



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

October 19, 2017

Search for suicidal subject causes confusion on MU campus

By [Megan Favignano](#)

A search for a suicidal woman on Wednesday near and on the University of Missouri's campus caused confusion among some students who were unsure about how seriously their safety was threatened by the incident and how they should respond on campus.

Columbia police took a woman to the hospital for evaluation Wednesday after the woman's friend called authorities saying she was threatening suicide and had access to a gun. For nearly two hours, officers actively searched downtown near Hitt and Elm streets and some areas of campus looking for the woman. The Columbia Police Department was notified about the incident at 11:10 a.m. and found the woman on the 400 block of Park Avenue just before 1 p.m. She was taken into custody and transported to a local hospital.

The University of Missouri Police Department assisted CPD with the search. MU, through MU alerts and Twitter, notified faculty, staff and students that the woman might be on or close to campus and possibly armed.

In a news release, CPD stated there was no indication at any time the woman intended to harm anyone else.

The wording of the MU alerts messages confused some on campus.

Maddi Brusick, a MU sophomore, said she was in a class when the first MU Alert popped up on the projector screen in the room and an alarm sounded in the building.

"I was scared because I didn't know what it was," Brusick said.

Dylan Armstrong, a MU junior, said his teacher canceled the class he was in during the time police were searching for the woman. Armstrong said he stayed in the classroom for 50 minutes until he believed the incident to be over.

"Everyone left but I stayed in because I didn't want to risk it," he said. "I was not going."

Armstrong had been in a class in a building next door to an area of campus where police believed the woman was located.

Several students, via social media Wednesday, criticized the alerts, saying the messages were too vague. MUPD Major Brian Weimer said there was not a campus-wide lockdown during the incident Wednesday.

“We’re bigger than most cities,” he said referring to the number of faculty, students and staff on MU’s campus. “So you don’t just lock all the doors.”

Weimer said MU at multiple occasions throughout the year encourages everyone on campus to watch a video, which can be found at mupolice.com, about how to respond if there is an active shooter on campus. The video states everyone should create their own personal protection plan and to “run, hide, fight.”

“Preparing for an emergency and having a flexible plan can help keep you safe in an active-threat situation,” MU Police Chief Doug Schwandt says in the video.

The video states that running to a safe area should be an individual’s first priority and if unable to run safely, the video then says to hide. If an individual is confronted by a shooter, the video says to fight, using nearby items as weapons.

Weimer said individuals need to examine their immediate surroundings, take into account the information MU alerts has shared and decide what to do to stay safe in a given situation. He said it’s critical for people on campus to watch the video to be prepared.

Alexa Taylor, a MU sophomore, said that until Wednesday she never had received an MU alert while in class. She was in a class in the physics building when MU alerted the campus community to the incident. After leaving her classroom, she went to wait for her bus across from Memorial Union. There were many officers with Columbia Police and MUPD at Memorial Union while officers searched a nearby area. Taylor said she felt safe waiting for her bus near where officers were stationed in case the incident turned into an active-shooter threat.

Wednesday’s incident caused MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright to leave an event at the Bradford Research Center early, returning to his office where he met for about an hour with President Mun Choi, Schwandt and others to discuss the university’s response. After every incident on campus, Weimer said MU examines its response to see what it can learn and how to improve.

The first MU alert about the situation was posted to mualerts.missouri.edu at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, saying the woman was seen with a handgun walking east on Locust Street from Hitt Street. She was described as a black woman in her late 20s, 5-foot-4 and weighing 120 pounds and wearing a black Mizzou hoodie with gold lettering and flip flops.

Subsequent alerts reported her to be near Memorial Union and then the White Campus area. Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School was on a modified lockdown while officers searched for the woman, according to Michelle Baumstark with Columbia Public Schools. During a modified lockdown, school activities and classes continue as normal but no one is allowed to enter or leave the building.

The initial information the woman's friend gave CPD indicated the woman was traveling in a vehicle on the 300 block of Hitt Street. She abandoned her car near Hitt and Elm and continued on foot, according to a CPD news release.

In addition to CPD patrol offices and MUPD, K-9 unit officers, street crimes unit detectives, community outreach unit officers and crisis negotiation team officers assisted in the search. When officers found her, she did not have a firearm. At 1:22 p.m., officers located the gun, which they believe the woman had discarded, on the 1000 block of University Avenue near a parking garage.

Reporter Rudi Keller contributed to this article.

The Tribune typically does not cover incidents involving suicidal subjects. Because many were aware of the incident and impacted, the Tribune decided to write an article about this specific incident.

MISSOURIAN

UPDATED: Students express frustration with MU Alert after police search for, arrest woman

BY ELIZABETH QUINN AND NAT KAEMMERER

Columbia police detained a woman Wednesday afternoon who was believed to be walking near the MU campus with a gun.

No one was harmed, but students and parents expressed frustration via social media about how the alert system was disseminating information during the active threat, which ended around 1 p.m.

Officers responded to a call at 11:10 a.m. in reference to a suicidal woman with a gun. Someone had called police saying a friend was threatening suicide and had access to a gun, according to a department news release.

The woman was traveling in a vehicle in the 300 block of Hitt Street, but she later left her car near Hitt and Elm streets and began walking on campus. Columbia police and MU police searched the area for the woman and found her at 12:51 p.m. in the 400 block of Park Avenue.

When police arrested the woman, she did not have a gun, and she was taken to a local hospital for evaluation. Whether the woman is an MU student was not disclosed.

Officers located a gun in the 1000 block of University Avenue and believe the woman had thrown it away, the release said. There was no indication that the woman intended to harm others.

Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School went on a modified lockdown for about one hour during the situation, Columbia Public Spokeswoman Michelle Baumstark said. During a modified lockdown, classes continue but no one is allowed to leave or enter the building.

MU Alert issued a notification at 11:30 a.m. about an “active threat” and continued to provide updates for the duration of the search. It advised the MU community to avoid campus, specifically the area near the Memorial Student Union called White Campus.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in an email that the alert was sent out of an abundance of caution. The campus returned to normal operations around 1 p.m.

“At the University of Missouri, safety is our first priority, and we work diligently to ensure we provide a safe environment for all students, staff and faculty,” Cartwright said. “During these situations, we update our alert system regularly so the Mizzou community is informed.”

Dissatisfaction with MU Alerts moves to Twitter

Students and parents expressed annoyance with the alert system’s lack of timeliness and consistency with which alerts were delivered.

“The way @Mizzou handled this active threat today was reckless and put lots of us in danger. if i didn’t have twitter i would have been lost,” one tweet read.

Another tweet was concerned about the response:

“The one problem I had with the incident at @Mizzou today is that my professor in a big auditorium didn’t take it seriously. Concerning.”

And a third was concerned about a perceived lack of information:

“I have a class in one of the buildings behind Mizzou’s Memorial Union at 2 p.m. and have no idea what to do.”

Many people, both students and Columbia residents, were confused as to where White Campus began or ended. There were also people who only learned today during the threat that “White Campus” is a location on campus:

“Would be helpful if you had a map of where white campus is for those of us downtown.”

Updates were not consistent throughout the campus. Some alerts were received or posted on social media late while others were not received at all, even if students, parents or faculty were signed up for alert texts and emails.

Similar frustrations were expressed in 2015 in the wake of Yik Yak threats against black students on campus, according to [previous Missourian reporting](#).

Nicole Dillon, a junior at MU, had an exam at 1 p.m. on White Campus. She was told around 12:12 p.m., when the incident was ongoing, that the exam was still happening.

As she walked to Memorial Union, she found that she could not enter the building due to the lockdown.

She received an email from her professor canceling the exam around 12:48 p.m. and then had to walk back through campus alone.

“The last university I went to (Drake University in De Moines, Iowa), there were a lot of shootings in the area,” she said. “It made me very uneasy to be put back in that situation.”

Even though the threat was over around 1 p.m., students were still hesitant to go out to classes that had not been canceled, and many students were outraged by faculty and alert response to the situation as a whole.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou issues 'all clear' after woman spotted near campus with gun is found; no one hurt

By: Ashley Jost

UPDATED at 1 p.m. with additional information.

Police in Columbia, Mo., and at the University of Missouri-Columbia found a woman who was described as possibly suicidal after she was seen near the flagship campus carrying a handgun Wednesday.

[An alert](#) said the situation was "all clear" and the woman was unharmed.

An initial alert around 11:30 a.m. said there was an "active threat" near the intersection of Hitt and Locust streets, which is just outside of the campus.

Just before 1 p.m., scanner traffic indicated that police found the woman off campus without incident. The university confirmed that shortly after.

Multiple campus alerts went out over the course of an hour and a half, telling the Mizzou community to stay in place.

Several alerts said she was walking through part of campus.

On social media, students said they were corralled into the basement of one campus building as a precaution. Mizzou's university account encouraged students to contact their parents and tell them they're safe.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Active threat at Mizzou: Woman with handgun in custody after police search on campus

BY KATY BERGEN AND MARÍA ROSE WILLIAMS

University of Missouri officials warned students of an active threat on campus late Wednesday morning after a woman believed to be suicidal was seen walking on campus with a handgun.

After a police search that lasted nearly 90 minutes, the woman was found safe off-campus, police announced.

No shots were fired and campus operations resumed as normal by 1 p.m.

At 11:30 a.m., students and staff learned through the school's emergency alert system that a woman had been seen with a handgun walking east on Locust Street from Hitt Street.

University alerts warned students and staff that the woman had possibly moved near Memorial Union and urged students to avoid the White Campus area of the university.

White Campus refers to the part of campus east of the David R. Francis Quadrangle where the buildings are made out of white limestone.

Though a spokesman said the campus was never officially on lockdown, students were advised to get to a safe place, lock their doors, and as the search continued on, to avoid campus.

At 12:53 p.m., authorities said the woman was located off-campus, safe and no longer a threat. Columbia, Mo., police tweeted that she was in custody.



[MU's active threat alerts raise concern on campus](#)

By: Daytona Everett

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-s-active-threat-alerts-raise-concern-on-campus>

COLUMBIA - After an active threat on MU's campus, some are disappointed with the MU Alert system and question its ability to get details out in a timely manner.

MU Alert sent out its first tweet Wednesday at 11:23.

MU student Ethan Phillips said he felt like the alerts were coming after the information was spreading around campus.

MU Spokesperson Christian Basi said, "Obviously we always tell folks to be very careful about hearing things through other means other than official channels."

A stream of tweets followed the initial MU alert outlining the appearance and location of the subject.

There were eleven tweets in all, but students like Phillips said people on campus still felt "out-of-the-loop."

"We have fifty-thousand people on campus and that's a lot of people who are going to make different decisions based on their own specific situation," Basi said.

One of the updates went out a few minutes later.

“Different locations took the situation more seriously,” Phillips said.

He was at the Student Center lobby surrounded by around 200-250 people. An alarm sounded and everyone thought someone was stealing from the Student Center, he said.

Some people received text alerts while others did not. To receive text alerts, you must be registered.

“Everybody was kind of like sitting around like 'oh well, she ain't coming in here,’” Phillips said. He did receive an alert.

Basi said, after the events Wednesday, MU Alert is discussing several new initiatives such as providing additional texts, being more specific when identifying certain locations on campus and providing specific directions to people.

Phillips suggests MU Alert use text alerts and tweet more often; preferably every two to three minutes.

As of right now, text alerts are only available to MU faculty, staff and students. Basi said he hopes to extend that to the rest of the local community in the near future.

He also recommends people utilize the MU Alert [website](#) for updates and other tools.



UPDATE: MU Alert notifies campus of suicidal woman with gun, woman now in custody

By: [Elizabeth Duesenberg](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mu-alert-warns-student-body-of-a-possible-threat-in-downtown-columbia/640383602>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **UPDATE 3:50 P.M.:** CPD has confirmed that the woman was traveling in a vehicle in the 300 block of Hitt Street.

She abandoned her vehicle near Hitt Street and Elm Street and proceeded on foot. Officers confirmed the woman was on MU's campus.

CPD officers, including Patrol officers, K-9 Unit officers, detectives with the Street Crimes Unit, Community Outreach Unit officers, officers from the Crisis Negotiation Team and University of Missouri Police officers searched the area for the woman.

At 12:51 p.m., CPD officers found the woman in the 400 block of Park Avenue, where she was taken into custody.

At 1:22 p.m., officers found a gun believed to have been in the woman's possession in the 1000 block of University Avenue. Officers think the woman put the gun there.

"At no time throughout this investigation was there any indication that the female had any intentions on harming anyone else," said CPD.

UPDATE 12:59 P.M.: "The Emergency Alert situation is all clear. Campus is operating under normal conditions," says MU Alert.

UPDATE 12:53 P.M.: "Law enforcement has located the subject involved off campus. The subject is safe and there is no further threat to campus," says MU Alert.

UPDATE 12:44 P.M.: "In an abundance of caution and as the search for the subject has become prolonged, it is recommended the campus community do one of the following:

- If you are on campus, shelter in place.
- If you are not on campus, avoid campus," says MU Alert.

UPDATE 12:42 P.M.: ABC 17 News confirmed with the Columbia Police Department that officers were dispatched to downtown Columbia in reference to a reported suicidal subject with a gun. The complainant reported a friend was threatening suicide.

CPD said that there is no indication that the woman has any intentions to harm anyone else and that CPD officers have not confirmed the woman is actually in possession of a gun.

UPDATE 12:40 P.M.: Lee elementary is in a modified lockdown because of the alert. The Chemistry building on MU's campus is also on lockdown.

UPDATE 12:26 P.M.: "Unless you have an emergency, please do not call MUPD as they are working hard to confirm facts and maintain the safety of the campus," says MU Alert.

UPDATE 12:23 P.M.: In another update, MUPD says that they recommend that all campus community avoid the White campus area.

UPDATE 12:21 P.M.: "Local law enforcement continues to search for the subject involved in the White Campus area," says MU Alert.

UPDATE 12:08 P.M.: According to another update from MU Alert, the woman's phone is being pinged and she is thought to be in the White Campus area.

Buildings in that area include Chemistry and Memorial Union.

The woman is further described as being in her mid to late twenties, 5 feet 4 inches tall and 120 pounds.

UPDATE 11:38 A.M.: According to MU Alert's twitter, police are investigating a woman who is reported to have a gun and was last seen walking east on Locust St. from Hitt St.

The woman is described as African American, wearing a Mizzou hoodie, brown pants and flip flops. MU Alert is describing the woman as possibly suicidal.

Stephen's College is on lockdown.

UPDATE 11:35 A.M.: ABC 17 crews see Columbia police, MU police and ambulances on scene.

ORIGINAL: MU Alert warned students and employees of a possible threat near Hitt and Locust on Wednesday just before noon.

According to public dispatch, no firefighters or ambulances are at the scene.

ABC 17 has a crew on its way to the scene to learn more about the possible threat.



[Campus lockdown changes students' plans](#)

By: Garrett Bergquist

Watch the story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/campus-lockdown-changes-students-plans>

COLUMBIA — MU students said Wednesday's lockdown forced them to miss classes and turn in homework assignments late.

Joshua McEwen was in the multicultural center when his phone buzzed.

"The initial alert said Hitt and Locust, so I immediately went to maps, trying to figure out where that was," he said.

MUPD issued an alert around 11:30 a.m. when Columbia police informed them they were looking for a woman armed with a handgun walking on Locust Street near campus. Officers described the woman as suicidal. Several buildings were put on lockdown while police searched the area around Memorial Union and the chemistry building. Lucas Tilton was asleep in his dorm room when the lockdown alarm went off. He thought it was a drill until he remembered the campus had already had one.

"I figured that I probably should get up and turn off the lights and make sure I was being quiet," he said.

Columbia police took the woman into custody without incident off campus just before 1 p.m. By then, McEwen had missed a science lab, while Tilton had missed a couple of classes and had to turn in an assignment late. Both students said they were glad nobody was hurt.

"Everyone I know came out safe, and I'm just glad about that," Tilton said



University of Missouri says 'no further threat to campus'

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The University of Missouri has found a woman who prompted a campus alert because she was believed to be suicidal and possibly armed with a gun.

The university announced in an alert just before 1 p.m. Wednesday that there is "no further threat to campus." The university says the woman was found off campus and is safe. A search for the woman had prompted the university to urge people on campus to "shelter in place" and avoid the campus if possible.

Columbia police said in a news release that officers were dispatched to the city's downtown after a person reported that a friend was threatening suicide. At one point, the woman was believed to be in an area known as White Campus, where the buildings are made of white limestone.

Similar stories ran nation wide



MU Campus All Clear After 'Active Threat' Alert

By: Catherine Wheeler

The University of Missouri says campus is all clear after what they called an “active threat” Wednesday morning.

At around 11:30, the university's alert system reported an 'active threat' near Hitt and Locust Streets. Updates describe a woman walking with a handgun headed east on Locust Street. The updates suggest the woman may have been suicidal.

The subject was located off campus by law enforcement and campus alerts have been lifted.

She was not in possession of a firearm when she was taken into custody, then transported to a hospital for evaluation, according to a news release from the Columbia Police Department.

Officers located a firearm that they believe the subject had and had discarded it at that location, the release states.

The release states there was no indication that the subject had intentions of harming anyone else.



[Woman who prompted 'active threat' alert at Mizzou found off campus](#)

By Stephanie Baumer

COLUMBIA, Mo. (KMOV.com) – [The University of Missouri reports there is no longer a threat to the university after the woman who prompted the warning was found off campus.](#)

The university issued an alert around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday because police were investigating a possibly suicidal woman, reported to have a handgun, who was seen walking near campus.

Around 12:10 p.m., the university said the subject's phone was being pinged and she was believed to be in the White Campus area. About 35 minutes later, officials recommended those on campus to shelter in place and those not on campus to avoid the area.

Just before 1 p.m., the university said law enforcement had located the subject, who was safe, and there was no longer a threat.

the maneater

MUPD's messaging system, MU Alert, aims to keep students updated and aware

By STEPHI SMITH

The words "MU Alert reports..." light up the phone screen. There's been an emergency near campus.

The university's alert messaging system, MU Alert, has been active since 2009. Alerts are sent out through text messages and email, as well as posted on the MU Alert Twitter account and website.

The decision to send out alerts are determined on a case-by-case basis, MU Police Department Chief Doug Schwandt said. The on-duty police supervisor determines if the situation requires an emergency alert to be sent out.

If that's the case, the supervisor directs the communications operator working with the department's dispatch to compose an emergency message. Each message must be less than 140 characters in order to fit the current Twitter character limit.

Schwandt said the presence of either imminent or ongoing danger to the MU campus is the major determinant for the decision to send out a message.

These decisions are individual to each situation, Schwandt said. Each emergency is different from the last, and therefore requires a different approach on deciding if an alert is necessary.

"[The system] is not automated," Schwandt said. "We decide whether we truly believe there's ongoing or imminent danger to our campus."

Schwandt said that while he does recognize that awareness is crucial to staying safe on campus, MUPD doesn't want to overload and in turn desensitize the community with too many alert messages.

For example, Schwandt said that a lot of people call claiming to have heard shots fired. The reality is that not all of them are actual guns going off. Sometimes people mistake the sound of a car backfiring or nearby fireworks for a gunshot.

Therefore, there's no need to unnecessarily alarm people with an alert for every time someone reports shots fired.

However, after MUPD investigates and confirms that there is a real threat involving a gun, sending an emergency message might be the next move.

"We want to try to validate information before we make a determination and send out a mass alert to everybody," Schwandt said.

On the MU Alert website, it asks that people not call MUPD after receiving an alert message.

"[MUPD is] working hard to confirm facts and maintain the safety of the campus," according to the website.

Schwandt said this is because it's easy to overload the MUPD's phone system. With only two dispatch responders on duty and over 30,000 enrolled students, the system can get overwhelmed.

When an alert is sent out, a lot of parents and relatives of MU students call in to ask if their student is safe, Schwandt said. Because of this, the website asks students to call their families and communicate with them. The only times people should be calling the department is if they have an emergency or new information regarding an emergency, he said.

On Sept. 29, the MU Alert system sent out an alert claiming that shots had been fired at Copper Beech Townhomes in Columbia. Two people were shot and later treated at a local hospital, according to the message MU Alert sent out. Neither were MU students.

Over 52,000 people received that alert message through either text or email, Schwandt said.

The Copper Beech Townhomes are not a part of the MU campus. Schwandt, however, made the decision to send out the emergency message because he knew that a lot of MU students lived there.

"I just thought it was the best thing to do to alert our campus community and it was the only way to get it out even though it wasn't necessarily affecting the [MU] campus," Schwandt said.

Senior Justin McDonald is signed up to receive the alerts through both text and email.

“I feel that [MUPD] does a good job of informing students about threatening issues promptly,” he said.

He said the alerts are useful and the fastest and most effective way to inform students about immediate safety concerns on campus.

Considering how often he checks his phone and email, he said he finds the alert system to be efficient.

After McDonald sees an MU Alert, he said he tends to take some sort of precautionary action afterward.

For example, on June 23 there was an alert message sent out about a potential bomb threat in the Student Recreation Center. McDonald said he had been planning to come to campus to study late at night but ended up staying at home until he was informed that the threat had been cleared.

Schwandt has seen a lot of criticism toward the MU Alert system, as happens with many MUPD initiatives.

“No matter what emergency alert you put out, someone criticizes it in some way,” he said. “It wasn’t soon enough, there wasn’t enough information, you shouldn’t have put it out. There’s always some element of criticism.”

Schwandt said he wants students to remember that the emergency message is not a news story. It won’t always have the most in-depth and extensive information, but instead “just enough” to keep students safe.

“The messages are going to be usually short and concise about information as it relates to that emergency,” he said.

McDonald also said he hopes MUPD continues to interact with MU students to ensure that there’s a student voice taken into consideration when evaluating programs such as the MU Alert system.

“I have seen great improvements between the relationship of students and MUPD and I hope that we continue to take positive strides in the right direction,” he said.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou's nursing dean announces retirement

Ashley Jost

Generated from News Bureau press release.

ST. LOUIS • The University of Missouri-Columbia's longest-serving dean on Wednesday announced plans to retire.

After nine years, dean Judith Miller said she will retire from the Sinclair School of Nursing effective Dec. 31.

The nursing school grew by 400 enrolled students during her tenure, which also saw gains in teaching space and the number of faculty members.

Since Miller joined in 2008, the school launched a doctorate of nursing practice program, put all graduate programs online and nearly doubled the nursing school's research grants and contracts.

“It is with great reluctance that I have accepted Dr. Judith Fitzgerald Miller’s request to retire as dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing,” Mizzou Provost Garnett Stokes said in a statement. “In all my years serving as a leader in higher education, I’ve rarely seen a dean accomplish as much or advocate as passionately for her school.”

In a statement, Miller said this decision will allow her to "reconnect with and support my family and take advantage of other opportunities that foster a ‘life fully lived.’”

MISSOURIAN

MU nursing dean to retire in December

BY MYLES POYDRAS

Generated from News Bureau press release.

The currently longest tenured dean at MU is retiring, effective Dec. 31.

Judith Miller, who has been the dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing since she arrived at MU in 2008, is leaving behind a legacy that she said she dedicates to her staff.

“Any recognition or accolades that I received I attribute to the staff here at the Sinclair School of Nursing,” Miller said.

While at MU, Miller was named one of The 30 Most Influential Deans of Nursing in the United States in 2015 by Momentrix and was honored by the International Women’s Leadership Association in 2016.

Under Miller’s leadership, the diversity of the nursing school student body increased by 22 percent, research grants increased by \$3 million and the school received more than \$15 million in donations, according to a school news release.

“I’m proud of being able to establish a climate for all of the faculty, staff and students to reach their potential,” Miller said, “and help students to move beyond even what they’ve expected of themselves.”

Miller said she has plans to move back to her hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Retirement will be a transition for her, she said, because she’s exhilarated by work.

She'll work on writing a book about hope. Miller has already published three editions of her book, "Coping with Chronic Illness: Overcoming Powerlessness."

Miller is confident about the current state of the nursing school.

"This school is in absolutely top notch shape," she said. "We're on top of our game in all facets."



MU Nursing Dean To Retire In December

By HANNAH HAYNES

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MISSOURIAN

Forum: MU Title IX leader needs deep understanding of range of people, systems

BY KYLE LAHUCIK

The next person to oversee MU's compliance with Title IX, civil rights and the Americans with Disabilities Act should have a strong understanding not only of those areas but also of higher education and the campus community.

"We know this is a position that means a lot to a lot of different people across campus," said Tina Bloom, associate professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing and co-chair of the search committee for a new vice chancellor for civil rights, Title IX and ADA.

At a campus forum Wednesday, about 35 people shared their wish lists for candidates to succeed Ellen Eardley, who resigned in July and returned to private law practice in Washington.

Bloom and co-chair Emily Love, University of Missouri System program consultant, and other members of the search committee heard feedback about the position and were scheduled to meet afterward for the first time.

"I think it's important to recognize this person needs to have an understanding and experience with working with transgender, gender queer and non-conforming populations," Sean Olmstead, coordinator for the LGBTQ Resource Center, said.

"Know how to interact with that population and know how to support that population."

Olmstead referenced a campus climate survey report released last month, saying “18 percent of those students come to college experiencing some kind of discrimination.”

Two students said the candidate should be knowledgeable about intersectionality — the way in which several forms of discrimination can overlap and combine in the experiences of people and groups.

Liz Zufall, an executive assistant in the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX, said that as a baseline, the candidate should have demonstrated experience in diversity and inclusion.

“It cannot be overstated that this individual has to have done work not only on the Title IX side but on the civil rights side,” Zufall said.

“They have to be willing to challenge an institution where we don’t always feel comfortable looking at our own biases.”

Brief applause erupted.

“I think it would be difficult for someone from within this institution to do that,” Zufall added.

Rhodesia McMillian, a doctoral candidate who works in the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, raised a question about the search process.

“How do we ensure that the individual that will be hired is one who is fully committed to protecting the interests of the students and not necessarily the interests and the reputation of MU?” she asked.

“ Because we didn’t hire a national firm for this search, how are we making sure that the committee isn’t being biased in their decision and holding onto those old MU ways?”

Bloom said she, Love, and members of the UM Executive Initiatives team, talked extensively about hiring a national search firm but concluded they have the expertise and ability to follow best practices for a “deep, thoughtful national search.”

McMillian said she wants somebody who “has a spine,” in terms of being “fair and just” rather than worrying about personal reputation.

Attendees also wanted candidates to have experience in:

- Striking a balance between educating majority populations and supporting minority ones;
- Being neutral, with no allegiance to the institution;
- Dissenting in the face of powerful people and organizational structures;
- Going into unwelcoming spaces and starting conversations on unwelcome topics;
- Being genuine in public appearances such as Take Back the Night and the Queer Fall Fling;
- Working across disciplines
- Using alternative dispute resolution, especially restorative justice.

Brittani Fults, education and prevention coordinator for the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX, said a new vice chancellor should know when it’s the office’s job not to do certain things. Their office has been flooded with projects, she said.

The search committee will work with several campus groups, including the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX, the LGBTQ Resource Center, the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center and the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.

Love and Bloom said they hope to have finalists selected by January or February, with campus visits to follow.

Andrea Hayes has served as interim since Sept. 1.



MU holds open forum after announcing search for Asst. Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights & Title IX

By MARIE BOWMAN

COLUMBIA, Mo. - MU held an open forum on Wednesday after announcing their search for an Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights & Title IX on Tuesday.

In the forum, it was said that candidates will come on campus so the MU community has a chance to talk and meet with them in January or February.

The desired qualities for the position are:

- someone open and willing to attend Fall Fest, Take Back The Night, Queer Fest and other community events.
- someone who know how to educate minority populations and support minority populations.
- someone who is able to go into spaces where they are unwelcome and initiate conversations that are unwelcome.
- considering national political context—a person who is able to protect campus environment.
- someone who wants to interact with international community.

Emily Love, the program consultant and Title IX coordinator in the UM System Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion said that the search committee intends to be as transparent as possible.

The search committee co-chairs include:

- Tina Bloom, associate professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing
- Emily Love, program consultant and Title IX coordinator in the UM System Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The search committee members include:

- Tina Adams-Salter, system privacy officer, MU Health

- Elizabeth Beale, member, Staff Advisory Council
- Julie Drury, senior coordinator, Office of Student Accountability and Support
- Barbara Hammer, director, MU Disability Center
- Alex Higginbotham, student representative, Missouri Students Association
- Christine Holt, associate provost, Office of the Provost
- Kristen Kalz, representative, Graduate Professional Council
- Paul Maguffee, deputy general counsel, UM System Office of the General Counsel
- Kim McDonald, senior human resources consultant, Human Resources Services
- Jeanne Mihail, professor and associate director, Division of Plant Sciences
- Sarah Reesman, executive associate athletic director, Athletics
- Kevin Rodgers, lieutenant, MU Police Department
- Jatha Sadowski, director, Human Resources Services
- Mikah Thompson, director of affirmative action and Title IX coordinator, UMKC Office of Affirmative Action
- Donell Young, director, Center for Academic Success and Excellence; assistant vice chancellor, MU Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity

People can visit the [inclusion, diversity and equity webpage](#) to get updates and once a candidate profile is built, it will be published.



[MU begins search for new Civil Rights official](#)

By DANIEL LITWIN

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-begins-search-for-new-civil-rights-official>

COLUMBIA- The MU community made its voice heard Wednesday, laying out the characteristics, qualities and experiences it's looking for in a new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights, Title IX and ADA.

The search committee for the position, comprised of 16 people representing several groups on campus, held an open forum to seek input from all university stakeholders, including administrators, professors and students.

"This is a position that works with faculty, staff and students, which is unique in some administrator roles," said Emily Love, Title IX coordinator. "This person plays a huge role in prevention, education, and ultimately remedying the effects of any form of discrimination, sexual misconduct."

Love and Tina Bloom, associate professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing, are co-chairing the committee, and wanted to make sure whomever they hire fits the criteria set by the MU community.

"It's a position that's really important to a lot of people on campus," said Bloom.

The committee broke the forum down into the three main areas that will determine the new administrator: demonstrated experience, leadership characteristics and desired qualities.

Members of the audience had plenty to say on each topic.

Demonstrated Experience

"This person needs to have an understanding and experience working with transgender, gender-queer and nonconforming populations," said Sean Olmstead, LGBTQ Resource Center coordinator.

Olmstead also said 18 percent of those students come to college expecting discrimination, which makes the incoming coordinator's experience even more crucial.

"It cannot be overstated that this individual has to have done work not only on the Title IX but on the civil rights side. They have to be willing to challenge an institution where we don't always feel comfortable looking at our own biases," said Liz Zufall, executive assistant for the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX. "I think it would be difficult for someone from within this institution to do that."

Ryan Gavin, strategic communications manager for the Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, said it's important to find somebody who understands the new digital landscape that students participate in.

"With the more time that people spend online and using social media, that a lot of these things that might have taken place traditionally in a classroom setting or a one on one situation, now happen online," Gavin said.

"I would like to see someone who has a strong sense of intersectionality. How students within marginalized communities may be experiencing further marginalization within those communities," said Sterling Waldman, an undergraduate student at MU.

Leadership Characteristics

"You need someone who is unbossed and unbought. Someone who can do what's fair and what's just. Even when her or his reputation may be on the line in terms of people liking them," said Rhodesia McMillian, associate director for K-12 Access, Programming and Engagement. "I'd rather him or her say no to a dean because it's fair and it's just, than to say yes just to be embraced."

Frankie Minor, a former MU employee, said he wants to see someone with a strong sense of advocacy.

"I think what this person needs is not somebody who's just going to respond to issues or concerns brought to them, but raise this discussion on the campus with the people that they need to do that," Minor said. "This person has to be critically involved with the rapidly changing environment and willing to advocate and educate the campus and campus leaders."

Desired Qualities

Alejandra Gudino, an Inclusion and Diversity Educator, said she needs someone in the position who can foster new traditions and is easy to collaborate with.

"Higher education is all about traditions. Look what's about to happen this weekend, and look who's not. It's a lot of people who's not there, and there's a reason. There's fear, there's a lot of students who don't want to walk in the parade, there's a lot of staff that doesn't feel they're welcome. That needs to change," Gudino said.

The committee will meet for the first time Wednesday evening to discuss opinions gathered at the forum.

It plans to have someone hired for the position by March 2018, with another open forum and stakeholder interviews on the schedule once it selects a pool of finalists.



MU Searching for Vice Chancellor of Civil Rights, Title XI and ADA

By HANNAH HAYNES

The University of Missouri has created a committee tasked with finding someone to fill the role of Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights, Title IX and ADA.

The Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights, Title IX and ADA will be responsible for things like ensuring compliance with all Title IX laws and providing training for the MU community.

On Wednesday, the university held a town hall for members of the university community to provide input on qualities and experience they'd like to see in this new hire.

Bryan Goers is the senior coordinator for the office of student engagement. He says the new assistant vice chancellor needs to be able to empathize with different communities.

“Maybe this is just them being able to demonstrate instances of where they’ve been going into majority populations and have some actual results in terms of what they’re able to do education wise,” Goers said. “While at the same time having results in making sure marginalized populations feel supported and not alienated.”

Many different community members spoke at the forum asking for the committee to consider the new hire to be someone who understands different communities, is willing to start new traditions for the university and someone who can acknowledge the biases at MU.

The hiring committee is meeting for the first time today.

COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

Hartzler bills seek to spur VA recruiting

By RUDI KELLER

When a highly regarded orthopedic surgeon took a job with Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in March, he already was locked in a dispute with the University of Missouri over the non-compete clause in his employment contract.

Thomas Aleto was seeking a court order declaring the clause unenforceable because changes how doctors are paid for clinical work had cut his income by nearly \$200,000 a year. Aleto didn't get all he wanted in the case — the clause was enforceable, Circuit Judge Jeff Harris ruled on July 5, but provisions making it effective for two years and requiring Aleto to pay more than \$2 million were not.

A week after Harris issued that order, MU sued Aleto, attempting to force him to stop working at Truman and pay damages for doing so. By the first week of October, MU had dropped the suit because it undermined cooperation between the hospitals, spokesman Christian Basi said.

“The reason why we dismissed the lawsuit is we wanted to maintain our good relationships” with the VA, Basi said.

Truman Memorial is the sole employer for general practice physicians and about half the physicians with medical and surgical specialties, said Lana Zerrers, Truman chief of staff. The rest of the doctors hold dual appointments, working for both hospitals.

The reason to drop the lawsuit is suspicious, said attorney George Smith, who represents Aleto. The university was eagerly pushing it forward until late September, he said.

“My response is, if they wanted to preserve their good relations and with people with dual appointments, why did they file it in the first place?” Smith said.

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler held a news conference at Truman Memorial to promote legislation she filed to bar medical employers from enforcing non-compete clauses against anyone who takes a job in the Veterans Health Administration. The VA cannot include non-compete clauses in its physician contracts and should not be subject to those restrictions as it recruits employees, she said.

“In the case of the VA and private practice, they are not competing for patients because the VA only serves those who qualify for VA care,” Hartzler said.

Hartzler also is sponsoring legislation to help the VA find employees by offering student loan repayments, a set timeline for filling open jobs and by allowing people about to finish training to apply. The loan-repayment incentive includes a provision that would require anyone accepting the benefit to work three years for the VA or one year for every \$10,000 repaid, whichever is longer.

The legislation for incentives, she said, was filed in response to a General Accounting Office report that showed the VA has increasing shortages in five areas — physicians, registered nurses, physician assistants, psychiatrists and physical therapists — and turnover has increased to 8.2 percent per year.

“Overall, in this whole country, the demand for veterans care has continued to grow, but the VA has struggled to recruit and retain the qualified medical professionals to provide the care our veterans deserve,” Hartzler said.

The legislation on non-compete clauses, filed Oct. 12, was not filed because of the lawsuit but to level the playing field for VA recruiters, she said.

Aleto resigned from the university effective Dec. 31 after more than 11 years on the School of Medicine faculty. His lawsuit, filed after he submitted his resignation, argued the university had breached his contract by changes in how he was paid.

The changes were not a breach, Harris ruled, because there was never a promise the university wouldn’t change the way it allocates clinical revenue. And the non-compete clause’s geographic limits — Boone, Callaway, Cooper and Cole counties — were reasonable, he wrote.

However, the two-year limit was excessive because most orthopedic cases are fully recovered within a year, he wrote. And the standard clause for damages — 25 percent of clinical billings for the two highest of the past five years for long-term employees and 50 percent of the clinical billings for those with two years or less on the job — are an illegal penalty.

The damages must be determined by facts, he wrote. Aleto made \$500,000 to \$700,000 a year from patient care billed at about \$4 million a year. To leave, he would have had to pay \$2.1 million if the clause was enforceable.

“However, the chasm between the damages calculation and plaintiff’s compensation is so great that it effectively makes it impossible for someone in plaintiff’s position to ever leave defendant’s employment and remain in the geographic area,” Harris wrote. “Perhaps that was defendant’s intent, but that is not what the law provides.”

T COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

**Few revisions expected by Congress from
2014 farm bill**

By RUDI KELLER

The next time Congress looks at how taxpayers support farmers, there isn't likely to be many major revisions to the ideas enacted in 2014 to use recent commodity prices to determine if producers deserve a subsidy, U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler said Wednesday.

Speaking to about 150 agriculture experts, academics and farmers at the Bradford Research Farm, Hartzler said the House Agriculture Committee has a goal of sending a bill to the Senate by early 2018. That ambitious schedule would be well ahead of the five-year expiration of the current program, enacted three years late in 2014.

That bill did away with direct payments in favor of programs that covered the risk of raising crops in years with falling prices. Farmers could either choose to protect their revenue — a combination of yield and price — or just protect themselves against falling prices.

Coupled with crop insurance, the idea was to tie farmers more closely to the market. In her comments, Hartzler said it had accomplished that goal.

“I expect to see some tweaking of some of the current programs,” she said. “Four years ago, it was pretty major — we did away with direct payments.”

Since the enactment of the farm bill, Boone County farmers have received payments for barley for 2014 and all included crops except barley and sunflower seeds in 2015. Full data is not in, but the price and yield levels for 2016, with prices down but yields high, mean no local payments for corn or soybeans.

The 2014 farm bill cost \$5.3 billion for commodity supports in fiscal 2014 and \$7.8 billion for fiscal 2015, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture figures. In Missouri, payments were \$37 million in fiscal 2014 and \$254.5 million in fiscal 2015. Payments for 2016 are being delivered this month.

The farm bill also authorizes nutrition programs, including the SNAP program, which cost \$70.9 billion in fiscal 2016, and school nutrition, at a cost of \$17.8 billion.

The Farm Bill Summit, an all-day meeting with seminars on grain crops, livestock and other issues, was sponsored by the university, bringing together extension and the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Pat Westhoff, director of the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute, said commodity supports have cost more than expected when the bill was enacted but that crop insurance has cost less because of several good years.

“For crop insurance, the cost to the public has been far less than anticipated and when you put those two pieces together, it is roughly a wash,” Westhoff said.

The way the bill distributes money has not changed the trend of agriculture to larger operations, Westhoff said. He agreed with Hartzler that few major changes are likely in the way programs are currently designed.

“If you would leave this up to the committees in Congress, they would write a farm bill that would do something about cotton, something about dairy, and make minor changes around the edges on everything else,” Westhoff said.

During remarks recorded on video, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said the increasing world food demand means farm products, already a major export, will become more important.

President Trump is pushing for revisions to the North American Free Trade Agreement, which makes U.S. agriculture exports very attractive in Mexico and Canada.

“We need to help define further the role the Department of Agriculture will play in trade agreements and facilitating those agreements,” Blunt said.

Missouri exports large quantities of corn, soybeans, beef and pork to Mexico, Westhoff said. Those exports could be endangered if the trade agreement is broken and Mexico or Canada puts retaliatory barriers in place, he said.

If negotiators stick to areas of current problems, like getting dairy into Canada or dealing with exports of fresh fruits and vegetables, Missouri farmers should see little impact, Westhoff said.

Commodity prices have fallen from historic highs at or just before the enactment of the 2014 bill. The current program uses rolling five-year averages of prices and yields to determine if payments are due. For major commodities, those averages are well above current market prices — soybeans set at almost \$12 a bushel while farmers were receiving \$9.41 in August.

“The key to the farm bill is to provide an effective safety net for when times get tough or things don’t work out exactly as we would like them to be,” Blunt said.



Rep. Hartzler meets with farmers ahead of 2018 Farm Bill discussion

By CAROLINA BRIGAGAO

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/rep-hartzler-meets-with-farmers-ahead-of-2018-farm-bill-discussion>

BOONE COUNTY -As the U.S. House starts working on the 2018 Farm Bill, mid-Missouri's congressional representative talked with agricultural producers and farmers to get their thoughts on what it should include.

Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Missouri, talked with farmers as part of a summit held by MU.

Hartzler is on the House Agricultural Committee, and will help craft the 2018 Farm Bill, as the 2014 bill is set to expire.

The 2014 Farm Bill addressed policies such as:

- Conservation
- Nutrition
- Rural Development
- Research, Extension and Related Matters
- Crop insurance
- Trade
- Credit
- Forestry
- Energy
- Horticulture

"Today's summit is to make sure that Missouri gets a chance to talk about what needs in terms of what worked in the previous farm bill, what changes we would like to see in the next farm bill," said Scott Brown, state extension specialist in agriculture economics for the University of Missouri.

The greater focus of the summit's discussion was on research and crop insurance. Vice Chancellor of extension engagement Marshal Stewart said both the university and the state benefit from federal funds provided by the bill.

"We were very fortunate because we saw our funding in terms of extension and research rank pretty much the same. Which allows us to not only create better resources but also push that research out across the state of Missouri and other places," he said.

Brown said crop insurance should also stay as a priority in the 2018 bill.

"When you look at some particular policies that we are discussing with the 2018 Farm Bill, number one is crop insurance. It's a chance for producers to buy insurance related to the crop they produce and the revenue that crop produces," Brown said. "When we have dry weather,

producers aren't going to have the crop. Yet, they still have the same amount of costs getting that crop in the ground."

The first version of the bill should be out in a few weeks, with a full version going to the Senate in early 2018.



Mizzou, Columbia College make Missouri's top 10

By DAN CLAXTON

COLUMBIA — A study by a higher education website determined that Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau is the best four-year college in the state based on 13 criteria.

According to Schools.com, the University of Missouri's Columbia campus is ranked number two, while Columbia College came in at number eight, the highest-ranked private institution on the list.

The rankings were based on a 100-point scale using metrics such as tuition and fees, number of degrees and certificates offered, flexibility, student services, and graduation rates.

The Schools.com top ten list of four-year colleges in Missouri:

1. Southeast Missouri State University
2. University of Missouri-Columbia
3. Northwest Missouri State University
4. Missouri Western State University
5. Truman State University
6. Missouri State University-Springfield
7. Missouri Southern State University
8. Columbia College
9. University of Missouri-St Louis

10. University of Central Missouri

MISSOURIAN

MU School of Law to host First Amendment symposium

BY CAMERON R. FLATT

The MU School of Law will examine better approaches to handling free speech and conflict on college campuses during a First Amendment symposium on Oct. 27 in Hulston Hall on MU's campus.

The event, which is also sponsored by the Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution and its Journal of Dispute Resolution, will focus on different options for colleges to prepare for, manage and mediate conflict as a result of supporting free expression, [according to an MU news release](#).

The goal of the symposium is to “advance our understanding of how university leaders can remain true to both the mission of the university and the values of the First Amendment,” according to the [MU School of Law's website](#).

The law school's website also lists specific questions that organizers hope to answer, including:

- Limits for free expression on campus
- The difference between campus and general free speech
- If “free speech conflict” is something to be managed
- How to anticipate and prevent disputes
- And how to create and implement policies for when disputes occur.

Constitutional law expert Robert Post of Yale University will be the keynote speaker. Officials from MU, Auburn and Middlebury College will also speak, with a [full schedule available online](#).

Post, formerly the dean of Yale Law School, [spoke at an event for Brown University](#) last year and argued that the purpose of the First Amendment and the purpose of a university oppose each other by nature.

In his speech at Brown, Post said that when it comes to free speech there is no right or wrong answer, and people can't be told what to say or what to speak about. However, in an educational setting, he said that some answers have to be considered right or wrong and professors will have to tell their students what to talk about.

He also said that dissent on campus is important and necessary, but people must become educated on a subject before that can happen.

There is also a [writing competition](#) to coincide with the conference with a \$500 first-place prize, \$300 second-place prize, and \$200 second-place price. Participants must be enrolled in a program of higher education leading to a post-baccalaureate degree.



[U of Missouri Selects Nureva Span System](#)

By JEAN DIMEO

The University of Missouri college of education has selected the Nureva Span visual collaboration system and HDL300 audio conferencing system for a new collaboration space where faculty members can explore ways to incorporate technology into their coursework and where they can model hands-on learning for their students. The space also will be used for distance collaboration with educators in remote school districts throughout Missouri.

Terms of deal were not disclosed.



MU project awarded \$1.25 million grant to improve STEM literacy in middle schools

By ALLISON CHO

GENERATED FROM NEWS BUREAU PRESS RELEASE

A team led by MU professors has received a \$1.25 million Science Education Partnership Award. The grant will fund a five-year initiative that seeks to improve STEM literacy and comprehension in Missouri middle schools.

The Science Education Partnership Award is given by the National Institutes of Health, an organization under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that aims to help scientific research that will improve or save lives. According to the NIH website, it is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world.

William Folk, a biochemistry professor at the College of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources and the School of Medicine, will lead the program with Delinda Van Garderen, professor and director of Graduate Studies in the department of special education.

“It’s an exciting project and relatively unique,” Folk said. “I don’t know of another project that is anything like this, and the reviews by experts in the field were very positive.”

Folk’s entire career has been spent in science education, mostly at the undergraduate, graduate and professional level. However, he has recently been concerned with STEM literacy in K-12 schools.

“A few years ago, I took the decisive action of forming a group of faculty and students here to try to strengthen science education in K-12 schools because there is abundant evidence that we are not doing a very good job of educating children about science,” he said.

To better STEM literacy in middle schools, a significant portion of the \$1.25 million will be used for reading materials and workshops for teachers. The first weeklong workshop will begin in summer of 2018 and participating teachers will be observed and assessed throughout the following school year. Folk estimated that the program will personally impact approximately 45 teachers and may reach many more that use the literacy materials available online.

“Our goals are to provide materials that are current and interesting that teachers can use in strengthening the literacy of students, [as well as] providing reading materials [and] exercises in writing accompanied by science inquiry activities [and] hands-on activities,” Folk said.

Another faculty member involved with the program, associate professor Amy Lannin of the College of Education, mentioned that the program’s emphasis on providing different types of readings and engagement with texts is what makes this project unique. Its method of focusing on collecting materials that will encompass a “variety of reading levels and interests” is another key feature.

“This text set approach is going to allow students to engage in not just one textbook approach, but being able to look at the way information can come about through lots of different types of text, and I think that is what’s really interesting is this intentional use of text sets,” Lannin said.

Lannin is on the leadership team for the STEM Literacy Project, another grant funded program for improving STEM literacy in schools. She is also director of the Campus Writing Program and the Missouri Writing Projects Network.

“One of the other unique things about the project itself is that it is blending what we do in science with the English language arts and we are also involving special education teachers,” Lannin said. “I find that when I am at the table with people from different disciplines like that, it definitely sparks a lot more understanding about learning and how to support students as well as teachers.”

Folk emphasized this collaboration aspect of the program as well and encourages students who would like to get involved with the program to contact him. Although having expertise in STEM may prove useful, he shared that having students who could utilize different media and make science material accessible for middle schoolers would ultimately be a big help to the team.

“It’s not just reading and writing, but it can be material that accompanies that written word,” Folk said. “I can provide the science, but we welcome students’ help to develop interesting and engaging multidimensional materials. I’m anxious to work with students to do that.”

Students and teachers who want to take part in this project can reach out to any member of the team, particularly Folk and Van Garderen, via email.



Free rides home offered for Homecoming weekend

By CAMERON LA FONTAINE

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/free-rides-home-offered-for-homecoming-weekend>

COLUMBIA - Homecoming weekend is a big deal in Columbia with thousands flocking in for festivities, including tailgating prior to the MU football game, and potentially going to downtown bars afterwards.

To ensure students and visitors get home safe, Missouri alcohol distribution company, Major Brands, is offering free vouchers for the ride sharing service, Lyft, at downtown bars on Friday night before homecoming.

Through its Safe Home After Every Occasion Social Responsibility Program, Major Brands and partners Pernod Ricard and Lyft, hope to educate people to plan ahead and secure a safe ride home before going out to consume alcohol.

"The intent is just to create a habit like you would locking your doors or turning off your lights," Major Brands sales manager Kelly Collins said. "We want you to plan ahead. So, with free rides we're offering this weekend, we hope to promote making that happen a reality."

Safe Home team members will be at several Columbia bars on Friday evening handing out Lyft vouchers. They will be at Room 38 from 4-6:30 p.m., Shiloh Bar and Grill from 6:30-8 p.m. and Fieldhouse and Willies from 9-10:30 p.m.

Once people get the voucher, they simply have to download the Lyft app on their phones and then punch in the voucher's discount code for a free ride under the "free rides" tab.

To date, through its Safe Home program, Major Brands and its partners have offered more than 65,000 safe rides home across Missouri, according to the company.

"Having a wholesale license to distribute alcohol in the state of Missouri is a privilege, so as a third generation family business in Missouri for more than 80 years, we have a personal stake in helping the lives of everyone that we serve," Collins said.

Major Brands is the largest Missouri owned and operated distributor of premium wine, spirits beer and non-alcoholic beverages, according to the company. It has offices in Columbia, St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield and Cape Girardeau.