COLUMBIA, Mo. • Joshua Avila, 11, could barely sit still Saturday in the stands of Memorial Stadium, the home of the Mizzou football team.

“Who’s going to win?”

“The Tigers,” he shouted, pointing to the South Carolina team doing drills down on the field.

The organizers who brought Joshua and hundreds of other elementary and middle schoolers from the St. Louis area to the University of Missouri-Columbia campus don’t mind that he was pointing at the wrong team.

That’s because Saturday was about putting college in general — and Mizzou in particular — on their radar.

It was part of the newly minted Mizzou Youth Experience, a joint effort of Mizzou Athletics, the College of Education and several other on-campus departments.

The idea was to bus around 500 third- through eighth-graders from St. Louis Public Schools and several hundred more from districts in north St. Louis County to the Columbia campus and introduce them to the state’s flagship school while sparking an interest in thinking about their future.
The vast majority of the children were minorities. Since protests centered around race rocked the campus in 2015, the university has made recruiting minority students even more of a priority.

“To be honest, the institution also knows it has to be better,” said Howard Richards, Mizzou’s assistant athletics director for community relations. He was hired in January to bolster the relationship between the department and St. Louis. “No one is standing around twiddling their thumbs — they’re out here doing something.”

Richards, an alumnus of St. Louis Public Schools and Mizzou, said people shouldn’t underestimate the value of the free T-shirt and game tickets the children received.

“I don’t know how many of these kids we’ll get, but some of these kids in a few years will be Mizzou students because of what they see today,” he said. “They’re going to walk around with these T-shirts, wear them until they outgrow them or they’re ripped and torn and can’t wear them anymore. But it will be a reminder of today. I don’t think we can minimize that from a $2.50 T-shirt from what that will mean.”

The event was backed almost entirely by donors to Mizzou Athletics, from the bus ride to box dinners for the trip home after the football game. Richards estimates it cost around $80,000.

A recurring visit like this is the goal, he said, and donors are already clamoring to contribute.

**Expectation and choice**

Hours before the game, Mizzou’s campus was filled with children as they teamed up with college students for campus tours.

Krystal Crouch, a counselor at Mullanphy Elementary School, was impressed by the questions the children asked, like the cost of college and how many semesters it takes to graduate.

She thought the trip provided wonderful exposure at an impressionable age, especially at a time where “there’s a difference between an expectation and choice” about attending college for some of the children.
“A lot of these kids aren’t coming from a place where it’s expected you’ll go to college,” said chaperone and former Riverview Gardens teacher Dolores Dace. “In my classroom I used to put college pennants and posters all up along the wall at the beginning of the year, and I told them ‘This is what you should do, this is what you can do.’”

That message was a theme through the day, from speeches from Mizzou leaders to one tour guide, junior Tom Blake, telling his group of students, “Remember, when you go home to tell Mom and Dad that you want to be a Tiger.”

Jordan Adams, 11, barely made it halfway through the day before she had decided she was going to attend Mizzou some day.

Sofia Birke, 10, was more coy. She wasn’t sure she wanted to come to a campus that required her to walk that much, she said with a smile. By the first quarter of the football game, though, Sofia was screaming, “Go Tigers.”

Both girls came from Woerner Elementary School in St. Louis’ Bevo Mill neighborhood.

Their group ogled the fancy whirlpool in the on-campus gym and climbed on top of the Tiger statue to pose for pictures.

Lauren Cooper was among the parents who chaperoned. She gave the day a glowing review, shelling out a few extra dollars at the football game for a souvenir cup to take home.

“This is making her want to go to college,” Cooper said about her daughter, Harmony, 11.

The Tennessee State University alumna said she would have considered Mizzou had she had a chance to experience it when she was her daughter’s age.

“We just didn’t know what our options were,” she said of her own childhood, when the choices presented were mainly Historically Black Colleges and Universities. “But now that we’re here, I’m thinking, ‘Why stop here? Why not WashU?’”
Messenger: MU steps up on need-based aid, but what about the Missouri Promise?

Tony Messenger

The new chancellor of the University of Missouri-Columbia wants some straight talk.

“If you’re not honest with me, we can’t improve as an institution,” Alex Cartwright told the Post-Dispatch’s Ashley Jost a month into his tenure at the state’s flagship university.

OK. Here’s some truth:

Your new plan to cover full tuition costs of all Pell-Grant eligible Missouri students — currently and going forward — is a long overdue shot in the arm for the university. There was a time not all that long ago — a decade, maybe two — when poor and middle-class students could find a way to make it through MU with a combination of financial aid, scholarships, and work. But as tuition has skyrocketed and state aid has dried up, attending the state’s land grant university has become an out-of-reach dream for too many students.

I know this personally. Every month I pay a bill to the Higher Education Loan Authority of the State of Missouri (also known as MOHELA), to pay off parent loans that helped my son graduate from MU a few years back. Make no mistake, it was money well spent. But for too many Missouri families, rising tuition costs have simply become a back-door tax hike.

This is where the honesty comes in.

You’re not thinking big enough, chancellor. Well, to be fair, it’s not you.
It’s the state of Missouri.

Long before you arrived here from New York, the Missouri Legislature decided that higher education funding was no longer a state priority. Twenty years ago, tuition at the University of Missouri-Columbia was about $3,000. Now it’s more than three times that, and state funding is about the same as it was then. As a percentage of the state budget, Missouri lawmakers spend significantly less on colleges and universities than their colleagues did two decades ago.

Two years ago, then-Missouri state Treasurer Clint Zweifel offered a solution to this problem. It was the kind of public policy shift that can change a state’s trajectory.

Every Missouri student who graduated with a 3.0 grade point average could go to a public university in the state tuition-free, if they also maintained a 3.0 while in college.

Zweifel wasn’t running for re-election. He wasn’t seeking higher office. The wonkish Democrat was trying to get a state that had consistently been cutting higher education funding over a decade to change its thinking.

“In Missouri, funding for our higher education system is 46 percent less than our neighboring states,” Zweifel wrote in unveiling his Missouri Promise. “Furthermore we rank in the bottom fifth nationally in state funding of higher education, meaning that 80 percent of the country is working harder to send their students to college than we are in Missouri. Needless to say, there is a lot of room for improvement. … It should be a foregone conclusion for every Missourian that if you want to go to college, you can. In order for that to happen, we must send a message to families that for anyone willing to work hard and seize opportunity, we will invest in your success.”

Zweifel did his time in Missouri politics and went on his way. His plan came and went, too.

That Missouri’s flagship university is committed to helping more poor students attend is a step in the right direction. It should help the university reverse last year’s enrollment declines. It should — if done right — increase diversity on a campus that has famously struggled with it.
But it should also send a message to the Legislature that it is a body that is responsible for all of its citizens, whether they want to attend MU, or Missouri State, or Truman State, or the University of Missouri-St. Louis, or any of the state colleges or universities.

University leaders believe their “Land Grants” plan to cover tuition will cost about $5 million per year.

Imagine doubling that investment, or tripling it, so that a future generation of Missouri students can know that a college education is within their reach.

That would be some promise.

Chancellor Cartwright articulates vision for MU at welcome ceremony

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright: “I want you to leave this knowing that regardless of what you might be reading out there, there are many of us who recognize that we are a first-rate public research university one of the top and the finest in the country.

By SARAH PETERSON

MU welcomed new Chancellor Alexander Cartwright at a ceremony Wednesday. The event, which took place in the Reynolds Alumni Center, allowed students, faculty, staff and members of the community to meet Cartwright as well as his wife Melinda Sage Cartwright and their daughter Alyssa.

In his remarks, Cartwright articulated his vision for the university as an asset to citizens across Missouri. He cited the recent expansion of financial aid for Pell Grant-eligible students as one step toward fulfilling the university’s responsibility to its community.

“A flagship land-grant university research institution like this should be a difference-maker for the state,” he said. “We have the resources, the expertise and the work ethic: the ecosystem that is needed to make that vision a reality.”
Cartwright acknowledged recent issues plaguing MU such as budget challenges, layoffs and negative press coverage.

“I want everybody to realize they can say anything to me,” Cartwright said earlier that day to reporters. “I say to people I am not easily offended, and I want you to tell me what you honestly think. If you’re not honest with me, we can’t improve as an institution.”

However, he expressed confidence in the direction and future of the university, citing record retention rates, increasing research grants and loyal donors as positive current trends.

“I want you to leave this knowing that regardless of what you might be reading out there, there are many of us who recognize that we are a first-rate public research university, one of the top and the finest in the country,” he said.

Cartwright was introduced by UM System President Mun Choi, who commended Cartwright’s collaborative leadership style and ability to appreciate input from all sectors of the community.

“We were looking for a candidate that had so many different characteristics that we were seeking: someone who has humility, someone who has high integrity, someone who understands accountability, but on top of all of that, a leader. A leader who is going to work for the students, faculty and staff and the alums to improve this university,” Choi said.

Kathleen Bruegenhemke was among the those who attended the event. As a member of the business community interested in the future of MU, she is optimistic about the work of both Cartwright and Choi.

“I’m really excited about what [Cartwright] is going to do, and I’m excited about President Choi’s presence here and certainly the two of them working very closely together,” she said.

Gloria Crull, an MU alumna with several family members enrolled in the university, was in attendance as well.

“[Cartwright] seems to be a very grounded individual who understands what it takes for people to get through the whole system and get their education,” Crull said.
Children with mobility impairments drive toy cars

By: Lauren Magarino


Generated from News Bureau media advisory

COLUMBIA - Kids drove cars on Sunday thanks to the efforts of 'Go, Baby Go!' an event aimed to help children with mobility impairments.

About 15 occupational therapy, physical therapy and engineering students from the University of Missouri created custom-fit toy cars based off clinical assessments to improve the movements of day-to-day life for the children.

The College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware started the Go, Baby Go! program. There are now about 40 programs across the nation hosting their own programs.

Assistant professor Bill Janes from the Department of Occupational Therapy, helped start a Go, Baby Go! chapter at the University of Missouri during the fall of 2016. Janes said MU’s take on the program is a collaborative one in comparison to other universities.

“We can do differently here from a lot of the other places that do Go,Baby Go!," Janes said. "We have contributions here from the School of Health Professions and physical therapy, and occupational therapy, from the college of engineering, and some of our nurse practitioners out in MU Health. So we bring expertise from across the entire university together."

Carly Bowman, an occupational therapy student, participated in the program last year, and came back this year to help out.

“I want to work with children with disabilities, so that's why I'm most drawn to it. It's just amazing when you see the kids get into the cars, and are so excited because they've never had something that they could use for these purpose,” Bowman said.
Leen, 2 years old, was one of the children who received a toy car. While students customized the car, Katie Lammers, Leen's physical therapist helped with the finishing touches.

“It's great that it's a toy, and that it's a toy that gives her mobility that she otherwise doesn't have. She can move around in an upright position. She can play with her brother and sister more easily. She can have some freedom to go where she wants to go, and do what she wants to do that she otherwise doesn't have yet,” Lammers said.

Children zoomed around once students finished improvements on the toy-cars. Meanwhile, Janes had one hope.

“My hope for today is that every kid that shows up today ends up... better able to access their world, to do the things they want to do, whether that's at home or out in their community. So that they continue to develop into the people that they want to be in the long-run.”

This was the last big build for Go, Baby Go! at MU, but Janes said the team will continue to provide individual builds throughout the year.

MU's Thompson Center opens new research and training facility

BY ZIPEI LIN Sep 8, 2017

The University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders opened a new research and training facility Friday.

The new building provides additional office space for research and training teams, four dedicated rooms for research, one conference room that breaks down into three training rooms and another small training room for teleconferencing.
MU’s Thompson Center was created in 2005 with a donation from MU graduates William and Nancy Thompson. In 2016, state legislators, with the support of Former Gov. Jay Nixon, granted the center $5 million for its expansion.

The building is about 24,000 square feet, with 9,000 already occupied by the research and training teams, though the rest has already been leased out, according to Abby Powell, the center administrator.

All the clinical services are in the original building, she said.

The center used the money to purchase a building next to the original one on 205 Portland St. and renovate three-fourths of the bottom floor, said Stephen Kanne, executive director of the Thompson Center.

Kanne said the new specialized rooms for researchers will prevent competition for space or scheduling.

“We’ll be able to see a lot more kids (in the clinical building) because we have rooms now dedicated for the researchers,” he said.

Kanne said the demand for autism services is “frighteningly huge.” There were 200 people in the wait list when the center opened in 2005. Now, the number is more than 700. More and more people come to visit the center as it becomes well-known, he said.

“Right now the need is not met. That’s why we’re so busy. But we’ve got to do it, whatever it takes,” Kanne said.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and MU Provost Garnett Stokes attended the opening, giving speeches that stressed the importance of the center and its projects.

“(The Thompson Center) offers free training to individuals of any age or stage in life who want to know more about autism and related disorders, provides vital education to law enforcement members to help bring best outcome for potential encounters, and of course for families in
desperate search for answers, the Thompson Center provides access to crucial medical services and therapy,” Cartwright said.

He said he chose to come to MU because he believes the flagship campus has the resources, expertise and work ethic to make a vision a reality.

“Mizzou believes, and is showing, that it’s impacting the lives of Missouri citizens,” Cartwright said. “Thompson Center is a prime example of that difference.”

The center trains more than 8,000 families, students and professionals every year, Cartwright said.

There were over 12,000 visits and approximately 3,000 distinct patients in 2016.

Cyrilla Galbreath, a retired teacher in the field of learning disabilities and behavior disorders, said she was around autistic students for many years. She worked at Mid-Missouri Mental Health Center in the late 1960s, though she had little to no training on interacting with people living with autism.

Only when a parent of one of the autistic students left Missouri for training and, in turn, taught Galbreath, did she learn.

“I think the research here is going to be really helpful, and I’m going to keep coming back and finding out more,” Galbreath said.

Della Morris came to the grand opening with her 7-year-old son, Isaac Gianoli, who has been diagnosed with autism, for more information about resources.

“I think it’s really awesome, especially now that they’re opening the training facility,” she said.
Thompson Center expands autism research with new building

By: Gyasi Simmons

Watch the story: [http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=eb6050a1-56a3-4c18-8753-808e903148ce](http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=eb6050a1-56a3-4c18-8753-808e903148ce)

Generated from a News Bureau media advisory

COLUMBIA, Mo. - On Friday, the Thompson Center Research and Training building had a ribbon-cutting to celebrate its opening.

It's a new facility that is a part of the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders on Keene Street. The Research and Training building will provide more space for experts to research and teach others how to interact with people who have autism.

"We've learned a lot more about how to diagnose it accurately in the last 10 years," executive director Stephen Kanne, with the Thompson Center, said. "We've learned about the genetics of autism. We're only in the infancy of how to figure out what's causing the disorder and how to help kids who have it."

The building features virtual reality rooms and one-way mirrors for training.

"Faculty and staff are incredibly excited about this new building because it allows us to do more, and to work in this field you have to have compassion, to want to help the kids and their families, and this facility really helps support us doing that," said Kanne.
Boone County residents brace for possible changes to 2018 health coverage

By BRITTANY RUESS

Boone County residents with health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace will see a switch in their carrier next year, which could also change who provides their health care.

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield announced earlier this month that it would no longer offer plans in Boone County and 16 other Missouri counties. Cigna has stepped in to prevent Boone County from being without insurers offering coverage.

For years, Anthem and St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare have been unable to work out an agreement that would allow BJC-affiliated hospitals, like Boone Hospital Center, and their providers to be considered within Anthem’s network. This has caused certain patients to leave their doctors with Boone Hospital and switch to the University of Missouri Health Care or other health providers who accept the health plans.

But the change to Cigna opens up the possibility for Boone Hospital Center to provide care for these patients again. BJC HealthCare and Boone Hospital are included in Cigna’s 2018 health care exchange plan, Ben Cornelius, spokesman for the hospital, said in an email.
“We are excited to once again be a part of the exchange and look forward to caring for those who select a Cigna plan through HealthCare.gov,” he said.

MU Health also accepts Cigna plans, said spokeswoman Jennifer Coffman.

In Columbia, 5,042 people signed up for marketplace coverage in 2015, according to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Another 503 residents in Ashland and Centralia had marketplace coverage that year.

Kevin Wehner, a certified ACA application specialist with Central Missouri Community Action, said differences between Anthem and Cigna coverage definitely won’t be known end of October when they are released following federal review.

One of the biggest differences likely will be Boone Hospital’s ability to take patients with coverage through the ACA, he said.

“That’s a big deal for a lot of people,” Wehner said. “I worked with people who all their doctors were with Boone” Hospital “and they went to an Anthem plan and lost those doctors.”

Changes in carrier options are not new for Boone County. In 2014, the first year of ACA coverage, Aetna and Anthem both offered plans in Boone County, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. UnitedHealth jumped in with those insurers in 2015 and 2016 and in 2017, Anthem was the sole carrier.

Cigna offering plans in Boone County next year will be a first. Anthem will remain in its seven surrounding counties.

Nancy Kelley, director of Missouri Foundation for Health’s Expanding Coverage program, said residents who live in counties where carriers have changed need to review their account information on HealthCare.gov and update their household size and income information to ensure they have accurate plan options.

Though health insurers still are examining the market and finalizing their 2018 plans, Boone County residents may want to brace themselves for fewer plan options next year. Dave Dillon, spokesman for the Missouri Hospital Association, said Anthem has offered a wider variety of plans while Cigna tends to offer a more limited number of plans, such as one or two per level.

Open enrollment for 2018 begins Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 15.

Cigna also is expected to increase its rates for 2018 by an average of nearly 42 percent, with a maximum of about 72 percent and a minimum of 17 percent, according to the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. Anthem’s rates are also set to increase by a little more than 36 percent on average.

Both carriers justify the increases because of anticipated higher costs from healthcare providers and more patients seeking care.
The increased rates largely will be felt by the federal government, which subsidizes costs for lower-income individuals, Dillon said. Costs also could be pushed to individuals with higher income levels who don’t qualify for premium subsidies, but they are also not locked into a single plan, he said.

“You have some ability to manage what your out-of-pocket per premium by selecting a plan that is reflective of what you want to pay,” he said.

Increased rates can discourage people from seeking marketplace coverage, but the cost of not participating has gone up every year, Dillon said. The cost of health insurance — and the benefit of having it — could outweigh the penalty for having none, he said.

The federal government has two ways of calculating penalties and it goes with the route with the higher result. A penalty can either be 2.5 percent of an individual’s household income, but no more than the total yearly premium for the national average price of a marketplace Bronze plan, according to HealthCare.gov. The cost could also be $695 per adult and an additional $347.50 per child under 18 in a household. The maximum with that option is $2,085.

Wehner said President Donald Trump could decide not to enforce penalties for individuals without health insurance, but no decision has been made.

KIRKSVILLE
DAILY EXPRESS

Kirkville business owner Beard pleads guilty in Mizzou fraternity fraud case

By JASON HUNSICKER

A longtime Kirksville businessman has pleaded guilty to defrauding a University of Missouri fraternity of nearly $400,000.

Burt L. Beard, of Kirksville, owner of Beard’s Decorating Center, pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of bank fraud in U.S. District Court in Jefferson City.

According to the plea agreement, Beard agreed to plead guilty to bank fraud and “admits he knowingly committed this offense, and is, in fact, guilty of this offense.”

He faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison, a fine up to $1 million, an order of restitution and supervised release for the class B felony.
A date for a sentencing hearing has not been published.

The document states that between March 2008 and Aug. 2014, Beard defrauded the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Missouri of more than $380,000. Acting as volunteer treasurer, he wrote himself more than 150 checks, claiming they were “reimbursement of personal loans to SAE for direct payment to vendors by himself.”

“When asked for copies of his personal checks, Beard supplied copies of checks to fictitious vendors or existing vendors that did not have an account receivable for that amount or during that period,” the filing states.

As treasurer, Beard was responsible for all financial duties for the fraternity, including maintaining the house, paying vendors and collecting rent checks.

When a new slate of officers was elected in fall 2014 and the transition began from Beard to a new treasurer, evidence of the fraud began to emerge. The new treasurer attempted to verify banking activity and found several inconsistencies.

The fraternity then hired a forensic accounting company and an investigation followed. Beard was unable to substantiate the loans he claimed he made to the fraternity. The company attempted to track down vendors Beard claimed he had worked with, but was unable to find most of them. Others were out of state or did not sell the products or services that were claimed.

In all, the company found nearly $415,000 in checks Beard issued to himself. Beard actually paid out less than $35,000 on behalf of the fraternity.

Beard had initially told investigators that vendors did not trust that the fraternity had funds to pay them, which is why he wrote checks to them from himself and then issued himself reimbursements.

The case was turned over to the FBI and Beard was interviewed last December. When confronted with the findings, documents state he said, “I haven’t done anything illegal to my knowledge.”

Rumors of the case had run rampant in Kirksville for weeks, but the case was kept from all U.S. court records until the weekend. Beard pleaded guilty Thursday in U.S. District Court in Jefferson City, according to court records now appearing online. However, neither his case nor the associated charges had appeared prior to the date. His appearance was also kept off the official court docket for U.S. federal courts in Missouri.
3 reasons returning U.S. veterans end up in prison

Generated from News Bureau press release: Differences Between Military, Civilian Life Contribute to Veterans in the U.S. Criminal Justice System

New research identifies the main contributors to criminal justice involvement for veterans.

Military veterans currently account for 8 percent of the national prison and jail population, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. It is unclear, however, how many veterans are under community supervision or involved in community-intervention programs, and little data exist that illustrates how veterans enter the criminal justice system.

Information from this research could help policymakers reduce arrests and prevent incarcerations.

“We need a better understanding of what factors might be contributing to veterans’ incarcerations,” says Kelli Canada, an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri.

“In order to improve prevention efforts, it is important to examine why veterans are entering the system and being jailed, and we did that by exploring participant perspectives on what led to them getting in trouble,” she says.

Canada worked with Clark Peters, an associate professor of social work, to interview veterans who were on probation or parole about their perspectives of the causes and contributors to their criminal justice involvement. The researchers analyzed data within and across interviews to identify meaningful themes.

1. Alcohol and Drugs

Although alcohol and drug use is quite common among those in prison, veterans reported distinct differences leading to their problematic use. Participants reported that their substance use was
caused or exacerbated by trauma encountered in the military, difficulty adjusting to civilian life, and relational stress with friends and family.

2. Difficulty Adjusting to Civilian Life

During the interviews, researchers found that adjusting to civilian life was hardest for people who could not find meaningful work or yearned for structure and accountability inherent in military service. Veterans say they often struggled with considerable differences between military and civilian culture, and that this tension led to getting into trouble.

3. Economic Disadvantages

Participants attributed their criminal justice involvement to being homeless, without work or resources, or generally unable to pay bills and manage financial affairs. For some participants, adjusting to a new economic reality was a reason for economic hardship. Rather than adjusting to the differences in pay and lifestyle, some veterans took illegal actions, such as theft, to compensate for the pay gap.

“Knowledge gained from this study will help arrest-prevention programs that target military veterans with and without veterans’ benefits,” Canada says.

“Understanding why veterans are getting in trouble will help policymakers and social workers help veterans navigate the personal and relational changes they experience as they transition to civilian life.”

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Horrigan: In the Age of the Unenlightenment, most Republicans think colleges are bad for the country
Keith Horrigan

This summer, one of the Pew Centers for Just About Everything published an alarming poll that said 58 percent of Republicans and GOP-leading independents believe that colleges and universities are having a negative effect on the way things are going in this country.
This is true among Republicans regardless of whether they have a college degree. Most of the college graduates admitted in the survey that their education had helped them find a good job, but they still aren’t happy with what colleges are doing to the country.

Overall, just 36 percent of Republicans polled said the effect is generally positive. Twice that percentage of Democrats feel that way.

Just two years ago, it was 54 to 37 positive among Republicans polled. So just what have colleges done in the past two years to lose 18 percent of their support within the GOP?

Several answers have been suggested. One, there’s been a spate of controversies over colleges that have retracted invitations for conservative speakers to appear on campus. Conservative media outlets jump on these stories, as they should, because colleges are supposed to be a place where students are exposed to all sorts of ideas.

This applies to people with hideous ideas like Ann Coulter, who was disinvited by the University of California this spring. It applies to deep thinkers like Donald Trump Jr., who has been promised $100,000 for a speech at the University of North Texas next month.

Colleges and universities may also have antagonized the right with their “safe space” and “trigger warning” controversies. This is the notion that students should never be exposed to anything that might offend them, or at the very least should be warned when something they might find offensive is coming.

The University of Missouri no doubt played a role in some of this. The November 2015 protests over the university’s inaction on instances of racial hostility, highlighted by teacher Melissa Click’s call for “some muscle” to eject a student journalist, got a lot of national attention. So did the football team’s threat to boycott the next game. You can bring politics into a lot of things in this country, but not football, as homeless quarterback Colin Kaepernick is learning.

There also have been a lot of stories about the crushing burdens of college debt and college graduates who have been unable to find a good job and who are still living with their parents.
If you’re in the education business, all of this is worrisome. Colleges and universities depend on public support, either through public funding or private endowments and a willingness to pay ever-rising bills for tuition and fees. The antipathy toward college among Republicans may explain why in a Republican state like Missouri, Gov. Eric Greitens was able to whack 9 percent of the higher education budget without much of an outcry.

Of course, if you’re trying to lure businesses and entrepreneurs to the state, disinvestment in higher education is not a good thing. If you leave a message for Jeff Bezos suggesting that he build a headquarters for Amazon here even though folks don’t think colleges are good for the country and an educated workforce might be hard to come by, he might not call back.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, the unofficial national magazine for the industry, has suggested another, weirder reason for the GOP attitude toward colleges’ effect on the country: The changing views of truth.

In the July 19 issue of the Chronicle, Terry W. Hartle, a senior vice president at the American Council on Education, wrote, “Logic, the disinterested search for truth, rigorous scientific research, and empirical verification have been at the heart of higher-education institutions in the modern era. But today, for many citizens, feelings outweigh facts. A disconcertingly large percentage of Americans believe, for example, that global warming is a hoax, despite the compelling scientific evidence to the contrary. In an era when the proliferation of information sources has made it easy for people to receive only ‘news’ that confirms their own views, we in the academy have struggled to convince the public that not all facts are created equal.”

Yes, we in the news business have the same problem. And if there’s any institution that Republicans feel is worse for the country than colleges, it’s us. A Fox News poll last month reported that 69 percent of Republicans think we’re a bigger threat to the country than white supremacists.

Something you learn in college: We live in a country created and formed by Enlightenment thinkers during the Age of Reason. But now, in the Unenlightenment, lots of our countrymen feel
threatened by objective facts and reason. At Montpelier in Virginia, James Madison spins in his grave.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Planned Parenthood soon could perform abortions in Columbia, Kansas City

By RUDI KELLER

The number of licensed abortion clinics in Missouri recently doubled to two. A third, in Columbia, should be licensed soon, marking rare victories for abortion rights supporters in a state politically dominated by their opponents.

While lawmakers were in special session in June and July debating new abortion restrictions, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services was working under the gun of a federal court order directing it to issue licenses promptly for clinics in Columbia, Kansas City, Springfield and Joplin.

The law written in that special session doesn’t take effect until Oct. 24. In late August, the department licensed Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood Great Plains to operate an abortion clinic in Kansas City. Planned Parenthood anticipates receiving the license to resume abortions at its Providence Road clinic in Columbia within a few days.

“While we wait for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to issue Planned Parenthood Great Plains’ abortion license in Columbia, we mark a hard-fought victory for Missourians who now have one more place to access safe, legal abortion in Midtown Kansas City,” Aaron Samulcek, interim president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said in an emailed statement. “This is truly a full-circle moment for PPGP. We promised Missourians in 2015, that extreme ideologues who worked so hard to chip away at our patients’ constitutional rights, would not get the last word.”

Planned Parenthood Great Plains submitted the applications for Columbia and Kansas City last year, near the time the U.S. Supreme Court struck down restrictions in a Texas law that set strict facility requirements and required abortion doctors to have privileges at a nearby hospital. While the applications were pending, Planned Parenthood Great Plains and Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri sued to block enforcement of similar laws in Missouri.
“PPGP is proud to have the final say — that access to safe, legal abortion is more accessible today than it was yesterday and we look forward to restoring abortion access in Mid-Missouri in the coming days,” Samulcek said in the statement.

The applications for clinics in Springfield and Joplin, to be operated by Reproductive Healthcare, an arm of Planned Parenthood’s St. Louis affiliate, were submitted May 18. The department has issued the Kansas City license, spokeswoman Sara O’Connor wrote in an email, but she did not indicate when decisions would be issued on the other three.

On April 19, U.S. District Judge Howard Sachs issued an injunction against the Missouri laws that mirrored those of Texas. On May 2, Sachs issued an order stating he “expects current and future licensing applications to be processed promptly, in light of patient needs, and without effective influence from opponents of abortion.”

News that new abortion clinics soon will be in operation is disappointing but expected, said Sam Lee, director of Campaign Life Missouri.

“The department has to comply with the court order and the attorney general worked very hard to get a stay while they were appealing the case,” Lee said. “I think the department’s hands are tied. They are sworn to uphold the law.”

The number of abortions performed in Missouri peaked in the early 1980s, almost 25 years before abortion clinics had to obtain licenses as ambulatory surgical centers. In 1982, a woman seeking an abortion in Missouri had 29 providers to choose from. Abortionists performed more than 19,000 abortions that year.

In 2015, the most recent year with available data, 4,765 abortions were performed in the state.

Abortions were available in Columbia from 1974 until 2012, when the physician working for Planned Parenthood moved away. In 2015, Colleen McNicholas, a Washington University gynecological surgeon, received privileges at University of Missouri Hospital and abortions resumed in August of that year. During the same time, a controversial video purporting to show Planned Parenthood officials offering fetal tissue for sale for research riveted the attention of abortion opponents.

An investigation in the Missouri Senate, led by then-state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia and a candidate for attorney general, focused heavily on the Columbia clinic. Under extreme pressure, MU revoked the privileges granted to McNicholas and abortions ceased at the clinic in late November 2015.

The license applications state that Planned Parenthood expects to perform 220 abortions per year in Columbia and 500 in Kansas City. The applications triggered inspections of the facilities — standard for all health department licensing. The documents provided to the Tribune via Sunshine Law request show the detail of those inspections and Planned Parenthood’s response,
including objections to attempts to enforce the kind of rules declared unconstitutional in the Texas case.

The Oct. 11 inspection of the Columbia clinic found more than 20 instances where it was not in compliance with licensing requirements, many for paperwork documenting the appointment of the doctors, pathologist contracts and plans for disposing of fetal tissue. Five of the items were not enforceable after Sachs issued the injunction.

Attorney Arthur Benson of Kansas City, in a November response, wrote that several items on the list, such as the configuration of a recovery room and a constantly-running exhaust fan in the patient washroom, were covered under a settlement agreement in place for years. The rest were minor, he wrote.

“However, it seems that trying to remedy these minor issues would be a waste of Planned Parenthood’s resources as long as DHSS continues to enforce the physician privileges requirement,” Benson wrote.

The law passed in the special session was signed July 26 by Gov. Eric Greitens but it did not include an emergency clause making it effective immediately. After it takes effect, the health department must issue rules detailing how it will enforce the law. Lee said he hopes the department will issue emergency rules as soon as possible.

“I am sure the director, who is a obstetrician-gynecologist himself, is quite aware that these rules need to be put into effect as quickly as possible,” Lee said.

The law creates a new license, an abortion facility license, and changes who must provide pre-abortion counseling, among other changes. Planned Parenthood does not expect the law to disrupt the smooth operation of clinics that are licensed before the law takes effect, spokeswoman Bonyen Lee-Gilmore said.

And the possibility of legal action to block the law is always available, she said.

“We are considering all of our options when it comes to legal filings,” Lee-Gilmore said.

Some MU students could be affected by the end of DACA
MU spokesman Christian Basi: “But, we would also certainly provide as much support for any of our students as we possibly can. It would really depend on the situation and it’s really hard to speculate what that might look like.”

By TATYANA MONNAY

The future of over 30 UM System students has become uncertain.

On Tuesday, the Trump administration announced the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

If Congress does not legalize DACA or a similar program within six months, many young people will eventually be deported back to their country of origin, including several MU students.

“As a public institution, we certainly have to follow all applicable state and federal laws,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said. “But, we would also certainly provide as much support to any of our students as we possibly could. It would really depend on the situation and it’s really hard to speculate what that might look like.”

The Obama-era immigration policy was created in 2012. It allows young people who were illegally brought to the U.S. before they were 16 years old to go to school and to obtain work permits and driver’s licences. To be eligible for the program, applicants have to be younger than 31 years old and provide evidence to show that they have lived in the U.S. consecutively since June 15, 2007, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website.

DACA recipients, also known as DREAMers, must also prove that they have a clean criminal record and are enrolled in high school or college, or serve in the military.

According to U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services, there are over 800,000 DREAMers in the U.S. Of that, there are more than 35 DACA students enrolled in the UM System, which includes the campuses in Columbia, St. Louis, Rolla and Kansas City, according to an email to students from UM System President Mun Choi and the chancellors of the four system schools.

Basi said there are fewer than 10 DACA students attending MU. At MU, DACA students are charged the same tuition that applies to international students, according to the email. DACA students have the same access to campus services as other students.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright has not specified what will happen to MU DACA students, but he has maintained his support for the immigration policy and advocates for its renewal.

“In the near term, we need to stay close to the students, understand where they are right now, what’s changed in their status,” Cartwright said. “As soon as we know more about where things are changing, then we’ll be able to work more closely with them.”
Cartwright signed a letter with the Association of American Universities supporting the renewal of DACA. This letter has been signed by administrators from 57 colleges and universities across the U.S. The letter, addressed to House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, urges Congress to “immediately enact a permanent legislative solution for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.”

On Tuesday night, President Trump tweeted that he will “revisit this issue” if Congress fails to legalize DACA within its six-month time frame.

**With uncertain future, DACA recipients speak out at demonstration**

RACHEL WEGNER AND TESSA WEINBERG

Ana Garcia was at work when she heard the news last Tuesday that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was coming to an end.

Garcia was upset, but not surprised. The moment President Donald Trump was elected in November, she began to worry that DACA — the program that gave her the ability to apply for a job, get a driver’s license and ease the constant fear of deportation — would be rescinded.

"It was just a matter of time before it honestly happened," Garcia said.

Garcia was one of about 200 people gathered with signs and flags for the Defend DACA demonstration outside the Boone County Courthouse on Sunday afternoon.
Demonstrators gathered for the event hosted by CoMo for Progress, an organization that advocates for progressive activism, according to its website. Supporters came to show their solidarity with DACA recipients, also known as dreamers, and their opposition to Trump's decision to rescind the Obama-era program.

Born in Mexico, Garcia, 24, first came to the U.S. when she was five years old. After a stint in California, her mother, father and two brothers moved to Mexico, Missouri.

Growing up, Garcia took risks on a daily basis without the protection of DACA: driving to school without a driver’s license, working at the only restaurant that would hire her.

When she was 18 years old and a month away from graduating high school, she saw the repercussions those everyday risks could have, like the day her father was taken from her.

Garcia had already gone to bed that night in April 2011 when her mother jostled her awake. Her father was outside with the sheriffs.

He had been pulled over for a broken license plate light. When asked if he could provide documentation, he had none.

Garcia had to wake up to translate her father’s deportation for her family.

She watched him beg the officers to not take him away because he had three kids to support, but there was nothing Garcia could do to stop it. Immigration officials were called, and her father was deported.

"Whenever I think about it, it makes me a little angry because it was more than obvious that it was racial profiling," Garcia said. "I'm sure that they saw that he was a Mexican man and they pulled him over on purpose for a very silly reason."

Her mother and two brothers returned to Mexico voluntarily a few months later to join him, leaving Garcia alone. It was one of the hardest times of her life.
"It was really hard watching my dad be taken away, and it was harder whenever my mom had to leave as well," she said.

But in 2012, things got easier. Garcia was granted her DACA status.

"Within that year I was able to get a job. I was able to buy a car. And so, it was perfect timing for it to happen," Garcia said.

Like Garcia, Martha Rios — a DACA recipient — stood with her son and daughter outside the courthouse Sunday to share her story.

"Every single day, my biggest fear is that one day, these two kids, both U.S. citizens, are going to wake up one day and their parents are going to be gone," Rios said. "That they're going to be thrown into a system where they have nothing."

As Rios' daughter wrung her hands on the courthouse steps, one member of the crowd openly wept, shouting out, "Estamos contigo!" which translates to, "We are with you!"

The crowd burst into applause and cheers as Rios said, "I am an American."

"I was brought here when I was two years old," Rios continued. "We don't want to go anywhere else because this is our home. This is my children's home."

As Rios spoke, Garcia stood nearby. In front of her was a stroller. Inside it, her 1-year-old son Xavi Herrera-Garcia peeked his head out, wearing a white T-shirt with tiny red and blue palm trees making the shape of the U.S. flag.

Garcia attends events like the demonstration for him. When she thinks of the possibility of being deported, while she could try to making a living in Mexico, that’s not what she wants for her son.

"I want him to grow up with the privilege of being a citizen. Of going to an American school, and getting an American education, and so it just makes the fight become even stronger, because I want to fight for him now. It's not just about myself now. It's about him as well," Garcia said.
Katie Doherty, a CoMo for Progress advisory board member, said that some of the members of CoMo for Progress are immigrants themselves and feel passionately about immigration. She said last Tuesday's announcement stirred those feelings even more.

"Many of our members, immigrants or not, expressed horror and dismay at ending a program that allows people who are American — in all ways but on paper — to remain in the country," Doherty said in a Facebook message. "We celebrate our diversity and the richness that immigrants and refugees contribute to our community, our economy and American society."

There are an estimated 800,000 dreamers in the U.S., and Missouri has 3,883 DACA applicants, according to previous Missourian reporting. Along with leading chants and giving space for demonstrators to speak, Kate Canterbury, lead organizer with CoMo for Progress, urged the crowd to take action by signing petitions and calling state and local representatives.

"I believe when we chant, that must be followed up by action," Canterbury said. "We're here to help you do the work."

Marilyne Tamayo, a graduate student at MU, said her family and friends who are DACA recipients have been shrouded in uncertainty.

"The people I know, they were sad but also relieved they could apply again. It only gives them a … two-year safety net," Tamayo said. "What’s going to happen after that? There is still some dread and some sadness. They’ve been in the U.S. for so long, they don’t know Spanish. That’s a scary thing."

Speakers throughout the rally had a consistent message for dreamers: you are not alone.

"Esta tierra es tu tierra, esta tierra es mi tierra," the crowd sang in a Spanish translation of Woody Guthrie's anthem, "This Land Is Your Land."

Garcia hopes that by attending these rallies she can help put a face to the issue.
"I grew up in the small town of Mexico, (Missouri) and so (it comes) to some people's surprise I am a DACA recipient and that kind of changes their way of thinking because I'm their neighbor," Garcia said. "I'm their classmate or their coworker. And so it's not just something you hear on TV anymore."

New director of MU Human Performance Institute wants to focus on athletes

NWADI OKO, Sep 8, 2017

Aaron Gray, a sports medicine physician at MU Health Care, has been named the new medical director of the MU Human Performance Institute, according to a news release from the university.

Gray's experience in pediatric orthopedics gels well with the athletic performance programs offered at the institute.

This fall, the institute will offer a six-week basketball program focusing on increasing jump height, agility and speed as well as injury-prevention principles.

In addition, the institute will also focus on patients suffering from chronic conditions such as diabetes, cancer and Parkinson's disease.
University of Missouri fires defensive coordinator DeMontie Cross

By DANIEL JONES

Missouri announced Sunday afternoon that it was relieving defensive coordinator DeMontie Cross of his coaching duties.

“I am very appreciative of all that DeMontie has done for Mizzou, and am sorry that this did not work out,” coach Barry Odom said. “However, after careful evaluation, I believe it is important to make this change now.”

Odom brought Cross, a Missouri alum, onto his staff when he was hired in 2015. Cross was the co-defensive coordinator at TCU in 2015 and the Horned Frogs’ linebackers coach from 2013-14. He also had coaching stints with Kansas, Wisconsin and the Buffalo Bills.

Cross was known for trying to implement a read-and-react style defense at Missouri upon his arrival, but the Tigers ditched the scheme midway through last season. Odom took the defensive playcalling duties from Cross after Missouri’s 51-45 loss to Middle Tennessee on Oct. 22.

Odom said then that Cross would coach the linebackers and help coordinate the defense even after he relinquished his playcalling duties.

CROSSED OUT

Missouri announced Sunday it was relieving defensive coordinator DeMontie Cross of his duties. Here’s how the Tigers ranked out of 14 teams in the Southeastern Conference in 2016-17, Cross’ only full year at the helm:

Points allowed: 31.5 (12th)

Yards allowed: 479.7 (14th)

Pass yards allowed: 246.8 (12th)

Rush yards allowed: 232.8 (13th)
Missouri’s defense has been an Achilles heel since Odom took over. The Tigers have given up 40 points per game against Southeastern Conference opponents since the beginning of 2016, compiling a league record of 2-7. It gave up 479 yards per game last season, worst in the SEC, though Missouri’s defense also spent more time on the field per game — 35 minutes, 42 seconds — than any other team in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

The Tigers’ defense was torched by Missouri State in its first game of the season, but Cross’ firing comes one day after the unit performed measurably better against South Carolina. The Gamecocks scored 31 points, but 21 of those points came either on special teams or directly after a turnover that left South Carolina with a short field.

“Anytime you come out with a loss, it’s not encouraging,” cornerback Logan Cheadle said of the defense after Saturday’s game. “But it’s definitely better than what we had on the field last year. I think we improved upon last week, and we want to continue to improve into next week.”

Cross’ contract was set to expire in February 2019. He was Missouri’s second-highest paid coordinator with an annual salary of $500,000.

According to Cross’ contract, if Missouri fires him without cause it must pay him the amount still due on Cross’ contract in equal monthly installments until the expiration of the contract. MU would also owe Cross “the difference, if any, between amounts to which” he “would have been entitled” at MU “and amounts earned... in the new position.”

Cross, a native of St. Louis, was a safety at Missouri from 1994-96. His senior year overlapped with Odom’s freshman year in Columbia.
Mizzou relieves defensive coordinator of duties

COLUMBIA - University of Missouri Head Football coach Barry Odom has announced that Defensive Coordinator and Inside Linebackers coach DeMontie Cross has been relieved of his coaching duties, effective immediately.

The move comes one day after Mizzou Football's 31-13 loss to South Carolina at Faurot Field.

“I am very appreciative of all that DeMontie has done for Mizzou, and am sorry that this did not work out, however, after careful evaluation, I believe it is important to make this change now,” Odom said in a statement released by the school Sunday evening.

Cross inherited a great defense that has struggled the past two years. In 2015, the defense gave up an average of 16.2 points a game and was ranked No. 6 in total yard per game.

In 2016, the first year under Cross, the defense gave up an average of 31.5 points a game and was ranked No. 118 in total defense.

Through two games, The Tigers have the nations 90th ranked defense giving up an average of 426 yards a game. This seasons, the team has allowed an average of 37 points a game.

The Missouri defense surrendered 31 points and 359 yards to the Gamecocks Saturday night and gave up 43 points and 492 yards to FCS opponent Missouri State in the season opener prior to Saturday's loss.

Cross was a former member of Odom's original staff and was also a former MU football player; he returned to his alma mater with 18 years of coaching experience. Cross spent 12 seasons with Power 5 programs and five more seasons in the National Football League.

Cross will be paid based upon the terms of his contract, according to MU officials.

Ethan Illers contributed to this report.
New program focusing on addressing racial issues through American culture to start in spring

“Race and the American Story” will pilot as a one-hour topics course in the spring semester.

By MAWA IQBAL

Faculty from the department of black studies, the Kinder Institute and the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity are joining forces to start “Race and the American Story,” a one-credit hour course that plans on tackling racial issues in America through literary analyses, readings and class discussions.

Slated to start in the spring semester, this class will also feature a guest speaker series covering class topics. According to an article written by faculty who started the program, these lectures are designed to benefit the students and the greater community.

“We want to reach out to more people in subsequent years,” said Adam Seagrave, associate political science professor. “We want it to become a real community for students where they feel like they belong.”

The class will be divided into five sections, each taught by faculty from the three different departments. The course material will cover readings from many prominent figures including Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King Jr., Sojourner Truth, Zora Neale Hurston and Frederick Douglass.

According to black studies department chair Stephanie Shonekan, students will be expected to write self-reflection essays, literary analyses and compile songs for a playlist based on the various readings. In an effort to track their personal growth throughout the course, students are expected to document their experiences and beliefs in journals.

The idea for this program came to Seagrave in response to the two-hour Citizenship@Mizzou program all new students must attend. Seagrave took the idea to Shonekan, who agreed that a course that delves into the issues presented at the Citizenship@Mizzou program more deeply is needed.
“There was frustration from my part and the students’ as well that two hours wasn’t really enough to get into the issues,” Shonekan said. “We thought that this would be a great way to carry that conversation and really apply it in an intellectual way.”

Shonekan and Seagrave saw the program as an opportunity to extend the discussion that Citizenship@Mizzou offers into a program that lasts for a whole semester, in an effort to magnify its impact and try to change campus culture in a more pervasive way, Seagrave said.

After hashing the idea out over lunch one day, Shonekan and Seagrave developed a syllabus, took it to the deans and directors of their respective departments and talked it over with Kevin McDonald, vice chancellor of the Department of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. Once everything was approved, the class was officially cross-listed as a topics course between black studies, history and political science.

The idea of bringing different departments together for this project stems from the concept of interdisciplinary education. Shonekan and Seagrave hope that bringing students from different sections will add varying perspectives and ultimately unite them in addressing the topic of race.

“We’re both very passionate about changing campus culture and promoting understanding between different groups on campus, especially between white and black America,” Seagrave said. “We have to build bridges, and this is one way we can do that.”

Both Seagrave and Shonekan cite changing MU campus culture as a primary goal of this project. Given the series of protests that occurred on campus in 2015, Shonekan said the university is an ideal location for open discussion on how to combat racially charged issues.

“Discourse is key,” Shonekan said. “We’re all searching for ways to engage in the subject in a way that’s reflective of the campus that we want.”

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College of Engineering receives $131,533 equipment donation from Rockwell Automation
Beginning in October, College of Engineering students will have access to 15 new workstations through their coursework.

By LAUREN BISHOP

Students in the College of Engineering will work with new workstation equipment valued at $131,533 donated by Rockwell Automation beginning in October.

The donation allows for the construction of 15 modern industrial automation workstations. The electrical engineering and computer science department has paid for the equipment and installation, totaling approximately $8,000, according to Kannappan Palaniappan, interim chair of the electrical engineering and computer science departments.

The systems are expected to be up and running for student use at the beginning of October.

2001 MU graduate Luke Manier has been the industry sales manager at Rockwell Automation for five years. During the planning phases of this project, Manier met with department chairs and professors in the College of Engineering to understand the needs of the school. Manier said this equipment is necessary because it provides a better education than simply reading from a textbook.

“[Students] will be trained on the latest technology,” Manier said. “They will be exposed to real-world situations and applications. It will give them another opportunity to collaborate with others and work as a team to solve problems.”

Palaniappan has worked with the College of Engineering Office of Advancement, the EECS faculty, and Rockwell Automation through Manier to add these assets to classrooms.

Previously, the college had three workstations, which Palaniappan said caused issues in the educational process. He said the increase in higher quality workstations will create a more effective environment for the students and faculty that can be used across multiple courses and link together concepts across the curriculum.

“We needed to run many labs because you could only have four students at a time,” Palaniappan said. “It was more work for the instructor; it was not convenient for the students. This allowed us to solve a lot of problems. It’s more efficient for us.”

Professor Emeritus Robert McLaren is teaching the electrical engineering class, Programmable Logic Controllers, that will predominantly work with these stations. McLaren said the systems will help students leave the college with the advantage of understanding state-of-the-art equipment.

The programmable logic controllers allow students to learn how to configure and program systems and how to control multiple processes. This new equipment is top of the line high end systems used by professional engineers to build large scale smart manufacturing, industrial processing and robotics applications.
“The students are working with the latest and greatest,” McLaren said. “When they leave, they'll be trained on current equipment.”

Senior Marshall Lindsay is working toward a degree in electrical and computer engineering and is currently in McLaren’s PLC class. Lindsay said he is interested in working with the new equipment because it may give him an edge when entering the workforce.

“Technology advances at such a quick pace that education sometimes struggles to follow it,” Lindsay said. “To be able to have the newest technology at the educational level really puts education at the same pace of technology advancements. Instead of being lagging behind once we leave the classroom, we’re already on par with technology as we’re learning it.”

Palaniappan said this donation would not have been possible without the effort of the Advancement team, multiple faculty members and the kindness of previous students.

“This is really the generosity of Rockwell Automation and the perseverance and enthusiasm of one of our dedicated alums,” Palaniappan said.

**the maneater**

**During 50th anniversary celebration, food science program reflects on past and looks to future**

The program looks forward to the future of food science in nutrition, preservation and modern technology.

By GALEN BACHARIER

It began as a patchwork project of sorts — faculty pulled from various programs, scattered throughout several buildings. Now, the food science program boasts dozens of faculty, hundreds of students and continues to educate students on issues related to food production as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

*The program’s beginnings were humble. In the wake of other prestigious universities forming food science programs in the ‘60s, MU began its own, taking faculty from similar, existing programs and assigning them to the new food science division.*

“Animal husbandry provided folks that were interested in eggs, milk — dairy — and meat,” associate professor Andrew Clarke said. “Horticulture provided a gentleman who was interested in plant and biology subjects. We had somebody in the area of nutrition and sensory evaluation...
that came out of the Gwynn Hall area. So basically think about meat, eggs, dairy — which has been a fairly large emphasis — and that became the nucleus for food science.”

Many faculty who were present for the program’s founding were commodity-focused; that is, their area of expertise was a certain food, rather than a broad discipline like many faculty now possess.

“Food science can be viewed by commodities — meat, dairy, plant, eggs, etc. — or you can look at it from a disciplinary point, like the chemistry of all foods, or the microbiology, or the technology aspect, sensory science,” said Ingolf Gruen, chair of the food science program and one of the faculty in charge of organizing the celebration. “Now, it’s usually a mix of people that you find in food science programs.”

Since that initial mixture of programs that was its genesis, the food science program has been driven by evolving technology toward new goals; in fact, modern food technology was already well on its way by the time the program formed.

“The Institute of Food Technologists was established many decades before, in 1939, so awareness of food technology and so forth had been around for a long time, but actual departments at land-grant institutions took a bit of time to gel,” Clarke said.

The program commemorated the occasion with a series of special events from Sept. 1-2, and both current students and alumni were invited to attend. An open house began the festivities Friday night, followed by a social in the foyer of Eckles Hall. The open house allowed older alumni to get a look at the new facilities and space that the program has added in recent decades.

“There have been some modifications, some additions, that our alumni do not know about,” Gruen said. “They can see the new laboratories — new, relatively speaking. New for them. So our students and our grad students will be there as well and find out what kind of research they’ll be doing.”

After dinner in the W.C. Stringer wing, one of the more recent additions that alumni got the chance to tour, faculty and administration unveiled a plaque celebrating the program’s 50 years. That plaque now hangs outside of Gruen’s office.

After breakfast the next morning, the open house continued into the afternoon and focused on current and incoming students, including a presentation on the “Past, Present and Future of the Food Science Program,”

Now, Clarke and Gruen, who have been a part of the program for 30 and 21 years, respectively, are working with fellow faculty and students toward even more breakthroughs in food preservation, including “clean labels” and, most importantly, working with nutritionists.

“I think as it comes to the future, this whole concept of ‘let thy food be thy medicine’ — the idea of integrating food and nutrition with medicine and prevention of disease by proper nutrition — that then entails that we have to have the proper foods to have proper nutrition,” Gruen said.
Despite these new challenges, the program continues to focus on the constant issue of food preservation and safety.

“We still have concerns about preservation and so forth because we anticipate a very strong growth in the population and we’ve got to not only deliver good, nutritious food, but it definitely has to have the safety component and it has to last long enough to get from point A to point B,” Clarke said.

As the program continues to focus on these issues using primarily Missouri-based food products, according to Gruen and Clarke, they educate students to work with any commodity around the country.

“The idea is that the fundamentals of the program teach you about chemistry, about microbiology, about the transitive science that you might need to apply, and now you just change it to whichever commodity company that you wind up working for,” Clarke said.

MU Basketball to host free clinic

By: Matt Weller


COLUMBIA - Mizzou Basketball hosted its second annual free clinic at Douglass Park Saturday.

The event is open to kindergarten through eighth grade girls and up to sixth grade boys, in accordance with NCAA eligibility regulations.

Participants will have the opportunity to shoot hoops, do drills and talk with members of both the men’s and women’s teams.

Mizzou Women's Basketball Recruiting Director Willie Cox said the clinic is about giving back to a community that consistently supports both teams.
"This community does such a great job, not just the community of Columbia, but surrounding communities as well, supporting [Mizzou] and the University of Missouri athletics that we're excited about giving back to them," Cox said. "Those players are role models for a number of students in the community and they get a chance to meet those players, and sometimes that can be very motivating."

Cox said he hopes the event will allow the players to foster relationships with local kids.

"We want them to be able to help those individuals. In this case it's basketball skills, but it's also motivating those kids to do a great job," Cox said. "It's about doing a great job in the classroom, doing a great job at home and doing a great job at home, as well."

"Hopefully, our players soak it up and understand, 'Hey, I'm here to be helpful.'"

MU says dorm rentals for football season are running smoothly

By: Caileigh Peterson

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri on Wednesday said dorm room rentals to the public are running smoothly following the first football game of the 2017 season.

"We had a very successful weekend. Many of the guests said they would be returning and we expect a full house for this weekend’s South Carolina game," Christian Basi with the MU News Bureau said.

The dorm rooms for rent are sold out for the remainder of the season. Guests can be put on a waiting list. There is no word on how long the waiting list is.

MU said the ages of guests renting the rooms range from young adults to senior citizens.
No alcohol is allowed in the rooms. Rooms cost $120 per night.

Rooms include four single beds, a bathroom, and standard linens.

Autopsies, medical examiner's office in flux after MU declines to renew Greene Co. contract

By ALISSAA ZHU

Greene County leaders are scrambling to figure out what to do about the office that performs autopsies for unusual or suspicious deaths.

They recently learned that the county's contract with the University of Missouri to oversee the medical examiner's office will not be renewed for next year, according to county spokeswoman Trysta Herzog.

The chief medical examiner assigned to Greene County by MU recently left and no replacement has been named, meaning autopsies cannot be performed in Springfield for the time being, said Forensic Investigator Michelle Waters.

Until the contract expires in December, bodies are being shipped to Columbia for autopsies, Waters said.

After December, Waters said, it's unclear what will happen.

Herzog said the county is committed to ensuring medical examiner's services will continue after the contract ends.

County commissioners are considering "all available options," Herzog said.

Herzog said the county is looking into, but does not currently have, an estimate for how much it would cost if the county resumed management of the medical examiner's office in 2018.

Herzog said university representatives told the county the contract will not be renewed due to budget constraints.

The contract with MU was established in 2009. Herzog said the county pays $585,617 a year to cover staffing and operational costs.

Prior to this arrangement, Greene County had tried — and failed — for more than two years to hire a medical examiner.
According to News-Leader archives, deal-breakers for former job candidates included the county's inability to offer a competitive salary and the lack of a state-of-the-art facility for autopsies.

Before the county's new morgue was constructed, the medical examiner worked out of Cox South hospital, where a single autopsy table was shared with others.

Herzog told the News-Leader the county plans to keep the medical examiner's office housed at the county's morgue, which opened for operation in 2014.

Waters, the forensic investigator, said shipping bodies to Columbia for autopsies creates a longer wait, which can be frustrating for family members.

"It is sometimes unpleasant for the family to wait longer. We hate that it requires that, but there's nothing else we can do," Waters said.

"We hope we can keep providing the best service we can until the pieces fall into place," Waters said. "That's the best we can hope for."

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Expect More Hate Leaflets

After nearly 200 incidents of white supremacist propaganda on college campuses last year, Anti-Defamation League warns that one group is ramping up its activities.

NO MENTION

By NICK ROLL
A swastika was carved into an elevator wall at Georgetown University Tuesday. The next day, two swastikas were painted in an elevator.

About 800 miles away, the same day as the first swastika was found at Georgetown, fliers for a white supremacist organization were found at Webster University, just outside St. Louis.

Such events could be commonplace this academic year.

Although the incidents haven’t been connected, the Anti-Defamation League says the white supremacist group Identity Evropa, whose fliers were found in 65 incidents on college campuses last year, is ramping up its “Project Siege” campaign, “targeting campuses just as students arrive for the fall term.”

The group’s fliers have already appeared on a dozen college campuses in the first few weeks the 2017-18 academic year.

Identity Evropa is “newly emboldened” after white supremacist violence in Charlottesville, Va., the ADL said in a news release issued today. In Charlottesville, white supremacists -- a few of whom were college students -- gathered for a rally dubbed “Unite the Right.” They chanted racist and anti-Semitic slogans, including “You will not replace us,” and “Jews will not replace us.” The former is associated with Identity Evropa, whose members were present.

“Identity Evropa is actively targeting campuses, and their actions are extremely disruptive and unsettling to students,” ADL CEO Jonathan A. Greenblatt said in a statement. “The message is explicitly racist and anti-Semitic. They know they’re going to get a reaction when they show up on campus. Fortunately their message is near universally rejected by students and faculty. ADL is monitoring these actions and will continue to provide support and resources to campuses and students.”

The ADL has tracked 188 instances of white supremacist propaganda on 126 college campuses in 39 states since September 2016.

Identity Evropa often avoids explicit white supremacist language -- telling white students to “protect your heritage” and “serve your people” -- which the ADL says is part of its strategy to recruit young white college students.

“IE’s slogan ‘You will not replace us’ reflects its belief that unless immediate action is taken, the white race is doomed to extinction by an alleged ‘rising tide of color’ purportedly controlled and manipulated by Jews,” the ADL’s newly updated report on Identity Evropa says. It said it expects an increase in activity, based on fliers distributed so far in the current school year, new leadership, as well as “outlined plans for a yearlong effort targeting college campuses with racist fliers, posters and stickers.”

The group itself was founded by Nathan Damigo, while he was a student at California State University, Stanislaus.

While the First Amendment prevented Cal State Stanislaus from taking any punitive action against Damigo for his white supremacist activities -- including distributing fliers on another CSU campus -- he later found himself in trouble after he was filmed punching a woman during protests in Berkeley, Calif. The encounter occurred during a “Patriots Day” rally, organized by far-right groups and billed as a free speech event.