



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

October 17, 2017



Stories of sexual assault inspire Mizzou to reach out

By SARA MASLER-DONAR

Watch video at: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/stories-of-sexual-assault-inspire-mizzou-to-reach-out/639007391>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Since Sunday, social media has been flooded with people sharing their personal stories of sexual assault and harassment, using the Twitter hashtag #MeToo.

The movement, begun by actress Alyssa Milano in the wake of sexual allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein, is making an impact locally.

"I think the #MeToo thing does a really good job of illustrating that most people you know have experienced some kind of sexual harassment or violence, or assault," said MU student Bri.

Some Mizzou students, like Dharea Jackson, talked about the power of social media.

"Right now, for the millennials, that's all we go to and we're on social media all day every day," she said. "When we're on there and we see those things, we start to understand and figure out ways to change those things."

For Merrill, it's about solidarity and even though social media isn't as personal, she said it's a way to get the conversation started.

"It sparks conversation between a group of girlfriends or even guys and girlfriends to talk about the issue and make it more personal," she said.

ABC17 News dug into the UCR number for rape and found the number of reported rapes had increased over the past 10 years.

Officials said it's not necessarily an increase in cases, but an increase in people speaking out. Jennifer Carter Dochler, the public policy director for the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, has worked for the coalition for 15 years. She said this was the most attention she's seen dedicated to ending sexual assault and harassment in that time.

"There's more that can be done, but the amount of attention and dedicated resources given to address the problem has really been a huge success," she said.

The University of Missouri tweeted Monday to let students know about the resources available at the Rape and Sexual Violence Prevention Center.

The RSVP Center retweeted Mizzou, and made clear that they were there for everyone, even those who didn't feel comfortable coming forward about their experiences for any reason.

"Whether they choose to speak loudly or experience their journey quietly, we're thinking about them, we're here for them and we support them," said Danica Wolf, the coordinator of the RSVP Center.

[Here](#) is a link to the RSVP Center website. ABC17 News has reached out to Columbia College and Stephen's College to find out what resources are available on their campuses.

Columbia College's Title IX coordinator encourages students to use the resources available on its annual Security and Fire Safety Report [located here](#).

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Lawsuit over University of Missouri records costs to go to trial in 2018

By RUDI KELLER

A lawsuit challenging the University of Missouri's demand for \$82,222 to fulfill a Sunshine Law request will likely go to trial in February or March.

James Farnsworth, representing the UM System, and Eric Crinnian, representing Animal Rescue Media Education, settled a dispute over document demands in the appearance Monday before

Circuit Judge Jeff Harris. Under the original schedule for the case, all preliminary steps were supposed to be completed Tuesday but the dispute, which included claims by Farnsworth that Crinnian was ignoring his emails, has pushed that date back.

After settling the document dispute, Harris gave the attorneys two weeks to propose a trial schedule and said he was free for a date in late February and again in late March.

“We think that probably by February we will be ready,” Farnsworth said.

In May 2016, Animal Rescue filed the lawsuit arguing that the university was illegally charging excessive fees for records searches to prevent it from discovering the nature of animal testing done in UM research labs. The lawsuit is based on a Jan. 4, 2016, request for records for 179 dogs and cats. The request followed requests from 27 individuals and supporters of the organization’s Beagle Freedom Project where the university sought \$400 to \$700 for records about a single dog or cat used in research and refused to grant fee waivers allowed in the law.

The case could become a precedent for Sunshine Law disputes over the amount public entities charge for documents and the manner in which they are handled. The Sunshine Law directs agencies to have public documents available for public inspection at no charge, to maintain files to keep open and closed portions of records separate and to charge no more than 10 cents a page for copies of documents.

When a search for documents is required, the law allows an agency to charge for the search but directs that the cost be based on the lowest-paid employee competent to conduct the search.

The lawsuit challenges the costs for research to find the documents, including the use of lead researchers at up to \$123.50 per hour to conduct the search. The university has denied the charges were [excessive and or inflated](#) by using more employees than appropriate to conduct the search.

In the dispute over documents, Farnsworth argued that the university was trying to obtain information on membership requirements and procedures for the organization because the lawsuit alleges hundreds of violations of the Sunshine Law.

“For an organization to bring a claim on behalf of its members, they need to have some participation in the organization in a meaningful way,” Farnsworth said.

The pleadings reference the requests made by individuals but it is not an attempt to litigate each of those requests, Crinnian said. Animal Rescue Media Education is a not-for-profit and its supporters do not have any direct control over its actions, he said.

“The organization’s request is the one we are primarily concerned with,” he said.

The Beagle Freedom Project sought the records as part of a program that identifies cats and dogs used in medical research at public institutions and universities across the country and tries to get

them adopted once the testing is done. The group uses public records to determine what sort of testing is being done.

Individuals are recruited online to make records requests, paying a fee to Animal Rescue for a packet of materials to guide their requests. The organization has filed at least four lawsuits across the country to support its records requests.



University of Missouri picks top GOP aide for staff lobbyist

By RUDI KELLER

The University of Missouri on Monday chose a close aide to the Missouri Senate's top Republican to handle staff lobbying duties in Jefferson City a week after announcing that it had cancelled the search for a lobbyist.

Dustin "Dusty" Schnieders, chief of staff to Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard since 2012, will be the director of Governmental Relations and paid \$105,000 annually, UM System spokesman Christian Basi said. That is the same salary paid to Marty Oetting, who in May was laid off as director of external relations. Oetting was responsible for day-to-day lobbying during legislative sessions.

The job search cancelled last Tuesday was for an executive director of Governmental Relations. Schnieders will begin work Nov. 1.

The difference is in the duties each position carries, Basi said. Schnieders will handle "much more of the day-to-day operations, tracking bills, watching legislation as it works its way through and setting up appointments," he said. "He will continue to work with the two consultants. The Executive Director is a strategic, long-term planning, overall bigger picture position."

Schnieders was one of the names sources gave as an interviewee for the executive director position before the search was cancelled.

Schnieders went to work for Richard in September 2012, during Richard's first term in the Senate and when Richard had been elected Senate majority leader. Richard became president pro

tem of the Senate in 2015 and will leave the office after the 2018 election. As chief of staff, Schnieders was paid \$81,375 in 2016.

Prior to working for Richard, Schnieders worked on Sen. Roy Blunt's 2010 campaign and later became a constituent caseworker for Blunt.

"Dustin is a product of public higher education in Missouri, and his experience and expertise are what we need moving forward," UM System President Mun Choi said in a news release. "He understands and has deep relationships with elected officials and the citizens of Missouri."

Since Choi began March 1, the university laid off most of the team that worked on governmental and public relations at the system level. At the Sept. 29 Board of Curators meeting, Choi announced that the Washington, D.C., firm Clark Hill will handle federal lobbying under a contract paying \$120,000 annually.

The university has had a contract since December 2015 with Statehouse Strategies, the lobbying firm operated by Blunt's son, Andy Blunt, that costs UM \$126,000 annually.

Along with monitoring legislation and setting up appointments for university leaders, a news release stated that Schnieders duties include "a comprehensive program to rebuild relationships with elected officials and citizens of Missouri."

He will also handle information requests from lawmakers, recommend actions for legislative work, provide data on the UM Systems' economic impact and work on engaging Missouri residents.

The university news release included praise for Schnieders from his current boss and the Democrats' Senate leader.

Richard said Schnieders is a "team player" capable of handling difficult issues and negotiations.

"While his presence will be missed, I know he will be an effective and valued addition to the University of Missouri System in his new position," Richard said.

Sen. Gina Walsh, D-St. Louis, said Schnieders' "professionalism, integrity and deep understanding of the legislative process will be an asset to the University of Missouri System as they work with the General Assembly to secure the resources needed to prepare our future workforce."

Schnieders has an associate's degree in general education from Forest Park Community College in St. Louis and a bachelor's degree in political science from Lincoln University.

The selection does not take the place of an executive director of governmental relations but Choi will decide whether that position is necessary, Basi said.

“That is part of the re-evaluation to see if that is something we need to go forward with that,” Basi said. “We are going to continue to review the need for a strategic planning, but we need someone in the capital tracing those bills, doing that day to day stuff.”



UM System hires director of governmental relations to oversee day-to-day operations

By EDWARD McKINLEY

The chief of staff for the leader of the Missouri Senate has been hired as director of governmental relations for the University of Missouri System, according to a UM news release Monday.

Dustin Schnieders — who has worked for Sen. Ron Richard, R-Joplin, since November 2012, according to his LinkedIn page — will help spearhead a push to “rebuild relationships with elected officials and citizens of Missouri” through communication and coordination with lawmakers and the UM System, according to the release.

“Dustin is a product of public higher education in Missouri, and his experience and expertise are what we need moving forward,” UM System President Mun Choi said in a statement. “He understands and has deep relationships with elected officials and the citizens of Missouri.”

In a statement, Schnieders said MU was critical to the state’s future.

“I’m looking forward to working with our legislators and helping university leaders ensure that the university’s priorities align with the state’s future success,” he said.

He will be paid \$105,000 annually, MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email.

As of Monday, Schnieders was not registered as a lobbyist, which he must do before he can lobby the government, according to the Missouri Ethics Commission website.

Schnieders is not taking over the job of executive director of governmental relations for the system — a search for that was [called off last week](#). Contractors, campus and system leaders will take over the responsibilities of long-term strategic planning, while Schnieders' position is to oversee day-to-day operations.

The UM System has [three main legislative priorities](#): increasing core funding, paying for maintenance and repairs of school buildings and supporting the Missouri Department of Higher Education review process.

The relationship between the Missouri General Assembly and the system has become strained for a variety of reasons, [David Steelman of the UM System Board of Curators said last week](#). A strategic push by MU to recruit more out-of-state students over the past decade has led to a weakened connection with the state and its flagship institution, Steelman said, and the events of fall 2015 were a “slap in the face” to the legislature.

Enrollment and state funding make up the two largest sources of revenue for most higher education institutions, and with falling enrollment at MU the cutbacks to state funding have been devastating. MU has laid off hundreds of employees and is undergoing a top-to-bottom academic review to decide the future of the school's programs.

Schnieders (pronounced “SCHNEE-ders”) earned an associate's degree from St. Louis Community College-Forest Park and a bachelor's degree from Lincoln University in political science. He worked for U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, and interned with former Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt before joining Richard as his chief of staff.

Richard has served as the Senate's president pro tem since 2015 and oversaw [a rocky 2017 session](#), during which many considered the Senate to be dysfunctional. Only 71 bills were sent to the governor's desk, but at least 113 and as many as 184 were in the previous five sessions. Richard himself also came under scrutiny, [introducing a bill](#) that would have undercut the ability to bring class-action lawsuits against companies accused of fraudulent practices, such as selling defective products. Richard has taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from millionaire David Humphreys, whose roofing company was facing a class-action lawsuit at the time.



Choi appoints Dustin Schnieders as director of government relations

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

COLUMBIA, Mo. - On Monday, University of Missouri System President Mun Choi announced that he has appointed Dustin Schnieders as the director of government relations for the UM System.

The announcement comes weeks after Choi canceled the search for an executive director.

Schnieders is currently the chief of staff for Missouri State Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richards and will begin his new position on Nov. 1.

"Dustin is a product of public higher education in Missouri, and his experience and expertise are what we need moving forward," Choi said. "He understands and has deep relationships with elected officials and the citizens of Missouri."

"I'm very excited to join the University of Missouri," Schnieders said. "The university is extremely valuable to the state in so many ways. From research and economic development that create jobs to educating the future leaders of the state, the University of Missouri is pivotal to the future prosperity of the state. I'm looking forward to working with our legislators and helping university leaders ensure that the university's priorities align with the state's future success."

Choi said some of Schnieders' priorities include developing a comprehensive program to rebuild relationships with elected officials and citizens of Missouri and monitoring the status of the university's legislative priorities.



The Washington Times



Missouri Senate Staffer New University of Missouri Lobbyist

The University of Missouri is hiring the top Missouri state senator's chief of staff to be the four-campus system's main lobbyist.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri is hiring the top Missouri state senator's chief of staff to be the four-campus system's lead lobbyist.

University of Missouri System President Mun Choi on Monday announced Dusty Schnieders will start Nov. 1. He's currently chief of staff to Republican Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, one of the most powerful state lawmakers.

The hiring comes as the University of Missouri System is still working on rebuilding its image and relationships with lawmakers after protests in November 2015 at the Columbia campus over the school's handling of racial issues

Choi in May had eliminated most of the positions in the system's University Relations office, including three people who lobbied for the university system on the state and national level.

Similar stories ran nation wide



Mizzou declines to comment on AP survey in response to FBI college basketball probe

By ASHELY ZAVALA

COLUMBIA — In response to the FBI investigation surrounding college basketball bribery schemes, several schools told the Associated Press they're doing some self-evaluation.

The AP [asked 84 universities](#) if they were reviewing their programs as a response to the federal probe.

The majority said no, dozens said yes. Mizzou, along with about 20 other schools, declined to comment.

ADVERTISING

In September, [federal agents arrested several people](#) including four college basketball coaches for their alleged involvement in the bribery schemes.

For a full list of the schools asked and their responses, [click here](#).

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Headed to Mizzou for homecoming? A St. Louis company is offering free rides to curb drunken driving

Ashley Jost

ST. LOUIS • Have fun this weekend at homecoming, Tigers, but don't drink and drive.

Obviously, but it merits repeating.

In an effort to curb such behavior, St. Louis-based spirits distributor Major Brands Inc. is offering vouchers for free rides around Columbia, Mo., this weekend during the University of Missouri's homecoming celebrations.

The effort is part of [Major Brands' "Safe Home After Every Occasion" program](#), which is a partnership of wine and spirits supplier Pernod Ricard and Lyft, a ride-sharing company.

There will be vouchers for free Lyft rides available in Columbia starting Friday night (Oct. 20) at three pick-up locations:

- 4-6 p.m. at Room 38 Restaurant & Lounge, 38 North Eighth Street.
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Shiloh Bar & Grill, 402 East Broadway.
- 9 to 10:30 p.m. at Fieldhouse & Willie's Pub & Pool, 1107 East Broadway.

The vouchers are limited to one per person, and they can be used until 2 a.m. Sunday.

MISSOURIAN

MU Homecoming to alter Saturday Go COMO bus schedule

By ANDREW WITHERS

Riding the bus in Columbia this Saturday? If so, there are some route adjustments to be aware of.

The city's Go COMO transit service delayed the start times of its regular routes Saturday, and it will not be running its Red Route from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Hospital Drive.

Below is the start times for buses on Saturday, according to a city news release:

11:10 a.m.— Black A — MU Student Center

10:50 a.m.— Black B — MU Student Center

10:55 a.m.— Gold A — Breaktime, Trimble Road

11:05 a.m.— Gold B — Walmart, Park-de-Ville

11:05 a.m.— Brown — Whitegate Drive and Sylvan Lane

11:45 a.m.— Orange — Whitegate Drive and Sylvan Lane

11:40 a.m.— Blue — Breaktime, Trimble Road

11:05 a.m.— Pink — Breaktime, Trimble Road

10:50 a.m.— Light Green — Colony Drive

11:30 a.m.— Purple — Colony Drive

11:00 a.m.— Red — Hinkson Avenue & William Street

For those going to the game, Go COMO also operates a game day shuttle to and from the stadium for \$1.50 each way. The shuttle picks up from several [downtown locations](#).



Columbia city bus schedule affected by MU homecoming

By JORDANA MARIE

COLUMBIA, Mo. - City of Columbia bus routes will be affected this weekend as the University of Missouri celebrates homecoming.

Because of the parade and early kickoff for the football game, regular routes will have a delayed start. Also, because of football and pedestrian traffic, the Red Route will not travel on Hospital Drive between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Saturday start time and location where each route begins is as follows:

Oct. 21 Downtown Fixed Route Schedule

11:10 - Black A - Student Center

10:50 - Black B - Student Center

10:55 - Gold A - Breaktime, Trimble Road

11:05 - Gold B - Walmart, Park-de-Ville

11:05 - Brown - Whitegate Drive & Sylvan Lane

11:45 - Orange - Whitegate Drive & Sylvan Lane

11:40 - Blue - Breaktime, Trimble Road

11:05 - Pink - Breaktime, Trimble Road

10:50 - Light Green - Colony Drive

11:30 - Purple - Colony Drive

11:00 - Red* - Hinkson Avenue & William Street

*The Red Route will not travel on Hospital Drive between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

MISSOURIAN

Leonard Pitts Jr. offers writing tips to young journalists at MU

By ANDREW WITHERS

If Leonard Pitts Jr. had his way, you'd feel like someone had just yanked you by your collar into one of his columns.

That phrase, a tip he gave for beginning an editorial column, was among the various lessons and advice on opinion writing Pitts shared with a crowd Monday afternoon in MU's Middlebush Auditorium.

Pitts, a nationally-syndicated and Pulitzer Prize winning writer, was one of [six winners of the Missouri Honor Medal, awarded by the Missouri School of Journalism since 1930](#) “for distinguished service performed in such lines of journalistic endeavor,” according to the school’s [website](#).

Pitts has served as a novelist, college professor, radio producer, lecturer and columnist whose words are read weekly by millions of newspaper readers, according to his [website](#).

He spoke as part of a master class series, where each Honor Medal winner offered observations and lessons from their career.

Pitts offered strategies for opinion writing that he developed over his career. It is crucial, he said, to pick a topic that the writer feels strongly about.

“Whether something makes you happy, whether something makes you sad, whether you are just deeply in the opposed group, whatever it is, you have to be able to bring that to the fore,” Pitts said. “A column has to be very organic.”

Then, he chooses his “voice,” the narrative style of the piece. This can be analytical, personal or even satirical. From there, he often follows a loose structure guideline.

First, he'll write a provocative, gripping lead, followed by a clear and fair explanation of the news context provoking him to offer his opinion.

Then, he makes his argument — what he called “the logical underpinnings of what you’re saying.”

“Here’s why so-and-so is wrong, here’s why we should feel such-and-such, here’s why this person is mistaken, here’s why this person is right,” Pitts said. “Here’s the lesson you should take from this.”

Then, Pitts recommends “bulletproofing” the argument, which means anticipating a rebuttal and answering it, before ending with a “kicker” — a succinct phrase that wraps up the column.

“You offer a summation of the point you’re making, and you try to phrase your last line in such a way that there is an air of finality to it,” Pitts said.

Pitts honed these skills over more than three decades of writing about topics spanning race, politics, terrorism and a host of other issues.

During that time, he said he has become pessimistic about the country’s political divide in a “post-fact era,” especially since President Donald Trump’s election. He said human psychology was partly to blame.

“I think confirmation bias has been weaponized to the degree that natural human tendency has been turned against us,” Pitts said. “Facts and logic aren’t as powerful.”

Still, he felt optimism for the future while visiting MU.

“Young journalists make me happy, because of a lot of you guys don’t come for the riches, but come for the change,” Pitts said.

Additional coverage related to Missouri Honor Medalists in today’s Columbia Missourian:

- [*Margaret Engel: Journalism has no boundaries today*](#)
- [*Missouri Honor Medalist Jack Smith contributed jingles to advertising*](#)



Daily newspaper serving Hannibal, MO (Marion and Ralls County)

[MU Extension offers help with Affordable Care Act](#)

Recent news may have some consumers confused about the status of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Recent news may have some consumers confused about the status of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. The ACA remains the law of the land, requiring most Americans to have health insurance, said Brenda Procter, co-director of University of Missouri Extension's Health Insurance Education Initiative.

Missouri's health insurance marketplace is still open to consumers who want to shop for a plan, and most consumers qualify for financial help to lower their costs. Health insurance plans are available in all counties in Missouri. "However, this year's open enrollment period is half as long as it had been during the previous four years," Procter said. Missourians only have six weeks to sign up for a 2018 plan - from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, 2017. Coverage starts Jan. 1, 2018.

Through the Health Insurance Education Initiative, MU Extension offers free workshops for consumers and for professionals who offer insurance assistance to consumers. Workshops present the facts in a politically neutral environment to help participants understand and comply with current law, learn how to explore all available options, gain skills to make the best decision for themselves and their families, and identify nearby sources of enrollment assistance.

MISSOURIAN

Westminster College announces pick for new president

NO MU MENTION

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FULTON — Westminster College has picked Fletcher Lamkin to take over as its next president later this year.

The college made the announcement Monday. Lamkin is now president of West Virginia University at Parkersburg and previously served as president of Kansas Wesleyan University.

His selection marks Lamkin's return to Westminster College, where his 2000-2007 administration included record fundraising and campus improvements.

Lamkin says in a news release that Westminster is the only school that could have induced him to leave his present position.

The college says news of his return was celebrated by faculty, administration and alumni. It cited his knowledge of the school and his relationships with alumni.

Kurt Jefferson, director of the Churchill Institute for Global Engagement at Westminster, says Lamkin led Westminster to its "greatest era of student growth."