



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

August 29, 2017

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Moody's: The University of Missouri's credit outlook hinges on success of new leaders

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • **The pressure is on for the still-new leaders at the University of Missouri System and the flagship campus, Mizzou.**

In June, Moody's Investor Services affirmed the university's Aa1 credit rating, the second-highest rating possible, but downgraded the system's outlook from stable to negative.

The report at the time cited declining enrollment on the Columbia campus and declining state revenue as reasons for the change, but a report released last week digs a little deeper.

Specifically, the report emphasizes the value of stable leadership.

"New management has substantial work to do on multiple fronts to stabilize enrollment and create a cohesive management culture across the campuses," the Moody's report states.

It references Mun Choi, who came on board as the permanent president of the university system in March, and Alexander Cartwright, who joined as the chancellor at Mizzou in August.

But it also points at the departure of the campus leaders at both the Rolla and Kansas City schools, where interim leaders have been appointed.

The report highlights the \$100 million in budget reductions — including the elimination of 500 positions — as a showing of financial strength and solid leadership.

The new report echoed a sentiment Moody's shared earlier this summer: the university's financial health is good.

Revenue diversity is a strength, particularly with MU Health bringing in almost one-third of the university system's total revenue, tuition and auxiliaries bringing in another third and the remaining revenue coming from the state, grants and contracts, gifts and investment income.

Because of the diversity in size and programming offered across all four campuses, the report suggests that a more than 20 percent decrease in incoming Mizzou freshmen only reflects as a system-wide enrollment decline of just more than 3 percent.

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Trial tests University of Missouri's intellectual property policies

By Rudi Keller

Propylene glycol keeps cars and airplanes running in cold weather. It is also at the center of a long-running patent dispute between the University of Missouri and an engineering professor fired in May after 16 years on the faculty.

Testimony began Monday in Boone County Circuit in a lawsuit first filed in 2009 between MU and Galen Suppes, who also has an appeal of his dismissal pending at the Missouri Supreme Court. The university accuses Suppes of refusing to recognize its rights in inventions created in its labs and while he was on the payroll, undermining a deal that could have brought \$1.5 million or more in licensing royalties.

In a cross-claim, Suppes accuses the university of breach of contract, bad faith and interfering with his business relationships.

Judge Gary Lynch of the Southern District Court of Appeals is presiding over the case as a visiting judge. A jury of 11 women and three men, including two alternates, is hearing the case scheduled to continue through Sept. 6.

In his opening statement, MU attorney Russell Jones said Suppes regularly ignored university policies for assigning ownership of inventions and patents.

“He decided he would make his own rules and make life miserable for anyone that challenged him,” said Jones of the Polsinelli law firm in Kansas City.

Suppes’ attorney, George Smith of Columbia, told the jury that his client was one of the most prolific inventors on the MU faculty and it was the university, not Suppes, who caused the deal for propylene glycol production to fail.

MU wants the jurors to believe the deal failed through “some sort of underhanded action by Dr. Suppes to deprive the university of something, but that is just not the case,” Smith said.

Suppes was hired by MU in 2001 as a tenured faculty member of the College of Engineering. He became one of the few tenured faculty members ever fired by MU after charges that included intimidating and harassing students, fellow faculty and department chairs; neglect of duties; and intentional violation of university rules.

He lost a lawsuit challenging the university’s rules for removing tenured faculty, a ruling [upheld in June](#) by the Western District Court of Appeals. That ruling is being appealed to the Missouri Supreme Court.

As he opened his argument, Jones used two old sayings — good fences make good neighbors and “Pigs get fat, hogs get slaughtered.”

The rules governing patents and inventions developed at the university are the good fences, Jones said. When a marketable invention is licensed, researchers get one-third of the revenue and the university keeps two-thirds, he said.

The university has documented 31 occasions from 2001 to 2008 where Suppes altered forms reporting his inventions or patents to remove language giving MU the rights to those innovations, Jones told the jury. The language removed is standard language about the rules governing ownership of intellectual property.

“This system has been used and happily accepted by faculty at the university for 30 years,” he said.

Propylene glycol is used in car antifreeze and to de-ice airplanes. Suppes’ process for producing it from glycerol left over after conversion of soy oil to diesel fuel could have created a new source of the high-value product. A company was ready to develop the large-scale production that could have led to significant royalties for MU.

In the university's deal to market the process, MU was slated to receive 25 percent of the net revenue. An extra share — equal to what he would also receive from the university's portion — was included for Suppes, Jones said.

Suppes thought his share was inadequate and became a hog, Jones said.

“For some reason, Dr. Suppes wasn't happy with that,” he said.

Suppes negotiated a separate deal, based on his claim that he owned the process, to pay him 33 percent of the gross revenue for two years and 20 percent after that.

“Self-interest is OK to a point, until you get greedy,” Jones said.

The disputes between Suppes and MU scuttled all the deals, Jones said.

The issues involved are not as simple as Jones stated, Smith said to the jury in his opening remarks. Suppes' alterations to the form reporting an invention or patent didn't become an issue until the propylene glycol dispute, Smith said.

Suppes contends he concluded most of his work on converting soybean glycerol before he joined MU's faculty, Smith said. The problems began after Suppes filed a grievance with the university in 2008, he said. MU filed the lawsuit, Smith told the jury, to prevent a hearing on the grievance.

“I find it a bit disingenuous to say Galen doesn't follow the rules,” he said.

The lawsuit ended the chance to market the new process, Smith said.

“The idea that somehow Dr. Suppes undermined that relationship doesn't make sense,” he said.

MISSOURIAN

Jury hears opening statements in UM System intellectual property lawsuit

BY RACHEL MCKEE TAYLOR NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

Attorneys for the University of Missouri System laid out their arguments in the 13th Circuit Court on Monday in a lawsuit over intellectual property with a former MU chemical engineering professor.

Attorney Russell Jones, representing the UM System, said in his opening statement that the case will center on technology developed by former MU chemical engineering professor Galen Suppes that converts glycerin to acetol, propylene glycol and antifreeze.

In 2005, Suppes licensed the technology to the Mid-America Research and Development Foundation using a company he created in 2002, called Renewable Alternatives. The university system argued that because the research was conducted on university property with university equipment, it owns the technology.

Jones said Suppes assigned exclusive rights of the technology to Renewable Alternatives instead of the university, and then Renewable Alternatives licensed the technology to the foundation.

In the licensing agreement, the foundation paid Renewable Alternatives a royalty fee of 33 percent of gross revenue from the sale of the product for the first two years, and then 20 percent for following years.

Jones said that normally inventions are assigned to the university, which can then license a third party to develop the technology.

Under that university policy, one-third of all revenues from the technology goes directly to the inventor. After that, two-ninths goes to the inventor's department, two-ninths to the inventor's campus, and two-ninths to the UM System.

“The system has worked very well for everyone with one exception — Dr. Suppes,” Jones said.

The UM System Board of Curators sued Suppes in April 2009, claiming that he filed for patents on inventions and licensed technology to companies without prior approval from the university. The university system said in the suit that Suppes violated the university's Collected Rules and Regulations.

[According to the rules and regulations](#), the university has ownership and control of inventions made within the scope of an employee's university duties.

[The System previously sued Suppes](#) in federal court in 2009, [but the case was dismissed](#) after a judge ruled federal patent law didn't apply. The System filed a suit in the 13th Circuit Court the same day the federal suit was dismissed.

Suppes counter-sued in August 2009, saying the technology was funded through a separate company, not the university, according to an article in the [Christian Science Monitor](#). Both lawsuits are being resolved in the same trial.

George Smith, Suppes' defense attorney, said Suppes filed a grievance in 2008 involving the dispute over who owned the rights to the technology. Smith said about one week before the grievance was supposed to be heard, the university system filed the lawsuit against Suppes.

“In the event a lawsuit is filed, the grievance terminates,” Smith said.

Smith argued that two people can both be owners of something.

“We say Renewable Alternatives and the university both own the property,” Smith said. “The university says they are the only owners.”

Suppes was fired in 2016, and a Faculty Committee on Tenure report released in May detailed a history of complaints by students and faculty, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#). He sued the university following his termination, but the Western District Court of Appeals backed the university's decision in June.

The trial in the intellectual property dispute is expected to last until next week.



[These New Gadgets Could Be Game Changers for Senior Living](#)

From sophisticated sensors to assistive staircases to VR systems, new technologies promise to help older people live independently for longer.

The story aired on NBC's The Drs. Watch the story here: <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/lifestyle/whats-hot/new-technology-being-developed-to-predict-falling-in-seniors/vp-BBBrcJU>

Generated from a News Bureau press release: [Sensor Systems Identify Senior Citizens at Risk of Falling Within Three Weeks](#)

A sophisticated depth sensor hanging over the front door of an elderly couple's home in eastern South Dakota tracks their walking speed and even recognizes if either falls. Inside the home, infrared motion sensors monitor the couple as they move from room to room. Even their mattress is fitted with sensors — one on each side of the bed — that monitor their heart rates and sleep patterns at night.

At ages 93 and 96, the pair are still healthy enough to live independently. But their daughter, Dr. Marjorie Skubic, lives a nine-hour drive away in Missouri and had always worried about them. Were they going about their day as usual? Were they sleeping well? Getting enough exercise?

In the seven months since their home has been equipped with all those sensors, however, Skubic worries a lot less. She knows that if there's a fall or some worrisome change in her parents' behavior, she'll get an email alert.

Peace of mind for family members is just one benefit of the sorts of devices used in Skubic's parents' home. More important is this: more and more seniors — even those with health problems ranging from frailty and limited mobility to loneliness and mild cognitive problems — will be able to live independently for longer as a result of sensors and other digital devices.

Sensors will also eventually be able to take better care of seniors by enabling homes to take care of their own infrastructure, notifying occupants or even calling a family member or repair person when a faucet drips, a bulb goes dark, or a ceiling-mounted smoke alarm needs a fresh battery.

At the same time, digital “personal assistant” devices — like Amazon's Alexa — will become more integrated into the home and thus more useful. Alexa can already store grocery lists, but someday it or something like it might, for example, monitor milk consumption in the home and order more to be delivered just before the carton is empty.

And virtual reality (VR) systems, which are popular mostly with gamers, are now being adapted just for seniors. New systems enable them to take virtual vacations and make nostalgic visits back to places they used to visit without being overwhelmed by buttons.

“Technology has enabled us to live longer,” says Dr. Joseph Coughlin, founding director of the Age Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. “We researchers are now making it a priority to ensure that technology helps us all live longer, better.”

SPOTTING TROUBLE BEFORE IT HAPPENS

Skubic's parents are early adopters of sensor technology because she directs the Center for Elder Care and Rehabilitation Technology at the University of Missouri in Columbia and is a national leader in the development of household sensors. Skubic is using data from their home as part of her research.

Her computerized systems, now used in a growing number of assisted living facilities across the U.S. — and eventually, she hopes, in more private residences — can do more than track motion. They use a sophisticated algorithm to identify an unsteady gait, nighttime restlessness, or other subtle changes in behavior that might be evidence of a developing health condition.

The sensors are unobtrusive — in the case of her parents' home, they're mounted in little white boxes in corners of rooms — and their output is continuously analyzed by computers running in her parents home and at the University of Missouri. When they detect anything suspicious, they trigger those emails to Skubic.

Skubic's mom says she barely notices the sensors. And she isn't particularly worried about losing her privacy by being tracked in her own house. "If somebody can make use of this information," she says, "it's worth it."

The sensors showed that Skubic's mother's walking speed had slowed slightly following a recent stint in the hospital; her father spends a lot of time out of bed at night. Skubic shared the information with her parents, though in these cases no corrective action was required.

Data suggest that the sensors can predict falls up to three weeks before they happen. That gives family members and caregivers time to intervene, perhaps by taking with doctors about an adjustment to medication or adding physical therapy sessions, according to Skubic's research collaborator Dr. Marilyn Rantz.

"There's so much revealed in way we walk — in the gait speed, the step time, the step length — about how we're feeling and how our chronic illnesses are," says Rantz, whose own mother died some months after a fall that left her stranded on the floor for eight hours. "The system automatically detects that 'I've changed and I need to have somebody take a look at me.'"

Sensor technology, Rantz says, can help people safely stay in their homes for two full years longer than they would be able to otherwise.

The story continues: <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/these-new-gadgets-could-be-game-changers-senior-living-ncna791841>

MISSOURIAN

[MU professor awarded federal grant to combat tick-borne diseases](#)

BY JOE SIESS NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

[Generated from News Bureau press release: USDA Grants MU \\$460,000 to Develop Immunizations for Tick-Borne Disease](#)

[An MU professor received almost half a million dollars in federal grant money to develop new ways to combat tick-borne disease affecting cattle.](#)

Roger Stich, who specializes in the biology of ticks and tick-borne pathogens, and his team are working on developing a sustainable method to root out anaplasmosis, an infectious blood disease in cattle spread through bacteria transmitted by ticks, according to a news release from MU.

Tapping into existing research, the team will seek to replace the current method used to control the disease, which utilizes chemical pesticides and antibiotics and is believed to negatively impact the environment, Stich said in a statement.

Ticks are also becoming resistant to the current methods of control, and “so these methods aren’t sustainable,” Stich said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture granted Stich \$460,000 for the work, according to the release.

Over the past several years, [Missouri has seen increases in tick-borne illnesses.](#)

It is estimated that ticks affect more than 80 percent of beef cattle, and the disease — transmitted by germs passed by tick bites and saliva — causes fever, weight loss and severe anemia by way of infecting red blood cells. It's potentially fatal.

“Ticks are important pests, but their main importance is in the transmission of germs that can cause life-threatening diseases,” Stich said.

Stich and his team plan to use extracts from tick tissues to develop immunizations that will serve as a more efficient and environmentally sound means of fighting the disease. The premise of Stich's approach is to attack the germs inside the ticks that transmit the disease to cattle.

“By targeting tick molecules, this work is expected to help develop sustainable approaches to combating the disease,” Stich said.

Not only is sustainability a priority for Stich and his team, but the disease sucks away “hundreds of millions of dollars in losses each year,” he said.

Stich will be working alongside an international research team including Sathaporn Jittapalapong, dean of veterinary technology at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand, according to the release.

T COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

USDA grant to help MU study tick-borne disease in cattle

Generated from News Bureau Release: **USDA Grants MU \$460,000 to Develop Immunizations for Tick-Borne Disease**

The University of Missouri will study how to prevent tick-borne diseases by turning the immune systems of animals that become infected against the parasites.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a \$460,000 grant to Bill Stich, professor of parasitology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, to combat anaplasmosis, a blood infection that can cause anemia, weight loss and death in cattle. The disease is passed by ticks through their bites and is a problem worldwide, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in losses annually.

The study will use extracts from ticks to develop immunizations that will protect cattle but effectively stop transmission of the disease by interfering with development of the germ inside ticks. Stich will work with an international research team, including the dean of veterinary technology at Kasetsart University in Thailand, on the research project.



MU veterinary professor awarded \$460,000 to study tick disease affecting cattle

By: Jordana Marie

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ac7ad7d0-7ece-44a2-8a4b-16f174d2613e>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - A University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine professor has been awarded nearly half a million dollars to study an infectious blood disease in cattle caused by ticks.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$460,000 to Bill Stich, professor of parasitology for the MU vet school. The project allow Stich and his team to develop immunizations to fight the disease.

Anaplasmosis, which is passed by ticks through their bite and saliva, infects red blood cells in cattle and can ause anemia, fever and weight loss. It can also be fatal. It's been estimated more than 80 percent of beef cattle are affected by ticks.

The current prevention and control of the disease involved chemical pesticides and antibiotics. However, ticks are developing resistance to these methods.

"Chemical pesticides, while effective, often leave residues in food products from cattle and cause contamination to the environment, so these methods aren't sustainable," Stich said. "Therefore, we are examining other, more natural methods to control this disease that causes hundreds of millions of dollars in losses each year."

The goal of this program is to develop sustainable approaches to prevent the spread of tick-transmitted germs by attacking the germs inside ticks before they can be transmitted to cattle. Stich's strategy uses the immune response of cattle to interfere with tick molecules that are required for survival of disease-causing germs in the ticks.

To do this, the team is targeting the two main parts of the tick where tick-transmitted germs are found -- the mid-gut and salivary glands.

"Understanding how pathogens are maintained in the ticks that transmit them, including the bacteria that cause anaplasmosis, is key," Stich said. "Our lab and team will examine just how the tick molecules are involved with the development of bacteria and how we can create immunizations targeted at those tick molecules. The overall goal is to develop sustainable ways to treat the disease to keep cattle and herds healthy."

The project, "Targeting the tick-pathogen interface for tick-borne disease control," (Grant #2017-67015-26630) will be led by Stich and an international research team international including Sathaporn Jittapalapong, dean of veterinary technology at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand.

T COLUMBIA DAILY
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Forum scheduled to discuss Boone-MU partnership

A forum is scheduled for Thursday to **discuss the Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees' lease options and the proposed partnership between the hospital and University of Missouri Health Care.** The event starts at 7 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library, 100 W. Broadway.

Columbia resident Ellis Benus, who is against a Boone Hospital-MU Health partnership, is organizing the forum, which is open to the public.

The hospital board said earlier this month that it is exploring a partnership with MU Health, which has been one of four companies vying to operate Boone Hospital Center.

Boone is under lease with St. Louis-based BJC Health Care until 2020. The parties must notify one another if they wish to continue, modify or terminate the lease by 2018. BJC, Kansas City-based St. Luke's Health System and Duke LifePoint, a for-profit company based in Brentwood, Tenn., are also seeking to lease the hospital.



[Art exhibit creates discussion about sexual violence](#)

By: Jalyn Henderson

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/art-exhibit-creates-discussion-about-sexual-violence>

COLUMBIA - The new art exhibit "It Happened" opened Monday and focuses on informing the public about sexual violence in America.

"If we could just change the mindset of one individual, who maybe then has the courage to stand up to their friends, I'd be happy," said MU Interim Director of Digital Storytelling Katina Bitsicas. "Really we're just trying to have a greater impact on the MU community."

Bitsicas and Lee Ann Woolery are curators for the show and wanted to use art as a platform to open up dialogue about difficult discussions, like sexual violence.

It took the pair over a year to determine a theme for the exhibit, find artists and await the completion of the artwork.

"I really hope that people feel empowered after viewing our exhibit. I think a lot of these works are different views that people haven't seen before," Bitsicas said.

The exhibit features artwork from Bitsicas and Wooler as well as Jillian Dickson, Maura Mchugh, and Melissa Kreider.

"I want my work shown anywhere it can be because it serves to trigger change and bring awareness of this issue to the viewer," Kreider said.

Kreider is sharing her piece, "*Remnants: an investigation of the realities of sexual and domestic assault.*" She said the photos capture the realities of sexual domestic assault, following the process of a sexual assault from the begging to end.

"The artist that are showing are not necessarily survivors, but they have been impacted by sexual violence and assault in some way in their lives," Woolery said. "They're artists who know how to use their art to tell a story."

In addition to the exhibit, the gallery is holding events for people to become more informed about the exhibit and sexual violence like a Curators tour and Sponsor Talk.

The exhibit will host an official opening ceremony Thursday, August 31 and the show runs from August 28 to September 21 in the George Caleb Bingham Gallery.

More events the gallery is having about the exhibit can be found on the [MU art website](#).

the maneater

Husband and wife duo examines SNL's impact on 1976 election

By CLARE ROTH

Married couple Dr. Heather Carver and Dr. William Horner seem to have created what could only be called a work of fate.

Carver, chair of the theater department, and Horner, director of the undergraduate political science department, have worked at MU for 17 years. They will come out with their first joint academic project, a book titled "Saturday Night Live and the 1976 Presidential Election: A New Voice Enters Campaign Politics," in November.

Horner started the project in the wake of the 2008 presidential election after coming across a post on the internet asserting that SNL's portrayal of Gerald Ford lost him the 1976 election.

"That's an interesting thing to say," Horner said. "I'm a big fan of SNL just through life, and I thought that would be an interesting project to work on ... It turned into doing a lot of interviews of SNL cast, writers, people from the Ford administration and people from the Jimmy Carter administration."

Carver joined later, when Horner realized the book needed performance theory and insight into the role of theater in the show.

The book argues that SNL influenced the 1976 election more than any other. At that time, audiences reached upward of 30 million people, which, according to Horner, would be astronomical today.

"Now, they're excited beyond belief to have 10 million people watching SNL," Horner said. "When Sarah Palin was on, they hit 13 million for that episode. The peak was when Palin and [Tina] Fey were on together. But that's half of what the show would regularly get."

The large SNL audiences and the closeness of the race between Carter and Ford are reasons Horner believed SNL had such a significant impact on the election.

"About a million votes decided the outcome of the election," Horner said. "It went back and forth all the way up until the end. Ford had come so close the administration was writing a victory speech. They really thought they'd pulled it out."

Horner said his theory has been shared by multiple people surrounding the Ford administration, including Ford's press secretary Ron Nessen.

"[Nessen] hosted SNL in 1976 in April," Horner said. "So I interviewed him. He wrote an autobiography, and in his autobiography, which came out right after he was the press secretary, he said he thought SNL cost them the election because of how negatively they portrayed Gerald Ford, and he denies that now when we interview him. He says that it's a ridiculous assumption."

Carver and Horner agreed that "it's obvious" the SNL cast favored Carter over Ford, and the cast's sketches portrayed Ford as clumsy. For example, Ford was spoofed falling down the steps of a plane, hitting people with golf balls and falling down while skiing. After that, even though Ford was an All-American football player in college, he was generally considered clumsy and stupid, Horner said.

"If you're faced with two guys and you portray one as a little bit disingenuous, maybe willing to say anything to get elected, and the other one as a fool, it's clear who they think would be a better president," Horner said.

Carver argues that SNL is historically anti-establishment because it's live, which makes the actors capable of getting away with anything.

“This isn’t something that’s being manipulated later,” Carver said. “Right now, if you’re watching, we’re taking digs at you if you’re in the establishment.”

In terms of how SNL is affecting politics today, both Horner and Carver reference Tina Fey’s portrayal of John McCain’s vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in the 2008 election. Fey, with Amy Poehler, spoofed an interview Palin had with then-CBS news anchor Katie Couric.

“People believed that it was an exact transcript,” Carver said. “And it wasn’t. But the show isn’t going to say it’s not. They were doing their job in showing that this is what it looked, sounded and felt like, but it wasn’t the direct transcript.”

Horner said this is why SNL has a significant impact on how people perceive politics.

“If you watch that sketch with Tina Fey and Sarah Palin and Amy Poehler and Katie Couric, there is that real interview, it does exist,” Horner said. “And people think it’s true that it’s a direct transcript. And that’s why SNL matters. It helps people create these shortcuts in their brain of what these figures are like. And once that’s established, it’s really hard to ever break free of it.”



[Construction projects surround MU campus before first home football game](#)

By: Daniel Esteve

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/construction-projects-surround-mu-campus-before-first-home-football-game>

COLUMBIA - Football fans may see some construction when they visit the University of Missouri campus this Saturday for the Mizzou Tigers’ first home football game against the Missouri State Bears.

Eleven projects are currently slated on MU’s [campus construction projects website](#), a website that features projects on and around campus. Projects include road closures on Elm Street,

repairs on Lowry Mall, a replacement project on Dobbs dining hall and renovations down Providence Road.

Last season, the Mizzou football Tigers welcomed an average home-game attendance of 52,236, according to [Saturday Down South's website](#). Though the total number of campus visitors could be higher, Barry Dalton, public information officer for Columbia Public Works, said the Providence project, in particular, should actually help with increased traffic and safety.

“It should be helpful for the upcoming game because the parts of the project that would impact the road and improve the safety are already completed,” Dalton said. “The major thing will be that Rollins is still closed down.”

Both Rollins Street and East Brandon Road will be closed for drivers attempting to turn off of Providence Road. Parts of Elm Street are closed just north of MU's campus as well.

Despite the closures, the renovated parts of Providence Road already feature widened capacity roads and improved sidewalks, according to Dalton. New traffic lights at Turner Avenue, E. Burnham Road and University Heights have been installed as well.

“We are closing in to the end [of the Providence Project], so we will only be probably six to eight weeks left in the project,” Dalton added. “It is scheduled to be complete in early fall.”

Until then, visitors to campus may experience detours and closures, but safety measures are put in place to ensure safety of visitors making their way to MU's campus.



Construction delays with new Brookside apartment displaces many

By: Lucas Geisler

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/top-stories/some-brookside-residents-displaced-to-mu-residence-halls/613544599>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Some residents of the new Brookside location at Sixth and Elm streets are living in the MU residence halls and other Brookside properties.

Construction of the new apartment is not finished, so property managers have paid the university to house some of the expected tenants. Jack Cardetti, spokesman for the company, said a "construction delay" led to the need for a temporary deal, but he expected those residents to move into the new Brookside location this week.

University spokesman Christian Basi said the lease agreement with Real Equity Management involves 72 students for 13 days. Real Equity Management will pay \$26,208, with the option for a day-to-day lease after that worth \$28 per day per student.

Cardetti told ABC 17 News that early site preparation took longer than expected. That includes hooking up the building to utilities like sewer and water. Due to the age of the utilities, though, crews had to completely replace some of the pipes serving the area.

"Here, we did need to replace pipes and re-route pipes, so a little more extensive than the site prep that's usually done," Cardetti said.

Crews have closed several roads around the project for the last year. Some roads remain closed nearby as the city works to replace sewer and water lines in the area.

City building inspector John Simon told ABC 17 News that ongoing work on the apartment's garage and first-floor sprinkler system kept them from issuing an occupancy permit. He anticipated those problems would be fixed this week.

Cardetti said that the company was offering those displaced by the delays prorated rent for August and a \$150 gift card.

MISSOURIAN

MU athletics announces 2017 Hall of Fame selections

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF SPORTS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

Former Missouri linebacker Sean Weatherspoon highlighted the list of athletes selected for induction into the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame, announced Monday.

The two-time second-team All-American and first round pick in the 2010 NFL Draft joins former baseball player Tim Laudner and four others in the 27th induction class, an honor dating back to the Hall's inception in 1990.

Laudner, a Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, native and Tigers catcher from 1976-79, was instrumental in the Minnesota Twins' 1987 World Series Championship run. He was also an American League All-Star in 1988.

Another selection, Rhea Taylor, helped lead the Missouri softball program to three-straight Women's College World Series from 2009-11, while Columbia native and former gymnast Adrienne Perry was a two-time second-team All-American and four-time individual qualifier for the NCAA Championships from 2006-09.

Former wrestler Mark Ellis, a native of Peculiar, won Missouri's only heavyweight championship in 2009.

He was twice named an All-American, while former safety Dennis Poppe — the second football player selected — was a first-team All-Big Eight competitor from 1967-69 under former coach Dan Devine.

The class will be inducted on Oct. 20 and recognized the next day at the homecoming football game against Idaho.

Columbia Man Sentenced to 25 Years for Rape

By ZIPEI LIN & COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

A Columbia man was sentenced to 25 years in prison Monday for first-degree rape in connection with a May 2015 sexual assault on MU's campus.

In July, a jury found Mohamed Mostafa, 42, guilty of rape and not guilty of one count of attempted sodomy, recommending a 25-year sentence.

Boone County assistant prosecuting attorney Cecily Daller followed the jury's sentencing recommendation, noting that the assault had a huge impact on the victim's life.

But public defender Jeremy Pilkington argued at the hearing in the 13th Circuit Court that the jury should have considered Mostafa's background as a refugee in determining his sentence. Mostafa is now a U.S. citizen.

With the help of a translator, Mostafa stated in the hearing that he did not commit rape.

DNA collected from Mostafa and the victim that was introduced as evidence during the trial matched.

Pilkington filed a motion for a new trial, arguing that Mostafa's DNA was unlawfully attained.

The motion was denied by Boone County Circuit Judge Kevin Crane at Monday's hearing.

The victim called 911 using a blue light emergency phone in the early hours of May 29, 2015, near University Hall, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The victim said she went to Roxy's nightclub with a friend that night, and the next thing she could remember was that someone was on top of her attempting to sodomize her.

During the investigation, MU Police compared video footage of Mostafa outside of Roxy's that night to body camera footage of Mostafa from a previous encounter.

MU Police arrested Mostafa in August 2015 in connection with the assault. He was charged with first-degree rape and robbery in 2016 when the case first went to trial, which ended in a mistrial after the jury deadlocked, according to previous Missourian reporting.

He was retried this summer.

Mostafa will have to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence before being considered for parole.

Daller said the victim's family was satisfied with the sentence.

Pilkington said he planned an immediate appeal.



Columbia man sentenced to 25 years for rape on MU's campus

By: Marie Bowman

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Mohamed Mostafa has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for one count of rape.

Mostafa must serve 85 percent of his term to be eligible for parole. ABC 17 News talked to the prosecutor in the case, who said that the family feels like justice has been served.

[ABC 17 previously reported on Mostafa when he was accused of raping and robbing a woman on MU's campus in May 2015.](#)

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

American U. Expels 18 Students for Involvement in Rogue Frat

NO MU MENTION

By KATHERINE MANGAN

American University has expelled 18 students and disciplined one more for their involvement with Epsilon Iota, an underground student group that has been linked for years to physical violence, hazing, sexual abuse, underage drinking, and drug use.

The actions, announced Monday, are final and follow unsuccessful appeals by many of the accused. The university had been warning students for more than a decade to stay away from the rogue fraternity, which formed in 2002 after the university and the national office of Alpha Tau Omega both withdrew recognition of the Epsilon Iota chapter because of drinking, hazing, and other violations.

Last year the university amended its [student conduct code](#) to ban involvement with unrecognized groups that violate university rules. That allowed it to discipline students who had essentially been thumbing their noses at the university by keeping the banned chapter alive. With no oversight, such [underground fraternities](#) can be even more dangerous and hard to control, national experts say.

"This group has perpetuated and systematically presented a threat to the safety and well-being of our students," Fanta Aw, the university's interim vice president for campus life, said in a prepared statement on Monday. "This should send a strong message to anyone involved with groups engaged in activities prohibited by the conduct code."

The expulsions will be permanently recorded on the academic records of the 18 students. The 19th student was placed on disciplinary probation, which excludes him from holding campus leadership positions, as well as participating in certain other student activities.

Hank Nuwer, a professor of journalism at Franklin College and a national expert on hazing, called the expulsions "a highly unusual sweeping punishment for a group." He said that if the move "causes renegade undergrounders at other schools to either clean up their behaviors or face similar expulsions ... well then, hurrah for AU."

In 2000, hazing and alcohol violations prompted the national fraternity to suspend the campus chapter several times. American University also filed student conduct charges against members.

Faced with a further crackdown by the national fraternity, the chapter voluntarily surrendered its charter and the university withdrew recognition in 2001.

That should have been the end of it, but the following year, former members created a group they called Epsilon Iota — the name of the chapter that had been banned from campus.

Over the years, it continued to recruit, haze new members, and hold loud, raucous parties, according to the university. Complaints against the members began with relatively minor matters like public urination and littering and expanded to include assault and rape. Most of the behavior happened off campus.

Outrage over the group escalated in 2014, when 70 pages of [lurid emails and text messages](#) were leaked in which people who were believed to be members bragged about drug use and raping drunk women.

Since 2010, American has charged 67 members of the student group with conduct-code violations, referring some to law-enforcement officials. It was unclear on Monday whether any of those had resulted in criminal charges.

Stephen Yasko, who was a member of Alpha Tau Omega's Epsilon Iota chapter at American University in the early 1980s, said he was "heartbroken" by how the remnants of his campus chapter had devolved over the years.

"As a group, we've been disgusted by the stories that have been brought to our attention over the years concerning Epsilon Iota," Mr. Yasko, a nonprofit media and arts executive in Baltimore, wrote in an email. "It bears no resemblance to our shared experience and it sounds like the American University has taken the right and appropriate action."

Calls to Alpha Tau Omega were referred to the national organization's chief executive, Wynn Smiley.

He stressed that his fraternity has no connection to the unauthorized student group, but said the perception that they were linked has made it difficult to re-establish a chapter at American.



Department of Higher Education produces new website to help students

By: Kristen Harris

No MU Mention

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/department-of-higher-education-produces-new-website-to-help-students>

COLUMBIA - It's that time of year when high school seniors are making their post secondary school decisions.

The Department of Higher Education is attempting to make that process easier with its new website, Journey to College. [This website](#) provides a central place to help students with planning, paying for and finishing college.

The website helps students determine what higher education institution they should attend, submit admission applications and helps bridge communication between students and higher education institutions.

The site also includes information on the three already existing outreach programs affiliated with the Department of Higher Education: FAFSA Frenzy, Apply Missouri and Decision Day.

Stephen's College Vice President for Enrollment Management Brian Sajko said all three of these programs are important for transitioning students from high school to their post secondary institution.

"I think the Apply Missouri piece is especially important because it really makes you look more in depth, Decision Day is to make you make the decision," said Sajko. "So FAFSA Frenzy and Decision Day are really more about making you take the steps to action, where Apply Missouri is really the more larger encompassing piece that really helps people know, you know, how the process works to get to college so that it isn't quite as frightening."

Director of Communications for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, Liz Coleman, said, "The most important thing about college is starting early enough. In that junior and senior year of high-school, you have to start thinking, do I want a 2 year, 4 year, or 1 year certificate, because that all affects the planning."

Junior at Stephens, Alexis Alexander, said her biggest struggle in the planning process was financial.

"When I was in high school I didn't, I mean I still don't really have a lot of money, so like planning that out with the FAFSA and everything you get really nervous," Alexander said. "I think, I didn't decide on Stephens until the last month of my high school career because I didn't think I'd be able to afford it."

According to Coleman, helping them start the process is just as important as them completing it.

"The main goal is to help students prepare for college by providing these resources, and then they'll finish with their degree," Coleman said.

Sajko said he thinks the website will serve as a great non-biased source for students currently at and considering attending Stephens College.

"I actually did consider sort of linking it to our admissions and financial aid site as a great resource," Sajko said.

Journey to College began as a College Day for for high school counselors to come and learn information to take back to the students. Now the students and counselors will have access to the same information virtually.