



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: Why Mun Y. Choi will earn his pay at the University of Missouri

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Hardest job in Missouri? Probably that of Mun Y. Choi, new president of the University of Missouri. The university's declining enrollment and race problems got front page treatment from the New York Times on Sunday, resulting in a black eye for the school and the state. The problem is entirely of Missouri's own making. The state can't run a university where black students feel unwelcome and then pretend to be surprised when there's backlash.

Mizzou will have a hard time training the workforce the state needs with 9 percent state budget cuts. Then there's a new Pew Research Center study showing declining support among Republican voters for "elitist" higher education. Choi has his work cut out for him. The university plans a \$1 million marketing campaign to respond. That might help, but we hope there are some real solutions on the menu, too.

Problems were mounting long before fall 2015, with months of escalating racial tension around high-profile incidents of slurs and vandalism; reports of trouble on Greek row; the release of a study revealing the prevalence of sexual assaults on campus; a lawsuit over conceal-and-carry restrictions; and student criticism about various administrative responses.

That all came against a backdrop of years of tighter budgets, a threatened shutdown of the university's press that had published such renowned black authors as Langston Hughes and complaints about graduate student health insurance benefits and teaching positions. Stir in the 2014 shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, which drew dozens of Mizzou students to demonstrations then and again in November, after a St. Louis County grand jury decided against indicting the white officer who fatally shot Brown, and the university was a tense place.

The tensions boiled over with the campus eruption in November 2015. When assistant communications professor Melissa Click was caught in an on-camera meltdown trying to protect campus protesters and block a student journalist from covering them, she became a convenient scapegoat for political complaints about higher education and Mizzou in particular.

Then came pressure from then-state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, on a politically motivated crusade to get MU out of the "abortion business." His efforts resulted in the loss of access

privileges at the university hospital for a Planned Parenthood doctor, and another gut punch for Mizzou.

These are just some of the reasons why Choi, hired in November, will earn every bit of the \$530,000 annual salary he is getting. There's also deferred compensation and a housing allowance that will add nearly \$80,000 to the package.

The university is the state's educational crown jewel, a place of pride for generations of students. The crown may be a little tarnished, but Missouri's future requires a fair, affordable and yes, elite, state university.



Cash donations to the University of Missouri reach a record for fiscal year 2017

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

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Generated from News Bureau press release: [Mizzou Donors Set New Cash Yearly Giving Record](#)

The University of Missouri was bragging on Thursday: Cash gifts during fiscal year 2017 set a record.

The university raised more than \$121 million in cash, the highest-ever amount.

Overall, including pledges, MU raised nearly \$152 million for the fiscal year that ended June 30. That annual total, including cash and pledges, is the fourth-highest in the university's history and brings the [Mizzou: Our Time to Lead](#) campaign up to \$905 million — more than two-thirds of the way to its \$1.3 billion goal.

The campaign was launched nearly two years ago.

“Every gift to MU contributes to success in the classroom, in the research laboratory or on the playing field. I cannot adequately express my gratitude to our supporters,” said Alexander Cartwright, MU chancellor-designate.

During the year, more than 40,000 donors made nearly 75,000 donations, pledges or estate gifts to the Columbia campus. Gifts ranged from donations of less than a dollar to 21 that were more than \$1 million each.

University officials said this is the fourth consecutive year where donors have made 20 or more million-dollar gifts to MU.

Dollars raised in the campaign, launched in October 2015, will go primarily to three areas: endowment, signature centers and institutes, and new construction and renovations.

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T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri sets record for cash donations

By Rudi Keller

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Mizzou Donors Set New Cash Yearly Giving Record](#)

The University of Missouri set a record for cash receipts from donors in the fiscal year that ended June 30 and boosted the total of its fundraising campaign to more than \$900 million.

Donors made \$151.9 million in new cash and pledges for the Columbia campus, off about 11 percent from the record total for fiscal 2016, in large part because the previous year's tally included two large gifts totaling \$39 million. The total includes the record \$50.4 million in cash and pledges raised by Intercollegiate Athletics, which also received the two largest pledges of the year, \$10 million and \$8 million respectively, for the project to expand seating in Memorial Stadium.

There are large donations with verbal commitments that could not be counted because the paperwork is not complete, Vice Chancellor for Advancement Tom Hiles said.

“That would have set a record in both categories, but we have to respect donors’ timing, and we are on their timeline,” he said.

In a news release, the university said that 40,000 donors gave almost 75,000 donations to MU during the fiscal year. The smallest gift was less than \$1 and 21 were \$1 million or more.

“Every gift to MU contributes to success in the classroom, in the research laboratory or on the playing field,” Chancellor-designate Alexander Cartwright said in the news release. “I cannot adequately express my gratitude to our supporters.”

The \$121 million in cash receipts breaks the fiscal 2014 record of \$119.3 million. The \$151.9 million in new cash and pledges is the third highest total of the “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” campaign, which was launched quietly in 2013 and publicly in October 2015. The fundraising campaign has brought in \$905 million of the \$1.3 billion goal.

The donation report is a financial bright spot for a university that has been cutting programs and laying off personnel because of declining enrollment and cuts in state taxpayer support. The Columbia campus budget for the current fiscal year included a \$59.8 million cut and the elimination of 342 jobs.

The university’s enrollment problems are tied to public perceptions of MU following campus protests in the fall of 2015 that ended when then-UM System President Tim Wolfe and Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned. The resignations did not end the controversy because the focus shifted to actions of assistant professor Melissa Click, who called for “some muscle” to push photographers from a protest scene.

Click was fired by the Board of Curators after months of debate and criticism from free speech advocates and conservative politicians. A New York Times article this week brought national attention to President Mun Choi’s statement, made a month ago, that the protests and aftermath were the major reasons for the decline.

The protests provoked a major reaction among donors in the fall of 2015, but that has died away, Hiles said. Messages this week were supportive, he said.

“I am not going to lie, it has been challenging over the last two years and our donors are still concerned,” Hiles said. “I am actually more optimistic that I have been in a long time.”

Major donors are responding to new leadership from Choi, who started March 1, and Cartwright, who will begin his job Aug. 1.

The new leadership has not changed the focus of the fundraising campaign but it might shift the goals for new construction and building renovation projects, Hiles said. The goal is to grow the campus endowment, create five to 10 high-profile research and learning institutes and support capital construction.

A top priority for Choi is construction of a Transitional Precision Medicine Complex, a research lab project that could cost \$150 million or more. When Cartwright arrives, one of the first steps will be to discuss what the capital plans are for construction and how to set priorities, Hiles said.

“That is the only one of the three that has some nuances or volatility depending on how the leaders see things,” Hiles said.

Donors are happy to see stable campus and system leadership, Hiles said. That will make fundraising more effective, he added.

“Everyone who has written Mizzou off will be sorely surprised,” he said.

MISSOURIAN

MU raises the most cash gifts in the school's history in fiscal 2017

Story Generated by MU News Bureau Press Release: [Mizzou Donors Set New Cash Yearly Giving Record](#)

By EDWARD MCKINLEY

At a time when MU's enrollment and state funding, the two largest sources of revenue, are falling, the school raised \$152 million in donations during fiscal year 2017. That's the fourth most in its history, according to a Thursday news release.

This figure includes pledges and one-time cash donations. A pledge would be a situation in which someone donates \$10,000 but chooses to make that donation over two years in two \$5,000 installments. The full \$10,000 figure would be counted for the first year's fundraising total, but only the amount paid up front would be counted as a cash donation.

MU raised \$121 million in cash gifts alone during fiscal year 2017, which ran from July 1, 2016, to June 30, the most in the history of the school.

The overall figure, \$152 million, falls short of the 2016 fiscal year total in one-time cash donations and pledges of \$170.1 million, which is MU's all-time record. The 2015 total, formerly the record, was \$164.5 million, according to earlier Missourian reporting.

In the record-setting 2016 fiscal year, MU overcame the loss of \$2 million in retracted donations following that year's protests, according to earlier Missouriian reporting.

In MU's fundraising campaign, named "Mizzou: Our Time to Lead," more than 40,000 donors made almost 75,000 donations in the 2017 fiscal year.

The campaign was announced on Oct. 8 with a goal of \$1.3 billion. A silent period started three years before the public announcement, and MU raised about \$650 million in that period. According to earlier Missouriian reporting, the morning the fundraising campaign was announced publicly, MU was given a \$25 million endowment by the Kinder Foundation. The donation was, at that time, the fourth largest in the school's history.

As of today, MU has raised \$905 million of its \$1.3 billion goal for the campaign, or almost 70 percent.

There were 21 donors who made contributions of over a million dollars, the fourth year in a row that at least 20 such donations were made, according to a release from MU.

There were many smaller gifts given as well. The first annual Mizzou Giving Day took place on March 15 and raised over \$8 million in 3,591 donations, according to the release. Some donated less than \$1.

The southward end zone expansion at Faurot Field has also attracted tens of millions of dollars in donations. The athletics budget is managed separately from MU's, and many large donations are made specifically to that department rather than the school at large or to a specific academic department. The end zone expansion has raised over \$70 million in donations alone, with several multimillion-dollar individual gifts as high as \$10 million.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou rakes in \$152 million in annual fundraising, down from previous record year

By ASHLEY JOST

Leaders seem unfazed by a drop in fundraising that hit the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The university reported Thursday that it raised \$152 million during the budget year that ended June 30, down \$19 million from the previous year — a university record.

Almost one-third of the current year's fundraising came from the athletics department, which was a record year for new athletic director Jim Sterk.

The drop comes a year and a half after student protests centered around issues of race brought the campus national attention.

Two top leaders resigned amid the strife during November 2015. The freshman class enrollment has since dropped more than 30 percent from projections of the incoming class versus the fall of 2015.

But with new leadership, a highly anticipated basketball season and big changes in the way the university operates, leaders are hopeful alumni and supporters recognize that this could be the dawn of a new era for the flagship campus.

“Having stability at the top will be critical,” said Tom Hiles, Mizzou's vice chancellor for advancement.

He was talking about the still-new University of Missouri System president Mun Choi and the incoming Mizzou chancellor Alexander Cartwright, who starts Aug. 1. Both leaders are involved in building relationships with alumni and others to build support and bring in money for the campus, typical to any university.

Within three months after Choi arrived, he and the governing board tapped Cartwright to come in and lead the Columbia campus. He also announced a massive change in operations, cutting \$100 million across all four University of Missouri campuses. The cuts included more than 500 positions being eliminated, the bulk of which were at Mizzou.

The cuts were twofold. Making up lost money from declining state appropriations and tuition revenue, but also to reinvest in programs that are doing well and have growth potential.

Hiles and his team point to this past year as a record for bringing in cash donations, as opposed to pledges.

According to the department, \$121 million of the year's total is in cash, which is the highest cash flow amount in the last five years.

Officials also tout this year as one of the largest in number of \$1 million or larger gifts.

He's also hopeful about several larger gifts that weren't finalized before the end of the last year, but will help kick off the 2018 budget year as his team continues to push a bigger fundraising campaign.

The school reports reaching almost \$906 million out of a \$1.3 billion goal for the "Our Time to Lead" campaign, which ends June 2020.

The campaign, which started in October 2015, focuses on funding scholarships, campus centers and institutes that boost research productivity and campus facilities.

"With new leadership across campus, we are committed to making Mizzou even stronger, and private support continues to be essential to our success," Hiles said in a statement. "We are very pleased that we are on track to exceed our \$1.3 billion goal by 2020."



[Annual Mizzou fundraising totals \\$152M, down after record FY2016](#)

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=074aac0c-8d44-4579-be17-5af90e5e3e20>

COLUMBIA (AP) — [Annual fundraising at the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia topped \\$152 million, but was down \\$19 million from the record amount raised the previous year.](#)

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the [university announced](#) the latest total Thursday. The budget year ended June 30.

Almost one-third of the current year's fundraising came from the athletics department, which was a record year for new athletic director Jim Sterk.

The school has been recovering since fall 2015 from student protests over the administration's handling of racial issues and the subsequent resignations of the system president and chancellor of the Columbia campus. Freshman enrollment subsequently dropped.

But with new leadership, the university is hopeful. Mizzou's vice chancellor for advancement, Tom Hiles, says that "having stability at the top will be critical."

Story also ran in the media outlets:

KTVI FOX- St. Louis, MO

KTRS AM Radio- St. Louis, MO

WDAF Fox- Kansas City, MO

KSPR ABC- Springfield, MO

KMIZ ABC- Columbia, MO

KRCG CBS- Columbia, MO

St. Louis **Business** Journal

Mizzou fundraising total falls from last year

By Diana Barr

The University of Missouri's Columbia campus raised over \$121 million in cash gifts in fiscal 2017 ended June 30, topping the previous record of \$119 million in cash gifts received in fiscal 2014, officials said Thursday.

The university said that, including pledges, it raised about \$151.9 million in fiscal 2017, the fourth highest total in its history but down about 11 percent from [the record \\$170.9 million](#) raised in fiscal 2016.

The recent funds bring the total for the school's current capital campaign [launched in October 2015](#), Mizzou: Our Time to Lead, to \$905 million, or two-thirds of its \$1.3 billion goal.

School officials had said they hoped to raise the total by 2020, and Mizzou Vice Chancellor for [Advancement Tom Hiles](#) said in a statement Thursday they're on track to exceed their goal by the deadline.

Over 40,000 donors made nearly 75,000 donations, pledges or estate gifts to Mizzou in fiscal 2017, ranging from under \$1 to 21 gifts of \$1 million or more, officials said.

“Every gift to MU contributes to success in the classroom, in the research laboratory or on the playing field,” Chancellor-[Designate Alexander Cartwright](#) said in a statement. “I cannot adequately express my gratitude to our supporters.”

Freshman enrollment at the University of Missouri's Columbia campus has dropped by more than 35 percent in the two years since the 2015 protests on the campus, [according to a New York Times piece this week](#).



Hard Times Show No Signs of Slowing Down at University of Missouri, Fundraising Drops by \$20 Million

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=2a446575-242f-40a5-97bf-8f7628440877>

MISSOURIAN

Email: Jeff Zeilenga accepted expanded dean of students position

By EDWARD MCKINLEY

MU Assistant Vice Chancellor Jeff Zeilenga has agreed to take on the newly expanded position of dean of students, according to a July 6 email sent by Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary Ward.

This is a part of a larger restructuring and consolidation effort by MU that was announced the same day. MU spokesman Christian Basi would not confirm Zeilenga's appointment Wednesday, saying the paperwork had not been finalized.

In the Ward email to Student Affairs staff, the position of dean of students is described as in charge of "student programming." The responsibilities of the newly expanded position are listed in an organizational flow chart released by MU. This new dean of students will work with many of the departments that play a direct impact on the lives of students.

MU announced that the restructuring would eliminate the positions of one assistant vice chancellor, three directors and one senior associate director. Ward's email says the same.

Zeilenga's former position was assistant vice chancellor for Student Affairs, and it is no longer listed in the new chart.

Frankie Minor, the former 23-year director of Residential Life, and Mark Lucas, the former 20-year director of Student Life, were laid off in the restructuring. Their departments are among those listed under the expanded dean of students position. Student Recreation is also listed, of which Diane Dahlmann is the director. Her status could not be confirmed Wednesday.

Greek Life is listed under the dean of students' purview as well, and Senior Associate Director Janna Basler is no longer visible on the Student Life staff web page.

How Ancient Peruvians Partied on Eclipse Day

By Mark Barna | July 11, 2017 11:51 am

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch

Solar-eclipse fever is about to heat up as millions of Americans celebrate the astronomical spectacle happening Aug. 21. Businesses and universities along its shadowy bandwidth from Lincoln Beach, Ore., to Charleston, S.C., are organizing days-long events.

There will be festivals with live music, art displays and camping. A special event in Illinois features a performance by hard-rock legend Ozzy Osborne. Many more are organizing eclipse parties in their backyards. But this isn't the first time in human history – and prehistory – that humans have gone bonkers for a moment of darkness on an otherwise sunny day.

Anthropologist Robert Benfer has coauthored a paper published online in June in *Antiquities* suggesting that Peruvian people of the 16th century held solar-eclipse celebrations, as well.

The Yungas viewed total solar eclipses as good omens, so you can imagine the partying that went on when daytime skies went dark four times over a period of 22 years. To put this in perspective, the binomial probability of four total solar eclipses occurring even within 110 years over a spot on Earth is .0003 (or .03 percent), the authors say in the paper.

As often happens, Benfer, a professor emeritus at the University of Missouri, was looking for something else when his path to discovery began. A few years ago, he was in Nepeña Valley in coastal Peru looking for animal-shaped effigy mounds when he happened upon a 50-foot-tall mound dug out at the center. The mound, first discovered in the 1960s, looks like an inactive volcano, hence the name El Volcán. Peruvian people built it between 2,900 and 2,200 years ago.

Years later, Benfer and his team returned to excavate a portion of the mound's artificial crater and discovered a stairwell leading to an area with a mud-plaster floor and a fireplace made of adobe bricks at the center. The room was constructed in the 16th century by the Yungas. Radio carbon dating placed the hearth's last burn between 1492 and 1602.

Benfer had a hunch that the room was somehow connected to astronomical events. He used a software program called Starry Night to rewind the sky to how it looked to the Yungas at the time. He discovered that total solar eclipses happened above Peru in 1521, 1538, 1539 and 1543,

which aligned with the hearth's radio carbon dating. He confirmed those dates by checking astronomical records.

The Yungas were agricultural people who probably tracked the stars to know when to plant and harvest, and they made offerings to gods atop mounds to ensure a good crop. Given this, it is not much of a leap to surmise that a total solar eclipse – especially four in a comparative blink of time – would have left a profound impression on them.

“It is likely that astronomer priests organized the responses, likely a festival for solar eclipses,” says Benfer.

Americans are entering their own period of total-solar-eclipse overload. The last one happened 38 years ago in 1979. But this summer's alignment begins a 35-year period of five total solar eclipses visible from somewhere in the Lower 48 (2017, 2024, 2044, 2045 and 2052).

These days, we know the science behind solar eclipses, and most of us don't see them as omens, even when occurring within a short window of time.

But we still like an excuse to party. Let the festivities begin.



Why the mania over August's solar eclipse? There hasn't been one like it since 1778.

BY ERIC ADLER

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On Monday, Aug. 21, when the moon blocks out the light of the midday sun, traffic along Interstate 29 is expected to come to a standstill as thousands of drivers pull to the side of the road, abandon their vehicles and peer into the heavens.

Millions of others wearing solar glasses will crowd into yards, city streets, farms and onto rooftops.

In St. Joseph, city leaders are prepping feverishly for the arrival of at least 50,000 visitors for the event, although some estimates are as wild as 500,000, more than six times the town's current population.

Airbnbs there are going for \$700 a night. Campsites, RV parks and hotel rooms across Missouri have been reserved for months, including one reserved three years ago by a couple from Spain. Festivals will last the weekend.

One young Overland Park bride has picked that day — indeed, in the very minutes as the moon approaches the sun to create a blinding and fiery corona — to exchange her wedding vows.

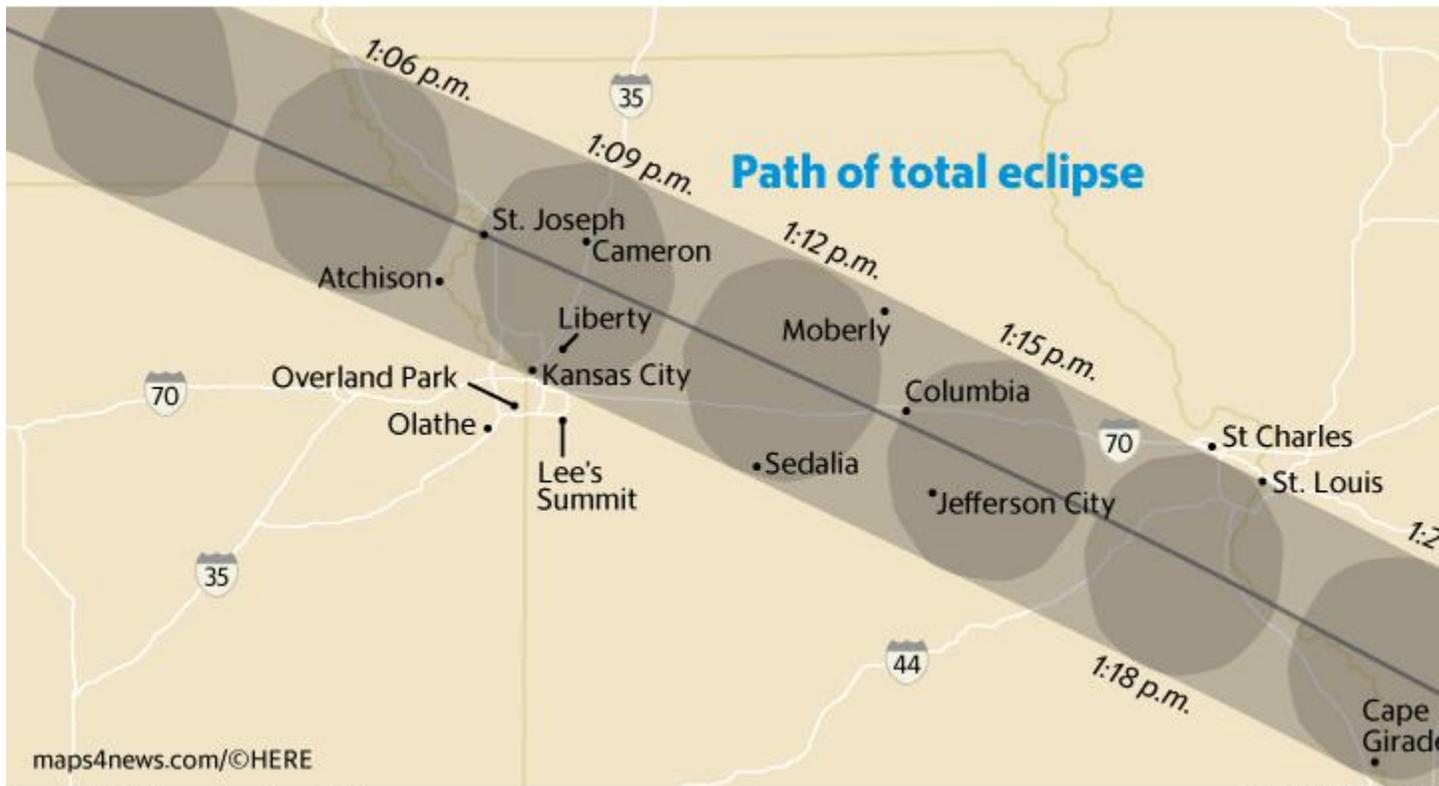
“I couldn’t think of a more dream-like wedding for myself,” Samantha Adams said.

All of which is to say, as you’ve surely heard, the United States is gearing up for a historic and dramatic *total* solar eclipse. It’s a phenomenon in which the moon blocks the entire face of the sun, like a coin over a coin, in a celestial pas de deux said to be as spiritual as it is awe-inspiring to view in person.

“People have seen pictures. They are aware of the idea,” said Angela Speck, a professor of astronomy at the University of Missouri who also is co-chairwoman of a national eclipse task force for the American Astronomical Society. “But why do you want to see the Grand Canyon? Why do you want to climb Everest? Seeing pictures is not the same.”

Indeed, everywhere the moon’s full shadow hits the earth, bright daylight will turn to twilight. The sky, if it is clear, will shine faintly with stars. Winds will surge. The temperature will drop as much as 10 degrees. Birds, it’s been reported, become frantic in advance of the encroaching darkness and then, eerily, turn quiet. For a brief few minutes, the sun’s light, needed for life on earth, disappears.

“The eclipse, really, it galvanizes your relationship with heaven and earth. That’s what it does,” said Jen Winter, a Warrensburg, Mo., photographer. For nearly 20 years, Winter has traveled to places including Antarctica, Hungary and waters 1,000 miles off the Galapagos Islands to capture images of eclipses. “It gives you this moment in history, and in time, where you and the earth and the sun and the moon and your outdoor setting are suddenly cast into one tiny event that lasts this two little minutes.”



Source: NASA, www.eclipse2017.org

THE KANSAS CITY

In fact, solar eclipses are not unusual, occurring somewhere on the planet about every 18 months on average, although often their path takes them over remote areas or oceans.

August's eclipse, which is slated to turn day to night for no more than about two minutes and 40 seconds shortly after 1 p.m., is spurring excitement nationwide as the first one in nearly 40 years to cross the continental United States.

[Story Continues.](#)



MU Doctor Warns of Health Risks Associated with High Temperatures

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Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1f256559-874f-494a-ab21-85b779830458>