Which building to build, renovate or tear down first? University of Missouri board revamps the decision-making process

Ashley Jost

In a special session of the University of Missouri System’s governing board Friday, the curators discussed a new way to prioritize building projects.

Campuses previously pushed capital projects out on an annual basis that they hoped the Legislature might fund.

But an almost complete turnover of the board of curators is leading to new approaches on a series of issues, including an expectation that this particular annual process develops into a more strategic, five-year plan.

Those plans for each of the four University of Missouri campuses — and MU Health Care in Columbia — are what the board heard Friday.

The curators specifically heard about five priorities from each campus — all preliminary. Campus leaders will come back to the curators in the spring prepared for the board to approve the priorities they want to send to the Legislature for potential funding in the 2019 session.

Friday was more about ironing out the process, which curator David Steelman said needs to become a board-driven effort. It’s a recent example of how hands-on the new board is trending.

At a board meeting this summer, Steelman said the curators had "abdicated" their role by not being more involved in this process in the past.

Board members and other administrators admit that in the era of declining state funds for higher education, the odds that the Legislature will fund any of the asks is low. Still, every state school submits one project annually.

As a four-campus system, the University of Missouri can submit four projects. Here are some of the proposals the board discussed:

- **Mizzou**: A $150 million Translational Precision Medicine Complex that would be an interdisciplinary building under the medical school. Translational medicine is an interdisciplinary effort to find new ways to diagnose and treat health issues.
• **UMSL**: A $16 million plan to consolidate space on campus, eliminating outstanding maintenance costs and allowing the campus to tear down a few outdated buildings, including Bellerive Hall.

• **UMKC**: A $32 million research center for the School of Computing and Engineering, which eliminates maintenance costs and allows the school to grow the number of students enrolled.

• **Missouri S&T**: The third phase of the renovation of Schrenk Hall is slated to cost $54 million.

The board also approved a contract extension for Chris Maples, the interim chancellor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

Maples was hired earlier this year when former Chancellor Cheryl Schrader accepted a new job leading Wright State University. As an interim leader, Maples was brought in on a one-year contract. Six months in, the board extended that contract by another year.

Multiple sources have said that Maples is not currently interested in the permanent chancellor job. He came to the Rolla campus as the former president of the Oregon Institute of Technology.

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**MU Board of Curators Approves Capital Projects on All Campuses**

By MADISON FLECK

The MU Board of Curators met on Friday and approved nearly two dozen major capital projects across the UM system. This is just the first of four phases these projects must go through before they are completed, and out of those projects, five were given priority.

The board unanimously voted to prioritize the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, which is estimated to cost $150 million. The complex will provide an interdisciplinary research lab for precision medicine.

Board of Curators Member John R. Phillips sees the proposed complex as a project that would make the UM System stand out.

“I think that the MU campus with the hospital and the medical school and the other health professions have a unique opportunity to move into precision medicine in a way that maybe no other public university has,” he said.
The Sinclair School of Nursing also had a building expansion approved at the meeting – though it was not approved as a priority. That project is estimated to cost $20 million, and Dean Judith Miller says the expansion could address the problem of the nursing shortage in Missouri.

“Eighty-eight percent or so of our graduates stay in the state of Missouri,” she said. “As we plan for this new structure, we’re going to increase our enrollment by between 30 to 40 percent.”

In March, these projects are expected to move to the second phase of the overall process, which takes longer than it used to.

Back in September, after budget cuts were announced, curators approved the new capital planning process, which now allows for additional time to fundraise for projects and work with the Missouri legislature.

**Curators approve new program for ranking building needs**

By RUDI KELLER

_A $200 million research facility in Columbia is the top construction priority for the University of Missouri System, the Board of Curators decided Friday in a meeting that also approved changes in how building projects are rated for future funding requests._

The action didn’t include how the initial $150 million needed to start the project will be funded. Vice President for Finance Ryan Rapp said a plan would be presented to the curators in March that will include corporate support, donor funding and campus support.

Called the [Translational Precision Medicine Complex](#), the facility would be built on open land near College Avenue and Hospital Drive.

“We see this as a statewide resource that will empower medical research in Missouri,” Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said.

The special meeting Friday at the Memorial Union was the first time curators saw how a new plan for setting building priorities will work. The board heard presentations from Cartwright and the chancellors from the Kansas City, St. Louis and Rolla campuses as well as MU Health Care.
The board approved projects with a current estimated total cost of $1.4 billion. Several already have large sums committed by donors; the MU Health Care projects are funded entirely from patient revenue. The list will be reviewed each year to determine if priorities have changed and each campus will have up to five current and future projects on a rolling list, with a top priority for each campus.

The lists are intended to show state lawmakers and donors what the university system considers important.

“Donors like to hear the projects on each campus that are blessed by the president and the Board of Curators,” President Mun Choi said. “That is why I think this is such a good approach.”

The other four priority projects for the Columbia campus are:

- Renovation and expansion of the Sinclair School of Nursing, estimated at $20 million.
- Upgrades and renovations at the Medical Science Building, estimated at $13.1 million.
- A depository for MU libraries, estimated at $5.2 million.
- A new journalism building to replace the Neff Hall Annex, estimated to cost $45 million.

The medical research building is intended to combine efforts of the School of Medicine, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The goal is to take research from development to treatment in the emerging field of medicine tailored to individuals based on their genetics and other unique factors, Cartwright said.

“TPMC will put Mizzou and Missouri on the map as a leader in medical and research practice,” he said.

About one-third of the estimated total cost, $450 million, is for MU Health Care’s contingency plans in case the negotiations to lease Boone Hospital Center fall through, MU Health CEO Jonathan Curtwright said. The core of the university’s current hospital was completed in 1956, he noted, and major expansion will be needed for both the main hospital and the Women and Children’s Hospital on Keene Street.

The cost of constructing new inpatient rooms is about $1 million for each bed, Curwright said.

Curator John Phillips questioned whether health care will require as many hospital beds in the future but added that he’s not an expert.

“There really isn’t anyone on the board, including me, who has a grasp on needs,” Phillips said. “Thanks for presenting this even if it is beyond our level of expertise.”

Boone Hospital is currently leased to St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare. The lease expires in 2020 and requires each party to notify the other in 2018 if they wish to continue, modify or terminate the lease.
The proposals for $450 million in new hospital construction aren’t a signal that negotiations with Boone Hospital are going poorly, Curtwright said after his presentation.

“Not at all,” he said. “Things are progressing very well.”

The plan is just a contingency, Curtwright said.

“We need to be thinking proactively,” he said.

Curators approve plan's next step to build $200 million MU research facility

By EDWARD McKINLEY

**MU is one step closer to breaking ground on its top building priority — the Translational Precision Medicine Complex.**

The UM System Board of Curators met Friday and approved preliminary plans for each of the four campuses — Columbia, Rolla, St. Louis and Kansas City, as well as MU Health Care. At its March 2018 meeting, the board will vote on final approval for the projects.

The No. 1 priority for MU and the UM System, the $200 million medicine complex, will be built at College Avenue and Hospital Drive. Translational medicine is the combination of research and application: inventing new ways to treat and diagnose illnesses and then using them to help actual patients. Precision medicine is the practice of tailoring medical treatment to the molecule-by-molecule makeup of the patient.

“Precision medicine is the future,” MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said. “This facility will put Missouri at the forefront of precision medicine.”

Cartwright screened a video for the board promoting the complex. The video touted the potential for convergence between researchers and physicians, as well as among academic programs such as medicine and veterinary medicine. The video included uplifting music, people in lab coats dramatically peering into microscopes, slow-motion footage of elaborate machines and a Corgi with sensors attached to it running in a glass tub of water.

The National Institutes of Health points to translational medicine as a “major focus” going forward for research funding, so MU’s complex has the potential to draw research grants and build on MU’s status as a member of the Association of American Universities — a 62-member
club of universities at the forefront of research and education. “It will play a crucial role in MU’s future success,” Cartwright said.

The plans approved Friday are not final, but they represent a step forward in the capital planning process that curator David Steelman compared to a funnel. At the top of the funnel, where it’s widest, ideas are approved by curators most often and are the least fleshed out. As plans progress along the funnel, more and more research goes into how much exactly they’ll cost and how they’ll be paid for. As each of the projects is explored, the list narrows down to only the most important and feasible ones.

At this point in the process, said curator John Phillips, funding for projects is “loosey-goosey” and is the campuses’ “best guess.” In March, the exact costs and fundraising plans to pay for the projects are expected to be hammered out. The plan marks 2019 as the year to break ground on the complex.

- Renovation and addition to the Sinclair School of Nursing:
  MU’s second building priority, the plan includes adding a 20,000 square-foot, three-story expansion to the nursing school to add more classrooms and labs. [MU nursing Dean Judith Miller, who will retire in December](#), made her case for the expansion at the meeting, saying the school has worked hard for years to make the project happen.

  “Not only is our school of nursing a treasure to the university,” Steelman said. “But Dean Miller is, too.”

  “We all recognize the School of Nursing at MU is nationally recognized,” Phillips said, so it’s important that “we build to our strengths.” The nursing expansion isn’t just an important MU priority, Phillips said, but a system one as well.

- Medical science building — upgrade and maintenance of research vivarium:
  The project includes a 20,900-square-foot renovation to modernize the space that was built in 1954.

- Library depository addition:
  The proposed plan adds an expansion to the off-campus library depository on LeMone Boulevard. The site will house library archives, providing a space with the proper temperature and humidity.

  [Ann Riley, MU vice provost for libraries](#), spoke in favor of the project, pointing out that Ellis Library is the second most-used building on campus — behind only the MU Student Center.

  “And we don’t serve food,” she added.

It is the library’s job, Riley said, to preserve the past, teach the present and predict the future needs of researchers. The $20 million off-campus repository addition would be a cost-effective way to save space at Ellis and preserve materials, she said.
• New journalism building:
The final project presented as an MU priority would demolish Neff Hall and its annex and build a five-story building to house the Columbia Missourian, KOMU, Vox, KBIA and the new Novak Leadership Institute. The proposed building would allow convergence among news media outlets and programs. The evolution of the journalism industry necessitates the project, the proposal says, because professionals are now expected to be “journalists-of-all-trades.”

MU reveals top priority projects in five-year capital plan, hopes to build new journalism building

Alyssa Toomey, Taylor Petras

Posted: Nov 10, 2017 12:48 PM CST


The UM Board of Curators approved the Translational Precision Medicine Complex (TPMC) as the top priority capital project for both the University of Missouri and the UM System at their meeting Friday.

UM System president Dr. Mun Choi reaffirmed the boards' actions, calling the TPMC the "highest priority for the system."

"Being able to provide that personalized, direct intervention and medical care to that patient who comes to the hospital because of the research that we do that is translated into the bedside, I think that's going to be key," Choi said.

Each campus chancellor, as will as the CEO of MU Health, presented their top capital priorities to the board. Plans could change in the future, but each chancellor had the opportunity to share their capital priorities for the next five years.

MU Preliminary Five-Year Plan
MU's top priorities, in order of importance, include the TPMC, renovation of the Sinclair School of Nursing, upgrades to the medical science building, a library depository addition and a new journalism building. The projects were identified as priorities in MU's preliminary five-year capital plan.

MU chancellor Dr. Alexander Cartwright said the TPMC would help make MU more competitive, help grow the university's research mission and ensure the university maintains its AAU standing.

The TPMC is sited at Hospital Drive and College Avenue and would cost $150 million. Back in July, the curators approved a state capital appropriations request of $250 million. However, the board said Thursday that they are looking at various ways to fund the TPMC as they are not expecting all of that money to come from the state.

Judith Fitzgerald Miller, dean of the University of Missouri School of Nursing, said renovations to the Sinclair School of Nursing building would help increase revenue. She said they currently have to turn away two-thirds of qualified applicants due to lack of space. The project would cost $20 million, but Miller said they’ve already raised $15 million through fundraising efforts.

"In some of their classrooms they're in there wall to wall," Miller said. "We need to have adequate simulation centers so they can practice and become competent and confident before they enter the clinical setting."

For the new journalism building, the university would redevelop Neff Hall, which, according to the preliminary capital plan, is currently in poor condition. Cartwright said the facility would bring together MU’s media brands, including KOMU, KBIA, Missourian and Vox, in order to create a multi-platform environment. It would also have an MU Welcome Center on the first floor, due to its central location. It would cost $45 million and is the lowest priority among the five priority projects identified for the MU campus.

Journalism school dean David Kurpius was not available for comment Friday.

**Capital Planning Process**

The five-year capital planning process is a new initiative for the board. At their September board meeting, UM System chief financial officer Ryan Rapp said they have been working on an annual budget for the past decade and now need to think about a longer planning cycle.

The boards' early involvement in the capital planning process is also a recent change. Previously, the board was only involved in approval, but with $1.6 billion in facilities’ needs across the system, members are now taking on a key role in capital funding and investment.

Thursday's board meeting was not for project approval. Members met to ask questions about the priorities on each campus; they will reconvene in the spring to decide how they want to go about funding the various projects.
Curators Approve Building Priorities for Missouri Campuses

Nov. 10, 2017, at 3:45 p.m.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri Board of Curators has approved preliminary plans for top capital projects for each of the system's four campuses.

Final approval is expected in March.

Curators say the top priority for the entire system and the Columbia campus is a $200 million Translational Precision Medicine Complex, designed to find new ways to diagnose and treat health issues. Precision medicine tailors medical treatment to the molecule-by-molecule makeup of the patient.

Missouri -St. Louis' top priority is a $16 million plan to consolidate space, eliminate outstanding maintenance costs and tear down outdated buildings.

A $32 million research center for the School of Computing and Engineering is the main priority at Missouri-Kansas City.

And Missouri S&T is planning a $20 million renovation of the hall that houses its biological sciences and chemistry departments.

Medical foundation gifts $2 million to MU Medical School

By BRITTANY RUESS
A $2 million gift from a medical foundation will give a local orthopedic surgeon more time to focus on his research in biological joint replacements and lead national and international initiatives in the orthopedic field.

The University of Missouri School of Medicine announced Friday that the Wyss Medical Foundation, started by a Swiss billionaire and worldwide philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss, pledged the financial support to create the Wyss Distinguished Chair in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the university. Dr. James Stannard, department chair and medical director of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, will take on that role.

Wyss earned much of his fortune when he sold Synthes Holding AG, a medical technology company, to Johnson & Johnson in 2012 for nearly $20 billion, according to Reuters. The Wyss Medical Foundation has given more than $21.6 million in contributions from 2014-2016, according to the foundation’s tax forms.

The multi-million-dollar gift contributed to the university’s Our Time to Lead campaign, which started in October 2015, has raised more than $950 million of the $1.3 billion goal, said Tom Hiles, vice chancellor of advancement.

Stannard and Dr. James Cook, director of the research division at the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, developed BioJoint, a procedure that uses natural tissue grafts of tendons, ligaments, cartilage, menisci and bone to restore joint function.

“It’s definitely not overstated to say it’s a transformative gift,” Cook said. “It will be an investment, it will result in more innovations getting to patients at Mizzou.”

The gift will allow Stannard to dedicate more of his time to research and leadership opportunities, and less time toward clinical care, he said.

Among his research, Stannard plans to focus on making breakthroughs in BioJoint replacements and advancements in articular cartilage, or tissue at the ends of bones that come together to form joints. He wants to expand BioJoint to concentrate on hip, ankle and shoulder procedures.

Stannard said more than 200 BioJoint knee operations have been completed over the past two years, but they need long-term research — for the next five, 10, 15 years — to compile better data about the effects of BioJoint. Staying in touch with BioJoint patients and compiling the data will also be a part of Stannard’s research, he said.

“In order to change how orthopaedics is done in a broad way, we have to have these results,” he said.

As the university sought the gift, Stannard said Wyss emphasized leadership.
Wyss “wanted a next-level leadership beyond just running the department and the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, or other things potentially here on campus or at a national or international level,” Stannard said.

After the gift commitment was made, Stannard was nominated to the position of president of AO North America, an organization dedicated to the advancement of orthopaedic, spine and other surgeries. He was later elected to the title.

“It now frees up and almost gives me permission to seek out some of things that are time consuming and take me away a little bit, but are also very important for having a national and international footprint,” Stannard said. “My vision for the University of Missouri and the” Missouri Orthopaedic Institute “is not just to be a good provider of care for Columbia, or even mid-Missouri, but nationally and internationally. I think that is attainable and that’s certainly the goal.”

Researchers at the Mizzou BioJoint Center can grow joints in the laboratory, but can’t transplant those in humans, Stannard said. The process of receiving approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is “long and expensive,” he said.

As the president of AO North America, Stannard said he expects to make connections with industry leaders that could help the BioJoint Center navigate the process.

$2 million gift to boost innovative orthopaedic research at MU

By ZIPEI LIN

The Missouri Orthopaedic Institute announced a $2 million donation from the Wyss Medical Foundation to orthopaedic surgeon James Stannard on Friday.

The gift frees up more time for research and leadership, said Stannard, medical director of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute and the Hansjörg Wyss Distinguished Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at the MU School of Medicine.

Stannard spends almost two-thirds of his time on clinical care and the remaining time for research and running the department and the hospital is a “luxury,” he said. Without an outside funding source, he considered the research time his “gift back” to the institute.
He said the institute’s research on biological joint replacement is potentially game-changing. Natural tissues can help knees regain better function than artificial replacement.

With baby boomers getting older, Stannard said he expected a major increase in the needs of orthopaedic surgeries. Across the world, about 5.3 million orthopaedic surgeries were performed in 2010, and that number is expected to grow to 6.6 million by 2020, according to a news release.

“Many older people don’t want to slow down, and yet the joints are showing the wear and tear,” he said.

The Mizzou Biojoint Center has performed over 200 biological joint replacement surgeries in the last two years for patients from 24 states and six countries, Stannard said, and there are many more lined up.

It always takes a great deal of work and expense to keep in contact with patients and get them to come back so doctors can observe long-term progress, he said. The feedback from them years after the surgeries, however, is critical in the long run.

“In the area of joint preservation, we want five-, 10- and 15-year results,” he said, and the donation opens doors for it.

The institute will take the research to the Food and Drug Administration level, Stannard said.

Recently Stannard was nominated and elected as the president of AO North America, a worldwide orthopaedic research and education organization. In this position, he said he can focus more on making contacts with leaders and industries he wouldn’t have met easily otherwise. That would help with the long and expensive FDA approval process.

Stannard said he would call the foundation’s pledge an “investment.” The research on joint restoration, if successful, can benefit studies on musculoskeletal pain and trauma of areas including the hip, ankle and shoulder, he said.

In this sense, the donation will also allow MU to pursue “next level leadership” at the national or international level, Stannard said.

The institute at 1100 Virginia Ave. is the largest freestanding orthopaedic center in central Missouri, according to its website.
MU's Health Department of orthopedic surgery receives $2 million donation

Elizabeth Duesenberg

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Generated from News Bureau press release: Orthopaedic chair will support world-renowned surgeon

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri announced on Friday that the Wyss Medical Foundation has pledged $2 million to support James P. Stannard as the Wyss Distinguished Chair in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

University officials said the funds will be used to expand Stannard's work as a global leader in confronting the challenges of musculoskeletal pain and trauma.

"I am honored and humbled to hold the Wyss Chair in Orthopedic Surgery at MU," Stannard said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to advance my profession in this way.

My hope is that my work can help grow the next generation of physicians and surgeons."

The chair will allow Stannard to focus his time on developing strategic leadership for a growing department to optimize patient care, perform cutting-edge translational research and mentor residents and fellows.

MU's Missouri Orthopedic Institute is central Missouri's largest free-standing orthopedic hospital.
Consultant: Harsh report not meant to end MU Greek system

By RUDI KELLER

The need for the consulting report that recommends banning freshman from living in fraternity houses, stronger supervision of parties and a more engaged administration at the University of Missouri was apparent soon after Gary Ward added student affairs to his duties.

During a town hall Friday on the findings and recommendations of the Dyad Strategies report, Ward said he had been on the job for a day in May when hundreds of emails started flooding his inbox. Ward, who retains his previous duties as vice-chancellor for campus operations, said he was astonished.

“There were two things I realized,” Ward said. “First, I was scared to death. I was hearing very disturbing things that put me in concern for the university. The second thing was the amount of passion.”

Afterward, Ward declined to give specifics about the events that disturbed him, only saying it was happening in parties in fraternity houses. The report found evidence of coerced drinking by underage students, hazing and an oversight office with no “overarching goals, objectives or priorities.”

Gentry McCreary, the consultant who wrote the report, spent most of two hours going over the findings and recommendations, and answering submitted questions. He began by assuring the gathering of about 150, including Greek chapter members and alumni who act as advisors or corporate board members, that his report wasn’t intended to end fraternity and sorority life on campus.

“One of the things I have heard is, ‘Oh, gosh, this is the first step in the university getting rid of Greek life,’” McCreary said. “I have heard that feedback and I have heard that sentiment. Let me tell you from the outset that if I had thought that were true, I would never have agreed to do this job.”

McCreary also apologized for not reviewing chapter grade reports available online. The report originally included information that freshmen who live in fraternity houses do worse
academically than their classmates who live in dormitories. That sentence was removed after a Columbia Missourian report questioning its accuracy.

Along with online reports, Dyad received data before it began its study showing that fraternity and sorority members who have entered MU since 2009 have higher retention and graduation rates than their non-Greek classmates. That data, provided to the Tribune under a Sunshine Law request, shows 71 percent of fraternity members and 83 percent of sorority members graduate within five years, compared to 60 percent of non-Greek students.

“There are people who have wanted to discredit my entire report because of one inaccurate statement and if that is your prerogative it is certainly your right to feel that way,” McCreary said. “It didn’t change any of the recommendations.”

Fraternities and sororities on campus are divided into four groups. The oldest, dating to 1869, are traditionally white fraternities and sororities of the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Association, which today are required to be inclusive in their membership. There is also the National Panhellenic Council, which governs traditionally black fraternities and sororities, and the Multicultural Greek Council, the newest group, with some organizations that are open to all students and others targeting particular campus communities.

The riskiest behavior identified in the report — parties with hard alcohol, freshmen being hazed, freshmen allowed to drink while under age and lack of older students in the chapter houses — is in the Interfraternity Council chapters, McCreary said.

Sororities generally don’t allow freshmen to live in their chapter houses and the other governing groups typically don’t have chapter houses and recruit students in their second or third year on campus, he said.

“So this was taking about freshmen living in houses and that was geared more specifically to the IFC,” McCreary said. “They certainly are involved in the behavior that seems to be the highest risk.”

Since the report was issued Oct. 24, the public response from Greek organizations has been muted. Those contacted have turned down requests for interviews. A series of private discussions, held by invitation only, will begin Monday.

Devin Tarantino, president of the Interfraternity Council, was reluctant to state any views on the report after the meeting.

“We don’t want any misinformation going out to the media so we want to make sure what we have going out is correct,” Tarantino said. “I think it would be more difficult for the public to get misinformation and have us unwind it.”
The report is being taken seriously by the fraternities, said Trevor Beshear, vice president of public relations for the council.

“When you look at it, this report, some of the things may be tough to hear but it is about moving forward and making our community one of the best in the country, and the safest,” he said.

Ward and Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga emphasized that the goal is a safer, more academically-minded system for fraternities and sororities. The chapters raise large sums for charities and spearhead the annual blood drive that collects thousands of units of blood for the Red Cross, Ward said.

“We are going to be the nation’s model for Greek life,” Ward said. “I don’t know how we define that but we are going to do that together.”

University of Missouri frats feeling heat as some schools impose harsh penalties

By RUDI KELLER

When he was on stage Friday to open the discussion of a consulting report on Greek Life at the University of Missouri, Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga pointed to recent issues at Penn State, Louisiana State and Florida State universities as examples to avoid.

“We don’t want that to happen on this campus and we want to do everything we can to ensure the safety of our Greek communities,” Zeilenga said.

At Penn State, a fraternity pledge died in February of traumatic brain injuries received while drinking heavily in a hazing incident. The school has taken responsibility for organization conduct away from student-run councils and imposed aggressive measures to control drinking and hazing.

At LSU, President F. King Alexander on Wednesday suspended two fraternities and had previously suspended two others since the death of a fraternity pledge during a September hazing incident where he was forced to drink grain alcohol. All sororities and fraternities are barred from having alcohol at social events through January.
And Florida State on Monday announced the indefinite suspension of all Greek activities following the death of a pledge at an off-campus drinking party and the discovery that a member of another was selling cocaine at the chapter house.

Left unmentioned by Zeilenga is that MU came dangerously close to having fraternity alcohol-hazing deaths several times in the fall of 2016. Brandon Zingale, a Kappa Alpha order pledge, had a blood alcohol level of 0.41 on Sept. 28, 2016, when he arrived at the Boone Hospital Center emergency room 10 hours after taking his last drink. Zingale, who left MU, is now suing the fraternity and its leaders for negligence.

It was the second alcohol-poisoning incident at Kappa Alpha within a month. By December 2016, there had been 16 such incidents in 16 months.

The Dyad Strategies report is an effort to avoid the harshest penalties imposed on all Greek organizations at some schools by studying what behavior leads to tragedy and stopping it, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said Friday.

After hearing about the Florida State action, “our reaction was, I am happy that Gary Ward and his team started this review process last year to find out what’s working and what’s not,” Cartwright said.

There is no consideration being given to halting Greek organization activities, he said.

“There is no plan to do that right now,” he said. “There is not. I think what we want to do is use and benefit from all the positives. These are students active in the blood drive, they are active in homecoming, they help us with the leadership skills they gain, their connection with all of our alums. There are tremendous positive parts and we want to make sure we amplify all the positives and avoid any potential negatives.”

Dyad’s report recommends banning the practice of allowing freshmen to live in fraternity houses, stricter enforcement on the ban on hard alcohol and a disciplinary process with swift, sure punishment for violations such as allowing minors to drink. Almost all the 20 recommendations in the risk management section focused on fraternities who are members of the Interfraternity Council. They are the oldest Greek organizations on campus, dating from 1869 when only white males could attend MU.

Consultant Gentry McCreary also didn’t mention the MU incidents, either in his report or during the almost two-hour Friday town hall meeting about the report.

“That was not the tack I chose to take in having the conversation. I chose to use the high-profile incidents that everyone nationally is very familiar with,” he said. “Luckily, the incidents here at Missouri have not garnered national attention and that’s what folks want to avoid. I don’t think they need me to tell them about those things.”
Florida State, LSU and Penn State aren’t the only schools that have cracked down on fraternities. The University of Michigan’s Interfraternity Council took the lead Thursday night when it suspended all social events after allegations of multiple sexual assaults, hazing and several alcohol poisoning hospitalizations the weekend of the Michigan-Michigan State football game.

McCreary said he expects the schools to allow fraternities to resume activities.

“I think they are going to work with the students to look at a plan of action moving forward and they probably will end up doing a lot of things we are talking about here,” he said.

The IFC chapters know the heart of the report’s recommendations are for them to change, vice president for media relations Trevor Beshear said.

“The biggest thing on here is safety,” he said. “We don’t want to do anything that could jeopardize the safety any of the members in our community or any of the communities.”

Whether stated explicitly or understood as the backdrop while discussing other universities, fraternities know their behavior is under scrutiny, Beshear said.

“I think the issues we have had here in the past are horrific incidents in and of themselves,” he said. “And the last thing we want do is have one of those instances happen again or something worse.”

Expert says MU Greek life needs change to avoid fraternity tragedies

By CONNOR HOFFMAN

The recommendations made in the recent report on MU Greek life are intended to prevent incidents such as the recent deaths in fraternities at Florida State University, Penn State University and Louisiana State University, the report’s author told students, alumni and administrators at a forum Friday afternoon.

MU should implement the recommendations — including barring freshmen from living in fraternity houses and not allowing hard liquor in the houses — so “the University of Missouri (is not) in the headlines like a Penn State, like an LSU, like a Florida State,” said Gentry McCreary, the CEO of Dyad Strategies.

Jake Eovaldi, an MU senior and the incoming Interfraternity Council president, said McCreary giving recommendations is helpful, but a lot of conversations still need to take place.
“When they are asking these broad questions and he can only give like a thousand-foot view of it instead of the nitty-gritty, that’s the best you can do,” Eovaldi said. “He spent a month in Columbia or whatever and got the best that he could out of Greek life, but he doesn’t know everything about the place.”

Jeffery Zeilenga, the dean of students, said student safety was the top priority, referencing the recent deaths at fraternities.

“We don’t want that to happen on this campus,” he said. “We want to do everything we can to ensure the safety of our Greek community.”

About 30 students and alumni attended the forum Friday. After McCreary presented his report and its suggestions, he answered questions that were written on cards from those in attendance.

McCreary, who noted that he had been a fraternity member at the University of Tennessee, said one of the first things Gary Ward, the interim vice chancellor for student affairs, said to him when he arrived on campus was that MU wants to have the best Greek system in the country.

“I see the opportunity because we have a system that is well over 100 years old,” Ward said. “We have a large system and we have passion in this system, so we can have the nation’s best Greek system, but we have to get past this issue of student safety.”

The first step toward that goal was taken when MU commissioned the risk-assessment report for $22,000. The second step is a plan to implement the report’s suggestions, which will be decided in the coming months. The third step is implementing it.

Ward said that last May, when he was asked to be the interim vice chancellor for student affairs, he immediately received an email from Devin Tarantino, who was the Interfraternity Council president at the time. Tarantino told Ward to be ready for a large amount of concern about Greek life.

When he read that, Ward said, he was scared to death.

“I was hearing some very disturbing things,” Ward said, which concerned him.

Last Thursday, a revised version of the report was uploaded on the MU website after McCreary was alerted to MU data that showed that new MU fraternity members perform better academically than freshmen males as a whole.

Tarantino said he knew people had misconceptions about Greek life and there was some inaccurate information in the report.

“But as we are doing these meetings,” he said, “we also came into it thinking that there’s work to be done, and those misconceptions will be answered and changed as it goes on.”
Stakeholders will get together and McCreary will be coming back in the winter and early spring to have more discussions about the implementation plan, Ward said. There is no specific date and time that the plans will be implemented, he said.

“The first part is done,” he said. “We still have two more parts to go.”

McCreary also believes MU can set the standard for Greek life nationwide.

“If we can do this right, show that a large campus like Missouri can do this the right way and implement some of these things, I think it can be a national model for other campuses to follow,” McCreary said. “But it’s going to take the undergraduates stepping up and taking the lead and taking ownership of that.”
semester. The groups talked about how involved the school should be with the system, including if the school should withdraw completely from it. The passion people had for the Greek community, McCreary said, showed him that the school needed to be involved.

"We need to be all in," McCreary said to ABC 17 News. "We need to be fully invested, and the report really reflected what does it look like if the university is fully invested in making sure this experience is as safe as it can possibly be."

Four fraternities have either lost recognition as a student group or been suspended by their national organization in the last two years at MU due to repeated conduct violations.

McCreary recommended that freshmen no longer live in fraternity housing. The risks involved include greater exposure to hazing, isolation from the rest of the campus community and alcohol abuse.

"We're taking first semester college freshman and we're immediately throwing them into this environment where there's a lot of alcohol abuse, a lot of potential for problems stemming from the over-consumption of alcohol," McCreary said.

Trevor Beshear, spokesman for the Interfraternity Council, said he enjoyed hearing the explanations behind McCreary's recommendations. He said he appreciated the focus on creating a safer environment for students. While IFC has read the report, it has not yet made a comment on any specific results. Beshear said private meetings next week between McCreary and several different groups, including IFC, will help them with a direction.

"It can't just be us wanting our way, it can't just be the university wanting their way," Beshear said. "It's got to be a collaborative effort to make sure that we're implementing those recommendations in the best way possible."

McCreary said changing the "social audit" procedure, where private security firms search Greek homes for contraband, would help make things safer. Currently, auditors cannot search rooms that have closed doors, which McCreary said weakens their ability to find things like hard alcohol and drugs.

"We don't want to create a draconian police state where people always have private inspectors in their room," McCreary said. "What we do want to do is have an opportunity to make sure the events that are taking place are consistent with state and local laws, that they are safe and that they are adherent to national and university policies in regards to...the distribution of alcohol."

McCreary said he would host several private meetings next week with different groups to get feedback on his recommendations.
Two years after protests, new leadership looks to send MU on upward trajectory

By EDWARD McKINLEY

Two years ago, the world was watching Columbia, Missouri.

MU minority and graduate students demanded change. Pressure built as news media, alumni, the football team and the schools’ deans added their voices, culminating in the resignations of the chancellor and UM System president.

The pressure continued and, in some ways, still does. But the landscape is changing.

Looking back at MU, fall 2015

In fall 2015, MU took away graduate student health care subsidies, so the students walked out of their classes and chanted, “M-I-Z, shame on you.”

In the midst of the Oct. 10 Homecoming parade, members of Concerned Student 1950 — whose name comes from the year when MU began accepting students of color — stepped in front of UM System President Tim Wolfe’s car and demanded he step out to face them and answer for their shared experience of racism on campus and his lack of efforts to address it. He didn’t.

Early the next month, graduate student Jonathan Butler began his hunger strike. “I will not consume any food or nutritional sustenance at the expense of my health until either Tim Wolfe is removed from office or my internal organs fail and my life is lost,” he wrote.

On Nov. 7, black members of the football team announced they wouldn’t participate in practices or games until Wolfe was gone, and soon the white players, coach and athletic director stood behind them. If the Tigers had refused to play in the game against Brigham Young University at Arrowhead Stadium the following weekend, MU would have lost millions of dollars.

Sometime in the same span, MU deans sent a letter to the curators calling for Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s dismissal on the grounds he had failed to address the multitude of crises facing the school and had created a "toxic environment through threat, fear and intimidation." News of the letter leaked Nov. 9, and system curator David Steelman recently credited that letter with Loftin’s resignation.
Finally, it all came to a head: Wolfe and Loftin resigned Nov. 9, and the school and system were left without their chief executives. Butler ended his hunger strike, and the football team announced it would play. There was no option left for the University of Missouri except change.

Since the fall 2015 protests, new campus and system leaders have worked to improve inclusiveness. Students have a more acute sense of their ability to effect change. MU is laboring to repair a battered connection with the state.

Turnover in top leadership "has created a new culture and new expectations for persons who work within our university," said soon-to-depart Dean Judith Miller of the Sinclair School of Nursing, one of four deans remaining from fall 2015. "I think that the values that these leaders share include respect as a central value."

In his first news conference as MU chancellor, Alexander Cartwright summed up his vision for the school's future in the term "New Land-Grant" institution. His vision of MU is a place where creativity and academic excellence flourish in tandem with an intense connection to the community and state.

Feeling the backlash

Consequences of the MU protests in 2015 rippled across Missouri and the rest of the country. Campus unrest and the way leadership handled it drew national attention. The protests, hunger strike, football team boycott and leadership resignations inspired praise and disdain, documentaries from ESPN and Spike Lee and stories from national news media outlets including the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

A mass exodus of leaders occurred across all levels of campus. When Miller retires at the end of the year, three of the 12 deans who were at MU in fall 2015 will remain. Of the eight curators who were on the board during fall 2015, two resigned for personal reasons in the months after, and two others reached their term limits.

Former MU Athletic Director Mack Rhoades, who had been on the job five months before the protests, left in July 2016 for a position at Baylor University. Football coach Gary Pinkel announced his decision to retire a week after the end of the protests, and last week MU Provost Garnett Stokes announced her decision to leave and become president of the University of New Mexico — marking the departure of the final major campus leader who predates the protests.

Missouri lawmakers excoriated university leaders for the handling of the events and have since punished MU and the system. Millions of dollars have been cut across the board for higher education in Missouri, including cuts directed specifically at the UM System. From fiscal 2016 — when the protests occurred — to the current fiscal year, state higher education funding has decreased by almost $50 million.

MU freshman enrollment has dropped both years since the protests. This year, there are 4,134 first-time college students at MU, down roughly a third from 6,191 in fall 2015. Total enrollment
dropped as well, down to 30,870 now from a peak in 2015 at 35,488 students — a drop of about 13 percent.

Seven of the 23 residence halls at MU have been closed, and three — Discovery, Excellence and Center — are rented out for football games and campus events.

There is greater focus now on MU's financial health, but this mindset should have existed for years before the protests, said Ben Trachtenberg, who was chair of the MU Faculty Council in 2015. MU was growing enrollment at an unsustainable rate for years before that, he said, and administrators avoided making tough decisions they knew were coming.

"In the short term, we will need to be thinking about increasing enrollment. It was a larger number before, and we’ve dropped drastically," Cartwright said in September. "We still have the capacity for doing some of those things, so we need to be thinking about how we make best use of existing capacity."

MU has rolled out enrollment initiatives to alleviate tuition or housing costs for low-income and ROTC students, and faculty has helped out by making personal phone calls, sending emails and creating videos to entice potential students. Despite difficulty recruiting new students, MU’s retention rate was 87 percent last year, second-highest in the school's 178-year history.

The combination of these devastating losses to MU’s largest sources of revenue — tuition and state funding — has caused a budget crisis in which hundreds of employees have been laid off and departments and academic programs are still being evaluated for more places to cut. About $60 million was cut in May from the MU budget, and since then there have been tens of millions more.

But things may be stabilizing.

"The system is getting back to normal now," said Donna Lichtenegger, a Republican from Jackson who represents Missouri’s 146th House district and chairs the Higher Education Committee.

**Enrollment decline at MU**

In the past year, MU has seen its lowest first-time college student enrollment in a decade.

Of the roughly $60 million cut from the MU budget, $40 million was to meet the deficit, while $20 million was earmarked for investment into "programs of excellence," as UM System President Mun Choi has said. These programs include research, financial aid and other programs still to be announced. MU is trying to grow again — looking for ways to recruit more students, reconnect with the legislature and become a better university.

**Improving inclusiveness**
Since the 2015 MU protests, the school and system have taken steps to address concerns of minority students. Most notably, the UM System initiated a million-dollar diversity audit, hired Kevin McDonald as the chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer and conducted a 2016 systemwide campus climate survey. At MU, the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX was established, and different schools and colleges have taken steps to address diversity and inclusion in their faculty and students.

From 2015 to 2016, MU increased the number of African-American faculty members from 55 to 58, but the number of black students decreased by almost 10 percent — a rate higher than the overall decrease in enrollment. Last year, less than 3 percent of faculty were African-American and about 7 percent of students were. No data were immediately available for this year, but, anecdotally, the number of black faculty appears to be higher.

Starting spring 2016, new undergraduate students have been required to take a two-hour course called "Citizenship@Mizzou." The program's goal is to expose students to the expectation that everyone should feel welcome and wanted at MU.

The College of Arts and Science undergraduate curriculum also now requires a three-credit "diversity intensive" course after a vote from faculty in March 2016.

An independent consulting company, IBIS, released a 160-page report listing a range of areas in which the school could improve its inclusiveness, and an MU task force analyzed the report and made recommendations. They included: more recruitment of diverse faculty, students and staff; research into the importance of diversity on campus; and measuring diversity rates throughout campus.

Each of the four system campuses was required to hire a chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer who would report directly to the school's chancellor. This was intended to create a direct pipeline for diversity concerns to be addressed by top campus leadership. In addition to his position with the UM System, McDonald is the MU vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity.

The 2016 campus climate survey noted the culture of MU and the country at the time of its administration were factors in the results, so its distribution in fall 2016 during a time of campus leadership turnover and the final leg of a contentious presidential election should be considered.

Respondents brought up racism and "reverse racism" on campus more than any other identity or concern, according to the 578-page report.

Those who identified as African-American reported being called slurs such as "monkey" or "thug," while some white respondents articulated a belief they were victims of diversity efforts.

"Try being a white middle class male who doesn’t agree with all the things going on, then see if you actually feel discriminated against," one wrote. "This whole ‘diversity’ push is in reality a way to 1) demonize whites, and 2) create division and segregation. Giving special treatment to
non whites, singling out white people as ‘privileged’ actually makes whites victims of racism," wrote another.

Despite such comments, the data clearly showed white students, faculty and staff were more comfortable at MU than their African-American counterparts. Thirty-nine percent of white students said they felt "very comfortable" in the classroom, while 13 percent of African-American students said the same. For employees, 40 percent of white respondents said they felt "very comfortable" with the campus climate, while 23 percent of African-American employees responded similarly.

**Changing the culture**

Some campus leaders say things have improved since fall 2015.

The creation of the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX was another important step for addressing discrimination at MU, former director Ellen Eardley said in August. Before that time, Eardley said, many students weren't sure where to turn to when they experienced discrimination.

At the release of the campus climate survey results, experts who wrote the report emphasized the importance of awareness within the campus community of available resources. They said that most respondents who reported discrimination hadn't asked for any help dealing with it, and that was a problem.

Engagement between students and leadership two years ago is "one of the things, when I came in, that students told me was lacking, particularly on the part of administration," McDonald said.

Since then, "one of the biggest and most consistent strides has been engaging the student community in general," McDonald said. "I’ve tried to lead that way. I know many of our other leaders have also taken that approach."

Three of the four deans who remain from 2015 expressed the importance of the leadership turnover in addressing inclusiveness on campus.

"The protests certainly were a turning point, but I don’t think that they’re the center of the story now," said Dean David Kurpius of the School of Journalism.

"I think that the center of the story is we have new, invigorated leadership that is collaborative and working in significant ways to build up this university, support students and serve the state."

Kurpius said there was a "chill on campus that I didn't recognize at the time" in 2015 that prevented people from speaking openly with each other about tough issues. That chill caused problems, Kurpius said, and made it so MU was poised for change. The leadership turnover "has really helped open up that conversation and create partnerships that are really good for this university."
Now, "we’re working on the big issues and we’re talking about how to make processes better," Kurpius said. "There are some tough decisions we’ve had to make, and you feel like somebody is there to support you as you go through the process of trying to make the best decision."

Dean Elizabeth Loboa of the College of Engineering said Choi and Cartwright bring "positive energy and bright vision."

Loboa said MU has implemented training to "help faculty and staff understand and discuss diversity issues on campus," which has been valuable because a "great university must equip its faculty, staff and students with the skills to work collaboratively with people from all backgrounds and walks of life and to embrace diverse perspectives."

Despite strides that have been made, McDonald said, it is important to remain vigilant to concerns of diversity and inclusion.

"It’s easy if you haven’t had any major negative incidents to assume that everything is fine and OK, and maybe take your foot off the gas," McDonald said. "I think it’s important for us to remain reflective, remain engaged with our community and remain thoughtful and intentional about how we’re approaching this work."

If all the people who care about MU are committed to diversity and inclusion and work together, McDonald said, "many of our ripples can turn into a wave, and it will be infectious, and we’ll really be able to represent the kind of Mizzou community that we want and we’re looking for."

Coordinator of the Multicultural Center Chelsea Drake, Legion of Black Collegians Communications Chair Denajha Phillips and former Missouri Students Association President Payton Head did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Marshall Allen, president of the Legion of Black Collegians, declined to comment.

**Hearing the student voice**

Campus leaders say that in the wake of the protests, members of the campus community understand the power of their collective voice more than before.

"I think the events of 2015 were, in part, a result of previous administrators not listening enough," Trachtenberg said. "Current administrators are aware of those mistakes."

The biggest change for graduate students from fall 2015, said Eric Scott, co-chair of the Coalition of Graduate Workers, is how they see themselves. The Coalition of Graduate Workers is a group that emerged from the outcry about health care subsidies.

Nathan Willett, the Missouri Students Association president, agreed. "The most important thing, I think, that has resulted from 2015 is the student stakeholder has strengthened here at our university," he said.
The campus community has a deeper understanding of the role graduate student workers play, Scott said. With the success of protests for health insurance in 2015, graduate students now understand they can demand what they feel they deserve and get results, Scott said.

Alex Howe, president of the Graduate Professional Council, said another exciting development is the feeling of consistency in campus and system leadership.

During the past two years, the leadership turnover made it difficult to effectively petition for change, Howe said. He'd often meet with administrators to address specific concerns, he said, then the next thing he knew they'd be gone.

"We're excited we've got folks here who plan to stay here a long time," Howe said. From his meetings with campus and system leadership, Howe said, he gets the sense that administrators genuinely care about MU and the state of Missouri — they don't just view the school as a "career way station."

Willett, Scott and Howe said Chancellor Cartwright now invites student representatives to chancellor staff meetings monthly — something that didn't happen under previous administration. Members of the faculty and staff councils are also invited to these meetings now.

It's nice Cartwright invites students to monthly meetings now, Howe said, but it's disappointing it took this long for MU leadership to recognize the importance of hearing the student perspective. At other schools, student leaders attend campus leadership meetings much more regularly than once a month, Howe said, and have been for years.

Scott said there have been victories for graduate students — the minimum pay for nine-month, half-time doctoral assistants increased from $12,000 to $18,000 — but Howe and Scott said they still feel there is a long way to go for graduate student rights at MU.

"The university is categorically prioritizing the undergraduate experience to the detriment of graduate students," Howe said.

Graduate students kept their health insurance after the walkouts and protests in 2015, but lately, health care woes have continued. Students pay a health fee at the beginning of each semester, Howe said, and that used to cover a certain number of visits to the Student Health Center. The health center recently changed its policy, and now there is a copay, deductible and co-insurance for each student visit, Howe said. Many didn't meet the maximum number of basic visits, Howe said, so it used to be more affordable.

"Now it's effectively no cheaper than going to any other doctor," Howe said.

Another major issue for graduate students is recognition of their labor union for the purpose of collective bargaining.
Graduate students voted overwhelmingly in April 2016 for unionization, but the school has not recognized it as legitimate. The Coalition of Graduate Workers is now suing UM System curators over the legitimacy of their union.

"It is our belief that unionizing is unnecessary for Mizzou’s graduate students," MU spokesman Christian Basi wrote in a May 2016 email. "We believe that graduate students are fundamentally students and are part of our campus communities to learn." In a Nov. 3 email, Basi wrote that MU’s position remains unchanged.

"The university has refused to work with us," Scott said.

Winning union recognition is the primary goal for the Coalition of Graduate Workers, Scott said, and this would provide student workers with a more democratic voice in the campus governing process.

The importance of being heard was emphasized by Scott, Howe and Willett. Their words echoed Cartwright’s — at his first public media availability in September, Cartwright said he hoped to prevent mass protests like the ones in 2015 by making sure students always feel heard and valued.

"All the major decisions being made right now, there are students at the table. So, having that, I’m feeling confident on the direction of our university," Willett said.

Reconnecting with the state

One of the major revelations from the 2015 protests was the tenuous relationship that had developed between MU and the state, curator David Steelman said at an Oct. 10 event.

Missouri’s Higher Education Student Funding Act, which limits tuition increases to the rate of inflation, has forced MU over the past 10 years to recruit more and more out-of-state students because of their higher tuition, Steelman said, leaving less focus for Missouri students. So when people across Missouri were ashamed by the events of 2015 at MU, Steelman said, the connection between MU and the state was tenuous, and legislators lashed out against the school.

The damage done by the protests was exacerbated by the news media giving the impression of chaos, Lichtenegger said. "Even the students had no idea what was going on," she said. "They were never in danger."

"This could've all been over in like three days," Lichtenegger said.

As a result, Missourians completely misunderstood what happened at MU in 2015, Lichtenegger said, and legislators wouldn't listen when she tried to explain the truth to them.

Thanks to new leadership, Lichtenegger said, things are finally starting to improve.
MU has recommitted itself to connecting with the state of Missouri, investing about $1.5 million in marketing and public relations to repair its image and deal quickly with potentially damaging events.

The school rolled out an enrollment initiative — the Missouri Land Grant Compact — to provide free tuition for thousands of low-income Missouri residents, as well as a recent affordability initiative to make living and eating on campus cheaper.

Marshall Stewart was hired in May 2016 as the vice chancellor for engagement and extension, and he has traveled throughout each Missouri county in an effort to connect more with the state's residents. At curator meetings, Stewart has frequently discussed the idea of "Missouri first" as his mantra.

Choi suspended the search for a new UM System governmental relations director, and he is now personally handling those responsibilities. Choi reacts quickly to the faintest whisper of events that could damage MU's brand — such as June revelations of inappropriate bonuses to administrators, after which Choi immediately cut the program. At a Friday curators meeting, when students walked in with signs calling for MU to divest in fossil fuels, Choi quickly rose and crossed the room to shake their hands and listen.

The UM System has been eager to involve itself in state affairs. Choi and Gov. Eric Greitens went on a trade trip to South Korea, and when a proposal was released to tempt Amazon into building its second headquarters in Missouri, Choi and the UM System quickly published a statement supporting the idea.

Lichtenegger said the relationship between the UM System and the legislature is improving steadily, in large part because of Choi, who she said is very perceptive, proactive and hardworking.

She said the current amount of state funding is not sustainable, and the state should consider repealing the tuition cap for Missouri colleges. Doing so, Lichtenegger said, will allow universities to compete more directly with each other so "the cream of the crop will rise to the top." People fear schools would raise tuition quickly and significantly, Lichtenegger said, but this would not happen because then the schools would lose out on students.

"At some point," Lichtenegger said, "you need to let the universities run the universities."

Trachtenberg said that no matter how prevalent the appearance of change is, most things being done at MU remain unchanged: High-level research is still being conducted; students are still learning; and MU is still trying to improve itself.

"The core mission and goals of the university are very similar to what they were 50 years ago," he said, "and I expect they are very similar to what they'll be 50 years from now."
Scientific curiosity isn't just for cities; Mizzou researchers bring science to rural towns

By Eli Chen

Generated from News Bureau and Broader Impacts direct pitch


One night at an airport in Syracuse, New York, Arianna Soldati, a postdoctoral candidate in volcanology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, found herself waiting on a continually delayed flight. To pass the time, she opened her suitcase and fished out a bag of volcanic rocks she had collected on a recent trip. Then, she started showing them to people at her gate.

"Everyone was really excited. Most people have never seen lava before and they had a ton of questions and the delay went by faster than usual," Soldati said.

Soldati has always found joy in sharing her research with the public, which is why she created a science outreach program this fall to bring science presentations to rural towns in Missouri.

The project, called Science on Wheels, is run by a group of Mizzou graduate students, whose research areas range from earthquakes to extinct animals.
So far, they've traveled to Fulton, Tipton and Jefferson City. The last event before the end of the year will take place Nov. 30 in Fayette.

"The majority of people in Missouri do not live in Columbia, St. Louis or Kansas City. They live in the many other small communities in the state. I really wanted to do something for that part of the population that we typically do not reach," Soldati said.

The events give the public a chance to interact directly with scientists, an opportunity that's much easier to come by in cities where there are museums and universities. Soldati thinks traveling to rural areas will also help show the general public that not all scientists are older white men — and that some are young women like her.

Soldati doesn't present research at Science on Wheels; her role is largely to organize and advertise the program. But she said it's important that the speakers make the presentations as accessible and relatable as possible to their audience.

"I have to keep in mind that a third of the people who speak my scientific language are in the [geology building at Mizzou]. So I cannot go out to the general public and start going on about thermocouples, spindles and RPMs because that does not really have any meaning to them," she said. "The point of Science on Wheels is really to tell people why what we study is relevant to them.

"For me, it's volcanology. Why would someone who is a farmer care about any of this? For example, one thing I could talk about is the fact that volcanic ash is something that fertilizes the soil," Soldati said. "It's something that contains key elements, like phosphorus, that farmers know about because they are the same ones they check for when they buy fertilizer."

Although Science on Wheels is designed to be family friendly, the events are primarily aimed at adults. That's a group that Soldati thinks are often left behind when it comes to science outreach events, which more often are aimed at children.
"After you're done with school, if you do not go into science yourself, as an adult you may never hear about science again until you have children," she said. "So I wanted to do something that was specifically targeted at them."

Soldati expects to finish her post doctorate degree by next spring, but she hopes that Science on Wheels continues after she graduates.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Senate tax plan mirrors House hit on state revenue

By RUDI KELLER

The provisions in the tax plan proposed by Republicans in the U.S. House that would put $1 billion or more of Missouri state revenue in jeopardy are also included in the package put forward Thursday in the U.S. Senate.

A single change, increasing the standard deduction, could reduce the payments some Missourians make to the state more than the cuts they would receive on their federal tax liability. The deduction, currently $6,300 for individuals and $12,600 for married couples, would increase to $12,000 and $24,000, respectively.

A married couple with one child and a simple return for $75,000 income would save $485 under rates used in the House bill. The state income tax cut for that couple would be $672. Exact tax brackets are not yet available for the Senate proposal.

By law, Missouri’s standard deduction is the same as the federal deduction. With 2.1 million state tax returns using the standard deduction, the decline in receipts could exceed $1 billion out of approximately $9 billion in state general revenue.

The University of Missouri is trying to make lawmakers in Washington understand how that loss of revenue, as well as other provisions in the proposals, would hurt the school and the state, UM System President Mun Choi said Friday.
“It is very significant and that would affect every citizen in Missouri, even beyond the students who are attending the University of Missouri and that could be very detrimental to the state, higher education, K-12 education and Medicaid,” Choi said.

So far, the impact on the state has not changed the minds of Republicans who represent Boone County in Congress. U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Harrisonville, are supportive of the plans put forth in their respective chambers.

Blunt sent out an appeal to his supporters the day the Senate plan was unveiled, asking them to add their names to a list of people backing the tax bill.

“Conservatives like myself and President Trump are doing everything we can to make the tax code simpler,” Blunt wrote. “Unfortunately, the Democrats are trying to preserve their special interest benefits in our current tax code and don’t care about the struggling Americans.”

In a statement sent by email from spokeswoman Katie Boyd, Blunt said the current tax system is a drag on the economy.

“The tax plan establishes a framework for pro-growth tax changes that will expand opportunity and allow Missouri families to keep more of what they earn,” Blunt said.

The House tax bill is changing and more details on what it will do will emerge this week, said Steve Walsh, spokesman for Hartzler.

“However one thing is clear – the doubling of the standard deduction will greatly benefit the Missouri taxpayer and this is the primary focus of tax reform,” Walsh said.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., is undecided. McCaskill is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which will work on the bill this week.

She will work “to shape the bill toward one that will work better for working families in Missouri,” spokeswoman Sarah Feldman wrote in an email. “She’s keeping an open mind, and is hopeful that what comes out of the Finance Committee could be something that earns her support, if it meets that test.”

The Senate plan preserves some current tax benefits for higher education that the House bill would eliminate. It maintains a deduction for student loan interest and does tax tuition and fee waivers granted to graduate assistants. The debate over those provisions, and others on deductions for charitable contributions, is something UM is watching, Choi said.

The tax plans could make fundraising more difficult if deductions for charitable contributions are eliminated and that is the message UM is sending to lawmakers, Choi said.

“We believe very strongly that higher education can provide a transformative experience for students who attend our university and for faculty members who continue their research,” he
said. “When we see opportunities to provide our input, for and against policies that support higher education, we are going to take that action.”

MU hosts annual Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony

By SYDNEY KALICH


COLUMBIA - The Missouri Student Union held a wreath laying ceremony Friday afternoon to honor veterans across the country.

MU participated in the National Remembrance Day Roll Call where veterans read of the names of MU student veterans who have been killed. The event is an annual event at MU to honor veterans.

The keynote speaker of the event was Col. Roderik Cox who served over 12 years in combat, peacekeeping and covert missions. Cox, an MU alumnus, said that despite varying definitions of veterans throughout different branches of the military, his definition is clear.

"I prefer to define a veteran as anyone who at one point in time in their life, held up their hand and swore an oath to support and defend our Construction," Cox said. "Who wrote that invisible blank check that could be cashed at anytime of our nation. That check for everything they had, up to and including their life."
The event included remarks from the president of MU’s Student Union Programming Board, the president of MU Student Veterans Association and the chair of the MU department of Military Science and Leadership.

Robert Ross, director of the MU Veterans Center, helped the event. The MU Veterans Center works with the over 400 student veterans on campus. Ross said the event was to not only honor the past but look forward to the peace that could be found in the future.

"We certainly as veterans look to a day when we will have world peace so that you know perhaps this Veteran's Day or next year's Veteran's Day or ten years from now, it would be the last time we have to stand in the cold and read the names of those service members who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Ross.

Throughout the event many of the speakers referred to the stereotypes of veterans that have come out of Hollywood.

"Most veterans I know shake their head at the Hollywood stereotype, and sure there are a few of us out there that fit that image, but there are a whole heck of a lot of us who are just regular folks," Cox said. "We aren't living on the street, we don't need any handouts. Rather we were lawyers, teachers, nurses, bankers, coaches."

Event attendee David Emily, who served 5 years in the Navy before becoming a student at MU, echoed similar sentiments.

"I think it is kind of important to remember that veterans are just average people. I think Hollywood kind of portrays veteran in a certain light and that's not always true. Veterans are normally just typical, they want to go to school, they want to be a student they want to have a job," Emily said.

Ross also expressed gratitude for the event saying it gave veterans and student veterans a chance to realize the gratitude the country has to them.

"It shows that this country appreciates what veterans do for them. Veterans when you see them in the community, you may not know they are veterans, your neighbor could be a veteran, your best friend's father or mother could be a veteran," Ross said. "You never know because veterans don't walk around saying 'Hey, look at me, I'm a veteran,' and so there is no way of knowing walking through campus."

The event was followed with a reception at Bengal's Lair in Memorial Union.
MU hopes to blunt crisis through education

By WAVERLY COLVILLE

The University of Missouri School of Medicine hopes to help blunt the opioid abuse health crisis with a new course to teach health care providers across the state about the dangers of the painkilling drugs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths in Missouri from synthetic opioids increased 63.2 percent between 2014 and 2015. Opioids are painkilling drugs such as morphine, codeine, heroin and fentanyl.

The Show-Me ECHO program, Missouri’s chapter of the nationwide program, began in 2015 and is run through the Missouri Telehealth Network at the MU School of Medicine. School officials said MU recognized the need to educate health care providers about opioid addiction and abuse.

“We became increasingly aware of the crisis,” said Karen Edison, medical director of the Show-Me ECHO program. “We’ve been doing a chronic pain ECHO since the beginning, so we see the chronic pain” class “as the prevention and the opioid use disorder” class “as the treatment.”

Show-Me ECHO began its opioid program on Sept. 8. With more than 100 users registered, the program meets virtually on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Show-Me ECHO also offers sessions on asthma, autism, child psychology, chronic pain management, community health, dermatology, health care ethics and hepatitis C.

The goal of the opioid use disorder program is to spread knowledge to parts of Missouri that don’t have as much access to health care.

“You’re going to be getting specialty information out to all areas of Missouri, the rural, underserved, uninsured and underinsured,” said Misty Jordan, ECHO’s coordinator for opioid use disorder.
Each session begins with an introduction of the experts. For the opioid use disorder class, the team consists of two addiction psychiatrists, a pharmacist, a social worker, a clinical psychologist, a primary care addictionologist and a health literacy expert.

“In that ECHO, we teach a medication-first strategy to decrease” disease and death, Edison said. “We also teach evidence-based principles that reduce harm and encourage recovery and support. We teach compassionate, patient-centered care for individuals who are addicted to opioids. Our whole approach is aimed at keeping people alive.”

The experts go over the specific topic planned for each section. For the opioid use disorder class, topics include reducing barriers to treatment for opioid use disorder, the neuroscience of addiction and strategies to prevent relapse in addicts.

Participants can present anonymous cases to discuss, ask questions and receive recommendations.

Megan Cates, a doctor of osteopathic medicine at Family Health Center in Columbia, attends the opioid sessions. She has also taken the chronic pain management course and will begin the child psychology session soon.

“The ECHOs are” a “great learning opportunity,” Cates said. “The opioid use disorder in general is a big issue. We’ve all heard of the opioid epidemic and I wanted to hear more about it. It’s a great way to learn more from people who are treating it.”

The opioid class will last until March.

Jordan said health care providers will not be experts after completing a session, but the increased knowledge will help them and their patients.

“You’re educating yourself,” Jordan said. “It’s going to get wait times shorter and make the whole medical system more efficient.”

**Missouri opioid deaths on track to exceed traffic fatalities**

By RUDI KELLER
Deaths from opioid overdose could reach a grim milestone this year in Missouri as narcotic fatalities appear likely to exceed those from traffic accidents for the first time in official state statistics.

In 2016, the Department of Health and Senior Services recorded 908 opioid overdose deaths and the Missouri State Highway Patrol catalogued 947 traffic fatalities. Through Aug. 31, the death toll from opioids stood at 733 and the count for traffic fatalities was 591.

Both agencies have higher, more recent figures - 22 additional opioid deaths through Oct. 31 and 183 more traffic fatalities through Saturday -- but a comparison is difficult because overdose reporting takes longer to process than traffic data.

Those opioid deaths, part of a national trend that led President Donald Trump to declare a public health emergency, include eight in Boone County this year. Since Jan. 1, 2016, Boone County Medical Examiner Chris Stacy said he has handled 43 intoxication related deaths of all kinds and 25 motor vehicle collision deaths for the county.

The local numbers could have been much worse – the Columbia Fire Department has responded to 309 overdose calls since Jan. 1, an average of one every day. The department has administered the anti-overdose drug naloxone, also known as narcan, 17 times. The University of Missouri Hospital emergency room has administered it 38 times.

In one recent case, no response could have been fast enough, Lt. Michael Holz of the fire department said. A young man didn’t have time to put the needle away before he was dead.

“The needle wasn’t in his arm, it had obviously fallen out, but it killed him instantly,” Holz said. “It killed him instantly because he was in rigor in the process of doing his drugs.”

Randall Williams, director of the state health department, will open a Nov. 29 opioid summit at the Courtyard hotel co-hosted by the Columbia-Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services. Law enforcement, health professionals and researchers will discuss the opioid epidemic. It is one of nine local summits across the state that is just a part of the public response.

**Opioid Deaths**

Since Jan. 1, Missouri has recorded 755 opioid overdose deaths. The city of St. Louis and eight counties each have 10 or more deaths and account for 72 percent of the overdose deaths statewide.

1. St. Louis County, 175
2. City of St. Louis, 125
3. Jackson County, 58
4. Jefferson County, 53
5. Greene County, 47
6. St. Charles County, 46
“We have two phenomenon going on,” Williams said Thursday. “In St. Louis we have people dying of fentanyl. In rural Missouri, especially in southeast Missouri, it is the number of prescriptions being filled and the misuse and abuse of oral narcotics.”

The summits are intended to put local health departments in charge of a response tailored to the needs of each area, Williams said.

“The purpose is to align our federal, state and local partners together so they know what resources are available for those entities,” Williams said.

Missouri is the only state without a statewide program to monitor prescriptions. A program ordered by Gov. Eric Greitens after lawmakers failed again this year to pass legislation mandating a program is having difficulty being launched. Williams declined to discuss the issues because the contract to develop the database is still in the hands of state purchasing agents.

A program sponsored by St. Louis County provides only spotty coverage across the state but the first report on Oct. 11 showed opioid prescription rates in Columbia to be about average for the jurisdictions participating.

In Congress, U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., has investigated opioid manufacturer sales and marketing practices. In Missouri, the rival for her seat, Attorney General Josh Hawley, is suing three major opioid manufacturers for deceptive marketing and has sent demands for documents to 10 other manufacturers and distributors.

In 2014, Missouri passed a law allowing first responders to carry and administer naloxone and last year followed that with a law allowing pharmacies to dispense the drug without a prescription if they set up a standing protocol with a doctor. Along with the Columbia Fire Department, the Boone County Fire District keeps the drug in their kit.

“We have been using it for just over two years and have used it successfully many times,” assistant chief Gale Blomenkamp said. “The issue with having that is that it has got to be administered pretty early in an event.”

The epidemic has no social or economic boundaries, Holz and Lt. Pete Waldron of the fire department said Friday. The more severe overdose cases, however, are among users who inject their drugs rather than those who consume them orally. Responding to the scene of an overdose has many dangers, they said.
“We have a lot of calls where we have to have a heightened awareness of what we are going into,” Waldron said.

In Butler County recently, a law enforcement officer exposed to drugs during an investigation became unresponsive and was administered naloxone, Williams said. Fentanyl is especially dangerous because such a small amount can kill either through absorption through the skin or if it becomes airborne as a powder.

“The biggest problem is that the people getting these drugs, as well as the law enforcement investigating or the EMS showing up, nobody ever really knows what is in these drugs,” Williams said.

Naloxone is an aerosol and revives the patient instantly. That can have its own dangers, Holz said.

“You give narcan to somebody who is unconscious and it doesn’t take 5 or 10 minutes to wake them up,” he said. “They are up. And if they have spent a lot of money on that drug, they are mad. There’s been several instances in St. Louis, and I think we had one here, where someone woke up and immediately grabbed a gun off the night stand.”

Saving the lives of someone who has overdosed is an opportunity to get them into treatment. While it can take two to four weeks to obtain a bed at Phoenix Health Programs for alcohol treatment, the agency tries to make room for a person in crisis from opioid addiction within 48 hours, said Laura Cameron, program manager.

The program has 30 beds for men, six for women and up to seven detox beds, she said. Medication to block opioids is one of the more successful treatments currently she said.

And every case manager is prepared for the worst, Cameron said.

“All of our case managers are carrying narcan now,” she said.
Several Missouri groups who want an ultra-fast tube-like transportation system to take commuters from Kansas City to St. Louis in 31 minutes might not need to fundraise as much for a feasibility study. KC Tech Council President Ryan Webber, who’s helping with fundraising efforts, tells Missourinet some engineering firms have offered their expertise.

“Many of them have even offered doing some of the work on the feasibility study pro bono. Even though the entire study is estimated to cost between $1 million to $1.5 million, that does not necessarily mean that will be in cash.”

Webber says the study would take about one year to complete and would help to determine if a system like Hyperloop is practical in Missouri.

“I think for those organizations specifically, they see this as potentially the future of transportation and getting a chance to work alongside the Hyperloop One team is very exciting to them,” says Webber. “It’s a sexy project. If this is the future of transportation, I think for a number of different companies they want to be at the ground level of that.”

Ridership forecasts and determining how much state money would be needed to back the operation could be included in the study. State officials say the transportation mode would be a private venture that would not raise taxes.

MODOT, the St. Louis Regional Chamber, the University of Missouri System and the Missouri Innovation Center in Columbia are working together to further the Hyperloop vision.

Part of the state’s pitch to lure Amazon to build its second headquarters in Missouri involved the possibility of a future Hyperloop One route moving goods and workers up and down I-70 quickly. Webber says Missouri’s proposal to the online giant did not prompt the coalition to begin raising money for the study.

Since the state would want a private company to finance billions to build and operate a potential Hyperloop route, it’s unknown if Missouri officials will ask a multi-billion dollar innovative-thinking corporation like Amazon to bring the whole George Jetson concept to life in Missouri.
Mizzou unveils statue honoring coaching icon Norm Stewart

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch Nov 10, 2017 (2)

COLUMBIA, MO. • Hours before the most anticipated season in years tips off, Missouri basketball’s living legends gathered outside Mizzou Arena to honor the man they called Coach as the school unveiled Norm Stewart’s statue Friday afternoon.

The bronze statue features Stewart pointing with his right hand, index finger extended, probably in the direction of an official, Stewart later joked.

Stewart, who helped uncover the statue with his wife, Virginia, was touched by the moment.

“T’ve been out of (coaching) 18, 19 years and people might not know who that is,” he said, "but I hope people bring their children, I hope they bring their grandchildren, I hope they bring their friends and they come by and the players that were there, the student assistants and doctors and trainers all bring their friends and point to that (statue) and say, ‘I helped put that there.’ Because they did. They’re the ones who put it there. And I’m so proud that it’s me.”

The statue was sculpted by St. Louis’ Harry Weber, whose work includes the statue of Don Faurot outside MU’s Memorial Stadium and the Plaza of Champions collection of bronze statues of Cardinals players outside Busch Stadium. Construction of the statue cost approximately $190,000, raised by private funds.

Stewart, a Mizzou alum who played basketball and baseball for the Tigers in the 1950s, coached his alma mater to a 634-333 record from 1967-99. His teams captured eight regular-season conference championships and six conference tournament championships and reached the NCAA Tournament 16 times.

Dozens of former Tigers who played for Stewart during his 32-year run were on hand Friday, including seven of the nine All-Americans he coached: John Brown, Willie Smith, Steve Stipanovich, Jon Sundvold, Derrick Chievous, Doug Smith and Melvin Booker. Doug Smith, the two-time Big Eight player of the year, was among the day’s guest speakers and choked back tears while talking about his former coach.

“He taught us things father figures do,” said Smith, 48, the program’s No. 2 career scorer and rebounder. “Not knowing my father growing up, (Stewart) was a tremendous person in my life and I owe everything to him today. ... His tenacity, his grit, his determination and all those things he had within himself he put in us. That’s what made it easy for us to go on the floor and play. We owe everything to you.”
“When I travel across the country,” Smith added, “and since I’m a big guy people say, ‘Did you play college basketball?’ I say, ‘Yeah, I played a little bit.’ … ‘Where did you play?’ … ‘University of Missouri.’ ‘Enough said. You played for Norm.’

“No matter where you go Norm Stewart is Missouri basketball. It’s synonymous. There’s only one name. … You don’t know it at the time when you’re 17, 18 years old, but when you get up there in age a little bit you realize, Coach, you made it all worth it coming here.”

Other speakers included former Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins, speaking on behalf of Coaches vs. Cancer, the charity organization Stewart helped create in the 1990s; Mizzou athletics director Jim Sterk; and chancellor Alex Cartwright. Cardinals radio broadcaster and former MU radio voice John Rooney hosted the event.

During his speech, Cremins passed along a message from former Oklahoma coach and Stewart foil Billy Tubbs, “He wanted me to say, ‘Sit down, Norm!’”

Sterk noted that Stewart, 82, has spent a lot of time around the Mizzou offices the last few weeks.

“It’s like having a modern-day Mark Twain hanging around and telling stories,” Sterk said. “I know all of you enjoy them as well.”

After the unveiling Stewart held court with reporters inside Mizzou Arena, regaling stories of Don Faurot, Dan Devine and others from MU’s storied past. Asked about Friday night’s game against Iowa State, Stewart even broke out his impression of former Cyclones coach Johnny Orr. “Damn, boy!” he said in high squeaky voice to mimic his old coaching rival.

Asked whom he thinks the statue of his likeness is pointing toward, Stewart said, “If I think of an official I immediately think of ‘Boomer,’ who just passed away. Jim Bain, a great official. We lost him last week. Or Johnny Overby, who we lost last year.”

Then he came back with a patented Stewart punchline, “Those (officials), they’re tremendous … after you’re through coaching.”

As for his role with the current Mizzou program, Stewart said, “As a former coach you try to stay out unless you’re asked. If somebody asks you to do something you try to help. I’ve tried to do that will all of them who have been here and then stay removed. An old coach can impart some things to certain people. You want to be very careful.”

Stewart has had a few conversations with new Tigers coach Cuonzo Martin, who played and coached at Purdue under Gene Keady.

“He’s got to be a little jilted that he was with Keady for eight years,” Stewart joked.

“Something’s got to be up there rattling around.

“But he’s passed a lot of tests already. He came to our Coaches vs. Cancer dinner in Kansas City. We had 550 people. He and (Kansas coach) Bill Self and Bruce Weber from K-State and usually (Gregg)
Marshall comes from Wichita State and the UMKC coach. I told Cuonzo that I know a lot of Missouri people spent time talking to him and their impression was extremely good. But, I said, ‘I’m going to tell you something: You passed a bigger test than that. My wife and daughter spent some time with you and their bull(bleep) meter runs pretty good after all these years.’"

Of the hundreds of players Stewart coached, he shared an anecdote about a former walk-on, Mark Wampler, a Savannah, Mo., native who played at MU in the late 1990s and attended Friday’s event.

“I got mad one day at one of the starters and we were getting ready to play Texas,” Stewart said. “You’ve got to understand TV wasn’t as dominant as it is now. We played Texas and I started him and Wamp had a hell of a game. I thought he scored 10 points. He told me upstairs he didn’t think he scored 10. But he made a couple baskets. I told him, ‘You’ve got to go back to Savannah and take advantage of this. I made you a hero.’”

Lastly, as he talked to a room full of reporters, most too young to remember his peak years at Mizzou, Stewart shared some sage advice for dealing with the media, passed along from Devine, his former athletics director and MU’s football coach in the 1960s.

Said Stewart: “Dan told me, ‘If a guy asks you a question, just take your time and stroll it out a little bit. They don’t have all day. Just give him a hell of a long answer because then maybe you don’t have to answer the second question. Because, you guys, it’s not the first question you ask that’s tough. It’s the second and third one. So, what we try to do is bull(bleep) you until you forget the second and third one.”

'Missourian'

'Norm Stewart is Missouri basketball': Iconic coach's statue unveiled outside Mizzou Arena

By GRANT SHARPLES AND ALEC LEWIS

Wearing a black overcoat and gold Versace tie, Norm Stewart tore off the black tarp. Underneath was a statue of himself, a statue Stewart believes represents the legacy of Missouri basketball.

“I was very proud,” Stewart said of his thoughts when he first saw the sculpture of him pointing at a referee. “On the statue, I had a wonderful head of hair. I miss my hair.”

Stewart’s 32-season legacy as coach of the Missouri men’s basketball team brought 634 wins — the most of any MU basketball coach in history.

His teams competed in 16 NCAA Tournaments, winning six Big Eight Tournaments.
He is the only person in the school’s history to be inducted into the University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame as a coach and student-athlete; Stewart also played basketball and baseball as an MU student.

The UM System Board of Curators unanimously approved the statue on Oct. 31. A week and a half later, the statue was unveiled at Walsworth Plaza outside Mizzou Arena.

At the event, MU athletic figures gave speeches in celebration. Speakers included former Georgia Tech basketball coach Bobby Cremins, MU Athletic Director Jim Sterk and former MU basketball player and Missouri Hall of Famer Doug Smith.

“No matter where you go, Norm Stewart is Missouri basketball,” Smith said to a crowd of more than 100 in the 40-degree weather.

To hear that made Stewart proud: “I talked to a lot of my former players almost daily. It’s always great to see them, and that’s one of the best things about this.”

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright detailed Stewart’s achievements with his charity work — Coaches vs. Cancer and Three-Point Attack — and described the success raising money for cancer research, an issue personal to Stewart.

He was diagnosed in 1989 with colon cancer but ultimately overcame it.

Smith said that if anyone could beat cancer, it would be his former coach.

The donation effort, boosted by 20 former players, exceeded the $196,000 cost of the statue. Remaining funds will go to the Norm and Virginia Stewart Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Harry Weber, a St. Louis resident who designed the Don Faurot statue at Memorial Stadium as well as statues of St. Louis Cardinals players Ozzie Smith and Stan Musial, designed the statue.

“When you can get (a design) approved by my wife and daughter, it’s got to be pretty good,” Stewart said.

For the first time in four years, Stewart wore his special gold-and-black Versace tie bought by his family in Italy back in 1982 as he delivered his speech of gratitude.

He doesn’t wear it often, nor does he know when he’ll wear it next. But he was happy to put on it on for this special occasion.

“People will look at the statue and really not know who that is,” Stewart said. “I hope all the former players, student assistants and fans bring their friends by and point to that and say, ‘I helped put that there.’

“Because they did.”
COLUMBIA, Mo. - After 32 years as the head coach of the Tigers and putting the program on the map, Mizzou commemorated Norm Stewart forever.

Mizzou athletics honored Stewart with a bronze statue on the north side of Mizzou Arena today.

Stewart coached Mizzou from 1967 to 1999 and won more than 630 games in his Hall of Fame career. He helped lead the Tigers to 16 of its 26 all-time NCAA tournament appearances and 19 Big 8 tournament championships.

Fans, former players, former coaches and administration members were in attendance to pay tribute to Mizzou basketball's greatest coach.

Norm Stewart met with the media immediately following the unveiling of the statue.

The statue is privately funded and made by St. Louis native Harry Weber. Weber made the bronze statue of Don Faurot on the north side outside of Faurot Field.

Current men's basketball coach Cuonzo Martin believes the honor is deserved and hopes to follow in Stewart's footsteps.
Missouri Court of Appeals visits law school, hears three cases

By STEPHI SMITH

The Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, convened Wednesday on campus at Hulston Hall.

The panel consisted of four judges, Chief Judge Mark Pfeiffer, Judge James Welsh, Judge Gary Witt and Judge Edward Ardini Jr. Pfeiffer and Witt both graduated from the MU School of Law.

The judges heard prepared oral arguments presented by various lawyers for three different cases. The hearing included cases involving the Missouri Department of Public Safety, a gas company and a contraceptive implant.

The Western District’s headquarters is in Kansas City, Missouri, but the court often convenes court away, at various locations in western Missouri. This is to allow individuals, especially law students, an opportunity to become familiar with the judicial system that’s not always publicized, according to the School of Law’s website.

Approximately 50 law students filled the seats in Hulston Hall, some of which attended for a class.

Law student Cameron Brown’s class was assigned to read the briefs on the summary page, attend the hearing and later write up a mock opinion about each case.

She said attending the hearing and listening to the lawyers’ arguments made understanding the overall cases easier for her.

“It makes the briefs that we read a little more clear versus just reading it on paper, and kind of seeing how it actually goes in real life,” she said.

Law professor Sam Halabi had his students attend at least one of the hearings and then debriefed with them the next day in class.

He said that his students seemed to have learned a lot from the experience. He wanted them to see the interaction between judges and lawyers at the appellate level as well as see how a subsistent area of the law plays out in court, he said.
The court hearing was “justice at its best,” Halabi said. He said a lot of students agreed that the lawyers had well thought out arguments and the judges demonstrated a deep familiarity with the record and posed relevant questions to the lawyers.

He also said the court traveling to MU was beneficial to students, as it’s easier for them to sit in on a court hearing that’s at their school as opposed to traveling to Kansas City. It’s a helpful activity that the judges do, he said and he hopes they continue to do it.

“They come here so they can help students learn, and I think that’s really great,” Halabi said.

The first case presented was Stacy S. Minze v. the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The case was on the notion that an employee working with the department was “subjected to unlawful discrimination and retaliation in violation of the Missouri Human Rights Act,” according to the summary page provided by the law school.

The appellant’s argument was that the trial court made an error in the original trial due to misstatements of the law and failure in judgement, according to the summary page.

The respondent for the second case was the Missouri Public Service Commission and the appellant was the Missouri Office of Public Counsel.

The appellant argued that the PSC mistakenly ordered Laclede Gas Company, a Missouri-based gas corporation, to increase its infrastructure system, according to the summary page. The order was a mistake because it is unlawful, unreasonable and subject to review under a Missouri statute, the summary page states.

The third and final case presented before the judges was between Jessica Williams, the appellant, and Bayer Corporation, a pharmaceutical company, the respondent.

In 2013, Williams’ physician attempted to implant a medical contraceptive device into her fallopian tubes called Essure.

One of the lawyers said Williams expressed excruciating abdominal pain and only one implant was placed in her fallopian tubes before she had her physician stop the procedure.

Weeks after the initial visit, Williams experienced even more pain and went back to her physician to have the device removed altogether, the lawyer said.

During this visit, the lawyer said physicians allegedly attempted to remove the device, which ended up breaking apart and perforating Williams’ uterus, and broken pieces of Essure remained in her body.

Because of this, the lawyer said Williams underwent a hysterectomy and a surgery that removed her fallopian tubes to combat the pain.
The lawyer arguing for Williams said she will require future medical care because of this contraceptive device and the physicians that implanted it.

The appellant court argued the circuit court erred in dismissing Williams’ case because the court misinterpreted the Medical Device Amendments of 1976 and misapplied that statute and federal preemption doctrine, according to the summary page.

The hearings lasted approximately three hours and afterward, Judge Pfeiffer invited the lawyers who argued for the cases and the law students who attended the hearings to a social gathering at a local restaurant.

Pfeiffer said the Western District tries to visit most colleges and universities in west Missouri, as well as other regions and especially law schools such as MU and St. Louis University.

“We do like to take our court into the community that we serve,” he said. “It’s important to us, but it’s also fun for us to be here.”

The Western District has visited MU before and has become a “regular stop” for the court, according to the School of Law’s website.