



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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[With Obamacare still in place, experts offer advice about your taxes](#)

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [MU VITA Sites Open, Provide Free Tax Preparation Help](#)

By Will Schmitt

JEFFERSON CITY — Tax experts want to get out the word that the Affordable Care Act is still the law of the land ahead of the April 18 tax filing deadline.

As such, the insurance penalties mandated by Obamacare are still in effect.

There are some exceptions, but for most people, "it's important to know that you really had to have health insurance," said Andrew Zumwalt, an assistant extension professor at the University of Missouri. "If you don't, you'll pay a penalty."

Republicans in Congress tried to partially repeal and replace the ACA, but the plan put forward by House Speaker Paul Ryan alienated hardline conservatives and moderates. The White House was involved in negotiations to try to follow through with one of President Donald Trump's campaign promises, but a compromise fell apart and left Obamacare in place.

Nancy Kelley, program director with the Missouri Foundation for Health, said people who purchase coverage through the ACA Marketplace should file their taxes even if they don't usually do so, because they might earn enough to receive tax credits through the market.

People below certain income thresholds are not required to file taxes. For single people under 65, the limit is \$10,350 and for married couples filing jointly, it's \$20,700, according to the IRS. These thresholds are slightly higher for seniors.

Obamacare includes tax credits based on income that people with relatively low incomes can receive. The GOP replacement plan that was bandied about would have replaced this with a system of tax credits based on age, which would generally make health insurance costs increase for people who are poorer and older.

Kelley said she thought it was important to remind people that Obamacare's rules, including the mandate to obtain insurance, remain in place. "We're concerned, because there's so much in the news about what may or may not be going on with the Affordable Care Act."

Kelley also flagged an executive order Trump signed in January, which directed the Department of Health and Human Services not to make regulations that could expand Obamacare's scope. She said the department could alter how it promotes services, shorten the enrollment period for next year and change the rules about qualifications for special enrollment, which is available to people who experience life changes like getting married or having a child.

The Obamacare fees for not having health insurance in 2016 and 2017 are either 2.5 percent of household income or a per-person cost, according to HealthCare.gov. For adults, this cost is \$695.

The IRS notes that it offers free electronic filing services for anyone making less than \$64,000, and this software also can be used to request an extension. Additional resources are available on the IRS' website, irs.gov.

Zumwalt, the Missouri professor, said that if people have questions or concerns about "weird-looking" documents relating to health insurance tax credits, they should seek advice sooner than later.

"Tax issues generally just don't go away," he said. "It's better to confront them head on."

Taxes are usually due April 15, but as Fox Business reported, that date aligns with Emancipation Day, and tax day cannot coincide with a holiday. Emancipation Day in Washington, D.C., is held on April 16 unless that day is a Sunday, as it is this year, shifting the holiday to April 17. This year's tax filing deadline fell on a Saturday, which ordinarily would mean it's moved forward to the following Monday, but because doing so would make it overlap with the D.C. holiday, tax day was pushed forward an extra day to April 18, as it will be in 2018.



[MU study shows there may be a way to prevent Osteoporosis in men](#)

This story was generated by an MU News Bureau press release: [Weight-Bearing Exercises Promote Bone Formation in Men](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-study-shows-there-may-be-a-way-to-prevent-osteoporosis-in-men>

By John Saltzman and Hayley Russell

COLUMBIA — A study by an MU researcher shows men may be able to prevent osteoporosis depending on the way they exercise.

Pamela Hinton, an associate professor at MU, found that weight-bearing and various jumping exercises decrease production of a protein that can cause osteoporosis.

The study followed men ages 25-60 who already showed had low-bone masses. Half of the group performed resistance training while the others performed jumping exercises.

“We saw a decrease in the level of sclerostin in both of these exercise interventions in men,” Hinton said. “When sclerostin is expressed at high levels, it has a negative impact on bone formation. In both resistance and jump training, the level of sclerostin in the bone goes down, which triggers bone formation.”

Hinton says while you should still exercise to improve overall health with exercises such as cardio cycling and swimming but you should also exercise to target bone health.

According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation osteoporosis affects over 200 million people worldwide and Hinton says 2 million of them are men.

"The consequences of fracture in men are worse than for women," Hinton said, "So it is a serious health public health problem for men."

Hinton said that although osteoporosis may not show up until later in life men can prevent it early by completing the right exercises and being knowledgeable about osteoporosis.

"Getting to share our research with the public is a really good way to spread the word." Hinton said.

MISSOURIAN

[Workplace discrimination bill headed for crucial vote](#)

JOHN SADLER, Apr 9, 2017

JEFFERSON CITY — A proposal that makes it quite a bit more challenging to make a case for racial discrimination in the workplace faces a key vote in a state House committee Monday.

Senate Bill 43, sponsored by Sen. Gary Romine, R-Farmington, is an attempt to stifle so-called "nuisance lawsuits," or discrimination lawsuits filed fraudulently. It has received support from a wide group of businesses and organizations, including the University of Missouri System. Opponents, including the NAACP and other civil rights groups, say the bill would create an environment more conducive to discrimination in the workplace by making it harder to prove allegations.

The House Special Committee on Litigation Reform is expected to vote on the bill at a hearing Monday. If it passes, it will go to the floor of the House, which would be the last hurdle before going to Gov. Eric Greitens for his signature.

The bill would make the burden of proof more intense for those claiming workplace discrimination. Instead of having to prove discrimination was a "contributing factor," the accuser would have to prove that it is the "motivating factor."

The bill's first hearing was deemed insufficient after the committee chairman, Bill Lant, R-Pineville, cut off Missouri NAACP president Rod Chapel for allegedly going off-topic. The action drew rebuke from advocacy groups across Missouri, with Lant eventually being admonished by House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff.

The second hearing, held April 3, was only slightly less tense. Chapel returned to speak, calling the bill a return to the laws of the 1950s.

"To say with a straight face that the Jim Crow laws of the past are going to be accepted, talked about, debated in a public forum in Missouri, is abominable," Chapel said. "It will be a legacy that will not just haunt the state, it will haunt the people that were involved."

The bill, which has been amended throughout the process to address some senators' concerns — including adopting the "motivating factor" requirement instead of the higher bar the bill initially included — raised debate in the House over the extent of whistleblower protections.

While there are protections for employees who sue or go to the police with accusations, there would be no protection for those in management-level positions who do the same thing. Romine said those protections were not included because managers would be in a position to do something about the reported discrimination.

Romine also dismissed concerns about there being no incentive for management-level workers to report wrongdoing, saying people would not want to work for companies that break the law.

"You blow the whistle and then go find a new job," he said.

Rep. Steven Roberts, D-St. Louis, also raised concerns about the lack of protection for LGBTQ individuals in the bill. Romine said that while he did not think people should be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, he was not open to putting such language in his bill.

The UM System has publicly supported the bill. In a statement released after the first hearing, John Fougere, the UM chief communications officer, said the university's anti-discrimination policies are, in some cases, stricter than the state's. He also said this bill would bring the state in line with federal standards and keep the university from paying "unnecessary liability and defense costs."

Fougere declined to comment for this story.

One speaker at the House hearing, Tina Trickey, a Cape Girardeau resident, said her husband was driven from a company where he had worked for years because of his age, locking them in a yearslong legal battle, which they ultimately won.

Trickey said the bill creates an environment where it would be extraordinarily hard to prove discrimination under the proposed standard.

“A very, very simple explanation of motivating factor is when someone will say 'You're too old, you can't work for us anymore, and I'm going to hire a younger person,'" she said.

“Really? Do you really think that happens? Management is not that stupid, people. They don't do that. They don't say that.”



TOP DRAWER

ONWARD & UPWARD

KUDOS

The Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital has been recognized as a “Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization. The findings were part of HRC Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index 2017, a unique annual survey that encourages equal care for LGBTQ patients, visitors and employees.

BeWell Health, LLC, Columbia, DBA Nasopure, has been named the Small Business Week of Eastern Missouri 2017 Exporter Business of the Year. Hana Solomon is the founder of BeWell Health, LLC and inventor of Nasopure.

Jacquelyn Benson, assistant professor and state specialist for MU Extension in the department of human development and family science, is one of 26 professors selected for the Jewish National fund and Media Watch International's sponsored 2017 Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute in Israel. Participants will spend 11 rigorous days traveling throughout Israel, meeting Israeli professors from their respective disciplines and with the same or similar research interests, all with the goal of developing collaborations, research projects, co-authoring articles and establishing exchange programs between faculty and students.

Ashlie Lester, assistant teaching professor and director of graduate studies in the department of human development and family science, received a Faculty Excellence Award from the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance. Lester received the award for her work leading a redesign of a key course, “Foundations in Family and Community Service,” at MU.

Interim Chancellor Henry C. “Hank” Foley and Dongchu Sun, a professor and chair of the MU Department of Statistics, are two of seven alumni to be honored by the College of Science at Purdue University for their contributions to the scientific community.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was developed in 1990 by the College of Science at Purdue to honor individuals who have developed innovative and cutting edge technologies and who also have become leaders in their field. Foley, who earned a master’s degree in chemistry from Purdue University and a doctoral degree in physical and inorganic chemistry from Pennsylvania State University, has worked for more than 30 years to advance the study of nanotechnology. Virtually all of Sun’s research is in the area of Bayesian statistics, involving almost all branches of statistics. The goal of Bayesian methods is to improve statistical inference by incorporating information a researcher knows about a problem before collecting the data for analysis. Sun earned a master’s degree in statistics from the Ohio State University and a doctoral degree in statistics from Purdue University.



Missouri adjusts to higher scholarship prices

By Blake Toppmeyer

MU ranks fifth among SEC public schools in cost of attendance

During Jim Sterk’s days as a college athlete, he spent part of his offseason working as a teamster for a Darigold powdered milk plant. Each spring for four years, Sterk hauled 50- and 100-pound sacks of powdered milk.

“It was great training,” said Sterk, Missouri’s athletic director.

It also earned Sterk extra coin to help pay for his college expenses. As a senior, Sterk added a seasonal summer job as a customs inspector along the U.S.-Canadian border, a job he would work for five summers. Sterk graduated in 1980 from Western Washington, where he was a four-year letter winner in football and one-year letter winner in basketball. He knows the college athletics scene has changed a lot since then.

“The way training goes now, it’s year-round,” Sterk said. “They don’t have an opportunity to have a summer job. They might get a week here, two weeks here, but it’s not enough to create any kind of spending money.”

That's why Sterk thinks it's good that colleges such as Missouri are covering their scholarship athletes' total cost of attendance, even though it increased annual expenses for the athletic department.

In January 2015, Power 5 conferences — the Southeastern Conference, ACC, Big Ten, Big 12 and Pac-12 — voted to expand the coverage of an athletic scholarship to the full cost of attendance. Previously, a full athletic scholarship covered tuition and fees, room and board, and books. The other items calculated by schools as part of their total cost of attendance — travel and personal expenses — went uncovered.

The new rule that went into effect Aug. 1, 2015, allows Power 5 schools and others that choose to participate to cover those travel and personal expenses, too.

At Missouri, the rule change added \$4,290 per full scholarship during the 2015-16 fiscal year. Missouri's cost-of-attendance aid increased to \$5,451 per scholarship this year, according to figures provided by the athletic department. Athletes in equivalency sports — like baseball, softball and others — who have partial athletic scholarships receive the percentage of that cost-of-attendance aid reflective of their scholarship. Athletes in head-count sports — like football, basketball, volleyball and others — receive the full figure.

The scholarship rule change resulted in approximately \$880,000 in new expenses for Missouri's athletic department during the 2015-16 fiscal year, MU's executive athletic director Tim Hickman said. Given the uptick to \$5,451 per scholarship for 2016-17, Missouri projects that cost-of-attendance aid will add \$1.1 million to MU's expenses this fiscal year, said Hickman, who oversees the athletic department's budget.

Missouri's cost-of-attendance aid for 2016-17 ranks fifth among SEC public schools. Texas A&M tops the chart, offering \$6,294 in cost-of-attendance aid to out-of-state athletes on full scholarship and \$5,756 for instate athletes. Kentucky's cost-of-attendance aid is the lowest in the SEC, at \$3,682 for full-scholarship out-of-state athletes and \$3,332 for instate athletes.

Missouri's aid is the same for instate and out-of-state athletes.

In 2015-16, Missouri ranked seventh in the SEC in cost-of-attendance aid per scholarship at \$4,290, according to data compiled by CBSSports.com. The change in what is covered by a full athletic scholarship is part of the reason why Missouri's student-athlete aid expense increased by \$1.87 million from 2014-15 to 2015-16, a 19.9 percent uptick. MU spent \$11.25 million in student aid in 2015-16.

Another Aug. 1, 2015, rule change added to expenses, too. NCAA rules now allow colleges to provide all scholarship and non-scholarship athletes with unlimited meals and snacks. Previously, colleges could cover three meals a day, but no more, for scholarship athletes. The meal change resulted in about \$400,000 in new expenses, Hickman said.

The added expenses, plus a downward national trend in football attendance, one of athletic departments' big moneymakers, don't make it any easier for athletic departments to turn a profit. Sky-high media rights payouts for schools in some conferences, such as the SEC, help the effort to finish in the black.

Missouri's athletic department finished with a \$2.95 million surplus in 2015-16, down from a \$4.36 million surplus in 2014-15.

Hickman considers the new rules for student-athlete aid to be a positive change, but he added that it increases the importance of carefully evaluating other expenses.

"I like the idea that we're putting more resources directly towards our student-athletes," Hickman said. "I think that's a good thing. It does make us think about things a little closer."

MU's revenue and expenses were each at an all-time high for 2015-16, and, at least in terms of student-athlete aid, the rising expenses don't show signs of slowing down.

How it works

Nick Prewett, Missouri's director of financial aid, and his department were calculating cost of attendance long before it became a hot topic in college athletics.

Missouri is federally required to post its cost of attendance to receive federal financial aid, as established by the Higher Education Act of 1965. A school's total cost of attendance consists of tuition and fees, room and board, books, transportation costs and personal expenses.

At Missouri, the transportation and personal expense figures — neither of which was covered by an athletic scholarship under the old rules — are determined through survey data collected every two years. The IRS mileage rate is applied to the transportation data. In the year between surveys, any change in cost for those categories is determined via the Consumer Price Index.

"The numbers are not arbitrary," Prewett said. "We document every single figure that we put into the cost of attendance so that we can replicate it."

Before "cost of attendance" became a phrase of interest in the sports world, Prewett enjoyed his work in relative autonomy. Since the rules changed for athletic scholarships, he's handled a wave of interviews about the topic.

Prewett said the SEC monitors, but can't really influence, its members' cost-of-attendance figures or its methods for determining them.

“With athletics being involved with the full cost of attendance, I think financial-aid offices are under just a little bit more scrutiny on how they’ve calculated the cost of attendance, and I think we’re also held to a little bit higher of a review standard,” Prewett said.

Although cost-of-attendance figures aren’t set by athletic departments, when the rule passed, there was some concern nationally that the figures would be used as a recruiting tool. Would School A try to leverage the fact that it issued more money in cost-of-attendance aid to an athlete over School B?

“That was one concern going into this from a number of schools, that there could be a little of gamesmanship played with that number,” Hickman said. “I don’t think we’ve necessarily realized that, or at least it hasn’t popped up as an issue.”

If calculated in the proper spirit, the difference in cost of attendance from school to school shouldn’t be seen as a way for an athlete to line his or her pockets. In theory, a school with a higher cost of attendance would have higher transportation and personal costs, meaning that although an athlete’s cost-of-attendance check would be for more money at that school, so would the living cost.

Although cost-of-attendance figures aren’t arbitrary, there’s also no mandate for schools to calculate them in the same way. Thus, the disparity from school to school can result in some raised eyebrows.

Hickman understands that the cost of attendance naturally varies from a school in Los Angeles versus one in Mid-Missouri. But he wishes that every school was required to calculate its cost of attendance in the same manner.

“If there was more standardization of the method of calculating that, I think that would be helpful,” Hickman said.

MU's cost climbs

Prewett said his department has derived the figures for transportation and personal expenses using the same method for several years.

“Athletics had no influence on how we’re calculating cost of attendance,” Prewett said.

Missouri’s method for calculating its 2016-17 cost of attendance is outlined in a 17-page policies and procedures document, which Prewett provided to the Tribune.

“We have a clear documentation of, ‘This is where we got that number, and that’s where it went,’” Prewett said. “I think we saw some institutions that arbitrarily came up with their cost of attendance numbers for transportation or personal expenses, and I think they faced some

additional scrutiny. For me, I just want to be able to replicate it and show it to a perspective freshman in my office, an athlete or any administrator that comes around.”

Missouri’s 2014-15 transportation and personal expenses were derived from 2013 survey data. This year’s figures were calculated with fresh data from a 2015 survey.

The personal and transportation costs at Missouri for 2016-17 tally \$4,756. That leaves a gap of \$695 compared to the \$5,451 in cost-of-attendance aid the athletic department pays per scholarship.

The reason for the difference is in the way total cost of attendance is broken up by federal rules versus NCAA rules, Prewett explained. The NCAA allows \$800 for books, but Missouri’s book cost in its federally-required cost-of-attendance figure is \$1,344. That remaining amount is added to an athlete’s cost-of-attendance aid under personal expenses. Additionally, MU’s cost-of-attendance figure includes cell phone expense as part of its housing costs. The NCAA considers that a personal expense, so that is reallocated toward an athlete’s cost-of-attendance aid, as well.

The combination of those amounts takes an MU athlete to the full cost of attendance within the NCAA rules and matches Missouri’s federal cost-of-attendance figure.

The transportation portion of Missouri’s cost of attendance increased from \$2,598 in 2014-15 to \$3,388 this year, a 30.4 percent uptick.

“That’s a result of a survey coming out from students,” Prewett said. “They showed an increase in mileage, so that number increased. The IRS reimbursement rate also increased slightly.”

MU’s transportation expense has steadily climbed over the years and is nearly double what it was in 2008-09, when the figure was \$1,858, according to the policies and procedures document Prewett provided.

Meanwhile, the personal expense line increased 19.6 percent from \$1,144 in 2015-16 to \$1,368 this year. But personal expenses are less than half of what they were in 2008-09, when the figure was \$3,030.

Whether the transportation and personal costs climb over time will depend on the survey data collected from students, Prewett said.

Whatever the cost, Missouri’s athletic department must be prepared to meet it.

Investing in success: Making Columbia the spot for developing entrepreneurs

By Jodie Jackson

In a lightning-round sort of critique, teams of students in Bill Turpin's Venture Investing and Startups finance class offer concise observations about the entrepreneurs that have applied for funds through the Missouri Innovation Center's accelerator fund.

The University of Missouri students play a crucial role in helping answer a \$50,000 question.

One tech company, which has created a communication app, is already established but is seeking a \$50,000 infusion for further development and to reach new markets. Another company will meet a niche market in the United States, but a much broader market in Europe. The founder of one startup has been especially responsive to emails even though he's out of the country. The pricing model for another startup is unclear.

Senior Bill Vega offers his team's take on a company that wants to collaborate with Lifeblood, "another startup that we obviously had faith in." Lifeblood, a software development firm, was among five startups that received a \$50,000 boost in February. The company works out of space in the MIC, which operates the MU Life Science Business Incubator in conjunction with MU.

The vetting process and research is part of the due diligence needed to convince investors to part with their cash. The accelerator fund stands at just more than \$2 million from public and private sources and has already provided money for 10 startups.

Vega is pursuing a dual business degree in finance and economic development. He's eyeing a possible career in finance or as a business owner. Either way, Turpin's class has given him a good start.

"You get both sides of it," Vega said. "I think that's part of the appeal of the class."

Turpin's background as a serial entrepreneur and angel investor in Silicon Valley put him front and center in the world of venture capitalism. Now the CEO and president of the MIC, Turpin has founded or invested in several businesses – two of which "crashed and burned," he said – and was entrepreneur-in-residence at Redpoint Ventures for six months of the 25 years he was in California. Turpin has been on all sides of buying, selling and financing businesses.

TAKING A RISK

Fifty-two startups have applied for funding through the accelerator fund. Ten have been selected.

The money should “get them to some next step that’s valuable for them,” Turpin said. So far all the funded startups are local.

“They all have good teams around them,” Turpin added, referring to a vital key that his students and funded entrepreneurs will echo. If two of the 10 funded firms are successful, “the fund will work,” he said.

It’s a venture capital fund, not a loan. Investors aren’t guaranteed a return.

“There’s a risk here. It’s not a certain investment,” he said.

Entrepreneur magazine reported Wednesday that in the first quarter of the year, venture capitalists invested \$16.5 billion in 1,797 companies.

Turpin’s experiences and teaching ability resonates with Katelyn Entzeroth, who graduates this spring and then goes to work for J.P. Morgan in Chicago where she previously was an intern. The banking job will only be a stop along the way to what she hopes will be a career working for a Chicago startup. She’ll eventually pursue an MBA, too.

She applied to take the class after checking out Turpin’s background.

“I can’t imagine a better person for me to learn from,” Entzeroth said. “Bill’s never taught, but he’s the best teacher I’ve ever had.”

Each Tuesday the class typically reflects what Turpin said happens at venture capital firms, when teams vet proposals and decide what to pitch to their other partners. Team leaders also meet with Turpin the day before.

“Bill does that to give us real-world experience,” Entzeroth said.

As her team’s leader, Entzeroth also stands out because she is the only female in the class of 20 students.

“We’d love to figure out how to address that problem,” Turpin said.

But that picture – a lack of diversity – drives Entzeroth’s career aspirations, too. She wants to work with “people who are fired up about solving business problems and addressing social issues.”

Her brother is an entrepreneur and two cousins are among the owners of Logboat Brewing. It’s a step Entzeroth will take someday.

“When I feel like I’m ready and I have those skills, this class has given me the confidence” to pursue her own business, she said.

A TEAM ATMOSPHERE

The perspective Entzeroth has gained in Turpin’s class has led to the conclusion that a good business plan or bright idea is only as good as the person or team pitching the plan.

“The No. 1 thing is just a great team,” Entzeroth said. Another good sign is that the team is made up of people with specific skills. For instance, if a team is pitching a tech product and already has a developer aboard, that’s a strength.

She also likes to see a team that is responsive to questions, has experience in its industry, an identified market and an exit-strategy for investors by either being acquired by a larger company or providing a return on the funds.

Common weaknesses, she said, include not having a market strategy or a clear plan for how to spend the money. Her teacher’s words are apparent when she says the accelerator fund “needs to put them in a place to raise more money or be profitable.”

Jeff Orr, CEO of Maply, which builds real-time interactive maps for large events such as concerts, conferences or specific areas of a city, said the \$50,000 his team received allowed additional development and the ability to attend the recent South By Southwest tech and entertainment conference in Austin, Texas.

“It helped us really make a splash and set us up for future success,” he said.

And if teamwork is the best sign of a potentially successful enterprise, the lack of teamwork is the bane of a funding application.

“We’ve passed on investments because the founder was defensive and stubborn,” she said. Entrepreneurs must be responsive to questions “and realize they’re not right all the time,” she added.

Entzeroth, 22, is a St. Louis native and a graduate of Francis Howell High School. Ironically, that’s Turpin’s high school alma mater. She’s also earning equity in one of his startups.

“It’s been a phenomenal experience,” she said.

Josh Kaplan, part of the team that developed PlusOne, a new dating app that received \$50,000 from the accelerator fund, said the vetting process “made us dig deeper” on parts of their plan.

“They definitely don’t go easy on you. They ask good questions,” he said. “I found the process helpful from our side.”

Orr said the concept of a team “is paramount.”

“There are so many obstacles you come across when you’re starting a company like this,” Orr said. “Having a strong team behind you and kind of being able to roll with the punches is critical to success.”

EMPOWERING SMART PEOPLE

Turpin, a 1978 MU electrical engineering alumnus, has a long career of building and financing in businesses in Texas and California. When he received an email asking about possible leads on someone to run the MIC, Turpin put his own name in the hat. But why not take on another startup? Or retirement?

“I had a really rewarding career,” he said. He was an executive at Netscape, which netted \$3 billion when its stock went public. He helped vet numerous capital ventures at Redpoint, which includes Netflix on its long list of successes.

But the lure of directing the MIC and the possibility of creating an accelerator fund brought him back to the Show-Me State.

“Columbia is a sort of magnet for smart people,” he said, running down a quick list of Columbia startups that are among the top companies in the country: Veterans United Home Loans, CarFax and EquipmentShare. “I think we have a critical mass of bright people with good ideas.”

One of Turpin’s goals at the MIC is to “empower these smart people to find each other and give it a try.”

MIC is a major sponsor of the Startup Weekend every fall. Turpin also touts the 1 Million Cups event at 9 a.m. each Wednesday at the REDI office, 500 E. Walnut St., where new or emerging businesses share their experience with like-minded business folks. Each venue creates “collision” among bright, smart people,” he said.

“That’s where a lot of the magic happens,” Turpin added. “We create these places where people can collide with each other. There’s no ‘one thing’ that makes it happen. It takes a lot of cooperation and team work.”

He has a new take on the phrase “smart people surround themselves with smart – or even smarter – people.”

“ ‘A’ players hire other ‘A’ players,” he said. “ ‘B’ players hire ‘C’ players.”

'THE COOLEST SPACE'

The MIC is one of 10 innovation centers in Missouri that receives a portion of its funding from the state via the Missouri Technology Corporation. The center is designed to help entrepreneurs go from research and development to product commercialization. The center has a variety of office facilities and provides mentoring, access to university research facilities and now financing possibilities.

The MIC has a number of wet labs for scientific research and life science companies. The wet labs currently feature pharmaceutical research, a method of preserving human corneas, working to turn cellulose into jet fuel, further development of a non-GMO seed coating that increases crop production, cancer research, and the North American headquarters for Australia-based AgBiTech.

MU's office of Technology Management and Industry Relations is housed in the MIC. The office works to protect and license intellectual property developed at MU.

When Turpin came on the scene three years ago, he was asked to diversify the center by bringing on technology-based startups. The lack of financing had to be addressed quickly, he said, because at least four startups had been attracted to St. Louis by \$50,000 Arch Grants.

In addition to the recent \$50,000 investments, the MIC hosted an open house and ribbon cutting to show off a new space in the business incubator on March 22.

"This is some of the coolest space I know of in Columbia," Turpin said.

Key components of the new space feature an open, contemporary floor plan with a flexible layout, high ceilings, small private spaces for isolated discussions, space to collaborate, an open mezzanine, even a phone booth where someone can go to talk on their mobile phone in private.

The same day, Mediacom Business, a division of Mediacom Communications Corporation, announced an agreement to provide a dedicated fiber connection with Gigabit internet speeds to the MIC.

MISSOURIAN

[Boone Hospital Center considers five options for future](#)

GARY GARRISON, Apr 7, 2017

COLUMBIA — Each of the five options the Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees has identified for possible future management of the hospital presents interesting questions about how the hospital might or might not change.

After requesting 17 proposals for potential partnerships last year, the trustees on Thursday released the five options that remain in the running.

Any new management would take effect at the end of 2020, when the hospital's lease agreement with St. Louis-based BJC HealthCare expires. A decision must be made by the end of 2018.

The five options include remaining with BJC, partnering with University of Missouri Health Care, operating as an independent county hospital, entering a lease agreement with Duke LifePoint Healthcare, or entering a lease agreement with Kansas City-based Saint Luke's Health System.

Remaining with BJC

Boone Hospital Center has been affiliated with BJC HealthCare for nearly 30 years. BJC is one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country.

In 2015 BJC comprised 15 hospitals, 3,275 beds, 3,964 physicians and 27,283 employees. That same year the organization saw \$4.3 billion in net revenue.

If no notice of termination is submitted by either party by December 2018, the lease agreement with BJC will be renewed for another five-year term starting at the end of 2020.

Partnering with MU Health Care

Consolidated in 2008, the University of Missouri Health System includes MU Health Care, the MU School of Medicine and its University Physicians practice plan, the MU Sinclair School of Nursing and the MU School of Health Professions, [according to the system's website](#).

The system includes a workforce of 7,681, a student body of 5,417, annual revenue of \$1 billion and an annual economic impact of \$2.3 billion.

"University of Missouri Health Care is an academic health center, and as an academic health center we have a mission of advancing the health of all Missourians," spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said. "So, our goal in collaborating with Boone Hospital Center would be to advance the health of our community and the patients we serve."

The question of what exactly a partnership between MU Health Care, which is primarily a teaching health care system, and Boone Hospital Center might look like has yet to be decided.

When MU Health Care first responded to the request for proposals, Jenkins said, "we presented Boone Hospital Center's Trustees with some flexible options for collaboration with MU Health Care, and so we're discussing several options for ways we could collaborate."

Lease agreement with Duke LifePoint

[Duke LifePoint Healthcare](#) is a partnership between Duke University Health System, another academic health system, and LifePoint Health of Brentwood, Tennessee. The organization comprises 14 hospitals spread throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

According to Duke LifePoint's website, "To prepare for the future and strengthen their operations, many community hospitals are exploring partnerships with larger health systems. Duke LifePoint Healthcare offers community hospitals a unique combination of clinical, financial and operational support."

The website also lists Duke LifePoint's partnership "benefits," which include:

"Support to continue enhancing patient care for the community; financial stability and security; ability to expand services; support to develop new specialized services; support for medical staff; support to recruit and retain physicians; capital to invest in new technology and services; and access to hospitals, clinics and healthcare providers throughout the Duke and LifePoint systems."

Duke LifePoint Healthcare could not be reached for comment.

Lease agreement with Saint Luke's

Saint Luke's Health System is a collection of 10 hospitals and campuses around the greater Kansas City area, according to its [website](#).

"We are dedicated to enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the diverse communities we serve," the website says.

Saint Luke's is also a not-for-profit organization — Duke LifePoint does not identify itself as such.

Saint Luke's, which promotes itself as a faith-based operation, also participates in a region-wide collaborative with BJC and a handful of other not-for-profit health care systems. Among other things, the

collaboration "lets us all achieve financial efficiency and share best practices while remaining independent," according to the website.

In 1990, Saint Luke's became a primary teaching hospital for the University of Missouri-Kansas City, according to its website.

A representative of Saint Luke's Health System declined to comment and referred all inquiries to Boone Hospital Center.

Operating as a stand-alone hospital

As announced in the trustee's news release, the fifth option for Boone Hospital Center would be to operate on a stand-alone basis. This option would see the Board of Trustees possibly enter a lease agreement with a "newly created, not-for-profit hospital governing board comprised of local leaders."

Tom Schneider, attorney for the trustees, explained that the governance possibility for the stand-alone option has not been "ironed out."

"The community leaders would be appointed by the board of trustees," Schneider said. "There's no statutory basis for them being elected at this time. New legislation would be required for them to be elected."

Exactly what operating on a stand-alone basis would look like remains to be clarified.

Schneider said the five proposals were unavailable to be viewed by the Missourian, as they were "under negotiation."

The board's news release noted that the trustees deferred "making a selection until the Board was duly constituted after Tuesday's election." It will not make a final decision "without first conducting public hearings, including sessions with (Boone Hospital Center) employees and physicians."

MISSOURIAN

MU announces administrative layoffs that save \$1.7 million for fiscal 2018

ANDREW KESSEL, Apr 7, 2017

COLUMBIA — **MU will lay off 20 administrative employees, effective July 1, MU spokesman Christian Basi confirmed.**

In addition, five employees are retiring but will not be replaced, Basi confirmed. The layoffs all affect the Division of Operations and are expected to save MU about \$1.75 million for fiscal year 2018.

That's a step toward addressing the [roughly \\$40 million in proposed cuts](#) to the UM System in Gov. Greitens' budget for fiscal year 2018, which begins July 1.

The Division of Operations, like any MU division, is responsible for balancing its own budget, Basi said. The layoff decisions were made by the Division of Operations itself after consulting with leadership from the departments it contains.

Those departments include the MU power plant, the sustainability office, parking and transportation, environmental health and safety, landscaping and campus police.

Basi declined to specify the roles of the individuals being laid off for privacy reasons but said the affected employees were informed last week. These decisions are the toughest to make, he said.

“It's very very difficult to tell a good performing employee that you no longer have the resources to employ their services,” he said.

The exact amount of money the system will need to cut is still unknown. The amount of funding appropriated by the state legislature has not been officially set, nor does the system know how much tuition revenue it will generate in the fall, Basi said.

On Monday, UM System President Mun Choi sent a system-wide email putting in place a timeline for each campus to create a budget cut plan. In that timeline, plans would be shared with their respective campus communities on May 3 and submitted to Choi on May 10.



"This Week" with MU political expert Paul Wallace

By Joey Parker

Watch story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/this-week-with-mu-political-expert-paul-wallace/441439459>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - As the global community reacts to President Donald Trump's strike against Syria this week, the United States is now investigating whether Russia took part in the most recent Syrian chemical weapons attack.

University of Missouri political science professor Paul Wallace starts our conversation on "This Week" with some of the complications that could further complicate relations between Washington and Moscow.



MU student arrested after alleged altercation with girlfriend

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **A University of Missouri student could be facing charges after police arrest him for an alleged fight.**

According to campus police, Curtis Ferneau refused to let his girlfriend leave his dorm room early Thursday morning. A fight ensued, leading to Ferneau breaking his girlfriend's phone by throwing it in the toilet.

Ferneau was arrested on campus and accused of kidnapping, domestic assault and tampering with property. He has not yet been formally charged.

Police said his girlfriend refused medical treatment.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

APRIL 10, 2017 7:00 AM

Do you need a third mumps vaccine? Experts stuck on an answer

BY ANDY MARSO

amarso@kcstar.com

Think you're safe from mumps because you had your two vaccinations back when you were a kid?

Recent outbreaks — 360 students at the University of Missouri in Columbia battled the mumps this school year — have researchers thinking that two Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccines might not be enough.

In what's sure to disappoint needle-shy kids, they're studying whether to add a third shot to the childhood vaccine regimen. They even are considering recommending a third shot for young adults in outbreak zones.

Every one of the infected MU students had been vaccinated as a child. But to try to stop the outbreak, MU told students that over the winter break they should get the third dose, which costs \$100.

Nick Kelly, a freshman from Minnesota, said that caused a stir in his hometown doctor's office.

"There was a lot of confusion and uncertainty as to why I was back for a third," Kelly said. "They thought I'd be fine. I said, 'Well, Mizzou suggested I get a third, and I'd like to not get the mumps, so that's why I'm here.'"

Why the confusion? Well, even some of the nation's top infectious disease experts aren't sure that a third dose of MMR does any good.

"There's no harm in getting a third dose," said William Atkinson, a retired Centers for Disease Control and Prevention epidemiologist. "It's just that we're not completely certain that strategy is useful."

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has formed a work group to find out.

Atkinson, who has been part of other committee work groups, said the work group will be especially interested in outbreak zones like MU.

"There's going to be a lot more discussion of this going forward," said Atkinson, who now works for the Immunization Action Coalition, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that advocates for higher vaccination rates. "CDC has been intensely interested in this for the last decade."

The CDC's current recommendations call for two doses of MMR: one at 12 to 15 months of age and a booster between ages 4 and 6.

CDC recommendations generally determine what vaccines are covered by insurance and the vaccine schedule most doctors follow.

Before the vaccine went into wide use in 1967, hundreds of thousands of Americans got mumps every year, and in rare cases it caused serious or even fatal complications.

The initial vaccine was about 78 percent effective, and the booster dose, [first recommended in 1998](#), raised that to 88 percent.

Because most of the population is vaccinated, most people who get the mumps now have had the vaccine. At the February meeting when the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices formed the work group, [a researcher said](#) that's causing a loss of confidence in the shot.

The [outbreak at the University of Missouri](#) and [mini-outbreaks in Kansas](#) contributed to 5,311 cases reported to the CDC in 2016. That's the most the country [has seen since 2006](#).

Mary Anne Jackson, an infectious disease expert at Children's Mercy Hospital, said the decision to recommend a third shot will hinge on whether its effectiveness outweighs the cost of mass vaccination at \$100 per shot and the possible side effects.

Jackson said the MMR shot is safe, but it sometimes causes joint pain when given to women after puberty.

"I think there's a lot of things that need to be considered," Jackson said, "and I think that's why you don't see the CDC moving very quickly on this."

Missouri's third dose experiment

The mumps outbreak in Columbia started with just a few students getting sick in September.

But it ballooned in late October and throughout November. Those first few cases became dozens, then hundreds, on the way to at least 365 confirmed cases.

Every student who came down with the illness had been vaccinated with two doses of MMR. As winter and peak mumps season approached, MU officials began mulling a third dose.

Susan Even, the director of the university's student health center, said it was not an easy decision. Ramping up a mass vaccination campaign on a campus of 33,000 students takes time and money, and the CDC wasn't much help.

The agency offers guidelines for considering a third dose, based on the length and intensity of outbreaks in confined areas like universities. Missouri fit the bill, but it still wasn't a slam-dunk.

"They don't call it a recommendation, they just say when these situations are present, consider whether offering a third MMR can be done," said Even, who is the American College Health Association's representative on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices panel.

The University of Illinois recommended a third dose to try to quell a mumps outbreak in 2015.

Illinois saw a decline in cases after that, but [researchers who studied the outbreak](#) said they couldn't determine whether it was because of the third dose or just the normal course of the disease.

Even and the MU administration ultimately decided to ask students to get a third MMR dose when they went home after the semester ended Dec. 16.

The winter break then gave them time to get an [on-campus vaccination clinic](#) established by the time students returned. As of March 15, [more than 4,000 students had been confirmed](#) as having a third dose.

The mumps outbreak in Columbia seems to be dissipating. But just like at Illinois, Even said it's difficult to pinpoint the cause. It's still early in the vaccination campaign, and the university doesn't know exactly how many students got a third dose at home.

Meanwhile, the mumps have spread to [other Missouri campuses](#), and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has issued its own recommendation that students at universities experiencing outbreaks should get a third dose

Kansas not recommending third dose

Mumps cases are also on the rise in Kansas, but there's been no concentrated outbreak epicenter to spur consideration of a third dose.

The state's 97 Kansas cases since December have been spread across 20 counties. Douglas County has had the most, with 16. Johnson County has had nine, and Wyandotte County has had one.

Of the 97 cases, 59 have had two documented doses of the MMR vaccine, and four have had one. Six are known to be unvaccinated, while the rest are unknown.

Charlie Hunt, the state epidemiologist, said there are no plans to recommend a third dose. But he said Kansas follows the CDC recommendations pretty closely.

"First, those who are not vaccinated, they should get vaccinated," Hunt said. "Other than that, just be aware of the symptoms, stay home if they feel sick, cover their coughs and wash their hands."

Hunt also said it's important to keep the current outbreaks in context. There are still far fewer cases of mumps than there were pre-vaccine, and those that are occurring aren't resulting in serious complications nearly as often.

In the pre-vaccine era mumps led to orchitis, a painful testicular inflammation that occasionally causes infertility, in more than 10 percent of males. It more rarely [led to potentially fatal illnesses](#) like meningitis, encephalitis and pancreatitis.

Hunt said those complications are hardly ever seen these days. He only knows of one mumps-related hospitalization in the current Kansas outbreak.

At MU, with more than three times the mumps cases, Even said she had also heard of only one hospitalization, which was for testicular pain.

Jackson said that's consistent with outbreaks in other parts of the country: Even in areas where the mumps is spreading, it's not as severe as it was before the vaccine.

"It appears to be strikingly more mild than it used to be," Jackson said.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Appointments, Resignations, Deaths **(4/14/2017)**

COMPILED BY ANAIS STRICKLAND APRIL 09, 2017

Alexander Brose, vice president for development at the Aspen Music Festival and School, will serve as the first executive director and chief executive of the Tianjin Juilliard School, a new campus of the performing-arts school Juilliard in Tianjin, China. Tianjin Juilliard expects to welcome its inaugural class in 2019. Mr. Brose previously worked at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as associate vice president for advancement.

Henry Foley, interim chancellor of the University of Missouri at Columbia, will become president of the New York Institute of Technology on June 1. He will take over from the interim president, Rahmat Shoureshi, and will succeed Edward Guiliano, who was the institute's president for 16 years.

Joseph Morgan, chief academic officer and vice president for academic affairs and student success at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, was named president of Morehead State University, in Kentucky. He will succeed Wayne Andrews, who will retire on June 30 after 12 years at the helm. Mr. Morgan will start on July 1.

Luis Pedraja, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Peralta Community College District, in California, was selected as president of Quinsigamond Community College, in Massachusetts.

Jerry Weber, president of the College of Lake County, in Illinois, will serve as president of Bellevue College, in Washington. He will take over from Jill Wakefield, who has served as interim president since last August after the resignation of David Rule.

Sandra Woodley, who was president of the University of Louisiana system from 2013 to 2016, was selected as president of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. She will succeed W. David Watts, who plans to step down on August 31 after 15 years at the helm. Ms. Woodley previously worked as the University of Texas system's vice chancellor for strategic initiatives.

Story [continues.](#)

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Brothers turn toward the unconventional with St. Charles County shrimp farm

By Bryce Gray St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Apr 9, 2017

FORISTELL • “I see they’re closed, but I still gotta ask questions,” said Nick Damaso, after pulling down the gravel driveway marked with the shrimp-emblazoned sign for Triple J Farms, near Foristell. Damaso, a resident of nearby Lake Sherwood, walked to the door, determined to learn more.

His curiosity was justified, since it’s not often one comes across a shrimp farm in Missouri. But here, about 650 miles removed from the nearest ocean saltwater, Triple J Farms is making its move into inland shrimp aquaculture.

In place of the sea, the operation has crammed eight round pools plus an additional water storage tank into a modestly sized indoor facility — enough to stock up to 28,000 Pacific whiteleg shrimp. In November, the farm welcomed its first delivery of post-larval shrimp and made its first sale in February when that shipment completed its roughly three-month growth cycle into jumbo-size specimens as long as a human hand.

The novelty of the business might raise some eyebrows and attract visitors such as Damaso for tours, but Jeff and James Howell — the brothers who operate the farm — hope its regional uniqueness can become a selling point. So far, the farm has served customers only over the counter at its Foristell facility, but the Howells are aiming to attract business from restaurants looking to buy locally produced and responsibly raised seafood.

“We’d love to partner with a restaurant,” Jeff Howell said. “There’s nobody yet (in St. Louis) with farm-to-table seafood.”

Triple J sees an opportunity to step into that void.

“A lot of people today, they don’t know where their main protein comes from,” James Howell said. That’s especially true, the brothers say, for seafood in the U.S., more than 90 percent of which is imported.

Shrimp, like many kinds of seafood, is prone to overfishing. But the majority of the world’s supply is farmed — not caught — with Asian countries such as China, Thailand and Vietnam dominating production. Shrimp aquaculture in Asia is its own cause of environmental concern, with shrimp farms’ discharge of effluent representing a significant pollution issue in coastal areas.

The opportunity to provide a locally sourced alternative was compelling enough to draw the Howell brothers away from former jobs in excavation and helping on the family’s farm of row crops near Defiance. The idea originated with their father, Dave Howell, who read about shrimp farms as a [market for soybean meal](#) in a [Corn and Soybean Digest](#) article several years ago. Triple J doesn’t use soy-based feed, but the story piqued a lasting interest in aquaculture that Dave eventually passed to his sons.

“I just thought it was something different and no one was doing it around here,” said Dave, who co-owns the business along with a third son, Jason. “And I love shrimp.”

Now Jeff and James’ around-the-clock attention is commanded by the undertaking, which requires constant management of water temperature, oxygen levels, alkalinity and other variables crucial to shrimp survival. The operation does not discharge any of its water, recycling it through the system and relying on the bacteria that coexist with the shrimp to consume the waste and keep the water clean.

Perhaps surprisingly, the Howells aren’t alone as Midwestern shrimp producers. They buy their shrimp larvae from an Indiana facility and are aware of a few other shrimp farms around Missouri. And they

point out that the state has had other types of aquaculture take root in unlikely — and creative — places, such as an old Walmart building [converted into a tilapia farm](#) in Chillicothe.

In fact, some experts think Triple J could be among the pioneers for a broader trend in regional aquaculture.

“There are a number of farmers in the state that are attempting to do this,” said David Brune, an aquacultural engineer with the University of Missouri who has specialized in saltwater shrimp farming for the past 20 years of his career. “We’re right on the edge of this taking off. I think it’s going to be big once we establish a few successes.”

Though not familiar with the Howells’ new operation, Brune echoed their belief that a robust market can be found for their product, even at a substantially higher price than the cheap, imported shrimp that floods the U.S.

“I think everyone understands that there is a huge market for locally grown, environmentally responsible shrimp production,” said Brune, explaining that the 90 percent of seafood imported into the country represents an annual outflow of \$12 billion to \$14 billion. “The potential is huge, the volume is huge, the price is high.”

He says the environmental benefits of aquaculture extend to energy. On a per unit basis, shrimp and fish production beat other major sources of animal protein.

“Marine shrimp and fish production can be done at about 5 kilowatt-hours of energy per pound of product,” Brune said. He said that energy footprint is dwarfed by totals for chicken (8 kilowatt-hours), pork (24 kilowatt-hours) and beef (35 kilowatt-hours).

Though the technical challenges of raising them are considerable, Brune says shrimp can offer some of the best bang for their buck in aquaculture, with domestically grown varieties able to fetch up to \$20 per pound. Triple J is currently charging \$18 a pound for their largest shrimp, according to their website.

“There just isn’t any other product out there that can grow so quickly and command such a high price,” Brune says.

That growth rate and abundance is on firsthand display at Triple J Farms, where each tank of 3,500 shrimp yields about 150-200 pounds every three months.

“When you think about the size of facility that this is, that’s a lot of food you’re producing,” Jeff Howell said.

Triple J’s main challenge for now is establishing itself and finding reliable consumers for all that shrimp. And eventually the farm hopes to expand into the business of shrimp breeding.

“We’re either gonna be really smart or really dumb, because we don’t have any competition,” Jeff Howell jokes, assessing Triple J’s outlook.

But Brune thinks others are watching Missouri’s shrimp-producing pioneers closely to see how they fare.

“A lot of farmers like the idea of producing a high-value product like this,” he said. “What I want to happen is these key farmers become successful as quickly as possible. Once they become successful, they become a model for all other farmers.”

MISSOURIAN

[Slim ballot, other factors contribute to low voter turnout in municipal elections](#)

TOMÁS ORIHUELA, Apr 7, 2017

COLUMBIA — Dona Smith, who works at the Daniel Boone City Building, was on vacation Tuesday for the municipal election. She decided not to vote. Smith said she doesn’t know who First Ward Councilman Clyde Ruffin is, even though Ruffin often attends meetings in the building where she works.

Smith conceded she knew none of the candidates on Tuesday's ballot, and she described the process she usually follows while voting. She goes to the polling location, looks up the names of the candidates on the internet and then decides on the spot who will get her vote.

Only this time, she didn't.

"I was out of town, and I wanted to focus on my vacation," Smith said. "I just let it be."

Smith wasn't the exception Tuesday, when nearly nine of 10 of Boone County's registered voters chose to skip going to the polls. The turnout at the end of the day was 11.93 percent.

The only municipal election in the past 15 years in which [the county clerk's office](#) reported worse turnout was in April 2005, when 11.5 percent of eligible voters cast ballots. The percentage turnout for April 2009 was unavailable, however.

These numbers mean that just a little more than 13,000 people turned out to decide who would be serving on city and town councils, school boards and the Boone Hospital Center's Board of Trustees. In Columbia, fewer than 4,000 people showed up to choose the First and Fifth Ward City Council members, and the top vote-getter in the Columbia School Board race was Helen Wade, with 8,005 votes.

The highest turnout in the past 15 years was in 2003, when 29.1 percent of eligible voters cast ballots. Since then, the numbers have fluctuated but have never gone beyond the 28 percent who voted in April 2008. In that year, the two main issues were a 54-cent increase in Columbia Public Schools' tax levy, which was soundly rejected, and a \$77 million sewer bond issue that voters passed, according to previous *Missourian* reporting.

Numbers fluctuate depending on what's on the ballot and the number and types of candidates running. In 2005, then-First Ward Councilwoman Almeta Crayton was unopposed, and Columbia had no major questions or propositions on the ballot.

In 2010, by contrast, turnout was 26.6 percent. That's the year Bob McDavid emerged from a field of six candidates to replace long-time mayor Darwin Hindman and when the city voted on whether to install video cameras downtown.

First Ward candidates perplexed

Ruffin on Tuesday night expressed surprise at the apparent political indifference in the First Ward, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#).

"We knocked on the doors of almost every registered voter in the First Ward, so it's a little surprising when you see the turnout," he said. "We just have to keep working at it."

Pat Kelley, who ran against Ruffin, has been working for years to try to boost turnout in the ward.

"It's hard to explain," Kelley said. "I don't understand it. Sometimes it is possibly because changes are slow or not happening at all. People don't feel it's making a difference."

Kelley [co-founded the Central Columbia Get Out the Vote](#) initiative in 1999 to increase awareness of local elections. She said the group had an impact by holding candidate forums, putting signs in yards and delivering flyers.

Why the lack of interest?

Candidates for the First and the Fifth Ward council seats said they knocked on thousand of doors. Art Jago, who lost the election, said he knocked on so many doors and rang so many doorbells that [he wounded his thumbs](#).

Still, the vast majority of voters didn't bother to go to the polls.

"Many voters probably didn't even realize there was an election," MU political science professor Peverill Squire said. He said some voters don't see the point in participating. Even a couple who did cast ballots [told Missourian reporters on Tuesday](#) that they weren't sure who the candidates were.

"Given the lack of any compelling issues in the ballot, most voters saw little reason to vote," Squire said. "Frankly, most of them have no idea what hospital trustees do or care about."

Steve MacIntyre, a Canadian city planner who recently obtained U.S. citizenship, took the time to go to the polls even though he doesn't live in the First or Fifth wards, and he said he's moving back to Canada soon.

"I voted for the candidates on the school board and the Boone Hospital Center Board of Trustees," he said. "However, I understand people who didn't want to vote. There was nothing exciting to vote for."

Squire said he thinks the way the country's elections are arranged creates voter fatigue.

"The U.S. is one of the few countries that asks voters to go to the polls often," Squire said. "People tend to focus only on those that are the highest profile and that generate the most attention."

Foster parent Tim Zimmerman admitted he was "too lazy to take the time and effort to follow the campaign."

"We're overwhelmed with all the politics that are going on nowadays," Zimmerman said.

Research conducted by Zoltan Hajnal and Paul Lewis also shows that people dislike voting in the spring. Hajnal and Lewis are political science professors at the University of California-San Diego and Arizona State University, respectively.

Lewis, who contributed with Hajnal to an article published in 2003 called "[Municipal Institutions and Voter Turnout in Local Elections](#)," took the mask off some of the unknowns.

"Our major finding was the timing on the elections," Lewis said. "Local elections tend to get lower turnouts when they're not unified with state-wide or national elections."

Hajnal agreed, adding that 80 percent of local elections in the U.S. are off-cycle, which means that they don't match with state-wide or presidential elections. This creates a hurdle for voters, as they have to find out everything by themselves: polling locations, who's running and who to vote for.

"People are being mobilized less for local elections," Hajnal said.

The lack of candidates is also a problem that causes turnout to be lower, according to their research. Three candidates ran for the First Ward, and only two in the Fifth. There were eight races on the ballot countywide where candidates were unopposed, like in Rocheport, where John Zondca got elected mayor with just 30 votes.

In Hartsburg, there were no candidates for trustee seats listed on the ballot, and a commissioner for the Central Special Road District was elected by write-in.

"The more competition, the more turnout," Lewis said.

Melissa Marschall, political science professor at Rice University, reached the same conclusion in a recent study on voter behavior in six U.S. states — California, Virginia, Minnesota, Louisiana, Kentucky and Indiana.

Marschall also blamed the timing of municipal elections. "Our research has shown that in spring there's less likelihood to vote," she said.

What can be done about it?

The lack of participation in the U.S. elections has been a blemish on the country for years, both in local and bigger elections. In fact, 58 countries have better presidential election turnout than the U.S., according to a 2012 report by the [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance](#).

However, research suggests potential changes that could be made. Lewis thinks that one way to have an impact would be to move the timing of the elections.

"Sometimes it's even cheaper to unify them," Lewis said. "But it depends on the candidates, too. Some of them prefer lower turnouts so they can mobilize the masses that they're interested in."

Alongside that is a clear need for excitement and eagerness to participate. For that, Lewis suggested unions, taxpayer groups and other organizations try to raise awareness of what's going on and how decisions can affect people's daily lives.

American citizens are already taking action. Twenty percent of U.S. cities have municipal elections matched with state-wide elections, Hajnal said.

One of the last cities [that voted to sync both](#) elections was Los Angeles, which in 2018 will start choosing its local representatives on the same day it chooses state leaders, Hajnal said.

Marschall also proposed increasing the amount of money local representatives are paid to create an incentive for them to run. She noted that campaigning is demanding and time-consuming. She also noted that politics has become taboo to the extent that a lot of citizens don't want to talk about it anymore.

"We take democracy for granted," she said. "The health of our democracy depends on candidates running for office and voters showing up on Election Day."



Book of revelation

Poet's memoir sheds light on life with Asperger's syndrome

BY AARIK DANIELSEN APR 9, 2017

Most anyone who has been in Columbia for an extended period of time would say that Anand Prahlad is known here.

Prahlad has been a professor at the University of Missouri for more than 25 years. He is a widely published poet and folklorist. Those who frequent the True/False Film Fest recognize him as a regular busker, playing earthy, soulful compositions on instruments that include the mbira.

But being known of and being known are not the same thing. That much is underscored in Prahlad's recently published memoir, "The Secret Life of a Black Aspie."

In the book, which is at once lovely, disorienting and musical — much like Prahlad's experience of the world — he pulls back layers of himself and pulls readers into a truly revelatory encounter.

“I was writing it because I felt that I had to,” he said in a recent interview. “There just were a lot of things that I had been hiding and pushing down for most of my life. I just reached a point where those things were starting to erupt in different ways. I felt I need to get a lot of this out.”

BOOK OF SECRETS

The opening sentences set the tone for what is to come — and set the scene for Prahlad’s creative process.

Around age 19, he notes, his intuition and experience told him he probably had autism spectrum disorder. It wasn’t, however, until age 57 that he was formally diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome.

He began writing a manuscript several years before that diagnosis. Initially it was for memory’s sake, not memoir. Prahlad felt anxious about what he could and couldn’t remember about his life. He set out to craft a record, something he could reference in times of confusion or curiosity.

After his diagnosis, he re-read portions of the book as “expressions of being autistic.” Shaped by a revelation that wasn’t necessarily a secret to him, he tuned his words to this reality.

Some memoirs lead readers to walk a mile in the author’s shoes. Prahlad’s book is like spending a mile in his skin. His experience of the world is largely mediated through the senses and his personal spirituality. “The Secret Life of a Black Aspie” is the sort of book where very little happens, yet everything happens.

Prahlad fills in dates and details — what it was like to grow up black in Virginia; his path through academia; his struggles to find romantic bliss. But it isn’t truly a book about him, it is a book about being him.

He writes of tasting phrases, of knowing people and places by their scent, of finding comfort in color. In his expressive, multisensory way, he writes that when an uncle “smiled the world laughed like a jazz horn.” He describes finding his way through patterns, and how routines function like lifelines. This is how Prahlad sees and knows and internalizes.

Despite this clarity and renewed focus, Prahlad struggled to share his words. He worried about feeling exposed, about being fully known.

In a later chapter, he details moving to Columbia and being immersed in academia. He felt the need to suppress his blackness and unique way of relating to the world.

“So I had to put away the words I loved the most, the ones that made me feel that I was beautiful, and whole, and good,” he writes. “I had to put away ‘cool,’ or ‘man,’ or ‘brother,’ or ‘sister,’ or ‘I-rie.’ I had to put away ‘mama,’ ‘y’all,’ ‘baby,’ and ‘ain’t,’ ‘samadhi,’ and ‘enlightenment.’ I had to pick up ‘theory,’ ‘unpack,’ and ‘critique,’ ‘epistemological,’ ‘discourse’ and ‘trope,’ and put them in my briefcase and folders.”

Stability became paramount, and Prahlad felt he was the biggest threat to his own security.

“I learned that tenure was the golden apple, and at the same time, it was the apple that Adam and Eve ate,” he wrote. “... I did the same thing with my mind and spirit that black football players do with their bodies. I sacrificed them.”

Story [continues](#).

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Recent Private Gifts to Higher Education **(April 2017)**

COMPILED BY ANAIS STRICKLAND AND RUTH HAMMOND APRIL 09, 2017

Editor's Note: Five of the 51 gifts listed are from the University of Missouri; the University of Missouri-St. Louis is also listed.

1. **U. of California at San Francisco**, William K. Bowes Jr. Foundation, founding partner of the California investment firm U.S. Venture Partners, and a founding shareholder and former chairman of the biopharmaceutical company Amgen (Mr. Bowes Jr., who died in December), \$50 million (pledge) creation of a program to support faculty researchers pursuing unconventional biomedical research

1. **U. of Texas at Austin**, Mulva Family Foundation (James and Miriam Mulva), former chairman and chief executive of the energy company ConocoPhillips (Mr. Mulva), \$50 million creation of the Mulva Clinic for the Neurosciences

3. **Indiana U. School of Medicine**, Donald Brown chief executive of Interactive Intelligence, a communication-technologies company that was acquired by Genesys Telecommunications Laboratories for \$1.4 billion in December, and an alumnus who earned a bachelor's, master's of science, and medical degree from the university, \$30 million establishment of the Brown Center for Immunotherapy, with \$13 million devoted to creating five endowed faculty chairs and the rest to infrastructure, technologies, and research support

4. **U. of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center**, Mulva Family Foundation (James and Miriam Mulva) former chairman and chief executive of the energy company ConocoPhillips (Mr. Mulva), \$25 million, support for research on melanoma and prostate cancer

5. **Fordham U.**, Maurice and Carolyn Dursi Cunniffe, chairman and chief executive of the investment firm Vista Capital, university alumnus, and former trustee (Mr. Cunniffe); former senior vice president at Cablevision Systems, an alumna who earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at Fordham, and a trustee (Ms. Cunniffe) \$20 million fund for merits cholarships

5. **Northern State U.**, Anonymous, \$20 million, support for construction of new dormitories

5. **Vanderbilt U.**, Jeffrey and Marieke Rothschild, co-founder of Veritas Software, founding vice president for engineering at Facebook, and an alumnus who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the university in 1977 and a master's in computer science in 1979 (Mr. Rothschild), \$20 million, support for continued development of the university's residential colleges

8. **Northern State U.**, Anonymous, \$15 million, support for construction of a new math and science building

9. **Stevens Institute of Technology**, Gianforte Family Foundation (Greg Gianforte), founder and former chief executive of RightNow Technologies, a customer-support-solutions company that was sold to Oracle for \$1.8 billion in 2012; managing director of the Bozeman Technology Incubator; alumnus who earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in computer science at Stevens (Mr. Gianforte) \$10 million, naming gift for the Gianforte Academic Center, an interdisciplinary educational and research facility that Mr. Gianforte previously donated \$10 million to help build

10. **Seton Hall U.**, Anonymous, \$8 million (pledge), endowed faculty chair in chemistry and biochemistry, and support for research, programs, and student scholarships

10. U. of Missouri at Columbia, Anonymous, \$8 million construction of a new football facility

Story [continues](#).



Another Speech Shut Down

Protest outside event at Claremont McKenna prevents Heather Mac Donald event from having an in-person audience. Question period of appearance at UCLA is disrupted as well.

NO MU MENTION

BY SCOTT JASCHIK APRIL 10, 2017

Students at the Claremont Colleges prevented most of the potential audience for a lecture by Heather Mac Donald at Claremont McKenna College from entering the event Thursday night. Officials at the college decided that it would be dangerous to remove those protesting and so had the talk go on to a largely empty room while live-streaming the presentation.

The day before, Mac Donald was able to give a lecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, but the question period was interrupted by students, who chanted and took to the stage, making it impossible for Mac Donald to respond to questions at times.

Last week's disruptions come at a time of heightened debate in higher education and society about whether college students are intolerant of views with which they disagree. While this issue is not a new one, the [shouting down of Charles Murray at Middlebury College](#) last month intensified the discussion.

Murray and Mac Donald are both writers at conservative think tanks who are controversial in part for their views on race. Murray, of the American Enterprise Institute, is co-author of *The Bell Curve* and has been widely condemned for promoting views about race and intelligence that many say are racist and based on faulty social science.

Mac Donald, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute, attracted controversy after the 2016 publication of her book [The War on Cops](#). In the book, she criticizes the Black Lives Matter movement and says criminals have been "emboldened" by the scrutiny of police shootings. She writes that police are the single group in society protecting black people from "criminals and gangbangers" and that the police deserve more support, not more scrutiny. **Story [continues](#).**