University of Missouri System President Mun Choi visited Kirksville on Thursday as part of a daylong tour through northeast Missouri.

The University of Missouri System is looking at partnering with Truman State University for various programs in an effort to better serve students.

University of Missouri System President Mun Choi visited Kirksville on Thursday as part of a daylong tour through northeast Missouri.

Choi’s visit included a meeting with Truman State University President Dr. Sue Thomas and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Janet Gooch.

He said both universities recognize the need for higher education institutions to work together due to reductions in state support and Thursday’s conversation centered on finding opportunities that allows the schools to work together.

“It’s a terrific university with some outstanding programs in the arts and sciences and we want to find ways to collaborate,” Choi said. “We shared some ideas about having joint programs in foreign languages, having study abroad programs that students from the University of Missouri System can participate in, and vice versa with having Truman State students participate in our study abroad programs.”

Choi said an example of that partnership could be collaborating on foreign language programs, like Russian and Mandarin, which he says are struggling due to low student participation.

“But if we were to collaborate together where we had distance learning courses that are offered and sharing of faculty members I think that could provide a lot of benefits for students who want to pursue those paths,” Choi said.

Choi also visited the University of Missouri Extension Center of Adair County, where he learned about the upcoming Livestock Symposium and programs that are offered through the center. He also praised the local Future Farmers of America and 4-H programs.
“It’s really taking our best ideas that we generate and are teaching and our research and translating it down to the community, and that’s why the extension is so important for this state,” Choi said.

Choi, who officially became the president of the University of Missouri System in March, said he has enjoyed his first several months.

“This is a state that really values education and higher education and I’m looking for every opportunity that I can to make a case, whether it’s a donor, alumni or legislator to support higher education, because I see the value of public education and the impact that it can have on the citizens of Missouri,” Choi said.

He said he’s hoping the school system can grow, become more efficient, more strategic and identify the programs they want to continue to support, while also shedding programs that aren’t as essential as they once were.

“We have some work to do. We have a very strong foundation. It’s a university system that values the three pillars of student success, research breakthroughs and effective engagement with the community,” Choi said. “There is more that we can do.”

He also said he doesn’t want the school system to lose its focus as a research institution.

“Our goal is to really become a university that provides an outstanding high-quality education that trains students to be prepared for a career in industry, government or continue their academic experience in either professional or graduate schools. We want to teach our students to more resilient, to be more of a global citizen and also think about ways they can contribute as citizens to their community and society,” Choi said. “We want to make an impact that is benefiting ultimately the citizens of Missouri.”

Mizzou provost tapped to lead the University of New Mexico

ST. LOUIS • The second-in-command at the University of Missouri-Columbia is headed off to a new gig.

Garnett Stokes was named as the next president at the University of New Mexico, the state's flagship institution, on Thursday morning.
"I won’t start there until March 1, and I have much to accomplish here before I leave,” Stokes said in a statement. “When I go, I will take with me the memories of unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life.”

Stokes was hired by former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin in February 2015. She came to Mizzou from Florida State University where she also served as an interim president and provost during difficult times, including a sports scandal.

At Mizzou, she weathered the protests on campus during 2015, worked for three different chancellors — two of which were permanent and one interim — before serving briefly as interim chancellor herself this year during a series of difficult budget decisions and layoffs.

Stokes hired replacements for various deans, many of whom stepped down or retired during her tenure at Mizzou.

“Garnett Stokes is an exemplary leader who has made positive contributions to our culture that will impact Mizzou for years to come,” Mizzou Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in a statement. “I am delighted for her personally, but I will miss the opportunity to continue to work with Dr. Stokes so closely.”

A campus spokesman said Cartwright will work with faculty and others to name an interim provost prior to Stokes departure.

MU’s Stokes selected as president at University of New Mexico

By RUDI KELLER

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Garnett Stokes appointed President of the University of New Mexico

The University of Missouri provost will be the next president of the University of New Mexico.

Garnett Stokes was selected unanimously from among five finalists during a meeting Monday of the UNM Board of Regents, the university said in a news release. She will begin the new job on March 1.
Stokes, who has been provost at MU since February 2015, on Oct. 23 went to Albuquerque for a campus visit. In the open process for selecting a president, the UNM faculty strongly backed Stokes, the news release stated. A survey filled out by 32 percent of the faculty eligible to participate showed Stokes achieved the greatest level of faculty support, the release stated.

“Dr. Stokes greatly impressed the campus community, as reflected in the resounding support the Board received for her selection,” Board of Regents’ President Rob Doughty said in the release. “She was hands down the consensus candidate. I am confident that with her passion for higher education, commitment to both student and faculty success, and experience in developing strong leadership teams, that she is the perfect fit to be president of UNM.”

UNM has had six presidents in the past decade and the university is looking for stability, according to news reports. Stokes was given a five-year contract with a yearly salary of $400,000. As provost at MU, Stokes was paid $375,000 during the year ending July 1. She is the university’s first woman president.

“I am honored to be selected as the University of New Mexico’s new President,” Stokes said in the release. “I am enthusiastic about what we can accomplish together to benefit UNM’s faculty, staff, students, and alumni.”

In a statement issued by MU, Stokes said it was a privilege to have worked at the university.

“This is a great university with a very promising future, and it is a pleasure working with the new leadership team, but I have a wonderful opportunity to serve as president of the flagship public research university in New Mexico, and yesterday I signed the contract accepting the position,” she said.

With four months to go before taking over her new duties, Stokes said she has a lot to finish.

“When I go, I will take with me the memories of unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life,” she said in the statement. “Thank you.”

Stokes has presided over the academic activities of the MU campus during a difficult period of budget cuts and program evaluations. She served as interim chancellor from May through July before the selection of Alexander Cartwright.

In his statement issued by MU, Cartwright credited Stokes with leadership on the budget, establishing the university’s Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, and has hiring nine of the 12 deans on campus.

Before coming to Columbia, Stokes, who is 61, was provost and executive vice president of Florida State University and was interim president of that university in 2014. Stokes received a doctorate in industrial and organizational psychology from the University of Georgia in 1982.
“Garnett Stokes is an exemplary leader who has made positive contributions to our culture that will impact Mizzou for years to come,” Cartwright said in his statement. “I am delighted for her personally, but I will miss the opportunity to continue to work with Dr. Stokes so closely.”

MU Provost Garnett Stokes to leave for top spot at University of New Mexico

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY 21 hrs ago (0)

The changing of the guard at MU is complete. Provost Garnett Stokes will leave to become president of the University of New Mexico starting March 1, according to a news release from UNM.

Stokes was appointed to the No. 2 spot at MU by former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin in December 2014 and began in February 2015. Her 32-month tenure makes her one of the only remaining members of campus leadership who predate the 2015 protests for minority and graduate student rights.

“The chancellor will be working with the campus leadership, including faculty leaders, to identify an interim provost,” MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in an email.

A national search will begin immediately for Stokes’ successor, and members of the search team have not yet been identified, Basi said.

All but three current deans have been appointed since Stokes came to MU. She also served as interim chancellor after Hank Foley left, from May 3 to Aug. 1 — Alexander Cartwright’s first day on the job.

Stokes’ salary was $375,000 in the 2016-2017 year, according to the annual UM System salary report. Her pay increased to $459,000 when she took the interim chancellor job.

At UNM, Stokes’ salary will be $400,000 annually, and she signed a five-year contract, according to the UNM release.

In her time at MU, Stokes has helped navigate an extraordinarily difficult budget deficit caused by deep cuts to state higher education funding and an enrollment nosedive. About $60 million has been cut from the MU budget in the past year, and hundreds of employees have been laid off.

MU created the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX, a unified place for the campus community to report instances of discrimination, with the help of Stokes’ leadership.

Stokes also appointed Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Pelema Morrice.
“Garnett is an incredible human and an outstanding leader,” Morrice wrote in an email. “The University of New Mexico is fortunate to have her as their next president.”

Stokes said in an MU statement that when she leaves, “I will take with me the memories of unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life. Thank you.”

“I am delighted for her personally, but I will miss the opportunity to continue to work with Dr. Stokes so closely,” Cartwright said in the UNM release.

Along the way, Stokes has worked at the University of Georgia as faculty member, chair of the psychology department and dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, then Florida State University as provost, executive vice president for academic affairs and temporary interim president.

Stokes, 61, graduated from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee and received her doctorate from the University of Georgia in psychology.

She was named a finalist for the University of New Mexico position Oct. 6 and traveled to the campus in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Oct. 23. The other finalists were: David Brenner, vice chancellor for health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California-San Diego; Anna Morrobel-Sosa, president of The Michaela Group, which promotes women and minority students and faculty in the studies of science and engineering; Charles Staben, president of the University of Idaho; and Kenneth Kaushansky, senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University in New York.

The University of New Mexico has an enrollment of 26,278 students, according to fall 2017 data. That is a few thousand shy of 30,870 this fall at MU. With more than a half-million residents, Albuquerque is the state’s largest city.

Stokes is the first woman to serve as president for the 128-year-old UNM, according to The Albuquerque Journal.

The 19-person search committee at UNM was made up of undergraduate and graduate students as well as the baseball coach, the director of the UNM Alumni Association, faculty members, state legislators and local business leaders, according to the UNM release and the Journal.

A faculty survey administered at UNM had 632 respondents, or 32 percent of all eligible. The results showed Stokes had “the greatest level of faculty support,” the release stated.
University of New Mexico names first female president

ALBUQUERQUE — The University of New Mexico Board of Regents made history Thursday as it named Garnett Stokes the first female president to lead the state’s flagship school.

Stokes, the provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri, was among five finalists chosen as part of a national search. She is scheduled to begin her new job in March.

The announcement was made during a special regents’ meeting that marked the culmination of a 10-month process that included surveys, public forums, listening sessions and other meetings between the finalists and members of the university community and administration.

Stokes, 61, accepted a five-year contract with a salary of $400,000.

She takes over as The University of New Mexico and other New Mexico colleges grapple with funding shortages and enrollments that have generally trended downward. The University of New Mexico also faces accusations of financial mismanagement in its athletics department.

“This is a transformational time at UNM, and Dr. Stokes brings the experience, skills and vision that UNM needs in a president to drive UNM beyond just its potential,” board of regents President Rob Doughty said in a statement.

Doughty said a survey of faculty members indicated that Stokes had the greatest level of support among the finalists.

Before being hired at Missouri, she served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Florida State University. In 2014, she served as that university’s interim president and
created a task force to address sexual and domestic violence. She also led the school’s diversity and inclusion committee on recruitment and retention while she was provost.

Stokes, a first-generation college graduate, earned a psychology degree from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee and master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Georgia.

She will take over from interim President Chaouki Abdallah, who has served in the post since Bob Frank left last year.

The other finalists included University of Idaho President Charles “Chuck” Staben, medical school deans David A. Brenner at the University of California San Diego and Kenneth Kaushansky at Stony Brook University, and Anny Morrobel-Sosa, a former administrator at City University of New York and the University of Texas at El Paso.

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**Mizzou provost named president at University of New Mexico**

By GREG DAILEY

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: [Garnett Stokes appointed President of the University of New Mexico](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/article/20210317/NEWS/110319723)

COLUMBIA — **The former interim chancellor and provost at the University of Missouri will lead a major university in the southwest.**
The University of New Mexico announced its board of regents selected Garnett Stokes as its the school's president.

She will take office March 1, 2018, the university stated.

“I am honored to be selected as the University of New Mexico’s new President,” Stokes said. “I am enthusiastic about what we can accomplish together to benefit UNM’s faculty, staff, students, and alumni.”

Stokes had been provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at Mizzou since February 2015. She served as the interim chancellor from May-August 2017 after the position was vacated by Hank Foley.

“Garnett Stokes is an exemplary leader who has made positive contributions to our culture that will impact Mizzou for years to come,” MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in the release. “I am delighted for her personally, but I will miss the opportunity to continue to work with Dr. Stokes so closely. Among her many accomplishments at Mizzou, Dr. Stokes led a very complex budgeting process this summer, established the university’s Office of Civil Rights and Title IX and has hired nine of our 12 deans. She excels at finding the right leaders for critical positions—individuals who are academically very strong but also a good fit for the institution and committed to student success. Garnett is a smart, capable leader who will be a great asset to the University of New Mexico. I wish her all the best.”

She accepted a five-year contract with a salary of $400,000 at the University of New Mexico.

Stokes released the following statement on her tenure at Mizzou.

“I have been privileged to serve Mizzou for nearly three years as provost and executive vice chancellor. This is a great university with a very promising future, and it is a pleasure working with the new leadership team, but I have a wonderful opportunity to serve as President of the flagship public research university in New Mexico, and yesterday I signed the contract accepting the position. I won’t start there until March 1, and I have much to accomplish here before I leave. When I go, I will take with me the memories of unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life. Thank you.”
MU Provost named president of the University of New Mexico

By LAUREN MAGARNINO


Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Garnett Stokes appointed President of the University of New Mexico

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri's provost and executive vice chancellor Garnett Stokes announced she accepted a position as president at the University of New Mexico.

"I have a wonderful opportunity to serve as president of the flagship public research University in New Mexico, and yesterday I signed the contract accepting the position," Stokes said in a statement.

It is a five-year contract with an annual salary of $400,000. She will take office March 1, 2018.

The announcement follows what a UNM press release says was a 10-month search by a 22-member committee of regents, faculty, students, staff and alumni. UNM Board of Regents' President Rob Doughty spearheaded it.

"Dr. Stokes greatly impressed the campus community, as reflected in the resounding support the board received for her selection," Doughty said. "She was hands down the consensus candidate."

A provost is the chief academic officer who oversees academic priorities, activities and policies.

Stokes began work at MU February 2015. She played a role in budgeting this summer, established the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, and hired nine of the University of Missouri's
12 deans. She also served as interim Chancellor from May to August following the Concerned Student 1950 protests.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright issued a statement saying he will miss the opportunity to work with Stokes.

"She excels at finding the right leaders for critical positions- individuals who are academically very strong but also a good fit for the institution and committed to student success," he said.

Cartwright said he plans to launch a national search for a new provost immediately.

"I will work with faculty and administrative leaders to identify an interim provost in the coming weeks," he said.

Stokes said she has a lot to accomplish before she leaves, and when her time is up she will walk away with gratitude.

"When I go, I will take with me the memories of unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life. Thank you," she said.

MU Provost Stokes to Leave to Become President of University of New Mexico

By RYAN FAMULINER AND BLAKE SAMMANN

University of Missouri Provost Garnett Stokes will leave the University of Missouri to become the next President of the University of New Mexico.

UNM made the announcement Thursday morning, stating that Stokes will take over the role on March 1, 2018. Stokes had been announced as one of the five finalists for the job last month.

In an email to MU faculty and staff Thursday, MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said that he expects the school to launch a national search immediately, and to identify an interim provost “in the coming weeks.”
In a written statement, Stokes said, “I have been privileged to serve Mizzou for nearly three years as provost and executive vice chancellor. This is a great university with a very promising future, and it is a pleasure working with the new leadership team, but I have a wonderful opportunity to serve as President of the flagship public research university in New Mexico, and yesterday I signed the contract accepting the position. I won’t start there until March 1, and I have much to accomplish here before I leave. When I go, I will take with me the memories of unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life. Thank you.”

Stokes left her job as Provost at Florida State University to join MU as provost in February 2015. She also served as interim chancellor at MU from May through August of this year. She is the highest-ranking MU administrator to stay in her position throughout the tumultuous period at the University that began in 2015.

In the announcement, UNM Board of Regents’ President Rob Doughty said, “We are proud and honored to announce that Garnett Stokes has accepted our offer to become UNM’s next president. This is a transformational time at UNM, and Dr. Stokes brings the experience, skills and vision that UNM needs in a president to drive UNM beyond just its potential.”

CEO of UNM Los Alamos Cynthia Rooney was on the presidential search committee and says Stokes’ accomplishments and abilities set her apart.

“We were impressed with her experiences, her skills, and her ability to work with others to develop a shared vision,” Rooney said.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright was also quoted in the UNM release, saying:

“Garnett Stokes is an exemplary leader who has made positive contributions to our culture that will impact Mizzou for years to come,” Cartwright said. “I am delighted for her personally, but I will miss the opportunity to continue to work with Dr. Stokes so closely. Among her many accomplishments at Mizzou, Dr. Stokes led a very complex budgeting process this summer, established the university’s Office of Civil Rights and Title IX and has hired nine of our 12 deans. She excels at finding the right leaders for critical positions—individuals who are academically very strong but also a good fit for the institution and committed to student success. Garnett is a smart, capable leader who will be a great asset to the University of New Mexico. I wish her all the best.”

According to Rooney, Stokes’ greatest strength is her familiarity with every level of a college campus.

“I was personally impressed by her ability to connect with various constituents, whether we were talking about the regents or the students, faculty, staff, community members,” Rooney said.
MU Provost and Exec. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs appointed as President of UNM

By MARIE BOWMAN

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Garnett Stokes appointed President of the University of New Mexico

COLUMBIA, Mo.- The MU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Garnett S. Stokes, has been appointed as the new president for the University of New Mexico (UNM).

According to an official MU press release, the UNM Board of Regents unanimously selected Dr. Stokes for the position.

Dr. Stokes will be the 22nd president of UNM.

“Garnett Stokes is an exemplary leader who has made positive contributions to our culture that will impact Mizzou for years to come,” MU Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright said. “I am delighted for her personally, but I will miss the opportunity to continue to work with Dr. Stokes so closely. Among her many accomplishments at Mizzou, Dr. Stokes led a very complex budgeting process this summer, established the university’s Office of Civil Rights and Title IX, and has hired nine of our 12 deans. She excels at finding the right leaders for critical positions—individuals who are academically very strong but also a good fit for the institution and committed to student success. Garnett is a smart, capable leader who will be a great asset to The University of New Mexico. I wish her all the best.”

“I have been privileged to serve Mizzou for nearly three years as provost and executive vice chancellor,” MU Provost Garnett Stokes said. “This is a great university with a very promising future, and it is a pleasure working with the new leadership team, but I have a wonderful opportunity to serve as President of the flagship public research university in New Mexico, and yesterday I signed the contract accepting the position. I won’t start there until March 1, and I have much to accomplish here before I leave. When I go, I will take with me the memories of
unforgettable colleagues at Mizzou who are committed to serving the needs of our campus community and the citizens of Missouri, and who have deeply enriched my life. Thank you.”

Dr. Stokes started working at MU in Feb. 2015. She also helped create the Civil Rights and Title IX Office.

MISSOURIAN

Faculty Council backs naming MU hall after Lucile Bluford

BY CAMERON R. FLATT 13 hrs ago (0)

The MU Faculty Council voted Thursday to support a resolution urging the UM System Board of Curators to name MU’s newest residence hall after Lucile Bluford, a journalist denied admission for graduate work because she was black.

The suggestion of Bluford originated from the MU Residence Halls Association, which proposed the name in July 2016. The governing board of the UM System has yet to address the proposal publicly.

As part of the unanimously approved resolution, the council recommended installing a plaque at the residence hall at 502 Kentucky Blvd., currently called New Hall. This plaque would detail Bluford’s career as an editor and activist.

The resolution suggested information that could be included on the plaque, including:

“Students come to Mizzou from diverse backgrounds. Some are the first in their families to attend college; some overcome economic barriers; still others transcend prejudice around class, race and identity. Many of our students do not fit into the traditional legacies of the University of Missouri and might feel a gulf between themselves and the names of the people commemorated on our buildings.

“In naming this residence hall in honor of Ms. Bluford today, we declare that all students have a home here, in this and every residence hall, and we recognize Ms. Bluford’s role in helping Mizzou realize that all students are integral to Mizzou’s path to greatness.”
In the resolution, the council recognized that Bluford is not an alumna, which could be a source of hesitation for the curators. However, the resolution continued, there are buildings on campus named after 19th-century explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

The resolution stated Bluford represents MU’s four core values: respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence.

Naming the hall for Bluford would also be a chance to acknowledge past mistakes and heal divisions, according to the resolution.

Bluford reported on civil rights in Missouri starting in the 1930s for Kansas City’s The Call. MU initially admitted her for graduate work in journalism based on her merits but later withdrew the admission because of her race. She was denied admission at least 11 times, according to the resolution.

Bluford instead graduated from the University of Kansas and went on to become The Call’s editor and publisher, according to previous Missourian reporting. She died in 2003.


In other discussion, council members gave their opinions on the qualities they want in the new assistant vice chancellor for civil rights and Title IX, a position currently filled by Andrea Hayes after Ellen Eardley resigned in July. These qualities included experience dealing with office discrimination, adeptness at university politics and communication skills.

MU Sustainability Manager Srinivasan Raghavan also suggested the council look at marking courses that pertain to sustainability, similar to the designation of writing intensive courses. He said that this would help MU gain recognition as a sustainable campus, which appeals to students and can help enrollment.
College apologizes for tone-deaf ‘House of Cards’ email

By Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri has apologized for referencing the Netflix show “House of Cards” while advertising an internship opportunity after allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced about the show’s star, Kevin Spacey.

The university sent an email Wednesday about the internship opportunity that said: “Experience the real life ‘House of Cards!’” The message was also posted on a university webpage, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

The show depicts corruption, sex and murder in politics in Washington. Democratic state Rep. Martha Stevens of Columbia said she found the comparison insulting.

The reference was used in an attempt to make a pop-culture connection for students, said Christian Basi, a spokesman for the university’s Office of Service Learning. Basi said the line was removed from the school webpage but the email can’t be recalled.

“We realize that this headline is in poor taste,” Basi said. “The item has been removed from website and edited and won’t appear again. And we have been in contact with several legislators to express our apology and explain.”

The reference also recalls recent issues in the Missouri General Assembly. In 2015, Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota stepped down after allegations he sexually harassed interns and Republican House Speaker John Diehl left office after admitting he sent sexually suggestive texts to an intern.
The Missouri House has since made changes to its harassment policy, such as including mandatory sexual harassment training for all members and staff each year.

In the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal in Hollywood, actor Anthony Rapp alleged Spacey made sexual advances toward him in 1986, when Rapp was 14. Spacey has said he doesn’t remember the alleged encounter reported by BuzzFeed News last weekend but apologized if such “drunken behavior” occurred. Netflix later halted production of “House of Cards.”

*Similar stories ran nation wide*

**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

**MU apologizes — Jefferson City politics is not House of Cards**

By: Mara Rose Williams

*University of Missouri had to apologize to some Missouri legislators for comparing politics in Jefferson City to the murderous, lecherous Netflix series House of Cards.*

The House of Cards comparison surfaced the same week that star Kevin Spacey was accused of sexual misconduct. Allegations of inappropriate sexual behavior with a male minor led Spacey this week to announce that he is gay.

In an effort to attract students to a long-running program that recruits, trains and places interns to work with lawmakers at the Missouri Capitol, a non-academic department at the university devised an online advertisement with the headline, “Experience the real life ‘House of Cards!’”

The advertisement was written before the Spacey allegations came out, said Christian Basi, MU spokesman.

The ad was posted on MU Info, a platform that sends targeted emails to students, faculty and staff about events and campus happenings. It was also posted on a university website that lists the latest news from MU Info.

The university received calls from some upset Columbia-area state legislators. Democratic state Rep. Martha Stevens of Columbia told the Associated Press she found the comparison insulting.

University officials called legislators to apologize.
Basi, who called the ad a failed attempt to use pop culture to attract students, said that as soon as university officials saw the advertisement online, “we immediately realized the headline was in poor taste.”

The ad was removed from the website and Basi said it will never appear again.

“We value the relationship we have built with the legislative offices and don’t want this mistake to damage that relationship.”

MU Health out in local Cigna insurance exchange plans

By BRITTANY RUESS

Boone County residents signing up for health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act are discovering their plans won’t be accepted at University of Missouri Health Care hospitals and clinics next year.

Open enrollment in the federal marketplace at HealthCare.gov started on Wednesday and lasts until Dec. 15. In Boone County, Cigna is the only health insurance provider offering plans in the exchange, but MU Health providers are not in the plans’ network.

MU Health spokeswoman Jennifer Coffman said in an email that MU Health participates in all Cigna insurance products exempt Cigna Connect, the health care exchange available in Boone County, but has been making an effort to come to an agreement with the health insurer.

“We have been working with Cigna and have expressed our desire to be included in Cigna Connect,” she said.

A Cigna spokesman did not respond to a message seeking comment Thursday.

Boone Hospital Center was in a similar situation last year when Anthem was the only company offering insurance plans through the ACA in Boone County. St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare, which operates Boone Hospital, has been excluded from Anthem’s network for years and when it was the only provider in Boone County, local residents had to go elsewhere — many of them to MU Health — for health care.
In Columbia, 5,042 people signed up for marketplace coverage in 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Another 503 people in Ashland and Centralia had marketplace coverage that year.

The Boone Hospital Center trustees have cited the exclusion of BJC HealthCare and its affiliated hospitals from Anthem’s network as a contributing factor in the local hospital’s recent patient volume decline. The trustees are negotiating a partnership between Boone Hospital and MU Health. The hospital’s lease with BJC ends in 2020, but the parties must notify each other whether they wish to continue, modify or terminate the lease by December 2018.

Anthem said this year that it was leaving the marketplace in Boone County for 2018, but will remain in its seven surrounding counties. Coffman said MU Health is still taking Anthem plans.

Next year will be the first since 2014 that Anthem plans are not offered in Boone County. Aetna and UnitedHealth also offered plans in the county in 2015 and 2016, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Kevin Wehner, a certified ACA application specialist through Central Missouri Community Action, said UnitedHealth plans offered through the ACA were also once accepted at Boone Hospital.

He said Boone Hospital supplied local application specialists with a list of its primary care doctors to refer Boone County patients with ACA coverage. He said he’s also recommending applicants who will no longer use University physicians to talk to family and friends for suggestions about doctors.

Rates range from $182.77 for children to $1,647.72 for those 64 and older, depending on the level of plan, according to insurance rate filings with the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. But those costs can be offset with federal subsidies.

Individuals at 100-400 percent of the federal poverty level can receive tax credits and those at 100-250 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible for cost-sharing reductions, Wehner said.

Nancy Kelley, director of Missouri Foundation for Health’s Expanding Coverage program, said HealthCare.gov does not always have updated lists of provider networks and patients should seek information through their individual health insurers for the most up-to-date list.
Going with your intuition could make you judge others’ moral transgressions more harshly and keep you from changing your mind, even after considering all the facts, a new study suggests.

The findings show that people who strongly rely on intuition automatically condemn actions they perceive to be morally wrong, even if there is no actual harm.

In psychology, intuition, or “gut instinct,” is defined as the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for reasoning.

“It is now widely acknowledged that intuitive processing influences moral judgment,” says Sarah Ward, a doctoral candidate in social and personality psychology at the University of Missouri.

“We thought people who were more likely to trust their intuition would be more likely to condemn things that are shocking, whereas people who don’t rely on gut feelings would not condemn these same actions as strongly,” Ward says.

Ward and Laura King, professor of psychological sciences, had study participants read through a series of scenarios and judge whether the action was wrong, such as an individual giving a gift to a partner that had previously been purchased for an ex.

The researchers then wanted to determine if getting people to think about these actions—asking them why they thought it was morally wrong or describing their emotional response—would lead to fewer individual differences in how people responded.
“We consistently found that people who are more prone to rely on intuition condemned these actions,” Ward says. “If everybody reasons about these things, then the people who had that initial gut reaction might then decide, ‘Oh, this isn’t so bad—it’s not harmful,’ and what we found is that after people deliberated, in general they did condemn these actions less, but people who strongly relied on their intuitive instincts condemned these actions more harshly than others.”

The final experiment asked participants to make rapid, two-second decisions when presented with morally ambiguous scenarios.

“What we found is they still mattered,” Ward says. “People who were more intuitive still condemned these morally ambiguous actions even on a two-second snap judgment, which suggests this tendency to rely on intuition relates to all kinds of moral decisions, whether one judges them rapidly or thinks through the implications.

“This is important because this research has assumed everybody is using intuition to guide these judgments, but what we are finding is there is a lot of individual variability,” says Ward.

People may not realize intuitive reactions to issues often guide their ideas about what is morally wrong rather than more rational considerations, like whether the actions are harmful, Ward says.

She adds that individuals tend to think of themselves as very rational decision makers unswayed by intuition and emotion; however, it’s likely that intuitive responses among those who tend to trust their intuition heavily influence moral judgments.

Ward and King report their findings in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

*Source: University of Missouri*

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**Study: Registered nurses more equipped to catch medication mistakes**
By MAIA MCDONALD


Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Registered nurses can play key role in identifying medication issues to improve nursing home care

COLUMBIA - Experts at the University of Missouri have found that registered nurses are better equipped than licensed practical nurses to identify discrepancies in medication that could cause harm to patients.

Researchers did a study in 12 Missouri nursing homes by interviewing registered nurses and licensed practical nurses about a safety practice designed to identify medication order discrepancies when patients transition from hospitals to nursing homes.

Amy Vogelsmeier, who led the study, said it was about looking for mistakes or errors and how nurses communicate with doctors.

She said, even though registered nurses and licensed practical nurses can perform essentially the same job within nursing homes, RNs more often than not perform the better job.

"Registered nurses were really more focused on the accuracy of the medication order list," Vogelsmeier said. "They had questions about whether these medications were appropriate for this person at this point in time. They raised more questions and thought more about the residents' clinical history and their background and why they're in the hospital."

Vogelsmeier said most of the RNs interviewed took any discrepancies they found to physicians in order to clarify the medication order. The study found that LPNs were less likely to do this.

"They were more just about assumed that the medication orders were accurate in these scenarios, that they were written was the way they were intended to be," Vogelsmeier said.

She said the assumptions LPNS were more likely to make could introduce possible risks to patients in Missouri because medication order discrepancies do occur. She said there may be a key reason for the findings.

"Registered nurses have more education so they go to school longer," Vogelsmeier said. "They have more exposure through their school. They have more exposure to courses that would potentially prepare them for this kind of work."

LPNs usually only go to school for about a year and are much more focused on technical skills, which Vogelsmeier says is less helpful for clinical decision-making.
She said there are a number of reasons why having good clinical decision-making skills is important.

"There can be mistakes," Vogelsmeier said. "There are times where medications are ordered to be continued in the nursing home when they weren't initially intended to be. There are times where home medications where they are on prior to hospitalization are omitted by accident."

Vogelsmeier said the research will be important for Mid-Missouri nursing homes in the future.

"We're thinking about next steps in studies and really looking at how do we work with nursing homes in future research and dissemination to help, not only nursing home nurses to understand where they may best be suited for the work that they're doing, but also nursing home leaders.

MU celebrates veterans with a week of events

By ALLY WALLENTA


COLUMBIA- The University of Missouri and City of Columbia are preparing for a week honoring and celebrating veterans who have served or are currently serving in the United States military.

“It’s an opportunity to show the veterans and military community how much we appreciate what they do for us in service to this country,” said MU’s Director of Veterans Center Robert Ross.

The week shines a special spotlight on the MU veterans who have served and those who plan to serve in the future.

“A lot of people take for granted what it means to be a veteran and all the things that people that have been in the military a long time, have to go through and the struggles that come along with being a veteran,” said Cadet Jonathon Weischedel.
“It definitely hits home with me, to really stop and think about other veterans that are out there and what they’ve put on the line for us,” he said.

Starting on Nov. 4, MU’s ROTC cadets and midshipmen will preform a vigil near the war memorials at the Boone County Courthouse. On Saturday and Sunday, there will be a detail marching every hour.

On Nov 5., the Annual Veterans Day Parade takes place in downtown Columbia. The parade will start at the MU Columns and travel along eighth street to the Boone County Courthouse.

Boone County veterans and commemorative organizations will be participating in the parade.

The parade, which is led by the Air Force ROTC, starts at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed with a ceremony held at the courthouse.

This is the first year the University is providing Green Zone Training. The training provides faculty members with an appreciation of challenges faced by student veterans while aiming to build stronger connections between the two groups.

Student veterans will be sharing their experiences on campus during the panel on Nov 6.

“Being a veteran, what it brings to the table, is I’m able to really share with a lot of the students, the younger kids who are coming up, my experiences and try to help prepare them for what they are going to be going through once they actually get into the army,” Weischedel said.

Community members and students are invited to write letters of appreciation and gratitude to veterans at Columbia’s Harry S. Truman Memorial Veteran Hospital on Nov. 7 and Nov 9.

This event takes place at Memorial Union and the Student Center.

On Nov. 8., Medal of Honor Recipient Captain Florent Groberg will be speaking about his experience in Afghanistan at Jesse Hall.

“Captain Groberg has a dynamic personality and I think anyone who attends that will come away with a good sense of what it means to serve and to sacrifice on behalf of this country,” Ross said.

People will also be able to learn more about the challenges affecting those who served in the Gulf War and the War on Terror during the annual Veterans Clinic Symposium. The symposium will have a presentation by Gulf War Veteran Christopher W. Dunn and will take place at MU’s Law School.

On Friday, the annual Veterans Day Wreath Laying Ceremony will honor veterans at MU and in the community.

“It’s a somber occasion where we recognize those who have actually made the actual sacrifice, those who have died in the line of duty in service to our country,” Ross said.
The event begins at the Memorial Tower on campus. According to a press release “the Remembrance Day National Roll Call will occur to remember those who, as President Lincoln described, 'gave their last full measure of devotion' while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

The ceremony will conclude with a national minute of silence at 1 p.m. to honor the fallen soldiers.

Ross said the University of Missouri does a good job supporting its veterans. Starting next semester, veterans will have priority registration.

The week of honor ends on Nov. 11 at this year’s Military Appreciation football game vs Tennessee.

Ross said there are a number of ways students and community members can say “thank you” to a veteran throughout this week.

“I would say just if you know a veteran, let them know how much you appreciate what they do and just be as supportive as you can” Ross said. “We don’t ask for much; we just ask to be considered as another member of society who is trying to do what’s right.”

MU to announce on-campus living affordability initiative

By MEGAN SANCHEZ


COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri is set to announce Friday an initiative that will make living on campus more affordable. According to a media advisory, the new plan features cost-friendly and affordable options involving student housing and meal plans.
This comes amidst Dr. Garnett Stokes announcing her departure from the university Thursday. She will serve as the new president of the University of New Mexico.

University of Missouri Faculty Council Chair Dr. William Wiebold said Mizzou's struggling reputation had nothing to do with Stokes leaving.

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He said he gets asked often what the university is doing to work on their reputation, and he understands why departing faculty looks bad.

"I don't think she's leaving because of anything that's happening here at the university," he said. "In fact, she's been instrumental in trying to work on the branding, increasing enrollment, doing a good job to get the good story that really is here."

He said when trying to repair the university's reputation, it comes down to individuals. He said each individual faculty member provides some benefit to the community.

"It's unfortunate that the reputation has taken a hit," he said. "I've talked to people in my job. When I talk to farmers, they tell me that. I just slowly kind of work through [and say] 'Well think about what MU has really done for you in your lives,' and they'll say 'Yeah, that's true.'"

Wiebold said Stokes worked to hire many of the department deans that are currently employed at the university. He said quality deans helps to push the university in the right direction.

"There's a lot of important things that a provost does," he said. "One of them is to hire the deans, and good quality deans make a difference in faculty lives, student lives, staff lives."

MU search committee asking Mizzou community for input in Title IX asst. vice chancellor search

By DEBORAH KENDRICK
COLUMBIA, Mo. - **The University of Missouri is starting the process of their national search to fill the position of assistant vice chancellor for civil rights and Title IX.**

Thursday afternoon members of the search committee met with MU faculty to speak with them about what qualities they are looking for in a new assistant vice chancellor.

Emily Love, co-chair of the search committee, told ABC 17 News the committee will seek input from all university stakeholders by having open forums.

"It's important that we seek this input because this needs to be something and someone that the whole community supports," Love said.

Here are some qualities that some faculty staff said they were looking for include:

- A solid record of success in the classroom, classroom experience
- Experienced faculty member
- Willing to listen
- Licensed attorney because of the legal issues Title IX faces
- Someone experienced with not only sexual harassment incidents but knowing how to handle discrimination
- Someone who understands university system policies
- Someone who can create positive climate on the university campus

The search committee told ABC 17 News they plan on having the job posting up in about eight weeks when they get the communities input. They will have an open forum around February and March to get faculty, staff and students input on potential candidates.

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**Social work professors receive grant to research local youth development**

By GALEN BACHARIER

Two researchers from the MU School of Social Work recently received a $350,000 grant as a part of the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
The foundation’s goal is “building a Culture of Health with people across the country.” Much of this building comes in the form of leadership programs and grants like this one, according to the foundation’s website.

Associate professors Kelli Canada and Clark Peters are two of the three members on one of the 15 teams nationally that won a grant through a competitive application process. The program involves pairing researchers and local community partners to find ways to create healthier communities, specifically through youth development.

They will be working with Rachel Jones, Director of Child Services at Burrell Behavioral Health, one of the primary partners for field research for social work students.

“We work really closely with our field instructors, and so our director of field saw this notice about an interdisciplinary partnership with a community partner, contacted Burrell because we work a lot with them through field placement, and she set up a meeting with us to talk with Rachel,” Canada said.

This close partnership allows both components of the team to work in tandem, rather than the researchers carrying the burden of the project.

“Rather than the researchers figuring everything out on your own, you work really closely with your partners to try and figure out who you should intervene with, at what point, how we should get people to study, what kind of interventions we should develop for this,” Canada said.

Their proposal in their application involved working with middle-school aged children, intervening before they get sent to juvenile court for the first time. However, the grant’s unique nature allows the team to continue brainstorming even after receiving the funding.

“We had to have a preliminary idea—our’s was that we wanted to intervene with 10-13 year olds who were referred to the juvenile officer for the first time, and we would intervene at that point,” Canada said. “That was our initial idea, but the way that this grant works is they give you almost five months after you get the grant to really develop your specific project, so that you can really work with the community to develop a project that works best for the community’s needs.”

Canada called this type of research “community-based participatory action research.” The team will be reaching out to not only various community partners throughout Columbia, but also individuals, families and public schools.

Of the grant’s funding, $125,000 goes towards the study itself, including physical materials for the study, incentives to keep participants involved and statistical software. The rest of the funding is for personnel training.
“That pays us to do the research and the leadership — it’s a very time-intensive training program that they give us, about 10 hours a week of training,” Canada said. “Webinars, readings, short courses we have to take.”

Another large element of the program is leadership training for its participants. The team attended a Fall Leadership Institute through RWJF earlier this month in Nashville, where they learned about the challenges they will face in their research and their role in solving them.

“There are two challenges. One is ‘How do we build up rigorous research that informs good policy?’” Peters said. “The second is ‘How do you communicate that knowledge to those who make decisions about how to invest public dollars?’ You need both to really be effective, and too often in academia we focus on knowledge building but not communication, and to bring folks from the community, pair them and build teams, that was a big part of the conference, to develop that collaborative leadership style.”

The team hopes to bring back what they learned to their department, sharing their ideas for the betterment of the school.

“The idea is that the three of us can get training, and then we can take back what we learned to our respective disciplines and communities as well,” Canada said. “Hopefully some of those strategies we can share with other people. [The grant] is just for us, but it’s also a community-wide initiative.”

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**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Should the University of Missouri own fossil fuel stocks?**

By HJW III (HANK’S VIEW)

From time to time well-meaning activists launch campaigns for politically correct university investment policies. The most memorable movement in the fairly recent past was the 1989 effort to get the University of Missouri to sell its endowment stocks in companies doing business in South Africa.

You don’t have to be quite my age to remember the Francis Quadrangle shanty town, representing the poor souls of South Africa the champions of divestiture alleged were being exploited by companies making money in the apartheid nation and, by extension, the investors owning stock in those companies, including UM.
The tricky part of this rationale is assessing the purpose and motivation of the investor. Nobody can logically say UM managers invested endowment money for any reason other than making a safe and fair monetary return. Certainly the politics and sociology of apartheid were nowhere in endowment managers’ minds, and yet when the politics of apartheid ran hot protestors across the US got after innocent institutions like UM because their investment portfolios happened to contain companies doing business in South Africa.

One can imagine legitimate condemnation of a company that made money directly from slavery or some other direct form of human exploitation, but the protestors didn’t care. They were on a crusade against apartheid and the university was a soft but high-profile target.

After a period of confrontation, highlighted by the shanty town, the university divested. Other investments could be found. Companies doing business in South Africa and their investors became splattered with incidental dirt and the portfolio was cleansed.

Whether this hassle had any effect on apartheid is debatable, but I wouldn’t want to argue with those who contend the divestiture squabble did help.

A similar though less contentious moment faces current UM officials. A student group calling itself the Mizzou Energy Action Coalition (MEAC) wants the university to get rid of stocks in fossil fuel companies. MEAC leaders say they have been campaigning quietly for three years. They have gathered support from students and passed resolutions through every student government forum and made the case with appropriate university officials including system President Mun Choi the university should get rid of the $1.4 million in fossil fuel assets in its $10 million endowment.

In a Tribune column last Tuesday the coalition recited environmental damage caused by fossil fuels coupled with explanations how painless and proper it would be for the university to shift its investment portfolio.

MEAC leaders used the 1989 example in which the university finally decided to sell its $75 million stake in “institutions supporting South African Apartheid.” They quoted then-UM President Peter McGrath, who said the university was selling not because it believed the action would fundamentally alter the continuing tragedy in South Africa but because “we believe it is the right step and the correct signal for the University of Missouri to give in fulfilling our highest values and ideals.”

Now, with only 1 percent of UM endowment assets invested in fossil fuel industries, MEAC asks President Choi to “show us the fiscal sense in betting on the carbon bubble,” and show he is doing the right thing by “holding on to those toxic assets.” Unless it divests, how can the university say it “advances the health, cultural and social interests of the people of Missouri, the nation and the world?”
This may be logical gibberish but in the end it will represent irresistible political pressure. Despite their irritation at being forced, with a rationale similar to McGrath’s, today’s UM managers probably will end up selling their fossil fuel component because it does too little to benefit their portfolio to warrant the angst it causes.

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Monsanto Created a Huge Problem. Now That Problem Might Be Driving Sales

By: Nathalie Baptiste

About 4 percent of all soybean crops planted in the United States have been damaged by a weed killer this year, the New York Times has reported. On Wednesday, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that more than 3.6 million acres of soybean crops had been affected by dicamba.

In June, Mother Jones reported that dicamba, much of which is manufactured by Monsanto, “causes the plants’ leaves to cup together, their budding stems to die back, and their beans to curl into twisted, malformed pods.” As a result, many farmers have been forced to buy Monsanto’s seeds that are resistant to dicamba.

“It is an extremely high profile and significant situation,” Rueben Baris, the acting chief of the herbicides branch of EPA told the New York Times. Starting this year, farmers began using the herbicide on genetically modified soybean crops, which are not harmed by it, but the weed killer has been drifting off and landing on non-modified soybean crops.

“I think it [dicamba] is an inherently volatile product,” University of Missouri weed scientist Kevin Bradley told Mother Jones in August.

Nearly 3,000 complaints came from 25 of 34 states who use the “over-the-top” application. The problem is especially acute in Arkansas and Missouri, where there were 986 and 310 complaints, respectively.
Pesticide manufacturers are confident that they will solve the problem in the next year, but EPA officials are warning that the approval for use of the herbicide could be jeopardy if the steps the company takes don’t significantly reduce the scope of the problem by next growing season. Cynthia Palmer, who is a member of an EPA pesticide advisory committee told the New York Times, “it seems like farmers have no choice but to buy dicamba-resistant seeds from Monsanto.”

Channeling anxiety into positive energy

SPRINGFIELD, Mo Hundreds of runners will line up for the Bass Pro Marathon this weekend. Nearly every one of them will be a bit nervous at the starting line.

It's a common problem for all kinds of athletes. In this week's Fit Life, a performance psychologist is showing young gymnasts how to harness that anxious energy.

If you've ever looked at a gymnast, you may have thought, she looks so calm and focused. Don't judge a gymnast by her cover. There's a lot going on behind those young poker faces.

Gymnast Aryah Moore says, "I start to think negative things... like scary things and maybe i won't be able to do it... maybe I'll hurt myself."

Doctor Seth Allen helps turn natural anxiety into positive energy. He's teaching the young gymnasts in a class on performance psychology. These athletes are practicing the mental skills that could give them an edge.

Seth Allen asks the class, "We learned how to relax our muscles last week... right?"

Aryah Moore explains one technique, "So, you put your hand on your chest and then your hand on your stomach."

The entire class says, "Belly breathing."

Aryah explains more about the technique, "And you breath in and breath out... and it helps a lot with calming down and not being overwhelmed."

Dr. Allen says, "What you hope you to hear is that people you're working with make the connection and they're able to transfer the skills from one setting to the next. That's when you feel like what you're doing is worthwhile."
The lessons are no guarantee of a perfect kip, flip or stuck landing. But, they worked for Tatum Watchman on her social studies test.

Tatum Watchman confides, "It actually did help. Because, I got all of it right."

Paul Adler reports, "Tatum used something called progressive muscle relaxation. If you've ever tensed up and squeezed a stress ball and released the tension, you're doing the same thing."

Dr. Allen tells the class, "You're already learning new skills that can help you in gymnastics and in life. Good job. Thank you all for your questions and you are free to go.... (Class responds) Thank you..."

If you want to learn more about this field of study, The University of Missouri offers masters and doctoral programs in Sport Psychology. The university also offers an online digital workshop in positive coaching.

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**Chris Gervino joins the #Mizzou basketball radio broadcasts #MIZ**

By: Bill Pollock


**Chris Gervino, longtime sideline reporter for the University of Missouri football broadcasts, has been named the new color analyst for men’s basketball, joining Mike Kelly for the 2017-18 season.**

Gervino, who is also the Sports Director for KOMU-TV, the NBC affiliate in Columbia, joined me to talk about his role on the broadcasts. What I think you’ll enjoy about this upcoming season is you’ll be hearing Kelly and Gervino, both broadcast professionals. You’ll hear a clean, tight broadcast and a different perspective on the game from Gervino than from a former player.

Gervino is a 1988 graduate of the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism and has served as the sideline reporter on Tiger Radio Network broadcasts since 1992.
“I’m excited and honored to be part of the Tiger broadcast team at the University of Missouri, my alma mater, and grateful to Learfield and Mizzou for this opportunity,” Gervino said. “I also look forward to working with Mike Kelly for an exciting season of Tiger basketball.”

Gervino replaces Link as Missouri basketball color commentator

BY ALEC LEWIS

Eight days before Missouri’s highly anticipated men’s basketball season opener against Iowa State, the Missouri athletic department announced the team’s new radio color commentator.

Chris Gervino, the sports director at KOMU 8 and the Missouri football sideline reporter for Tiger Network Radio since 1992, will replace Gary Link, who held the position for the previous 21 seasons.

“I’m excited and honored to be part of the Tiger broadcast team at the University of Missouri, my alma mater, and grateful to Learfield and Mizzou for this opportunity,” Gervino said in a statement.

On Oct. 19, it was announced that Link had been relieved of his duties working alongside Mike Kelly, the network’s play-by-play broadcaster, and that it would be “inappropriate to comment further on a personnel matter.”

Dave Matter of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Link was fired for being “too critical” of colleagues in the athletic department.

The sports director at KOMU 8 since January 2000, Gervino is a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism. Not only did he call play-by-play for Missouri men’s basketball on the Mizzou TV Network from 2000-14, but he also was the play-by-play voice for the Kansas City Brigade of the Arena Football League from 2006-08.

Before being hired at KOMU, Gervino was the sports director at KMIZ-TV from 1988-99. He also served as sports director at KFRU/1400 AM from 1992-2001.

“We’re thrilled to have Chris work alongside Mike to provide Tiger fans a great experience this season,” said Nick Garner, general manager for Learfield’s Mizzou Sports Properties. “Chris has
been a valued member of the Tiger Network for the past 25 years, and we’re pleased to have him moving into the role of color analyst on our men’s basketball broadcasts.”