Students, faculty react to new MU chancellor: 'It brings back stability to Mizzou'

By Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=2e83f6af-ba4d-41e8-918d-3ff95d61278d

Students and faculty at Mizzou are weighing in on the new MU chancellor, cautiously expressing their optimism now that the position is finally filled.

Dr. Alexander Cartwright was formally announced last week as the next MU chancellor. He comes from the State University System of New York. He will officially start his job Aug. 1.

“We’ve had a lot of time that’s gone by without a chancellor so it’s good to have stability,” Nathan Willet, Missouri Students Association president and incoming senior at Mizzou, told ABC 17 News.

Cartwright is the first person to permanently fill the position since former chancellor Bowen Loftin resigned in 2015 amid protests on campus. Cartwright comes to Columbia at a challenging time, as unprecedented budget cuts, decreased enrollment and low morale continue to plague the university's flagship campus.

“We’ve made a lot of choices to not make choices at this university for a long time. Difficult decisions have been put off. And he can’t just come in and make those decisions but he can come in and, like Mun Choi, say ‘The days of not making these decisions are over. Let’s get together. Let’s be smart. Let’s talk to each other and let’s make these choices even though they are going to be hard,” professor Ben Trachtenberg told ABC 17 News.

Faculty and students are encouraged by Cartwright's diverse background. A native of the Bahamas, Cartwright is familiar with both racial and educational diversity.

“I think, for him, diversity is not something that you're supposed to do because someone told you to, but it’s something that comes out of his own real life. He talked about how he was the one
person at his school who was white in the entire school. So that’s a different view of diversity than most white people that I know have experienced," Trachtenberg said. “Separate from race, he can talk about going to community college after getting a GED and then working his way up to a Ph.D. I think the GED to Ph.D. story really talks a lot about what universities like ours are supposed be for."

Cartwright previously served as provost and executive vice chancellor at the State University of New York (SUNY), which is no stranger to dealing with a challenging budget.

"While our relationship at Mizzou and UM with the Legislature is complicated, it’s not uncomplicated in New York at all," Trachtenberg said.

During last week's chancellor announcement, Cartwright told the crowd he's more than up for the challenge.

"As a public land-grant institution, Mizzou has a huge responsibility to deliver to the state of Missouri and its citizens. I am ready to uphold that very important task," Cartwright said.

Mun Choi to address MU budget plan on Friday

By Madi Skahill

COLUMBIA — Members of the MU community have been invited to attend a budget address by UM System President Mun Choi at 1 p.m. Friday in Stotler Lounge at Memorial Union.

Choi will share "key rescissions as well as strategic investments for the short term" at the address, according to an emailed invitation sent Tuesday. He said he will also share plans for streamlining the university's operation to "support teaching, research and outreach."

MU is facing approximately $60 million in budget cuts for fiscal year 2018, according to a memo from UM Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes. Stokes said the university has identified $40.6 million in recurring costs and $18.9 million in one-time costs to be cut.
The proposed budget plan calls for 12 percent cuts from each division within the university, according to previous Missourian reporting. The proposed plan would also eliminate around 328 jobs.

"The budget actions for fiscal year 2018 will be finalized at the time of Choi’s address," MU spokesperson John Fougere said in an email. The long-term plan for the university budget is still being developed, Fougere said.

Choi has encouraged all members of the MU community to stay involved in the budget process by reaching out to campus leaders.

A livestream link for the address will be available on the MU budget planning website.

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Missourian

At Logboat Brewing event, Angela Speck gives sneak peek into eclipse

By Molly Nagel

COLUMBIA — The shadow of the upcoming eclipse looms large in Columbia, and locals recently had a chance to learn more about the extremely rare event.

Angela Speck, a professor and the director of astronomy in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at MU, gave a presentation on the upcoming eclipse at Logboat Brewing Co. on Tuesday evening.

Speck, wearing a skirt with lights sewn inside that gave off the impression of stars, explained the science behind a total solar eclipse to around a crowd of around 60.

The eclipse, which will occur Aug. 21 from about 1:05 to 1:20 p.m., is the first total solar eclipse to be seen in Columbia since 1869. Columbia will be one of the largest cities falling completely in the enormous path of the eclipse, which will cross 12 states. Kansas City and St. Louis are both only partially in the path.

Columbia's relatively large size and direct position in the eclipse's path has led to a boom in hotel reservations. A year in advance of the event, Stony Creek Hotel and Conference Center had
already booked around half of their rooms, and, in total, 65 percent of all hotel rooms in town had been booked.

Speck said the rare event is only possible during a new moon due to the amount of the sun's path the large moon can cover. If the moon was in any other phase, the eclipse would hardly be noticeable.

She said eclipses are common, but are rarely noticeable by humans.

"You see, from the planet's perspective, it's not an uncommon event, exactly. It's just that the path is never really visible from where we are," said Speck, pointing at the paths of past eclipses.

Speck said the horizon will resemble the colors of twilight, and overall the sky will be about as bright as a night with a full moon. Because the sky will be dark during daylight hours, stars beyond the sun will also be present, leading to some astronomical anomalies.

"Normally in August, you don't get to see the constellation Leo, which is really quite exciting," Speck said. Other visible stars and constellations will include Regulus, Sirius, Orion and Virgo, she said.

Beyond the visible differences, the temperature in the eclipse's path will drop by about 10 degrees Fahrenheit, and animals and plants will react as though it is night time. Speck said plants will close, birds will go crazy and cows will go inside their barns.

"It'll be quite a lot to take in, so be sure to be completely present," Speck said.
Greitens signs bill scrapping union requirements with Wisconsin governor looking on

BY JASON HANCOCK
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JEFFERSON CITY - Gov. Eric Greitens on Tuesday signed legislation banning local governments from giving preferential treatment to union contractors on public construction projects. And sharing the stage with him when he signed it was Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

Walker, who was in St. Louis for a fundraiser as chairman of the Republican Governors Association, rose to national prominence after a series of fights with labor unions in Wisconsin and surviving a recall attempt in 2012. He was seen as a strong candidate for president in 2016, but he faded quickly in the crowded Republican field and dropped out months before states began holding primaries.

Greitens is widely considered to be eying a possible run for president one day, and Walker’s presence in St. Louis has rekindled chatter among Missouri politicos that he’s already begun courting an audience beyond Missouri.

“‘I don’t think there’s any other way you can sort of characterize this,’” said Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri. “‘And I think that again it speaks to the governor’s potential ambitions.’”

Squire called Greitens’ decision to bring in a governor from another state “very unusual” and said it probably has more to do with “marketing than governing.”

But Greitens, who promised during last year’s campaign to fight for much tougher regulations of labor unions, said in a prepared statement that he signed the legislation because so-called project labor agreements “decrease competition and drive up the costs of construction for the taxpayer.”

“Our top priority is more jobs for the people,” Greitens said. “We’re eliminating this sweetheart deal for special interests, protecting taxpayers, and creating more opportunity for all workers in Missouri.”
Missouri counties, cities and other local governments currently have the option to issue bid requirements mandating union working conditions for contractors if the projects are less than half funded by the state. The Republican-led General Assembly passed legislation earlier this year that would ban the practice, and any government that violates the law would lose state funding and tax credits for two years.

“This is a pro-taxpayer bill,” said state Rep. Rob Vescovo, a Jefferson County Republican who sponsored the bill. “It is not an anti-union bill.”

Sen. Bob Onder, a St. Charles County Republican who also sponsored the bill, said its implementation will end “waste and unjustified discrimination while using the free market to save taxpayer dollars.”

This marks the second major labor regulation Greitens has signed into law this year. In February, less than a month after taking the oath of office, Greitens signed a right-to-work bill into law. The bill, which Missouri Republicans had sought for decades, allows employees in unionized workplaces to opt out of paying unions for the cost of being represented.

Democrats and labor unions decried the legislation, saying it will lead to low-quality workmanship on local projects and lower wages for workers.

“Stripping union workers of the ability to negotiate for fair wages and provide a decent living for their families won’t create a single job or strengthen Missouri’s economy,” said House Minority Leader Gail McCann Beatty, a Kansas City Democrat. “To the contrary, the governor’s action today makes life much harder for thousands of Missouri families.”

Stephen Webber, chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party, said Walker’s invitation to the bill signing “only serves to show that Greitens is attacking local workers in order to impress big money and corporate donors from around the country.”

Sen. Jake Hummel, a St. Louis Democrat and secretary-treasurer of the Missouri AFL-CIO, said Greitens has appeared to be “running for higher office from the moment he was sworn in as governor. I just wish he’d focus on Missouri instead of his next campaign.”

Greitens ran as a political outsider who vowed to take on “corrupt career politicians” in the Missouri Capitol. But he’s long eyed a life in politics, dating back to 2009 when he reserved EricGreitensForPresident.com and numerous other political website domains.

In 2010, he was courted by Democrats to run for an open seat for Congress, an offer he said he never truly considered. And according “Charlie Mike,” a book by Joe Klein that prominently featured Greitens, he began showing interest in a run for governor in 2012, asking the board of directors of the charity he founded to take a leave of absence in order to explore the idea.
He finally threw his hat in the ring when he joined the race for Missouri governor in 2015. He established himself as a formidable national fundraiser, pulling in huge checks for his campaign from donors all over the country.

Greitens’ top campaign strategist last year was Nick Ayers, a California-based consultant who is also a close adviser to Vice President Mike Pence. Austin Chambers, Ayers’ protege, is Greitens’ senior adviser and is running his controversial political nonprofit.

The governor has also made several trips to Washington, D.C., since taking office, ranging from one-on-one visits with members of President Donald Trump’s administration to attending the ritzy Alfalfa Club Dinner, an event described by The Washington Post as a gathering of “some of the richest and most powerful people in the world.”

*The Star’s Bryan Lowry contributed to this report.*

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**KMBC-TV9**

**Mumps Outbreak Hits Colleges Across the Midwest**

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=100a032f-bab0-4af8-9c53-7a8893f24d2](http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=100a032f-bab0-4af8-9c53-7a8893f24d2)
The University of California will no longer pick up the tab for dinners and parties thrown by the university’s Board of Regents, the San Francisco Chronicle reports. The change in policy came hours after a report that the university had reimbursed regents to the tune of more than $225,000 for such events since 2012.

The regents threw parties and dinners at lavish hotels, the report said, and some of them were “poorly timed.” A recent event, which cost $270 a person on May 17, was held immediately after students shut down a board meeting in a protest against a tuition increase and revelations that the president’s office had been maintaining a secret fund. The newspaper’s report led to near-immediate outcry from all directions.

Richard Blum, a former chair of the Board of Regents, told the San Francisco Chronicle that he had recommended the change in policy to Janet Napolitano, president of the university system. “I said, ‘Janet, it’s not worth the aggravation. Let’s have the regents pay for their own dinners,’” he said.

Ms. Napolitano and Monica Lozano, chair of the Board of Regents, announced the change in a statement on Sunday night. “Up to now, board dinners have been paid for with monies from the Searles Fund, a private endowment that the donor designated for university business costs not covered by state or tuition funds,” they wrote. “However, to avoid any question over use of university or university-associated funds, regents will absorb their costs for board dinners from this point forward.”