an associate professor at the University of Missouri, conducts research on nutrition and physical activity on bone health. She said about one in four men will have an osteoporotic-related fracture in their lifetime.**

Over a 12-month period, Hinton studied how resistance and jump-training exercises affected the bone health for men ages 25 to 60. The results showed these exercises did more than just slow the rate of bone loss.

"We actually saw an increase in bone mass with either type of exercise that was a very encouraging and exciting result," Hinton said.

The exercises decreased the level of sclerostin, a protein that slows bone growth. At the same time, it increased a hormone that promotes bone growth.

Hargett now knows he has to do more than cycle and swim to strengthen his bones. Weightlifting is now a regular part of his exercise routine. Besides getting the right kind of exercise, getting enough vitamin D and calcium also can keep bones strong.



*Mic is an online news site with 13.5 million unique monthly visitors and a strong social media presence.*

## One of the top pieces of retirement advice might be wrong: The truth about Roth accounts

**Generated from an MU News Bureau press release: [Regardless of Income and Age, Best Investment Strategy is to Diversify, Mizzou Researcher Finds](#)**

*BY JAMES DENIN, APRIL 5, 2017*

If you're young and [broke](#), simply [investing at all](#) feels like a big win. And, since you're not planning on using the money for 30 or 40 years, minimizing your tax burden probably is not going to be top-of-mind. That seems like a game for the wealthy, with their [loopholes](#) and off-shore accounts.

Yet the idea of tamping down taxes informs one of the most common pieces of advice for young people: to invest using what's called [Roth IRA](#) or [Roth 401\(k\) instead](#) of a [traditional](#) retirement account. When you invest your money with a Roth, you pay taxes on the dollars going in — when you're young and in a relatively low bracket — and then you can make withdrawals tax-free when you're older and richer (and in a higher bracket).

Makes sense, right? Not so fast.

**A new [paper](#) from a team led by professor Michael O'Doherty at the University of Missouri complicates that conventional wisdom, and argues that investors of all ages should hold *both* types of accounts.**

In other words, young or old — and high- or low-income — the majority of people will need tax [diversification](#) in their retirement accounts. Why?

The crux of O'Doherty's argument is that tax rates change a lot more than you think they will: Since 1913, when the income tax was first introduced, the tax rate for a married household making \$100,000 a year changed 39 times, ranging from 1% to 43%.

The better-off you are, the more likely you are to face uncertainty about your future tax bracket. But even if you are lower-income now and don't think you'll ever be rich, you very well could be wrong. And yet, conversely, middle income folks of all ages still might not want to put all their eggs into the "Roth" basket either, O'Doherty argued.

According to the paper, a hypothetical household that hedged against uncertain future tax rates ended up with an extra \$16,000 in retirement — versus a similar household that ignored the problem of tax uncertainty. O'Doherty said in a phone interview that for typical households, the savings would number "certainly in that level of several thousands of dollars." The younger you are, the more likely hedging with both kinds of accounts will be helpful, he said.

"In some sense [younger investors] are the perfect group to be looking at a study like this," O'Doherty said. "The new finding ... is this idea of tax uncertainty. And there's conventional advice that's based on consistent taxes over time... But if you're saying 'hey I'm still 35 or 40 years until retirement,' there's just a ton of uncertainty."

It's important to note, again, that the optimal strategy for each investor is going to vary wildly based on your age, income and [appetite for risk](#). The more you make, the more a tax diversification strategy will benefit you, O'Doherty said.

Still, the findings suggest that there's a specific optimal formula for all but the lowest-income investors — people in the bottom two to three tax brackets.

That formula for everyone else? "For retirement contributions, a good rule of thumb is to invest 20% plus your age into traditional, tax-deferred accounts," O'Doherty said in a [press release](#). "Applying this rule, a single 40-year-old investor with at least \$40,000 of taxable income would put 60% of their retirement contributions in a traditional IRA or 401(k)-type plan."

In other words, the older you get, the more you should be investing in traditional accounts. So a 25 year old making \$40,000 per year would put 45% of any retirement savings into a traditional vehicle like a 401(k) — and the rest in a Roth IRA or Roth 401(k).

That formula increases the likelihood that you'll wind up in the optimal tax bracket to maximize your cash during retirement, because you've got a mix of pre- and post-tax dollars to draw on.

This will be [easiest](#) for people who get automatically enrolled in a plan for work, but you can also enroll yourself in both types of plans using a brokerage account. Here's *Mic's* guide on [how to open](#) a traditional or Roth IRA.



## **MU researcher finds retirement savings may improve when diversified**

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-researcher-finds-retirement-savings-may-improve-when-diversified>

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Regardless of Income and Age, Best Investment Strategy is to Diversify, Mizzou Researcher Finds](#)

By Chris Joseph

**COLUMBIA - Retirement savings can be improved if investors spread their money among multiple vehicles, one MU researcher found.**

Michael O'Doherty, an associate professor of finance at MU, studied how to maximize retirement savings given the current U.S. tax code and available investment options.

He found investment into both Roth IRA and traditional IRA/401(K) accounts can improve returns and tax exemptions.

"If you look at what taxes are going to look like 20 years from now, 30 years from now in retirement, there's a ton of uncertainty there," O'Doherty said.

"Roth-type investments investment vehicles really help you mitigate some of that uncertainty," he said.

Traditional IRA's are an investment option in which investors can deduct contributions on their tax forms to the IRA immediately, saving money in the short term. The returns on the IRA are taxed later.

For Roth IRA's the taxes are paid upfront, but the returns are tax-free.

"Some people would prefer to use a traditional IRA so they could get that tax deduction right now," said Adam Bethel, an owner of Financial Planners of Missouri.

"I like the Roth IRA because you can take out the earnings tax free," he said.

Bethel said investing totally in just one type of IRA would mean the loss of possible tax benefits but, he said it's important to consult a financial advisor before making any retirement decisions.

O'Doherty said investors should be saving as much as possible to put themselves in the best position for retirement.

"You should be contributing as much as you possibly can to these retirement accounts, secondary to that is you want to get the right mix of what you're actually investing in," he said.

The research, titled "Tax uncertainty and Retirement Savings Diversification" will be published in the Journal of Financial Economics.



## [MU Research Reactor working to improve medical screening and treatment](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-research-reactor-working-to-improve-medical-screening-and-treatment>

*[Generated from News Bureau expert pitch](#)*

By Lindsay Hornecker

**COLUMBIA- The University of Missouri Research Reactor, or MURR, is on the verge of two major milestones that it hopes will help doctors improve screening and treating diseases.**

It recently submitted a License Amendment Request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in order for the center to produce and sell the isotope Molybdenum-99.

Also known as Molly-99, the isotope goes into creating the isotope Technetium-99m, which is used in more than 80 percent of Nuclear Medical Imaging, or SPECT Scans.

“Molly-99 is just a part of the supply chain that gets you to that nuclear medicine scan, which is really what you’re after, and that enables a physician to make a clear diagnosis as to your condition and then make a recommendation,” said Ken Brooks, the associate director of MURR.

If the License Amendment Request goes through, MURR would become the only Molly-99 supplier in North America.

“If MURR became a Molly-99 supplier as we envision not only do we get the pride of benefiting patients and it also generates revenue. What would generating revenue do? We would actually invest that into our other research programs for who knows what the next scientific breakthrough might be,” said Brooks.

MURR will also soon become the sole supplier of Lutetium-177 to the French company Advanced Accelerator Applications (AAA), which manufactures the drug Lutathera.

“Lutetium-177 is an active ingredient in a new drug that’s under FDA review for therapy, and it actually allows to treat pancreatic cancer that has spread to the mid gut region,” said Brooks.

Recent trials of Lutathera have been rather promising, extending the life expectancy of those suffering from pancreatic cancer.

MURR will be providing Lutetium-177 to AAA’s new site in Millburn, New Jersey, according to a new release from the AAA. With Lutetium-177 only having a shelf life of two weeks, being in close proximity to the receiving facility is important.

“Now it’s proven effective, and pending FDA approval, then we at MURR would be the only U.S. supplier of that active ingredient, so it’s one more way that Columbia, Missouri becomes right on the map for radio pharmaceutical development and we could think of ourselves as an innovation district right here in Columbia,” said Brooks.



## **MU to close three more residence halls amid budget concerns, enrollment drop**

By Alyssa Toomey

**The University of Missouri will close three more residence halls to undergraduate students next year amid concerns over budget cuts and a drop in enrollment.**

Discovery, Responsibility and Center Hall will close "until they are needed," MU News Bureau associate director Liz McCune told ABC 17 News.

She said the move is designed to "ensure that we are maximizing the space we have and being as efficient as possible with our resources."

The closure of the three residence halls brings the total number of closed residence halls to seven. They are Respect, Responsibility, Discovery, Excellence, Schurz, McDavid and Center.

McCune said officials are closing the halls to "make sure we have the flexibility necessary whether the numbers are low or high."

If the numbers are low, MU will not have to operate halls that are not full, and if the numbers are high, the halls will be reopened to accommodate demand, McCune said. She added that the university is opening a new 279-bed hall for the 2017-2018 school year.

As ABC 17 News previously reported, enrollment at Mizzou has continued to drop following the 2015 protests that made national headlines. The school started in fall 2015 with 35,448 students, the highest enrollment in five years. As of January 2017, MU had 31,010 students, its lowest point since spring 2011.

At last month's faculty council meeting, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and MU provost Dr. Garnett S. Stokes said officials are still waiting on a more reliable indicator of what enrollment numbers will be in the fall. She said the attractors for Mizzou are different, so it's difficult to predict enrollment numbers.

"What we're dealing with is unprecedented," Stokes said of budget cuts by the state.

Gov. Eric Greitens' proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year cuts funding for higher education by more than \$100 million. The University of Missouri System's share of the state's current FY2017 budget withholds is \$37 million. UM System President Dr. Mun Choi has said that he expects \$57 million in cuts to permanent funding.

A letter sent to MU faculty and staff earlier this week said addressing the financial challenges "will require an overall budget cut between 8 percent and 12 percent throughout the University of Missouri System." It said the system cannot rely on reserve funds to solve problems created by permanent budget reductions.

College, division or department leaders at MU have until April 28 to decide how they will supply their portion of the reserve funds that will be use to make up the university's \$20 million shortfall in its current budget.



## **MU to close three more residence halls for fall semester**

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-to-close-three-more-residence-halls-for-fall-semester>

By Daniel Litwin

**COLUMBIA - Lower enrollment has caused the University of Missouri to close four residence halls for the Fall 2017 semester.**

And now three more halls are being added to the list of closures.

Center, Responsibility and Discovery are going offline in the fall, joining Respect, Excellence, Schurz and McDavid halls.

"We want to make sure that we are flexible enough to be able to adjust to the student numbers, depending whether they're low or high," said MU spokesperson Christian Basi.

Basi said these closures will ensure the remaining halls are completely filled.

"It's much more efficient for us to operate a building where we have a full building, versus operating many different buildings that are half full," Basi said.

Combined, the seven halls house around 1,500 students and employ five to seven staff members each.

The university is hoping the closures won't affect any of the staff positions in the halls, saying most of the positions will be covered through retirement or job transitions.

"We don't anticipate that there's going to be any layoffs due to these temporary closings," Basi said.

The hall closures are also expected to save the university an estimated \$2 million, mostly in utility costs. Discovery and Responsibility, both over a decade old, are among the least energy efficient residence halls on campus.

"They were built with different materials, and also the other halls, in some cases, have been upgraded as well," Basi said. "When we were looking to determine what are the halls we should take offline, obviously the ones that would save us the most money."

Two of the closed halls will be used for different housing purposes in the fall. McDavid will house international students that are part of the "two plus two" engineering program, where they receive two years of education in their native country and finish their bachelor degree at MU.

Respect is currently and will continue to be used for guest and conference housing. There is a possibility Discovery and Responsibility will follow suit.

Though data for the fall is currently unavailable, freshman enrollment for the 2016-2017 academic year was considerably lower than usual. It dropped by 1,470 students, or 24 percent of total enrollment.

If demand for housing increases in the fall, closed residence halls could be reopened, most likely starting with Center Hall, which houses 40 students.

# MISSOURIAN

## [MU sees decline in international graduate student applications](#)

MARSHALL REID, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — [MU has experienced a drop in applications from international students for the fall 2017 semester, as many universities across the nation have.](#)

[A survey](#) released in March, headed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, found that 39 percent of 250 responding universities reported a drop in international applicants.

The survey offers several explanations for the drop, including perceptions that the U.S. is less welcoming to foreign citizens and uncertainty around President Donald Trump's executive order on international travel, as well as other factors.

MU is among those universities, said spokesman Christian Basi, but the university has only preliminary numbers at the moment that are subject to change.

Although statistics for undergraduate international applications are unclear at this point, graduate applications are down approximately 16 percent as of March 1, Basi said.

In 2016, less than 8 percent of students at MU were international. Of those 2,507 international students, 57 percent of them (1,335 students) were graduate students, he said.

The one caveat to the data, the survey notes, is that 35 percent of universities have seen an increase in international student applications and 26 percent have seen no change.

Although not all colleges and universities are seeing a decline in applications, many international students are still worried about what to expect.

Omid Kamran-Disfani, 35, the president of MU's Iranian Student Association, said he sees the drop in applications as directly connected to the recent executive order from Trump, which bans travel from several Muslim-majority countries and has led to anti-immigrant rhetoric across the country.

"What we've seen the last couple of months has made it a lot more uncertain for international students who might be thinking of applying," said Kamran-Disfani, who was born in Iran and is a doctoral student. "Even the ones that are already here at Missouri, they feel uncertain about what's coming next."

"It seems that a few individuals that are expressing their opinions, anti-immigrant, are finding their voice to get more attention," Kamran-Disfani said.

Some of these worries are being voiced by international students at Columbia College, too, said Britta Wright, the director of the college's International Student Center.

Although she couldn't confirm a drop in international applications, she echoed Kamran-Disfani's fears. Students are worried about what Trump's executive order could mean for them and whether they would be able to return to the country if they went home for summer break, Wright said.

Part of the executive order requires any immigrant trying to obtain a visa, even if it is a reapplication, to have an interview in person before the visa will be granted, she said.

“At this point, we’re not trying to alarm the students,” Wright said. “What we’re telling them is if they need to renew their visas, they should allow for additional time. For some students, that can be a bit disconcerting or scary.”

Despite the fears about visa renewal and travel plans, Wright has not seen this change any students' minds about attending Columbia College.

“I have not heard from any of our students that they are not coming back because of the political climate,” Wright said.

# MISSOURIAN

## **Students, lawmakers disagree about whether to create standards for university mental health services**

NATALIA ALAMDARI, 12 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY — Before she started college, two of Mary Hart's uncles committed suicide.

**As a sophomore at MU, one of her best friends reached out to her for help, knowing Hart was a member of the Mizzou Student Suicide Prevention Coalition. Hart guided her to the MU Counseling Center, where she was told she would have to wait two months for an appointment.**

Within those two months, Hart found her unconscious in her car, after a suicide attempt.

"I can't describe to you the feeling of finding your friend and thinking she's dead," Hart said.

Hart's friend is now doing better, but wait times and understaffing at university counseling centers across the state have seen little improvement.

Now a junior at MU, Hart shared her story Wednesday at a hearing of the Missouri House Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy. The committee was hearing testimony on [HB 920](#), which would seek to establish standards and guidelines for higher education mental health services. Dozens of students filled the hearing room in support.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Keith Frederick, R-Rolla, is the product of a year-long grassroots effort by the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, a student lobbyist organization. It would not set specific standards for mental health services, but would require the establishment of such standards, such as student-to-staff ratios and average wait times before initial appointments.

At MU, the bill would apply to both the MU Counseling Center and Behavioral Health services through the Student Health Center.

Steven Chaffin, executive director of the student group, said students have been in discussions with the Departments of Higher Education and Mental Health, trying to establish who would best fit the responsibility of setting the guidelines. A proposed amendment on the bill would delegate it to the Coordinating Board of Higher Education, but Chaffin said the bill is still a work in progress.

The ultimate goal would be to bring together administrators and counselors to create the standards and "figure out something that is not only going to solve this problem, but that is also going to be realistic for these universities," Chaffin said.

Chaffin said wait times for an initial appointment in university counseling centers can sometimes reach up to two months, a huge amount of time for students. The potential consequences of waiting that long for help could include missing large amounts of class, self-medicating with drugs and alcohol and even suicide.

Last semester, six MU students committed suicide, Chelsea Spence, an intern with ASUM, said. According to [research by Partners in Prevention](#), about 17 percent of university students in Missouri said they have had suicidal thoughts.

Longer wait periods also affect students' recovery process. Quicker intervention with any mental health problem tends to have a better prognosis, said Paul Polychronis, director of the University of Central Missouri Counseling Center.

"Counseling centers, when adequately funded, make a huge difference," Chaffin said. "While the prevalence of mental health issues has increased, substantive support for counseling centers has not."

Rep. John Wiemann, R-O'Fallon, said that while he sees the value in mental health services, he worried that universities are too liberal in encouraging students to seek help.

For example, Wiemann referenced a [tweet from the MU Student Health Center](#) following elections in November. The tweet encouraged students to seek help if they felt "stressed or anxious" over the election.

"It seems to me that they're trying to encourage people to come whether they need it or not," Wiemann said, "maybe manufacturing reasons for them to come and seek some counseling services, for whatever issue it may be."

While there certainly are students feeling anxiety over the results of the November election, Chaffin said, "to say that that is the reason that students are actually seeking out these services is simply false."

"I think when you actually look at students who are using the Counseling Center, and the reasons why they're using it, you see that the large, vast majority of people actually utilizing the services. They're not

going in saying, 'I saw this email.' It's things that they've been wrestling with for a long time," Chaffin said.

Wiemann also questioned Chaffin on the financial impact the bill could bring to students and universities. At the moment, the bill would cost the state an estimated \$68,000, but the amount is flexible, Frederick said. However, the bill does not account for what it would cost universities to meet whatever standards are set.

Chaffin offered the solution of combining university and state funding to improve mental health care.

"That's all fine and dandy, but in the real world, in the business world, they pass those costs on," Wiemann said. "Whenever you mandate something or tell someone to do something, they're like, 'Fine, we'll do it. We'll just charge the consumer more money.'"

Chaffin did point out that students have been known to step up and "take part of the bill" for things like mental health care, such as with the passing of the Student Services Enhancement Fee in March. The \$35 per semester fee, which passed with 79 percent of the vote, included an \$8 allotment for the MU Counseling Center.

But while the measure was voted on by students, Wiemann saw it as another way of shifting the burden.

"As a parent who has a child at a university, I wasn't asked about that, even though I'm paying the bills," Wiemann said. "There is a cost that's going to be incurred, and it's probably going to be the students or parents with that bill. It's not a zero sum game here."

When researching for the bill, student advocates asked counseling centers throughout the state what they need. Meeting the number of counseling staff needed statewide would cost about \$1 million, for all higher education institutions combined.

Polychronis said the state should look at mental health as an investment and an extension of the public health system.

"It's a way of securing Missouri's investment in our future," Polychronis said. "Counseling centers are really instrumental in the retention of students and helping them complete their degrees and be successful in the start of their careers."

# MISSOURIAN

## **MU Museum of Art and Archaeology highlighted by awards organization**

AMBER CAMPBELL, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **The Museum of Art and Archaeology at Mizzou North received some good news this week when it was named one of the top 25 museums in the U.S. by the American Art Awards.**

The president of the awards organization, Thom Bierdz, announced the pick Monday [in an article in the Huffington Post](#). The organization called it "a gem" of a museum and touted its range of collections that display pieces from many different cultures.

The museum, 115 Business Loop 70 W., is home to collections from ancient cultures around the globe as well as various European and American arts from the past several centuries.

The museum was [the subject of controversy](#) in 2013 when it moved from Pickard Hall on Frances Quadrangle to Mizzou North. The new location negatively impacted the number of school field trips to the museum and visits by college students.

Monday's announcement is welcome news for the museum.

Alex Barker, the museum's director, said he hopes the award will draw attention to the museum.

"One of the key skills in museums is to do difficult things without making them look difficult, and as a result it's easy to overlook how much effort and professionalism is involved," Barker said.

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

APRIL 5, 2017 8:30 PM

## Letters to the Editor: Readers discuss Mizzou Alternative Breaks

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Mizzou Students to Spend Spring Break Serving 44 Communities Across the U.S.](#)

Give back on break

**Thoughts of privileged college kids romping on sunny beaches for spring break prompt me to laud MU's Mizzou Alternative Breaks program. MAB gives students an opportunity to spend breaks in service projects both foreign and domestic.**

My granddaughter Grace van der Drift returned Saturday from her third trip, working with African-American, Native American and Hispanic children. MAB gives students worthwhile experience learning teamwork, diversity training and leadership while giving to others less fortunate.

Go Mizzou Breaks!

**M.K. Mustard**

*Lake Tapawingo*

# Missourinet

**Missouri election expert: organization's services better than applying voter ID laws**

**Generated from News Bureau expert pitch: [Opportunity Exists for States to Enhance Voter Roll Accuracy](#)**

By: Alisa Nelson

A 2012 Pew Charitable Trusts report estimated that 2.75 million Americans were on voter rolls in more than one state and 1.8 million dead people remained on these rolls. Recently, the number of such voter file inaccuracies has cast doubt on the integrity of voter registration in the U.S.

**Election expert Mary Stegmaier, assistant professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, says states, including Missouri, have an opportunity to partner with an independent organization that helps maintain voter roll integrity.**

The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) was established in 2012 with support from the Pew Charitable Trusts. ERIC analyzes and matches U.S. Postal Service change-of-address forms, death records, vehicle registrations and voter registration records to ensure voter roll accuracy. Membership has steadily grown to include 20 states and the District of Columbia, and the independent organization is fully funded by the member states.

“A group of states got together to try to come up with a way to use technology and databases to help states more readily identify out of state registrations and registrations for people who have passed away,” says Stegmaier. “The states are essentially pooling their resources in this kind of cooperative to identify duplicates as well as outdated registrations.”

The center, which was launched in 2012 with support from Pew Charitable Trusts, analyzes and matches post office change-of-address forms, death records, vehicle registrations and voter registration records to help ensure accuracy.

Stegmaier says the states with larger populations and destination states tend to have more voter roll issues.

She says using the organization’s services are a much more efficient way to try to combat voter fraud than applying voter ID laws.

“If we don’t have people on duplicate rolls and multiple rolls across states as well as deceased people on the rolls, then this greatly reduces the potential for fraud,” says Stegmaier. “One of the challenges with voter identification is that you really have to really implement this really well. Not only do all Americans who are eligible to vote need to have an ID, which is costly. We don’t have a national ID in the U.S. for all citizens. Poll workers would need some training in how to recognize that the person on the picture is really the person who is there.”

Missouri belongs to the Interstate Voter Registration Cross Check program, which updates voter information annually.

In 2016, Missouri voters approved a photo ID requirement to vote. The first elections under the new law will be in August.

# Missourinet

## University of Missouri study: rural nursing homes fall behind in technology

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Rural Nursing Homes are Falling Behind in Health Information Technology](#)

By: Alisa Nelson

**A significant gap exists between rural and urban areas when using health information technology at nursing homes, according to a University of Missouri study. Author Greg Alexander says some evidence shows that technology can enhance the quality, safety and efficiency of care at these facilities.**

“In rural locations, where they have fewer technologies for clinical support, they rely on traditional methods which are paper-based methods, phone calls and faxes, which are typically slower. They are prone to more error,” says Alexander. “The facilities that have good highly-sophisticated technologies with clinical support, they’re infection rates are better.”

Alexander found some rural nursing homes are using creative and highly unsophisticated solutions to help optimize care for patients. For example, pictures were placed on a patient’s door to communicate a certain message about the patient.

“Buildings those kinds of solutions into an electronic system might be really a cool way to develop systems,” says Alexander.

He says lawmakers must be aware of the challenges facing rural health organizations and provide incentives to help rural nursing homes improve their technology.

“All incentives are for acute care. They’re for physicians, ambulatory care and those kinds of places. Long-term care doesn’t have those types of incentives. So the resources that are being put toward those places are less,” says Alexander. “The people that are in those long-term care facilities deserve to have the best care available and the best resources, like anyone else.”

Alexander recommends ongoing assessment of health care technology.

“Long-term care is a space where there’s a great majority of our older people and even some younger people reside for long periods of time. So we need to make the quality of care in those facilities better,” says Alexander.

His study is the first national one about nursing home IT use since 2004.



## Many Disabled Adults Aren't Screened for Colon Cancer

**Generated from MU Health press release**

WEDNESDAY, April 5, 2017 (HealthDay News) -- American adults with disabilities have lower colon cancer screening rates than other adults, a new study finds.

Researchers reviewed South Carolina Medicaid and Medicare claims, state health plan claims and hospital discharge data from 2000 to 2009.

About 48 percent of the general population reported having routine screenings, compared to 34 percent of those with intellectual disabilities; 44 percent of those with spinal cord injuries, and 46 percent of people with blindness or limited sight.

**"These individuals may not be routinely screened for colon cancer due to a lack of education and awareness, transportation challenges or other barriers," study author Chelsea Deroche said in a University of Missouri-Columbia news release. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Management and Informatics.**

"These findings support the need for increased awareness and targeted advocacy outreach efforts to both physicians and caregivers to ensure all individuals are screened appropriately," she added.

Colon cancer is fourth most common type of cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. Deroche noted that almost 60 percent of these deaths could be prevented if people would get routine screenings starting at age 50.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening 50- to 75-year-olds. There are three ways to check for colon cancer: fecal occult blood test every year; sigmoidoscopy every five years, plus a fecal occult blood test every three years; or colonoscopy every 10 years.

The earlier colon cancer is diagnosed, the better the chances of survival.

## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Greitens, Missouri lawmakers remain at odds over family leave

By Kurt Erickson St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 2 hrs ago

**JEFFERSON CITY** • A 45-minute closed-door meeting between Gov. Eric Greitens and Republican senators Wednesday appeared to do little to soothe tensions over his decision to offer paid family leave to state employees.

Greitens, a Republican, bypassed the GOP-controlled Legislature last month when he [issued an executive order giving family leave](#) to state employees working in the executive branch.

His office said he has the power to take such action.

But GOP senators are balking at the idea, saying the governor does not have the power to appropriate money. In the case of the maternal leave policy, costs are expected to be at least \$1.1 million.

In the wake of the governor's decision, senators announced last week they wanted to talk with Greitens before they move forward on confirming his picks to various boards, commissions and Cabinet posts.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, said Wednesday's meeting resulted in some progress. But he said Greitens will be visiting with members of the GOP caucus again.

"I think there is a realization that it takes all branches of government to work together," Richard said following the meeting.

Greitens described the meeting as a success.

“We just had a very productive meeting with the senators about what we can do to get more conservative legislation passed over the course of the rest of session,” Greitens said.

But Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph, said tensions remain in light of the executive order.

“It’s just kind of a standoff,” Schaaf said.

Schaaf said he believes the governor’s order is unconstitutional and should be rescinded.

“I think he’s wrong,” Schaaf said. “What if he had decided to give six months of maternity leave? Would that have been within his power?”

The squabble over maternity leave is not the first issue that has revealed fissures between the governor and Republicans in the Legislature’s upper chamber. Earlier in the session, the governor [lashed out at senators during a debate on legislative pay raises.](#)

“I’m very respectful of the governor and his position, but I think I am more respectful of the Constitution and the requirement of the separation of powers,” Schaaf said.

Richard said he hopes the meeting results in the block on appointments being lifted.

**Among the appointees in limbo are Darryl Chatman, Jeff Layman and Jamie Farmer as members of the University of Missouri Board of Curators; and Craig Frazier and Carol Silvey as members of the Missouri State University Board of Governors.**

“We’re pressing forward on gubernatorial appointments,” Richard said.

As for convincing Greitens to alter his approach to family leave, Richard would only say, “Too early to tell.”

## **Year-Round Pell Likely to Return**

### **NO MU MENTION**

*BY PAUL FAIN APRIL 6, 2017*

Many more college students soon may be able to use Pell Grants to pay for summer courses, with the likely return of so-called year-round Pell.

Republican leaders in the U.S. Congress and the Trump White House back the reinstatement of year-round Pell eligibility, according to a wide range of sources. However, increased spending on the grants, which experts have estimated at \$2 billion per year, likely would be offset by a cut of at least \$1.2 billion to Pell's current surplus of \$10.6 billion.

"Community college presidents have repeatedly explained to Congress why their students need the year-round Pell Grant now and not later," David Baime, senior vice president for government relations and policy analysis for the American Association of Community Colleges, said via email, "and from what they are hearing back, the message appears to be taking root. It is greatly encouraging that the support is bipartisan."

The Obama administration eliminated summer Pell eligibility with the backing of the Republican-led Congress in 2012, three years after its creation. The program cost about \$2 billion at its peak. (Overall Pell spending was \$28 billion in 2015-16, with roughly eight million students receiving the grant aid.)

The Obama White House cited budget pressure and questions about the program's effectiveness in making the cut. But experts have argued that the move was purely about money, as Pell's overall costs had ballooned rapidly as more students returned to college in the recession's wake - with a big bump in the number of students who used the grants to attend for-profit institutions. Obama subsequently proposed bringing back year-round Pell but got nowhere with the GOP-led Congress.

Pell spending has stabilized since it topped out at \$39 billion in 2011. And last month both Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan and Betsy DeVos, the secretary of education, expressed support for bringing back year-round Pell, which would mean students could take out a second grant in a single year after using the first one to pay for the fall and spring semesters.

***Story [continues.](#)***