



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

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## MU Health reports strong finances, proposes expansion

By BRITTANY RUESS

**University of Missouri Health Care leaders reported better than expected financial performance Friday and said high patient volume could prompt the organization to expand or build new facilities.**

Jennifer Doll, MU Health's executive director of finance and controller, reported to the University of Missouri Board of Curator's Health Affairs Committee that MU Health is performing ahead of its budget in several areas.

The health care system's net revenue year-to-date is \$16.5 million more than budgeted, standing at nearly \$313 million as of October. Operating income, budgeted at nearly \$20 million, stood at \$35 million.

Its net non-operating revenue, expected to be more than \$13 million in the red, is \$37 million in the black.

"I think you see that things are going quite well this year," MU Health CEO Jonathan Curtright told the committee.

MU Health's operating expenses — budgeted at more than \$293 million — have come in about \$1 million more than projected.

MU Health's patient volume metrics are up in several categories. The number of clinic visits has exceeded the anticipated nearly 212,000 visits this year by almost 11,000 visits. Inpatient and outpatient surgeries are also slightly above the projected totals.

The number of deliveries and discharges are down from last year. Doll said officials noticed the declining number in discharges and investigated the causes of the trend and found an increase in the average length of stay in the University Hospital intensive care unit and Missouri Psychiatric Center.

MU Health is adding 24 inpatient beds to accommodate its growing number of patients for a total of 619. It will add another 24 inpatient beds in the future, maxing out at a total of 643 beds in fiscal year 2019 or 2020, Curtright said.

MU Health's inpatient beds are regularly at 85 percent to 95 percent filled, he said. On Friday, the health system had to divert eight patients to other facilities because they could not be accommodated at MU Health, Curtright said.

"No one likes getting those emails and we get them frequently," he said.

The health system has a \$500 million plan to expand its facilities or build new ones, but that might not be necessary if MU Health leases Boone Hospital Center. The Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees and MU Health officials have been negotiating a partnership. The trustees have a lease with St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare that expires in 2020. The parties must notify each other whether they wish to continue, modify or end the lease by December 2018.

Though the trustees' lease with BJC doesn't include an early exit clause, BJC told the trustees in a June 2016 letter that it would possibly end the lease early if the trustees reached an agreement with MU Health.

Tentative building plans include an inpatient expansion at University Hospital to replace the original 1956 hospital at a cost of \$250 million. An inpatient expansion is also proposed at Women's and Children's Hospital for \$200 million.

A new, 15,000-square-foot primary care clinic could be built for \$5 million in either southwest or northern Columbia, both of which are growing sections of the city. A cardiovascular clinic and diagnostic center is expected to cost another \$16 million.

Curator John Phillips noted that donations were not a part of funding for any of the proposed projects.

Curtright said MU Health is working on establishing a "grateful patient system" in which patients and their families could donate to the hospital system.

"It's an area we can show some significant improvement and we must," he said.

MU Health also needs to make major investments in its cardiology, oncology and primary care programs, Curtright said.

# MISSOURIAN

## In a time of MU struggles, MU Health Care reports strong year

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY AND KYLE LAHUCIK

**Thanks to two partnerships, one past and one future, MU Health Care is positioned well for future growth, CEO Jonathan Curtright said at a Friday meeting of the UM System Board of Curators Health Affairs Committee.**

Curator and committee member John Phillips agreed with the positive characterization of MU Health Care's financial state: "Very strong performance," he said. "I think we can all see things are going quite well this year."

The Tiger Institute, a venture between MU Health Care and Cerner Corp., helps keep medical records far more effectively, and the future partnership of Boone Hospital Center and MU Health Care provides enormous potential for growth and improvement, Curtright said.

Together, presentations on each of those partnerships throughout the meeting combined to paint a rosy picture for MU Health Care's future.

"The Tiger Institute is one of the absolute secrets of our success," Curtright said.

The institute, created in 2009, provides a system for medical records that is far more convenient and comprehensive. It used to take 41 keystrokes for a doctor to pull up a diabetes patient's medical history, said former MU Health Care Vice Chancellor Harold Williamson in 2009, and thanks to the Tiger Institute it now takes one. It also allows hospitals around Missouri, through the Health Network of Missouri Partnership, to share data and electronic medical records. This helps patient treatment and diagnosis, and allows hospitals to work together much more effectively.

“Overall there are many outstanding things that are happening with the Tiger Institute,” Curtright said.

“And don’t you just love the name? The Tiger Institute!” Curator Phillip Snowden said to widespread laughter.

Curtright also laid out some of the future benefits of a [looming partnership](#) between MU Health and Boone Hospital.

The main benefits of such a partnership, he said, are an expansion of access to health care, local job growth and more efficient, less redundant care in Columbia. A successful partnership between the two Columbia hospitals would allow them to compete with larger medical destinations like St. Louis and Kansas City, Curtright said.

A partnership between Boone and MU Health Care would also make building expansions more affordable, he said.

“Missourians will not have to pay as much for brick and mortar if we are better able to collaborate with Boone Health Center,” Curtright said.

## Capital planning

MU Health Care also laid out its plan for capital projects over the next five years. A multidisciplinary team — made up of MU Health Care executives, School of Medicine leadership, physician leaders and university physicians — will oversee the process.

The plan presents five building projects:

- A Cardiovascular Clinic and Diagnostic Center with a \$16 million project budget is slated for year two of the plan. The clinic and center would “consolidate and co-locate cardiovascular service line” and include non-invasive imaging and outpatient catheterization laboratory.
- A Primary Care Clinic Facility, land and building, with a \$5 million budget is slated for year one. The project consists of a 15,000-gross-square-foot building “near a growing residential area” somewhere in either the southwest and north/northeast areas of the city, according to meeting documents.

- A \$50 million outpatient clinic on Keene Street or by the South Providence location would be budgeted evenly over years one and two. The clinic would be a four-story, 98,000-gross-square-foot building, according to meeting documents.
- A \$250 million inpatient project at University Hospital, split evenly over years two and three. The project would be a replacement of the original 1956 hospital.
- A \$200 million inpatient project at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, split evenly over years four and five. This building would “ensure adequate space for clinical care,” according to meeting documents.

“There are Missourians that are wanting their care at the University of Missouri and are not able to get it because we simply do not have the capacity,” Curtright said.

Eight patients today couldn’t be treated because of the lack of space, Curtright said.

The plan also included the purchase of several buildings on the Women’s and Children’s Hospital campus, including a \$30 million purchase of the Health Pavilion.

The three-story, 71,245-square-foot building was constructed in 1998 and houses clinical space for a pediatric specialty clinic and an OB/GYN clinic, in addition to an outpatient surgical center with five surgical suites. MU Health Care currently leases the building and rents many of the parking spaces that patients use today, Doll said, and the lease expires in September 2020.

“We are actively using this building every day,” said Jennifer Doll, MU Health Care executive director of finance/controller.

MU Health Care received a request from the owner inquiring whether MU Health Care would be interested in purchasing the building.

In addition to construction and purchasing, the plan also presented a renovation project for the exterior of the Women’s and Children’s Hospital Building Exterior.

The exterior building envelope “shows signs of deterioration,” according to meeting documents, and for \$15 million the project will “remove and replace the exterior building components.”

“We need to replace that exterior building envelope because we have signs of water penetration in some of the windows,” Doll said.



## **MU Health CEO gives update on possible merger with Boone Hospital**

By: Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mu-health-ceo-gives-update-on-possible-merger-with-boone-hospital/665838457>

**The CEO of MU Health said the possible merger with Boone Hospital would help "bring jobs back to Columbia."**

CEO Jonathan Curtwright gave an update on those discussion during the University of Missouri Board of Curators' Health Affairs Committee meeting Friday.

ABC 17 News [reported in August](#) when the Boone Hospital Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to discuss aligning with University of Missouri Health Care.

Curtwright advocated for the merger and said "we will see how things with that progress over the next couple of months." He said the possible partnership would increase the number of doctors, nurses and health professionals in our state.

"It will bring jobs back to Columbia. There's no other way to say it. This will have a major economic impact on our community both now and for years to come," Curtwright said. "We do believe that we are going to be able to train more nurses, more allied health staff and more physicians to practice in the state of Missouri."

Curtwright also said the possible merger would help create efficiencies as well as keep hospital decision-making local.

"You can't go through Columbia right now and not recognize that we do have some duplication of services. There will be massive efficiencies, we think, and we will be able to eliminate a lot of the duplication that already exists within our community, so we'll be a much more efficient model," he said. "Hospital decision making will be local and we'll be able to make decisions on capital and staffing and space right here in our community."

In addition to the benefits Curtwright outlined, MU Health officials said the merger would decide the fate of three projects outlined in MU Health's five-year capital plan. Those include building a new outpatient clinic, an inpatient expansion of University Health and an inpatient expansion of the Women's and Children's Hospital. The total cost of all three projects is \$500 million.

"These are predicated on our work with Boone Hospital," Curtwright said.



## [MU Health leaders tout benefits of expansion, possible merger](#)

By: Claire Kopsky

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-health-leaders-tout-benefits-of-expansion-possible-merger>

**COLUMBIA - MU Health Care is expanding by either building more buildings or merging with Boone Hospital.**

The CEO and COO of MU Health Care, Jonathan Curtright, said the hospitals currently have a total capacity for 643 beds.

“We are running out of space,” he said. “We know we cannot be all things to all people but we know we need to be making some significant investments in cardiovascular, in oncology and in primary care.”

Curtright outlined five main reasons why MU Health thinks a merger with Boone Hospital is important.

First, he said, a merger would expand access to primary and speciality care.

“It is hard, in general, to recruit to Columbia, Missouri, and, by having more population, more of central Missouri taken care of, we will recruit more sub-specialists to provide us care,” he said.

Second, he said, the change would bring more jobs to Columbia.

“There is no other way to say it, this will have a major economic impact on our community both now and for years to come.”

Third, Curtright said hospital decision making would be more localized and more focused on the community.

Fourth, Curtright said a merger would create a more efficient system.

"You can't go throughout Columbia right now and not recognize that we have some duplication of services," he said.

Curtright described his fifth point as the “most important:” the capability to train more doctors, nurses and health professionals.

Seventy percent of graduates from the University's health professions programs stay in Missouri, so the committee agreed it sees the expansion as important for MU Health.

Cartwright named eight people within the executive leadership at MU Healthcare that have stepped up to take on more responsibilities to keep up with the growing hospital. Cartwright said that's a sign of a healthy organization ready for a merger.

There was also discussion about a financial gift program being implemented to help increase gifts to the University. Curtright said such a program would be of significant help long-term for financing MU Health Care projects.

New staff training was also on the agenda. Jennifer May said the focus is finding, fixing and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. The two questions the program wants employees to ask themselves is “Can I do this from legal perspective?” and “Should I do this?”

The Tiger Institute was yet another topic of discussion. Cartwright said MU Health is “In the process of signing another contract with the Tiger Institute and Cerner to have the Cerner revenue cycle. This will be a major game-changer.”

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Passage of Senate Tax-Reform Bill Leaves Colleges Scrambling

#### NO MU MENTION

By ADAM HARRIS, ERIC KELDERMAN, AND ANDY THOMASON

College leaders are bracing for major changes to the nation's tax code that could weaken their financial footing by undermining charitable giving and placing new tax burdens on institutions with valuable endowments.

College leaders spoke out in near-uniformity against the Republican lawmakers' plans. "At a time when our economy is demanding more education for more of our citizens, we cannot erect new barriers for the millions of Americans who need affordable higher education," wrote Margaret Spellings, president of the University of North Carolina system and the former education secretary under President George W. Bush.

If the main goal of the tax bills is to spur economic activity, said Marjorie Hass, president of Rhodes College, then Congress would better accomplish that goal by investing in colleges and universities.

"It's very disappointing that higher education is not being seen as an important aspect of growing the economy," she said.

The U.S. Senate passed its version of the tax changes early Saturday morning. Its bill, which lowers the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, could add a trillion dollars to the federal deficit over the next decade, according to an analysis by Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation. Only one Republican, Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, voted against the bill, along with all 48 of the chamber's Democrats.

Congressional leaders must now decide whether to form a conference committee to harmonize the Senate bill with the legislation passed last month by the House of Representatives. Another possibility is that the House would simply vote to accept the Senate's version before sending it to President Donald J. Trump, who is expected to sign the bill.

James Mullen, president of Allegheny College, is also concerned about a proposed tax on endowment earnings, which is included in both bills. Allegheny College, which enrolls about 2,100 students and has an endowment of \$210-million, is far from meeting the threshold for taxation established in the bill — an endowment value of \$500,000 per student. But the idea of transferring private charitable donations to the federal government would set a troubling precedent, Mr. Mullen said.

Steven DiSalvo, president of St. Anselm College, said a proposal introduced in the House bill — taxing the tuition waivers that colleges provide for their employees — would also be a problem. That measure, which would also tax the tuition waivers of graduate students, is not contained in the Senate's version of the bill.

At St. Anselm and other colleges, the benefit applies to children of employees and is extremely important in recruiting talented workers who would be able to earn much higher salaries in the corporate world, he said.

"I don't see how any of this is going to help us thrive as academic institutions going forward," Mr. DiSalvo said.

Taxing the tuition waivers that graduate students receive as research and teaching assistants has sparked widespread concern and even protests from those students.

Public colleges, too, have major concerns with the tax bills. “This is simply wrongheaded,” said a written statement from Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education. While the Senate’s version of the tax legislation is less onerous than the House’s bill, he said, it still has the potential to “make college more expensive and undermine the financial stability of higher-education institutions.”

Eliminating or limiting the amount of state and local taxes that can be deducted could also have a negative impact on higher education, said a written statement from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

The long-term impact of increasing the deficit could also make higher-education programs vulnerable to future cuts as Congress looks at reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, warned Ms. Hass, of Rhodes College. “They’ve looked under every rock” to limit the increase in the deficit to “only \$1-trillion,” she said. “Student aid is extremely vulnerable now as reauthorization is being considered.”

Here’s a rundown of the components in both bills that would affect higher ed:

### **Graduate-Student Tuition Waivers**

The tuition waivers many graduate students receive would be taxed under the House bill, the measure that drew the most vocal opposition from college leaders, who said treating the waivers as income was nonsensical and would deeply discourage enrollment in graduate school.

The Senate bill leaves graduate-student waivers untaxed, meaning the measure’s chances of inclusion in the final bill are far from certain.

### **Taxing Other Students**

The House bill eliminates the deduction, up to \$2,500, for interest on student loans; the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit, worth up to \$2,500; the Lifetime Learning Credit of up to \$2,000; and the \$5,250 corporate deduction for employee education-assistance plans.

The Senate bill does not eliminate any of these provisions.

### **Tax on Investment Income**

Both the House and Senate versions of the tax-reform bill include a tax on the investment income of a select group of colleges. The House bill taxes about 65 colleges — those that enroll at least 500 students and have assets of \$250,000 per full-time student. [Here’s a list of those colleges.](#)

Meanwhile, a late amendment to the Senate bill narrowed the pool of colleges that would be taxed, to those that have assets of \$500,000 per full-time student. That would translate to fewer than 30 institutions. (The Senate rejected a last-minute amendment that would have carved out

an exception for Hillsdale College, which rejects federal funds and is popular among conservative lawmakers.)

A version of this measure is likely to be included in the final law.

### **Business and Sports**

Both the House and Senate bills include a 20-percent tax on compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to any of a nonprofit organization's five highest-paid employees. The measure would apply to colleges as well as teaching hospitals and even to college and university foundations.

Originally, the Senate bill contained provisions that could have required colleges to pay taxes on royalties that they earn from licensing their logos. That provision appears to have been removed in the final run-up to the bill's passage. But the bill still eliminates the 80-percent deduction that fans get to take for "seat-license fees" paid on tickets to sporting events.

Another provision would prohibit colleges from using a loss in one unrelated business to offset a gain in a different such business, potentially increasing their overall tax burden.

### **Overall Charitable Giving**

Both the House and Senate doubled the standard deduction for taxpayers who donate to charity, a measure that observers expect will discourage giving. College leaders have feared that a chill on donations would deal a blow to their fund-raising operations — an insult added to injury, given states' disinvestment in public colleges.

### **Future Funding Hurdles**

A report released by the Joint Committee on Taxation on Thursday found the Senate's bill would add more than \$1 trillion to the deficit. The House bill was projected to cost \$1.4 trillion. This has raised concerns from observers predicting that future efforts to reduce the deficit through federal spending cuts could target higher-education programs.

*PLEASE NOTE: Certain  
Columbia Tribune clips  
are posted in print before  
being published online.  
This is the print version of  
the story.*

**ANOTHER VIEW**

## *Jury is out on joint replacement*

**T**wo years ago I developed severe pain in my right leg and knee. Waiting until I could no longer walk and distrusting of physicians, I finally had an x-ray, which showed that my right leg was almost broken. Apparently in my 20s I did judo for two years in hopes that I might be able to beat the crap out of the bullies of the world, and during that period I damaged my leg. I did find out the kindness of strangers, as I worked at the Veterans Hospital and people were always opening doors for me and buying me coffee. I apparently did not suffer quietly.

In some ways it was comforting to know the source of the pain and hip replacement was now a routine operation. I received a shiny, new titanium and plastic prosthetic apparatus and in about 30 days after surgery I was as good as new. My surgeon was Thomas Aleto, and I used to poke fun that orthopedic surgeons charged a lot more than Jesus for simple carpentry work, but have now backed off on that comparison.

Shortly after my surgery I saw advertisements about the Missouri Orthopedic Institute (MOI) indicating that they were successful replacing joints with cadaver joints and using a special media to preserve the bone and cartilage. After death the decomposition process starts almost immediately and these grafts are certainly contaminated. They noted that had little infection or rejection, and further they could keep these grafts at room temperature

for up to 60 days. These revolutionary statements were in marked contrast to my many years of practicing pathology where blood, a similar allograft, is discarded if left out of refrigeration for over four hours. Further, since they maintained the viability of bone cells one would expect graft rejection.

I took my concerns to the university lawyers and showed them a photograph of a failed hip joint where the fragmented pieces were supported by the addition of metal. Although they claimed I had protection, the next day they demanded I return the photographs and showed them to no one. Further, they attempted to find evidence that I had violated the HIPA regulations. This seemingly hostile response made me even more curious and I found out the IRB (Institutional Review Board) had no specific program dealing with the replacement of entire joints, but did have a protocol to evaluate their preservation method on small allografts. I contacted by e-mail the president the head of legal and the chancellor, but they have not acknowledged my concerns.

Meanwhile, Thomas Aleto, the surgeon who operated on me, left the MOI because of differences in practice policies. The university evoked the no-compete clause, which would have forced him to either leave Columbia or practice 50 miles away. He took a job at the VA hospital, where he has provided care for many veterans with joint diseases. Recently the university tried to invoke

an injunction to prevent him from working here but it was overturned with efforts from the dean and lawyers in the VA. Recently a bill has been proposed to avoid these limitations, as the VA is never competing with the private or university sector.

If the success of this program can be measured by funding, then it is very successful. Dr. Stannard recently received a \$2 million personal award from the Wyss Institute for innovative research. If they are accomplishing what they say, then we should begin to recognize the genius behind their work.

However, there are multiple anecdotal reports of infection and graft rejection. These are difficult to confirm since the failed joints are not sent to the pathology laboratory. There was one joint that was signed out as consistent with graft rejection. They continue to feature a women diver, whom I was told her biojoint failed.

If you go to Google and type "biojoint," an add will appear asking for patients to bring their complaints to an attorney.

So, in summary, the jury is out. I hope that the patients who receive total joints have successful surgical outcome, but I worry.

*Edward H. Adelstein has lived in Columbia since 1957, and attended veterinary school and the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He is currently the chief of the laboratory at the Veterans Hospital and a medical examiner, positions he has held for over 20 years.*

# MISSOURIAN

## Man arrested after investigation into stolen packages from MU housing

KATHRYN HARDISON

A man was arrested Friday morning on suspicion of four counts of stealing as part of eight package theft investigations at the Tara Apartment Complex, according to a news release from the MU Police Department.

Benjamin Hulen, 20, was being held at the Boone County Jail with a \$2,000 bond Friday, according to the release. Hulen is not an MU student.

In the past 28 days, there have been 13 reported burglaries from homes in Columbia, according to data from the Columbia Police Department.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas, UPS, the U.S. Postal Service and FedEx will ship an estimated 1 billion packages, according to [previous Missourian reporting](#). Eleven million people reported packages stolen in 2016.

**T** COLUMBIA DAILY  
TRIBUNE

## Home detention ends for second MU student charged in death case

By CAITLIN CAMPBELL

**A second University of Missouri student charged with felony tampering in connection with the death of a classmate is free from home detention after a judge heard arguments that the death was a suicide, not a homicide.**

The initial arrest warrant issued for Darren Carter, 22, was recalled and bond conditions eliminated after Boone County Circuit Judge Michael Bradley on Friday heard arguments from attorney Bill Tackett that his client does not need to be on home detention. Carter is charged with felony evidence tampering along with DeAndre Winters, 20, because the men allegedly removed from the scene a gun that killed their friend, Richard Ward III, in early October. Carter had been on home detention since Oct. 19, when his original \$100,000 cash-only bond was relaxed.

Bradley granted the bond reduction despite Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Cassandra Rogers' opposition. The bond reduction occurred two days after Circuit Judge Kimberly Shaw granted a similar request for Winters after hearing the same arguments from his attorney.

It has been nearly two months since Ward died, and police have not declared a cause of death. That the two men are charged with felonies suggests possible foul play.

Those who knew Ward say the single gunshot to the head that killed him was self-inflicted and likely a suicide. An autopsy report from the Boone County Medical Examiner declaring an official cause of death has not been made public, despite Tribune requests.

Tampering with evidence is a felony if it is done with the intent to obstruct the investigation of another felony crime. Prosecutors have said they believe the men obstructed a homicide investigation, but the Columbia Police Department has avoided labeling the case as such.

Charging documents indicate police became suspicious of the men because Winters allegedly changed his story between when he dialed 911 to report his injured roommate — who was still alive when police arrived at the residence — and when he spoke to police after they arrived. Winters initially told dispatchers that he believed someone had shot his roommate; later, he told police he believed Ward might have fired the gun himself.

It is unclear exactly what Winters said on the phone. In Missouri, the audio and transcript of 911 calls are not considered public records.

The statement providing probable cause for the arrests indicates prosecutors suspect that while police responded to the 911 call, the men moved the gun as well as a mason jar potentially holding marijuana in order to obstruct investigation into a "murder." Additional charges against Carter filed in October indicate he had already run afoul of police for allegedly having a gun and marijuana before Ward died. Having a gun while in possession of marijuana is considered felony unlawful use of a weapon under state law.

Carter is scheduled for a case review at 9 a.m. Dec. 13.

## **MU student arrested after fraternity house assault**

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

**Police arrested a University of Missouri student on suspicion of attacking a man at a fraternity house Thursday.**

Officers went to University Hospital early Thursday and met with a man in the emergency room who claimed Benjamin T. Hellon, 21, of Columbia punched him once in the face after an argument “about a girl and another fraternity member” at 711 Tiger Ave., Columbia Police Department Officer Latisha Stroer said. The victim had a broken jaw and a missing tooth, Stroer said.

The alleged assault took place at the MU Delta Upsilon house, but the building is being rented by Delta Tau Delta, Ashley Martin, communications director for Delta Upsilon International, said. Delta Upsilon’s MU chapter was suspended in 2016.

Hellon is a sophomore studying business, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

## **MU Veterinary Health Center opens imaging suite, radiation isolation unit**

By MEGAN FAVIGNANO

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: <http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2017/1115-fighting-disease-and-world-hunger-new-petct-scanner-opens-at-the-university-of-missouri/>

**The University of Missouri's Veterinary Health Center last month celebrated the opening of its Pops and Tango McCosh PET/CT Imaging Suite and the Radiation Isolation Unit.**

The space is housed in a new imaging core in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The combination positron emission topography (PET) scanner and computed tomography (CT) scanner will improve accuracy and the speed of diagnosis and treatment for cancer and heart disease, according to an MU news release. The system additionally will open new opportunities for plant science research.



**University of Missouri Reveals Long-Term Enrollment Goals**

**The University of Missouri is setting some lofty goals for increasing enrollment and helping students stay in school and find employment after graduation.**

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **The University of Missouri is setting lofty goals to not only increase enrollment but to help students finish their degrees and find employment after graduation.**

The university's Strategic Enrollment Management Committee recently unveiled five goals that it wants the university to obtain by 2023, The Columbia Missourian reported. The committee's work comes as the Columbia campus responds to declining enrollment that began after campus protests in November 2015.

Patricia Okker, dean of the College of Arts and Science, said the five goals are:

— Increasing the number of undergraduate, graduate and professional degree program and graduate credential completions to 10,000, compared with 9,150 last year.

— Ensuring that 95 percent of undergraduate, graduate and professional students are employed or in graduate school within six months of graduation. A current comparison was not available.

— Enhancing student access by adding scholarships, funding, transfer options and other opportunities, and increasing the annual size of new incoming undergraduates to 6,000. This semester, the university had 5,136 first-time students.

— Increasing the first-year undergraduate student retention rate to 93 percent. As of August, the rate was 87 percent, the second-highest in university history.

— Improving four-year undergraduate graduation rates from 44 percent to 52.8 percent.

Okker said 10,000 degree completions by 2023 would make a difference across the state.

"It certainly would ... meet the needs of our state for an educated workforce that's not just ready for the jobs of today but the jobs of tomorrow," Okker said.

Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management and strategic development, said the goals were a starting point for subcommittees that will meet over the next several months.

"It's really about a much more comprehensive, institutional approach to enrollment," he said.

The committee is building on other efforts underway in marketing and branding the university, Morrice said.

"There's no question that, for all of these goals, it's going to be important that people have a good understanding of who Mizzou is and what value we offer," Morrice said.

The enrollment subcommittees will meet from December through February 2018 and submit their goals by March 1. The final plan will be presented to the campus community by April 2018.

### Similar stories ran nationwide



## [Almost 5,000 Mizzou Football season ticket holders need to move seats](#)

By: Nick Allen

**COLUMBIA - [Mizzou Athletics has spent the past few days calling thousands of football season ticket holders to tell them that their seats must be moved for at least next season.](#)**

Only season tickets holders with seats in the south end zone heard their phones buzzing, as that section of the stadium will undergo major reconstruction during the 2018 season.

According to one south end zone Tiger fan, the Athletic department were not the bearers of bad news.

"I liked my seats in the end zone, but they were more than fair with what they offered in exchange for giving them up. I was expecting to be upset, but after talking to them I'm very happy," Brian Garner said.

Mizzou Athletics offered each affected party three different relocation options, seats Garner said were comparable in quality to his old ones.

He said he was won over when the school proposed to grandfather his current rate for the next five seasons.

A total of roughly 4,600 season ticket holders will watch the games from a new seat next season, and many won't be back in 2019.

The renovations will add several amenities to the stadium, but will also reduce end zone seating capacity from roughly 9,000 to around 2,500.

Therefore, this transfer is permanent for a large amount of the migrating Tiger fans.

Mizzou Athletics is very excited for everything the new end zone will offer the stadium in 2019.

The \$100 million project will bring new coaching offices, locker rooms, suites, and clubhouses to Faurot Field.

"We have paid attention to everything that both the fans and the team has asked for, and looked to answer those requests with our new endzone," said Jay Luksis of the Mizzou Athletics marketing team.

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Appointments

#### Generated from News Bureau direct pitch

**Patricia Okker**, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science at the University of Missouri at Columbia, to [permanent status](#) in that role.

# THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

## Mizzou's bowl game will be in Houston against a former Big 12 foe: Texas

By Alex Schiffer

**COLUMBIA - Missouri will face a former Big 12 foe in the program's first bowl appearance in three years.**

The Tigers accepted an invitation to the Texas Bowl on Dec. 27 in Houston against the Texas Longhorns, a program Missouri faced regularly before joining the Southeastern Conference. Kickoff is slated for 8 p.m. at NRG Stadium. The game will air on ESPN.

The game has plenty of ties outside of conference play as the Tigers targeted Longhorns coach Tom Herman to replace former Missouri coach Gary Pinkel after the 2015 season. Current MU coach Barry Odom got the job instead.

Odom's first game in a Missouri uniform came against Texas in 1996. He noted in Sunday's press conference that it was also the school's first official game in the Big 12 Conference and that it was delayed due to rain.

"There's a lot of history between Missouri and Texas," Odom said. "I've been a part of a lot of that."

In 2013, then-Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds famously took a shot at the Tigers' program when discussing the standard set at Texas, saying, "We're going to have good years again. Our bad years are not that bad. Take a school like Missouri. Our bad years are better than their good years."

None of Missouri's current players were on the team when the Tigers faced Texas in Big 12 play. Missouri has a number of players from the Houston area on its roster, including senior wide receiver J'Mon Moore, freshman linebacker Josh Bledsoe and freshman defensive tackle Kobie Whiteside.

Odom said his players are aware of what has been said between both sides and is sure they'll be up to speed by the time the game comes around.

“There’ll be plenty of information that our team receives,” Odom said. “We’ll make sure they’re aware of it all.”

Odom said in the history of college football, only one other team has started the season 1-5 and finished with eight wins. The Tigers are using the bowl game as motivation to end the season in the history books.

Missouri has a few ties with Texas on the team as defensive line coach Brick Haley was on former Longhorns coach Charlie Strong’s staff last year and defensive tackle Jordan Elliott is a transfer from the Longhorns. Elliott is sitting out this year due to NCAA transfer rules. Despite the ties, Odom said having connections to the opponent doesn’t help that much in scouting Texas.

“They’ll know as much about us as we do them,” Odom said.

Missouri last played in the Texas Bowl in 2009, when the Tigers lost 35-13 to Navy.

“Great national brand. They’ve got a strong alumni base and a great following,” Texas Bowl executive director David Fletcher told The Star about Mizzou this season.

“They’ve been a great story this year to see how they’ve finished their season. And they’ve got great familiarity with the other side as they were a part of the Big 12 for a number of years.”

According to the Mizzou athletic department, the Tigers are allotted 8,000 tickets, priced at \$125 for the 300 Club Level and \$85 for the 100 Lower Level. They can be purchased online at [mutigers.com/tickets](http://mutigers.com/tickets), by calling 800-228-7297 or in person at the Mizzou Arena box office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Tiger Scholarship Fund members and season-ticket holders must place their orders by noon Wednesday to receive priority.

*Similar stories ran nationwide*

**T** COLUMBIA DAILY  
TRIBUNE

## [Most area pharmacies selling overdose antidote](#)

By RUDI KELLER

Three months after a new law designed to keep overdosing addicts alive took effect, almost every pharmacy in Columbia is selling or intends soon to sell naloxone, also known under the brand name Narcan, to anyone who can afford it.

The Tribune visited or called several companies or institutions operating pharmacies in Columbia. The prices quoted range from \$3 to cover the copay for Medicaid recipients to \$165 without any insurance for the nasal applicator with two doses. The lowest cash prices were \$70 at Sam's Club, which also would require a membership, and \$109.99 with a coupon at CVS in Target.

Insurance could lower the price, depending on deductibles and other terms.

Naloxone is a fast-acting drug that overcomes opioid overdose and can awaken an unresponsive patient in a minute or less. An opioid overdose kills by suppressing breathing. The law gave Randall Williams, director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, authority to issue a statewide standing order allowing the sales, which otherwise could require a prescription.

In Boone County this year, eight people died of opioid overdoses through Oct. 31. **The toll could have been much higher — through early November, Columbia firefighters had administered naloxone 17 times and the University of Missouri Hospital emergency room had administered it 38 times.**

Laura Kingsley, a partner at Kilgore's Medical Pharmacy, said her company was operating under Williams' order at all three locations.

"As a public health issue, we support the naloxone initiative of making it available to everyone," she said. "We have seen doctor's offices actually prescribing it for patients, but it was pretty much a no-brainer."

The state Board of Pharmacy surveyed its licensees in late July and August and found that just under one-fourth were already selling naloxone under a 2016 law allowing physicians to set up a protocol for individual pharmacies. About 30 percent of the respondents that weren't selling it before the law took effect Aug. 28 reported they intended to do so, the survey showed, and 50 percent were unsure. About 1-in-5 reported that they did not intend to sell naloxone under the order.

The order signed by Williams, a physician, requires education for those who request naloxone. Walgreens provides a two-page sheet listing signs of an opioid overdose, how to administer the drug and warnings that the addict, once revived, could relapse into unconsciousness and need a second dose. The sheets also warn that naloxone can cause withdrawal symptoms once the overdose victim is revived.

If a future director is not a physician, the law allows the department to contract with a doctor to continue the order.

“If you’re 14 years old and you are worried about your 18-year-old brother dying in his room with the door closed, you can go in and get Narcan and we’re very proud of that,” Williams said at [Wednesday’s opioid summit](#) in Columbia.

The law also grants immunity for drug or paraphernalia possession charges, minor in possession of alcohol charges and probation or restraining order violations for calling 911 to save an overdosing friend. It does not grant an exemption from arrest and prosecution for outstanding warrants or more serious charges.

“We know that 80 percent of people who use narcotics usually use them with other people, yet when first responders get there, 80 percent of the time they are found alone,” Williams said. “We don’t want anyone to die alone because somebody’s afraid they are going to get in trouble.”

The pharmacy board and the Missouri Pharmacy Association are sponsoring training sessions on naloxone and the standing order that will provide continuing education credits needed for license renewals, said Kimberly Grinston, executive director of the board.

“We are excited about the potential for the new authority to be part of the solution here,” she said.

There are discussions underway about reducing the price.

“The \$150 is kind of the price range we were wrestling with,” said Ron Fitzwater, executive director of the pharmacy association.

The efforts include persuading suppliers to cut the wholesale price and obtaining a foundation grant to underwrite the cost, he said. A screening program would be used to make sure the naloxone is given to people who couldn't otherwise afford it and a program is being developed for the southwest part of the state, hit especially hard, he said.

Fitzwater said he was surprised at the lack of negative response when he first took the idea of sales without a prescription to his board.

"I thought I would get a little bit two years ago when I took it to our executive committee," he said. "When we met in the capital in 2016, our president jumped all over it and said we wanted to help."

The law passed that year allowed individual pharmacies to set up a protocol with a physician to dispense naloxone.

Standing orders, sometimes called treatment protocols, are most commonly used by pharmacies to dispense vaccinations. They can also give a pharmacist authority to adjust medications for conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

The training sessions emphasize that the pharmacist should do more than just sell the naloxone, Fitzwater said.

"Rather than just send a mailing out, we want to go out and meet with as many of them face to face and tell them what to look for, how to educate the patients," Fitzwater said. "If it is a loved one or caregiver, we show how to talk to them to try to get them in some kind of treatment program. It kind of uses the pharmacist as a health coach for the patient."

Pharmacist Alex Smith of Flow's Pharmacy said his stores will not sell naloxone under the standing order. It is best dispensed by trained personnel, he said, because of several dangers.

"The Narcan thinks it is going to be a miracle cure, that people bounce back and will be fine," he said.

For some overdose cases, multiple doses are required, he said. And once it works, there are other dangers.

“If a person is passed out or in respiratory depression, it displaces the drug chemically in the central nervous system, replaces it with Narcan and when they get that Narcan they are going to go into immediate withdrawal,” he said.

The only Columbia pharmacy associated with a grocery or other chain retailer that isn’t currently selling naloxone is operated by Schnucks and that will change soon, company spokesman Paul Simon said.

“We are working through procedures, guidelines and training,” he said. “We want a consistent policy across the stores. I don’t have a date but it will be in the near future.”



## Capitol perspectives: A challenge to constitutional independence

By PHIL BROOKS

This fall, the state’s governor mounted a challenge to a major principle of Missouri’s Constitution.

It involved his successful efforts to get the state education commissioner fired by a method involving the constitutionally guaranteed independence for a few state departments.

The education commissioner serves at the pleasure of the state Board of Education that is protected by Missouri’s Constitution from interference by the governor.

For more than 120 years, there have been federal laws establishing independent federal agencies. But states are different from the federal government in using the Constitution — the foundation of the structure of government — to establish independent departments.

In Missouri, these protected departments include conservation, transportation and education. There’s even one agency below a department level which the constitution gives independence.

**It’s the University of Missouri Board of Curators, which the Constitution grants the unique power of “government.”** Decades ago, a university president told me he thought that gave the curators power to impose a statewide tax for the university. He was not joking.

These constitutionally-protected agencies are governed by boards whose members, once confirmed, serve for fixed terms and cannot be removed without cause.

Over the decades, I've heard rural legislators passionately argue that hunting, fishing and wildlife protection are so fundamental to Missouri that they warrant constitutional protection from interference by politicians.

As for the transportation department, you need only to look at other states that have suffered from the political intrigues of highway funding to understand the wisdom of the framers of Missouri's Constitution to put that area under constitutional protection.

If you have any doubts, just think about New Jersey Gov. Chris Christy's "bridgegate." Missouri's Constitution assures no governor could do that in our state.

The constitutional protection for education's governing board goes back to the original 1945 Constitution. There's even a provision requiring a minimum level of funding for public schools. But Greitens found a way around the Education Department's independence.

The loophole arises because Missouri's legislature meets only during part of the year. So, for more than six months when the legislature is not in session, the Senate cannot confirm the governor's nominations.

In that case, Missouri law provides that a governor's nomination becomes an immediate appointment, which ultimately must be confirmed by the Senate within 30 days after the legislature returns. Because of delayed nominations and resignations, Greitens got to name five Board of Education members who took office without Senate confirmation.

That should have given the governor the five-vote majority on the eight-member board to oust the education commissioner. But he had to remove two nominees who voiced concerns about hasty action. Under the governor's approach, these appointments pending Senate confirmation did not enjoy job protection.

Another nominee who voted to retain the education commissioner suddenly quit the day before the Board of Education's second ouster vote and was replaced just hours before the Friday, Dec. 1, vote to give Margie Vandeven the boot. But this story is still developing.

One of the governor's fired appointees has filed suit, challenging his dismissal on grounds that the governor violated a law protecting education board members from being removed without cause and a hearing. It's a case that could invalidate Vandeven's ouster. She has not ruled out returning as Education Commissioner were that to happen. But it's also a case that has the potential to address the much broader issue about constitutional independence.

In the meantime, the Senate's Education Committee chair, Gary Romine, R-Farmington vows to filibuster confirmation of Greitens' appointees who voted to fire the education commission. I'm not completely sure blocking these nominations can stop the governor because there's no enforceable provision setting a deadline for a governor to submit a nomination to the Senate.

That means if Greitens' nominees are not confirmed, the governor could wait until the Senate adjourns in the spring before appointing new education board replacements who then could vote to fire the state's education commissioner.

It makes for a complicated legislative issue next year if Missouri lawmakers want to protect the constitutional independence enjoyed by some agencies.



## Hawley launches new challenge to California egg law

By Will Schmitt

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley is again crying foul over a California egg law that he and his predecessor have so far opposed without success.

A California statute barring eggs produced in cramped cages from being sold in the Golden State has for years rattled states in the Midwest like Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma. After the law was passed, California's state legislature passed a bill requiring all egg farmers selling their wares in California to adhere to the same rules as California farmers.

Supporters of the law, which took effect in 2015 and guarantees hens just under one square foot of floor space, say it helps ensure humane treatment of animals. Opponents say the statute is an unnecessary and costly barrier to interstate commerce.

Hawley is scheduled to announce a new lawsuit against California's egg regulations at an annual meeting of the Missouri Farm Bureau on Monday, his office told the News-Leader.

Hawley's suit asks the U.S. Supreme Court to deem California's egg regulations unconstitutional under the Constitution's Commerce Clause and invalid because they contradict standards set under the federal Egg Product Inspection Act.

"The regulations are unconstitutional and a clear attempt by big-government proponents imposing job-killing regulations on Missouri," Hawley said in a statement. "This discrimination against Missouri farmers will not stand. I will continue to defend our farmers and protect the interests of Missouri consumers."

Hawley's bill of complaint takes issue with California's "attempt to dictate the manner of agricultural production in every other State." In the suit, the Republican attorney general argues that eggs are a critical food "for virtually all Americans" and that federal law requires uniform standards for eggs sold across state lines

"By its extraterritorial regulation of egg producers, California has single-handedly increased the costs of egg production nationwide by hundreds of millions of dollars each year," attorneys in Hawley's office argue. "... The effects of increased egg prices are felt most painfully by families with limited incomes,

those who barely make ends meet each month, and those who can ill afford to eliminate a critical staple from their diets."

Eleven other states joined Missouri in the complaint.

The egg law could also affect Missouri's budget, Hawley's lawsuit says. An economic analysis filed with the suit projects that national egg price hikes could require Missouri to spend tens of thousands of additional dollars on feeding state prisoners.

Despite the law's mandate of a certain amount of per-chicken space, Hawley's office claims the egg statute "did not affect the welfare of any animal in California." Its "sole purpose and effect," the lawsuit says, "was to discriminate against non-California egg producers by increasing the regulatory burden" on out-of-state egg farmers.

**Attached to the new lawsuit is an economic impact analysis by Joseph Haslag, an economics professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia and executive director of the Economic Policy Analysis and Research Center. Haslag estimated the total additional cost of the egg law to be between \$227 million and \$912 million.**

"For Missouri households, the welfare loss" — the income required due to the California regulations — "is at least \$1.75 million per year with the maximum being \$7.1 million per year," Haslag wrote, adding that the effects are disproportionately borne by low-income consumers.

Haslag notes that egg prices steadily rose after the passage of the California law and spiked in 2014 during an outbreak of avian influenza. Egg prices have since fallen to the lowest prices they've been in about a decade — this is attributable to supply outstripping demand after egg farmers increased production to fill the bird-flu void.

"To summarize, the California cage-system regulations distorted the national egg market, causing costs to increase," Haslag wrote. "... Producers inside California are worse off and producers outside California are no better off in terms of earning larger profits."

Upon taking office, Hawley inherited a 2014 federal lawsuit filed by former Attorney General Chris Koster that said California's law violated the Constitution's Commerce Clause, which governs interstate commerce.

A panel of federal judges ruled in 2016 that Missouri and five other states did not have legal standing to make their claims, according to Hawley's office.

In February, Hawley asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the lower court's decision. He was opposed by the attorney general of California and the Humane Society of the United States.

The Supreme Court denied the previous request for review May 30, according to federal court records.

Hawley was not available for an interview, according to his office.

Missouri hens produced more than 3.2 billion eggs in 2016, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Data included in Koster's original lawsuit estimated that about one-third of Missouri's egg sales went to California, making Missouri the second-largest egg exporter to California in the nation.

Missouri's market share is large enough to merit concern from the farm bureau, which has called previous legal losses "a lose-lose proposition for all concerned."

Hawley is running for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination to challenge Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill in 2018. Other Republicans in the race are Tony Monetti, Austin Petersen and Courtland Sykes.

## **T** COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

### **Strong demand supports U.S. livestock sector**

**By PAT WESTHOFF**

Falling prices for livestock and poultry contributed to the sharp decline in U.S. and Missouri farm income in 2015 and 2016. While cattle, hog and poultry prices remain far below the record levels of 2014, prices this year have been surprisingly strong in the face of expanding meat supplies.

Current USDA estimates suggest that total U.S. meat production will increase by almost 3 billion pounds, or about 3 percent, in 2017. That is far faster than the rate of growth in the U.S. population, and would normally be expected to put severe downward pressure on prices.

In spite of the increase in supplies, producer-level prices for hogs and wholesale prices for chickens are both higher this year, and prices for slaughter-ready cattle are about the same.

In any business, people are happy when they can sell more at a higher price. It is certainly a lot more fun to sell in an expanding market than in one that is contracting.

Increasing U.S. meat exports are on track to absorb almost a third of the increase in meat production this year. Beef and pork sales to foreign markets are both higher, even though trade barriers continue to limit the ability of U.S. meat to compete in many countries.

What is perhaps more surprising is that domestic meat consumption is up by almost 2 billion pounds this year, or about 3 pounds per person.

To some extent this is just a continuation of recent trends. Domestic meat consumption rebounded strongly in 2015 and 2016 after declining by 9 percent from 2007-2014.

One small part of the story may be a slight reduction in the margins between prices received by livestock producers and the prices paid by consumers for meat at the retail level. A weighted average of retail meat prices is expected to be about the same this year as it was in 2016, even though average producer prices are higher.

However, that still begs the question of why consumption is up this year while retail prices are flat. One might have expected that an aging population, health concerns and other factors would cause per-capita consumption to be steady or declining.

Any good economist will remind you that consumption depends on both prices and disposable income. Historically, people here and in many other countries have tended to eat more meat when income levels rise.

Not only is total income continuing to increase, but lower unemployment and other factors mean the benefits of a growing economy may be more widely shared than they were in the immediate aftermath of the recession. The Census Bureau, for example, indicates that real incomes for low-income households began to increase again in 2015 after stagnating for many years.

An important question, of course, is where livestock markets go from here. **USDA and University of Missouri colleagues both project another large increase in meat production in 2018.** Increasing cattle numbers almost ensure another increase in beef production, and pork and chicken production also appear on track to expand.

Unless meat demand continues to strengthen, the result could be lower livestock and poultry prices in 2018. U.S. and foreign consumers will have a lot to say about the income prospects for livestock producers.

# MISSOURIAN

## **Jewish group settles in by MU to serve 'everyone with love'**

BY GRANT SHARPLES

Rabbi Avraham Lapine and his wife, Channy Lapine, had been renting a Chabad house to serve the Columbia Jewish community for six years.

After years of establishing a place of welcome for Jewish life on campus, the Lapines' landlord made them an offer to buy the place.

"The time was right," Avraham Lapine said.

The Lapines were committed to creating a permanent local Jewish community. As of Thursday, they now own the house they were renting on Brandon Road, the first and only Chabad house in Columbia. Avraham Lapine sees this not only as a milestone for Columbia, but also as a step for the Jewish community as a whole.

“When a Jewish student or a Jewish person sees Columbia and they know there’s a Chabad out there, they know, ‘Wow, this is a place that has Jewish life,’” he said.

Funds for the house came from two sources: a 24-hour fundraiser that started at 2 p.m. Tuesday and a matching grant from Chabad on Campus International in Brooklyn. On Tuesday, \$40,000 was raised toward a down payment. They had three matchers, so for every \$1 someone gave, it equaled \$4. The remaining \$60,000 came from the matching grant.

Channy Lapine said people typically create a community that joins together to fund the Chabad house. However, for larger purchases, the organization matches.

The Lapines also feel they’re following the vision of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson. Schneerson, who died in 1994, believed there should be Chabad houses all around the world that serve as places of Jewish celebration and presence, an idea that came to him after the Holocaust. The Lapines view their actions as a contribution to that greater goal.

“We’re very humbled and honored,” Avraham Lapine said.

According to the Chabad website, Chabad-Lubavitch is a movement within Judaism that originated 250 years ago. “Chabad” is a Hebrew acronym standing for wisdom, comprehension and knowledge.

“Lubavitch” refers to the movement’s geographical origin: Lyubavichi, a town in Russia.

**The Chabad house, on Brandon Road west of MU’s North and South residence halls, is a place where Jewish people can eat kosher food, participate in Shabbat, celebrate Jewish holidays or simply relax.**

“It’s exciting because we have a place that’s just dedicated to Chabad programs, Shabbat dinner, holiday programs,” Channy Lapine said. “It’s dedicated to this.”

Avraham Lapine described the house as a place where Jewish students can have a home away from home. He characterizes Chabad as homestyle-oriented, intended to provide comfort for Jewish students.

“People will find out more about us, and they’ll come and they’ll really enjoy it and want to come back,” Channy Lapine said, “so it’s a place for our community, and it’s also a place for outreach.”

Another Jewish organization at MU is Mizzou Hillel. Executive director Jeanne Snodgrass described it as “an open and pluralistic space where Jews can come to explore their Jewish identity” and “the whole gamut of what it means to be Jewish.”

Mizzou Hillel takes a focus on identity. Snodgrass said there are plenty of paths in Judaism, so Mizzou Hillel provides students with the opportunity to figure out which is theirs.

Jason Peiser, an MU senior, started visiting the Chabad house his freshman year. It became his second home, Peiser said. He went to the house for Jewish holidays as well as every Friday for Shabbat. He said that, along with other Jewish organizations on campus such as Mizzou Hillel, permanence of the Chabad house on campus will further establish a Jewish presence at MU.

Hillel International estimates there are about 750 undergraduate and graduate students at MU who identify as Jewish.

“I think it’s very important for the future of the Jewish community at Mizzou because now there’s never going to be a question of where Jewish students or Jewish faculty members will have somewhere to go for the holidays or for Shabbat,” Peiser said. “That house is now the Chabad house permanently, so no matter what happens, there’s always a place where a Jewish student can go to feel safe or to celebrate the holidays or Shabbat.”

MU student Sarena Krojanker shared similar sentiments to Peiser. Krojanker said she has visited the house nearly every Friday night for four years when she's at school. Like Peiser, she considers it her home away from home.

"Purchasing this house not only gives the Jewish students at Mizzou an opportunity to add their own personal touches to the house, but allows us to make the house more welcoming and inviting to all Jewish students in Columbia," Krojanker said in an email.

She is also hopeful the Chabad house will attract a greater Jewish population to Columbia.

"Hopefully the house will help attract more Jewish students from across the country to come to Mizzou," Krojanker said. "I hope the house will serve as a place where Jewish students can come together to celebrate our amazing traditions for years to come."

Avraham Lapine said this permanence will show that MU has a thriving Jewish community and a permanent Chabad house here "to cater to all the Jews."

Most important, however, the Lapines want to spread love.

"One of Chabad's mottos is that we spread love," Avraham Lapine said. "It doesn't matter who you are: Jew, non-Jew, whatever religion you are. Chabad serves everyone with love."