



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

April 24, 2017

Provost announces new committee to analyze MU enrollment efforts

Story generated from a News Bureau press release: [Strategic Enrollment Management Committee to Help MU Officials Plan for Future](#)

A new committee at the University of Missouri will advise officials on enrollment planning.

MU Provost Garnett Stokes announced the creation of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee in a news release Friday.

The committee will review offerings to prospective students and work to strengthen MU's enrollment management, according to the release. The committee will develop institutional efforts and policy initiatives regarding enrollment. Members will review market research, marketing and communications, student recruitment plans, student success planning, student academic quality, tuition and financial models and student yield, retention and degree persistence.

“The plan from this committee will be the first of many formal, strategic opportunities to advance our enrollment efforts,” Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management and co-chair of the committee, said in the release. “This committee will help the university create a detailed assessment and strategic plan that will provide us with a clear and achievable road map to meet short-, mid- and long-term goals.”

The committee will consist of four faculty members, two staff members and two students. Sub committees will focus on market research, student recruitment, student success and marketing and communications.

Enrollment at the university declined in the current academic year, with MU seeing a decline of about 25 percent in incoming freshmen.



University of Missouri creates committee to review enrollment efforts

Story generated from a News Bureau press release: [Strategic Enrollment Management Committee to Help MU Officials Plan for Future](#)

By Taylor Petras

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri announced Friday the creation of a Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, designed to review and create an enrollment strategy for the future.

The announcement comes as MU faces a drop in enrollment and budget cuts from the state. Undergraduate enrollment dropped by 6.8 percent from the Fall 2015 to Fall 2016 semester.

The committee will be co-chaired by Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management, and Pat Okker, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science.

“This committee will help us create our strategy for the future in the years to come,” Morrice said. “We continue to expect high-quality, but fewer, first-time college students for the next year or two. We expect this committee to complete its work over the next 12 to 18 months.”

The new committee will review what is offered to prospective students and suggest strategies for strengthening MU’s ability to manage enrollment in the future.

“We will develop strategies to maximize student recruitment and student success efforts, generate good market research, and strengthen our institutional infrastructure,” Okker said. “The overarching goal is to ensure a thriving postsecondary ecosystem for future and current Tigers, as well as alumni. Additionally, this is an opportunity for us to evaluate the optimal class size for Mizzou, which is a subject that we have discussed informally for a long time.”

The committee will also be made up of faculty, staff and students.



[New committee seeks to increase enrollment at MU](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/new-committee-seeks-to-increase-enrollment-at-mu>

By Dallas Parker

COLUMBIA — Today the MU Provost announced the university will create a new committee on campus. The Strategic Enrollment Management Committee will focus on new ways to build a stronger student body at MU.

Currently, the university is experiencing a decline in out-of-state and international student enrollment.

In an email sent to MU students, faculty and staff, MU Provost Garnett Stokes explained many of the committee's objectives for the future.

The email mentioned prospective student interest is still thriving, and MU's retention rates have increased over the past few school years.

"The goal is to further increase retention and strengthen alternative student pipelines, such as our relationships with community colleges and transfer students," Stokes said.

Pelema Morrice, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, said the committee hopes to encourage a greater sense of community at MU.

"We're really excited that we'll have a pretty diverse group in terms of representation from constituencies across campus," Morrice said.

Subcommittees will review and improve a number of current strategies including ideas regarding student success planning, student academic quality and tuition and financial models.

As of now, the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee will consist of several students, faculty and staff members. Morrice will co-chair the committee alongside Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Science Patricia Okker.



Young Adults With Autism Need Help Managing Money: Study

By Robert Preidt, *HealthDay Reporter*

Generated from a News Bureau press release: [Money a Barrier to Independence for Young Adults with Autism](#)

FRIDAY, April 21, 2017 (HealthDay News) -- Lack of financial skills is a big pothole on the road to independence for many young adults with autism, a new study indicates.

University of Missouri researchers interviewed 16- to 25-year-olds with autism. Most participants saw the link between adulthood and such responsibilities as paying bills and filing taxes, but many were anxious about it.

"Participants agreed that independence required managing finances and all expressed frustration in their own abilities when it came to knowing how to handle and use money," said study leader Nancy Cheak-Zamora, an assistant professor in the School of Health Professions.

"According to the participants, the lack of financial skills has serious consequences on their ability to assume adult responsibilities," she said in a university news release.

The study shows the need to help young adults with autism improve their money knowledge, the researchers said.

"Despite the importance of financial autonomy and the increased independence that comes from understanding money, financial management and decision-making often are seen as outside the purview of professionals working with young people with autism," said study co-author Clark Peters. He's an associate professor at the university's School of Social Work.

Schools and independent living programs should emphasize financial literacy, Peters said.

Parents and caregivers can also help, according to the researchers. For example, they can bolster skills by having children with autism pay for items at stores and setting up bank accounts.

The researchers called on financial institutions to take steps to help customers with special needs, such as providing dedicated phone lines.

Autism affects more than 3 million people in the United States and diagnosis rates continue to rise.

The study was published recently in the *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.



MU opens large animal ambulatory facility

Generated from a News Bureau media advisory

By Megan Favignano

The University of Missouri’s Veterinary Health Center opened its new large animal ambulatory facility, a more than \$2 million dollar project that will provide more space for students gaining practical experience.

John Middleton, professor of food animal medicine and surgery, said the school wants to expand the large animal program and increase the number of veterinarians going into rural practices, an area facing a shortage of qualified personnel.

“It’s a difficult area to get people to move to,” he said. “There are a lot of initiatives both in human medicine and veterinary medicine ... to” incentivize “folks to work in those areas so essential medical and veterinary medical services are provided.”

University officials held a ribbon cutting and grand opening reception at the facility Friday. Middleton told attendees that when Clydesdale Hall, which houses the Veterinary Health Center, was built 25 years ago, a garage to house ambulatory vehicles was part of the plan.

“With funding shortages and everything else there has not been a garage for the ambulatory vehicles,” Middleton said.

The new facility includes seven offices for faculty, a community office for interns and a 50-seat classroom. The garage will house six vehicles.

“Most of these vehicles are used in the field and they carry medications, they carry various different types of supplies that are temperature sensitive. And so having them indoors allows us to regulate that a little bit better,” Middleton said.

He said the vehicles will be more readily available during inclement weather, rather than needing to be de-iced from sitting in the parking lot during the winter.

College of Veterinary Medicine spokeswoman Tracey Berry said the program has increased the number of students it accepts each year to 120. Middleton said the number of clinical faculty members and students in the veterinary medicine program has doubled since he started working at MU 16 years ago, with most of the enrollment increase occurring recently.

“Most of that doubling has taken place in the last five years,” he said.

The project’s budget was \$2.8 million and Middleton said the university is expecting to come in just under that mark. MU so far has spent \$2.5 million on the facility, but there are still some pending expenses for minor final touches, Middleton said.

The project’s funding came from the state legislature. In 2013, the university asked for funding for the large animal program and, since then, general operating dollars have been earmarked for it.

The building also includes storage space and, Middleton said, will be beneficial for biosecurity.

“We’re disconnecting what we do in the field from what we do in the hospital and that decreases the potential introduction of things from the outside to the inside and vice versa,” Middleton said.

Travis Inman, a graduate student who will be a veterinary student in the fall, said the new facility will be “beneficial to help attract students to the vet school.” He also mentioned the shortage of veterinary medical services in rural areas, which is one reason he was attracted to the program.



MU Vet College Open House teaches about more than just the school

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-vet-college-open-house-teaches-about-more-than-just-the-school>

By Chris Green

Generated from a News Bureau media advisory

COLUMBIA — Future veterinary students flocked to MU campus Saturday to learn about what the College of Veterinary Medicine has to offer.

But they're not the only ones the event entertained.

Families from across mid-Missouri and other parts of the country attended the event to learn about a variety of animals. Douglas Tindall, coordinator of student recruitment for the college, said the open house was catered to families.

"It is very family-oriented. That's who our target audience is," Tindall said. "We have to really appeal to the kids and try to get them as interested and engaged as possible."

For many of the attendants, young and old, the highlight of the day was a show by the Purina Pro Plan Performance Team, an athletic group of dogs from St. Louis that perform flying disc routines.

The open house also offered a petting zoo with miniature horses, baby goats, pigs and other farm animals. The attendants could walk from room to room in the school to pet and play with cats, dogs and rabbits from places like Boone County Animal Care and the Central Missouri Humane Society. There were even lizards and snakes provided by current students.

Some of the potential students in attendance were able to hear from a panel of current students and take tours of the school. With the number of students on the rise, Tindall said the college is becoming more attractive to people from outside mid-Missouri.

"We get people literally from across the country. I've seen people from Tennessee, Arkansas, a lot of the contiguous states," he said.

Tindall also said since Missouri is a highly agricultural state, many people who attend the school have a farm background.

While there were plenty of fun activities at the open house, Tindall said some of the main goals of the event — in addition to recruiting new students — were to educate the public and thank the college's sponsors.



MU is seeking dogs with cancer for research

Story generated from a News Bureau press release: [Promising New Drug Development Could Help Treat Cachexia](#)

By Felesha Lee

COLUMBIA — A team of veterinary oncologists at the MU Veterinary Health Center is looking for dogs with cancer to participate in a pilot study of a drug that will treat the body wasting that comes along with cancer treatment, called cachexia.

The drug will combat the weight loss and appetite loss that dogs experience while they are taking chemotherapy or radiation. According to the National Cancer Institute, cachexia is the cause of nearly one-third of cancer deaths.

The drug was developed by University of Missouri researchers and Tensive Controls, Inc. The pilot study will focus on making sure dogs who are going through cancer treatment also maintain a great quality of life. Sandra Bechtel is a veterinary oncologist and one of the researchers working on the study. She said keeping the dogs comfortable is a priority.

"We want them to feel good, which is not something we typically think about with cancer therapy," she said. "I think we have a good group of very complementary oncologists with different research interests, but with the same goal of not just curing cancer, but keeping the quality of life great while we do so."

If these studies are successful, MU and Tensive Controls will work to get the drug approved for use in humans as well. Bechtel said dogs and humans are alike, so some of the same treatments should work.

"Dogs are very similar to us," she said. "They live in very similar environments, they eat very similar food, they're exposed to the same things, and when they develop cancer, they develop cancer naturally just like we do."

The study is taking place at the MU Small Animal Hospital.



Former University Professor Suggests the NRA Is 'More Dangerous' Than ISIS

Watch the story: <http://insider.foxnews.com/2017/04/22/former-missouri-university-professor-george-kennedy-nra-more-dangerous-isis>

A former University of Missouri journalism professor is suggesting that [the National Rifle Association \(NRA\) is more dangerous than ISIS](#).

George Kennedy, former managing editor at the Columbia Missourian newspaper and professor emeritus at the university's prestigious journalism school, brought up the comparison in a column published Thursday by the Missourian.

"The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is a terrorist organization founded in 1999, headquartered in Syria and feared around the world. The NRA was founded in [1871], headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, and is feared by politicians across America," Kennedy wrote.

He continued: "What makes the Islamic State so feared is its willingness to kill in pursuit of its goal of creating a fundamentalist caliphate."

"What makes the NRA so feared is its willingness to spend heavily and campaign aggressively in pursuit of its goal of removing all restrictions on the possession and use of firearms just about anywhere by just about anyone."

Kennedy's column sparked outrage among Second Amendment advocates and gun owners. One of them, David Webb, joined "Fox & Friends Weekend" this morning to sound off.

MISSOURIAN

Request to name new MU residence hall after Lucile Bluford stalls

By Crystal Duan

COLUMBIA — For months, the MU Residence Halls Association has been pressing the University of Missouri System to name a new residence hall opening this fall, and the association's first choice is in honor of prominent black journalist Lucile Bluford.

RHA had assembled a list of names to send to the UM System Board of Curators for consideration in spring of last year, RHA president Matt Bourke said. The decision was featured on the consent agenda of the curators' meeting last July but taken off last minute. John Fougere, UM System spokesman, said Friday the board has not taken up the issue in open session.

The hall, which will be adjacent to Center, North and South residence halls, is scheduled to open this fall. The new hall will house 279 students and features community-style rooms and bathrooms, according to the MU Residential Life website.

The new hall may officially remain nameless for some time. Bourke said that residence halls North, Center, South, College Avenue all have temporary names that could be theoretically bought by donors, but the UM System doesn't need to approve the name if it does not believe it is necessary.

Bourke said he would personally like to see the hall named after Bluford, who was denied admission to MU's School of Journalism 11 times because of her race, according to historical documents.

Bluford was known for her ability to question the status quo while working in Kansas City as editor and publisher of the Kansas City Call for 70 years, according to her former coworker Donna Stewart.

Bluford's career, which spanned from the early 1930s until her death in 2003, was focused on covering the civil rights movements in Missouri and Kansas City. One of the institutions she went head-to-head with was MU, when she sued the university for denying her repeated enrollment in 1939.

The university admitted Bluford was qualified for enrollment but rejected her because of her race. Bluford lost her 1939 case, according to records from the State Historical Society of Missouri in previous Missourian reporting, but the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in her favor in

1941. In a letter to university officials, Bluford said MU's efforts to keep her outside its programs would not thwart her career.

In 1989, five decades after Bluford's first application, MU granted her an honorary doctorate degree in humanities, according to previous Missourian reporting. A document in her commencement materials read: "We are embarrassed now that you lost the battle at this university, but today we are proud to add you to our list of degree holders. At long last."

In 2016, former Gov. Jay Nixon signed a bill that established July 1, the journalist's birthday, as Lucile Bluford Day in Missouri.

Rep. Gail McCann Beatty, D-Kansas City, who sponsored the bill, said she believes Bluford deserves to have a hall named after her.

"I think the university recognized it was wrong (to deny Bluford admission)," she said of MU's decision to give Bluford an honorary doctorate. "(The name) would be a way of reconciling that (the denial of admission) should have never happened. And (the name would say) the university has moved past this."

"I worked with her for 25 years," Stewart said of Bluford. "Mizzou needs to learn diplomacy. UMKC just honored Ms. Bluford and several other women for their accomplishments ... because she was a Kansas Citian, but I don't think Mizzou has learned its lesson, as long as they keep this attitude that they don't have to honor black people. They need to do something that's memorable and lasting."

Bourke said he has initiated communication with the system multiple times since April and informally met with the curators during their February meeting.

"We've seen no movement on the name," he said.

If the curators decide to not name the residence hall after Bluford, Bourke said other options are viable.

RHA has also created a list of alternative options. The others are Grace C. Bibb, who was the first female dean of the College of Education, then known as the Normal School, which was the first MU school to admit women; Carrie Francke, the first female MU student body president, former curator and assistant attorney general; Martha Griffiths, an MU-educated congresswoman who championed women's protections under the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Rights Amendment; and Horace Williams, who was a slave and who served at MU for over 60 years.

Half of Williams' years working at MU were as a slave who served various school officials, such as professor William Shields and university presidents John Lathrop and Samuel Laws, according to historical documents provided by Columbia activist group Race Matters, Friends president Traci Wilson-Kleekamp.

After Williams was freed, he worked as a janitor at MU until his death in 1912.

"We found (Williams) could be incredibly apt because (the new dorm) will be adjacent to where Laws Hall once stood," Bourke said.

Wilson-Kleekamp believes the university should be actively considerate of promoting legacies.

"We see examples of universities all over the country that are taking a step forward," she said. "It's time for MU to come out of the shadows and say, not only did our campus benefit from slaves, we need to honor those people who were trailblazers who stood for the right thing even when MU didn't."



THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

[Push to name new Missouri dorm for Bluford stalls](#)

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) _ A dormitory association at the University of Missouri is pushing that a new residence hall on campus be named after a prominent late black journalist once denied admission there.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the campus Residence Halls Association has included Lucile Bluford's name among a list of potential ones for the 279-student dorm. But the university's governing board hasn't decided the matter and doesn't need to if it feels it's unnecessary.

Bluford was denied admission to the university's journalism school 11 times because of her race. In 1989, five decades after Bluford's first application, the university granted her an honorary doctorate degree in humanities.

She spent decades as a reporter, editor and publisher at the Kansas City Call newspaper before her death in 2003.



Chamber of Commerce evaluates success, unfinished work at state Capitol

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/chamber-of-commerce-evaluates-success-unfinished-work-at-state-capitol/458245845>

By Sara Maslar-Donar

COLUMBIA, Mo. - As the legislative session comes to a close in the next few weeks, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce is starting to evaluate what it's been able to accomplish in the past several months.

In the fall, the chamber laid out a list of state priorities it would like to focus on for the session.

Many of those priorities highlighted securing funding for several University of Missouri projects. But according to Governmental Affairs Committee member Jerry Dowell, who travels to the Capitol weekly to talk with legislators, those projects will be among the chamber's unfinished business this session.

"In a tough budget year, you maybe miss out on some funding," he said.

Dowell said he anticipates the cuts ending up at about 7 or 8 percent across the board for higher education, but despite the cuts, the chamber will most likely continue to educate legislators about the University of Missouri's economic importance to Columbia.

"They'll always be at the top of the list," he said.

But the chamber was able to secure \$5 million in funding for the Columbia Regional Airport's terminal project. Now that legislators will be finalizing that budget in the next few weeks, Dowell said it's crucial for chamber leaders to make sure the funding stays there.

"If you're not front and center all the time and continually reminding people how important your project is, you're going to be forgotten," he said.

Dowell said the local delegation has worked across party lines to help educate about and fund some of the chamber's priorities. He said local leaders are also working together better than they have in a while and it has allowed them to present a more unified front with one voice in

Jefferson City.

"I think it's been helpful with some of the turnover that's happened," he said. "That kind of changes the dynamic a little bit."

Chamber leaders are also working on allowing Columbia Public Schools and the city of Columbia to talk about pooling transportation resources because CPS could see cuts to transportation after the budget is finalized.

"If we could provide a solution that doesn't cost any more money and actually save the school district money, it's something we should look at," he said.

Dowell said he is disappointed that more progress wasn't made in the realm of transportation in general, but he said they will wait and see what the Trump administration plans to do about it on a federal level.

"We want to prepare ourselves to be able to receive federal funding when it comes through," he said. "Let's check every box that we can to make sure we're part of that funding stream."



Columbia company expanding, plans to create local jobs

By Lexi Larson

COLUMBIA - Nanova Inc. secured \$10 million in investments in 2016 and plans to use the money to continue innovating and to add jobs in Columbia.

Nanova works in developing medical and dental devices, environmental products and pharmaceutical therapies.

The company was started in 2007 by a University of Missouri Engineering Professor Hao Li, along with another faculty member and two other researchers.

"I've been always thinking to make something useful for the society when I was a graduate student, and then after I came to Columbia, I met a few more people who share the same vision with me," Li said. "So basically we wanted to team up to make something useful to the people's health."

Nanova currently has surgical, dental and orthopedic devices that are cleared by the FDA for clinical use. Some products include a whitening gel, a dental fluoride varnish and a universal dental composite.

Nanova Director of Regulatory Affairs Andrew Ritts said he thinks Nanova has been successful in gaining investments because of its smart business practices.

"It's a mixture of having the right people and also taking the right types of risks when it comes to running a successful business," Ritts said. "You need to always take some sort of a risk, but you need to make sure that the risks that you're taking are reasonable and are going to be worthwhile."

Ritts said the investments are going toward research and development, FDA approval and marketing.

Nanova currently employs over 40 people, and plans to add around 20 more positions in 2017.

"We are expecting to have more revenue and probably the additional investments also helps," Li said. "So basically we needed more people to work on manufacturing and marketing and sales."

The University of Missouri also benefits from Nanova expanding.

MU gets a cut of any profit a professor makes through inventions created during university research.

Wayne McDaniel is the associate director of the Office of Technology Management and Industry Relations at MU, which handles all faculty inventions.

"Our office, just the Columbia campus, in the last fiscal year brought in about \$14.5 million in royalties, and that money gets split between the system, the campus, the department and the inventors," McDaniel said.

McDaniel said inventions and companies created by MU professors benefit the community.

"Almost \$5 million was paid back to inventors as bonus, and the other two thirds of that money gets reinvested in protecting the next generation of intellectual properties," McDaniel said. "So it definitely benefits the university, and then the jobs in Columbia benefit the community as well."

McDaniel said Nanova has not brought in too much revenue yet because it is fairly new, however he fully expects the company to be very profitable within the near future.

I think they're going to be very successful, I think that they have innovative products, they continue to expand their product line," McDaniel said.

Ritts said he sees the company expanding even more in the future.

"I know we're always working on new projects, new ideas," Ritts said. "Once we get one company up and running and manufacturing and selling, we're going to move on to focus our time on another set of products."



Environmental advocates march in support of science

By Brittany Reuss

Local researchers, professors and medical professionals came together with science and environmental enthusiasts on Saturday to promote the role science plays in everyday life and protest against the policies of the Trump administration.

Hundreds of people participating in the Mid-Missouri March for Science on Saturday, which also was Earth Day, rallied at the Boone County Courthouse Plaza before temporarily closing down Eighth Street in downtown Columbia to march. They held up signs that read "There is no Planet B," "Science, not silence" and "There are no alternative facts to global warming." Thousands of scientists and supporters also marched in similar rallies in more than 600 cities around the world Saturday.

Individual motivations for marching ranged, but were all rooted in science. Speakers focused on public funding for research, climate change, medical advancements and science education in public schools.

Speakers also raised concerns over the University of Missouri System's budget crunch and how that would affect research funding. The Columbia campus faces a possible shortfall of \$50 million or more as lawmakers look to cut higher education funding and MU experiences an enrollment drop.

Nathan White, a doctoral student in the MU nuclear engineering program, said he's worried about the state of scientific research at the university after budget cuts are imposed.

"I feel like a lot of the scientific research at Mizzou really provides growth for the state and as well as pushing the frontiers of knowledge to help people, like medicine and engineering," he said.

Matt McCune, an organizer of the event, said the rally and march was intended to engage people in the community who are against regulations that would harm the Earth and give them the resources to contact their lawmakers.

"Talking to ourselves isn't going to change anything," he said.

McCune, an MU researcher and doctoral student in the physics program, said the Trump administration is trying to muzzle scientists by requiring that their research go through a "political review" even before findings are presented to Congress.

"The fact is that they do research, it's peer reviewed, they shouldn't have to talk to anybody about that," he said. "They shouldn't have to go through a political process to get that done."

Susan Nagel, an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women's health at the MU School of Medicine, said environmental and public health should not be considered partisan topics. She was one of the University of Missouri researchers who discovered several years ago that water near hydraulic fracturing drilling, or fracking, sites contained a greater amount of endocrine-disrupting chemicals than water near areas without drilling.

Endocrine disruptors affect hormones and have been linked to cancer, birth defects and infertility.

"We base our decisions on rigorous testing and not on whim, not on personal preferences, and we need to request from our lawmakers that they do the same," she said.

The majority of Noel Bartlow's research on earthquakes is publicly funded, she said. Earthquakes cannot be predicted currently, but Bartlow, a geology professor at MU, is working to better predict when the next earthquake will occur and the extent of the damage.

She said research should inform public policy and the research she is conducting can be used for disaster planning, but her funding sources — the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Geological Survey — are facing cuts.

"I'm not the only person working on that problem, obviously, but I just want to emphasize that in earthquake science, what we're doing has real consequences, real effects on people and almost all of it is publicly funded," she said.

The march ended at Peace Park on the University of Missouri campus, where participants could register to vote. Chris Dade, an event organizer and MU chemistry student, said electing

politicians at the local, state and federal level who will support research funding and policies backed by evidence is essential in combating the threats against science and the environment.

“The future of science in America is being gutted,” he said. “If we do nothing about it, if we don’t show up to the polls and vote for people who support evidence-based policymaking, this will only get worse.”



Earth Day festival brings thousands to Peace Park

By Alan Burdziak

Pulling off Columbia’s annual Earth Day celebration, held Sunday at Peace Park and adjacent downtown streets, is no small feat.

Between the festival and help from the city, 175 volunteers helped put the event together, said Laura Wacker, coordinator for the Columbia Area Earth Day Festival. There were 215 vendor booths, featuring myriad groups and businesses, including solar power groups, activists and political groups, local retailers, restaurants and florists.

The different vendors, especially ones with clean-energy or environmental causes, Wacker said, are “our really sneaky selling point to get the word out about what needs to get done about climate change, what needs to be done about just protecting our resources so that we can have future generations living here. That’s not something that’s on the forefront of people’s minds all the time.”

Wacker estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 people would pass through the celebration over its seven-hour run Sunday.

“The thing about Earth Day is it’s famous. It gets a lot of people out here and enjoying the day, celebrating the Earth,” she said.

Paul Hemmel, owner of Missouri Solar Solutions, said Columbia residents have been receptive to renewable energy in the seven years since he founded his business. Having a booth at Earth Day made perfect sense for a company like his.

“We do good things for the Earth every day,” he said. “Kind of look at it as saving the world one rooftop at a time.”

University of Missouri student groups had several spots at the event, including the Mizzou Energy Action Coalition, which presses the UM System to divest from its stocks in fossil fuels. Mason Brobeck, a member of the coalition, said the group formed three years ago after some students learned that UM invested in fossil fuels.

“We’re trying to continue to get the word out,” Brobeck, 21, said. “Everyone we talk to doesn’t really understand why a public university puts our money into companies that are destroying the environment.”

Fifteen-year-old Rock Bridge High School student Kanchan Hans said this was the first time she’d come to the festival, but when she recently heard about it, she knew she wanted to volunteer to help in any way she could.

“I think it’s really cool there are so many people that also feel strongly about Earth Day and helping,” she said.

Courtney Morrison, a 20-year-old environmental science major at MU, said she came with her friend Austin Corwin because she wanted to learn about what sustainable living products or practices would be on display. The large crowd, she said, showed it is successful in getting people to care about the planet.

“It’s just bringing a lot of awareness to Columbia,” Morrison said.



MU statistics competition could help students find jobs

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-statistics-competition-could-help-students-find-jobs>

By Joey Schneider

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri became one of more than 30 U.S. institutions to host a DataFest competition since 2015 on Friday.

DataFest is a national event that allows students to gain hands-on experience in crunching information from studies and data sources. The event originated in 2011 at UCLA and had more than 500 contestants involved nationally last year.

“In a real-life applications of statistics, one of the challenging things about these large data sets is dealing with data sets that are massive and have complex information,” Erin Schliep, assistant professor in the MU department of statistics, said. “This is an important opportunity for students to get involved with real-world data sets in a relaxed atmosphere.”

Eighteen MU students are participating in the university’s first DataFest competition. This year’s competition focuses on a data set with 10 million observations.

Participants will analyze data with the help of seven graduate students and create presentations for a panel of judges within 24 hours of receiving the data. John Snyder, MU graduate student coordinator for DataFest, said he enjoys the experience of working with undergraduates.

“You see many of these undergraduates in halls. You see them in classes sometimes, and it’s really terrific to be able to work with them in an informal way and interactively to teach them about some of the methodologies that they may not be exposed to as an undergraduate.” Snyder said.

Tradebot Systems was one of five sponsors who helped with funding of the \$3,500 event. The Albert Winemiller Excellence Fund, MU Department of Statistics, American Statistics Association and Google also contributed to the Fest.

Tradebot already hired one upcoming graduate in the competition earlier in the year and may hire up to three more, according to Schliep.

“The kind of tools we expose them to are advanced tools that they would not have really seen in any other context,” Snyder said. “Knowing how to implement them on a real data set are things that can really make the difference between getting a job and not getting a job.”

Schliep said this event is significant for enrollment in MU statistics and actuarial science programs that she thinks will grow in upcoming years.

“We have had a rapidly growing department of undergraduate students, both in majors and minors,” Schliep said. “We knew that getting them involved in some actual real data analysis would be important part of their time here at Mizzou.”

The competition continues Saturday and ends at 6 p.m. Judges will select winning presentations for best in show, best visualization and best use of external data.



The war on young men at US colleges needs to end — now

By Karol Markowicz

The largely hallucinatory “war on women” has nothing on the very real war on college boys.

A few recent stories highlight just how unfair and unjust an environment US campuses have become for young men — and the necessity of federal intervention to fix the damage previous federal intervention has done.

Take Thomas Klocke, a University of Texas at Arlington student accused of making anti-gay comments to a classmate. Klocke vehemently denied the charges and said his classmate had hit on him and Klocke angered him by rebuffing his advances.

According to Reason magazine, “Klocke received no hearing, even though the university’s Title IX policy explicitly mandates hearings for students in danger of being expelled. He was simply charged with making physical threats against a student and engaging in harassment, in violation of Title IX.”

A school “academic integrity” official “conceded that there wasn’t enough evidence against Klocke.” No problem: “Administrators found him responsible for harassment anyway and placed him on disciplinary probation.”

Klocke killed himself a few days later.

This month, the case of John Doe and Jane Roe, both University of California, San Diego, students, wound its way up to the California Court of Appeal, three years after Jane first accused John of sexual misconduct. The disciplinary proceedings at their campus weighed heavily in Jane’s favor. John wasn’t allowed to ask questions of his accuser or read statements other people had made in support of her accusations.

According to Politico’s Laura Bazelon, “Many campuses do not allow lawyers to advocate or even to be present in sexual assault proceedings. Nearly all prohibit the accused from directly questioning their accusers.” But the UCSD disciplinary-panel chairwoman refused to even pose many of John’s questions he was permitted to ask indirectly.

There’s pressure on the Trump administration to reverse some of the regulations that lead to this kind of insanity.

Stuart Taylor, coauthor of the book “The Campus Rape Frenzy: The Attack on Due Process at America’s Universities,” writes in The Wall Street Journal that the administration can get rid of some of the more egregious rules by overturning a “2011 command by the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights, and subsequent orders, forcing thousands of schools to take an aggressive role in the investigation and punishment of alleged sex crimes on college campuses.”

Under that command, Taylor says, schools had to comply with witch hunts, whether they wanted to or not. “Under threat of losing federal funds, almost all schools have willingly complied with a procedural regime that effectively presumes the guilt of every accused student, 99 percent of whom are male.”

The dismissive logic of “they’re boys, they’ll grow up to be men and run the world, we don’t need to protect them” never made any sense. But in 2017 that’s especially so. Women continue to dominate, in school and at work, while men fall behind. A report released a few days ago by the Census Bureau showed that millennial women are driving the current growth in the 25-to-34-year-old workforce. The report notes, “More young men are falling to the bottom of the income ladder.”

It’s not that we don’t need to protect women anymore, or take sexual assault seriously. It’s that men need our protection, too.

It’s hard to overlook that some of the splashiest rape cases of the last few years, from the Duke lacrosse accusations to the Rolling Stone UVA story, have turned out to be false. Yet apologies to the men in these stories, or to men in general for the idea that they’re promoting a “rape culture,” aren’t forthcoming.

We would never stand for an unjust system, like the one created by the Obama Department of Education’s interpretations of Title IX, if it shattered the lives of women as it currently does to men.

If the Trump administration does overturn the Obama-era policies, colleges will have more leeway in how they handle campus sexual harassment and assault cases. It might be that campus disciplinary proceedings will persist in being secretive and unfair. But then students will know, as will their parents, which schools can willfully destroy the lives of their boys.

Schools like the University of Missouri have seen a drop in applicants after letting protests rage out of control, and it’s not crazy to wonder if schools that prosecute male students with minimal evidence or defense can suffer similar consequences.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In the DeVos Era, New Higher-Ed Policy Could Come From the Senate

NO MU MENTION

BY ADAM HARRIS April 24, 2017

Recent moves by the Education Department have raised the alarms of students, advocates, and reformers alike. But the executive branch is not the only place where policy is set. In recent years, the U.S. Senate has taken the lead on policies that have left a sharp imprint on higher education. So what will legislators be able to accomplish on higher ed this Congress?

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions has, over the last several years, successfully advanced a fair amount of bipartisan legislation. But several early disputes may strain that bipartisanship, weakening the chances of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act. The most recent act, which is the major piece of legislation governing federal policy on postsecondary education, was set to expire in 2013, but was extended through last year to allow legislators more time to work on an updated version.

While legislators on both sides of the aisle share some broadly defined goals for higher education this year, including streamlining the process for students to go to college, and for repaying loans after they graduate, the nuts and bolts of those proposals are less certain.

Democrats have sensed a shift in the Education Department under the new secretary, Betsy DeVos. Some of her early actions that have drawn Democrats' ire include the withdrawal of Obama-era memoranda on student-loan servicing, and a delay in enforcing the gainful-employment rule. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, has said Ms. DeVos has made it clear that she "stands with companies that cheat and squeeze borrowers," as opposed to students.

"I have great respect for Patty Murray and look forward to working with her on higher education this year."

Angry Democrats have sent a slew of letters to Ms. DeVos regarding those moves, but there has been relative radio silence from the Education Department in response. The department has, however, granted a bipartisan request for a briefing on the outage of the Internal Revenue Service's data-retrieval tool, which, when it works, makes it easier to fill out the Federal Application for Student Aid.

A spokesman for the Education Department, who talked to The Chronicle on the condition of anonymity because he was not yet authorized to speak on the record, suggested the complaints about the department's lack of response to letters could be politically motivated. "The department is responding to letters," the spokesman said. The reason for the perceived delay, he added, was to allow the department to ensure that its responses were "accurate and fair."

Some lawmakers, however, remain hopeful that, even in a tense Washington landscape, the committee can be a driving force to push major legislation through. Others fear that is a long shot.

Story [continues.](#)



A Focus on Funding

Researchers, academics say communicating about importance of federal funding key to march success.

NO MU MENTION

BY ANDREW KREIGHBAUM APRIL 24, 2017

Organizers of the March for Science said that the event in Washington, D.C., and the satellite marches across the country this weekend were just the beginning of a movement to champion science.

Those statements would seem to caution against early assessments of the march's success or failure. Key supporters of the event and participants who trekked to the march in D.C. said the goals of the event went far beyond any immediate effects on policy and included communicating with the public about the state of federally funded research and energizing scientists about advocating for their field.

Others were concerned with pushing understanding by the public and Congress of the importance of science in shaping federal policy.

About 15,000 came out for pre-march events including teach-ins and speeches on the Washington Mall, Reuters reported -- firm estimates for the full march crowd had not yet been released -- while crowds attended hundreds of satellite marches elsewhere in the country. About 40,000 walked Columbus Drive in the Chicago event, according to *The Chicago Tribune*. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that thousands showed up for the march that went from Pershing Square to City Hall in L.A.

Fred Lawrence, secretary of the academic honor society Phi Beta Kappa, said the March for Science was “a watershed moment in American cultural and social history.” He said the participation of so many scientists in the demonstrations has helped make clear to members of the public that they themselves have a stake in policy decisions like funding of the National

Story [continues.](#)