



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

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# T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

## Choi seeks lasting legacy as University of Missouri System president

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By Rudi Keller

**If Mun Choi gets what he wants, he will be the longest serving president of the University of Missouri since it has been a system.**

Elmer Ellis presided over the system's founding. He began his Missouri career as an assistant professor of history earning \$2,800 and ended it guiding the transition from a campus in Columbia with a mining and engineering school in Rolla to a system with four comprehensive universities.

Ellis completed 11 years, four months and 15 days as president on Aug. 31, 1966, and his name is memorialized on the Columbia campus' central library.

When Ellis retired, he was the ninth president in the previous 100 years. When Choi became president March 1, he was the 10th permanent president in 51 years.

"My thought was that I would be here for at least 10 years," Choi said. "Obviously, that is not a decision that is going to be mine to make, but I want to be able to contribute with a long-term goal of helping, while leading, but also ensuring we have the strategic vision to make this university even better than it is."

If he reaches his 10th anniversary as president, Choi, 53, would be younger than Ellis at retirement. But longevity isn't an end in itself, he said.

Choi said he hopes "when people look back and identify areas where I helped to improve the university, that they say he brought in a clear, strategic approach of operating and supporting a university; he helped to bring the pride back that was rightfully placed in this institution."

In his first five months, Choi has tried to set a new tone and pace to system operations. He set a goal and deadline for cuts to pare \$101 million from the \$3.2 billion system budget, announcing results on June 2 that included staff layoffs, reduction in non-tenured faculty and eliminating open positions totaling almost 500 jobs.

He scrapped the University Relations staff that handled public and legislative communications. He gathers his own data and makes his own slides for public presentations.

He has said plans for major education and research buildings will move ahead with or without help from state lawmakers. And along with the cuts came a promise to hire more researchers and

additional tenured faculty. And unlike his predecessor, he and his wife, Suzanne, are living at Providence Point, the official presidential residence.

Choi recently sat down with the Tribune at Providence Point for his first extended media interview. He spoke about his Korean roots, his efforts to learn about the university and his vision for its future.

The objectives of his presidency, Choi said, are manifold. For students, he said, he wants better results measured by graduation, retention and lower debt after school. For the academy, he said, he wants to find new and growing sources of revenue to finance new research buildings and teams and to reward faculty and staff for achievement.

The public image of the university continues to take a beating with news of cuts and declining enrollment on the Columbia campus. The ambitious hiring and building plans have left some faculty wondering whether they pay a “loyalty tax” by staying on the job with no raises while the newly hired command market salaries.

The impact of the cuts is something he is still trying to understand, Choi said. He has done the best job he can, he said, to be open about the process and to set clear timelines that left little doubt when it was over.

“I don’t have a comprehensive understanding of the issue of morale on campus,” Choi said. “But I can only imagine, having to go through a situation where we had almost \$100 million reallocation of funds and elimination of almost 550 positions, that this a time of some anxiety among faculty and staff members.”

## **PATH FORWARD**

The job facing Choi is a large one. He’s got to repair a badly damaged public image, manage discontent over budget cuts and build up research facilities. He’s got one eye on the MU campus’ ranking with the American Association of Universities and another on keeping student costs low.

The association links 60 of the nation’s top private and public research schools.

“It is very important and currently, where we stand among other AAU institutions indicate we have some work to do, when it comes to extramural research funds, especially those from federal agencies that are received on a competitive basis after review of the proposals,” Choi said.

The association measures other aspects of a university’s work and faculty prestige, including how often journal papers or conference presentations are cited by other writers and the kinds of recognition, such as Pulitzer and Nobel prizes, held by faculty.

“These are all metrics that are very important for AAU, but they also are beginning to measure the quality of the undergraduate education,” Choi said.

While the AAU status is only for the Columbia campus, it adds to the prestige of the system, Choi said. And one of his goals is to make the campuses work more like a single organism than four autonomous universities, he said.

The goal, he said, is “to take the four campuses and the activities of the four campuses and develop a system in which the faculty collaborate on research projects, students at the four campuses can enroll in classes that are offered at any one of the campuses seamlessly, and for us to ensure that we graduate students with a high quality education, with low debt, that ensures they will be successful citizens after they graduate.”

After five months on the job, it is difficult to rate Choi’s performance. But the early response is generally good.

Curator David Steelman of Rolla said Choi fit his idea of a president, and he’s not been disappointed.

“Mun Choi is bringing an overarching strategic vision to the university as a whole that we have not seen in my lifetime,” Steelman said. “He is imparting energy, he has a clear vision. I think the whole state of Missouri is going to find out what good fortune it was to hire Mun Choi.”

Curator Jeff Layman, who was appointed by Gov. Eric Greitens after Choi was selected, said he’s been impressed so far.

“It doesn’t matter how well you execute the wrong strategic plan,” Layman said. “What I like about President Choi is, he is very focused on executing the right strategic plan. I think he is the right person at the right time. I think he is very serious about being held accountable and he understands the curators are going to hold him accountable and push him.”

The plan is expensive. It includes a new \$200 million research facility in Columbia, a \$96 million arts and music campus in Kansas City and recruiting searches for faculty who will command market rates and an attractive package of incentives. Current faculty and staff may wonder where they rate on the priority list, said William Wiebold, chairman of the MU Faculty Council.

“Where the crunch comes is there is not enough money to do everything for everybody,” Wiebold said

While the UM System is seeking faculty, other universities may poach the university, Wiebold said.

“The problem with our low salaries is there is another university someplace that is trying to improve and they are looking to us for good faculty,” he said.

The salary issue is real and must be addressed as revenue improves, Choi said.

“Some of the salary comparisons of our faculty and staff compared to counterparts around the country indicates to us it needs work,” he said. “In many cases we are in the bottom quintile of the comparisons.”

Wiebold said he is impressed with Choi because he makes the slides for his public presentations and responds to emails within a few hours.

“I get a sense that he’s really involved in putting together his message and what he wants to say and how to say it,” Wiebold said. “I am a data freak and he provides lots of data. I think it is just really comforting to see.”

Stephanie Shonekan, chair of the Black Studies Department at MU and a member of the Presidential Search Committee, said she’s not ready to give Choi a grade.

“Administration is going to be administration,” Shonekan said. “As faculty, as somebody who cares about students and colleagues, we continue to be watchful. Faculty wants to see and feel it. It is good to hear that people in administration are committed to those of us who are here, as we move on we want to see some action behind some of those words.”

## **PACE OF CHANGE**

Choi doesn’t discount the effect of the November 2015 protests on the university’s image or current financial plight. And he doesn’t downplay the depth of the students’ feelings about bias on campus, he said.

When students have grievances, it is important for the administration to be listening, Choi said.

“I don’t think anyone was happy with what happened in the aftermath of November 2015,” Choi said. “And so, having that dialogue early and trying to understand the other position, the position of other individuals who were at odds with one another, is a very important step to take.”

In the wake of the Concerned Student 1950 protests, the university expanded diversity and inclusion programs, created a vice president for diversity and inclusion at the system and raised the status of campus diversity officers. Choi has not altered those commitments.

Choi is the third person from a minority group to be president. Asked about his personal experiences with racism, he said they occurred when he was young and said it “was playground play, as I would like to say, rather than any directed racism.”

On campus, he said, “we have to address matters of racial incidents very seriously. We have to educate our students to be able to treat each other with respect and to treat individuals for the value that they bring. But I think also we have to be resilient. Resilience is one of the characteristics we all need to understand as well and embrace as we go through and become human beings and members of society.”

The university must also be resilient, he said.

“There are so many exciting things that are happening at this university,” Choi said. “And it was happening in November 2015 and afterward and it continues.”

If the pace Choi has set for the first five months continues for 10 years, his presidency will move in a streak. A group of administrators and curators is working on a new system for setting construction priorities and how to fund them and it will be ready by the September meeting.

“That is not only moving quickly, but in university speed, we will be moving at light speed,” Steelman said. “Or at least pre-Mun Choi light speed. Maybe this is Mun Choi speed.”

# ST • JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

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## [New MU president pledges change to system](#)

By Ray Scherer

**New University of Missouri System President Mun Choi brought a message to St. Joseph on Friday that seeks widespread cooperation to improve education — and everyone’s life in general — all over the state.**

Choi, born in South Korea, held an hourlong session with the News-Press Now editorial board. He most recently was provost and executive vice president of the University of Connecticut. He has a joint-appointment as a professor in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at the University of Missouri College of Engineering.

The meeting occurred as part of a two-day swing through Northwest Missouri. Choi, who took over as president in March, discussed a broad range of topics with the board, including how the university continues to deal with fallout from increases in higher education costs and protests on the Columbia campus in late 2015 over allegations of racial inequality.

Upgrading MU’s Extension services is among Choi’s priorities. He said Marshall Stewart, who became the system’s vice chancellor of Extension and Engagement last year, will focus on ways to assist Missouri’s small business community, kindergarten through 12th-grade education, and the potential for promoting telemedicine.

“He wants to go beyond activities that focus on agriculture and 4-H,” Choi said of Stewart. “You’re going to see more activities like that.”

The university’s status as a land-grant institution carries a vitally important responsibility and mission, according to Choi, in helping further more efficient and effective educational programming for the state’s residents. Missouri, he said, has the ability to provide expertise in community and global engagement, food production and in delivering health care. Student success, research and outreach for a trio of purpose for his administration.

“We are going to pursue activities that bring us value,” Choi said. “I want to work closely with our stakeholders, faculty, staff, students and the citizens of Missouri ...”

Reduced spending for higher education from state government serves as a wake-up call for the university, he said.

“We know the state finances,” Choi said. “That is making us become more efficient. We are going to have program cuts.” The system operates with a \$3.2 billion budget.

Despite that reality, officials will search for innovations to help render better health care and education throughout Missouri, said Choi.

He said it’s critical to preserve the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance for its ability to train the next generation of artistic performers.

He offered compliments to the higher education institutions he’s been touring in the area and praised St. Joseph for its community-centric atmosphere.

“It’s a wonderful campus,” Choi said of Northwest Missouri State University. “I can see why it’s growing.” He also visited North Central Missouri College in Trenton, and spent some time in Chillicothe and later at Missouri Western State University and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. The stops included talks with donors, alumni, state lawmakers and business leaders.

There’s sufficient interest in collaborating with the state’s other universities and colleges. For instance, MU now partners with Northwest in offering a doctorate in education. But streamlining remains an overall objective.

“We can’t afford to duplicate programs,” he said. “There may be cases in which we combine programs.” Some programs could fold into “centers of excellence.”

An emphasis persists toward retaining students in the state as a means of alleviating a “brain drain,” said Choi. There’s more attention to signing articulation agreements with community colleges to smooth student transfers into the system.

“We really want a lot more cooperation with these institutions,” said Dr. David Russell, chief of staff for the UM System, who accompanied Choi on the regional tour.

Russell also said the current environment for innovation in higher education in the state is the best he’s seen in a quarter century.

Funding needs continue to be acknowledged rather than dismissed. The system is confronting the unwanted consequences of a dramatic decline in enrollment and reductions in state appropriations stemming from the time of the protests.

“We have to fight for education as a group. ... We have to be in it together,” Choi said, referring to combining resources with all other higher education outlets in the fight for funding.

“That hurts the state,” he said in reference to the lost enrollment and finances.

The university needs to do a better job at sharing its success stories, he added, and said law students have been instrumental in guiding military veterans toward valuable assistance programs.

MU recognizes the need to grow its diversity efforts following the events of 2015, said Choi. There will be a push to transform the institution into a welcoming university.

“We’re going to address those issues directly,” he said of the aftermath of the protests and their related developments. “We have to be proactive about it.”

Russell said officials have fielded calls from parents concerned about campus safety.

“That’s a public perception out there,” he said.

Progress has been made in the form of more hires in the faculty among under-represented groups on the campuses, Choi said.

A draft of a strategic plan should be complete in February, so curators can review the document in the spring and adopt measures for the fiscal year 2019. A rebranding of the system will stress such strengths of medical science, humanities, engineering and social science.

“It’s going back to the roots,” he said. “It’s a safe campus.”

# T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

## Mun Choi latest in long line of University of Missouri’s South Korean connections

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By Rudi Keller

**When Mun Choi applied for the presidency of the University of Missouri, he had little idea that one of the Columbia campus’ strongest international relationships was with his homeland, South Korea.**

The relationship began in the 1950s, when former President Harry Truman and Elmer Ellis created a program to provide tuition-free education to Korean students at MU. The MU Korean Alumni Association is now the largest overseas alumni group.

Over the years, MU has provided faculty employment to dissidents, established a biennial conference on Korean affairs called the Harry S Truman Forum and, in the past year, established the Institute for Korean Studies.

“This is more surprising news than the election of Donald Trump,” Woong-Rae Noh, president of the MU Korean Alumni Association, said in November after Choi was selected.

Noh is one of five Mizzou alumni serving as members of the National Assembly for the Republic of Korea. “The appointment of Dr. Choi is a great opportunity for the University of Missouri to further strengthen its ties with Korean alumni and friends,” Noh said.

Choi was nine in 1973 when his father and mother brought their family, which included three younger sisters, to the United States from their home in the center of Seoul, the national capital. His father was chairman of the Seoul Athletic Committee and his mother was a nurse.

“We grew up in a home that was very frugal by necessity,” he said. “We decided to move to the United States in 1973, not for political reasons, although at the time the president that was in power was a military dictator. But it wasn’t for political reasons that we moved to the United

States. It was for economic reasons, and for my parents to provide us with a better educational opportunity.”

When Choi’s family moved to the United States, Soon Sung Cho was on the faculty at the MU, teaching international relations. He was a wanted man in his homeland.

Cho was an adviser to the military government established by Park Chung Hee in 1960 after the overthrow of Syngman Rhee. “I served for three months and then I wrote articles that called for elections, saying absolute power corrupts absolutely,” Cho said in an interview. “They tried to arrest me so I went to Japan, taught there about three years and then I came to the United States.”

Cho was on the faculty until 1989, when he was elected to the Korean National Assembly while on sabbatical from MU. He served three terms and retired and now lives in southern California.

“I was very grateful to know that a Korean had become president of the university,” he said.

When Choi and his family arrived in Akron, Ohio, they spoke very little English, so they took the jobs they could find and began making uniforms for Taekwondo students and teachers. The business became Choi Brothers, now run by his sisters and one of the largest suppliers of martial arts uniforms in the country.

“For my parents, I knew life was a struggle for them but they knew they made the right decision to bring us to the United States to provide that educational opportunity,” Choi said. “And by all measures, we have achieved that. My three sisters and I all attended the flagship university in Illinois and we are all gainfully employed. So we met their objectives.”

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# T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

## **EDITORIAL: With NAACP warning, is Missouri the new Mississippi?**

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The NAACP has singled out Missouri for this distinct non-honor: Ours is the first state for which the civil rights group has issued a travel advisory, warning people of color to approach with caution.

This is a dramatic announcement, and it’s human nature that our first response might be to wonder whether we’re really such standouts when discrimination is so rampant. But let’s not waste any time indulging that impulse because we have real problems to fix.

Among them is the recently enacted Missouri law that as of Aug. 28 will make employment discrimination suits all but impossible to win. (Unless you have the ex-boss on tape saying, “You bet race is the reason I’m firing Miss Smith,” how can anyone prove that race wasn’t just a reason but the reason?) The law, which will require fired workers to prove that bias was the explicit reason they were let go, rather than that bias was a contributing factor, is an embarrassment and a mistake the public should demand that lawmakers correct.

We do not want to be the new Mississippi. Or Venezuela, where the State Department has warned Americans not to venture. We want to be known for bio-medical research and agriculture, among other distinguishing features.

**But instead, the word Missouri these days evokes the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, the slurs against black students at the University of Missouri and the recent death of Tory Sanders, a mentally ill black man from Nashville who took a wrong turn, ran out of gas,** approached cops for help and wound up dead in a southeast Missouri jail cell after officers reportedly used a stun gun and pepper spray on him.

Rod Chapel, the president of the Missouri NAACP, asked, “How do you come to Missouri, run out of gas and find yourself dead in a jail cell when you haven’t broken any laws?” Fair question.

A piece on the conservative site Red State counters that the advisory “seems more like political vengeance against Missouri’s tort reform than actual fear.” We disagree and note that Missouri reported 100 hate crimes in 2015, the most recent year statistics were available from the FBI’s hate crime reporting program. (That puts us 16th in the country, but that other states also have some soul-searching to do excuses nothing.)

Just a few months ago, the windows of a Blue Springs barbershop were covered with racial slurs. And the most recent attorney general’s report shows black drivers in Missouri were 75 percent more likely to be pulled over than white drivers.

Against this backdrop, we don’t see how our Justice Department can justify going after discrimination against white people or how our president can claim he was joking when he encouraged police officers to rough up suspects. If he was trying to be funny, that was one twisted joke.

The NAACP is letting people know, Chapel said, that “people need to be ready, whether it’s bringing bail money with them, or letting relatives know they are traveling through the state.”

Our own advisory is that while most Missourians welcome all travelers to our state, our law enforcement officials and lawmakers do need to think about why we’re seen in such a negative light. And it’s up to the rest of us to make sure they lose their jobs if they don’t.

*The Kansas City Star*

# The Washington Post

## Do eclipses drive animals wild? Here's how you can help scientists find out.

By Jason Bittel

Generated by a News Bureau direct pitch

In 1994, Doug Duncan was standing on the Bolivian Altiplano with a group of fellow astronomers. The scientists had come to witness a total solar eclipse, and as such, most of their gazes were turned skyward as the totality approached. That is, until a woman started shouting, “Look down! Look down!”

“I can still hear her voice,” said [Duncan](#), the director of the Fiske Planetarium at the University of Colorado. “So, we look down and ... llamas. Llamas all over the place.”

They were surrounded by llamas — but not for long. After a few minutes, the moon’s 70-mile-wide shadow passed on and light returned to the plateau, at which point the llamas formed a sort of procession and marched away. Duncan, who has witnessed 10 total solar eclipses, said he still has no idea where the animals came from or what their behavior meant, if anything. But even as a scientist who knows more about space than camelids, he thought the way the llamas’ behaved was certainly weird.

Another time, in the Galápagos Islands, Duncan watched as a bunch of whales and dolphins surfaced and started cruising back and forth in front of the ship he was on about five minutes before a total eclipse. A few minutes after the sun had come back out and it was clear the world was not ending, the marine mammals disappeared, just as the Bolivian llamas had.

There are lots of these kinds of stories — anecdotal reports of animals behaving strangely in the moments leading up to and after a solar eclipse. Some say that when the moon scoots in front of

the sun and the world goes dark, [as it will across the United States on Aug. 21](#), birds stop singing and cows and horses start returning to their barns as though it were time for bed.

**These are pretty common and consistent observations, said [Angela Speck](#), director of astronomy at the University of Missouri. “And it doesn’t seem to matter whether it’s happening in a rural area or a city,” she said.**

But when you start looking for rigorous research on animal behavior during eclipses, the pickings are slim. One [study](#) found that colonial orb-weaving spiders appeared to start deconstructing their webs during an eclipse in Mexico in 1991. Another [study](#), from 1984, noted that a group of captive chimpanzees in Georgia all seemed to congregate on a climbing structure during the totality. But a [study](#) of rumination and grazing behavior in cattle during Europe’s 1999 eclipse found no effect. Similarly, a group of captive baboons in Chile [seemed decidedly meh](#) about the eclipse in 1994.

The thing is, the world only gets a total solar eclipse approximately every 18 months, and the path of totality varies depending on where and when the moon crosses the sun’s rays. This makes studying animal behavior during an eclipse rather difficult. The best experiments require scientists to control for variables and repeat the test many times to evaluate its validity. So even if we get some really good observations this time around of, say, moose, the next total solar eclipse won’t be until July 2019, and its path of totality drifts over Chile and Argentina, neither of which is home to moose.

All of that said, scientists are well accustomed to making the best out of imperfect study conditions. And this year, technological advances may help us gather data about eclipse-experiencing critters like never before. In fact, scientists are hoping you might donate a little data to the cause.

All you have to do, they say, is whip out your smartphone and download the [iNaturalist app](#). Created by the California Academy of Sciences, iNaturalist allows anyone to take a picture of an animal (or plant or fungi or whatever) and make an attempt to identify it. Then others, including

experts, weigh in on whether your ID is correct or not. Think of it as a bit like Pokémon Go, only you're trying to "catch" real creatures instead of Charizards and Vaporeons.

On the day of the eclipse, the app will feature a special drawdown menu that allows you to record observations leading up to, during, and after the astronomical event. Simply keep an eye out for any interesting or unusual behavior and snap a few pics while you enjoy the show.

"We're hoping this is a way for people to be curious and make observations and think about how animal behavior is related to the sun," said [Rebecca Johnson](#), citizen scientist research coordinator for the California Academy of Sciences.

What's more, Johnson said, all of the thousands of notes resulting from this project, which they are calling [Life Responds](#), could allow researchers to establish a baseline of behavior that they can measure future eclipses against. It's only through this massive aggregation of data — which has never before been possible — that they can start to recognize patterns and draw conclusions. "The whole idea of science, of course, is to turn something from anecdote into real data that you can study," said [Michelle Thaller](#), deputy director of science for communications at NASA, which is including the Life Responds project as part of its [citizen science outreach](#) in conjunction with the eclipse.

If you're looking for places to find animals during the eclipse, here's a [list of more than a dozen wildlife refuges within the path of totality](#). If getting outdoors isn't really your thing, you can participate by going to places like the [Nashville Zoo](#), which is encouraging visitors to log observations by using the iNaturalist app or tagging the zoo on social media with the hashtags #NashvilleZoo or #NZooEclipse. While the zoo is home to plenty of big animals like primates and giraffes, it's the birds that might be the most interesting.

"I don't think anybody knows for sure what the animals will do," said Jim Bartoo, the zoo's marketing and public relations director, "but my bet would be to watch the flamingoes and the rhinoceros hornbills."

Bartoo said the zoo's avian staff thinks the birds may be more affected than other animals because they're used to being brought inside as the sun sets. And while zoo animals obviously aren't perfect substitutes for understanding the behavior of their wild counterparts, the eclipse offers an opportunity to study animals that have become used to the rhythms of captivity. The zoo's rhinoceroses, for instance, come outside each day at 9 a.m. and return to their paddock each night at 6 p.m. Who knows how they'll react to a few minutes of unscheduled darkness?

Of course, it's entirely possible that the squirrel, blue jay, rattlesnake or rhino you're watching doesn't do a darn thing when the big moment comes. Don't worry, but do take notes. After all, logging the absence of weird behavior is important to science, too. (Good news: You don't even have to be in the line of totality to log animal behavior observations.)

One thing all the experts agree on is that if you're going to attempt to watch the solar eclipse this month, be sure to wear [proper eye protection](#). But don't worry about getting a pair of glasses for Fido.

"Animals are actually quite a bit smarter than we are when it comes to looking directly at the sun," says Thaller.

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## [A Procrastinator's Guide To The Great American Eclipse](#)

Listen to the story: <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/a-procrastinators-guide-to-the-great-american-eclipse/>

In case you missed it: A rare total solar eclipse will sweep the United States from Oregon to South Carolina on August 21—and it will be the last to pass over North America until 2024. Are you ready with travel plans, viewing glasses, or nifty science experiments to do during the event?

If you've been procrastinating, time is running out. Get out from under that rock and acquaint yourself with everything you don't know yet about the coming Great American Eclipse. Ira talks with Angela Speck, professor of astronomy at the University of Missouri, for this procrastinator's guide to viewing it.

COLUMBIA DAILY  
TRIBUNE

## [University of Missouri reverses cut to veterinary services](#)

By Rudi Keller

[The University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine reversed a planned budget cut after pressure from agriculture interests and veterinarians made it unlikely the move would save any money.](#)

Under President Mun Choi's spring directive to find savings and do so without using an across-the-board approach, the college needed to find \$2.4 million in savings, former Dean Neil Olson wrote in a memo distributed June 6 to the college's faculty. To meet that goal, Olson wrote that the college would cut back on its animal reproductive services by eliminating the Theriogenology Service and curtailing companion animal, small ruminant and embryo transfer reproductive services in 2019.

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association and the Missouri Veterinary Medicine Association objected strongly to the decision. While training in theriogenology would continue, students would have less hands-on experience if the cut stood, said Mike Deering, executive vice president of the cattlemen's association.

"They would no longer train veterinarians to specialize in reproduction of our livestock, when that is the bread and butter in our state," Deering said.

Olson left his job on Tuesday. The cattlemen's association reported that the cut had been reversed by interim Dean Carolyn Henry in its Friday newsletter. Henry was traveling Friday afternoon and could not be reached.

The industry advocates asking for the cut to be reconsidered made good points, said Tracey Berry, spokeswoman for the college. The cut threatened to disrupt giving to the school, she said.

"Her review of the budget situation and the impact of cutting these program led her to believe the net income loss from stakeholders was not going to save us any money in 2019 or beyond," Berry said. "That is why she put the brakes on that decision."

The reversal brought praise for Henry in the newsletter.

"With only one day on the job as the interim dean, Carolyn Henry recognized the need to keep the program intact and quickly solved a problem," association President Butch Meier said in the newsletter. "This is the kind of leadership our future veterinarians deserve."

Missouri is the nation's sixth-largest producer of cattle and calves and the seventh largest producer of hogs and pigs, Olson's memo states.

Theriogenology helps animal producers improve strains and maintain genetic purity, Deering said. Embryo transfer is an especially important skill because it allows producers of seed stocks to expand production by placing an embryo from one breed into a female of another. The female becomes a living incubator and the supply of high-quality animals is increased, Deering said.

"There are specialists but every single large animal veterinarian has to have some reproduction training, especially on the cow-calf side," Deering said.

Other groups that joined in the effort to reverse the cut included the American Kennel Club and hog producers, Deering said.

Henry was concerned about the industry objections as she reconsidered the cut, Berry said.

“It is fair to say our interim dean is supportive of theriogenology,” she said. “It is an area where we can expand and grow.”

The cuts weren’t intended to save money until 2019, Berry said. By committing to keep the services, Henry can look for ways to collaborate with animal science and biological science research, she said.

“It is an area of potential revenue growth,” she said.

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# MISSOURIAN

## Parking meters on Tiger Avenue removed

[GINA BALSTAD](#) Aug 4, 2017

COLUMBIA — The city removed 37 parking meters on Tiger Avenue from Rollins Street to near Kentucky Blvd. on Monday, said Barry Dalton, public information officer with the Columbia Public Works Department.

**MU's Vice Chancellor's Office for Operations & Student Affairs requested the removal, Dalton said. Bike lanes will be drawn on both sides of the street to encourage students, faculty and staff to adopt alternative transportation methods, said Liz McCune, an MU spokeswoman.**

The Columbia City Council voted on the decision to remove the parking meters July 17. It is meant to reduce traffic congestion on campus, according to a city memo.

The removal happened as MU has made parking management changes that have resulted in fewer parking spaces available to students.

The removal is part of a one-year trial observed by the city. If the results show congestion was reduced, the meters will stay removed; otherwise, the meters will be reinstalled, Dalton said.

The city owns the meters and removing them is calculated to result in \$66,374 in lost revenue for the year. MU has agreed to reimburse the city for the amount, according to the city memo.

MU will determine if the expense is reasonable after the one-year trial period, McCune said.

Removing the meters was not one of the recommendations made to the Campus Parking and Transportation Standing Committee, but it was a decision MU made to encourage alternative transportation, McCune said.

Tiger Avenue was one of five streets examined for potential changes. It was selected because it was the least expensive, McCune said.

# T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

## One year in at MU, Jim Sterk finds a fit in Columbia

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Jim Sterk and Scott Stokes have been best friends long enough – since seventh grade – that Stokes recognizes the tone Sterk gets in his voice when he’s about to drop some big news.

Sterk had that tone when he called Stokes around this time a year ago.

“I always kid him and say, ‘OK, should I sit down? You’re moving again, aren’t you?’” Stokes said.

Sterk was, indeed, on the move.

**It hadn’t been announced yet, but he was accepting the athletic director position at Missouri and leaving his post at San Diego State to do so.**

Stokes reacted on the phone the way some others did after Sterk’s hire became official.

“I said, ‘You’re leaving San Diego to live in Missouri?’” Stokes said.

Yes, Sterk was leaving a beach city with glorious weather to come to Columbia. He’d checked out Missouri and liked what he saw.

“He said, ‘It’s my kind of place,’” Stokes said. “To hear him talk about it, I thought, ‘Yeah, it’s much more like your kind of place.’”

Wednesday will mark the one-year anniversary of Sterk’s hire.

During that time, he’s overseen the best fundraising year in the athletic department’s history, put the Memorial Stadium south end zone project back on the table and engineered a coaching change that resulted in a surge of momentum for the men’s basketball program.

He's also settled into a community that, albeit 2,100 miles away from where he grew up, feels like home.

"I've really enjoyed meeting the people of Missouri," Sterk said.

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It's technically accurate to say Sterk is a West Coast native. After all, his hometown of Nooksack, Wash., is 20 miles from the saltwater shoreline of Birch Bay.

But Sterk's hometown doesn't match the image many have of the West Coast.

Nooksack is a small town about 5 miles from the Canadian border, tucked into the northwestern pocket of Washington. Sterk lived in Nooksack until his father, Martin, bought a dairy farm just outside of town when Sterk was in grade school, and the family moved to the farm.

Sterk lived the farm lifestyle of helping milk cows, baling hay and shooting hoops in the hay loft.

"Looking back at it, it was a great way to grow up," Sterk said.

Granted, Sterk wasn't overly interested in milking, which the family did by hand in those days.

"We all joked that he didn't put in a pipeline until all of us were through high school and his guaranteed labor was gone," Sterk said of his dad with a laugh.

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Sterk played football, basketball and baseball at Nooksack Valley High School. In football, Sterk played quarterback, and Stokes was the center.

Sterk and Stokes decided to stake out for college together. They stayed within the Whatcom County and attended Western Washington, which was then an NAIA school.

Stokes remained an offensive lineman, and Sterk became a four-year starter on defense. He set the school record with 164 tackles his senior season, when he helped WWU reach the NAIA District I championship, played at the Kingdome.

"He had leadership skills, and people followed him," said Paul Madison, WWU's longtime sports information director and now the school's athletics department historian. "He had a knack of getting everybody together."

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Sterk's knack for rallying people hasn't faded.

Missouri's athletic department experienced record fundraising in the 2016-17 fiscal year, bringing in \$50.7 million for the Tiger Scholarship Fund. That more than doubled the amount raised in the previous fiscal year.

“He has that way with people,” Madison said, when told of Missouri’s fundraising success in Sterk’s first year on the job. “He comes over to people well, and it’s not just a certain group of people. He gets on well with everybody.”

One fundraising attempt in Sterk’s younger days, though, wasn’t as successful.

Sterk was a senior at WWU in the spring of 1978 when he and some friends living in a home dubbed the “White House” for its color and columns out front decided to throw a party with a fee to raise some living money.

It backfired.

“We didn’t realize they would drink us out of house and home,” Sterk said. “Within a couple hours, we were through so many kegs, I knew we were going to lose money. Luckily, the police came. We actually called them” to disperse the crowd.

So much for that idea.

Sterk had more success at a boxing smoker that was a fundraiser for WWU’s baseball team.

Most of the bouts were boxing matches between local bigwigs or students. Sterk’s crew went for a different approach. He and two football teammates challenged three baseball players in a riff of All-Star Wrestling.

“We did the whole airplane spin and the cigar in the eye and against the chair and all that stuff,” Sterk said. “We had it all scripted out, and it brought the house down. It was a funny one.”

Everybody in the gym laughed so hard they were “holding their sides,” Madison said.

“It was just amazing the things they were able to do,” Madison said. “They had really choreographed it just perfectly.”

That wrestling spoof, Madison said, epitomized how there was more to Sterk than just star linebacker.

Madison recalls another time when Sterk sang in a musical, “The Student Prince,” at Western Washington.

Sterk also sang at his 2010 WWU Athletics Hall of Fame induction.

“We’ve never had anybody else do that,” Madison said with a laugh.

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After Sterk graduated from Western Washington, he didn’t immediately enter a path toward athletic administration. He briefly sold insurance and then became a teacher and a high school coach for a few years. While a teacher, Sterk worked summers as a seasonal customs officer guarding the U.S.-Canadian border.

“It was a good summer job – perfect for teachers,” Sterk said.

But you had to stay on your toes.

One night, Sterk was working the line when two guys rolled up in an El Camino. The FBI had told the customs officers a couple weeks earlier that El Caminos had a lot of compartments in which to hide stuff. The men in the car avoided eye contact with Sterk, and they were evasive when he questioned them. Sterk’s alarm went up.

He asked them to pull over and told his fellow customs officers that he had a potential load car. They searched the vehicle and found a sack containing large bills totaling a quarter-million dollars. The men were drug dealers heading across the border to buy some supply.

The customs officers dispatched for agents from Seattle to arrest the men and called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to come down. The RCMP informed the customs officers that one of the men was a dangerous fellow. All was well until that man needed to go to the bathroom... and Sterk was selected to take him.

“It was a deserted building, upstairs, no one around, and I’m thinking, ‘He’s going to take my gun and kill me,’ ” Sterk said. “I was totally the Barney Fife. I had my hand on my gun, and I’m walking six steps behind this guy. ... It was a scary deal.”

Ultimately, the man didn’t make a run for it.

Another time, Sterk searched a storage compartment above the wheel well of a van and found it full of clothes – and a head. The other customs officers told him it was probably a mannequin, but then Sterk saw the Adam’s apple move.

“The mannequin’s alive,” he told the other officers.

Buried under the clothes was a man trying to smuggle his way across the border.

Sterk gave a fleeting thought to becoming a full-time customs officer, but other officers cautioned that he’d probably get sent to work the Mexican border, so he instead opted for graduate school at Ohio University to pursue a master’s in sports administration.

A career that started in the ticket office at North Carolina took Sterk to Maine, Seattle Pacific, Tulane, Portland State, Washington State, SDSU and now Missouri.

“I just kept giggling going, ‘Unbelievable,’” Stokes said of his friend’s rise. “None of us would’ve predicted this, but I’m also not surprised, because cream rises to the top.”

As Sterk climbed the ladder, Stokes said, he never changed who he is.

“He doesn’t have an arrogant bone in his body,” said Stokes, who is a school counselor in Marysville, Wash., and remains in regular contact with Sterk. “What you see is what you get. He comes from good stock, as the old small-town country expression goes.”

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Sterk uses the word momentum a lot when describing what he sees occurring within MU's athletic department.

There's a photo in his office that shows a rendering of what the Memorial Stadium south end zone project will yield.

Sterk hadn't even been on the job for a month before restoring the south end zone project. The project was proposed during the Mike Alden and Gary Pinkel days. Sterk's predecessor, Mack Rhoades, scrapped the plan during his tenure in favor of his own plan, one that would instead renovate the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex.

Missouri football coach Barry Odom favored the south end zone project, and Sterk revived it, calling it a win-win that also would free up space in the MATC for Missouri's other athletes.

Plans call for construction to begin after the 2017 season and to be completed by the summer of 2019.

Fundraising for the project, which has an estimated price tag of \$96.7 million, has exceeded \$50 million. Sterk hopes to soon secure final approval for project from the University of Missouri Board of Curators. The board previously approved the project's architect.

Missouri is coming off an athletic year in which its football and men's basketball teams had a combined winning percentage of .273. Sterk notes that Missouri's nonrevenue sports had a historic year, which helped MU place 33rd in the Director's Cup, the highest spot it has ever achieved, but he also acknowledges the need for improvement in the revenue sports. He helped create some positive buzz for the men's basketball program by hiring Cuonzo Martin, who brought in the nation's No. 1 recruit, Michael Porter Jr.

When Sterk took the reins last August, he inherited an athletic department that had endured a chaotic year, which included a football player boycott, Gary Pinkel's retirement, self-imposed men's basketball sanctions and a softball player protest.

But Sterk saw an opportunity at Missouri. Twelve months into his tenure, he's helped provide steadiness for an athletic department that needed it.

"You never know when you go into a new place what's going to happen, but I had studied the place. Mizzou had had success," Sterk said. "I felt like I could come in and help stabilize and help move forward. I think we've been able to do that with a lot of help. We have some really good momentum, and I'm excited about it this year almost even more than last year."

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## **Zero Tolerance Policies May Not be Effective, According to MU Professor**

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### **THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

#### **Training Graduate Students to Be Effective Teachers**

#### **NO MU MENTION**

By VIMAL PATEL

Eric Takyi had taught undergraduates in his native Ghana, but teaching in America was a different story. In Ghana, he didn't think much about pedagogy or make an effort to spruce up dry lectures, rearrange the classroom, or personally connect with students. His Calculus 1 class back home had about 80 undergraduates, not the 15 or 20 he'd be teaching as a graduate assistant at Clarkson University.

While Mr. Takyi's plight as a graduate teacher may be complicated by cultural factors, the contours are familiar to many Ph.D. students. Brand-new doctoral students are often thrust into the classroom with little or no pedagogical training, expected to teach undergraduates in exchange for stipends that cover their living expenses.

This system has its critics. It's "a long-running and disturbing national practice," says Leonard Cassuto, a *Chronicle* columnist who has written extensively about doctoral education. "Usually, there's a day or two of perfunctory orientation, and then into the machine march the new graduate-student teachers," Mr. Cassuto wrote [in a recent essay](#). "It's a sloppy approach that leads to some understandably poor teaching, and for the students affected (on both sides of the lectern), there's little recourse."

Unbeknownst to Mr. Takyi when he applied to Clarkson, a small, private university in Potsdam, N.Y., he would be part of a pilot program offering him a rare training opportunity: an intensive, five-week teaching "boot camp" that would take place the summer before his doctoral program began. Since the pilot began last year, administrators have made the program mandatory for all teaching assistants in the School of Arts and Sciences, and about 20 students have completed the training or are going through it right now.

The landscape for teaching-assistant preparation isn't entirely bleak. Doctoral programs are paying more attention to teaching than they did a generation ago. [More resources](#), such as teaching and learning centers, now exist on campuses, as do workshops and seminars on how to become a better teacher. But often the use of resources is not mandatory, and a program offering the amount of training that Clarkson provides new doctoral students is rare, if not unheard of. Clarkson officials say the boot camp was created partly in response to mounting public complaints about higher education.

"I think a big part of it, honestly, is that higher education is being held accountable for the education we're delivering," says Peter Turner, dean of the arts-and-sciences college. "At many schools, especially larger schools, a lot of math and science classes especially are being taught primarily by teaching assistants. And so people are saying, Wait a minute. We're paying all this money for faculty members to teach our kids, and they're not the people who are teaching our kids?"

Clarkson has about 200 Ph.D. students, all in science and engineering disciplines. The university also offers a master's degree in teaching, to prepare future teachers in many disciplines. It was that program that inspired the boot camp for doctoral students.

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