



MU News Bureau

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Free textbook initiative headed to the University of Missouri system

By Ashley Jost

Following stories were generated from Joint Office of Strategic Communication and Marketing press release

COLUMBIA, Mo. • In an effort to save students money on textbooks, the University of Missouri System is rolling out initiatives on all four campuses this fall that offers access to free course materials.

The so-called open-educational resources model will initially make free online textbooks available at 10 classes across the four campuses.

The new effort was announced Wednesday on the Columbia campus by university system President Mun Choi, who has discussed the idea since he arrived at the university system in March.

Choi called the cost of textbooks a “high burden” for students. He pointed to schools such as Rice University, which is considered a leader in the open-educational resource effort, as a model.

This University of Missouri effort builds on an ongoing textbook affordability push called AutoAccess that the four campuses adopted in 2014. That program, which happens with the help of campus bookstores, allows students to access textbook materials online for a fraction of the cost. It is projected to have saved students \$7.2 million since it started in 2014.

What Choi announced Wednesday takes the concept a step further. Materials can be offered completely for free because the university will have circumvented the publisher. The plan would give students access to open-educational resource organizations such as OpenStax.

But it requires buy-in from faculty, who have the academic freedom to use whatever materials they see fit for the courses they teach.

Klaus Woelk, an associate professor of chemistry from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, said he plans to utilize the cost-saving initiative for his chemistry classes this fall. He projects each of his 1,200 students will save about \$200 on their textbooks.

“Some students don’t purchase required textbooks because it’s too expensive,” Nathan Willett, president of the Mizzou student government, said in a statement. “It ends up hurting their academic success. Any time we can make textbooks or course materials more affordable, it’s a win for students, and the university is still able to provide the same high-quality education.”

Critics have worried that the quality of course materials will suffer since publishers are not involved in the process. This isn’t a concern for Choi.

Students, faculty members on all four campuses will develop a plan on how to implement more open-education material throughout the schools. At the announcement Wednesday, Choi said he plans to provide faculty anywhere from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in professional development incentives to find ways to cut the cost of learning materials.

The goal, according to Choi, is ultimately to have all freshmen and dual enrollment courses use these free or reduced cost materials in the coming years.



University of Missouri works to reduce textbook costs

Watch story: <http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/university-of-missouri-moves-to-reduce-textbook-costs>

By Lisa Benson

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - While tuition rates are rising for University of Missouri system schools, textbook rates will soon be declining.

President of the University of Missouri System Mun Choi announced an initiative on Wednesday that will reduce the costs of textbooks system-wide. This is an effort to reduce the cost of attendance throughout the state and enhance learning for students.

The plan utilizes Open Educational Resources or OERs which makes class materials free to students online.

"Not only will our students be able to afford the textbooks but more importantly our faculty will be able to develop the course material with new innovations that are occurring," Choi said.

The UM system will also use AutoAccess, which is a program that makes textbooks and class materials available online at a lower cost.

"We believe the high cost of textbooks is a high burden for all of our students," Choi said.

Dallas Parker agrees. As a soon-to-be senior at Mizzou, she believes eBooks would save student a lot of money.

"My text books range anywhere from \$700 to \$1000 dollars a semester. So, I don't really use my textbooks, so that's absolutely ridiculous in my opinion. I think if they can find a way to make them eBooks, everyone has a computer or can get access to a computer," Parker said.

Some campuses are already using online resources to reduce the cost of textbooks for students. A working group is being formed for the system-wide initiative, and will review progress to help figure out how to share resources throughout the system.

Starting this summer, ten courses within the University of Missouri system will offer OER's.

It's expected to save students millions of dollars.

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

[University of Missouri to push cheaper textbook plan](#)

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri will move quickly to use open source and other cheaper alternatives for general education textbooks, building on initiatives already in place, system President Mun Choi said Wednesday.

At an event with members of the Board of Curators, administrators, lawmakers, faculty from all four campuses and student representatives, Choi said the intent is to save money for students while providing up-to-date materials. Faculty, including graduate assistants, will be eligible for incentive payments of \$1,000 to \$10,000 for preparing and adopting materials that save students money, Choi said.

Textbooks are sometimes overlooked as a contributor to the cost of attending college, Choi said.

“We want to provide our students an opportunity to have a low cost, high-quality alternative,” Choi said.

Open source textbooks are free to the user, with a nominal fee of about \$30 to \$40 to publish a physical, hardback book at the Mizzou Store, Choi said. The store also offers an AutoAccess system that provides students a cheap way to access textbooks unavailable on open source sites.

Nationally, students pay an average of \$1,200 a year for textbooks. At MU, the average is about \$540 per year, said Dale Sanders, senior associate director of campus retail. The most expensive book requirement for a course is \$570 for a bundle of five books on diagnosing ultrasound images, he said.

At the announcement, Choi set up several books to show the cost savings. A meteorology textbook used at MU that sells for \$240 new can be used online for \$34.99. A chemistry text used at Missouri University of Science and Technology that costs \$315.67 can be used online for \$90.99.

Providing digital versions of the textbooks is saving students about \$7 million a year currently, Choi said. Adopting free, open source textbooks for 10 courses in the fall semester will save students more than \$1 million in the coming year, he said.

“Our goal is to move into the future by introducing more open source material so our students can have an outstanding, affordable education,” Choi said.

The university is creating a task force of librarians, bookstore personnel and campus instructional design staff to increase awareness of affordable and open resources, encourage their use and add university-created materials to open source offerings.

“Some students don’t purchase required textbooks because it’s too expensive; it ends up hurting their academic success,” Nathan Willett, president of the Missouri Students Association, said in a news release issued by the university. “Any time we can make textbooks or course materials more affordable, it’s a win for students, and the university is still able to provide the same high-quality education.”

Klaus Woelk, chemistry professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology, said moving to an AutoAccess text will save each of the 1,200 students in a general chemistry course more than \$200 and a move to free lab instructions, which previously cost \$80 for a semester, adds to the savings.

Textbook publishers offer online homework platforms and extra materials to teachers to get them to select a particular textbook, Woelk said. But the entire book isn’t needed for the introductory courses.

“It is so comprehensive, there is so much material, way more than we can teach in a semester,” Woelk said. The online access “keeps the perks we get when we usually buy a book like this, but lowers the price.”

In the School of Health Professions, faculty from four courses are working to develop open resources, said Megan Gill, director of marketing.

Open resource will work well in the school because “the knowledge base is changing faster than traditional course materials can keep up,” Gill said. “OER gives our faculty an opportunity to keep the learning environment fresh and engaging, and gives them the flexibility to apply current materials and current events to history and theory in an area of study that changes literally every day.”

Open source and online textbooks aren’t intended to put the Mizzou Store out of business, Choi said.

And at MBS Textbook Exchange, the ninth largest employer in Boone County with about 850 workers moving 12 million books a year, the initiative is not seen as a threat to its business model, President David Henderson said. MBS Textbook Exchange was purchased in March by Barnes & Noble Education Inc. for \$174.2 million.

About 90 percent of its wholesale business is used textbooks and about half of its online retail business is used books as well, he said.

“It is all around lowering cost of course materials for students, which MBS applauds,” Henderson said.

Professors will continue to have the final say on which books are used in their classes, he said. And MBS is providing digital versions of books and support for faculty to create supplemental materials and course guides, he said.

Inflation in textbooks has outpaced the general rise in prices and those prices are set by publishers, Henderson said.

“The future for MBS is still very strong,” Henderson said. “The printed textbook, especially the used printed textbook, is still the best value whether buying the book or renting the book.”

MISSOURIAN

UM System announces plan to adopt open educational resources

By Gabriela Velasquez

COLUMBIA — Parents' eyes lit up Wednesday when UM System President Mun Choi announced an initiative to move the system towards adopting open educational resources. Or, more simply, free books.

Choi made the announcement at about 1 p.m. in the MU Student Center, which was busy with parents, incoming freshmen in Summer Welcome groups, and current students. Members of the Board of Curators, Representatives Allen Andrews, R-Grant City, Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson, and Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, and Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes were on hand.

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, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The UM System and MU will partner with OpenStax and with faculty members to develop open educational resources for students.

"We're very pleased about this initiative," Choi said, "and we're going to see more and more courses roll out open source materials."

Choi also praised the UM System's use of Auto Access textbooks to increase textbook affordability for students. 240 courses across the UM System use Auto Access textbooks, saving students around \$7 million annually.

Auto Access Textbooks

- Available online for any student enrolled in a course
- Reduced cost
- A collaboration with publishers, bookstores and professors

Open Educational Resources

- Available online for anybody, whether enrolled or not
- Free to access
- Independently created by instructors, can be edited at any time

According to data on College Board, a student getting a four-year degree will spend an average of \$5,000 on books and supplies.

Resources in action

Steve Keller's Chemistry 1320 class will be the first to adopt open educational resources in the fall. Other classes are expected to follow suit, said Student & Auxiliary Services spokesperson Michelle Froese.

Keller's class will utilize an Auto Access book in the fall as he works to develop an open access book for the spring semester.

Keller hopes to use ChemWiki from the University of California at Davis to "piece together a textbook completely electronically and completely free."

"They have entire courses that are completely free with individual textbook sections that can be arranged in any order," Keller said.

He praised the flexibility open educational resources offer educators when designing their courses and said that they also allow students to use their textbooks more efficiently.

"They read textbooks like novels and it isn't supposed to be that way," he said, noting that online textbooks with interactive homework features guide students to exactly where they need to be in their reading to learn concepts.

In the spring, four classes in the Department of Health Sciences — which includes MU's largest major, health sciences — will adopt open educational resources.

"The reason OER is such a great match in health sciences is that the knowledge base is changing faster than traditional course materials can keep up," Megan Gill, spokesperson for the Department of Health Professions, said in an email after the announcement. "OER gives our faculty an opportunity to keep the learning environment fresh and engaging, and gives them the flexibility to apply current materials and current events to history and theory in an area of study that changes literally every day."

Savings and incentives

Freshmen and underclassmen can expect to benefit most from open educational resources.

"Let's shoot for the moon! Why not have all of our freshman courses available through open source?" Choi said. General education courses such as psychology, chemistry and philosophy, he said, have widely available resources online. Dual enrollment courses available throughout the state could also utilize open educational resources, he said.

Grace Atkins, who led the interest group on open educational resources for two years, said that introductory courses had the most open educational resources available, which is good for students because those books tend to be the most expensive and are used by the largest number of students. However, she added that the lack of material available for more specific courses and upper-level courses is "all the more reason to incentivize our faculty to make them."

The University of Connecticut implemented an open educational resource policy while Choi served as provost there and offered instructors \$1,000 for transitioning to open source materials and \$250 for reviewing open books related to their courses.

Faculty members at MU will be offered incentives ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, Choi said. Incentives would depend on the amount of time and work put into the development of open educational resources and would also be available to graduate student instructors.

The UM System is planning to establish a group to put ideas about open educational resources into action. The group will include faculty, students, a team of librarians, bookstore personnel and campus instructional design staff from all four campuses, Froese said.

The initiative will launch this summer.



[UM system president launches plan to cut costs on campuses](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/um-system-president-launches-plan-to-cut-costs-on-campuses>

By Karla Valcourt

COLUMBIA - While tuition for students going to a University of Missouri campus has gone up recently, one of the staples of a college experience could be going in the opposite direction.

On Wednesday, University of Missouri System President Mun Choi launched an initiative aimed at cutting costs of textbooks for students system-wide.

The plan is to adopt affordable Open Educational Resources (OER).

OERs are free, online accessible texts - an alternative to paying costly publishing costs. The plan will also introduce an online database called Auto Access, which will make textbooks and class materials available at an affordable rate.

According to Choi, students in higher education spend \$1,200 on textbooks annually. He estimates the initiative will save students \$7.2 million.

Choi is working to deal with budget issues across the system, and believes this is one way to try and cut down on costs.

"By providing open-source and affordable textbooks, we are meeting the needs of our students by lowering their costs and increasing their access to the resources that will help them be successful on our campuses," Choi said.

Nathan Willett, president of the Missouri Students Association, spoke at the announcement and expressed his approval of the plan.

"Some students don't purchase required textbooks because it's too expensive; it ends up hurting their academic success," Willett said. "Any time we can make textbooks or course materials more affordable, it's a win for students, and the university is still able to provide the same high-quality education."

Isaac Wright will soon be a biochemistry major on MU's campus and hopes this plan makes college more affordable.

"I hope it gives people more opportunity to pursue what they want and not have to worry about paying loans" Isaac Wright said.

The system-wide initiative will launch this summer. Choi hopes the database will accommodate all general education courses.



UM program offers textbook savings

Watch story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/um-program-offers-textbook-savings>

By Mark Slavit

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri System President Mun Choi wanted to make textbooks more affordable for students.

University leaders launched a new system-wide initiative that made textbooks and class materials available online.

President Choi said the average college student spends more than \$1,200 a year on textbooks. University leaders offered a new program that makes textbooks and class materials available online at a lower cost and with higher flexibility.

President Choi said, “Our faculty members will be able to develop the course material with new renovations that are occurring in a very timely fashion, so that they are not stuck to the concepts that are available to textbooks when they are published.”

University leaders planned to use a system called Auto Access for their online resources. President of the Missouri Students Association Nathan Willett said some students did not buy required textbooks because they were too expensive.

Willett said, “We are excited that at a system level we are exploring how we can best implement open educational resources on our respective campuses.”

President Choi said the university’s new textbook savings program would save students in Columbia, Rolla, Kansas City and St. Louis more than \$1 million a year.



Choi: University of Missouri Works to Reduce Cost of Class Materials for Students

By Sara Shahriari

UM System President Mun Choi announced today that the UM System is focused on saving students money on course materials.

According to Choi, the University will develop a system-wide strategy to encourage use of quality open educational resources – which are free to students. The university will also focus on Auto Access, a program that makes books available online at a lower cost than traditional textbooks.

"Our goal is to move into the future by introducing more open source material so our students can have an outstanding, affordable education," Choi said.

According to Choi, 10 courses will adopt open source materials this year with an estimated student savings over 1 million dollars. The system will continue to expand the program.

There will be incentives for faculty to use and develop open source materials.

Choi made the announcement at the Mizzou book store to a crowd of more than 100 people, including state Senator Caleb Rowden and university chancellors.



UM System President Choi Unveils Plan for Open Educational Resources, Students Support the Plan

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=46ce3f44-5b7a-4692-be85-e75e5344ae8f>

Missourinet

Lawmakers question UM system head Choi's motive on Cosby, request his presence at hearing

By Jason Taylor

Three State Representatives are questioning the motivation of University of Missouri System president Mun Choi's push to rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree from the Columbia campus. Choi made his request at the Board of Curators meeting this week in Columbia.

Cosby is facing multiple lawsuits from women accusing him of sexual assault. The St. Louis Post Dispatch quoted Choi as saying Cosby's actions are "incongruent with our values of respect, of treating people with respect. It is for that reason I will be making a recommendation to the board of curators to revoke his degree."

The Representatives, fronted by Democrat Courtney Curtis of Ferguson, suspect Choi could be trying to divert attention from a recent case of rape on the University of Missouri's Kansas City campus.

The lawmakers recently expressed concern that the university system plans to enforce a policy requiring all freshman to live on campus when, they say, it hasn't successfully dealt with the rape culture. Curtis thinks Choi's Cosby announcement could very well be an effort to deflect attention from the issue.

"It seems to be" said Curtis. "Or it's something that could make him look as though he's a proactive leader, and he wants to set the tone. But you can't do that when you haven't done the basic things."

Missourinet obtained a copy of an email dated Tuesday from Rep. Curtis to Choi stating certain requests, and asking Choi to be present at an upcoming committee hearing.

One of the requests is for a comprehensive review of what caused a security breakdown at the Kansas City campus that ultimately led to a student being raped on campus in February.

In that instance, surveillance video showed a male student carrying a female student who appeared to be passed out into a building late at night. The path would have taken them directly by a security desk, which is supposed to be manned 24/7.

The email asks for the review of the breakdown to be presented to the House panel all three sit on, the Urban Issues Committee. It also requests the university system adopt an exemption to the mandatory policy that freshman students live on campus if they don't feel safe.

The email further requests that all students be informed of the new policy, and that security be provided 24/7 in the campus dorms.

The correspondence also asks for Choi's presence in front of the House Urban Issues Committee to discuss on record matters they've previously discussed.

The email leaves open the time and date of the hearing until it's determined what will happen with special legislative session being called by Governor Greitens.

The move to require freshman stay in dorms has been billed by the university system as a way to generate revenue after a funding reduction and falling enrollment. Curtis is critical of the move, given the recent history of sexual assault on campus.

“I guess they want to call it a budget crisis or whatever. They’re going to force the freshman strictly to live on campus. As someone who fights for people to be protected in every environment, it doesn’t make me feel good.”

Curtis is joined in his requests of UM System President Choi by Representative Clem Smith, D-Velda Village Hills, and Representative Brandon Ellington, D-Kansas City.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

MU moves to rescind Bill Cosby honorary degree

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri will move this week to rescind the honorary degree granted to comedian Bill Cosby, following the lead of at least 25 other colleges and universities who have stripped honors from the accused sex offender.

The Board of Curators, at its meeting Friday, will vote on a recommendation from UM System President Mun Choi that Cosby forfeit his Doctor of Humane Letters degree awarded at the December 1999 commencement ceremony.

On Saturday, a Pennsylvania judge declared a mistrial in Cosby’s trial for aggravated indecent assault for allegedly giving drugs to Andrea Constand, a staff member of the Temple University women’s basketball program. The statement to be presented to the curators Friday notes that the jury was hung, but also points to reports that more than 50 women have accused Cosby of sexual assault.

“While the Pennsylvania jury in this instance did not find unanimously and beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Cosby had engaged in criminal conduct, the standard for rescinding the university’s unilateral gift of an honorary degree is different than that required of the Pennsylvania jury to find criminal guilt,” the board document recommending the action states.

At an event in the MU Student Center, Choi said Cosby’s actions do not match the values the university expects in its honorees. Cosby was a member of Temple’s board of trustees when he gave drugs to Constand in 2004, Choi said. In a deposition given in 2005, Cosby admitted purchasing Quaaludes to give to women he wished to have sex with.

“For many reasons, for many reasons, universities throughout the United States have revoked his honorary doctorates,” Choi said. “The purpose of this is that his words, through his deposition, and his actions, are incongruent with our values of respect, of treating people with respect.”

The University of Connecticut, where Choi was provost before his selection as UM System president, acted in June 2016 to revoke an honorary degree awarded to Cosby in 1996.

Since it began giving out honorary degrees in the 19th century, MU has recognized 404 individuals. If the curators approve Choi’s recommendation, Cosby would be the first to be stripped of the honor.

The action to rescind Cosby’s honorary degree began in November 2015 with the MU Faculty Council. The delay before action by the board isn’t a concern, council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said.

The university has been under interim leadership at the system and campus level, Trachtenberg said. And the university’s collected rules were only updated in February to explicitly state that the university would rescind honorary degrees when appropriate, he said.

“I am not going to quibble about the timing of it as long as we can get it done,” Trachtenberg said.

An honorary degree is bestowed on people who the university deems to be impressive and worthy, Trachtenberg said.

“When someone acts in a way that shows they are unworthy of the degree, the same reasons you give the degree would justify taking it away,” he said.

Schools began revoking honorary degrees soon after the allegations against Cosby became public in 2015. Fordham University and Marquette University were among the first, acting in September 2015. Temple University, Cosby’s alma mater, has not acted to rescind either his earned or honorary degrees.

MISSOURIAN

Board of Curators to vote on rescinding Bill Cosby's honorary degree

By McKenna Blair

COLUMBIA — The UM System Board of Curators will vote Friday on the recommendation that Bill Cosby's honorary degree be rescinded as the sexual assault

allegations against him are "incompatible with the honor previously granted to him," according to a memo to the curators.

Cosby, 79, received the honorary doctorate in humane letters in December 1999. In November 2015, the MU Faculty Council sent a recommendation to the curators recommending its revocation, according to previous Missourian reporting. At the time, Faculty Council Chair Ben Trachtenberg said the process would probably take years and remain confidential.

UM System President Mun Choi has recommended that the degree be rescinded. Twenty to 25 other universities have already taken similar action, according to a memo to the curators prepared by staff.

Choi was asked about the recommendation while speaking about open educational resources Wednesday afternoon at the MU Student Center.

With his answer broadcast over the student center's loudspeaker system, and in front of the Board of Curators and faculty from MU, UMSL, Missouri S&T and UMKC, Choi said: "His words in the deposition and his actions are incongruent to our values of respect, of treating people with respect. And it is for that reason that I will be making a recommendation to the Board of Curators to revoke his degree."

Depositions taken in 2005 in Andrea Costand's lawsuit against Cosby painted a picture of the comedian as very different from his persona as "America's Dad." He was charged with sexual assault in 2015, and a Pennsylvania jury deadlocked last week on the charges, based on allegations by Costand who said that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her in 2004. The prosecution has said it will seek a retrial.

More than 50 women have come forward, saying that Cosby had inappropriate sexual contact with them.

The memo to the curators points out that although the trial did not end with Cosby's conviction, the university operates according to a different standard and has the right to rescind the degree under its collected rules and regulations.

The curators are scheduled to meet Friday at MU.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

University of Missouri may rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree

By Ashley Jost

COLUMBIA, Mo. • At the University of Missouri System Board of Curators meeting this week, system president Mun Choi is pushing to rescind Bill Cosby's honorary degree from the Columbia campus.

The recommendation details were included in board documents released prior to the meeting Thursday and Friday at Mizzou.

Cosby received an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree in December of 1999 at Mizzou.

Cosby is facing multiple civil lawsuits filed by women who say the longtime comedian used drugs to intoxicate them and engage in nonconsensual sexual relations.

Choi said Wednesday that Cosby's actions are "incongruent with our values of respect, of treating people with respect. It is for that reason I will be making a recommendation to the board of curators to revoke his degree."



University of Missouri might revoke Cosby's honorary degree

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) University of Missouri System President Mun Choi wants the university to rescind an honorary degree given to Bill Cosby nearly 20 years ago.

The system's Board of Curators will vote Friday on Choi's recommendation. A university staff memo sent to the curators says sexual assault allegations against Cosby are "incompatible" with the honorary doctorate in humane letters given to him in 1999.

The Columbia Missourian reports the university's faculty council recommended in 2015 that the curators revoke the degree.

The staff memo says 20 to 25 other universities have already rescinded honorary degrees for Cosby. A Pennsylvania jury deadlocked last week on charges based on allegations by an employee of Temple University that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her in 2004. The prosecution says it will retry the case.

Similar stories ran statewide



UM system President Choi recommends rescinding Bill Cosby's degree

COLUMBIA, Mo. - On Wednesday, University of Missouri President Mun Choi said he wants Mizzou to rescind an honorary degree given to Bill Cosby nearly 20 years ago.

A memo sent to curators cited a 2005 deposition where Cosby admitted to giving Quaaludes to women to have sex with them.

The memo also stated Cosby's sexual assault allegations are incompatible with the honorary doctorate he received in 1999. The school's faculty council recommended to take that degree back in 2015.

Twenty to 25 other universities have taken honorary degrees from Cosby since the allegations surfaced.

Last Saturday, a mistrial was declared in Cosby's trial after the jury failed to reach a verdict in the case.

The Board of Curators is expected to vote Friday on Choi's recommendation.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Editorial: Bill Cosby

NO MU MENTION

By Hank Waters

Day after day the jury in the rape case of entertainer Bill Cosby emerged from hours of deliberation with the same report: They had been unable to reach a unanimous consensus the defendant is guilty. Time after time the judge in the case sent them back for another try and another overnight sequestration.

Jurors became noticeably fatigued and frustrated. The defense called for the judge to decide the jury was irreparably “hung” and unable to find Mr. Cosby guilty. Finally, after a final day of frustration, Judge Steven T. O’Neill gave up and ended the trial. The prosecution will have to decide to refile the case or Mr. Cosby is found not guilty.

By the time the case went to trial the public had heard multiple allegations of Cosby’s assaults from a number of women. He had admitted using drugs in the past to lower the resistance of his victims. The allegations went back over so many years a public opinion survey probably would have found most casual observers ready to agree Cosby was indeed a serious predator, something akin to an outright rapist.

But the eventual trial concerned a particular allegation by a particular plaintiff of a particular episode that has no direct connection with acts the defendant might have committed in the past. In the case that finally went to trial Cosby said the sexual encounter was consensual as shown by the fact plaintiff Andrea Constand kept in touch with Cosby long after she said he drugged and assaulted her at his home. That she exchanged more than 50 calls after the alleged assault date indicates she is not a “victim,” the defense said.

The trial was moved away from Philadelphia where the alleged assault occurred because the judge decided an unbiased home-town jury could not be found. Despite repeated tries the out-of-town jury could not reach a unanimous verdict Cosby was guilty “beyond a reasonable doubt.” The next move is up to the prosecution to decide whether the chance of a guilty outcome is worth the rigors of another trial.

Like most such assault cases, a jury must try to fathom the facts of the case and the mindsets of the principals despite a lack of witnesses. Cosby and Constand disagree whether the sexual encounter was consensual, the key element in the case. Even if arguably “consensual,” how

consensual? Let's agree Cosby wanted to have sex but how far did he go to impose his will on his victim? Enough to be found guilty of rape?

In these cases the victim has a terrible burden. Should she just chalk it off to another encounter that seems ever more disappointing as time passes? Even though she is convinced the man took advantage was he pushy enough to qualify under the law as a rapist?

As news of Cosby's peccadilloes unfolded I became convinced he was in for some sort of legal punishment. As months and years passed his punishment was real, but not official. His reputation and career are in shambles. For those with any sort of lasting interest, he's forever labelled as a boor willing to slip drugs to women to take sexual advantage.

What's the use of another trial? Ms. Constand may think she has had at least a pound of flesh and has no appetite for another round of public litigation which may harm her own self-esteem and reputation as much as Cosby's. The public knows almost everything about the 2004 liaison except the state of minds of the couple on the couch. We'll never know that and perhaps no jury ever will either. The world is better off to be done with it.



Newspaper in Hannibal, Mo (Ralls County)

[Researchers discover body image for teens linked to alcohol, tobacco use](#)

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Perceptions about Body Image Linked to Increased Alcohol, Tobacco Use for Teens](#)

How teenagers perceive their appearance, including their body image, can have significant impacts on health and wellness. Prior body image research has shown that people with negative body image are more likely to develop eating disorders and are more likely to suffer from depression and low self-esteem.

How teenagers perceive their appearance, including their body image, can have significant impacts on health and wellness. Prior body image research has shown that people with negative body image are more likely to develop eating disorders and are more likely to suffer from depression and low self-esteem.

Now, Virginia Ramseyer Winter, a body image expert and an assistant professor in the University of Missouri's School of Social Work, found negative body image also is associated with increased tobacco and alcohol use, with implications for both young men and women. Notably, she also found relationships between substance use and perceived attractiveness, with girls who believe they are very good looking being more likely to drink.

“We know alcohol and tobacco can have detrimental health effects, especially for teenagers,” Ramseyer Winter said. “I wanted to see if the perception of being overweight and negative body image leads to engaging in unhealthy or risky substance use behaviors. Understanding the relationship means that interventions and policies aimed at improving body image among teenage populations might improve overall health.”

Ramseyer Winter and her co-authors, Andrea Kennedy and Elizabeth O’Neill, used data from a national survey of American teenagers to determine the associations between perceived size and weight, perceived attractiveness, and levels of alcohol and tobacco use. The researchers found that perceived size and attractiveness were significantly related to substance use. Adolescent girls who perceived their body size to be too fat were more likely to use alcohol and tobacco. Boys who thought they were too skinny were more likely to smoke, and boys who considered themselves fat were more likely to binge drink.

“While poor body image disproportionately affects females, our findings indicate that body image also impacts young males,” Ramseyer Winter said. “For example, it’s possible that boys who identified their bodies as too thin use tobacco to maintain body size, putting their health at risk.”

In addition to body size, the researchers looked at the connection between perceived attractiveness and substance use. Girls who thought they were not at all good looking were more likely to smoke. Girls who thought they were very good looking were more likely to binge drink. Ramseyer Winter suggests this is because attractiveness may be associated with popularity, which is related to increased alcohol use.

To improve body image awareness, Ramseyer Winter suggested that parents, schools and health providers need to be aware of body shaming language and correct such behavior to help children identify with positive body image messages. Body shaming language can affect teenagers who have both positive and negative perceptions of themselves.

“Adolescent tobacco and alcohol use: the influence of body image,” recently was published in the Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse. Kennedy is a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California and O’Neill is a doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas. The MU School of Social Work is in the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

MISSOURIAN

MU professor helps uncover questions behind 'Dikika Baby'

Generated from News Bureau press release: [3.3 Million-Year-Old Fossil Reveals the Antiquity of the Human Spine](#)

By Katherine Herrick

COLUMBIA — After more than a decade of painstakingly scraping away bits and pieces of sandstone grain by grain with dental tools and picks, a 3.3 million-year-old face, apelike in its features but unmistakably human, has been revealed. The face, that of a female toddler, brings new life to the study of evolution and understanding of humans and how we stand.

Zeresenay Alemseged, a paleoanthropologist and professor of organismal biology and anatomy at the University of Chicago, discovered the "Dikika Baby," also known as "Selam," in the rocky desert of Dikika, Ethiopia in 2000.

Alemseged found roughly 70 percent of Selam's skeleton, which he said will help scientists further understand "how (this species') anatomy changed over time to see how we became the most dominant species."

"I was the only scientist on site," Alemseged said. "It was very exciting, but when you are in the middle of nowhere and one of the only people out with just a few others, there is a big responsibility."

Alemseged said he knew his discovery was important "right on the spot." But the actual moment when he found the fossil was a blink of an eye in the scheme of things.

"It was one eureka moment of a long process," he said. "Making a discovery is just the beginning."

After Selam's skeleton was resurrected from the block of rock in which it was preserved, Alemseged expanded his research team to analyze what he had unearthed.

Carol Ward, a professor of pathology and anatomical sciences at MU and the lead author on the study, said she joined the team "when Zeresenay realized there were vertebrae and ribs because that's what I study."

Selam is not the first of her species *australopithecus afarensis* to be discovered, but she has the most complete spine of any others, including the famous "Lucy" skeleton discovered by Richard Leakey in 1974.

"This skeleton was probably washed away in a flood and would have been buried with all of the soft tissue still on it," Ward said. "Then it became fossilized, so all of the little tiny bones in the back, ribs, voice box, shoulder blades and everything were fossilized together, which almost never happens."

A human body has 12 pairs of ribs while chimpanzees and gorillas, our closest relatives, have 13 pairs of ribs and fewer sets of lumbar vertebrae. The shorter rib cage and longer lower back in humans creates a waist that apes do not have. An ape's body is built to help it climb trees and swing among branches but does not allow for much twisting or swiveling of the waist to help it balance to walk on two feet for long periods of time.

"The number of vertebrae is a big deal in human evolution," Ward said. "And we haven't known if our earliest ancestors had only 12 pairs of ribs or had, like apes, 13."

Selam's spine shows her species had 12 sets of ribs.

"This confirms they would have had a very long, flexible lower back just like ours, which means they would have been able to move about the landscape just like we would," Ward said. "So if you got in your time machine and you flew back, you would see these apelike creatures, but ones that stood fully upright like us and walked like we do, not like they're half hunched over."

"The spine is really fundamental to how we hold ourselves upright and move, so to be able to know that that happened before 3.3 million years ago is a big deal," she said. "That's why we're excited about it."

Selam was only 2½ years old when she died, which can be concluded from her mouth full of baby teeth. She had a small brain roughly the size of a chimpanzee's with a long jaw and a flat nose. Had she grown into an adult, she would have stood only a few feet tall.

The skeleton has never been to Missouri, so Ward has never held it in her hands. But she has been able to study it from digital scans and 3D prints made in plaster. The digital copies have allowed the research team to fully remove the chunks of stone that still cling to Selam's bones and cannot be removed without damaging them.

Several studies will be based on the research from the discovery, including projects beginning to look at the growth of the skeleton to see how fast this species might have developed in relation to its age. Ward said there also will be analyses of the brain size and structure to observe how the skeletons matured.

"There will be a lot more projects coming from this skeleton within the next decade," Ward said.

Selam, which translates to "peace," will rest her bones in the National Museum in Ethiopia, but her body will continue to bring life to evolutionary studies. Ward said her value is "priceless. Just priceless."

"You go out in desert areas with big teams of people and you walk and you look, you walk and you look, and you walk and you look," Ward said. "It takes years and years. This is the find of a lifetime."

MISSOURIAN

Trustees pitch Boone Hospital management options in Centralia

CENTRALIA — Boone Hospital Center trustees clarified at a meeting of the Centralia Rotary Club on Wednesday afternoon that they are trying to serve mid-Missouri while deciding among five options for the county-owned hospital's future.

"The thing to remember is that Boone Hospital is your hospital," Trustee Randy Morrow told a room full of Boone County residents at Centralia Country Club.

Morrow then clarified and went over five options for future management of the hospital. Those include forming partnerships with Duke Lifepoint, St. Luke's Health System, or MU Health Care; renewing its lease with BJC Health Care; or creating a stand-alone hospital.

The lease with BJC extends through December 2020 and will renew automatically for another five years unless either Boone Hospital Center or BJC say otherwise before December 2018.

Morrow said Boone Hospital prefers a partnership that will "enhance the quality of hospital service and improve accessibility to all of mid-Missouri." The hospital, he said, is having trouble meeting the rising cost of providing services, meeting information technology needs and providing patient care.

"If there's no money, there's no mission," Morrow said.

Morrow said forming a partnership would allow the hospital to hire more staff and create specialized units. He cited the example of a bone marrow unit. If a hospital has only one doctor performing bone marrow operations, and there are only five patients, then a bone marrow unit is unjustified. If a unit with enough doctors and patients could be established as part of a larger operation, it could begin receiving patients from all over mid-Missouri.

Morrow walked the audience through a PowerPoint presentation with basic information about each of the scenarios.

In all the options, current Boone Hospital employees would be offered their jobs, and their years of service would be honored.

A partnership with Duke Lifepoint entails handing Duke partial control of the hospital. Duke Lifepoint would take 20 percent ownership of the hospital and create a new board of governors with half from Duke Lifepoint and half from Boone Hospital. A Duke Lifepoint-appointed CEO would head Boone Hospital Center and report to a Duke Lifepoint-appointed president and the new board.

Duke Lifepoint promises in its proposal that current Boone Hospital employees would receive pay comparable to that at other Duke Lifepoint hospitals, but Morrow said pay for all employees would remain market driven. All employees would have to go through screening tests first.

Duke Lifepoint is pushing for a 40-year lease, but trustees think that's too long.

“A 40-year lease would have to go down,” Morrow said. “That would practically mean owning the hospital outright.”

St. Luke’s Health System, a faith-based Kansas City hospital system, would make Boone Hospital its mid-Missouri regional hub. St. Luke’s would take governance with a 15-member board with power over strategy and finance.

St. Luke is asking for a 10-year lease with the option to renew every five years. Lease payments would be accompanied by a percentage of total hospital revenue being turned over to the trustees.

Under a lease partnership with MU, a new operating company would be created to manage Boone Hospital rather than having MU Health Care's administration oversee it. The operating company would oversee day-to-day operations and would report to a board that includes trustees, medical staff, MU Health Care leaders and community members.

Morrow said a partnership with MU would create significant resources and benefits for Columbia. The PowerPoint presentation noted that such an alliance would align with Columbia's vision of becoming a prominent health care destination.

With a renewal of the BJC contract, much would stay the same, but Morrow said BJC wants to change certain terms of the partnership. Morrow said those terms would not be released until after the trustees have made a decision.

The hospital has been with BJC since 1988 when it was Christian Health Services (CHAS). CHAS merged with Barnes and Jewish hospitals in 1993 to form BJC Healthcare.

Under a renewed lease, revenue would continue to be split three ways: 25 percent to BJC, 25 percent to the board of trustees and 50 percent to Boone Hospital itself. Trustees would continue to have a place on the BJC board, and the BJC board would continue to manage the hospital. The lease would continue to come up for renewal every five years.

Specifics of how the hospital will operate as a stand-alone entity, such as governance, financing and regional referrals have yet to be determined. A new board of governors, however, would be created to oversee the CEO.



Missouri governor signs bill on college police training

NO MU MENTION

JEFFERSON CITY — Aspiring Missouri college police officers will face the same training as other future cops under a bill signed by the governor.

Republican Gov. Eric Greitens on Tuesday signed the legislation. Current law calls for at least 320 hours of training for college police compared to at least 470 hours for most other aspiring officers.

The bill also will give community college police officers the ability to enforce traffic rules, such as speed limits, on campus. Only university police now have that authority.

The legislation takes effect Aug. 28.

Greitens also signed legislation to continue checkoffs on state income tax returns for contributions to the state's organ donor fund.

The checkoff was set to expire in August.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Fighting hunger requires a community commitment

By Todd Schnuck

Features research from News Bureau press release: [2016 Missouri Hunger Atlas Shows Worsening Situation](#)

Hunger is often described in terms of “food security,” defined by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program within the United States Department of Agriculture as “access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.”

Statistics from the 2016 Hunger Atlas, published by the University of Missouri’s Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security, paint a bleak landscape. They show Missouri ranks among the top 10 states with the highest percentage of households classified as food insecure or having very low food security. Almost half a million Missourians experience hunger at some point over the calendar year, the report found. We have to do better.

Hunger’s impact on families and communities can be enormous, including economic, social, physical and psychological consequences. Income loss, work absenteeism, higher demand for public benefits and social services, and increased health care expenditures can soon follow in hunger’s wake.

And, according to University of Missouri findings, hunger has also been found to have a strong correlation with lower educational achievement, unemployment and impaired work performance. For children, food insecurity and hunger are often predictors of chronic illness, low birth weight, lower school performance and developmental problems.

It is incumbent upon all of us to step up and improve this picture. The communities and families we serve depend on us to make nourishing, healthy food accessible — a critical component that society needs to thrive.

The concept of giving has long been part of the fabric of the St. Louis community, particularly when it comes to feeding the hungry. We see this in the commitment of the great people we work with at Operation Food Search, who will tell you that one in every six individuals lives in poverty and struggles with hunger in the greater St. Louis region, including more than 172,000 children.

We are working with Operation Food Search this summer to address that need as part of their “Shop Out Hunger campaign.” On Saturday, their volunteers will be at every metro area Schnucks and other regional grocery chains, including Dierbergs Markets and Straub’s, distributing a shopping “wish list” to customers as they enter the store. Food collected from the community will help fill Operation Food Search pantries at a time when many children who rely on school meals as their primary nutrition are most vulnerable: Nearly 1 in 4 local children don’t know where they will get their next meal.

We also have great partners in the Fair Food Network and the Mid-America Regional Council, who are supporting our June launch of Double Up Food Bucks at our Missouri locations, which allows our Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Electronic Benefit Transfer card customers to receive free produce at Schnucks as a reward for purchasing local produce.

We see this new initiative as a three-way win for our community: Local families are able to bring home and eat more healthy foods, local farmers are able to sell more of their produce and the local economy benefits from more money staying in the area.

We hope others in the St. Louis area are making similar plans to meet the needs of our region’s hungry not only this summer, but in the long term. Food security is a real issue that deserves the attention of all of us in the grocery industry as well as others who support the well-being of our communities.



Without Big Trade Deals, Midwest Farmers Worry They’ll Lose Out

Listen to the Story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=f1c7e8f9-d457-4843-843d-b50286b94ae6>

By: Kristofer Husted

President Trump made campaign promises to pull the U.S. out of big international trade deals and focus instead on one-on-one agreements with other countries. But that has farmers worried they will lose some of the [\\$135 billion](#) in goods they sold overseas last year.

Two years ago, Missouri rancher Mike John expected the U.S. beef industry to grow by providing steaks and hamburgers from the Midwest to hungry eaters in Japan. He was planning on the [Trans Pacific Partnership](#), or TPP, a massive trade deal among 12 countries, including the U.S. and Japan. It took eight years of negotiations to get each nation involved to agree to lower tariffs. Some economists expected the pact to add \$3 billion dollars to the U.S. agriculture industry. Trump, however, called the TPP a disaster and [pulled the U.S. out](#).

“We were very disappointed,” John says. “The TPP was going to be a victory for us. It was going to open some markets and lower some tariffs and those are the things that give you access.”

Consumers in Japan have a growing taste for high-quality American beef. But today, the beef that John and other ranchers produce faces a staggering 38 percent tariff to get into Japan. The TPP would have slashed that number to 9 percent.

Now that the original TPP deal is effectively dead, John is eager to see the next move.

“There is no question that every industry wants to grow and flourish and if we’re going to do that with 96 percent of the world’s population outside the borders of this country, we have to trade,” John says. “We have to export our product.”

Even more disconcerting is [news that Japan has pitched the idea](#) of a mini-TPP, which would exclude the U.S. and lower tariffs among competitors.

While many in the agriculture industry have spent months working to save trade negotiations, others suggest that free trade can lead to job losses. Trump and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders attracted supporters on the presidential campaign trail by pledging to curtail free trade. The Trump administration instead wants to hammer out bilateral deals with TPP member countries, starting with Japan. That, however, will take time.

“It strikes me that the trouble with doing bilateral agreements is there are a lot of countries out there, so they’re not going to get to everyone this year or even in this term,” says Missouri Farm Bureau President [Blake Hurst](#).

Negotiations for the TPP stretched into eight years. Negotiating 11 separate bilateral deals could take much longer. Hurst recently spent time in Washington lobbying alongside dozens of other heavy hitters in the Ag industry for jumpstarting trade negotiations in emerging markets.

“There is concern in the agriculture community about some of the rhetoric that the new administration has used in our trade relations,” Hurst says.

The bottom line is that there is only so much beef Japanese shoppers want. At the supermarket today they are choosing between an American steak that is more expensive thanks to higher tariffs and an Australian steak that likely costs less.

“That playing field’s not very level when you think about the differences in tariffs depending on the country importing product into Japan,” says [Scott Brown, an agricultural economist at the University of Missouri.](#)

New trade deals, of course, will not focus only on Mike John and his American-grown beef. So negotiations will not be easy, or fast.

“Those that care about agriculture in the United States and Japan are going to be different than those that care about cars and electronics – and all of those deals work together,” Brown says.

The benefit of a big, multi-country trade deal is that it can open up many markets. If negotiations hurt the U.S. beef industry by aiding competition in Canada, the same industry can gain market share in another market, like Japan. In a one-on-one deal there is less market share to go around, meaning a deal directly with Japan could be difficult to negotiate and farmers worry it won’t have the same impact.

Ultimately, American beef production is going up. Ranchers produced more than [25 billion pounds](#) of beef in 2015. If U.S. ranchers are to see prices rise, they will need to send their beef to international dinner plates.

“If we have to eat it here it comes with lower prices to make consumers decide that they want more beef,” Brown says. “That growth in supplies needs a home and frankly that home needs to be outside the United States to keep prices higher.”

Whether that beef finds a cheaper home in Japan could still be years away. In the meantime, farmers are going to have to settle for their current trade relationships, at least as long as those last.