Missouri proposes innovative corridor for Amazon headquarters

By JASMYN WILLIS

COLUMBIA - On Thursday Missouri officials officially announced its proposal to attract Amazon's second headquarters to Missouri.

Governor Eric Greitens said Missouri would love to welcome Amazon headquarters to the state. The proposal encourages Amazon to consider St. Louis or Kansas City for its second headquarters and expand across an "innovation corridor" to the other city in the future.

“Amazon is a company full of people who turn big ideas into reality,” Greitens said. “My team fully and equally supported the proposals submitted by our major metropolitan areas, Kansas City and St. Louis. We challenge Amazon to envision what it could achieve by partnering with us to unleash the combined strength of the entire state. We’d love to work with Amazon to build their new home here in Missouri.”

Amazon promises to invest $5 billion, and the headquarters would bring 50,000 jobs.

Acting Director of Missouri Department of Economic Development Rob Dixon said Missouri is the right home for Amazon headquarters because of Missouri's business environment, educated workforce, and proven track record of innovation.

“We have been working with both the Kansas City and St. Louis teams to help them be as competitive as possible to attract Amazon’s new headquarters to Missouri,” Dixon said.

The proposal points to the hyperloop to help Amazon's growth and make the innovation corridor possible. Missouri was selected as a finalist for the International Hyperloop competition. The hyperloop would connect St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City with a high-speed transportation system.
UM System President Mun Choi said he supports the proposal and that it would be beneficial for students.

"We're very excited about the governor's proposal to attract Amazon to the state of Missouri," Choi said. "The proposal is a comprehensive proposal that will improve our economic development but also provide opportunities for students and the University of Missouri to participate in outstanding careers in a place like Amazon."

Choi said the UM system could benefit from an Amazon headquarters being located in Missouri for research, computer science, international business and workplace development.

Choi said an Amazon headquarters would bring great jobs, and "there would be some great suppliers and contractors contacted because of the presence of Amazon."

When Amazon sent out a request for proposal it stated it was committed to sustainability efforts. Amazon's buildings in Seattle are sustainable and energy efficient.

Renew Missouri Executive Director James Owen said his organization said Missouri’s proposals don't include sustainable energy and Amazon will be attracted to states that do have sustainable energy.

“If Amazon is requiring innovation in sustainable energy and our state’s pitch doesn’t include that, then why would Amazon even consider this?” Owen said.

Owen said the upcoming legislative session offers lawmakers and leaders an opportunity to change the law to make it easier for businesses to purchase renewable energy as well as to give incentives to utilities to provide this for customers.

Missouri makes bid for second Amazon headquarters

By RACHAEL HEFFNER

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Missouri is making a bid to be the second home to the 12th-largest company in the world: Amazon.

A video created by MakeMoHQ2Home.com promotes the attributes of the state. The website also features a video by Gov. Eric Greitens, who challenges Amazon to think differently and plunk its second headquarters down in Missouri.

The two biggest candidates are the state's largest cities: St. Louis and Kansas City. But Columbia was also mentioned as part of the "innovation corridor."

The Hyperloop is also mentioned. It's a form of transportation that could move people across the entire state in just 25 minutes.

**If Amazon accepts the state's proposal to locate anywhere in Missouri, University of Missouri system President Mun Choi says the university is ready.** "For MU and all the system universities in Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla, it means that we are going to be participating with the state to develop the type of infrastructure that's needed to support a high tech business like Amazon," Choi said. "Obviously we need to train more computer scientists as well as those that are involved in data analytics."

Amazon says it will invest more than $5 billion dollars in construction on its second headquarters. Company officials also say the project could bring as many as 50,000 new high-paying jobs.

UM System backs Missouri Amazon HQ2 proposal

By MEGAN SANCHEZ

COLUMBIA — The Missouri Department of Economic Development said the Show-Me State is the only one to submit a proposal to Amazon for it's new headquarters on behalf of the entire state. UM System President Dr. Mun Choi said he thinks this is a good thing.
St. Louis and Kansas City submitted their own proposals as well. Choi said he thinks Columbia could be a good option for HQ2.

"To have 50,000 very highly educated, highly paid individuals working on high-tech jobs of the future in Missouri would be wonderful, because it would also attract more students, more employers and partners to this important state," he said.

ADVERTISING

Each of UM System's campuses are highlighted in Missouri's proposal to Amazon. Also highlighted in the proposal is Missouri's goal of implementing Hyperloop transportation. Choi said Amazon's arrival to Missouri is not contingent on that project.

"There are many reasons why Amazon should consider Missouri," he said. "The hyperloop is going to be an aspirational goal, but underneath that foundation is the need for the state to invest in transportation throughout the state that enables easy transport of people and goods."

There are more than 100 cities in the running for Amazon's HQ2.

Kansas City and St. Louis Hope to Lure Amazon HQ

Kansas City and Saint Louis had been engaged in a friendly battle of the cities -- each vying to be the home of the new Amazon headquarters. Now they're joining forces.

Missouri officials are proposing an innovation corridor between Kansas City and St. Louis for a new Amazon location instead of a single headquarters in one of the metropolitan areas.

Missouri is submitting the application on Thursday. Missouri Chief Operating Officer Drew Erdmann says an innovation corridor could also include Columbia, the home of the University of Missouri. Erdmann says the cities could be connected if a high-speed Hyperloop track is built in the state.
Amazon in September opened the search for a second headquarters and promised to spend more than $5 billion on the site. The Seattle-based company says it would bring up to 50,000 jobs.

Kansas City, St. Louis and many other North American cities have submitted individual applications to become Amazon's second home.

Missouri will submit its own bid for Amazon's second headquarters
State’s pitch will feature Hyperloop route with stop in Columbia
By: Jacob Kirn

The state of Missouri will submit its own bid for Amazon's second headquarters, a proposal that will showcase both St. Louis and Kansas City and advocate connecting them via a 240-mile system of futuristic tube transportation.

St. Louis and Kansas City are submitting their own bids for the $5 billion headquarters, with its promise of 50,000 jobs. The deadline to submit bids is Thursday.

"There may be a creative approach whereby Amazon thinks big and bold, so we as a state think big and bold and challenge them to go beyond the boundaries of" the company's request for proposals, said Drew Erdmann, Gov. Eric Greitens' COO.

Erdmann said Amazon.com Inc. (Nasdaq: AMZN) has signaled its willingness to accept the state's bid, though its RFP made no mention of such a proposal.

"The Amazon team was of course not able to judge one way or the other whether it is a good idea, but they're willing to consider it and encouraged us to do so," Erdmann told the St. Louis Business Journal.

Erdmann said the proposal would feature Hyperloop One, a Los Angeles-based private company with a mission of transforming transportation through its ultra-fast Hyperloop system. He said technological changes over the next decade or two could allow for an
"innovation corridor" between the two cities, and include a stop in Columbia, home of the University of Missouri's flagship campus.

Hyperloop One in September selected 10 routes as having the most potential, and the St. Louis-Kansas City proposal was not among them.

But Patrick McKenna, director of the Missouri Department of Transportation, said Wednesday, "Officials at Hyperloop One have referred to the route as one of the best they've ever seen." He said last month that the route can still be upgraded to a "winner."

CAREER & WORKPLACE

A coalition comprised of the St. Louis Regional Chamber, KC Tech Council, University of Missouri System, Missouri Innovation Center and MoDOT is looking to raise as much as $1.5 million in private funds to pay for a feasibility study for the statewide route.

Hyperloop One CEO Rob Lloyd was featured in a Department of Economic Development video released Thursday. He said, in part, "We stand ready to work with you to get this feasibility study going with the support of both the public and private sectors. So let's move Missouri to the top of the list in terms of the world's first Hyperloop One routes."

On a call with reporters Wednesday, state officials refused to provide any details about possible tax incentives for Amazon, saying state law forbids it because negotiations are ongoing. Other cities and states across the U.S. have passed subsidy packages for the tech giant, making some figures public.

Few details about St. Louis' bid have been released, including anything about local incentives. The effort is being led by the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, which is funded by St. Louis County and the city of St. Louis.

Clayco, CRG, Forum Studio, Rodgers Townsend, KAI Design & Build and HOK are helping to compile the bid.

Missouri submits state proposal for Amazon headquarters that includes Columbia

Story references UM System News Release: UM System Strongly Supports State of Missouri’s Amazon Proposal
Missouri officials are throwing competitors for a loop in the battle for the location of Amazon’s second headquarters.

Rather than limiting the potential location to the Kansas City or St. Louis metro areas, state officials are asking Amazon to consider building a headquarters in an “innovation corridor” across the state by submitting a third proposal for the state of Missouri.

The state has asked Amazon to select either Kansas City or St. Louis as a starting point, and to consider the possibilities that advances in technology and communication could bring to Missouri over the next five to 20 years, said Drew Erdmann, Missouri’s chief operating officer. This would allow “instead of a concentrated headquarters campus in one city, actually having a more dispersed headquarters spread over an entire innovation corridor, across the center of our state,” he said.

“It’s a bold idea, it’s a challenging idea,” Erdmann said. “In essence, what Missouri is doing is, it’s asking Amazon to think more boldly than even their original proposal.”

The corridor would run along Interstate 70 to include Kansas City, Columbia and St. Louis. State officials discussed how receiving a Hyperloop One network could make Missouri a possibility for the online tech giant.

Missouri was chosen as a finalist for the Hyperloop One Global Challenge, but was not one of the 10 to make it to the next round of the competition announced last month. The Missouri Hyperloop Coalition is now working to move the state forward in the process by conducting a privately-funded feasibility study, according to Patrick McKenna, director of the Missouri Department of Transportation. McKenna said that the state’s continued work on the project has received strong support from Hyperloop.

Hyperloop One CEO Rob Lloyd endorsed Missouri’s plan in a video posted today. Gov. Eric Greitens also promoted the state’s efforts.

“We stand ready to work with (Missouri) to get this feasibility study going,” Lloyd said in the video. “Let’s move Missouri to the top of the list in terms of the world’s first Hyperloop One routes.”

The proposed Missouri Hyperloop route from St. Louis to Kansas City would allow passengers to complete a 248-mile route in 31 minutes at the speed of 671 mph, instead of an almost four-hour drive. Passengers could get to either city from Columbia in approximately 12 minutes, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Amazon is looking for a city with direct access to mass transit, an international airport within a 45-minute distance, an educated labor pool, access to K-12 and higher education programs with computer science curriculum, good quality of life and the potential for a thriving environment over the next five to 20 years.
With a 248-mile radius across the state and access to quick transportation, Erdmann said Missouri would be able to offer a labor force of about 3 million. It would also draw talent from universities like MU and Washington University in St. Louis to compete for the 50,000 expected full-time jobs.

UM System President Mun Choi said in a news release that the university system supports the state’s proposal and is “dedicated to preparing future leaders who can meet Amazon’s unique workforce needs.”

While none of the state officials were willing to discuss tax incentives due to active negotiations with the tech giant, Joel Walters, director of the Missouri Department of Revenue, explained that Missouri’s business environment is stable and has a “relatively low tax burden.” Missouri’s business-friendly environment will “go from good to great” in the next five to 20 years, Walters said.

“This transformative concept really should send a loud signal to the entire world that Missouri is serious about innovation, and that we truly do think in bold and imaginative ways,” said Rob Dixon, acting director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Because Missouri’s third proposal did not meet the guidelines outlined in Amazon’s request for proposal, state officials spoke with Amazon about pursuing an option beyond the company’s formal requirements, said Erdmann. Originally, Amazon asked for one proposal from each qualifying city.

“They were absolutely willing to consider it, and encouraged us to do so,” Erdmann said. “To the best of our knowledge, we haven’t heard of any other states pursuing something like this.”
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri officials were submitting a bid Thursday for Amazon's second headquarters that would involve an innovation corridor between Kansas City and St. Louis rather than a single location in one of the state's major metropolitan areas.

That proposal is in addition to individual applications submitted by Kansas City and St. Louis, two of a number of North American metropolitan areas vying to become the company's second home. Amazon in September opened the search for a second headquarters and promised to spend more than $5 billion on the site. The Seattle-based company says it would bring up to 50,000 jobs.

Missouri Chief Operating Officer Drew Erdmann said the state's bid could be aided if it succeeds in landing a high-speed Hyperloop track connecting the cities. The technology comprises a tubular track through which a train-like pod carrying passengers or cargo travels at high speeds, potentially transporting passengers the 240-mile distance between Kansas City and St. Louis in 25 minutes.

"We equally support both of our cities," Erdmann said. "Kansas City and St. Louis each could be a great home, and what we proposed to Amazon is no matter what, choose a Missouri city and make that your starting point."

Erdmann said Amazon gave Missouri officials the go-ahead to submit the application, although he said the company had asked for only one bid per metropolitan area.

Erdmann said an innovation corridor could include Columbia, the home of the University of Missouri. The expanded area would provide a labor force of close to 3 million people, he said, and could offer employees the option to live in rural, urban or college-town cities.

A Hyperloop track to connect the cities is not guaranteed, although Missouri this month re-emerged as a potential location despite not earning a spot last month in a top 10 list of possible future routes for the mode of transportation. A public-private coalition has formed to reconsider a route in Missouri. The coalition aims to conduct a feasibility study of a route linking Kansas City, Columbia and St. Louis along the Interstate 70 corridor.

The CEO of Los Angeles-based Hyperloop One, the company working to commercialize Hyperloop transportation, endorsed the coalition in a video included with Missouri's application to Amazon.

Department of Economic Development spokeswoman Maggie Kost declined to say whether the state is offering economic incentives to Amazon and if so, how much. She cited a nondisclosure agreement signed with Amazon.
By most accounts, the Kansas City Area Development Council made the Kansas City look welcoming and promising with an expansive proposal Thursday to attract Amazon’s second headquarters campus.

Aside from a lengthy list of prepared statements from local leaders, the KCADC kept details of the proposal secret, although some talk about possible sites included in the bid did surface.

The proposal landed in Amazon’s hands as the company now weighs Kansas City with dozens of other cities that hope to win Amazon HQ2’s 50,000 jobs and $5 billion investment. The company’s decision is expected next year.

The KCADC said the project is competitive, which requires keeping the details closely held. Those connected to the Amazon effort have signed nondisclosure agreements that forbid them from speaking publicly.

Still, some details started to surface on Thursday. In keeping with the bi-state nature of Kansas City’s proposal, a number of sites on both sides of the state line were offered up.

Independence Mayor Eileen Weir confirmed that a 100-acre undeveloped tract along the north side of Interstate 70 and Little Blue Parkway was included in the KCADC proposal.

“It really landed on that site because of the transportation available, being near the highway,” Weir said. “There was rail access.”

Kansas City, Kan., was said to have attractive sites in the proposal, both on the western and central areas of the city.

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK declined to identify the precise properties.
“We did submit sites, multiple sites in KCK where we would to have it,” Holland said. “It would be a big win for the metro area.”

Other areas said to be in the running include the Riverfront and downtown Kansas City, Olathe, Platte and Clay counties and Lee’s Summit.

Weir said she understood that Amazon was likely keen on settling on one location, wherever the company decides to go, rather than splitting HQ2 among several locations within one metro.

Missouri, however, decided to take its chances with a bid of its own that would encourage Amazon to contemplate locating in both Kansas City and St. Louis.

“What we are challenging Amazon to consider is, imagine the power if you can combine both cities into one plan for developing HQ2,” said Drew Erdmann, chief operating officer in Gov. Eric Greitens’ office, in an interview with The Star.

“And we believe this is a bold transformative vision for the state and for the region and suits the ambitions of Amazon.”

The result, Erdmann believes, in a “Innovation Corridor” along Interstate 70 that would include Columbia and the University of Missouri in between both cities.

Erdmann also suggested both cities might be linked up some day by a Hyperloop connection — a vacuum train that transports passengers at ultra-high speeds — that could give Missouri’s idea additional appeal.

Missouri’s proposal was separate from Kansas City’s and St. Louis’ offers.

No details emerged about what type of incentives local and state lawmakers might offer Amazon. Whatever combination is under consideration, the price tag figures to be substantial.

New Jersey said earlier this week that it was ready to offer upwards of $7 billion in incentives to Amazon. Maryland may be in the same company; a headline in the Baltimore Sun said Maryland’s incentive packages could be “measured in the billions of dollars.”

Both Kansas and Missouri have pursued extraordinary incentive packages aimed at landing businesses in the past, and they sounded on Thursday like they were prepared to do it again for Amazon.
“We have been preparing for an opportunity like Amazon’s HQ2 for a generation,” Kansas Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer said in a written statement.

“We want to create with Amazon the most prosperous and livable region in North America, right here in the heart of it. The Kansas City region recognizes the importance of redefining the workforce of the future through top notch education. We are building Amazon’s next generation of pioneers to be both skilled and empowered and we’re excited to redefine the next generation of talent with Amazon.”

Amazon has kept quiet about its next steps. It’s not sure yet whether it will make a short list of cities it likes, as is often the case with corporate location decisions, and follow up with site visits.

But it’s fair to say it will have plenty of choices to sort through. Amazon said any city hoping to get HQ2 had to start with at least 1 million people. That leaves roughly 50 metro areas that qualify on that basis alone.

Many cities that size or higher expressed interest in HQ2, few didn’t. Little Rock, Ark., took out a full-page advertisement in the Washington Post, which Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns, saying it was not interested in soliciting HQ2.

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed that he felt no need to offer Amazon a penny of incentives.

MU announces plans to improve MU Alert and emergency responses

By KATHERINE WHITE

**MU administrators will be taking steps to improve the university’s response to emergencies on campus, Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward announced in an email Thursday evening. This comes after students expressed frustration during a search for a woman with a gun on campus Wednesday.**

Immediate actions include expanding MU Alert, the emergency mass notification system, to allow parents to sign up for text message and email alerts. The university will also promote the
The email also listed long-term actions the university will take, which include:

- Meeting with campus groups to gather more feedback to determine what other steps should be taken. These groups include the Campus Safety Committee, Vice Chancellor’s Student Advisory Group, Parents Leadership Council, Faculty Council, Staff Advisory Council, Missouri Students Association and Graduate Professional Council.
- Developing a policy on how to handle class attendance during emergencies.
- Evaluating and improving training for faculty, staff and students, which will include information on planning for an emergency and what campus security measures exist.
- Planning additional training for building coordinators and those answering phones during and after an incident.
- Conducting training and emergency drills for each building on campus.
- Educating those responsible for the training on the best practices.

Ward and MU Operations are responsible for emergency procedures on campus, but there will be multiple groups of people that will assist in taking these actions, MU Spokesman Christian Basi said.

Basi said the university encourages students, faculty and staff to review the training on the MU Alert website. Basi also recommended the free emergency response training offered by MUPD. The class is offered at least once a semester and by request for MU-affiliated groups, according to MUPD’s website.

“In the training we cover how individuals can make decisions that is best for their situation,” Basi said. “One decision that someone should make on one side of campus is not the same as what one should make on the other side of campus.”

Basi said administrators are also considering the positive feedback they received. One such action they received a positive response to was the phone bank used during and after the threat, Basi said.

The phone bank was made up of MU employees from across campus. The bank was set up in less than 23 minutes and answered calls from anyone who had concerns about the threat. Basi said the phone bank has been part of MU’s emergency plan for 15 years, but was not needed until Wednesday, when it was used for the first time.
“In addition to the multiple employees and first responders who were working on this situation and having to make decisions within seconds, we had a couple of other really good things happen yesterday,” Basi said. “(The phone bank) was very successful. We had several people call in and it was able to ease their concerns.”

Members of the MU Faculty Council expressed concern with the lack of direction during the threat at their meeting Thursday. The meeting took place shortly before Ward’s email about future steps was sent.

Faculty Council Chairman William Wiebold noted there was “lots of confusion and uncertainty” regarding what to do. Other members mentioned confusion about if their buildings should be locked and whether teachers should continue teaching during an emergency.

“It is shocking to me that not all faculty have to go through some kind of active threat training module,” said council member John Middleton, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Leah Rosenberg, a religious studies professor standing in for a council member, said she was teaching when the first threat alert was sent. She said she experienced mixed feelings about whether to stay with students after her class had ended.

“We absolutely need something in place,” Rosenberg said. “It’s just an outrage that we don’t know the basic things to do.”

Basi said there is no strict policy on whether teachers should continue to teach during active threats because the situations are dynamic and differ across campus.

“These are not black and white situations, so those were individual decisions that were made on their level of safety in that moment in that location,” Basi said. “That is what we want: Make a decision that will keep you as safe as possible. In many locations, we had professors who said, ‘We are in a safe location, so we will keep teaching.’”

In addition to Twitter, email, text message and website alerts, those on campus were also notified through a desktop alert and beacon alarms in every building, Basi said. He said those who didn’t receive alerts should contact the Department of Information Technology to investigate the problem.

Anyone who wants to sign up for text message alerts can text “Follow MUalert” to 40404, which now allows those without Internet access to read the updates, according to the email.
University leaders review MU Alert protocol

By ASHELY STROHMIER


COLUMBIA, Mo. - **On Thursday, administrators and the MU faculty council went over ways to improve communication during emergency situations on Mizzou's campus.**

Discussions happened after some buildings were put on lockdown Wednesday. An alert was sent out notifying students and staff about an investigation involving a woman with a gun on campus.

Leaders said at Thursday's faculty council meeting there are a lot of lessons to be learned from the alert sent out. Not only was there a lot of confusion during the ordeal, but some people said they didn't know if the alert was real, or a drill.

Members of the council said the lockdown protocol needs to be reviewed again because the first alert posted did not have much details as to what was going on.

On Thursday, Vice Chancellor of Operations, Gary Ward, sent a letter to the Mizzou community stating that leaders will meet with various groups to develop a policy to handle class attendance in emergency situations and improve training to avoid future confusion.

Mizzou's twitter page tweeted out a message saying, "Anyone can immediately text "Follow MUalert" to 40404 to get texts of MU alerts twitter message without having a twitter account to get updates."
Students speak out about professors' response to active threat

By ADAM DUXTER


COLUMBIA - Students were speaking out in frustration Thursday about how professors handled Wednesday's active threat on the MU campus.

MU Alert first announced the active threat at 11:23 a.m. Wednesday afternoon, while many students were in class.

Some students said they quickly realized their professors were not adequately trained on how to respond.

"Somebody noticed that the doors don't lock in our classroom, and that's when my professor said I'm going to be honest, I don't know what to do here," said Nina Cavender, an MU senior.

Cavender, like many MU students, only had a vague understanding of the events transpiring on campus. When she found out her professor was not certain, she said, it made her more afraid.

"It was very scary to hear her say that. As a future educator myself, I think it's important that we all know the procedure," she said.

She said her professor eventually decided not to do anything.

"Our professor said that since class was almost over, we should stay and wait. People stayed, but you could tell people were rearing to go. Nobody wanted to be there," Cavender said.

Current events only made the situation more scary, she said.
"Based on what's happened in the news lately, all I felt was kind of like, 'is this going to be another statistic?'" she said.

Other students, like sophomore Makenzie Bagley, felt frustrated at their teacher's lack of preparation.

Bagley, who works for the department of student life at MU, has gone through active threat training before.

According to MU spokesman Christian Basi, active threat training is not currently mandatory for faculty.

"We are reviewing how we can better market that. We are trying to get people more aware of the opportunities for that training. It's out there at the click of the button," Basi said.

Bagley said it's sad that she, as a 19-year-old student, knows more about it than some professors.

"Our professor at first stopped for a few minutes to check where the threat was. Once he saw the threat was a few blocks away, he decided to disregard everything and continue lecturing," she said.

Bagley said her training has taught her it's never smart to ignore a threat. She said her professor eventually ended class early, not because of the threat, but because students were distracted.

"Our professor was actually frustrated with us that we weren't paying attention to the lecture. He said we would finish the lecture tomorrow because no one was going to pay attention anyways," she said.

Vice Chancellor of Operations Gary L. Ward said in an email that operations will be expanding its emergency mass notification system to allow parents and others to sign up for MU Alert text messages and emails. In addition, anyone can immediately text the message "Follow MUalert" to 40404 to receive texts of MU Alert Twitter messages without having a Twitter account, according to the email.

Operations will meet with members of various campus groups in the weeks and months ahead in order to develop a policy on handling class attendance during emergency situations, gather additional feedback to determine what other actions might be necessary, and plan a course of action on conducting additional training.
University leaders review MU Alert protocol

By ASHELY STROHMIER


COLUMBIA, Mo. - On Thursday, administrators and the MU faculty council went over ways to improve communication during emergency situations on Mizzou's campus.

Discussions happened after some buildings were put on lockdown Wednesday. An alert was sent out notifying students and staff about an investigation involving a woman with a gun on campus.

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MU study shows benefits of volunteering for senior adults

By HANNIBAL COURIER-POST STAFF

Generated from News Bureau Press Release

Older adults worried about losing their cognitive functions could consider volunteering as a potential boost, according to a University of Missouri researcher.

Older adults worried about losing their cognitive functions could consider volunteering as a potential boost, according to a University of Missouri researcher. While volunteering and its associations with physical health are well known, less has been known about its associations with mental functioning. Now, Christine Proulx, an associate professor in the Human Development and Family Science Department in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences, has identified a link between volunteering and higher levels of cognitive functioning in older adults.

“Cognitive functions, such as memory, working memory and processing are essential for living an independent life,” Proulx said. “They’re the tools and methods the brain uses to process information. It’s the brain’s working memory and processing capacity that benefit the most from volunteering.”
Processing is how fast the mind is able to take in and store information. Working memory, which is different from long-term memory, is what the brain needs to temporarily store and manage information.

For this study, Proulx used national data from the Health and Retirement Study, which has been collected for the past 25 years. Looking at results from more than 11,000 adults aged 51 and over, Proulx found significant associations between cognitive function and volunteering among all participants, regardless of the amount of time volunteering. However, adults with lower levels of education and women seemed to benefit the most from volunteering.

Tree farm saplings being transplanted

“Prior research has shown that older adults with lower levels of education are at greater risk of cognitive decline,” Proulx said. “Engaging in volunteering might compensate for some of that risk.”

Proulx suggests that volunteering benefits people because it stimulates the brain. When volunteering an individual must follow directions, solve problems and be active, all of which engage the mind’s working memory and processing.

“Longitudinal Associations Between Formal Volunteering and Cognitive Functioning” was recently published in *The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. The Health and Retirement Study is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Social Security Administration.

Two MU researchers selected as fellows for community health program

*Story generated by MU News Bureau release: [MU awarded competitive grant to improve community health, reduce violence](https://news.missouri.edu/releases/mu-awarded-competitive-grant-to-improve-community-health-reduce-violence)*

By KAELEN ADIX

**MU School of Social Work researchers Clark Peters and Kelli Canada were recently chosen for the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders fellowship.**

The IRL project is a national program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation of 15 teams that use applied research to advance health and equity.
Each team consists of two researchers and one community leader and will focus on factors that influence health, such as income, education and faith.

Peters, Canada and Rachel Jones, the assistant director of youth specialty services at Burrell Behavioral Health, were given a $350,000 grant to support their research. The team will focus on youth development approaches to promote health and prevent violence as their three-year project.

Associate Professor Peters has previously worked with helping vulnerable youth successfully become adults. Assistant Professor Canada has worked with serving the mental health needs of vulnerable populations.

"What’s exciting about this opportunity is that we are making research relevant to community health needs," Canada said in a news release. "Working directly with Rachel Jones and community partners, we will be able to improve the translation of research and get results directly to the people."

Mizzou Study Finds Communication is Key to Handling Miscarriages

Generated from News Bureau press release: Specialized communication narratives help couples deal with miscarriage, MU study finds

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=44e6c002-be29-4f2a-9621-2a574d41bc4d

Media Views: Gervino expected to fill in for ousted MU announcer Link

By: Dan Caesar
“Mizzou Madness” is set for Saturday afternoon, when the University of Missouri’s men’s and women’s basketball teams scrimmage and conduct contests in an effort to drum up interest for the soon-to-begin season.

But the Tigers made even bigger waves Thursday when it was announced that longtime Mizzou radio basketball analyst Gary Link has been fired after 21 seasons on the job. The move comes just three days before MU is to face Kansas in a much-ballyhooed charity game in Kansas City.

Link could not be reached for comment, and Mizzou officials did not give a reason for the removal of a man who has had ties to the school for more than 4½ decades and was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame (which is not affiliated with the school) in 2014.

“Gary Link has been relieved of his duties with Mizzou Athletics, however, it would be inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter,” department spokesman Nick Joos said in a statement. “The athletic department will work with Mizzou Sports Properties to identify a replacement on our radio broadcasts moving forward.”

That replacement is expected to be hired before the Tigers start the regular season, on Nov. 10 when they entertain Iowa State. Chris Gervino, the sidelines reporter on MU football broadcasts who also has done basketball, is to be the analyst Sunday afternoon as he works alongside play-by-play announcer Mike Kelly.

Kelly could not be reached for comment, but talked about his relationship with Link in a story that Vox Magazine did in 2014.

“We’ve been very fortunate to work together for so long and develop a mutual respect,” Kelly told the magazine, which is produced by MU’s School of Journalism. “I take care of the who, what, when and where. Gary tells you the why. Gary is as good as anyone. We have a blast on the air.”

Link was a standout basketball player at Lindbergh High, gaining All-State status in 1970 before going to Mizzou. He averaged 10.5 points per game for the Tigers, including 17.3 in his senior season.

Later, he became a fixture on campus. In addition to his on-air duties, he has served as a special assistant to the director of athletics and also worked on the Tiger Scholarship Fund.

The removal of Link came as a big surprise to Mark Dorsey, general manager of KTRS (550 AM) — the St. Louis affiliate for Mizzou’s basketball and football broadcasts.

“I think Gary was great,” Dorsey said. “I think he (brought) a lot of enthusiasm to the broadcasts. He broke things down for the listeners. He was super for us to work with. I thought he was ‘Mr. Mizzou’ down there” in Columbia.

Link touched on his affinity to the school in the Vox Magazine story.
“What makes this place so special is the students,” he said. “It’s not the bricks and mortar. It’s not Jesse Hall. It’s not the columns. You know, it’s the wonderful students. The friendships that I made while playing basketball at MU are lifetime friendships. They’re my closest friends, without a doubt, and that’s what makes it special. It keeps me young.”

The timing of the firing of Link is similar to Kellen Winslow’s departure from MU’s football broadcast booth. He left just nine days before the 1995 season began. But the difference is that Winslow departed on his own. He was replaced by John Kadlec — who despite being 65 at the time stayed in the analyst’s role for 16 seasons. Link also is 65.

Link was thought so highly of when Mike Alden was Mizzou’s athletics director that in 2006, Link served as a special assistant and met with embattled basketball coach Quin Snyder. It was “a talk that prompted the coach’s resignation,” the Post-Dispatch reported.

Later, Link was part of a committee that was commissioned to come up with a list of candidates to replace Snyder.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Mizzou drops radio analyst Gary Link; search for successor underway

By Aaron Reiss

Longtime Missouri basketball radio color commentator Gary Link “has been relieved of his duties with Mizzou athletics,” the department announced Thursday.

The stunning move comes on the doorstep of the season, and just three days before the Tigers are to play Kansas in a highly anticipated charity game at sold-out Sprint Center in Kansas City.

The department statement said it “would be inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter.” Link was a radio broadcaster at MU since 1996. Before that, he played for Missouri from 1970-74.

One former Mizzou basketball player was dismayed by the news about Link.

“The first person I saw almost every morning during my 5 years at Mizzou was Linker,” Laurence Bowers, a MU forward from 2008-12, wrote to The Star in a text message. “He was always upbeat and wished me a great day ahead. I appreciated that to start my day. “I’m extremely saddened by this as Gary is a dear friend of mine, and a guy that we all know LOVED his Alma Mater.”
Nick Joos, Mizzou executive associate athletics director, said the search for Link’s replacement is just beginning. Joos also said Link stopped working for the Tiger Scholarship Fund “about a year ago.” The Tiger Scholarship Fund changed leadership in December 2016, when Ryan Alpert became the Senior Associate Athletics Director for Development.

Alpert came to MU just 10 months earlier, from the University of Memphis, where he had a similar role.

Chris Gervino, sports director at KOMU-TV in Columbia who also is the Tiger Radio Network’s sideline reporter, told The Star that he will replace Link for Sunday’s basketball game.

Here is the full statement from the Mizzou athletic department:
“Gary Link has been relieved of his duties with Mizzou Athletics, however, it would be inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter.
“The athletic department is working with Mizzou Sports Properties to identify a replacement for our radio broadcasts moving forward.”

As a player for the Tigers, Link was part of the first two Missouri teams to win 20 or more games. He played on Norm Stewart-coached teams that won three straight Big Eight Holiday Tournament titles, serving as a co-captain his senior year.

Link overlapped one season, 1973-74, with former MU men’s basketball coach Kim Anderson, who was fired from his job after last season and now coaches at Pittsburg State.

A member of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame since 2014, Link was also a special assistant to the athletic director. When then-athletic director Mike Alden decided to fire men’s basketball coach Quin Snyder in 2006, Alden directed Link to deliver the news to Snyder. The firing occurred before the end of the season, and Melvin Watkins served as interim coach.

Link played at Lindbergh High in St. Louis.
That’s about to change.

**Link will no longer be a part of the Mizzou Radio Network’s basketball broadcasts. Missouri spokesperson Nick Joos confirmed Thursday.**

“Gary Link has been relieved of his duties with Mizzou Athletics, however, it would be inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter,” Joos said. “The athletic department will work with Mizzou Sports Properties to identify a replacement for Gary on our radio broadcasts.”

Link’s departure comes just three days before the Tigers are scheduled to unofficially start one of their most anticipated seasons in recent memory. Missouri will play Kansas on Sunday at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. As of now, there are no plans for the game to be televised, but it will be broadcast over the Mizzou Radio Network.

Link played for the Tigers under Norm Stewart from 1970-74 and was co-captain of the team his senior year. Missouri won at least 20 games during his sophomore and junior seasons with the team, the first time in school history it did so in back-to-back seasons.

The Missouri alum joined the Tigers’ radio team alongside play-by-play commentator Mike Kelly in 1996. In 2006, Mike Alden — then the athletic director — famously gave Link the task of informing basketball coach Quin Snyder that he was fired.

Link, who also worked as a special assistant to the athletic director under Alden, was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame for his work in media in 2014.

**Mizzou lets go of long-time basketball radio analyst**

By ASHLEY ZAVALA
COLUMBIA — **Mizzou Athletics confirmed long-time men's basketball color commentator Gary Link is no longer an employee of the university.**

Link's job title on Mizzou's staff directory was 'Former Special Assistant to the Athletic Director.' He was no longer seen on the directory as of Thursday afternoon.

"Gary Link has been relieved of his duties with Mizzou Athletics, however, it would be inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter," said Mizzou Athletics spokesman, Nick Joos, in a statement Thursday.

Link's departure comes just days before the 'Showdown for Relief' exhibition basketball game between MU and KU and less than two weeks before the start of the season. For two decades, Link was a part of the basketball radio broadcasts.

"The athletic department will work with Mizzou Sports Properties to identify a replacement for Gary on our radio broadcasts," Joos said.


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**Mizzou athletics parts ways with longtime radio analyst**

**By EMILY HANNEMANN**

COLUMBIA - **MU has parted ways with longtime basketball radio analyst Gary Link. Link had been the team's color commentator for more than 20 years.**

“Gary Link has been relieved of his duties with Mizzou Athletics, however, it would be inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter,” department spokesperson Nick Joos said in a statement released Thursday. “The athletic department will work with Mizzou Sports Properties to identify a replacement for Gary on our radio broadcasts.”
The news comes just days before MU is scheduled to play a sold-out game against the University of Kansas on Sunday at the Sprint Center.

Prior to serving the team as color commentator, Link had played for the Tigers from 1970-1974. He was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Commentary: Mizzou Lures Best and Brightest to Campus


MU celebrates 106th homecoming with a weekend of events

By ALLYSON WALLENTA

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri kicked off its 106th Homecoming Weekend on Friday. It’s a weekend full of tailgates, talent and tradition.

This year’s theme is Rhythm of the Roar, but it’s not really all about music.
“To us, it was really more about how being the flagship university of Missouri leads us to have a very large and diverse student body,” Homecoming Tri-Director Cole Edwards said. “While all of us come from different backgrounds, we have different experiences and interests and majors and the like, we all come together with our own individual spirit to form one roar of Mizzou.”

To start the celebrations, House Decorations are displayed throughout Greek Town from 6-9 p.m. on Friday night.

Different Greek pairings have decorated boards and put together a skit that reflect different MU traditions or events. Some of the themes include Kissing the 50 and the influenza outbreak of 1918 which cancelled homecoming that year.

Taste of Columbia will also be happening during House Decorations. A number of food trucks and vendors will be parked around Greek Town while families, students and staff visit the different houses.

Also on Friday night, starting at 8:30 p.m. is the Spirit Rally. People are invited to join MU’s spirit quad, marching band and Truman the Tiger as they celebrate the weekend on Tiger Plaza.

Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. begins the Homecoming Parade. School organizations, Greek pairings, different sport teams and the Chancellor will all be walking in this year’s parade.

“Hopefully everyone comes prepared with their coffee,” Edwards said. This year’s parade is one of the earliest.

With the recent construction downtown, the parade’s path has been slightly adjusted from previous years.

“We’re lining up on a little bit of different streets this year just to work around the construction,” Homecoming Tri-Director Baylee Francka said. “We have to shorten it a little bit in areas and lengthen it in others to get everyone fitted in.”

At 11 a.m. Mizzou football takes on the Idaho Vandals. The last time MU played the Vandals was in 1963.

During the half time, the 2017 Homecoming Royalty will be announced. One King and Queen will be crowed.

Over the past few weeks, MU students have also participated in one of the nation’s largest blood drives, painted windows of downtown stores with spirit, and taken part in multiple different talent shows.

Over 80 organizations are involved in this year’s homecoming festivities.
The University of Missouri’s Alumni Association is also hosting its second Hall of Fame, a luncheon that celebrates different individuals for their work.

“We recognize different individuals who have really given back to Mizzou and have really gone above and beyond in their dedication,” Edwards said.

This year, basketball legend, Norm Stewart, is being inducted.

“We are very proud to have the first homecoming, and as we believe it, the best. I think that just carries over to show not only as a pride point, but you can see it in the Columbia community,” said Francka.

“Everyone is on board and ready to help out with homecoming in any way possible, despite early times, staying up late, doing other things and making sacrifices in the name of Mizzou homecoming, everyone has been really happy to do it which makes it a lot of fun for all of us,” she said.

**Most hotels sold out ahead of Mizzou Homecoming**

By CAILEIGH PETERSON


COLUMBIA — For those looking for a place to stay ahead of Mizzou Homecoming on Saturday, October 21, it may be a challenge to find a hotel room.
The Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center had a few open rooms available Thursday but as of Friday morning, they're completely booked.

Some hotels like The Drury Inn, The Broadway and Hampton Inn Stadium said they were sold out for Mizzou Homecoming as early as Monday.

ADVERTISING

Stoney Creek Hotel's General Manager Heather Hargrove said it's not unusual for guests to make reservations for homecoming far in advance.

"Reservations typically come about a year in advance because you can guarantee with the history and tradition of Mizzou Homecoming it's popular no matter what is going on," Hargrove said.

Hargrove also said there typically is not a hike in room rates ahead of the celebrations.

"I don't think you see too big of a jump. I know here at Stoney Creek the rates are very similar," Hargrove said.

The parade on Saturday begins at 7:30 a.m. and the Tigers will face Idaho at Faurot Field at 11 a.m.

The quiet campaign to boost the flagship campus standing

OP-ED By GEORGE KENNEDY

If you know Gary Smith and Mary Anne McCollum at all, you know their commitment to our university.

That’s why I paid attention last week when they made an impassioned plea to several hundred of us MU retirees to get involved with something called the Flagship Council. I’d heard the name, I suppose, but I didn’t really know much about it or why I should care as much as they seemed to care.

Now I know why.
The Flagship Council intends to be, and ought to be, the leading advocate for the flagship campus to the legislature and the general public. A dozen years after it was created, it’s not there yet.

The stakes are high.

When the Council was created, in 2005, the threat facing the campus was a well-financed effort to move the medical school to Kansas City. A few deep-pocketed alumni kicked in $100,000 and created a lobbying organization to fight back. Obviously, that fight was won.

Today, the threats are even more existential. Enrollment is down. Support from the legislature and the governor is weak. Misunderstanding by the public is widespread. Competition from the ambitious Missouri State University is “very serious,” in the view of the Council’s new leaders.

Those new leaders, by the way, are Mary Anne, now the Council’s part-time executive director, and alums Doug Crews and Tom Henderson, its incoming co-chairs.

We met for about an hour Wednesday to talk about the challenges they face and how they hope to achieve the Council’s three broad goals.

Those are:

- To explain the university’s benefits to the public and state and national leaders;
- To lobby the legislature and other state officers;
- To advise university administrators on issues of public policy.

So far, the leaders agreed, the Council’s pursuit of those goals “has mainly flown under the radar.” With only about 400 dues-paying members currently, visibility — to say nothing of effectiveness — can’t be assumed.

Those members receive weekly email newsletters from Mary Anne and reports from a lobbyist during legislative sessions. A small PAC supports pro-university candidates with very modest campaign contributions.

Clearly, a lot more is needed — more members, more money, more visibility. A quiet campaign is underway to increase membership, create higher levels of giving and encourage organizations as well as individuals to sign on.

Our university is in trouble. Who is going to lead it out?
New system president Mun Choi has said he intends to be the institution’s leading lobbyist. He’s off to a good start. Already, he has accompanied the governor on a trip to Korea and has begun visiting key legislators on their home turf.

In addition, the university has hired Andy Blunt’s lobbying firm to work in Jefferson City and the national 160over90 “branding” experts to help with public perceptions.

But the 300,000 living alumni (160,000 of them in-state) have yet to be heard in any effective way. With only 20 MU graduates among the 197 legislators, it’s more important than ever for advocates of the flagship campus to speak up loudly and clearly.

The Flagship Council would appear to be the logical voice of those advocates. If it is to be heard, though, it’s going to need a lot more muscle. That muscle will have to be supplied by those who share the devotion to the university I heard expressed last Saturday.

Should you want to get involved, you can find out more about the Council by visiting its website, flagshipcouncil.com.

As for me, I plan to join up.

**Retaliation for reporting hostile conduct among fears in MU climate survey**

By KATHERINE WHITE

Fear to report hostile conduct at MU and a fear of retaliation for doing so emerged as a major theme in a campus climate survey conducted last fall.

“If I say anything I will be noted as a trouble maker,” one survey respondent wrote. “So I would rather keep it to myself.”
Of the 19 percent of respondents who indicated they personally had experienced exclusionary, intimidating, offensive or hostile conduct in the past year at MU, about 12 percent reported the conduct.

Some respondents wrote that “the complaint will go nowhere.”

“The MU offices who handle complaints report to upper administration,” one respondent wrote. “Upper administration protects abusers and thus encourage a hostile work environment.”

Others said they “did nothing in fear of it being a target and/or retribution.”

“You think people who can and will be retaliated against ought to stand up in this environment? Look around and tell me how that’s worked out,” one respondent wrote.

Another respondent wrote that within the workplace, “There have been episodes of Nepotism and Gender discrimination but if you bring them up, you are retaliated against.”

More than two-thirds of respondents to the survey who reported experiencing hostile conduct at MU felt their report was not responded to appropriately.

“I do not get information back on what happened to the accused so I do not know if I am satisfied with the outcome or not,” one respondent wrote.

Among the findings of the MU survey:

- 15.3 percent of those who reported hostile conduct they experienced were satisfied with the outcome of reporting it.
- 36.1 percent of those who indicated experiencing hostile conduct did not do anything in response.
- The most common response to hostile conduct was to tell a friend, with 41.7 percent of those reporting conduct doing so.
- Avoiding the person or venue that caused the conduct was second at 39.6 percent.
- Of the 33 percent of respondents who indicated observing exclusionary or hostile conduct, 33.7 percent did not do anything; 7.5 percent reported the conduct.
- 44.1 percent of the respondents who observed hostile conduct and reported it said they felt it was not responded to appropriately; 28 percent were satisfied with the outcome of reporting it.

Survey results were released in a 578-page report on Sept. 18. Other major themes that emerged were race-related issues, hostile dynamics in the workplace and concerns for women and LGBTQ people.
Race: Common narratives included personal experiences with being called slurs, reactions to the fall 2015 protests and perceptions of “reverse racism.” Survey data showed that 39 percent of white survey respondents said they feel “very comfortable” at MU, whereas 13 percent of black respondents said the same.

Feeling undervalued: The survey found that 60 percent of faculty seriously considered leaving MU in the last year, and that faculty and staff feel more valued by students than administrators. Lack of competitive pay, unfair hiring practices and being “viewed as cheap labor” were mentioned by faculty and staff respondents.

Gender and sexuality: Gender was the most common basis for incidents of hostile conduct at MU, according to the survey. Among these inclusion concerns were a pay gap between men and women, acts of sexism and homophobia on campus, a fear of reporting sexual assault and a lack of restroom accessibility for trans spectrum respondents.

Miller to retire as dean of nursing school

By THE TRIBUNE’S STAFF

Judith Miller, dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing since 2008, will retire at the end of December, the University of Missouri said in a news release.

Miller led the school during a period of rapid growth, with enrollment increasing 400 percent, the release stated. During her nine years on campus, the school made all of its graduate degree programs available online, attracted $15 million in gifts and launched a doctor of nursing practice program. Research grants increased from $3.7 million in fiscal 2008 to $6.8 million in fiscal 2017.

Miller came to MU from Marquette University, where she was a professor in the College of Nursing, associate dean and interim dean.
Mayor continues push for Mizzou with letters to prospective students

By ASHLEY ZAVALA

COLUMBIA — Columbia Mayor Brian Treece said Thursday his office has sent more than 7,000 letters so far this fall to potential Mizzou students.

For the second year in a row, Treece is sending letters to high school seniors accepted by Mizzou. He said he's encouraging them to consider the university as their new home away from home.

"It's just that extra little touch," Treece said Thursday.

This week, Treece retweeted a handful of students who seemed grateful for the gesture.

Treece said the letter has been translated into several different languages, including Mandarin Chinese, for international students.

He said the city loves what students have to offer to the community. He noted Columbia has more than 3,000 international students and scholars.

"It really adds to the vibrancy and diversity of our community," said Treece.

"That really adds to the fabric of our community and adds to the cultural intrigue of downtown and really makes us diverse and I want to make sure we're highlighting that, protecting that and showcasing that," said Treece,
MU trying for tobacco-free campus after struggles with smoking ban

By CAMERON LA FONTAINE

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri banned smoking on campus in 2013, but after issues with compliance over the past four years, the school is trying to ban all tobacco products while finding ways to better enforce the policy.

MU received a $20,000 grant from the American Cancer Society and CVS Health Foundation in September, part of $1.2 million given to 126 colleges and universities around the country to fund tobacco-free policy implementation on the campuses.

Kevin Everett, an associate professor at MU and tobacco researcher, applied for the award.

"I thought it would be a good chance to improve on the process we have for our smoke free campus and have it be more inclusive for all tobacco products so that we might be able to reduce the harm that tobacco causes to young people," Everett said.

According to a survey by the CVS Health Foundation, 73 percent of Americans and 78 percent of college students indicated their support for policies that prohibit smoking and other tobacco use on college campuses.

"Tobacco use is the leading cause of death and disability in this country and a lot of people’s tobacco use habits while they’re in college or in high school," Everett said. "We know that having policies that prohibit tobacco use will reduce prevalence of use as well as encourage people to quit that are using tobacco."

Everett is serving as chair of the committee and said that over the next two semesters, the group will talk about ways to improve cessation, ways to improve communication about the policy, including where new signs should be put, as well as working on compliance with the policy.
Ryan Alsop, chairman of Student Affairs at MU, is one of the student representatives serving on the committee. He said that despite the smoking ban, people continue to light up all over campus, especially in areas near Strickland and Middlebush halls as well as outside of Ellis Library.

"The littering of cigarette butts makes us look terrible, especially with the tour guides walking around," Alsop said. "They even promote that we’re a smoke free campus, but it’s hard to do that when they turn the corner and look at the fountain and there’s smokers lining the wall."

Alsop said it's not only a littering issue, but also a health issue for students around campus when others are smoking.

"If we’re on university grounds and you’re smoking, you don’t know the student that’s going to walk by, you don’t know their health issues," he said. "There are a good majority of students who have asthma or at least something and they are affected by smoking."

Regarding the current smoking ban, Alsop said it hasn't worked because there is no authority behind it.

"The current policy focuses on students asking other students to stop smoking and it hasn’t been working," he said.

"Because our community has a high turnover rate (new students every year; new faculty and staff hires, etc.), educating individuals about the policy is a constant effort. We have tips for our community on how they can help us enforce the policy," MU Spokesman Christian Basi said in an email.

Basi pointed to the "compliance tips" section of the "Smoke Free Mizzou" website.

This is what it currently says about addressing a violation:

"Compliance is everyone’s business. If you see someone violating the smoking policy, please approach the person in a kind, compassionate way. You might say, "Hi, I'm Truman. MU recently became a smoke-free campus and if you must smoke, though I wish you wouldn't, you'll have to do it off university property."

If the person continues to smoke after being reminded about the policy, you're encouraged report him or her to the dean or building manager in charge of the nearest building. You may report an employee to his or her supervisor or to Human Resources."

Everett said the first step will be to get more "non-smoking" signage around campus, especially in the problem areas.

After reviewing possible steps, the committee will make written recommendations to the university for approval. Everett hopes that by Fall 2018, MU will be a 100 percent tobacco-free
campus and have improved enforcement of the policy as well as better education for students on the dangers of smoking.

"If they’re in an environment that doesn’t support tobacco use, they’re less likely to become daily users and addicted," Everett said. "Trying to educate young people on just how challenging it is to overcome an addiction to nicotine and tobacco use is a real important part of the process."

**Students use music to share their stories of bias with faculty**

By MYLES POYDRAS

During a job interview to conduct medical research at MU, Douglas Blakely, at the time a sophomore, felt that perceptions about his race interrupted the discussion.

The interviewer complimented Blakely on how well he spoke — a subtle microaggression that made Blakely keen to his interviewer’s biases, he said.

“It was one of those moments where I was like, ‘Wow, people really don’t recognize when they’re doing something offensive,’” he said. “I knew he meant no harm by it.”

Earlier this week, Blakely, 22, now an MU Health Care patient service representative, joined seven students in playing music and sharing stories with dozens of faculty and staff about how it feels to be an oppressed student on campus. The event was called CitizenshipToo, an offshoot of the Citizenship@Mizzou program that started in spring 2016 in response to the race-related fall 2015 protests.

Blakely became involved with CitizenshipToo after Stephanie Shonekan, chair of the Department of Black Studies and an ethnomusicologist in the School of Music, approached him about being a part of a program that would focus on faculty and staff learning about oppressed students’ experiences. The program emphasizes that all students should be treated as equal citizens.

The interviewer’s comments didn’t surprise Blakely, but he thinks it’s extremely important that people are aware of their biases.

“Moments like that make me want to spread awareness and have people think about the biases they walk around with,” he said.
Faculty members who attended the event, where Blakely shared his story about the interview, said the musical approach helped convey the heavy message.

Erica Lembke, who’s a professor and chair in the Department of Special Education, said she was sad that she had been unaware of issues students faced. Lembke has worked on campus since 2003, but such issues hadn’t become apparent to her until the protests in fall 2015.

“It made me feel kind of emotional about what they’ve been going through and made me feel like we should be doing more,” Lembke said. “It made me feel like we should be acting more quickly and be more responsive to these concerns.”

The personal accounts from students definitely contributed to her receiving the message, she said.

“I really enjoyed hearing it from their perspective because we can make guesses about what our students are feeling,” Lembke said, “but to hear it from them is really powerful.”

Blakely said he liked having the opportunity to share his experiences with faculty and staff directly. He felt that, in that environment, they would be more receptive and his voice would be heard. He said even if all faculty and staff don’t apply what they learned, he, at least, knows they’ll be aware of the issues.

“I really hope that by doing these citizenship sessions, they’re looking at all of their interactions they have with minorities,” Blakely said.

Shonekan emphasized how important it was that faculty and staff heard these messages not from peers but from students.

On Monday, Blakely and the seven students, who have all taken a music class with Shonekan, led discussions about MU’s values — respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence — and how their experiences related to them. After presenting each value, they posed questions to the staff and faculty.

Citizenship@Mizzou is mandatory for new undergraduate students, but CitizenshipToo is not required for MU faculty and staff. Participation is encouraged, though, Shonekan said.

She was more than satisfied with how the program ran in its second session.

“It felt even better because I think we got a sense of where we need to spend more time and where we need to kind of speed things up a bit,” Shonekan said. “I feel like we have a good sense, now, of the energy in the room.”

Lembke, chair of the Department of Special Education, said she had already begun composing an email to tell her fellow faculty that they should be at the next session Nov. 20.
“I liked how they connected our values and explored each one of those,” she said, “because I think on campus here, those are our pillars, so to break those apart a little bit and talk about them was really helpful.”

Brian Houston, chair of the Department of Communication, enjoyed the music, saying his favorite part was when the students performed the songs “What’s Going On?” by Marvin Gaye and “Imagine” by John Lennon. He said the event was informative and provided great perspective on issues oppressed students face.

“The music was fun and powerful and really impressive and kind of framed the issues in ways that would’ve been impossible if they wouldn’t have used music,” Houston said.

As Lembke did, Houston said he would let everyone in his department know they should go to the next session.

Shonekan said she thought more people attended Monday’s session than the first one Sept. 18.

“I think the people we got were here because they heard about what we did last time,” she said. “I think we’ll see new people next time as well.”

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**Federal grants will help immigrant-rich school districts train more English language instructors**

By RYAN DELANEY

When nearly half the students in a school can’t speak English, every teacher becomes a language instructor to some extent.

Recognizing that reality, federal grants will help Missouri public school districts and local universities to train more teachers to be help those students in the classroom.
Bayless School District in south St. Louis County has long been home to a large immigrant population — first Bosnians in the mid-1990s and now newer waves of refugees. But the district has struggled to find qualified English instructors.

“You’re working at Bayless, you know you’re working with immigrant families,” said University of Missouri-Columbia professor Lisa Dorner, who is a faculty member working on the project.

Bayless is one four districts that will take advantage of a $2.6 million Department of Education grant through the University of Missouri System. Webster University won a $2.7 million federal grant last month to run a similar effort with St. Louis Public Schools, Ritenour and Parkway school districts.

Nearly half of Bayless’ students don’t speak English at home, according Kelly Klocke, Bayless’ director of English language learning. And she said just over a third of Bayless students receive English language services.

Bayless has eight full-time English instructors for its roughly 1,600 total students. Finding those teachers has been difficult, Klocke said.

“There is a definite need and a shortage of them,” she said.

Right now, students with some ability to speak English generally are pulled from their regular classrooms for addition instruction. Klocke said if classroom teachers can work with students who aren’t proficient in English, then their educational experience will improve.

“Our kids will have an opportunity to access the general curriculum all day long, by being supported in their speaking and in their listening and in their reading and their writing,” she said.

Under the UM System grant, 50 teachers will earn certificates to teach English over the next five years. Webster University will train 120 more instructors. Coursework will be done online, but teachers will also receive in-person mentoring.

To fill the past two openings, the Bayless district has had to hire from outside the St. Louis area. Klocke hopes to send 10 to 12 teachers through the certificate program. She said Bayless’ faculty is interested.

In the 2016-17 school year, St. Louis Public Schools gained 700 English language learners. That brings the district’s total enrollment of non-native English speakers to 2,700 of its total of 22,500 students, according to Alla Gonzalez Del Castillo, SLPS’ English language learning director.

Carthage R-9, Columbia and Kansas City Public Schools are the other partners in the UM System program.
Spencer Gets to Speak

Amid protests outside and shouting indoors, white supremacist Richard Spencer gave his talk at the University of Florida.

NO M U MENTION

By JEREMY BAUER-WOLF

When Richard Spencer stepped out on stage at the University of Florida Thursday, it was following weeks of preparation, hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on security, and repeated condemnations by administrators and professors who said they deplored Spencer’s brand of white supremacy but were constitutionally bound to let him speak.

He was instantly met with boos -- members of the crowd attempting to shout him down.

Anxieties both among students and university leaders abounded for weeks. This was Spencer’s first event since he helped direct the deadly demonstrations in Charlottesville, Va., where white nationalists marched onto the University of Virginia campus and then the city, and one drove his car into a crowd, killing a woman.

But there were few reported scuffles and injuries in Gainesville. Spencer was able to address the crowd shortly after the scheduled 2:30 p.m. starting time. By a little after 4 p.m. Thursday, he had departed, though protesters still lingered. To those who worried about large-scale violence, or a legal dispute if Spencer had been unable to talk, there was relief on both counts.

W. Kent Fuchs, the Florida president, had urged students to stay away from the Spencer talk. He spent part of the day in a booth set up by the Chabad Jewish Student Center to encourage students to respond to Spencer’s hateful message by doing good deeds for others. At the end of the day, Fuchs tweeted a link to an article about that activity, and his take on it: "Love and good deeds always overcome hate and evil."

In a column published today in The Independent Florida Alligator, Fuchs cited the program to promote good deeds and other efforts Thursday as the ideal ways to push back against Spencer and his ideas. Fuchs praised the use of social media hashtag #TogetherUF and discussions students had about diversity and race relations. Fuchs wrote that it was important to focus on
strategies that "thwart Spencer’s movement, not just for the few hours he was on campus, but forever."

And he wrote that trying to ban him from campus (which he said wouldn't have been viable legally) or trying to prevent him from being heard are both strategies doomed to fail.

"I argue old strategies of protest, which include shutting down Spencer and chasing his followers out of town, are exactly what white supremacists need to attract attention and followers," Fuchs wrote. "For Spencer and his ilk, I believe the right strategy is to 1) shun the speaker, his followers and his events, and 2) as loud as possible, speak up with acts of inclusion and love and messages rejecting racism and white nationalism."

**Story continues.**