



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Mizzou gets ‘Best Buy’ rating from college guide book

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

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The popular Fiske Guide to Colleges listed the University of Missouri in Columbia among its “Best Buy” schools for 2018, good news for a campus [struggling to enroll more students](#) and fighting a public relations campaign.

Fiske’s three-page MU profile refers to Mizzou as a “school on the rise” and draws from student surveys in which one participant said MU “will shape your life and help guide you into the future.”

The guide used by potential students does not rank schools. It’s the first time officials at MU remember being [named a best buy in the guide](#). The book rated MU as a best buy taking into account cost, academic programs, college life and its rate of graduating 69 percent of students over six years.

“We decide which colleges to include in the Fiske Guide, which includes writeups of about 325 of what we call ‘the best and most interesting colleges in the country.’ We then invite the colleges to fill out an Institutional Questionnaire giving lots of information about academic programs, the makeup of the student body, admissions procedures and so forth,” Edward Fiske, the author of the guide, said in an email.

“So the guide is essentially a collection of narrative essays about colleges.”

Truman State University in Kirksville, considered the most selective public school in the state, is also a 2018 Fiske guide best buy. Last year, but not this year, the University of Kansas was among the schools in the guide book considered to give students the biggest bang for their buck.

The MU profile discusses such areas as the number of degree programs, Greek and residence hall life, and the racial breakdown of the student body.

It did mention [the 2015 MU student protests](#) over “chronically poor race relations on campus.”

Fiske awards its best buy stamp after “we compile a list of schools that offer the great educational value as measured by the relationship between quality and cost,” said Fiske. “The colleges have no role in determining whether they would qualify.”

It cost a Missouri resident \$27,374 — including tuition, fees, housing and food, books, and transportation — for summer and spring semesters in the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Fiske rating comes as MU has seen enrollment numbers drop and as it has [been dueling with The New York Times](#) over a story that said students and their families are shunning the school in the wake of bad publicity.



[MU leaders criticize NY Times article](#)

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=640b983d-3b7a-4036-a364-0ac7d1a00b84>

By Mark Slavit

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri leaders criticized [an article](#) in the New York Times, claiming it did not tell the whole story about the connection between racial tension and the school’s drop in enrollment.

University of Missouri officials said the article about their school is factual. However, they said the article did not mention any of the positive steps school leaders have taken since the racial protests on the Mizzou campus.

The New York Times article connected Mizzou's racial protests with a dip in enrollment and cuts in state funding. University leaders were not challenging any of the facts in the story, but Missouri Students Association President Nathan Willett said the article omits improvements at his school during the past two years.

"I don't think the article was holistic of the changes made here at Mizzou since then," Willett said. "I have the students' perspective of the administration and our campus and they do feel more included in conversations. They know that their voices do matter."

MU Plant Sciences Professor Craig Roberts said his comments in the New York Times article did not include his belief that subtle racism existed on many American campuses, not just Mizzou. Roberts referred to that problem as implicit bias.

"I didn't see any substantial reference in the article to the efforts of faculty, students and administration in increasing awareness of implicit bias," Roberts said.

The article stated that "the campus has been shunned by students and families put off by, depending on their viewpoint, a culture of racism or one where protesters run amok."

President Choi said the men and women of Mizzou are learning from their past while serving as a model for a new engaged university to the nation. Choi said that was not the story in the New York Times article and he wanted to set the record straight.

New York Times reporters interviewed top University of Missouri leaders for hours while writing the article.



89.3 FM
KANSAS CITY PUBLIC MEDIA

Mizzou Officials Take Issue With New York Times Story

By KATIE BERNARD

Leaders of the University of Missouri are taking issue with a recent New York Times article which describes challenges still facing the Columbia campus nearly two years after student protests grabbed national attention.

On Monday, the Times published an article which outlined financial and enrollment struggles faced by Mizzou, describing the challenges largely as the result of a series of racially charged protests in November 2015.

The article said the "moment of triumph for the protesting students" had been a "disaster for the university", pointing out Mizzou's library has recently been fundraising to buy books and the university is renting out dorms it can't fill with new students.

University of Missouri leaders, including UM System President Mun Choi, on Tuesday released a statement saying the article missed several "positive developments" that have occurred at Mizzou since the protests.

"We are learning from our past while serving as a model for a new engaged university to the nation," the statement said.

The statement outlined recent accolades Mizzou has received, such as its membership in the AAU, high ratings from Standard and Poor's and Moody's, and its ranking as one of the safest colleges in the country.

That coincided with an op-ed written by Nathan Willett, the president of the Missouri Student Association and published in The Kansas City Star.

"The article published in the New York Times this week would appear to be an example of a journalist who had already decided exactly what she was going to say before ever speaking to anyone actually here on campus," Willett wrote.

Willett's op-ed conceded that the protests had hurt the university's image, but he argued Mizzou's declining enrollment was also a result of state budget cuts and what he described as "increased SEC recruitment" in neighboring Illinois.

Mizzou faculty also took to Twitter to express their disappointment with the article, criticizing the Times for incomplete reporting.

Danielle Rhoades Ha, a Times spokeswoman, defended the story in a statement to the Star.

"The Times article was about the challenges facing the university as a result of the 2015 protests, which the university acknowledges," Ha said. "The article also gave the university's point of view that the attention given the protests was overblown, and it discussed the measures the university is taking to combat this. The university does not challenge any of the facts in our story in their response."

Katie Bernard is KCUR's morning news intern.



MU Responds to New York Times Article

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=89de4690-307f-4a42-8d04-4ec5a1aef1ec>

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Colleges Are to Blame for the Contempt in Which They're Held

BY PETER WOOD

The Chronicle's story about the new Pew Research Center survey on American attitudes toward higher education displays a photo of Middlebury College students turning their backs on Charles Murray at the March 2 protest that culminated in assaults on Murray and Professor Allison Stanger.

The photo deftly captures the essence of the Pew report. The survey of 2,504 adults found a dramatic shift in the percentage of Republicans who see colleges and universities having "a positive effect on the way things are going in the country." The finding has been widely reported: In just two years, Republicans have flipped from a majority (54 percent) saying higher education has a positive effect on the country, to a majority (58 percent) saying the opposite.

I am heartened by the news. It has taken a lot to break through the complacency of these voters. In my role as head of the National Association of Scholars, I've given speeches at countless grassroots events, written or published hundreds of articles, and spent hours on talk radio in an effort to persuade ordinary Americans that something is terribly amiss in higher education. The Pew survey suggests that at least some people have begun to listen.

Of course, the real credit for this turnaround goes to those students at Middlebury and their counterparts at dozens of other colleges and universities. **It goes to Melissa Click, the professor who was caught on video saying, "I need some muscle over here!" to expel a student reporter from a protest at the University of Missouri in November 2015.** And it goes to college presidents such as Hiram Chodosh, at Claremont McKenna; Peter Salovey, at Yale; and Laurie Patton, at Middlebury whose fecklessness in the face of students' outrageous violations of the norms of the academic community has shaken public confidence in higher education's basic ability to provide an environment where ideas can be freely debated.

I wouldn't want to leave out the debt to Kate Aronoff, the student leader at Swarthmore College whose activist group, Mountain Justice, took over a board meeting. Swarthmore's president at the time, Rebecca Chopp, later called for dialogue, to which Ms. Aronoff replied by way of headline, "F*** Your Constructive Dialogue." [Asterisks are mine.]

That was in May 2013, and while I doubt that many of the Pew responders called it to mind, it was a key moment in the breaking of the dams that had restrained the self-indulgent crudity and

swinishness of students who impose their own views on their communities. President Chopp's half-hapless, half-obliging handling of the situation was also a forerunner of the behavior of the throng of college presidents who make an art form of acquiescence.

My thanks to all the social-justice warriors, race hustlers, faculty ideologues, and administrative enablers who have brought about this change in public opinion. I couldn't have done it without you.

But I don't want to organize a victory parade on the basis of one small poll taken in the wake of several years of really atrocious behavior.

The Pew question demands a gestalt answer, and the gestalt answer for me is that American higher education, taken all in all, has put itself in opposition to America's best principles, its most admirable aspirations, its open-mindedness, and its capacity to create a generation of worthy civic and political leaders. That opposition has public consequences, the most important of which is the malformation of students who mistake their anger for clear thinking and who have developed contempt for their country and their countrymen.

Anger and contempt will, of course, be met with anger and contempt, and what colleges and universities have provided is a radical intensification of our partisan divide.

[Story continues.](#)

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

JULY 12, 2017 4:41 PM

[MU joins muscle and bone disease research partnership](#)

BY ANDY MARSO
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The University of Missouri announced Wednesday it is joining a muscle and bone disease research partnership that already includes the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the University of Kansas Medical Center and Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Missouri will become part of the Kansas City Consortium on Musculoskeletal Diseases, a group formed in 2015 to help the area's research institutions join forces to compete for grant dollars to study illnesses like osteoporosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which is commonly called ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

"We are very excited to have the University of Missouri join KCMD," the consortium's director, Lawrence Dreyfus, UMKC vice chancellor for research and economic development, said in a prepared statement. "Broadening our membership to include the outstanding musculoskeletal and neuromuscular disease research groups on the MU campus will significantly strengthen the collaborative potential for research across our region."

The consortium has tentatively scheduled its second annual symposium for October at UMKC.

MISSOURIAN

[Mental health panel underscores links to homelessness, criminal justice system](#)

[ANNA BRETT](#) 16 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — At a community discussion on mental health, homelessness and criminal justice, Rusty Antel told this story:

A man had committed a home invasion robbery and was sitting in jail — but only because there wasn't a bed for him at the hospital.

The man was evaluated by a mental health professional, who judged him too severely mentally ill to be competent to stand trial, Antel said. He said the man should have been hospitalized but instead spent an additional six months in jail waiting for a bed at a psychiatric unit because there was no other place for him to go.

"He was just about totally unable to care for himself at all," said Antel, a lawyer who chairs the Boone County Judicial and Law Enforcement Task Force. "The largest inpatient mental health treatment facility is the Boone County Jail."

Antel was among leaders representing a broad range of Boone County's public service providers who gathered Tuesday evening at the Columbia Public Library to discuss mental health initiatives, many of which were formulated through the task force. The panel included representatives from two local hospitals, law enforcement, social service agencies, county and city government departments and the faith community.

They talked about the history of community mental health treatment and the needs of people with mental illness in the criminal justice system. They also laid out a wide range of projects that seek to help people experiencing homelessness and mental illness and prevent them from entering or re-entering the criminal justice system.

The panelists had numerous approaches, including affordable housing, access to behavioral and primary health care, and jail diversion programs. They emphasized that working together to provide better, long-term care and services is needed.

When the Boone County Jail became overcrowded in the early 1990s, the problem of inmates with mental illness was identified, Antel said. Even when the county built a new jail and added space, it quickly filled, he said. Boone County eventually had to spend money sending their inmates to other county's jails.

Capt. Keith Hoskins of the Boone County Sheriff's Department said that as of Tuesday, there were 224 people in the jail's custody, including 35 people housed out of county. Thirty-six of those had prescriptions for psychotropic medications used to treat mental illness, or about 16 percent.

"Those 36 people might have a better chance of getting better treatment if they were not in jail," Hoskins said. "Some do belong in jail, don't get me wrong, but there are some people that would be better suited in a community-based treatment program."

A biweekly mental health meeting was started to identify inmates with a mental illness and understand what their needs are, Antel said.

The task force was formed to address this issue and create a system-wide response.

People with mental illness who are homeless can interact with the criminal justice system in a cycle that fails to address their needs. Many are arrested for low-level crimes like trespassing, which can occur when they are sleeping outside while homeless, according to [previous Missouriian reporting](#). This can lead to longer jail stays because they can't afford bail.

They come in frequent contact with public service systems like emergency rooms and law enforcement, but their long-term problems, such as consistent access to care, aren't solved.

This also leads to an expensive, inefficient use of community resources.

John Cummins, chief resident of psychiatry at MU Health Care, said there can often be a wait for even the first step of mental health care, a psychiatric assessment, also leading people to go to the emergency room. Depending on their insurance, it could be as long as three months. He said an emergency room visit for acute mental health symptoms can be between three and five times more expensive than an office visit.

"When people show up to the emergency room, it's a signal that health care resources aren't available," Cummins said.

Steve Hollis, a representative from the Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services Department, said it can be difficult for people to afford health insurance, leading to visits to the emergency room for their care.

If the person is uninsured and unable to pay the bill, Cummins said, "The cost to the system can be devastating."

Panel members discussed almost 20 projects set to address these issues, but Hollis said federal and state funding can be key components to local initiatives, especially Medicaid and funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Steve Calloway, who attended the panel discussion, is the director of pharmacy at MO HealthNet, Missouri's Medicaid program. Calloway said it's difficult for many people to afford insurance because they don't qualify for the Medicaid program but aren't eligible for an Affordable Care Act subsidy, either.

"If you're a single person without a disability, you can be homeless, you're not going to get Medicaid," Calloway said.

Tim Harlan, a representative from the Missouri chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness who worked as a lawyer for Social Security disability, said he has seen the percentage of people who are approved for disability drop from 75 percent to 40 percent in recent years.

"If you think there is a safety net for people with disabilities, that would be incorrect," Harlan said.

About 50 people attended the panel discussion, which was sponsored by the Boone County Commission, League of Women Voters of Columbia-Boone County and the Columbia Public Library.

David Lile of KFRU/1400 AM moderated the event, which was broadcast live on KFRU.

Heather Harlan, a member of the audience who works at Phoenix Health Programs, said the issue came down to a key question: "Are we going to help people or are we going to put them in jail?"

MISSOURIAN

Priority at flooded Lewis Hall is to get water out

[GINA BALSTAD](#), 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Cleanup continues at Lewis Hall, 701 S. Fifth St., where a burst pipe soaked all eight floors late Friday and early Saturday.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the priority is getting the water out. Then the focus will shift to assessing what was damaged and needs to be thrown out. Checking for mold and other health issues will occur after that, Basi said.

No personnel will be allowed back in permanently until after thorough safety reviews are done, Basi said. Employees have been allowed in to get their personal belongings.

The flooding was caused by an expansion joint for a chilled water main that burst on the eighth floor, [according previous Missourian reporting](#). Lewis Hall houses the School of Health Professions and [MU Archives](#).