



**MU News Bureau**

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## University of Missouri System president shares plans for future

By CATHERINE STORTZ RIPLEY

**University of Missouri System President Mun Choi was in Chillicothe Thursday as part of a northwest Missouri outreach tour, meeting with community and business leaders, former curators, local legislators, alumni and donors.**

Choi is the 24th president of the UM system, having accepted the position about a year ago and beginning his duties in March. He knew coming into the position that the system faced significant challenges.

Enrollment was down, state funding was down, and the system was still recovering from racially-spurred protests at its Columbia campus in 2015.

“It’s going to take some work, but I am confident we will address the challenges,” Choi told those gathered in the meeting room of Hedrick Medical Center Thursday.

“Mizzou is a world class university that has gone through so many important events that could have rocked it off its foundation,” he said, noting that despite the Civil War, the world wars, and financial challenges the system still survived.

He said that moving forward will take careful coordination in making the right decisions to best utilize state and tuition funds. Among those attending Thursday’s meeting was Livingston County Presiding Commissioner Ed Douglas, who is also president of the Chillicothe Education Foundation, which financially supports local education efforts. Among the foundation’s activities: purchasing 60 acres north of the high school and helping pass a bond issue to build a new elementary school on this land, raising money for a \$4 million stadium, providing financial awards for teachers and implementing financial recruitment tools.

“We are very committed to education,” Douglas said. “We understand the importance of the University of Missouri System to our area of our state.”

Choi was introduced to the local group by Ed Turner, of Chillicothe, former University of Missouri curator. “

We are so proud to have him part of our team at the university system,” Turner said.

Dr. David Russell, chief of staff for the University of Missouri System, accompanied Choi on his Chillicothe visit. The duo also visited Trenton, Maryville and St. Joseph last week.

Choi was born in South Korea and moved with his father, mother and three younger sisters to Akron, Ohio, in 1973 when he was 9 years old. His father owned and operated a karate uniform manufacturing business which consisted of one sewing machine, and one seamstress (who was Choi's mother).

The family later moved to Chicago where the business further prospered. The business continues today and is operated by Choi's sisters. Choi said the lessons he learned from his father are ones that he tries to impress upon his own children and the students at the university: treat people well, work hard, and be resilient.

"That's his life in a microcosm," Choi said of his father. "Here's a man and a wife, who didn't speak a word of English, but they decided to give up everything that they have in Korea so they can make a better life for their children."

Choi came to Missouri after having served as dean of engineering for five years and provost for four years at the University of Connecticut. His goals as president of the University of Missouri System include focusing on excellence, developing a new strategic plan that re-emphasizes the university's land grant status, focusing on value and making higher education more affordable.

Being able to reach those goals will involve evaluating current programs and reallocating resources to programs that are deemed critically important.

"We have so many programs that we have accumulated in the 178-year history of Mizzou that you question why are we still doing these programs," Choi said. "We need to evaluate and say, 'given the precious resources we can no longer support those programs.' Instead, we need to reallocate those resources to support programs that are critically important and where there is great demand."

Choi said that over the next six months, the university will be developing a new strategic plan that focuses on excellence and re-emphasizes its role as a land grant university through education, research and engagement to the citizens of Missouri.

The vision includes making the system the University for Missouri, rather than of Missouri. To do that, the president said, the university needs to have programs that increase student success. This includes graduation rates, job placement, attendance at graduate and professional schools, and debt at graduation as well as loan default rates.

Choi also would like to pursue making higher education more affordable. He stated that although some students don't return after their freshman year because of academic reasons, a significant number don't return because of financial issues.

"We need to focus on creating additional scholarships," he said. The president also addressed the need to increase research opportunities. "We have a lot to offer, but we have not, as a university, really focused on competing at the national level," Choi said.

The University of Missouri currently has approximately \$120 million at the Columbia campus in federal research grants, he said, which is about half or a third of what some other universities receive. There's a multiplier effect when federally-funded research conducted at the university results in commercial products being developed. Because of state funding cuts, the total number of faculty members who conduct research has decreased from 1,000 to 900 at the university over the past five years.

Choi said the university needs to be strategic about its choices and grow that research component. Another focus of the president is to engage with the community – throughout all of Missouri – and not just Kansas City, St. Louis and Columbia.

“We need to demonstrate the tremendous value we have,” he said. “It’s not just through the extension program. There is a lot that we provide.”

Choi stated that the university has retained the consulting services of Tripp Umbach to do an economic assessment of the four campuses to see what value the system provides.

“My estimation is that we provide at least \$3.5 billion in economic value to the state of Missouri each year,” he said. “We receive about \$400 million of support so the return on investment is quite significant.”

It is the university’s job to be proactive and share its message and demonstrate its value wherever it can and continue developing programs that bring value back to the community, he said.

“So, when we go through unfortunate periods like what we had in 2015, the community says, ‘yeah, you know, there are some things they could have done better, but I still believe in that university. Look at what they are doing for my community here.’”

Choi said that this year has the smallest incoming class of freshmen in about 15 years, with approximately 4,000 freshmen enrolled. In fall 2014, the year before the protest, the university welcomed 6,500 freshmen.

# MISSOURIAN

## [MU Title IX leader Ellen Eardley heading to D.C.](#)

EDWARD MCKINLEY 17 hrs ago (0)

COLUMBIA — [MU is looking for a new person to lead its Office of Civil Rights & Title IX.](#)

**Ellen Eardley, assistant vice chancellor for civil rights & Title IX, resigned effective Sept. 2, according to a July 31 email from Kevin McDonald, vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, sent to his staff.**

An interim will be named "in the coming days and (we)will launch a national search for a permanent leader within the month of August," McDonald wrote.

A search committee is being assembled for the permanent position, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. The committee will be led by Tina Bloom, an associate professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing, and Emily Love, deputy coordinator for the University of Missouri System Title IX office. Basi said a search firm will likely be hired to work with the committee.

According to McDonald's email, Eardley will return to Washington to practice law, specifically civil rights and employment discrimination.

A person answering the phone Tuesday at the MU Title IX office said Eardley is on vacation and not reachable by email or phone.

After a national search, Eardley was selected from among four finalists in February 2015 to become MU's first Title IX administrator. She started in April 2015, and her position was expanded in December 2015 when she became the leader of a new Office for Civil Rights & Title IX.

The Office of Civil Rights & Title IX's website lists four services it provides: "enforces the university's non-discrimination policies, educates the community about our policies and practices, connects people to resources that can support them if they experience discrimination or retaliation, listens to the concerns of the campus community."

When the office was expanded in late 2015, Provost Garnett Stokes said the purpose was to consolidate reporting and investigation of discrimination.

In the email, McDonald credited Eardley with "building a team of highly qualified equity professionals, increasing transparency through annual reports of allegations of discrimination and sexual violence,

improving key equity-related university policies, and co-chairing the MU Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Task Force."

"MU is a better place because of Ellen's work," McDonald said.

Eardley graduated from University of Cincinnati College of Law, and she worked at the National Women's Law Center from 2003 to 2005. She was a partner at Mehri & Skalet law firm in Washington from 2007 to 2015. During this time, she was an adjunct professor at American University Washington College of Law and taught a discrimination and Title IX issues class, according to earlier Missourian reporting.

# MISSOURIAN

## [MU apologizes for parking registration difficulty](#)

CONNOR LAGORE 18 hrs ago (0)

COLUMBIA — **MU officials have taken "full responsibility" for website issues related to parking.**

MU students and faculty received an email Tuesday from Vice Chancellor Gary Ward and Director of Parking and Transportation Mike Sokoff apologizing for technical problems MU students experienced while trying to buy parking permits for the 2017-18 academic year.

Some students experienced site crashes or the inability to log in to the system.

"Some of the issues were caused by human error, and we take full responsibility and apologize for the undue stress and aggravation this has caused," the email said. "We have identified the cause of the errors and are in the process of correcting them."

The website issues come after a review of MU's Parking and Transportation registration system by a private company. One of the company's main observations was that the system was out of date, which led to the introduction of online registration earlier this year for summer parking permits.

The new online system was also put in place to prevent garages and lots from being oversold, which caused problems in the past.

The email Tuesday said the goal is to make next year's parking registration process much smoother.

Parking and Transportation has posted a list of FAQs on its website.

# MISSOURIAN

## Boone Hospital ranked best in mid-Missouri, fourth in state

LORETTA LEE

COLUMBIA — For the third year, Boone Hospital Center was ranked first among hospitals in mid-Missouri by U.S. News & World Report. It also ranked fourth in the state of Missouri.

While the hospital topped the list of hospitals in mid-Missouri, it was rated "high performing" in eight of the nine categories, including heart bypass surgery, heart failure and knee replacement, according to a news release.

"This recognition is a testament to the excellent quality of care provided here at Boone Hospital Center," hospital president Jim Sinek said in the release. "It also reflects our physicians, nurses, clinical and support staff's dedication to their patients. It is truly an honor to once again be rated the number one hospital in mid-Missouri."

MU Health Care has also been recognized and rated "high performing" in orthopaedics on the annual U.S. News report.

MU's orthopaedic specialists are among the national leaders in hand, spine, hip, knee and shoulder surgery, Missouri Orthopaedic Institute Medical Director James Stannard said in another news release.

U.S. News evaluates hospitals based on 12 specialties using a mathematical model to combine reputation, mortality rate, patient safety and care-related factors such as nursing and patient services, according to the release. Ophthalmology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and rheumatology are ranked solely based on their reputation among specialists nationwide.



## **MU Has Spent More than \$160,000 in July on Legal Fees in Academic Investigation**

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=a73320f6-d82e-446e-870f-c901f79e2bc6>

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Eclipse warning to Lee's Summit, Olathe, etc.: Your 99% view could be a total bummer

**BY ERIC ADLER**

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**AUGUST 08, 2017 11:30 AM**

A frustrated Jackie Beucher has been hearing from them for months.

They are people who plan to stay put on Aug. 21 because they are under the impression that if they view the total solar eclipse from just outside the path of totality — meaning in cities such as Overland Park or Olathe, Lee's Summit or Raytown where viewers will see the moon covering more than 99 percent of the sun, but not 100 percent — that such a partial eclipse will be 99 percent as good as seeing the total eclipse.

“No, no, no, no,” the insistent vice president of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City said. “A partial eclipse is nothing compared to a total eclipse. You miss out on everything.”

That sentiment comes from someone who has witnessed seven total eclipses as well as four partial and two annular eclipses (those where the sun's outer circumference is visible). It is offered as fair warning to every person in every town that lies just beyond the eclipse's 70-mile-wide path of totality.

The current NASA map shows [that path](#), arching in a line across the United States from Oregon through Missouri and continuing through South Carolina and into the Atlantic Ocean, will just miss dozens of communities in the southern reaches of the Kansas City area. When the eclipse blacks out the sun's rays just a few minutes after 1 p.m., many in those nearby areas will get a partial rather than total eclipse.

In Olathe, for example, the moon will be seen to cover 99.2 percent of the sun's surface. In Overland Park, it'll be 99.6 percent. Lee's Summit will get 99.7 percent and Raytown 99.8 percent. Many neighborhoods and even buildings across Kansas City, just outside the path's outer edge, will be at 99.9 percent, including The Kansas City Star's brick building at 1729 Grand Blvd.

The eclipse's path on the NASA map cuts right across The Star's roof.

Those standing in the building's north parking lot will see a total eclipse — albeit for a scant three seconds — while those standing in the southern parking lot will see a partial at 99.9 percent.

**Although that may sound good enough, it will be far less than ideal because of the sun's intensity, said Angela Speck, a professor of astronomy at the University of Missouri and co-chairwoman of a national eclipse task force for the American Astronomical Society.**

“The sun is a million times brighter than the full moon,” Speck said. “What that means is that even with 99 percent of the sun covered up, and 1 percent showing, it is still 10,000 times brighter than the full moon.”

In fact, it will still be too bright to look safely without using solar glasses. A partial eclipse that covers 99.9 percent of the sun's surface will be still be 1,000 times brighter than a full moon.

Thus, it will not offer the same experience as a total eclipse. The light of day will dim some. Birds may begin to flock as they do preceding a full eclipse. But ...

“Until it is completely blocked, you don't get the darkness,” Speck said. “Even at 99.9 percent, you do not get to see the corona. You do not get to see the stars, all of that. The sun is just so bright.”

Beucher has given more than 45 eclipse talks this year in the Kansas City area. The notion that the Aug. 21 total solar is just a different version of the more common partial or annular eclipses that people remember from childhood is a major impediment to understanding its significance.

“Every single program I do, that is the hurdle I have to get over,” she said. “I say to people, ‘You have to forget that hole you punched in the box and projected on the other side.’ People have that in their heads that that's all this experience is going to be. They're so very, very wrong.”

Speck and Beucher tend toward what seems like hyperbole in describing a total solar eclipse. Both insist they are not exaggerating what it is like to see the blackness of the black hole that the eclipse creates, surrounded by the sun's silvery corona.

The rest of the country will see varying partial eclipses. Even Hawaii will see the moon cover a maximum of 33 percent of the sun. Alaska will see it cover 49 percent.

But compared to a total solar eclipse?

“The best simile I use is the Grand Canyon,” Beucher said. “Your whole life you've seen pictures of the Grand Canyon and seen movies taken of the Grand Canyon. You think you're going to go there to see it once, just for the hell of it.

“You go there, and you walk up to the edge of the Grand Canyon for the first time: The beauty of it. The depth of it just washes over you. It's like waves of goose bumps all over your body.

“Now take a feeling like that and multiply it by a good factor of five and you might get close to what seeing a total eclipse is like.”

Some say that seeing a 99.9 percent partial eclipse instead of a total eclipse is like driving up to the gate of Grand Canyon National Park without viewing the actual canyon. Or it's like being a quarter mile from the Pacific Ocean you've never seen and deciding to turn back.

Speck of MU goes even further.

“I think there are a couple of different ways of thinking about it,” she said. “There are some things that people ought to see in their lifetimes, right? If you grow up in Missouri, you could live your entire life without ever seeing the ocean. Don’t you think that would be a shame?”

“Now I want you to imagine that what you’re seeing is the ocean over the Grand Canyon, but with a volcano in the middle of that, erupting.”

Overselling it?

“I’m not,” Speck insisted. “No, I’m not. People literally can’t stop themselves from cursing because they’re so impressed. People cry because they have never seen anything like it. I’m not overselling it, I promise.

“It is a cosmic experience.”

# theguardian

## Four UK news sources among top 10 most trusted in US – survey

By GRAHAM RUDDICK

Four of the 10 most trusted sources of news among US readers are based in Britain, according to a survey.

**The Economist was the most trusted source, with Reuters third, the BBC fourth and the Guardian seventh, according to a study by University of Missouri’s Reynolds Journalism Institute.**

The least trustworthy sources of news included Breitbart, BuzzFeed and social media. Donald Trump was rated the fifth least trustworthy source of news. Occupy Democrats, which describes itself as a grassroots political organisation, was bottom of the table.

The online survey, accessible earlier this year via 28 different news providers in the US, attracted almost 9,000 respondents, who were asked to name three news sources they trusted and three they did not.

The other news providers in the top 10 were public television, NPR, PBS, the Wall Street Journal, the LA Times and Dallas Morning News.

The Washington Post was ranked 15th, the New York Times 19th and Fox News 29th out of 39.

The study also asked respondents how they decided what news was credible. Common responses included “other news sources”, “both sides [of the] story” and “check multiple sources”.

The researchers said: “There was a relatively large difference between users with different political ideologies. Specifically, liberal respondents were a lot more trusting and supporting than conservative

respondents. Given the rhetoric used in the most recent general election, however, this result may not be entirely surprising.”

The study found women were significantly more likely than men to trust information from mainstream journalism, as were white respondents compared with non-whites.



## Research project to look into mental health of medical students

By: Casey Edwards

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/research-project-to-look-into-mental-health-of-medical-students>

JEFFERSON CITY - People usually head to the doctor when they're feeling under the weather, but research shows doctors may not always be quick to seek help for themselves, especially if mental health is involved.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers in Missouri worked together to establish a committee and research project on the mental health of medical students in public higher education.

Governor Greitens signed [Senate Bill 52](#) into law on July 7. The bill creates the "Show Me Compassionate Medical Education Research Project Committee" and requires public medical schools to offer on and off-campus resources on suicide prevention.

The committee is made up of representatives from all public medical schools in Missouri and a representative from the Department of Mental Health.

One student's family pushed for legislative action after he took his life in 2015.

Kevin Dietl was a medical student at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, and his parents said he had depression.

According to Dietl's parents, he was afraid to talk about how he was feeling with others, both professionals and his peers.

**But MU medical student Megan Anderson said the school's willingness to talk about controversial health issues for physicians, like addiction and substance abuse, made her feel more comfortable to talk about that kind of problem.**

"Having those tools stressed from the people above us can be really important for us, especially when we're just starting out," Anderson said.

More than 15 million Americans are diagnosed with depression, and according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, male physicians are nearly [1.5 times](#) more likely than the general male population to commit suicide. Female physicians are more than two times more likely to commit suicide than their non-physician counterparts.

Under the new law, medical schools can collaborate with the committee to conduct studies on mental health within its student body. Schools are also encouraged to change the culture within classes if that is found to be a cause of students' stress.

A.T. Still, a private medical school, is still working to improve students' mental health, even without pressure from the legislature.

A.T. Still University Dean Margaret Wilson said, "Awareness needs to be raised at all levels, and we continue to look for ways to reduce stigmas and improve interventions and strategies to engender life-long habits of good health and well-being."

Anderson said she believes doing research on mental health will have a positive impact on students.

"Medical students like to listen to research, so I hope that from this research will come other research so people can start looking at okay, there is a problem within medical school students asking for help," Anderson said.

AFSA also found that physicians were afraid to seek out help, concerned it would make them seem weak. Anderson said students in her class share this fear, but she said she believes having and learning to manage depression will make her a better doctor.

"I've come to terms with realizing that it makes me more of a real person, and for me, it allows me to connect with patients better," Anderson said.

Wilson said her faculty tries to reflect that same view.

"We have tried to teach our students they are their own first patient, and self-care and balance is critical to their success," Wilson said.

The bill also designates August 28, 2017 as the first annual "Show Me Compassionate Medical Education Day" in the state.

# The Nation

## Graduate Students on These 7 Campuses Are Fighting for Their Labor Rights

By BRANDON JORDAN

Over the past academic year, graduate students across the country were busy organizing for better working conditions. Currently, there are 33 officially recognized graduate-student unions; 23 are fighting for university recognition. With increasing tuition and plummeting wages, meager health-care benefits and overwhelming workloads, these graduate students are coming together to demand better treatment and recognition.

Here are seven schools where student organizing is at a fever-pitch.

### **YALE UNIVERSITY**

On May 22, while students at the Ivy League institution celebrated their graduation at the annual commencement ceremony, Yale graduate students from Unite Here Local 33 and their allies held a protest to demand that the college administration begin negotiating with the union. In February, representatives from Local 33 won union elections in eight Yale departments and felt sure they would obtain a contract. However, administrators refused to open any discussion on collective bargaining.

Despite occupying a space on campus, engaging in hunger strikes, organizing a protest at a commencement ceremony, and receiving support across the country, the union has yet to receive a response from the administration. Instead, officials dismiss Local 33 as a true representative of graduate students because of, in the words of Yale President Peter Salovey, what the administration considers an unfair election, claiming that "approximately 90 percent of the 2,600 doctoral students in the Graduate School were not permitted to vote."

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

Graduate students at the University of Chicago's libraries spent parts of May and June in a court case involving the National Labor Relations Board. They wanted to collectively bargain with their employers, who asserted that graduate students' labor made them ineligible as workers.

During these NLRB hearings, Zachary Fasman, a representative for the college, bluntly noted that graduate students should not be considered “employees” as they “are not working. They are teaching.” He elaborated further in a May 18 hearing:

The National Labor Relations Board sided with the students, who later overwhelmingly decided to join the Teamsters.

### **PENN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Graduate assistants at the university are facing the same challenge as their counterparts at many other universities—their effort to unionize gained support from students, only to receive a rejection from administrators.

Although Eric Barron, president of Penn State, noted in a public letter that “graduate student unionization has the potential to impact not only current students at Penn State, but also students for decades to come and the community as a whole,” he declined to bargain with a union that “could impede the academic and mentoring relationships Penn State has with its graduate students.”

The university intends to challenge any law that recognizes students as employees, and graduate assistants are determined, with support, to convince administrators to hear their demands.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

GET-UP, a student group spearheading union organizing efforts, filed a petition in May to hold elections for a union. Students are working to begin contract negotiations that would recognize their labor and fulfill demands such as better health care and family and dependent support.

Opposition to GET-UP exists, even within the student body, while administrators are not eager to view the students as workers.

According to University of Pennsylvania administrators, a union would not be in the best interest of the university. They prefer to view graduate students “as our students, mentees, and future colleagues rather than our employees.”

GET-UP expects, based on incidents across the United States, that “the Penn administration will hire expensive lawyers to argue that graduate student workers are not entitled to our rights as workers.” But the union is ready for whatever happens.

### **DUKE UNIVERSITY**

Graduate students at Duke University face struggles often found on other campuses, such as low-pay, discrimination, harassment, and sexual assault. As a result, they organized for a union back in November.

Meanwhile, administrators disapproved of the unionization effort and hired Proskauer Rose, a law firm known in the sports world for its formidable power against workers, to challenge them. The firm is no stranger to union busting at universities—it previously represented Columbia University in efforts to block graduate students from organizing. (It lost that battle.) Duke

signaled to students it is prepared to spend months (or years) in court to block any union from forming.

Most recently, Duke graduate students have decided not to spend time in court and intend not to unionize as of now. But they plan to continue theirfight against administrators starting this fall.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**

At the University of Florida, graduate students have been organizing for workplace rights for nearly 50 years. The Graduate Student Union spent years during the 1970s challenging administrators to recognize their union and, after a court case before the Florida Supreme Court, won status in 1980.

Compared to other efforts across the country, graduate students at the college have made substantial progress, recently winning battles for gender-identity protections and continued health-care coverage. Union representatives still have one critical issue left—increased stipends—that the university has yet to accept.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

**Graduate students at the University of Missouri voted to form a union last April—only for the university to deny recognition of their union. Students soon after sued the university, and a court case is pending.**

The university insists students should be considered students, not workers. It also dismisses students' demands for a contract that includes health insurance and minimum stipends. On July 10 both parties agreed to file motions for a judgment by late October. The university, which has suffered from hundreds of layoffs, does not want a union on its campus. Students await future actions by the university.