



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

July 27, 2017

## **Greek Life staff members alerted authorities of theft at University of Missouri**

Story references Q&A released by MU News Bureau: [Q&A Regarding Investigation of Possible Misappropriation of Funds](#)

By RUDI KELLER

**The potential theft from a University of Missouri student organization was spotted by staff members in Greek Life a little more than a week ago, according to new details released Wednesday about the investigation into missing funds.**

Internal auditors verified that money was missing, identified possible criminal activity and turned the case over to the MU Police Department, the MU statement reads. The employee, who has not been named or charged with a crime, was fired for violating university policies. The amount of money involved is not being released.

The statement, issued in the form of a question-and-answer fact sheet, is all the university can release about the investigation until it is concluded, spokeswoman Liz McCune said.

“We have tried to put out everything we could share,” she said.

Police were notified Tuesday of the potential theft. Maj. Brian Weimer, spokesman for MU police, did not return a call seeking comment on the investigation.

Greek Life is a part of the Division of Student Affairs on the MU campus. It has responsibility for supporting fraternities and sororities. There are three non-fraternity or sorority organizations — Greek Week, Greek Allies and Greek Foundation.

Each organization is required to keep its non-university funds in a bank account controlled by the student organization. Some organizations give university employees, such as chapter advisers, the authority to spend money from their accounts.

Because of the investigation, McCune could not say whether the organization missing funds was a fraternity, sorority or one of the three other organizations. At least two bank accounts held by the student organization are involved, McCune said.

The investigation will determine if the person involved had authority to spend money from the accounts of other organizations. The university doesn’t know which organizations have granted the authority or who employed by the university has such authority.

“University officials will seek to determine how many MU employees have signatory authority through the internal review process,” the statement said.

To prevent future losses, the university implemented a new policy for stricter oversight of spending from student organization accounts by university employees. Each expense will require approval of the employee’s supervisor and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

# MISSOURIAN

## **MU conducting internal review after possible misappropriation of funds**

By GINA BALSTAD

**COLUMBIA — The discovery of possible misappropriation of funds from a Greek Life organization has led MU to begin an internal review of policies surrounding accounts associated with student organizations.**

The review, coordinated by the chancellor’s office, follows a Tuesday announcement that the school would hand over documentation discovered during an internal audit to the MU Police Department. The audit found that there was "suspicion of criminal activity," according to an FAQ email from MU spokeswoman Liz McCune.

The employee suspected of misappropriating funds was fired after MU determined he or she had violated university policies, according to the FAQ.

The email said that because the investigation is ongoing, the name of the individual was not released. Besides the connection to Greek Life, no details about related organizations or people were released.

No information on how much money is involved was available Wednesday. "The scope of the possible misappropriation of funds will be determined through the criminal investigation," McCune wrote.

Concerns about funds misappropriation from external accounts were first established in mid-July, according to the FAQ.

External accounts are maintained by student organizations through private banks and are separate from MU accounts. The organizations have autonomy to raise and manage funds as they see fit. MU officials "have no way of knowing how many of these accounts exist," the FAQ stated.

Although these accounts are managed by student organizations, the authority to sign checks and use funds can be given to MU employees, it said.

Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes and Chancellor-designate Alexander Cartwright issued a directive after the case was turned over to police requiring MU employees who have access to these accounts to get approval from the employee's supervisor and the vice chancellor of student affairs before they can direct money from the account.

Students in the organizations are exempt from this two-layer approval requirement, according to the FAQ.

Prior to this directive, the [Business Policy and Procedure Online Manual](#) outlined policies regarding managing student organization accounts. The manual dictates that student organizations establish their own bank accounts.

Many student organizations have additional guidelines set by their national affiliate, according to FAQ.

Organizations are advised to not use cash for expenditures and have two student officers sign every check, according to the [Organization Resource Group](#). It is also recommended to perform periodic independent audits.

Embezzlements by MU employees have occurred over the years.

In 1994, [administrative assistant Christy Tutin pleaded guilty](#) to embezzling \$666,755 from 1988 to 1993. This resulted in about 20 graduate students being denied money for scholarships or fellowships. Last year, another former administrative assistant, Carla Rathmann, pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$700,000 from MU. Both Rathmann and Tutin took money from university accounts.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Mizzou hands over possible embezzlement case to police

[By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

**The University of Missouri-Columbia has turned over a case of possible embezzlement to police after a preliminary, internal review.**

A spokesperson said an employee in the Office of Greek Life reported "suspicious activity," spurring the internal review.

It's not clear how much money is involved, but a statement from Mizzou said the case involves possible misappropriation of funds from student organization accounts affiliated with the Office of Greek Life.

The statement from the university indicates that "a former staff member" is part of the investigation. If Mizzou police find that embezzlement occurred, they will encourage prosecution, the statement said.

The Greek Life office recently lost a few employees in a round of layoffs amid a complete restructuring of all offices under the umbrella of Student Affairs. The layoffs were said to be part of a larger effort to address ongoing budget issues from declining state funds and tuition revenue.

Mizzou leaders announced an immediate restructuring of the way external accounts for student organizations are managed, including a multi-signature approval process.

# the maneater

## MU investigating case of possible misappropriation of funds

MU has announced a new directive regarding the management of external accounts affiliated with student organizations.

By OLIVIA GARRETT

### MU filed a report with the MU Police Department regarding a case of possible misappropriation of funds by a former staff member on Tuesday.

Greek Life staff members first identified a potential problem in mid-July and internal auditors identified “the suspicion of criminal activity,” according to a Q&A released by the MU News Bureau.

“The employee was terminated upon confirmation that the individual violated university policies,” according to the Q&A.

The funds in question are from student organization accounts held by a Greek Life organization.

“These are not university accounts, but instead are external to the university,” stated an email to students from Chancellor-designate Alexander Cartwright and interim Chancellor and Provost Garnett Stokes.

External accounts are maintained by student organizations to handle non-university funds and managed through private banks.

“In some instances, student organizations have granted university employees (such as advisers to the organizations) permission to make expenditures from their non-university bank accounts,” according to the Q&A.

The Office of Student Organizations’ Guidelines for Recognized Organizations recommends that two officers handle financial duties.

In the email, Cartwright and Stokes announced a directive requiring that any university employee with the authority to sign checks for external student organization accounts must now receive approval from their supervisor and the vice chancellor for student affairs for all expenditures from that account.

This requirement, which has been added to the Business Policy and Procedure Manual, only applies to university employees, not students.

A review of “policies and practices for proper management and oversight of external accounts” has been initiated by the Office of the Chancellor with support from UM System President Mun Choi, according to the Q&A. University officials are now attempting to determine how many university employees have signatory authority.

This is not the first time MU has investigated misuse of funds.

In 1994, a former employee of the graduate studies program was convicted of stealing \$666,776 from the university, according to previous [Maneater reporting](#).

The university has not released any additional information about the student accounts involved or the identity of the former staff member.

“If police determine misappropriation of funds by a former staff member occurred, the university will encourage prosecution of these crimes to the fullest extent possible and will work with affected groups to address the situation appropriately,” the email said.



## [University of Missouri to Investigate Potential Embezzlement](#)

COLUMBIA, Mo. — **The University of Missouri in Columbia is investigating a possible case of employee embezzlement.**

The *Columbia Daily Tribune* reports that a university news release Tuesday said that the school’s Police Department was investigating “suspected misappropriation of funds from student organization accounts affiliated with Greek Life.” The release says the money was held outside of normal university accounts.

It also indicated that a sole former employee was responsible for the alleged embezzlement.

University spokeswoman Liz McCune says it's currently unknown how much money is involved. She says no one has been arrested yet.

Tuesday's release also announced the university would start new protocols requiring two approvals for spending money held on behalf of student groups. Organizations must have spending approved by their supervisor and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

*Similar stories ran nationwide*



## **UPDATE: MU clarifies misappropriation investigation**

**COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri referred a case of possible misappropriation of funds by a former staff member from student organization accounts affiliated with Greek Life to the MU Police Department for further investigation. The news came in an email to students, faculty and staff.**

According to a Q and A released by the MU News Bureau, the former staff member was fired after it was confirmed that they violated university policies. The potential misappropriation was brought to the university's attention in mid-July. Internal auditors were brought in to review the case and recommended the case be turned over to MUPD.

The accounts are external to the university, not university accounts, the email said. The university is cooperating with the MU Police Department as it begins its investigation to determine whether a crime occurred.

MU was not able to release any information about the organization or individuals involved since the investigation is ongoing.

"The university takes this possible misappropriation of funds seriously," the email said. "If police determine misappropriation of funds by a former staff member occurred, the university will encourage prosecution of these crimes to the fullest extent possible and will work with affected groups to address the situation appropriately."

The university said it is making immediate changes to how external accounts affiliated with student organizations are handled.

Any university employee who holds authority on an external student organization must now receive approval from their supervisor and the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs for all expenditures from that account, the email said.

MU is also reviewing the policies and practices for proper management and oversight of external accounts.

Final recommendations will be based on the results of an internal review.



## [Climate change could lead to more infections from parasitic worms](#)

By [ELI CHEN](#) • 7 HOURS AGO

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

Fossil records suggest that there could be another consequence of climate change and rising sea levels: an increase in parasitic worm infections.

**Scientists at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Bologna studied clams collected in northern Italy that date back to the Holocene Epoch, a time when the planet was warming up after the Ice Age.** Parasitic worms called trematodes, also known as flukes and flatworms,

would attempt to feed on these ancient clams and the clams would respond by developing pits to keep them out.

By looking at the pits, the researchers learned that the presence of trematodes increased during relatively short periods of sea level rise.

**"Based on what we know of these sediments, these were processes happening on the scale of hundreds of years, rather than thousands," said John Huntley, a paleontologist at Mizzou.**

The changes happening over shorter time scales could imply that the risk of getting infected by trematodes could increase due to climate change. The worms can spread diseases, including schistosomiasis, which affects more than 200 million people in subsaharan Africa, the Middle East, southeast Asia and the Caribbean.

Huntley said that the evidence suggests that parasitic infections could rise in coastal environments, which could raise public health concerns.

"If we do see an increase in these parasites, that's going to be fundamentally challenging for some of these coastal ecosystems," Huntley said. "We rely upon them greatly for transportation, recreation, for food."

However, researchers haven't figured out how sea level rise could increase infections from parasitic worms. Huntley's team recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation to help understand that connection.

MomsEveryday

*The Moms Everyday Show is a half-hour news show broadcast on 55 television stations nationwide*

## **Negative body image leads to unhealthy decisions in teens**

By: Liz Hayes

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

Watch the story: <http://www.momseveryday.com/content/test/Negative-body-image-leads-to-unhealthy-decisions-in-teens-435682653.html>

A negative body image can lead to eating disorders, depression and low self-esteem. And now we have something else to worry about -- a negative body image is being linked with increased tobacco use and alcohol use among young men and young women.

A body image expert along with an assistant professor from the University of Missouri also found that girls who believe they are very good looking are more likely to drink alcohol, so perceived size and attractiveness were significantly related to substance use.

Alternatively, teen girls who think they're too fat are more likely to smoke *and* drink. Boys who think they're too skinny are more likely to smoke while boys who considered themselves fat were more likely to binge drink.

To improve body image awareness, the authors suggest that parents, schools and health providers be aware of body shaming language and correct the behavior to help our kids.



## **MU psychiatrist shares social media effect on bullying: "the bully is present all the time"**

By: Alyssa Toomey

With just weeks until the start of the 2017-2018 school year, bullying, particularly through social media, is a major concern for officials at MU Health.

**"Any kind of abuse or bullying is bad, but the social media plays a bigger impact because half of the time the bully is anonymous," MU Health psychiatrist Garima Singh, M.D. told ABC 17 News Wednesday at the University of Missouri health care's quarterly media breakfast.**

According to Singh, statistics say 20 to 30 percent of kids are being bullied through social media. Over the past school year, there were at least three suicides across Mid-Missouri.

According to the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, suicide rates in Missouri have been higher than the national average for at least a decade. Suicide was also the second leading cause of death for youth in Missouri in 2013.

Singh told ABC 17 News that social media is only making the problem worse.

"The bully is present all the time, it's 24/7, they have access to your personal information and then it's anonymous," she said.

In January, the Columbia Public School District approved a new bullying policy. Under the current rules, school employees must report any knowledge of bullying to the school's principal within two days.

According to the Missouri Institute of Mental Health, suicides in Missouri outnumbered homicides by more than two to one in 2013.



## **Total solar eclipse preparations under way in St. Joseph**

Watch the story: <http://fox4kc.com/2017/07/26/total-solar-eclipse-preparations-under-way-in-st-joseph/>

By Megan Dillard

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. – 26 days until St. Joseph is flooded with national scientists, astronomers, media -- all to experience and capture a once-in-a-lifetime total solar eclipse. City leaders have spent more than four years planning for August 21, 2017.

**Dr. Angela Speck is the Director of Astronomy at the University of Missouri. She joined the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau Wednesday for three free public session to teach people about an event she called “once-in-a-generation.”**

Dr. Speck said “this one is particularly special.” She said these types of eclipses happen once a year somewhere on earth, but for it to occur on land, in a place where many can travel to see it, is rare. She believe people will be “gasping in awe” the day of the event.

She explained in front of dozens Wednesday that on August 21, in the middle of the day, skies will turn dark, weather will turn cool, stars will appear. She also described how animals will go about their normal nightly activities since the sky will become dark; birds will swarm, cows will head for the bards, dogs who eat at night will expect their food.

Speck described this as fascinating and exciting, as long as people wear the correct safety eyewear. [Click here to watch a video](#) in which she and medical doctors explain what that looks like.

The information the city has gathered from years of planning has culminated into this website. [Click here for all things eclipse in St. Joseph.](#)



## [Eye safety a big concern during the solar eclipse](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/eye-safety-a-big-concern-during-the-solar-eclipse>

By: [Kenton Gewecke](#), KOMU 8 Chief Meteorologist

**Generated from MU Health press release**

**COLUMBIA - [The views you will experience during the total solar eclipse might take your breath away, but in order to see the solar corona safely you must have proper eye protection. If you don't wear approved solar eyewear, Dr. Frederick Fraunfelder, the Director of Ophthalmology at MU Health, said you could do serious damage to your eyes.](#)**

“The sun burns the very important layer of the retina called the macula,” explained Fraunfelder. “Damaging the cones in your macula can permanently damage your vision by burning them with direct light from the sun.”

Fraunfelder says eclipse glasses have a solar film that will block out many light waves regular sunglasses will not. “They will block out UVA, UVB, infrared light, and also intense visual light.”

It’s important to block this light out so you can safely look directly into the sun for the partial eclipse before and after totality.

During totality, when the sun’s light is completely blocked out for [up to 2:40 in mid-Missouri](#), you will need to take the glasses off in order to see the spectacle that is night during the day. You will see stars, a few planets and the solar corona, the sun's atmosphere. Read our [Deep Dive](#) into the eclipse for the answers to common questions about this event.

However, be sure you don’t take the glasses off too soon. If you do, you may miss out on totality altogether. Your eyes might not be able to adjust to the darkness if you catch a glimpse of the sun’s light prior to totality.

“We call that an after image,” says Fraunfelder, “and that is neural signals to your brain still firing after the lights already stimulated the rods and the cones and after images is a good way to explain you sorta see purple or red after you've stared into a bright light.”

**Be sure your glasses are approved and safe!** NASA released a statement saying glasses are being passed around that do not meet adequate safety guidelines. Glasses must have "ISO 12312-2" printed on them. Only four companies have been approved as manufacturing safe solar eclipse glasses: American Paper Optics, Rainbow Symphony, Thousand Oaks Optical, and TSE 17. Check your glasses to be sure you're protected.

Using a magnifying system such as binoculars? You must have a solar filter on the *front* of the binoculars or telescope. If you look through non-filtered magnification of the Sun's light through solar glasses positioned over your eyes there will be considerable damage to your eyes. Again, the sun's light and energy is being magnified and solar glasses are not made to withstand that. You can read more about safe solar eclipse viewing on [NASA’s website](#).

Pick up your free KOMU 8 Show Me Eclipse glasses at Dollar General Stores in Columbia, Jefferson City, Fulton and Mexico while supplies last. The Mizzou Store is also selling eclipse glasses for \$1 with some proceeds going back to the Astronomy Department.

If you’re wondering what the night sky may look like in the early afternoon on August 21st during totality, you can see the image above.

You can read all our Show Me Eclipse coverage, continuously updating with new content, at [KOMU.com/eclipse](http://KOMU.com/eclipse).



## **MUPD vehicle involved in south Columbia crash**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Emergency crews were on the scene of a crash involving a University of Missouri police vehicle on Wednesday night.**

The crash happened around 9:30 p.m. at the intersection of Providence Road and Green Meadows Road in south Columbia.

At least two vehicles were involved, but no one appears to be hurt.

Crews temporarily diverted southbound traffic from Providence to Green Meadows Road while they worked the scene.

ABC 17 News is on the scene working to get more information on how the crash happened.



## **MU police officer involved in crash**

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COLUMBIA — **A University of Missouri police officer was involved in a two-vehicle crash with a 17-year-old female on Providence Road and Green Meadows Road around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.**

The Highway Patrol said both cars were totaled. However, no one was injured.

The accident was still under investigation, but troopers said it appeared both cars were going through the intersection. They said it was not a head-on collision despite both cars sustaining front-end damage.

Traffic was blocked and re-routed.

The Highway Patrol said it took an hour to clear the scene.

# **T** COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

## **Lack of Medicaid expansion played part in Fulton hospital closing**

By RUDI KELLER

When the owners of Fulton Medical Center announced Monday they would close the hospital because of mounting losses from uncompensated care and low patient numbers, they did not say it was because Missouri didn't expand Medicaid.

They didn't have to. The mayor of Fulton said it for them.

"That was one of the things they were hanging their hat onto to stop the bleeding and of course, that did not happen," Mayor LeRoy Benton said.

**The hospital lost \$1 million between January and May, prompting University of Missouri HealthCare to put its minority stake up for sale and NueHealth on Monday to set Sept. 22 as the closing date.** It will be the fourth rural hospital to close since advocates for Medicaid expansion began predicting that outcome if the state did not accept federal help to expand coverage for poor adults.

Now nursing homes are facing similar pressures. The uncertainty of federal health care policy as Congress debates repeal of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid cuts, combined with cuts in state payments and a higher threshold to receive services, are straining the budgets of residential care facilities, said Nikki Strong, executive vice president of the Missouri Healthcare Association.

"We are looking at job losses all across the state," Strong said. "Facilities have nowhere left to cut because they are currently underfunded. We are probably going to look at facility closures."

Each hospital that has closed had its own challenges and it would be difficult to say failure of Medicaid expansion in Missouri was the single reason they closed, said Dave Dillon of the Missouri Hospital Association.

“What is fair to say is the lack of Medicaid expansion is a significant factor in all of those closings,” he said.

Politically, Medicaid expansion is a dead issue in Missouri until there is clarity on the future of federal policy and voters begin choosing candidates based on their willingness to consider it. The first evidence of that may come in the Aug. 8 special election in the 50th Missouri House District, where Democrat Michela Skelton is trying to break the almost-complete GOP monopoly on rural legislative seats in a contest with Republican Sara Walsh.

Skelton said she wants lawmakers to enact Medicaid expansion. Walsh said she is worried about the rapidly rising cost of the existing program.

Republicans who have dominated the General Assembly since 2003 used every means at their disposal to block Missouri’s participation in the Affordable Care Act. Voters passed ballot measures proposed by lawmakers to make mandatory health insurance illegal in the state and to block the creation of a state-based online insurance marketplace.

And from 2013 to 2016, they ignored Gov. Jay Nixon’s annual call for Medicaid expansion.

Missouri’s current Medicaid program is about as small as possible. Eligibility is income-based and different groups have different eligibility requirements. For a pregnant woman, Missouri provides coverage up to 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline. Adults with children only receive coverage if their income is less than about \$300 a month. Adults without children who are not disabled or otherwise qualified receive no coverage.

Even with limited eligibility, about 1 million Missourians rely on Medicaid at a cost of about \$750 million each month, according to the May report on family support programs from the Missouri Department of Social Services.

[\*Story continues.\*](#)

## **Howard case continued to August**

By BLAKE TOPPMEYER

Nate Howard's court case was scheduled for a plea hearing on Wednesday, but no plea was entered after the state requested a continuance. The case is now scheduled for an Aug. 2 status hearing.

**Howard, a junior defensive end on the Missouri football team, faces a Class D felony charge of possession of a controlled substance stemming from his June 14 arrest.** Police said they found psilocybin mushrooms in the trunk of Howard's car during a search following a traffic stop, according to the probable cause statement.

Howard's attorney, Christopher Slusher, appeared on his behalf at Wednesday's hearing at the Boone County Courthouse.

"We thought we had an agreement and then heard from the state yesterday that we need to continue," Slusher told Judge Michael Bradley.

"I would anticipate completion very quickly," Slusher later said to Bradley.

Howard has been suspended since his arrest. Missouri's preseason camp begins Tuesday.

Howard, who has 15 tackles in 15 career games, exited the spring as one of the top candidates to earn a starting spot on the defensive line.

University policy states that any athlete facing felony charges will remain suspended until a judgement is reached in the case. If the athlete pleads guilty to the felony charge or is convicted of the felony, the athlete is permanently barred from competing in athletics for any school in the University of Missouri system.

Slusher entered a not guilty plea on Howard's behalf on the felony charge earlier this month.