MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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MU Chancellor says real-world experience crucial to student success

By ALYSSA TOOMEY


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Mizzou's faculty council is getting further involved with student success.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright has asked faculty council to come up with a strategy to expand experiential learning.

By definition, experiential learning is the process of learning through experience. Cartwright said those types of opportunities, such as internships, will help prepare students for the future.

"I challenge Mizzou to ask, 'Are we student ready?'" Cartwright said in his 100 days address. "As we think about the pathways our students take today, and in the future, have we considered what we need to do to help our students succeed in achieving the outcomes to which they aspire?"

Faculty council chair Bill Wiebold said internships and experiential learning opportunities vary across each college and department. He said they have a couple of committees that will be looking at what each college offers and where some may need to improve.

"In most cases, I don't think they're required, but they are certainly offered to students, but there are some colleges where the opportunities are pretty limited," Wiebold said.

"In some departments it's not common," he added. "They may not understand how having of of these types of experiences can really help [students] when they graduate."

Matt Tschannen, a senior at Mizzou and software engineer intern at Cerner, said he feels ready to graduate because of his internship.

"Internships can really really help with that tactile experience that you can't get in the classroom," he said.
"The common denominator there is that they give the student real life experiences," Wiebold stressed. "And what they may see when they get out and have a job."

MU approves using pigs for ER training over protests of D.C.-based group

By RUDI KELLER

An effort to persuade the University of Missouri to stop using live pigs to train emergency room doctors has failed.

On Thursday, the Washington, D.C.,-based Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine brought national advocates and local activists together outside University Hospital to bring public pressure to bear to end the use of swine in physician training. The demonstration was organized after MU declined to agree to the group’s call to abandon the use of pigs.

The university’s Animal Care and Use Committee, in a vote earlier this month, approved continuing the protocol governing their use through November 2020.

MU is the only one of five emergency residency programs in the state that still uses pigs, said Kerry Foley, a retired emergency physician who worked for Georgetown University and other hospitals for 26 years. Only 16 of 211 emergency residency programs in the U.S. and Canada use pigs to train doctors, according to a survey conducted by the organization.

“They were used originally because the technology wasn’t available and now the technology is available,” Foley said as she picketed the hospital with about a dozen others. “You can now obtain things called perfused cadavers, which are very lifelike and true to the experience of working on real patients.”

In a statement to the Tribune, MU defended the use of live pigs as an important supplement to training done in simulation labs.

“Our goal at the University of Missouri is to provide our emergency medicine resident physicians the skills and procedural knowledge necessary to save the lives of our patients,” spokeswoman Jennifer Coffman wrote.

It is not possible to do complete training through simulations, she wrote.
“In the extremely rare instances (approximately six animals per year) when we need to train emergency medicine resident physicians on life-saving measures that are not adequately replicated through simulation, we use humane and strict protocols that are reviewed by the university’s Animal Care and Use Committee.”

According to the protocol, pigs provide training a simulated patient cannot to practice life-saving techniques.

“These procedures when required on humans need to be performed rapidly and accurately,” the protocol approved in 2015 states. “Allowing physicians to train on pig models allows this to happen.”

According to the protocol, the eight residents accepted each year for the three-year program need six pigs for every six month session to complete the training. Each pig is anesthetized before training begins and then subjected to eight procedures. The first is to cut through the skin to a vein for access, followed by inserting a deep line to administer fluids, opening the abdomen to determine if fluid is accumulating and inserting an electrode through a vein to reach the heart.

The next steps are inserting a chest tube to remove fluid, opening the chest to reach the heart and cutting an airway into the throat. After the pig is dead, the residents learn a technique to drain fluid from the sac around the heart.

“Procedures will be performed multiple times by multiple residents on the same animal,” the 2015 protocol states.

None of that training requires a pig, Foley said.

“We would put forward that the use of baby pigs to teach surgical airway techniques to these residents or chest tube insertions to these residents, it is not true to human anatomy,” she said. “It is much more germane for the students to be learning on actual clinical anatomy models.”

Columbia registered nurse Nestor MacKno took part in the demonstration. He said he has been a nurse for 30 years and opposes all research using animals. He said he eats meat but won’t purchase any product that has been raised in a manner he considers inhumane.

“I think they need to modernize medical training to bring it in line with the rest of the country,” McKno said. “I have been involved in this for a long time. We organized in 1989 to stop the killing of dogs in the physiology labs.”

Social worker Lisa VanHoose, who said she is a vegetarian, said she has had a pig as a pet and would feel hypocritical if she didn’t participate in the demonstration.

“I am just a big animal lover and I think the university likes to be on the cutting edge and I don’t understand why they are behind on this issue,” she said.
In the statement, Coffman wrote that the university has a strong commitment to human and animal health and that it has worked to expand the adoption of research animals after they are used in experimentation.

Committee urges MU to end use of live animals in medical training

By: Kasey Carlson

In rare instances where emergency medicine resident physicians need to be trained on measures that are not adequately learned through simulation, residents train on about six animals a year, according to Jennifer Coffman, a spokesperson with University of Missouri Health Care. Coffman says the protocols for animal use are humane and strict and are reviewed by MU’s Animal Care and Use Committee.

But Dr. Kerry Foley, a member of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, is urging MU to end the use of live animals in its emergency medicine program.

The group attracted a small gathering of demonstrators Thursday outside University Hospital.

Foley practiced emergency medicine for 26 years in Washington, D.C., attended medical school at Georgetown University and said she had never used live animals in her medical training.

“There’s really no need to use them at all,” Foley said.

Foley said that in Missouri there are five emergency medicine residency programs; MU is the last one to still use animals in training.

MU already has the Shelden Clinical Simulation Center that, according to the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, could provide the resources to replace animal use in the emergency medicine residency program. Foley points to advanced medical technology allowing
residents to train on mannequins, which the simulation center’s website says provide “real-time feedback in much the same way they would from a human patient.”

“It just makes much more sense to me,” Foley said.

Sasha Zemmel, 27, drove from St. Louis because Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine reached out to her saying they needed activists, so she showed up.

“Whenever there is animal exploitation or cruelty, I want to be there if I can,” she said.

Zemmel also thinks in this day and age, live animals should not be tested on.

“Animal exploitation is everywhere,” she said. “Once you know, you can’t un-know.”

The animal use protocol for the program was set to expire on Dec. 1, 2017. The renewal was submitted and renewed on Nov. 3, 2017. The new expiration date is now Nov. 3, 2020, according to MU’s Animal Care Quality Assurance office.
COLUMBIA - A physician and concerned Missouri residents gathered outside the University of Missouri Hospital to call for an end to the use of live pigs for training emergency medicine residents. They suggest a turn to human simulators instead.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Action, a nonprofit organization of more than 12,000 concerned doctors, organized the demonstration.

"Pig anatomy is not human anatomy," former surgical physician Kerry Foley said.

There are 180 emergency medicine residency programs in the United States. Sixteen of them practice using live animals, which includes the University of Missouri Columbia School of Medicine.

"I graduated from Georgetown Medical School in 1982 and I did my emergency medicine residency there in 1985," Foley said. "All of my surgical training for my emergency medicine residency program was done on simulators, which in 2017 are so much more astounding then they were back in the 1980s."

She says these simulators are very sophisticated.

"There's something called TraumaMan, that is obviously the human anatomy. It's got the feel. It's much more anatomically true to what the students are going to experience in their real clinical practices," Foley said.
MU does own the Russell D. and Mary B. Shelden Simulation Center.

"We use simulation training for much of our emergency medicine training," Jennifer Coffman, a Senior Strategic Communications Consultant for University of Missouri Healthcare said.

She says there are approximately six animals per year used for training.

"In the extremely rare instances when we need to train emergency medicine resident physicians on life-saving measures that are not adequately replicated through simulation, we use humane and strict protocols that are reviewed by the University’s Animal Care and Use Committee," Coffman said.

Foley said the emergency medicine program has to apply every three years for an animal use protocol.

"We're hoping that this demonstration will melt their hearts a little a bit so that they'll begin to direct their attentions to the use of the simulators that are superior," she said.

The MU School of Medicine animal use protocol is up for renewal in December.

Demonstrators protest the School of Medicine for training on live animals, MU Health responds

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

COLUMBIA, Mo. - A spokesperson for MU Health responded to the demonstrations performed on Thursday.

The protest was performed to try and get the School of Medicine to stop training students on live animals.
Back in July, the physician committee behind the rally pushed for an investigation into the school's practices. They allege that the school is not complying with the Animal Welfare Act.

MU Health responded by saying, "Our goal at the University of Missouri is to provide our emergency medicine resident physicians the skills and procedural knowledge necessary to save the lives of our patients."

The spokesperson said that most of the training is done with simulation but there are extremely rare instances when they need to train on animals because simulation does not adequately replicate the procedure.

"We use humane and strict protocols that are reviewed by the University's Animal Care and Use Committee," the spokesperson said.

The University also provides an adoption program for the animal patients.

University of Missouri argues graduate students are not employees ahead of hearing

By ELIZABETH DUSENBERG

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The curators of the University of Missouri filed their memorandum of law in support of its motion that "Coalition of Graduate Workers" are considered students, not employees.

According to the motion, the graduate workers requested an election for the graduate workers on its campus to determine whether or not they wanted to be represented by the Coalition of Graduate Workers as their exclusive bargaining representative for purposes of collective bargaining.

The university denied the request and said that the students were not considered employees.

The university lawyer stated in the lawsuit that the university would have potentially adverse impacts to education policies if they allowed graduate workers to be considered employees and
joining a union could create difficulties for the school to uphold the principles of academic freedom.

The university ends the lawsuit by saying that the graduate employees, should not be defined as employees because the students primary goal is to complete a degree and the work done by the students is because of their degree program.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers has not filed their argument.

The hearing is scheduled for April 2018.

GEORGE KENNEDY: Steps have been taken after 2015 protests, but more must be done

The destructive effects of the Concerned Student 1950 protest at our university two years ago are obvious and quantifiable. Enrollment is down. State support has diminished. Public perception is negative.

The positive effects are only now emerging. Whether they will, in the end, outweigh the negatives is the important question that only time can answer. Well, time and lots of hard work.

In trying to understand those enduring effects, negative and positive, I turned first to my Journalism School colleague Berkley Hudson, who chaired the Faculty Council committee that led the institution’s early response to the protest and to the systemic racism that brought about that protest.

Berkley has stepped down from that chairmanship, but he retains his passion for the cause of pursuing what he calls the “Missouri Miracle.” That miracle, as he explained it, would be the achieving of genuine understanding and mutual respect among all the disparate groups that make up the university community.
The biggest obstacle that must be overcome on the way to that goal, he told me, is the persistent skepticism among many faculty, students, alumni and policy makers that we really have a serious problem of racism.

To overcome that obstacle, above all, “We need to listen to each other’s stories,” he said.

Prof. Stephen Montgomery-Smith, who now chairs the Faculty Council committee, was, when he joined the committee, one of those skeptics.

“I’ve been converted,” he told me. Since his conversion experience, he has come to realize that many of our fellow whites still don’t see that the problem is real. A small percentage of the skeptics, he thinks, are themselves racist. Most, however, just haven’t yet been converted.

So what must be done?

“The solution is to get to know non-white people and have serious conversations,” he said. He suggests at least three approaches.

One, which the committee is working on, is a series of videos in which non-whites relate their experiences on campus and in the community. “Listening sessions,” he calls those.

Another would be structured conversations across racial lines, probably at the school or department level. A third would be more emphasis on the research that has shown the reality of “implicit bias,” which may go undetected but which shapes attitudes and actions.

Both professors credit the new campus and system leaders with understanding the importance of tackling the issues related to race.

“You have to have a lot of faith to believe good will come of this,” Prof. Montgomery-Smith told me. “I have that faith.”

Reuben Faloughi’s experience at Mizzou and back home in Georgia has left him a little short on faith but hopeful. He remembers being told, when he was a walk-on to the University of Georgia
football team, that his dream of graduate school was just that — a dream, for a black student-athlete.

Now he’s a year or so from finishing his Ph.D. in counseling psychology and teaching the course in social justice that has been required of all College of Education students since the protest two years ago. He was a member of Concerned Student 1950.

“Things have definitely changed,” he told me, “and things have stayed the same.”

So far, he sees more emphasis and more progress on the public relations of changing the university’s image than on changing the substance of race relations. The institution as a whole clings to a “victim consciousness” and crouches in a “defensive stance,” he thinks.

But he agrees with the professors that President Mun Choi and Chancellor Alexander Cartwright are pushing in the right direction.

The point man for that push, of course, is Kevin McDonald, who holds the dual jobs of “inclusion, diversity and equity” officer at both the campus and system levels.

He points to “substantial steps forward,” including the new two-hour “Citizenship@Mizzou” course required of all new undergraduates, broad-based advisory committees at campus and system levels and an attitude at the top, also new, that “nobody wants to sweep it under the rug.”

My conversations with all four of these leaders left me thinking that, two years on from 2015, our university is at last addressing the problem that Kevin McDonald put this way: “How to own that history and move forward.”

We can’t change the history, but we can — and must — change direction. We still have a long way to go.
MU Chancellor gives update on search for new provost

By MARIE BOWMAN

COLUMBIA, Mo. - MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said on Thursday that he will name an interim provost soon.

The national search has already started, and a search committee will be created. Forums will be held once the committee is formed.

The Mu Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Garnett S. Stokes, has been appointed as the new president for the University of New Mexico (UNM) earlier this month.

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

The Need for Comprehensive Approaches to Campus Safety

Jonathan Kassa recommends how to guide organizationwide efforts to support colleges’ safety, economic and reputational goals.

By JONATHAN KASSA
The annual Oct. 1 deadline for colleges and universities to disseminate an annual report on the security of their campus communities was a reminder of the Jeanne Clery Act’s goal to increase student safety. Beyond simply disclosing crime statistics, the report shares policy statements and crucial details about an institution’s efforts to communicate, educate and support justice and healing, along with practices that improve and maintain a culture of campus safety.

Since the Clery Act was enacted in 1990, decades of surveys have demonstrated that families and students place campus safety at the forefront of the decision-making process when it comes to which college to attend. In a 2015 study, parents listed a safe environment as the most important factor in a campus environment. For students, that was the second most important factor, behind being a good fit.

As reported in the student poll published by the College Board and Art & Science Group, those results align with a millennial generation theory that students and their parents are more concerned than ever about campus safety. In that survey, 72 percent of students indicated that the safety of the campus was very important to them when it came to the institutions they considered and the one they ultimately chose, and 86 percent reported it was very important to their parents.

Yet not all college and university leaders want to come forward and share honest facts about safety with students and others. The assumption is that bad news will naturally have a negative impact on an institution, with an increased risk to enrollment and, thus, revenue. And, in fact, research from Harvard Business School, “The Impact of Campus Scandals on College Applications,” demonstrates the impact that scandals can have on an institution’s bottom line. Reviewing scandals at the top 100 American institutions of higher education over the past 10 years, it showed that high-profile media coverage of such events resulted in a 9 to 10 percent drop in applications the following year.

Such findings quantify what institutions that have communicated poorly about crimes have known intuitively and been cautious to admit: if they reveal information that is bad for their public relations, they are likely to lose enrollment or experience diminished quality with a lesser pool of applicants. And while the Harvard study did not cover events typically outside an institution’s immediate campus control, a reasonable inference can be made that such events may have a similar impact on admissions to an internal scandal. For example, consider the impact on, and response of, higher education to the 2015 riots after the death Freddie Gray, which occurred during high school senior decision week.

Fortunately, over recent years, institutional accountability has improved, facilitated by the Clery Act’s mandates for better transparency, communication and data. Meanwhile, colleges and universities have found ways to offset negative coverage, as evidenced by college and university leaders in Baltimore who worked to amplify the message that safety has always been a priority on their campuses. With campus safety in fact made a priority, along with a robust communications strategy, those institutions were able to maintain or return to typical admissions levels.

The good news is that institutions reviewed in the Harvard Business School study saw the probability of another negative incident the next year fall by 50 percent. The authors surmise that a campus, following a major scandal, may be less risky due to a genuine response of the
administration. Though the types of efforts by institutions are not detailed by the authors, they note that the result is not “explained simply by reversion to the mean.”

Yet the study illuminates an equally important finding: the effect of the diminishing likelihood of another negative incident occurring within the next year dissipates within five years. The return to the same relative risk places in doubt whether an institution’s immediate reactionary efforts to crisis and accountability can be converted into lasting changes that actively reduce the possible occurrence of another negative incident that impacts actual or perceived campus safety.

All of which leads to a question: Why do meaningful organizational changes, as a reaction to crisis, not become an embedded, lasting practice at many colleges and universities?

An answer can be found in the National Center for Campus Public Safety report “Institutionalizing the Clery Act at Institutions of Higher Education.” The synopsis of multiple focus groups, composed of diverse national experts on campus safety and leading institutional representatives, outlines potential obstacles to change. Though higher education’s support for the spirit of the Clery Act is overwhelming, as noted by the report, a general perception exists that complying with all aspects can be a challenge for many institutions. When combined with other mandates like Title IX and state laws, participants discussed how compliance has become time-consuming and resource intensive.

A common factor in most Clery compliance obstacles is identified in the report as an organizational structure problem: that “Clery compliance is not an institutional objective; rather, it is a task assigned to an often small compliance team or individual in the lower levels of an [institution’s] hierarchy.” When institutional leaders are not directly engaged in compliance efforts, it often results in a crucial lack of awareness about the Clery Act and a disjointed understanding of the implications of lapsed compliance that extend well beyond the letter of the law.

NCCPS’s working group, having diagnosed a cause, then identified strategic solutions based in the spirit of the law to facilitate lasting change. Colleges and universities around the country can use those recommendations to identify structural gaps and develop a comprehensive, institutionwide safety network. Such a strategy builds a solid foundation that increases the likelihood that the institution will not only implement but also sustain effective changes.

When such a foundation is not in place at an institution or fails, consequences may occur that could have been mitigated or even avoided. The lessons of the Harvard Business School findings and NCCPS report have been reinforced by the news about the University of Missouri’s close to 33 percent drop in freshman enrollment over the past two years, following extended student protests regarding demands for social change in response to accusations of racism across the university.

And such declines in enrollment revenue do not even touch upon the potential impact negative incidents may have on institutions’ fund-raising and alumni relations. Although fund-raisers are still gauging the effect on philanthropy, some colleges -- particularly small, elite liberal arts colleges -- have reported a decline in donations accompanied by a laundry list of complaints from alumni when scandals occur.
**Holistic Solutions Required**

An institution needs holistic solutions to support enduring changes after it experiences a negative incident, recovers from it and begins the efforts to return to a new operational norm. A commitment to robust implementation of the framework and resources that Clery guides institutions to use can have the benefit of providing an additional protective factor against a return to increased risk for scandal. Compliance with Title IX and Violence Against Women Act, or the lack thereof, is another example of an area where a campus needs to focus attention not only on the letter but also the spirit of the law, as well as the increased expectations of students, families, news media, politicians and the public.

The NCCPS report has outlined core principles that top administrators should be considering as part of their response to threats of scandal and negative incidents. Using Robert Agranoff’s award-winning research in “Managing Within Networks” as a model to encourage crossing of departmental and institutional boundaries, presidents and their senior leadership should adopt a risk-management approach and develop a comprehensive campus safety network.

A key takeaway of the report is that communications is the primary factor when it comes to fostering cultural change and buy-in. Colleges and universities should take practical steps to develop such buy-in, widen the scope of compliance responsibility and support ownership throughout the institution of systemic Clery compliance. One suggestion is to create communications plans that help to institutionalize Clery compliance and periodically evaluate and adjust those plans.

Another tangible step is to develop more community partnerships with representatives of local law enforcement agencies. Colleges should also consider identifying student leaders who can serve as educated safety ambassadors and help inform awareness and prevention campaigns. Attaining such buy-in will help ensure long-term mitigation of the effects of scandal and crisis, especially when confronted with additional risk from policies that are developed too fast under duress or fail to be implemented as the crisis subsides.

The report’s insights also focus on structural solutions, such as the recommendation to form an interdisciplinary team from across campus departments that meets regularly. Reinforcing the structural approach, the report highlighted the need to appropriate funding to support full-time personnel and an office that has final, official responsibility for comprehensive Clery compliance.

Finally, having a trusted Clery Act subject-matter expert who is guaranteed a direct line of communication to the highest administrative levels, including the president, is crucial for ensuring efficiency and effectiveness. Fortunately, a similar practice already exists at some colleges and should be replicated: a campus chief of security or director of public safety should be a member of the president’s cabinet and also have access to a staff member or consultant with established Clery/Title IX expertise.

Any program needs to be broad and continuing. If a rote review of a college or university’s annual security report is the only effort made to secure greater campus safety, especially if not a year-round practice, that institution is likely at a higher risk for a safety and compliance problem.
Stakeholders in the NCCPS report implore higher education leadership to strategically “focus more on student safety and success in order to honor the spirit of the Clery Act,” avoiding the mind-set of needing to contend with “just another regulation.” A holistic, systemwide culture of campus safety, embraced by the president’s cabinet on down, best represents a thorough understanding, and likely execution, of the spirit of the Clery Act.

Building upon the earlier takeaway that communication is a key factor, the report also notes that “compliance with the Clery Act demonstrates that a campus is listening to and caring for its students.” An institution with a culture of responsive accountability and thoughtful communications, as the Clery Act provides a framework for, will have the organizational habits to create a genuine sense of transparency with the wider campus community. That will involve the development of a feedback loop with a diverse set of stakeholders that can help to actively address serious issues or events on a timely basis.

For example, the University of Missouri’s new leadership has embraced such improved communications as a pathway to change. Board chairman Maurice Graham’s comments about such communications point toward a new focus: “The lifeblood of any university is its reputation; our reputation was at risk.” And the new president’s acting chief of staff, David Russell, has said that the entire Mizzou system has, in the words of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “put the important people first: students, parents, faculty and staff.”

As events on campuses nationwide continue to make headlines, institutional leaders and boards of trustees have a clear choice to make when grappling with campus safety issues. We are in a new era for campus safety in which public safety and public relations finally coexist to serve the campus community, and where robust campus public safety and security strategies for the 21st century also protect the bottom line.

It is important to understand the consequences of institutional crises and give serious consideration to the NCCPS’s identification of the range of potential solutions to address cultural and communication obstacles. Combined, the insights from the HBS and NCCPS papers complement each report’s findings. Such understanding will help to guide an organizationwide effort to develop, coordinate and support a campus’s reputational, economic and campus safety goals. Higher education leaders who embrace this proactive, transparent approach will most likely be successful in supporting the long-term health and safety of their students and institutions.
Don’t mock the Redknapps. Living apart together can save a marriage

By: Gaby Hinsliff

Generated from News Bureau press release: Older Adults Embracing ‘Living Apart Together’

For the novelist Margaret Drabble and her biographer and husband Michael Holroyd, it was an arrangement that gave both the freedom to write. And for the actor Helena Bonham Carter and director Tim Burton, maintaining two separate adjoining apartments seemed the perfect if unconventional recipe for family life – at least until it ended in them splitting up.

Yet the romantic grey area that is living apart together, or inhabiting not just separate bedrooms but separate homes, still holds a guilty allure for many long-serving couples. Imagine, time alone! Even just a couple of nights a week, whether to flop exhausted on the sofa and not have to talk, or to go out and enjoy the bright lights a homebody partner won’t; to be master of the remote control, eat crisps and wine for dinner instead of cooking, catch up with friends she or he never got on with – but all within the blissful security of a committed relationship. If it didn’t come larded with sotto voce questions about whether one of you is secretly having an affair, how many more couples would want to follow suit?

The former girl band singer Louise Redknapp and her footballer husband Jamie this week emerged as the newest potential recruits to the club. Having separated last year, after she announced that being a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing made her realise what a frustrated “Stepford wife” she had become tucked away in Surrey with the kids, the couple are now considering getting back together. But it’s a very specific kind of together, seemingly involving splitting her time between a place in London and the family home in Surrey. The question of whether that makes them married, amicably separated or something in between remains intriguingly blurred.

All of this is obviously rather easier for those rich enough to afford two homes (or one mansion with separate wings, à la Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson). But an estimated 9% of British couples now live apart together, and they can’t all be millionaires. They’re more likely to be army spouses with one half deployed overseas, long-distance commuters who stay away in digs a
few nights a week, couples who met the love of their life overseas, or simply older people who got together relatively late – perhaps after a failed earlier marriage – and now don’t want to leave the comfort of their own homes. One recent study by researchers at the University of Missouri involving steady American couples over 60 who didn’t live together found they still saw themselves as perfectly committed but were resistant to giving up hard-won independence.

Often it’s not forever – Drabble and Holroyd started sharing a house again some years ago, and older “separateds” may also choose to move back in as they become frail and in need of care. But for every couple who hate being forced apart by circumstances, there’s probably another secretly thriving on it. Living apart together may, in other words, be less about rejecting commitment than about being open to different ways of doing it at different times of life. And if that’s not for everyone, divorce rates suggest that neither is the conventional model.

“Till death do us part” means a rather longer haul now than it did in biblical times, but the real challenge for contemporary couples isn’t just higher life expectancy. It’s higher expectations of how emotionally rewarding that life should be.

Where our grandparents were glued together by religious duty, the stigma of divorce and the very real fear of penury for women not equipped to support themselves outside marriage, Generation X relationships rely on making each other happy enough to stay. Mock us for our twee date nights if you like, but we have at least grasped that we can’t take forever for granted any more, that this whole thing needs work. Settle down at 30, and you’re looking down the barrel of half a century together, during which both sides hope never to feel bored or miserable or trapped or unfulfilled. That’s a big ask for all but the immensely lucky and adoring.

No wonder we seek ways of making relationships more elastic, more capable of accommodating life’s inevitable ups and downs – perhaps especially where small children are out of the equation.

The expectation, if depressingly often not the reality, among younger couples is that they’ll be in the trenches of early parenthood together; that they’ll both work and both do their share at home, rather than one being stuck in the kitchen while the other slopes off cheerfully to the pub. It’s meant more intimate family lives in many ways, but the payback is that it’s not just stay-at-home mothers such as Redknapp who wake up 10 years later wondering dazedly what happened to the person they used to be, the one who appears to have died a death during the years where there was barely time to finish a cup of tea, let alone cultivate a personal hinterland. Once the kids are grown, how many working parents will crave a bit of space to reclaim these lost identities? Hence, perhaps, the emerging concept of a “marriage sabbatical” in later life, or temporary time off – to travel, to pursue selfish things – before coming home to the person that it turns out you never actually stopped loving.

Living apart together can without doubt be lonely and stressful sometimes, although not always in the way outsiders think. (Separations, a naval wife once told me, get easier with practice but not reunions: you’ve just got the hang of coping, established a routine that suits the kids, and then he comes home and wants to change everything.)
And to the cynical, separate lives will sound like the perfect cover for infidelity. But the point if anything of living apart together is to avoid those needlessly destructive affairs that stem from one partner desperately wanting to feel like their old self again, by not losing that self in the first place.

Temporary liberation from a partner’s maddening habits – wet towels dropped on bathroom floors, empty juice cartons carefully replaced in the fridge – can certainly help the heart grow fonder. But the real joy of the occasional absence is being able to stretch out in life a little, to remember how it feels to be a person rather than merely half a couple. The art of a really strong marriage is perhaps in being separate, but not separated; just enough apart to always be together.

Mizzou creates online master's degree in accounting

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Officials with the University of Missouri announced on Thursday that students will have the option to pursue a master's degree in accounting online.

Classes are scheduled to begin in August of 2018.

"Making our degree available online gives students and working professionals the chance to be part of a nationally ranked program and broadens their access to an extensive network of faculty and accounting industry peers," Vairam Arunachalam, director of the MU School of Accountancy.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of accountants and auditors will grow 10 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations.

The master's degree will require 30 credit hours, and when added to a student's undergraduate program of study, students will be eligible to sit for the CPA exam.

The program is currently accepting applications for the fall 2018 semester.

For more information about the online degree, click here.
MU College of Arts and Science offers new online economics degree

By TATYANA MONNAY

The MU College of Arts and Science’s economics department is introducing a new online master’s degree program for students in economics.

“Our program gives students a big-picture understanding of the global market as well as the essential hands-on skills to analyze large data sets,” Vitor Trindade, an associate professor of economics who teaches in the program, said in a press release. “We spend time looking into what the data are telling us about international trade, international finance, economic developments and public sectors.”

The 30-credit hour program offers a Master of Arts degree in economics and instructs economists on how to better understand large data sets and international trade.

Applications are now being accepted and online courses start in the fall 2018 semester. According to the Mizzou Online website, the estimated program cost is $12,404.70 and because it is a distance learning program, out-of-state students can qualify for in-state tuition.

“We recognized a growing demand for distance education at the graduate level and an expanding list of U.S. universities that have started to offer online MAs in economics,” X.H. Wang, professor and director of Graduate Studies and department administrator of the program, said in an email.

The courses in the program cover banking, econometrics, economic development, international trade, monetary systems, quantitative economics and macroeconomic and microeconomic theory.

“Students will be able to take the same set of courses that our residential M.A. students take and ultimately earn an M.A. degree in economics,” Wang said.

Because students in the program are able to complete their degree completely online, it affords working students a more convenient opportunity to further their education.

“This program will extend the reach of our M.A. program to students from Missouri and elsewhere who are interested in obtaining an M.A. in economics but cannot attend a residential program due to work or other constraints,” Wang said.
According to the press release, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the job market for economists will grow 6 percent between 2014 and 2024. Median pay for economists in 2014 was $101,050. Despite these strong numbers, however, some employers have difficulty finding an economist when needed.

“Part of our mission … is to support economic development,” Loyd Wilson, the director of administration in the Missouri Public Service Commission, said in the press release. “Big-picture thinking is essential for the job. The challenge for us, when hiring, is to find candidates with the kind of perspective you gain from graduate study in economics.”

Courses for this program are semester-based. If students follow a specific schedule, they can obtain their degree in as little as two years.

“It's a very hands-on program,” Trindade said in the press conference. “We train people for the sort of jobs where they really get their hands on a data set and analyze it to get some real-world conclusions.”

Math Pathways Initiative Is in Full Swing

By ERICA MUNSINGER

Colleges around the state have started to offer new math courses in response to the Missouri Department of Higher Education’s Math Pathways initiative.

The initiative is designed to give students math classes that are more appropriately aligned with their programs of study. Some colleges no longer require college algebra for students who don’t need higher level math classes. Rusty Monhollon, who oversees the Math Pathways initiative, said these alternative courses should not only set them up for academic success, but also for career success.

“I think we’ve been failing students by not giving them the kind of mathematics content and knowledge they need to be successful in their own lives and in their careers,” Monhollon said.

In response, the University of Missouri has started offering a new course for students called quantitative reasoning. Students who don’t need college algebra as a prerequisite for higher level classes are encouraged to take quantitative reasoning as an alternative.
The course was announced during the spring 2017 semester and is now being offered on a regular basis. Mathematics Department chair Nakhle Asmar said the department has been evaluating the course’s success throughout the semester.

“Students love it,” Asmar said. “I talked to instructors that teach this course, and they tell me they’ve never taught a course where the students are such lively participants in the course.”

Asmar said the university also plans to replace intermediate algebra with a new co-requisite course in the future.

Monhollon said the initiative has received great support on campuses throughout the state and that colleges see the need for specialized math courses.

Missouri Business Flash: Former MU athletes expand waffle company

By SHELLY HAGAN


COLUMBIA - Two former MU athletes are reinventing a breakfast favorite: waffles. Start Right Foods is a food brand focusing on high protein waffles to fuel your day. Now, the company is expanding with the launch of a new product, their protein packed breakfast sandwich.

Kyle Rood ’12 and Clint Matthews ’04 launched the company in 2015 after coming across the waffle recipe formulated by MU researchers.
"As athletes we've been looking for higher protein stuff that isn't just protein shakes and protein bars and I bet a lot of other people would be to," Rood said. "So, we learned how to cook the waffles from them and slowly formed a company and started selling.

Now, after two years of making waffles, Rood says the company will be launching their breakfast sandwiches in stores January.

"We’ve been making waffles for a long time and one thing that is also convenient and high in protein in the morning is breakfast sandwiches," Rood said. "We always thought that it would be great to make because every breakfast sandwich out there is not very healthy."

A lot of the breakfast sandwiches out on the market are high in fat and sodium, according to Rood.

"They're not appetizing for someone trying to eat healthy," he said. "We thought we could do better."

Start Right Foods products currently include frozen waffles, waffle and pancake mix, and sprayable maple syrup. Rood said the products are in about 150 stores across Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas.

The company has plans to get their products into Lunds & Byerlys, a Minnesota grocery chain, in January.

"We started in two grocery stores selling a couple boxes a week....and now we're in about 150 stores." Rood said. "We are selling in palette quantities rather than box quantities."

The company's waffles and sandwich products are made with whey protein designed to keep the customer full until lunch.

"We want everyone to start their mornings right," he said.

In other business news, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg visited Boone County last week. Zuckerberg spent a day with Centralia farmers Dustin and Austin Stanton, the young founders of Stanton Brothers Eggs.

Zuckerberg's trip to the farm was one of his last stops on his nationwide trip. His tour focused on speaking with small business owners.

Also, Missouri farming groups filed a lawsuit against the state of California. The lawsuit asks California to stop requiring cancer warnings on its products that contain the weed killer glyphosate, according to Missourinet.

In 2015, glyphosate was labeled as "probably carcinogenic" by the World Health Organization.
St. Louis based Monsanto, along with the Missouri Farm Bureau and the Associated Industries of Missouri, reject the claim that glyphosate causes cancer. They believe California's rule is based on "highly controversial findings," by the WHO.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Can Missouri block ex-lawmakers from turning campaign cash into liquor, golf, cigars?

By: Jason Hancock

JEFFERSON CITY
Missouri lawmakers are considering stricter controls on how political action committees can spend their money, after a Kansas City Star report last week about a PAC funded by former House Speaker Tim Jones.

Jones, a Republican who left the House in 2014, last year transferred roughly $650,000 he had raised over the years from campaign contributors into a PAC called Leadership for America. The PAC has no other donors besides Jones.

During the first nine months of 2017, Leadership for America reported donating around $18,000 to charities and $10,000 to a handful of GOP candidates.

But, The Star reported, the PAC also spent heavily on golf outings, meals, travel, liquor, cigars, baseball tickets, office renovations and other expenses that critics say appear to violate the prohibition against using campaign money for personal business.

While the PAC’s spending has drawn criticism, the fact that it has invested a large chunk of its campaign cash into a hedge fund — and that the investment has nearly doubled in value in just nine months — is also getting attention.

Missouri lawmakers voted last year to prohibit candidates from making these sorts of investments, but the ban doesn’t apply to PACs that aren’t associated with candidates.

State Rep. Kip Kendrick, a Columbia Democrat, says it’s time to revisit that 2016 law.

“We’re seeing money that is supposed to be used for campaigns being invested and then used for what appears to be personal benefit,” Kendrick said.
Both Kendrick and state Rep. Mark Ellebracht, a Liberty Democrat, filed legislation earlier this year that would have required candidates to dissolve their committees after they leave office if don’t file to run for another office within four years. Their bills didn’t get any traction.

Ellebracht said his bill was aimed at “stopping people from using these committees as their personal piggy banks.”

He plans to revisit the issue when lawmakers return to the Capitol in January.

“If people had any idea that there were politicians out there literally getting rich off of lobbyist money after their term in office was over, they would be beside themselves,” Ellebracht said.

Crafting a law that is constitutional banning independent PACs from this sort of investment would be difficult, said state Rep. Jay Barnes, a Jefferson City Republican who sponsored the 2016 legislation. But he stands behind the purpose of his 2016 bill.

“The raising of campaign funds should be related to support for a candidate’s vision and philosophy of government,” Barnes said. “I don’t think candidates should be able to turn around and use that money on exotic investments to create forever funds from which to use for purposes unrelated to elections.”

Leadership for America started the year with about $656,000. It has received no contributions this year and it spent more than $140,000.

Yet by Sept. 30, it reported having $864,000.

The increase stems from Leadership for America’s earning hundreds of thousands from an investment in a hedge fund managed by an Austin, Texas-based company, LRT Global Opportunity LP.

The firm is run by Lukasz Tomicki, a former longtime consultant with Pelopidas LLC, the St. Louis lobbying firm connected to Republican mega donor Rex Sinquefield. Jones works as director of political communications at First Rule Media Network, a division of Pelopidas.

Leadership for America had $353,000 invested in the fund as of Jan. 1.

By Sept. 30, the PAC reported it had earned roughly $347,000 from that investment — a 98 percent return.

Jones donated his campaign cash to Leadership for America shortly before the law banning candidates from this sort of investment went into effect. The donations also were made before voters approved a constitutional amendment capping campaign contribution last November.

James Klahr, director of the Missouri Ethics Commission, said that under the voter-approved law, candidates are prohibited from donating to PACs. So far no one has brought a lawsuit challenging that prohibition, Klahr said, despite the fact that many similar provisions in the law have been struck down this year as unconstitutional.
Jones’ PAC investing in a hedge fund appears to be unique in Missouri politics.

But in 2006, then-Democratic candidate for New York attorney general Andrew Cuomo drew criticism in that state when he invested half of his campaign money in a hedge fund.

Cuomo, now governor of New York, earned a 20 percent return on his investment.

Tomicki, who started his company in 2012, said he couldn’t comment on his clients. But he did note that 2017 has been a great year for his investments.

Jones referred all questions about the PAC to Tom Smith, his former legislative chief of staff and longtime political adviser. But Jones did use Twitter to resoundingly dismiss the questions surrounding his PAC, calling The Star’s report a “defamatory hit job.”

Smith defended the spending on golf, baseball tickets and travel as legitimate expenses that further the mission of the PAC by helping build coalitions with other conservative organizations. He added that Jones isn’t the only person benefiting from that spending. The board of directors of a nonprofit associated with the PAC have also participated in the coalition building, he said.

Smith declined to say who serves on the board of the nonprofit, which is also called Leadership for America. The nonprofit must file paperwork with the Missouri secretary of state’s office by Dec. 11 that would include details about the board.

As for the investment, Smith said the dramatic increase in the fund’s value can be attributed to “wise investment decisions and the fact that the market is doing great.”

“We have a Republican president that believes hard work yields dollars, and the market seems to agree with him,” Smith said. “Our investment has done really well since (President Donald) Trump got elected.”

Michael O’Doherty, an associate professor of finance at the University of Missouri-Columbia, said it’s tough to draw many conclusions about the PAC’s investment without knowing the details of how it’s invested or the specific trading strategies.

However, O’Doherty said the 98 percent return the PAC appears to be earning would certainly be “more extreme than what an average hedge fund would deliver in a given year.”

Ryan Flugum, an assistant professor of finance at the University of Tulsa, said a return that high “it’s not out of the realm of possibilities for sure.”

“But hedge funds recently have not done great,” he said. “There’s always a statistical chance someone will have a huge return. Consistently, though, that’s a different question.”
“Who here has been affected by suicide?” a student facilitator with MU’s College of Education asked a small group of people at a Thursday workshop.

The majority of people in the room raised their hands.

The Bridge, an inclusive center within the College of Education, hosted the training for suicide prevention at Townsend Hall.

The workshop taught future teachers how to identify students at risk and their warning signs, as well as how to create a positive classroom environment with awareness toward suicide and mental illness.

Five students in the social studies department at the College of Education led the workshop. The workshop focused on the Stop Suicide campaign, which aims to confront the stigma and myths associated with suicide, according to its website. Taking the campaign’s mission, the workshop provided a general education on suicide and its prevention, as well as how to apply awareness in the classroom.

The students leading the workshop emphasized the importance of building better communities in Missouri and spotting the warning signs of suicide.

In 2013, suicide was the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages in the U.S., according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2015 report. There were 41,149 suicides in 2013, which is equal to 113 suicides each day, or one every 13 minutes.
Some of the common warning signs of suicide include someone talking or writing about death, expressing feelings of hopelessness or having no reason to live, extreme mood swings and feelings of anxiety and recklessness.

To address this, the workshop suggested teachers facilitate open conversations with their students about suicide and its prevention.

Teachers should also provide a safe environment for their students, such as having words of encouragement and motivational pictures posted in the classroom. They should get to know their students on a personal level so that school is a fun and safe place were students can be both vulnerable and feel accepted.

“Know who your students are,” student Christina Shoults said. “Building that relationship will ensure that you are able to spot those warning signs.”

The workshop also focused on the “five ways of wellbeing” in suicide prevention, which emphasizes that students should keep learning, connect with others, take notice of the world around them, give back to the community and be physically active.

“Those five ways of wellbeing are just really good ways to be a good citizen and also feel good about yourself,” Shoults said.

At the end of the workshop, the students asked the audience to sign the campaign’s personal pledge. The pledge mandates that people will:

- Tell someone if they need help.
- Be aware of the suicide warning signs in others.
- Ask directly about suicide if they are worried about someone.
- Listen without judgment and do what they can to keep others safe.

“Everybody deals differently,” Shoults said. “Don’t be ashamed to talk about it.”
K-State, Mizzou football teams to resume rivalry with home-and-home series in 2022

The rivalry dates back to 1909

One of the border war rivalry games is coming back!

Kansas State University announced Thursday that K-State and the University of Missouri football teams have agreed to a home-and-home football series.

The series will kick off on Sept. 10, 2022, when the K-State Wildcats and the Mizzou Tigers face off in Manhattan, Kan., and will conclude on September 16, 2023 with a game in Columbia, Mo.

“We are pleased to announce a home-and-home with a very quality opponent in Missouri,” said K-State Athletics Director Gene Taylor. “The combination of needing a Power Five opponent on the schedule each year and being able to work with a regional institution that we have such a strong football history with, made perfect sense for K-State. I know our fans will be excited to play the Tigers again, and we look forward to two outstanding games in 2022 and 2023.”

Missouri leads the all-time series, 60-32-5, with the Wildcats taking a 24-17 win in 2011 when the two teams last played as Big 12 Conference opponents.
Here’s What Sexual Harassment Looks Like in Higher Education

NO MU MENTION

By KATHERINE MANGAN

As the momentum of the #metoo campaign brings more allegations of sexual harassment to the surface, people are looking around their workplaces and professional networks disturbed, but not necessarily shocked at the stories emerging.

Across many industries, sexual harassment persists because people (usually men) with clout can get away with it, and victims (typically women) either are disregarded or keep quiet, fearing they will be. But higher education has additional risk factors that make the problem particularly pervasive.

Stark power differentials, especially between professors and students. The intensity of intellectual exchange. A sense of entitlement by a star faculty member, with tenure and maybe an endowed chair, who is revered in his field. A potential protégé with what feels like a make-or-break publication, grant, or job on the line. Boozy conferences, secluded labs, remote research sites.

Colleges and universities have long harbored influential academics who’ve seemed confident that they could target students or junior colleagues and never be held to account. They may have gotten away with it because of their research money, political capital, or prestige.

Firing a tenured professor often means months of hearings and sometimes lawsuits that an institution would prefer to avoid. Colleagues who suspect there’s something creepy about sexual banter with students might look the other way if the offender could one day serve on a tenure and promotion committee or chair the department.

"Whenever you have a working relationship in which the risks are really high of making a complaint and the rewards are low, that’s a problem," says Justine E. Tinkler, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Georgia who has studied sexual harassment and how training programs affect behavior. A graduate student targeted by a big-deal professor, or the new hire who is aware of it, may want to speak up, but at what cost?

That calculation may be changing as more people come forward with expectations that the college will take action. In recent years, accusers have taken down Geoffrey W. Marcy, an astronomer at the University of California at Berkeley, and Colin McGinn, a prominent philosopher at the University of Miami. Now, with the fallout from the Weinstein scandal and the galvanizing momentum of the #metoo hashtag, American gender politics finds itself at an
uncomfortable crossroads. And nowhere is that sense of unease more palpable than in the campus workplace.

It remains to be seen how those developments will accelerate the complaints. But over the past several weeks, at least a half-dozen accusations of sexual misconduct by male faculty members have emerged or gotten renewed attention.

_Story continues._