Choi to promote use of free online course materials

By Gabriela Velasquez

COLUMBIA — Early this spring, Taylor Tutin sat at a table in the MU Student Center representing the Missouri Students Association and asked MU students to write on a whiteboard how much they had spent on a book for a class.

"We had all the way up to $600 for a single textbook," she said.

UM System President Mun Choi, as part of a larger effort to make higher education more affordable, is scheduled to announce at 1 p.m. Wednesday a system-wide initiative on open educational resources. Representatives from bookstores, faculty and student governments will be present when he makes his remarks at the MU Student Center.

Open educational resources are published with open access copyrights, are free for students and can be distributed and used for little to no cost. Instructors also can write and add chapters to tailor textbooks to specific courses. They are accessed online, usually as PDFs, and can be revised and updated fairly quickly.

An interest group sponsored by MU Libraries conducted a survey this spring on 609 students and 245 instructors about their awareness of open educational resources and textbook costs. They found that:

- 60.9 percent of students surveyed did not buy a required textbook, and 75.1 percent chose to delay buying one.
- Faculty and instructors often underestimated how many students delayed or refrained from buying required textbooks.
- 86.3 percent of faculty valued open educational resources' ability to lower educational costs, and 59.6 percent valued them as supplementary material.

Tutin, who is the academic affairs chair for MSA, served on the interest group. She said the 10- to 15-year goal for open educational resources at MU is to have "15 percent of classes using an open educational resource" as textbooks, supplementary resources or both. Supplementary materials are anything required for a class that is not a textbook.

Tutin said that open educational resources would probably be more common in general education than in advanced courses.
"It's not likely that every class on campus will be able to use an open educational resource," she said.

Open educational resources usually rely on peer review processes to ensure quality, but that quality isn't always guaranteed. MU Interim Chancellor and Provost Garnett Stokes in a campus email Tuesday referred people to a Goucher College website for more information. It said that many open educational resource repositories "allow any user to create an account and post material, (so) some resources may not be relevant and/or accurate."

The most well-known open educational resource program is OpenStax, a nonprofit initiative at Rice University funded in part by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It contains almost 40 peer-edited textbooks available for free in a variety of subjects, ranging from college algebra to physics to history.

The University of Connecticut implemented an open educational resource policy while Choi served as provost there. When schools adopt open educational resource initiatives, instructors are given incentives to use them. That's necessary because instructors don't profit from open-source books. At UConn, instructors are offered $1,000 for transitioning to open source materials and $250 for reviewing open books related to their courses.

UM System to announce initiative to reduce cost of attendance


By Evan Lachnit

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri System is set to make an announcement Wednesday on a plan to help reduce the cost of attendance.

President Mun Choi will be in Columbia to make the announcement.
In a press release, the UM System said the initiative is also expected to "enhance learning for students".

"It is important that we are constantly looking for ways to either decrease the cost or at the very minimum make sure that costs don't rise for students," said MU News Bureau Director Christian Basi.

Basi said the initiative "will be spread across all four campuses related to helping students keep yet one other cost associated with college at a minimal level."

He went on to say this will immediately save students "quite a bit of money".

Basi would not say what the initiative involves at this time.

"Really what we are looking for here is to address affordability because it is a barrier that no matter what the enrollment level is at the university, financial challenges hit across students that are already here and students that are looking to come here," Basi said.

President Choi is scheduled to make the announcement Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. on the first floor of The Mizzou Store in the MU Student Center. The event is open to the public.

**MU wins round in lawsuit with professor**

By Rudi Keller

*The Missouri Western District Court of Appeals on Tuesday gave the University of Missouri a victory in its effort to terminate an engineering professor who has engaged in ongoing legal disputes with the university.*

Galen Suppes, a professor of bioengineering until he was terminated in late May, lost in his lawsuit seeking to throw out the UM System rules governing grievances against tenured faculty. The court, in an unanimous opinion written by Judge Victor Howard, determined that procedures for investigating and ruling on grievances do not violate federal due process rights and meet the requirements of state law.

Suppes’ attorney, George Smith, said the ruling undermines tenure rights for faculty throughout the state.
“This eviscerates tenure in the state of Missouri,” he said. “This will affect thousands and thousands of tenured faculty. There will be a massive flight of top intellectual talent from this state when this is understood that faculty have no tenure rights.”

The university would not comment on the issues raised in the case.

“We are pleased with the court’s ruling and happy that it found in our favor,” spokesman Christian Basi said.

The ruling doesn’t end Suppes’ legal battles with the university. On Aug. 25, a trial will be held in a lawsuit dating to 2009 where Suppes and the university dispute claims to intellectual property. Suppes has another lawsuit pending in federal court against the university as well.

“The university has twisted the purpose and detail of U.S. patent law to where they claim the thoughts of faculty, as opposed to patents,” Suppes said in an interview Tuesday.

In the case set for trial in August, the university claimed that on 31 occasions, Suppes submitted altered invention disclosure forms without bringing the alterations to the university attention. The university is suing him for breach of contract, breach of duty of loyalty, fraudulent concealment and other wrongdoing.

In his counterclaims, Suppes claims the university has created a hostile work environment, restricted his ability to land research grants and used improper means to gain control of his ideas and he is suing for breach of contract and breach of good faith and fair dealing.

“The university has some very serious problems both in its administration and in the manner in which faculty serve the administration rather than the university as a whole,” Suppes said.

The trial is expected to last about six days, Smith said. The case will decide who is right and whether monetary damages should be paid, he said. The appeals court ruling is more serious because it is a threat to individual rights of tenured faculty.

Tenure is a system that protects university faculty from arbitrary dismissal and was developed to protect intellectual property. Once a faculty member has tenure, the courts have recognized a property right in the tenure status that can only be taken away by due process.

The appeals court ruling undermines tenure rights because the university’s rules allow a campus chancellor, the system president and ultimately the Board of Curators to overturn a decision in a faculty member’s favor at any point in the process, Smith said.

The appeals court ruling will be appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court, Smith said.

The first step in a grievance process is a hearing, if requested, before a faculty committee. The decision of the faculty committee, if in favor of the tenured faculty member, should be final, Smith said.
The removal of tenured faculty is rare at MU.

“The number of faculty who have ever been brought up on grievance procedures in the last 30 years is smaller than you can count on one hand,” then-interim Chancellor Hank Foley said during a February 2016 legislative hearing.

When MU began the process to dismiss Suppes in September, he received a charge letter with 30 pages of detailed charges and 42 exhibits, the appeals court opinion states. That is when Suppes sued.

Suppes said the university was determined to get rid of him. He declined to share most of the charge letter and exhibits, which are sealed in court records. He shared the first — accusing him of intimidation, harassment and bullying of students — based on an email he sent in 2004 that questioned, to other faculty, whether a student had merited an award.

“The findings of the committee on tenure were very petty,” Suppes said.

Suppes will stay in Columbia, where he is developing a business called Terreplane Technologies LLC to promote a new transportation system. He also said he will be on campus every time he has to walk downtown.

Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes “has barred me from campus and she has no right to do that,” Suppes said.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Editorial: Good news

The local economic news printed on these pages has been fairly dreary of late.

First, University of Missouri System President Mun Choi unveiled plans to cut hundreds of jobs throughout the system, with the Columbia campus taking the brunt of it. Some of those jobs are being let go to attrition, but many had actual people still in them.

Then Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes gave dire warnings about the city’s sales tax base being eroded by internet sales. Matthes said the situation is so bad that a more stable, permanent tax base is needed. The city isn’t alone — lagging sales tax collections also have stunted Boone County’s revenue growth.
So it was with great joy that we learned the State Music Festival, which attracts scores of high school students, parents and teachers to Columbia, will stay on the MU campus through 2022. There had been much hand wringing about the possibility of the festival leaving. The three-day vocal and instrumental competition has been here for more than 60 years.

Those parents, teachers and students buy hotel rooms, gas, food and other items while they’re here, which helps lessen the erosion of local sales taxes and provides a boost to local businesses. Every little bit helps. The Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau estimated the festival’s economic impact at $1.3 million, using a standard industry calculation that takes dining, lodging, shopping and other factors into account.

MU music faculty also say the festival helps drum up interest in their program, even though MU cannot actively recruit students while they’re here for the festival. Of course, MU can use plenty of help in the recruiting department, given the sharp drop in enrollment that has compounded the current budget crisis at the university.

We’re all human, and it’s easy to ruminate on the bad news. That makes it all the more important to celebrate the victories, even the small ones. Landing the music festival for another five years is definitely a victory.

The secrets behind Kim Jong Un's personal piggy bank

By Joshua Berlinger and Zachary Cohen

When the world's most mysterious leader arrives for a parade, he steps out of a black Mercedes Benz and onto a red carpet.

But who sold North Korea's Supreme Leader a brand new, top-of-the-line limousine?

Despite international sanctions, Kim Jong Un continues to enjoy the good life, with recent purchases thought to include a gleaming white yacht, expensive liquors and even the equipment necessary to kit out a luxury ski resort.
Those expenses soon add up: The country purchased $645.8 million worth of luxury goods in 2012, according to a 2014 report from the UN.

To put that into context, in 2015, North Korean imports totaled $3.47 billion. But if you remove China -- Pyongyang's biggest trading partner -- from the equation, the breakdown reveals North Korea spent more on luxury goods than it did on licit imports from the rest of the world combined, according to UN data processed by the MIT Media Lab's Observatory of Economic Complexity.

So how can the leader a country that in March of last year warned its citizens to prepare for possible famine and severe economic hardship afford to live in such luxury?

Experts say these types of purchases are made using Kim's personal piggy bank, filled by Pyongyang's illicit dealings across the globe. North Korea has been accused of crimes such as hacking banks, selling weapons, dealing drugs, counterfeiting cash and even trafficking endangered species -- operations that are believed to rake in hundreds of millions of dollars.

That money also helps pay for the country's nuclear and missile programs, both of which Pyongyang believes it needs in order to deter any US-led attempt at regime change, experts say. North Korea's nuclear aspirations have progressed forward rapidly despite sanctions, and Pyongyang has resisted any US attempts at negotiation that mandates de-nuclearization up front.

"North Korea has blatantly violated international law with their nuclear testing, illicit sales, and the ramping up of their nuclear program," said Republican Representative Doug Lamborn, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a leading advocate for missile defense in Washington.

It's nearly impossible to track these illicit funds accurately, as they're likely hidden away. But a 2008 Congressional Research Service report said Pyongyang could generate anywhere from $500 million to $1 billion in profits annually from its ill-gotten gains.

"North Korea will sell anything to anyone as long as they pay," said Anthony Ruggiero, a former deputy director of the US Treasury Department and an expert in the use of targeted financial measures, said at a panel sponsored by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies last week.

That money funds Pyongyang's pursuit of a long-range nuclear weapon and the lavish lifestyle of the country's elite, keeping them happy as sanctions cripple the economy, according to analysts CNN spoke to.

In the end, it's an important way for Kim to cement his power and prevent challenges to his authority, experts say.

"That's income that goes directly into the pockets or the bank accounts of the North Korean leadership. (Taking it away) can actually have a disproportionately large impact compared to trade flow," said Sheena Greitens, a professor at the University of Missouri who has been studying North Korea's illicit finance activities for the last 10 to 15 years.
In order to really pressure Kim until he's desperate enough to get to the negotiating table on the US' terms, US President Donald Trump may need to go after that money, analysts say.

But cutting off that revenue may prove difficult, like playing a game of international whack-a-mole.

"This is a regime that's really good at finding new, creative illicit ways to earn hard currency and sometimes that's coming up with new activities and sometimes it's a matter of shifting geographic locations of those activities," said Greitens. "If you wanted to try to pressure and contain North Korea's ability to earn from these illicit activities, you'd have to also close off its ability to adapt."

'A pressure campaign'

Kim's perceived flare for the dramatic -- South Korean intelligence alleges he's conducted anti-aircraft gun executions and complex assassination plots -- is something he shares with his later father, Kim Jong Il.

**Story continues.**

MU Health Care professionals bring expertise to country in need

By Tess Vrbin

The rural, mountainous Kvemo Kartli region of the country of Georgia has one of the world’s highest infant mortality rates. A team of MU Health Care professionals is working to change that.

Georgian doctors and nurses used to lack the expertise to care for newborns with breathing difficulties, which led to the deaths of otherwise healthy babies. In June 2015, Dr. John Pardalos, the neonatology division director at MU Health Care, brought neonatal care supplies to Georgian hospitals and trained about 100 medical professionals in the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Neonatal Resuscitation Program. In March 2016, four Georgian doctors came to Missouri to become NRP “expert trainers,” and Pardalos said they have trained roughly 400 more medical professionals in Georgia since then.
Now Pardalos and his team, respiratory therapist Harrison Smith and neonatal nurse Teresa deLima, will leave Columbia today and arrive Friday in Georgia, where they will stay until July 17. They will bring more supplies to Georgian hospitals, check in with the NRP-certified health care professionals and continue to teach them how to properly care for newborn babies.

Pardalos said introducing Georgian doctors to NRP two years ago was basic training for them to keep babies alive during the first couple minutes of their lives, and this trip will be the next step.

“You’ve got your baby breathing, you’ve got your baby alive, but they’re too sick to stay at your local hospital,” he said. “So what are you going to do next?”

Sick and premature babies have to be transported to the neonatal intensive care unit in the nation’s capital, Tbilisi, which is an hour and a half to two hours away from the the southernmost parts of Kvemo Kartli. Pardalos is the medical director of the Children’s Hospital Critical Care Transport Team at the MU Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and Smith and deLima are both members of the team. They will teach medical professionals in Georgia how to stabilize sick babies until they can be safely moved to the NICU.

Pardalos and his team left posters with the NRP algorithm in the Georgian language at every hospital they visited in 2015, and they also brought and distributed 34 different kinds of medical equipment. The Georgian hospitals can now import 32 of them from Europe, so Pardalos and his team are bringing a few boxes of the other two: catheters, and blankets called “port-a-warmers.”

Smith said neonatal care requires very specific supplies in addition to education and training.

“If you have all the knowledge in the world but you don’t have the equipment, you can’t get the job done,” he said.

However, Georgian medical professionals did not have any respiratory therapy training before Pardalos’ first trip two years ago. Pardalos and his team plan to use the curriculum from the respiratory therapy program in the MU School of Health Professions as a model for Georgian doctors and nurses to follow.

Dr. Trish Blair, president of the nonprofit humanitarian organization A Call To Serve International, said she is not sure if the team from MU Health Care can introduce an entirely new specialty to another country’s medical field. Instead, it might be a realistic goal to introduce a credential of respiratory therapy to Georgian doctors and nurses, said Blair, who is also a retired trauma surgeon and a member of Columbia Rotary South.

Blair founded ACTS in 1992 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, which included Georgia. The head of the Georgian Medical Association contacted Blair and told her that patients in Georgia were dying and the hospitals had no medicine. He asked her for help, and she created the nonprofit in response.
Georgia’s medical field has evolved since the country is no longer under autocratic Soviet rule, Blair said. Georgian doctors published their first physicians’ ethics document in 2011, and they recently created and distributed the first prenatal care booklet in the Georgian language.

Pardalos’ trips to Georgia are part of an ongoing project called Breathing Life into Georgian Babies, a partnership between ACTS and Columbia Rotary South. Several rotary clubs in District 6080, which includes most of central and southwestern Missouri, raised money for a Rotary International global grant to fund the current trip. Rotary International issues global grants to vocational training teams, or groups of experts providing their knowledge to countries that need it.

The Tbilisi Rotary Club is co-sponsoring the trip. Pardalos said the club is in charge of the logistics of the visit, including a meeting with the Georgian minister of health on Monday to discuss transporting babies from rural hospitals to the NICU in Tbilisi.

Smith and deLima both said they were interested in Pardalos’ work in Georgia when he made the first trip two years ago, but neither was able to go. They volunteered their vacation time to go with Pardalos this year. Smith said he has always been interested in medical mission trips and is excited to go on his first one.

“I feel it’s kind of our duty as health care providers,” he said. “We’re educated to spread that knowledge to people that need it most.”

KOMU 8 News honored with national awards for website, social media

By Jamie Grey

COLUMBIA - The Radio Television Digital News Association announced winners of its national Edward R. Murrow Awards on Tuesday. KOMU 8 News was honored with two national awards in the small market news category: excellence in website and excellence in social media.
The website award recognizes the work of the station on KOMU.com, and the excellence in social media award recognizes the newsroom's coverage of the May 2016 GOP gubernatorial debate on Facebook and Twitter.

KOMU 8 won regional Murrow awards in these two categories, as well as excellence in innovation, and competed with 160 other television markets. The winners of the regional awards go on to compete for the national awards.

“Winning a national Murrow Award is among the highest honors for newsrooms across the country, and we are tremendously proud of this achievement because of our unique standing as an independently owned television station with both an academic and commercial mission. These awards showcase the hard work that our faculty, staff and students put in every day to serve our community,” said KOMU 8 General Manager Marty Siddall.

KOMU 8 News operates as a "digital-first" newsroom with an emphasis on providing news content to viewers on digital platforms as quickly as possible, most often before stories make it onto the television broadcasts.

“It’s a digital first world, and we are a digital first newsroom. Almost 12 years ago, we decided to put our website and our social media on an even status with our television stories. To be recognized for both our website and use of our social media is so rewarding. This is the result of dozens and dozens of people who focused their efforts on making our digital products the very best,” said KOMU 8 News Director Randy Reeves.

KOMU 8 is an auxiliary enterprise of the University of Missouri and acts as the primary learning laboratory for University of Missouri School of Journalism television students.

"These awards rest largely on the shoulders of our students, who act as reporters, producers and digital producers as part of their experience at the University of Missouri," said Annie Hammock, KOMU 8 Interactive Director. "I'm proud of how they embrace the best practices of ethical digital journalism to make KOMU.com and KOMU's Facebook page and Twitter feed a valuable resource for our community."

RTDNA also honored KBIA Radio, an NPR member station and learning laboratory of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, with a national Murrow award. KBIA won for excellence in innovation with its in-depth digital storytelling tool.

The awards will be formally presented at a ceremony in New York City in October.
Ethically Dubious, Whatever the Jury Says

Bill Cosby’s lawyers argued in his recent sexual assault case that he had a consensual relationship with a Temple University employee while he was a trustee -- but experts say that still crosses a line.

NO MENTION

BY JEREMY BAUER-WOLF

Bill Cosby dodged punishment last week in the sexual assault case against him in Pennsylvania. Jurors couldn’t make up their minds whether “America’s dad” had drugged and assaulted a staffer of the Temple University women’s basketball program whom he mentored as a trustee there.

Though many focused on the powerful testimony of Andrea Constand, the team’s former director of operations, the defense from Cosby’s lawyer -- claiming that Cosby and Constand maintained a consensual sexual relationship -- also deserves some scrutiny.

If the two had forged a romantic connection, that’s not illegal, but it certainly breaches ethical lines that an institution’s governing board must preserve, experts and advocacy groups say. Temple has stood by Cosby, noting the lack of legal finding that he assaulted anyone. But the ethical issues raised by Cosby’s defense -- let alone what he's accused of -- may raise questions about Temple's continued support of him.

Such a relationship could jeopardize the neutrality of the trustee, said Richard Legon, president of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. If the other party was a college or university employee, they could influence a board’s agenda, Legon said.

“And the fallout of relationship gone bad, especially in high-profile cases, can create all sorts of problems the institution need not tolerate,” Legon said.

Constand denies romantic involvement with Cosby -- she said she considered him a guide and a friend. But that dynamic shattered in 2004 when Cosby, more than 30 years her senior, invited
Constand over to his home, she said, and gave her pills that left her “frozen” while he touched her breasts and genitals and forced her to touch his penis.

The pressures surrounding Constand and her job were quite high, said Nancy Hogshead-Makar, a civil rights lawyer and founder of Champion Women, an advocacy group for girls and women in sports, who has closely followed Cosby’s case. Constand, who identifies as a lesbian, was in her 30s when Cosby made his advances, and likely many were vying for her position. As is common, she sought a mentor, Hogshead-Makar said.

Wherever there is a power dynamic like the one between Constand and Cosby, there should be a certain level of oversight, Hogshead-Makar said.

"From the standpoint of should we blame her for trusting him, for taking the three pills, should we blame her?" she said, saying that Constand was putting trust in a mentor. "No -- that’s kind of what mentors are expected to do, act on your best interests."

She noted that the federal law protecting against gender discrimination, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, does include all members of a university community, not just the students or employees.

If a governing board member enters a personal relationship with a university employee, they should resign, Legon said. He called any prospective romantic relationship “inappropriate” and said it could result in a hit to an institution’s reputation. In the cases that Legon was privy to, trustees stepped aside if they wanted to continue the relationship. He declined to name the institutions where he knew of such relationships, but said it wasn’t many.

Legon said he was unaware of any policies at individual colleges or universities that forbid personal relationships between employees and trustees. A specific policy addressing this issue may not be necessary, though, he said.

Boards carry a fiduciary responsibility and must hold themselves accountable even in the absence of a formal policy addressing every possible scenario, Legon said. Board bylaws often outline broadly what is deemed acceptable.

Legon saw no harm in adopting a policy around romantic relationships, though he still questioned its usefulness. Still, boards sometimes draft policy in response to a crisis to demonstrate their commitment to fixing certain problems, he said -- the obvious example being the changes prompted by the Pennsylvania State University sex abuse scandal.

“The key takeaway is boards have to monitor, have to oversee, their own behavior,” he said.

*Story continues.*
The hearing grappled with a thorny question: At what point does speech become violent or threatening?

College leaders have a challenging job, said Fanta Aw, interim vice president of campus life at American University, in Washington, D.C. They have to maintain balance when protecting important values — free speech and student safety — that can conflict at times, she said.

If speech has the potential to incite violence or represents a direct threat to members of the campus community, Ms. Aw said, American officials will draw a line. "When students fear for their safety," she said, "this affects their ability to study and participate fully in the life of the university."

But at what point does speech rise to that level? asked Sen. Richard J. Durbin, Democrat of Illinois. He offered some hypothetical questions to illustrate the difficulty of figuring out where to draw the line: "Should I be able to stop a speaker because I’m offended? No. Because I’m intimidated? Yes. Should I be able to stop someone from speaking because he’s unpopular? No. Because I find him menacing? Yes."

"Now put yourself in the position of the president of the university," he said. "You want to encourage the exchange of ideas — let’s start with that premise — but you also have a responsibility for the safety of the students."
Mr. Durbin also raised the issue of guns on campuses, noting that 10 states allow the concealed carrying of firearms at public colleges. "Does that make it a little more complicated for a college president as to whether or not that speaker is going to be allowed to come in and speak?" he asked.

But the existence of a concealed-carry law "does not empower college presidents to shut down campuses," said Floyd Abrams, a prominent First Amendment lawyer. "There has to be more than a credible threat."

Two college presidents faced criticism from lawmakers.

During his opening remarks, Sen. Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa and the committee’s chairman, discussed concerns about administrators who "take the easy route of giving in to student pressure to restrict debate."

Mr. Grassley specifically criticized Morton O. Schapiro, president of Northwestern University, and his support for "safe spaces." Mr. Schapiro has said that students need spaces where they feel comfortable and supported in order to gain the confidence to learn and engage in uncomfortable discussions and debates.

The senator noted that, in a recent interview with The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Schapiro had been asked whether he would be comfortable with speakers like Milo Yiannopoulos and Charles Murray coming to Northwestern. Mr. Schapiro responded that he would permit them to speak "on a case-by-case basis."

"No," Mr. Grassley said. "The First Amendment does not permit arbitrary prior restraints on speech by university administrators on a case-by-case basis."

"Any great university would welcome numerous speakers whose positions made the president and many others on campus uncomfortable," he added.

Toward the end of the hearing, Sen. John N. Kennedy, Republican of Louisiana, asked Zachary R. Wood, a student at Williams College, in Massachusetts, to elaborate on his experience of inviting controversial speakers to his campus. Mr. Wood tried to invite John Derbyshire, a conservative columnist, to Williams last year, but Adam F. Falk, the college’s president, canceled the event after a campus outcry.

It’s unacceptable that Mr. Falk prevented someone who was trying to civilly express an intellectual viewpoint from coming to Williams, Mr. Kennedy said. "If what you described is accurate, then he should resign," the senator said.

Story continues.