



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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University of Missouri leaders focus on outreach

By: Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/university-of-missouri-leaders-focus-on-outreach/591129253>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri and Columbia leaders said on Friday they're working on new strategies to communicate the real impact of the UM system hoping to attract more money from the state.

It's no secret that the UM system is going through some big financial struggles.

State appropriations have been on the decline since the early 2000s.

In a Friday meeting, city, county and university leaders agreed if they communicate the impact of the UM system, then money from the legislature may eventually follow suit.

System President Mun Choi estimates the economic impact of the UM system is between \$3 billion and \$4 billion. The problem is, not enough people know that.

"How can we deliver differently so that every citizen in this state knows that on any given day the University of Missouri is making a difference in their life?" asked MU Vice Chancellor for Engagement, Marshall Stewart.

In April, the University of Missouri formed an engagement council. Its members have been all over the state working to find out how the university can better serve Missourians.

"If we do good things for Missouri, then the national recognition, the global recognition will follow," said Stewart.

It's a crucial move for Mizzou because the incoming freshman class is the smallest it's been in at least a decade.

Right now, the majority of students come from urban areas, so rural outreach is key.

An economic impact study was recently done for the MU Extension program. It revealed \$945 million worth of impact. That's more than ten times their initial budget.

"It's really important that our citizenry understand that if we want the legislators to better understand what we do and the value we have for the citizens of the state," said Stewart.

Columbia leaders said that impact also needs to be communicated to the Legislature.

"We hope one day that it turns into appropriations but we're also aware and understand the state's budget and the opportunities they have," said Columbia Chamber of Commerce President, Matt McCormick.

McCormick cited the research reactor as one example. He said that affects everyone in our state because life-saving cancer research is done there.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Is MU turmoil a blessing or a curse?

By HANK WATERS III

Ever since then-President Elmer Ellis announced the formation of the University of Missouri System and began his lifelong attempt to explain the concept to Missourians on and off campus, the question has been alive: "Is UM a system with four branches or four independent campuses with a sort of hovering central management system?"

Through the intervening years, system presidents and curators have tried their best to have it both ways. Recognizing at once the advantages of system-wide organization and the fierce independence of local faculty is quite a stretch. As the university continued to grow fumbling around with this conceptual dichotomy could be tolerated. Several attempts to exploit the advantages of system-wide authority were rebuffed. The institution lived with the inherent inefficiencies of siloism, in which program managers and faculty defended their cherished bailiwicks against centralized attempts to integrate, resulting in a certain amount of duplication and preservation of suspect programming. Best attempts from the top to reallocate priorities and resources were sent packing by fierce lobbying from lovers of particular programs. The system concept existed largely in name only.

Then, in late 2015 the MU campus protest by a group calling itself Concerned Student 1950 finally turned the apple basket upside down. By the time the world had reacted to the student complaints and reactions by university officials, hopes of an easy reinstatement of the status quo were gone. In fast succession top system and campus officials left and successors were named. The new officers must chart a new course, and judging from their comments, they are ready.

They recognize their opportunity to refashion the University of Missouri and this is more than an exciting prospect, it can be transformational, elevating the quality and status of the institution in a way that could not have been possible had the apples remained safely in their basket.

Am I suffering from a Pollyanna syndrome? For years I've been agitating for serious top-down reallocation, all the while recognizing the unlikely prospect. The very nature of the institution was a formidable hindrance. I'd learned the hard way what happens to courageous leaders who try for reallocation. The idea lingered but real prospect was buried.

Until now. New leaders at system and MU levels rekindle excitement. Current observers who knew or cared little of past reallocation efforts are turned on by comments from UM President Mun Choi and new deans like Elizabeth Laboa in Engineering. Both came from afar, recognizing unique possibilities here and, I daresay, now energized by the once-in-a-lifetime chance to exploit an unexpected condition of "exigency," the condition of near desperation caused by the loss of thousands of students and millions of dollars. Other top level MU officials are arriving, obviously chosen in large part because they share the vision. The chance for new management to make real tracks is at hand in a way I never have seen, and I have been around for more semesters than most UM lovers. Lordy, I graduated here before the system was created. What a difference a half-century-plus makes.

So, as President Choi leads a discussion among eager curators about what "system-ness" means, he is aiming for a management structure that finally allows for creative reorganization. Minions on the several campuses will be apprehensive, but they must realize headquarters intends to do a necessary re-do that not only can salvage their parent institution but strengthen each of their branches as well.

They will have to be accepting of change. Some are bound to be unhappy but most must try their best to recognize the system will be stronger because of refinement at the campus level.

President Choi should move quickly and the curators should provide support while the opportunity lasts. President Ellis would approve.



(AAU Science News Website)

Clam fossils show rising sea levels boost parasites

Posted by [Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri](#) July 21st, 2017

Generated from News Bureau press release: [Ancient Italian Fossils Reveal Risk of Parasitic Infections Due to Climate Change](#)

New research suggests that parasitic infections could increase in the next century due to rising sea levels caused by climate change.

In 2014, a team of researchers found that clams from the Holocene Epoch (that began 11,700 years ago) contained clues about how sea level rise due to climate change could foreshadow a rise in parasitic trematodes, or flatworms. The team cautioned that the rise could lead to outbreaks in human infections if left unchecked.

Now, researchers have found that rising seas could be detrimental to human health on a much shorter time scale.

Trematodes are internal parasites that affect mollusks and other invertebrates inhabiting estuarine environments, which are the coastal bodies of brackish water connecting rivers to the open sea. Ancient trematodes had soft bodies; therefore, they didn't leave body fossils. However, infected clams developed oval-shaped pits around the parasite in the attempt to keep it out, and it's the prevalence of those pits and their makeup that provide clues as to what happened during different eras in time.

With core samples taken from the Po River plain in Italy, geologist John Huntley, and colleagues found traces made by trematodes on the shells of the clams, revealing the connections between the ancient clams and climate change. Huntley, an assistant professor of geological sciences in the University of Missouri College of Arts and Science, studied the prehistoric clams as a senior visiting fellow for the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna, Italy.

“The forecasts of increasing global temperatures and sea level rise have led to major concerns about the response of parasites to climate change,” he says. “Italy has a robust environmental monitoring program, so there was a wealth of information to examine.”

Using 61 samples collected from a drill core obtained by the Italian government for geological research, the scientists examined trematode traces and matched the information to existing records measuring sea level and salinity rises through the ages.

“We found that pulses in sea-level rise occurred on the scale of hundreds of years, and that correlated to rises in parasitic trematodes in the core samples,” Huntley says. “What concerns me is that these rises are going to continue to happen and perhaps at accelerated rates.

“This poses grave concerns for public health and ecosystem services. These processes could increase parasitism in not only estuarine systems but also in freshwater settings. Such habitats are home to the snail hosts of blood flukes, which infect and kill a million or more people globally each year.

“What’s scary is it could potentially affect the generations of our kids or grandkids,” he says.

Huntley and his team think that their discoveries could provide a good road map for conservationists and those making decisions about marine environments worldwide.

The study appears in [Scientific Reports](#). National Science Foundation grants, the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna, the Unkelsbay Fund of the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Missouri, and the University of Bologna provided funding for the study.

Additional contributors to the study are from the University of Bologna and the University of Florida. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agencies.

Grow your own: From camps to incubators, focus is on helping start local businesses

By MEGAN FAVIGNANO

Drew Hall, 18, stood in front of three judges Thursday in the University of Missouri's Bush Auditorium and for the first time, pitched his business: H&H Premium Meats and Eggs.

“With the ever rising demand for farm fresh products ... there’s never been a better time to be engaged in the agriculture industry,” Hall told the judges

Hall, who is starting his senior year at Warrenton High School next month, walked out of the auditorium with a \$250 prize to go toward his startup costs. He was one of 13 who participated in the Build a Business youth camp this week. The camps is offered through Summers @ Mizzou and is open to youth ages 12 to 18 from across Missouri.

Steven Hennes, associate extension professional/state 4-H specialist at the MU Extension 4-H Center for Youth Development, said many entrepreneurs got their first idea at age 12 or 13. This year marks the Build a Business camp’s 10th year of a push for teens in Missouri to get involved in entrepreneurship.

“It’s about supporting entrepreneurship at any age by getting today’s students started at the age they are,” he said.

Hennes said the camp is part of a growing community effort to create an ecosystem for entrepreneurs and a culture that encourages people to try things, collaborate and learn from failure.

CAMP

Hennes said the build-a-business camp has students focus on ideas with low start-up costs that they could start immediately.

“You don’t have to wait 10 years to get something started,” he said.

The camp, he said, aims to inspire students to start something, even if they do wait until they're older.

This year's camp attracted 13 students from 10 different Missouri counties, including students from Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis. The camp, he said, is learning by doing. During the four days, Henness said, students aren't put into a simulation. Instead they work with real ideas.

Hall and a friend already have farm access near Warrenton thanks to Hall's family.

"We always did things the traditional way: sold hogs for market and sold a couple cows for market. Here lately it hasn't really been working due to commercial companies pushing us out of the business, undercutting our prices," he said. "I came to camp with an idea to get into a different market."

Hall's family buys young cows and pigs, raises them, then sells them at the county fair or livestock auction. He said his plan is to raise the animal and take them to a processor and distribute the cuts of meat and eggs himself.

During the camp, he looked at farmers markets reports and other research that shows people are willing to pay more for "farm fresh" food. His pitch Thursday focused on the difference in how animals on his farm are raised compared to large commercial farms. He said animals have more room to roam, which makes them healthier and in turn healthier for the consumer. Healthy animals taste better, too, Hall said.

Hall said it's difficult to balance his work on the farm with school, but he's committed to his work.

"Having to wake up an hour early every morning to go out and feed hogs and sheep and cows. It'd definitely a little strenuous but it's well worth it in the end," he said. "It can be tough at times."

The camp pushed Hall and his business partner, who did not attend, to start their business now. Hall said the camp's leaders helped set up a booth for his new business at the state fair next month. H&H Premium Meats and Eggs will be there, he said.

During the four-day Build a Business camp, students find a business idea if they didn't come in with one already. Then, they test the idea, conducting market research that includes talking to people to see if they would buy their product or service. After market research, students focus on building their business and business plan.

They record details including where the business will be located, its target audience and customers and financials. The pitches Thursday ranged from athletic camps for kids to phone applications that map out a museum's exhibits to a traveling hair styling salon. One student didn't pitch an idea and instead said he learned through the camp that entrepreneurship is not for him, at least right now.

Twelve-year-old Andy Durham came to camp intending to learn how to distribute his root beer. He has made and sold root beer in kegs through his parent's brewery, Piney River Brewing Co., for a couple of years. He hopes to distribute his root beer to grocery stores and restaurants in the next year. He said the camp taught him what steps he needs to take to accomplish that.

"I need liability insurance," he said. "I'm a little worried about getting sued."

Brandon Banks, who attended the camp nearly a decade ago, said the experience gave him a foundation as an entrepreneur. He started a theater company at age 15 in Troy after attending the camp.

"I had all the general information from summer camp and then I went home and I locked myself in my room for the rest of the summer," he said.

The theater held drama camps, weekly workshops and plays during the summer. Banks managed the administrative side of the theater, marketing the programs, gaining sponsorship and communicating with parents. His theater company had three adult staff members that ran the programs.

The theater company, called Spotlight Stars, was open for about four years and closed a year or two after Banks went off to college.

"When you step into class on the first day you don't really believe in yourself," he said.

Banks said he thought starting his own business would first require him to go through college, work at a company to get experience for about 10 years and then leave to start his own operation. The camp aims to change students' perspective and encourage them to act on their ideas.

"It's about being the pioneer of an idea rather than a facilitator in some regards," he said.

Banks has continued to stop in at the camp each year to help. After graduating from the University of Central Missouri, Banks connected with a local business owner who spoke at a

build-a-business camp a few years ago. That connection through the camp turned into a job at Modern Media, where Banks helps small business with marketing and efforts to grow.

ENTREPRENEURIAL PUSH

Quinten Messbarger, vice president at the Missouri Innovation Center, said that when he was working to assist startups about 20 years ago, most people didn't understand what it meant to raise equity. Angel networks, he said, were just beginning and the University of Missouri focused on research for the sake of knowledge, but hadn't yet integrated entrepreneurship into the equation.

Regional Economic Development Inc., he said, also was focused more on attracting companies. Now, the not-for-profit public-private partnership with the city also focuses on providing resources for entrepreneurs.

“Everybody now kind of gets the value of growing your own rather than just attracting,” Messbarger said.

He described coordination between the various resources for startups in Columbia as “critical.” Coordination stops the innovation center, city, university and others from duplicating resources.

“We're good at making all the connections to what they need,” he said of current efforts to assist startups.

MU has since dedicated more resources to helping and encouraging entrepreneurs, including the Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic, which offers free legal aid, and the university system's push for faculty to take research to the marketplace. Additionally, the innovation center's incubator is under the umbrella of MU's Office of Research. The university sets licensing agreements with those using its resources to obtain a small percentage of royalties.

Included in a lease fee, the innovation center provides office space, labs and some specialized equipment, decreasing expenses for the budding business. The incubator also offers opportunities for mentoring and support for entrepreneurs developing business plans, production models and finding investors.

During the build-a-business camp, students saw REDI's innovation hub for entrepreneurs and toured the Missouri Innovation Center. Messbarger showed the labs and office spaces available to companies working with the center. One company, called Elemental Enzymes, has been at the innovation center for about five years. The lab creates a coating for seeds that increases crop yields about 7 percent. The enzymes it produces are designed to survive harsh conditions.

The company has grown significantly since it started in 2011 and added a production facility in St. Louis.

Messbarger said the innovation center can assist startup companies in many ways.

“This company took advantage of everything we have to offer,” Messbarger said.

Messbarger said the company had assistance from a class he teaches at MU in which students pitch a client to investors. That class helped the company gain some funding connections, he said.

Elemental Enzymes, he added, had a great product when it was starting out and would have gotten investors and become established without the help of Columbia’s resources.

“They got there faster, cheaper and better because of all the resources our community can offer,” he said.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Universities harness research potential of upcoming solar eclipse

[By Ashley Jost • St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) 7 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS • From the sun’s corona to the frequency of buzzes from a bee hive, universities across Missouri and Illinois are tapping into the wealth of research opportunities that come with the solar eclipse in a few weeks.

One astrophysics professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia has been preparing for the Aug. 21 eclipse for, quite literally, years.

Angela Speck is so excited — and maybe a little nervous — about the coming event that she can’t even commit to where she will be that day.

“I honestly don’t know yet what I’ll be doing,” she said. “I’ll be wherever I need to be, but I’m not going to set expectations ahead of time.”

The researcher has spent the last several years planning research and activities, working with federal agencies and speaking at NASA-led conferences. The eclipse is part of Speck’s persona.

“I fully expect to be in tears,” she joked about her plans for Aug. 21. The eclipse is expected to start at 1 p.m. and last a few minutes.

There’s research focused on atmospheric and temperature changes tied to the eclipse.

One of Speck’s chief priorities, research wise, surrounding the eclipse is the sun’s inner corona.

The inner corona is ambiguous to scientists, and only visible here on earth during the total eclipse. But a federally-funded project called Citizen CATE, Continental-America Telescope Eclipse, could connect them with answers.

The project provides 90 minutes of continuous data using telescopes scattered across the country in the eclipse’s path. The telescopes — operated by citizen-scientists in most parts of the country, but by graduate researchers at Mizzou — capture photos during the totality.

Columbia is one of five Citizen CATE locations in Missouri, and more than 60 nationwide. Southern Illinois University Carbondale researchers are participating, too.

Bob Baer, computer and electronics specialist with SIUC’s physics department, is one of a handful of state coordinators with the Citizen CATE project.

He said the goal is to get data from the photos coming in across the country, particularly about the inner corona’s structure and the magnetic field of the sun. The hope is more information could help scientists better predict solar flares, among other things.

“We live right by this star that’s providing life to us,” Baer said. “It’s good to study it and learn more about it.”

Away from the telescopes, Mizzou researchers are tag-teaming with Webster University professors to use the eclipse as a springboard in engaging elementary school students with science.

They're using bees.

Most of the work around this research doesn't actually involve much effort on the day of the eclipse. And really, the researchers are the schoolchildren.

Candi Galen, a professor of biological sciences, said her team and the students are placing small recording devices inside bee hives in St. Louis and Columbia, capturing the sounds the bees make before, during and after the eclipse to gauge any changes.

There's no prior research to indicate what they might find, she said. While other Mizzou researchers are hypothesizing how animal and plant behavior might change, this one is more about engaging the students.

If Galen had to guess, she said, as it gets darker and the temperature changes, they might slow down — fewer buzzes per minute.

But a few weeks after the eclipse, students in some districts will be responsible for counting the buzzes and forming a conclusion based on their research.



Paul Pepper: Angela Speck, Professor of Astronomy, MU, "Solar Eclipse Part 3"

Today Paul Pepper welcomes back ANGELA SPECK, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Missouri. Angela talks about just how fast the moon's shadow will move across the United States on August 21st, and what MoDOT is doing to make sure drivers (who find themselves in the path of totality) stay safe! [Watch interview.](#)



MU Experts Stress Eye Safety During Total Solar Eclipse

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d87eeaf5-a852-4bcf-b1ac-b7cbabc1b3ca>

This story also ran on the following broadcasts:
KSNF NBC- Joplin, MO
KQTV NBC- St. Joseph, MO



Missouri colleges use grant to educate students on loans and debt

By: Michael Rizzo

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/missouri-colleges-use-grant-to-educate-students-on-loans-and-debt>

COLUMBIA - The Missouri Department of Higher Education awarded 18 Missouri colleges and universities with their [Default Prevention Grant](#) for the 2017-2018 academic year. The grant is given to schools to be used to promote financial literacy and help prevent students from defaulting on their student loans.

Higher education institutions use the funding for programs that focus on strengthening students' money management skills.

Stephens College Financial Aid Director Kim Stonecipher-Fisher said the funding allows them to better interact with students.

"One of the things that it has allowed us to do is use peer counselors on campus to educate our current students about the importance of paying off their student loans in the future," she said. "It has also allowed us to do a tremendous amount of outreach, not only to our students on campus, but also to our recent graduates who have student loans."

Stonecipher-Fisher said loans have an impact a lot of financial decisions.

"Something that we talk about with our current students is having a good career and being able to do the things you want to do," she said. "Buy cars, be able to purchase homes, have a great credit rating, all of those things can be tied into how they look at their student loans."

Columbia College Financial Aid Senior Director Nathan Miller said the grant allows them to keep the students informed on their financial situation.

"We really want the students to know how they are paying for college; what's the difference between a grant and a scholarship, an unsubsidized loan versus a subsidized loan," he said. "We're trying to connect with all of our student population on what it means to pay for school and how they are going to pay for school, and the impact of the financial decisions they're making."

Missouri's student loan default rate has declined in recent years. The state's current default rate is 11.5 percent, compared to 13.1 percent in 2014.

Stonecipher-Fisher said Stephens College has noticed the trend.

"We're in our fifth or sixth year receiving the default prevention grant, in the last five years we have had a decrease by 4.6% in default rate by our students," she said.

Stonecipher-Fisher said Stephens College is thankful for the grant.

"The legislators who fund this grant need to know that it is money well spent because there is nothing more important than our current students knowing the value of their loans and being able to pay back their loans on a timely basis," she said.

This is the seventeenth year grants have been provided to higher education institutions.

The following institutions were selected to receive a default prevention grant for the 2017-2018 academic year:

- Bryan University
- Columbia College
- Cottey College
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Jefferson College
- Lincoln University
- Mineral Area College
- Missouri Southern State University
- Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Moberly Area Community College
- North Central Missouri College

- St. Louis College of Health Careers
- State Fair Community College
- State Technical College of Missouri
- Stephens College
- **University of Missouri-Columbia**
- University of Missouri-St. Louis
- Webster University

The Washington Post

Poland appears to be dismantling its own hard-won democracy

By Kamil Marcinkiewicz and **Mary Stegmaier**

A **bill** now in Poland's Parliament would destroy the judicial system's independence and authority — and it's likely to become law. In 2015, the far-right populist Polish Law and Justice (PiS) party won both the presidential and parliamentary **elections**. Since then — despite **public protests** and **international pressure** — PiS's party leader Jarosław Kaczyński has steadily passed laws that have **eroded Poland's democratic system of government**. The bill now being considered would eliminate the judicial branch's role in the system of checks and balances — and would at last consolidate political power in the executive and legislative branches.

How is it that one man, who is neither president nor prime minister, has so much control?

Kaczyński's rise to power

Jarosław Kaczyński and his twin brother Lech Kaczyński founded PiS in 2001. The party promised to crack down on corruption and crime. Its close collaboration with powerful Catholic fundamentalists quickly gave the party a broad and stable base of electoral support.

In 2003, Jarosław Kaczyński took over the party chairmanship; in 2005 Lech Kaczyński won the Polish presidency. A plane crash in 2010 claimed the lives of several prominent PiS members, including Lech Kaczyński. The loss of the party's top leadership in the crash gave Jarosław Kaczyński tremendous power; quickly, he expelled possible competitors and prevented any challenges.

Officially, Jarosław Kaczyński now serves as a lawmaker in the Polish lower house of Parliament, the Sejm. He holds no ministerial position in the government. But in practice he single-handedly controls the government. He dominates the current prime minister, Beata Szydło, and the president, Andrzej Duda, neither of whom were strong PiS leaders before taking over the country's two most important positions.

Kaczyński's hold on power

PiS holds a majority of the seats in the Sejm, even though it won only [37.6 percent of the popular vote](#). It also controls the Senate. PiS's parliamentary domination means its leadership can have individual lawmakers submit bills, which can be passed more quickly and with less scrutiny than bills sponsored by the government. The rules governing the legislative process require that before parliamentary debate can begin on a government-proposed bill, opinions from various groups need to be submitted. This is not the case of bills proposed by individual lawmakers.

Kaczyński has succeeded in having Parliament pass nearly all the bills proposed by PiS and its members. He stepped back only once, when thousands of Polish women [flooded the streets](#) to protest further restrictions on the already extremely limited access to legal abortion. All other bills, including those dismantling the foundations of constitutional democracy, were quickly passed by the Parliament and signed into law by Duda.

This successful record is possible only because of PiS lawmakers' extremely high levels of [voting unity](#). For example, when PiS was in the opposition during the 2007-2011 parliamentary term, its lawmakers, on average, voted along with their party 99 percent of the time. Toeing the party line is the norm.

Furthermore, the Polish party system's stability reinforces high party discipline. In the first decade of Poland's transition to democracy, the party system was evolving. Entrepreneurial politicians could leave their parties and start new ones. But since 2001, these attempts have been unsuccessful — an indication that the party system has matured. Lawmakers who refuse to vote with the party can be expelled from their parliamentary faction, likely ending their political careers.

Finally, when the economy is strong, the public tends to [support the government](#). PiS was fortunate to take over at a time of economic upturn; its leadership has overseen [steady economic growth](#), with ordinary Poles' incomes increasing.

PiS has also dramatically expanded the welfare state, introducing generous family benefits that have especially helped poorer families with several children.

Apparently, those improved personal finances are outweighing any concerns about PiS eroding Polish democracy. If another election were held today, according to [poll results](#) from early July, PiS would win with a comfortable lead at 38 percent of the vote, while the largest opposition party, the Civic Platform (PO), would yield only 22 percent. Backed by such strong poll numbers, PiS lawmakers have little motivation to oppose the mighty party chair.

But if the Polish opposition were united as a block instead of separate parties, it might be able to attract more support than PiS. Kaczyński knows this. And this may be why he is so keen on getting a firm grip on the institutions responsible for election oversight.

What comes next?

PiS will almost certainly pass the proposed reform of the Supreme Court, abolishing the [Polish judiciary's independence](#) and putting the courts under the government's control. The law would permit the government to remove judges and their replacements would be selected by the

National Council on the Judiciary (NCJ). A separate bill proposes changes in the composition of the NCJ which effectively gives the ruling party majority control of the NCJ.

This would allow PiS to select Supreme Court judges indirectly through the NJC, resulting in government control of the Supreme Court. That will enable the government to pass laws and policies that suppress and persecute the political opposition, no longer be blocked by the courts.

One of the biggest worries is election fraud. Courts controlled by a single party can influence the electoral process to ensure the governing party wins. The Supreme Court adjudicates election related challenges and complaints. In the future, if complaints are filed alleging electoral manipulation, suppression of the opposition, or restrictions on voting rights, a court aligned with the government is likely to rule in its favor.

PiS has already acquired a reputation for violating the constitution and intimidating its political opponents. For instance, it has already [restricted public gatherings](#) and [ordered raids](#) on an anti-racism organization's office. As a result, many expect the government to take harsh actions against political opponents or even [manipulate the results of the next election](#).

Regional elections, planned for November 2018, will be an early test of whether Poland can still hold free and fair elections. Will Poland still be a democracy when the next parliamentary election is held in 2019?

Kamil Marcinkiewicz is a lecturer in political science and research methods at the University of Hamburg in Germany. His research focuses on voting behavior, elections and parliaments in Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany.

Mary Stegmaier is an assistant professor in the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. Her research focuses on voting behavior, elections, forecasting and political representation in the United States and abroad.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

TOP DRAWER

By TRIBUNE STAFF

Generated from News Bureau Direct Pitch

Stephanie Reid-Arndt, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Missouri School of Health Professions, was elected to serve as Secretary and voting member of the Executive Board of the Rehabilitation Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association. Her election as secretary of the organization comes as she completes a three-year term as member-at-large on the executive board. Her new role begins in August and she will serve a three-year term.

Columbia area students attended the Emerging Leaders Conference June 25–27 at the University of Missouri and the Missouri Capitol. Participants from Missouri and neighboring states learned about several pieces of legislation and had the opportunity to debate the policies on the Capitol floor. The students worked closely with university administrators, professors, students and state legislators throughout the program. Students who attended from Hickman High School were Shakira Cross and Nidjha Jackmon, and the students from Rock Bridge High School were Kayla McDonald and Kesslyn McDonald.



Hot weekend expected for Show-Me State Games

COLUMBIA — Sweaty onlookers were seen clapping as even sweatier runners reached the Torch Run finish line Friday.

The Torch Run -which has been completed in nine different Missouri cities since March- marked the official start of the Show-Me State Games in Columbia.

With heat indices surpassing the 100 degree mark, runners ran from the Mizzou campus to the Shelter Insurance building on the west side of Columbia.

"It was warm," a drenched Jay MacLellan said after the run. The director of public relations for Shelter Insurance ran with about two dozen others, braving the heat of the day to complete the run. "We had one or two that might've decided to hang it up, but we had some lag vehicles just for that," MacLellan said.

Executive Director of the Show-Me State Games, Dave Fox, said the organization is grateful for its partnership with MU Health. Fox said various medical staff will be on site and available for whatever medical needs may arise from this weekend, heat related or not.

"It's a difficult situation with the heat," Fox said. "We understand it, too. It's not only our athletes and spectators, but our officials, volunteers, site supervisors, commissioners involved as well so it's something we take very seriously and do the best we can to accommodate everyone."

Abortion, social issues among hot topics in 50th race

By RUDI KELLER

The state Senate will be in session Monday for members to debate a bill imposing new regulations on abortion clinics, expanding the power of the attorney general to enforce abortion laws and limiting the scope of local anti-discrimination laws.

The final vote, when it comes, is expected to be along party lines and because Republicans hold a 24-9 margin, there is little doubt in the outcome. When the Missouri House approved the bill 110-38 on June 20, only two Democrats supported it and only one Republican was opposed.

The winner of the Aug. 8 special election in the 50th Missouri House District won't be elected in time to vote on bills in the current special session. But abortion and other social issues aren't going away, and voters have distinct choices in the contest between Democrat Michela Skelton and Republican Sara Walsh.

Abortion is the most-debated social issue in Missouri and the nation and in Missouri, the anti-abortion side almost always prevails in the General Assembly. That was true when Democrats held the majority and remains true today, when Republicans hold majorities as large as any the Democrats enjoyed in the 1980s.

What is different is that as Democrats lost their majorities, abortion has become a partisan issue. Supporters of abortion rights have so much difficulty in rural districts that Democrats actively are seeking anti-abortion candidates for 2018, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill said at a recent event in Ashland.

ISSUES AT THE POLLS

Voters in Boone, Moniteau, Cole and Cooper counties will go to the polls Aug. 8 to select a new representative for the 50th Missouri House District. This week, the Tribune is presenting a series of stories on issues that have dominated recent legislative debates, presenting an in-depth discussion of the issues and the views of candidates Sara Walsh, the Republican nominee, and Michela Skelton, the Democratic nominee.

“I think we should have a very, very open tent and I would welcome anyone,” McCaskill said. “We are actively recruiting people to run for the Missouri legislature who have a different view on this issue than I do.”

Abortion is not, however, the only social issue lawmakers debated this year on in the recent past. A proposal to allow businesses to refuse to serve same-sex marriages for religious reasons tied up the state Senate for weeks in 2016 and lawmakers have debated whether transgender people should have access to bathrooms that fit their gender identity.

Party lines blur a bit on both issues. Most Republicans favor the proposal for religious protections, but it was two Republicans voting with Democrats — including then-Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia — that killed it in a House committee. A bill requiring transgender people to use the bathroom corresponding to their gender at birth was introduced by Republicans but did not pass.

Lawmakers did pass bills this year making it more difficult to prove discrimination claims and overturning local minimum wage laws, both opposed by social welfare activists.

SPECIAL SESSION

In November 2015, Missouri became a state with only one location to obtain an abortion when University of Missouri Health Care stopped offering the privileges that it had granted to the doctor providing services in Columbia. The next June, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Texas law that mirrored Missouri statutes requiring abortion providers to have hospital privileges and mandating that clinics meet the physical facility standards of ambulatory surgical centers.

That opened the door for abortions to resume at numerous Missouri locations and Planned Parenthood sued to force the state to issue a license for Columbia and three other cities. On May 2, U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs ordered the Department of Health and Senior Services to process applications promptly.

The bill that will be debated this week is a direct reaction to that ruling, said Sam Lee of Campaign Life Missouri.

Lee has been involved in abortion debates since the 1980s. Abortion opponents and even some Republican lawmakers have grumbled about being called in during the summer to address abortion.

“We anticipated it might happen, it wasn’t a surprise,” he said. “It just could not, as a practical matter, be dealt with during the regular session, even while we were talking informally about what we should do about it.”

The bill also addresses a St. Louis ordinance that made reproductive choices a protected class in the local anti-discrimination code. The bill imposes several limits on the scope of the ordinance, including a ban on requiring real estate owners to rent to abortion providers, but does not directly overturn it.

One significant change to current law is requiring a physician to do in-person pre-abortion counseling, which must take place 72 hours before the abortion. Currently, the pre-abortion counseling may be provided by a nurse or social worker.

The counseling requirement is to protect women’s health, Lee said.

“We are talking about medical decisions based on her specific medical conditions,” Lee said. “That should be a physician; not just any other area of expertise like social work or counseling.”

Two doctors are named on the application to provide abortions in Columbia. One lives in Overland Park, Kan., and the other lives in St. Louis. Under current law, they would only have to visit Columbia to provide the abortion service. By changing the counseling requirement, abortion opponents are trying to inconvenience physicians, not protect women, said Alison Dreith, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri.

“They are mandating that the actual service provider has to also give the consent information 72 hours before procedure because they are trying to stop doctors from traveling,” Dreith said.

The political power of abortion opponents impacts state policy in other ways. The state budget allocates funding for pregnancy resource centers, which seek to persuade women to carry pregnancies to term, while barring the state from funding any services at Planned Parenthood because it provides abortions.

When a woman seeks an abortion, state law requires the provider to give her information that includes a list of nearby pregnancy centers. Pregnancy centers are not required to tell a woman where she can obtain an abortion.

The policies do very little to actually reduce abortions, Dreith said.

“If we really want to get abortion rates down and reduce unwanted pregnancies, the only way to do that is through comprehensive sex education and family planning,” she said.

[Story continues.](#)



State Funding Cuts Matter

For every \$1,000 cut from per-student state and local appropriations, the average student can be expected to pay \$257 more per year in tuition and fees -- and the rate is rising.

NO MU MENTION

By RICK SELTZER

Have public funding cuts caused colleges and universities to raise tuition?

It's a deceptively simple question. And it's caused two different camps to dig in, look at similar data and yell past each other with very different answers.

On one side, typically inhabited by left-wing thinkers, is the camp that believes tuition has gone up over time because colleges have been starved by state and local funding cuts to higher education. On the other side, right-wing analysts often argue that the long-term decline in state funding -- so-called state disinvestment -- has little to no effect on tuition. Instead, they say, college tuition has gone up for other reasons, like meeting rising labor costs or feeding spending urges.

Various battles have been fought over issues such as whether using different inflationary indexes to adjust data will lead to different conclusions. But there has been surprisingly little work done to try to pin down the exact rate at which public appropriations cuts are passed on to students through higher tuition.

That's changing. New research in the journal *Economics of Education Review* finds the appropriation-cut-to-tuition pass-through rate has averaged 25.7 percent since 1987. In other words, for every \$1,000 cut from per-student state and local appropriations, the average student can be expected to pay \$257 more per year in tuition and fees.

The research also indicates students are taking on more of the cost of state funding cuts in recent years than they were three decades ago. Before 2000, a student could be expected to pay \$103 more in tuition for every \$1,000 cut from public funding. After 2000, the figure jumps to \$318.

Those findings have the potential to reframe the debate, at least somewhat. They could shift the discussion away from if funding cuts lead to rising tuition to how much they contribute to rising tuition -- and whether such a trade-off is justified.

But for many researchers, the pass-through rate, which describes what will happen to tuition in the event of a theoretical state funding cut, hasn't been considered a top priority to examine, said the author of the research, Douglas Webber.

Webber, who is an associate professor in Temple University's economics department, said researchers have been more interested in broader looks at how students are affected by governments cutting funding for higher education. Colleges and universities can take a number of actions when their state funding is cut. They can increase tuition to make up for the lost revenue. They can cut from their own budgets, trimming things like student services or employees. Or they can turn to fund-raising, endowments and grants to try to raise more money over time.

Against all of those puzzle pieces, the amount students pay in tuition can seem relatively minor - especially for researchers trying to determine how much funding cuts affect a student's chances of graduating.

Another strike against this type of analysis is that a large number of local factors and other variables can influence how much individual colleges and universities raise tuition. State laws block some colleges from raising tuition without legislative approval, for example. Webber had some questions about whether it made sense to calculate an average pass-through rate. Such a broad metric won't reflect reality in the situations on the ground at many different colleges and universities.

Still, Webber has participated in the debate over state disinvestment. He wrote a piece for *FiveThirtyEight* last year arguing that there is no single cause for rising college tuition. He planned to someday do a more rigorous analysis, but he had to push the work to the back burner as he addressed other priorities.

The state divestment arguments didn't go away. A Cato Institute study in February made the case that state disinvestment was not the sole cause of rising tuition, putting blame on federal student

aid it said enables colleges to charge more. Brookings published a piece by Jason Delisle of the American Enterprise Institute saying that limited research on the topic shows state disinvestment is not a major cause of tuition hikes. AEI published a study saying that public institutions' tuition only rises by \$5 for every \$100 cut from direct state subsidies per student.

That study's modeling was questioned by critics, including Webber. He went about building a new model taking into account adjustments he hadn't seen elsewhere. They included accounting for state laws restricting institutions' ability to increase tuition and the fact that lawmakers may cut appropriations unevenly for different colleges within the same state. He also measured average net tuition and fee revenue instead of institutions' average posted tuition in order to account for strategies colleges might use to raise money after a cut in state appropriations -- strategies like cutting student aid or enrolling more out-of-state students.

[Story continues.](#)