MU gets $6.7M for documentary journalism program

COLUMBIA, Mo. • A leader in the reality TV genre is donating $6.7 million for the University of Missouri-Columbia to create a program in documentary journalism. The university on Tuesday announced the donation from journalism school graduate Jonathan Murray. Murray has created and been executive producer for unscripted entertainment TV programs such as MTV's "The Real World." He is chairman of Bunim/Murray Productions.

The university plans to offer the program for undergraduate and graduate students. It will have three new faculty positions with visiting professionals working in documentary journalism. The undergraduate program will start in fall 2015. The start date for the master's degree program has not been decided. Students are to get hands-on experience through projects and assignments.

The school also plans an annual summer workshop.
'Real World' creator's gift will establish University of Missouri documentary journalism program

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 4:35 pm

University of Missouri School of Journalism leaders announced a large gift Tuesday afternoon that will start a new documentary journalism program on campus.

The $6.7 million donation comes from Jon Murray, chairman of Bunim/Murray Productions and 1977 MU journalism alumnus, and will establish the Jon Murray Center for Documentary Journalism.

Murray helped co-create MTV’s “The Real World” and “Road Rules,” and has played a part in many other reality television shows including “Keeping up with the Kardashians” and “Project Runway.” A subsidiary company of Bunim/Murray Productions called BMP Films produced the Emmy Award-winning documentary “Autism: The Musical,” as well as “Valentine Road,” Murray’s most recent documentary project.

Murray said he and journalism administrators began aggressively working on this a year ago, collaborating on the idea first and then coming up with how much it would cost to make it happen afterward.

“It’s fortunate that I’ve done well financially, and when I think about places that have had a profound impact on my life, this is one of them,” Murray said of the university.

Dean Mills, dean of the journalism school, said many of the curriculum, housing and hiring details are still under discussion. The Murray Center will likely be housed in the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute, he said. Murray’s gift will help pay a director for the center as well as a visiting slot used by professional documentary journalists who will come in for anywhere from a week to a few semesters, Mills said. Another full-time spot will be open, with the help of Mizzou Advantage, Mills said.

Mills said the documentary journalism program won’t be a major or a sequence within the journalism major. The organizational structure is still in the works.
Hiring for the positions is in progress, Mills said, and as soon as the center is staffed, the curriculum process will resume and the hope is students can start taking advantage of the program by the fall of 2015.

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UPDATE: Missouri School of Journalism introduces new documentary program
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 | 9:59 a.m. CST; updated 10:13 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2014
BY LAURA COLE

COLUMBIA — The School of Journalism received a $6.7 million gift Tuesday to create a degree program in documentary journalism, educating students in the history, business and production of film and other nonfiction multimedia.

Students, faculty and university administrators packed the Reynolds Journalism Institute at 2 p.m. to learn about the program and meet Jonathan Murray, the journalism school alumnus endowing the program.

Murray is a writer, producer and pioneer of reality television, developing "The Real World" series, "Road Rules," "Bad Girls Club" and "The Simple Life," among others.

Murray credited the School of Journalism with teaching him the skills he has used in his career since graduation.

"I'm very excited that at the University of Missouri, we'll be training people to be documentarians, and they will be telling stories that will open our minds and make us think of things in ways we haven't thought of them before," Murray said.
The gift will establish a new Documentary Journalism Center in the School of Journalism. The school will hire three faculty members, ideally with professional documentary film experience.

A bachelor's degree program for undergraduates will begin in the fall 2015 semester, with a master's degree program to follow.

Under the current plans, students will write scripts, shoot video, record audio, edit short documentaries and possibly begin work on full-length films. They could have opportunities to enter their work in film festivals and distribute it online or through a broadcast channel.

In addition to degree programs, faculty plan to offer a week-long workshop every summer beginning in 2015. This summer, faculty will introduce a documentary journalism symposium, said Kent Collins, chairman of the radio-television journalism faculty.

He said journalism faculty have discussed the possibility of offering documentary journalism courses for about eight years.

A year ago, Murray began a serious collaboration with the radio-television faculty to offer a documentary experience to MU students. He had served as a panelist for a reality television symposium at MU and maintained an interest in the journalism school ever since, Collins said.

Murray attended an April 1 planning meeting and, afterward, told Collins he wanted to give a monetary gift.

"He said, 'I'm going to fund this, you know,'" Collins said.

In August, a group of faculty sat down and discussed the issue for several hours.

"That was real magic," Collins said. "We had people with good ideas, and Dean Mills did an absolutely marvelous job of synthesizing those ideas and beginning to form sort of a vision of what the journalism school would want to teach."
Faculty from all areas of the journalism school, as well as film studies faculty, are working together on the program.

"Everybody wants a piece of this action," Collins said. "Everybody is at the table."

Although the students' documentary films will not have a news outlet like KOMU, KBIA or the Columbia Missourian, the program will employ the "Missouri method" of producing content by undergraduates, said Stacey Woelfel, associate professor and news director at KOMU.

The curriculum will cover business models of filmmaking and give students experience in budgeting, management and fundraising.

"Part of the curriculum should be the business of marketing your film and getting it out there where people can see it," Woelfel said.

The center will also offer segments about advocacy documentaries, which will lead to ongoing ethical discussions about how advocacy can coexist with traditional journalism principles, Collins said.

"It's just a challenge we have to live with in every discussion of every film," Collins said.

He said advocacy filmmaking can be compared to work in advertising and public relations.

"That's what they do in strategic communications faculty," Collins said. "They advocate some position or point of view or framing, and the j-school has long embraced this."

Both Collins and Woelfel said documentary production fits well within the framework of existing journalism programs at the journalism school.

"We're going to talk about what is documentary journalism and how to put the two — documentary filmmaking and the principles of high-quality journalism — how to put them together," Collins said."

Woelfel said it mirrors the processes of news gathering and delivery that have been in place for decades.
"I think we're doing much of what we do in the journalism school now, collecting and disseminating information and building interesting characters into the way we tell our stories," he said.

"Television stories often start out by humanizing around who's affected by what the story is about, and documentary films take that up several notches."

Collins said he expects Mills' successor to be fully on board with the center. Mills announced his retirement last week after 25 years as the journalism school's dean. "I think a new dean will find that a fully endowed program is a pretty nice thing to have," Collins said.

Because Mills articulated the vision for the center, the planning committee intends to ask for his advice after his retirement, Collins said.

Murray also will continue to contribute advice to the program, and said he hopes to visit the school again.

"I'd love to come back with another documentary that I've been involved in and talk with the students," Murray said in an interview after the announcement. "And I'd love to see students make their own films and take me into worlds I don't know."

Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.

Creator of MTV’s 'The Real World' gives Mizzou’s J-School largest gift ever

The University of Missouri-Columbia’s Journalism School is set to start a documentary program for undergraduate and graduate students starting in the fall of 2015.
The program was made possible by Jon Murray’s $6.7 million gift to the Missouri School of Journalism. It’s the single largest gift made by an individual to the Missouri School of Journalism, according to Mizzou’s Alumni Magazine.

The program will offer undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Murray graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1977 and is co-creator of MTV’s groundbreaking reality show “The Real World.”

MU celebrates 175th birthday milestone
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 | 6:44 p.m. CST; updated 7:33 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2014

"Come on, Mizzou, you've got to do better than that. This is a birthday party," he said into the microphone. "One hundred and seventy-five years young, and you've never looked better than you do now."

A hefty, white cake shaped like Jesse Hall and flanked by the MU Columns, was eaten down to crumbs. Mizzou Forte sang "Old Missouri" a cappella. Mini Mizzou played "Every True Son" and "Fight, Tiger." The Golden Girls, in gold sequins and white go-go boots, danced and chanted, encouraging the crowd to join them.

All the hoopla was put on by MU’s University Affairs to celebrate the university’s founding in 1839.
Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who took office this month, spoke of the 1843 graduating class of two students, and how much the university has grown.

"Universities endure. They have prominence. They have impact," he said. "And I am so proud to be here."

Loftin thanked past and current leadership for contributions to the university, expressing particular gratitude to former Chancellor Brady Deaton, who attended the ceremony but did not speak, and the MU student body for his warm welcome.

Students care for each other and for the institution, which is especially evident through alumni support, Deaton said after the ceremony. It's wonderful to see the new generations of students embracing MU's history and culture, he said.

Deaton said he hoped people would take away how excited everyone is for the university. "This is the beginning of a new era, and it's great to see," he said.

Junior Charlie Koors, who plays saxophone in Mini Mizzou, said he loved being able to celebrate MU's birthday by being in the band and playing the school songs. "But it's strange to picture what the next 175 years will be like for us and those to come," he said.

Gold T-shirts that read "175 years," Tiger Stripe ice cream and chocolate and vanilla cupcakes crowned with gold frosting were given away after the ceremony.

Jake Wright, president of the Graduate Professional Council, reminded the crowd that students, faculty and staff come from a wide range of high schools, colleges and universities. He named several mascots — including the Kansas Jayhawks — which drew some boos.

But none of that matters, Wright said.

"We are and we will always be Tigers," he said. "Happy birthday, Mizzou, and here's to the next 175 years!"

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
The University of Missouri celebrated its 175th birthday Tuesday — the school's Founders Day — and kicked off what administrators hope will be a year's worth of events to honor the milestone.

During a "birthday bash" today, MU marked Founders Day with a cake in the shape of Jesse Hall, the Francis Quadrangle and the Columns. Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, Cindy Mustard, co-owner of Tiger Trolly Tours and an MU alumna, and MU mascot Truman the Tiger blew out the candles.

Loftin, Assistant Athletic Director Gary Link, Graduate Professional Council President Jake Wright and Missouri Students Association President Mason Schara all gave speeches highlighting MU history and recognizing audience members who helped shaped the university, including former chancellors Brady Deaton and Richard Wallace.

This year's "Mizzou 39" class of "outstanding" seniors chosen by the Mizzou Alumni Association Student Board was recognized today by Loftin and will be honored again during the Saturday basketball game against the University of Tennessee.

Today's party is one of several events the university is organizing for the year, though plans for speakers and musical guests haven't been finalized, MU marketing director Laura Roloff said.

Roloff said the university will publish a "coffee table history book" that will come out Sept 1. Additionally, the school's licensing office is partnering with local retailers to print and sell items with throwback MU logos.

MU schools and departments are marking the birthday through special activities in their respective disciplines, she said. For example, the Mizzou Botanic Garden will plant 175 new trees, many of which are replacing trees damaged by drought the last few years.

"Each department, college and school is choosing how they are going to use the anniversary," Roloff said. "Some are making it a centerpiece of an existing event, like the Alumni Association,
which sent out its alumni calendar using 175 as a theme. So they're not building new programs with this but using it in a beneficial way for their existing programming."

Roloff said MU is working with partner organizations to celebrate the historic year, including a sign in the tiger exhibit at the St. Louis Zoo and hopefully an event partnering with the city of St. Louis, which turns 250 this year.

This year is also marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of MU Extension and the Trulaske College of Business.

An interactive timeline chronicling the history of the university is available at www.missouri.edu/timeline.

*This article was published in the Tuesday, February 11, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Chancellor gets party going."

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College presidents should answer for schools' success or failure, lawmaker says

By Alex Stuckey astuckey@post-dispatch.com 573-556-6186

**NO MU MENTION**

JEFFERSON CITY • Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, doesn't want to close Missouri colleges and universities, he just wants them to answer for their shortfalls.

And he believes those shortfalls need to be reflected in performance funding.

"There are 13 institutions competing for public money, some do a good job, others don't," Schaefer said at the Senate Appropriations Committee hearing this morning. "This is the time to look at that."

The state has about $800 million for higher education funding, Schaefer said.

Although Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, brought a bill addressing higher education performance funding to the Senate floor last week, Schaefer said the bill was not rigorous enough.

In Pearce's bill, 90 percent of the annual increases in appropriations for the previous fiscal year's funding must be based on performance measures.
Also, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education must develop at least five performance measures for each public, four-year institution and State Technical College of Missouri. Those measures must be evaluated every three years.

The bill was laid over.

"Something's gotta give," Schaefer said last week on the floor. "What we need to do is have a more comprehensive discussion about what each institution does and how they justify their existence."

That happened today. University presidents from across the state came to Jefferson City today to speak in front of the committee about everything from graduation rates to loan default rates.

One of these institutions was Lincoln University. Schaefer pressed Lincoln University President Kevin Rome to explain the institution's low graduation rate of 31.5 percent.

For the individuals who have graduated, Rome said, Lincoln is a viable option for their education and has made a difference in their lives.

He said the university is working to improve those numbers through the establishment of a center for academic advising and a center for mandatory tutoring and instruction based on how the student did in high school.

At this morning's hearing, Pearce suggested performance funding should, perhaps, be based on graduation rates, retention rates and loan default rates.

Lincoln University's loan default rate was 27 percent in 2013.

Northwest Missouri State University -- who's president, John Jasinski, also was present -- only has a loan default rate of 9.7 percent.

Northwest Missouri's graduation rate is 59.2 percent.

Schaefer also believes that administrative consolidation would be good for the state's public institutions. This way, less money would go to procurement and more money would go to classroom instruction.

"Why does every institution need its own board?" Schaefer said at this morning's hearing.

Education duplication also is concerning to Schaefer. Many of the 13 institutions offer the same program, such as education or nursing.

"Four year institutions step on themselves to attract the same kids for the same thing," Schaefer said.

Sen. Mike Kehoe, R-Jefferson City, compared the state investing in institutions offering the same programs as an investor investing in 13 companies that all sell red bicycles.
Missouri's reaction to Michael Sam's announcement busted myths

The news that Michael Sam is gay did not divide the Missouri Tigers' locker room. The players accepted Sam, who became an All-American and helped the team to a 12-win season.

By Kevin Baxter

February 11, 2014, 9:37 p.m.

COLUMBIA, Mo.—Craig Kuligowski heard the words, but at first they didn't register.

In nearly three decades in college football, the University of Missouri defensive line coach had come to view summer team-building sessions as a typically uneventful training camp exercise. So he wasn't expecting different on a sweltering day last August when he gathered 15 players in a nondescript, windowless meeting room on the first floor of the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex.

There, beneath seven black-and-gold placards professing an adherence to teamwork, camaraderie and character, one of the players tested whether those were core values or just empty words.

"I'm Michael Sam, a defensive end," the player said. "I'm gay."

Just like that, one of the toughest players on one of the toughest teams in the toughest conference in college football outed himself to his position coach and teammates.

That kind of revelation, it had long been assumed, might have apocalyptic consequences in a football locker room where bravado and homophobic slurs can be commonplace.

The reaction that day: "Everybody's like, 'Oh well, there you go'," Kuligowski recalled Tuesday while sitting in the same room under the same placards.
Over the next weeks and months, Sam's decision to come out united the locker room rather than divided it. Instead of turning their backs, his teammates let him know they had his back — and a team that had won only two conference games the previous season advanced to the conference championship game, defeated Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl and finished 12-2.

Sam, a starter but not a star in most of Missouri's 2012 games, elevated his play to become the Southeastern Conference's defensive player of the year and a first-team All-American. His teammates voted him Missouri's most valuable player.

"This is probably one of the issues that united them," Kuligowski said of Sam's pronouncement. "Our guys, they got into a protective mode of where if somebody said something bad about him, they're going to have to face all of us. He's part of our family and we love him and we accept him as he is."

But it didn't have to turn out that way.

"It could have been a very huge distraction to our team," the coach said. "No question."

Even before Sam's announcement, the vending-machine-sized lineman's sexual orientation was a poorly kept secret.

The fifth-year senior had quietly come out to two teammates a year earlier. And even before Sam told more of the team, a reporter had approached associate athletic director Chad Moller with a question about an unnamed gay football player.

Sam, 24, didn't try too hard to hide his homosexuality but hadn't spoken publicly about it until ESPN and the New York Times published articles on Sunday. Sam was not available to be interviewed for this article.

"He wasn't ashamed of it, but he didn't want to necessarily bring all the attention to him," said Kuligowski, who recruited him to Missouri. "He didn't talk about it, so nobody else talked about it."

Indeed, none of Missouri's 127 football players discussed the issue in any detail outside the locker room. Nor, for that matter, did the local media pry, allowing Sam to make the announcement in his own time.

"A lot of people knew, but nobody really cared that much," said Tyler J. Adolphson, a senior communications major from St. Louis. "I overheard it being casually mentioned at several bars
on game days, but everyone's reaction was always the same: 'Oh well, he's having a hell of a season.' "

Pat Ivey, Missouri's strength and conditioning coach, also heard the rumors. For three years Ivey has held diversity seminars for the school's athletes, and last April he broadened his session by including the You Can Play project, a campaign to protect opportunities for athletes regardless of their sexual orientation.

Afterward, Ivey said, Sam congratulated him on the talk and, before walking away, looked the coach in the eyes and said, "I know I can play."

If the seminar gave Sam added confidence, there were still divisions within the team. Some players — a small minority — approached Ivey and criticized his message of inclusion for gays.

"Then there were other football players who said, 'Well, my aunt, my cousin, my sister, my brother are part of that community. I treat them with respect and there's certain words you won't use around me,' " Ivey recalled. "There was education."

Four months later, when Sam came out in the team-building session, he barely paused before going on to talk about his family and his childhood in southeastern Texas in which three of his seven siblings died and two went to prison, Kuligowski said.

The part about being gay? That, the coach said, was all but ignored.

"He said it like it's understood," Kuligowski said.

The coach's reaction: "Well, I guess the question is now erased. Now we know."

One other thing became clear soon after: Sam was playing football at a level rarely seen. He recorded 11 1/2 sacks and 19 tackles for losses to become only the second unanimous All-America pick in Missouri history.

"It was not a coincidence that Michael had, by far, his best season after coming out," said Cyd Zeigler, co-founder and editor of the gay website Outsports. "I hear from athletes over and over again that they feel their performance improved when this weight was lifted off their shoulders. And they were just more comfortable around their team."

"The fact that he was accepted by his team so lovingly seems to be a surprise to everybody. It's just not a surprise to me. Because it falls in line with every other coming-out story in high school, college, the pros and Olympic level in every sport everywhere across the country."
If coming out was a big step for Sam, the next one may be even bigger.

Later this month, he is scheduled to participate in the NFL combine in Indianapolis, hoping to improve his standing. Some scouts consider him too small, at 6 feet 2 and 260 pounds, to play defensive end in pro football, and that he lacks the skill set to move to linebacker. Others like his quickness and strength. As a result, Sam could go as high as the third round in May's NFL draft — or he could drop off the board completely.

"The story really isn't going to be told until he's drafted," Zeigler said. "All we've gotten is the prologue so far. That's why I think this story is going to be the biggest sports story of the year. Every month there's going to be another important chapter added to it."

Sam received wide-ranging congratulations and support after his announcement — even President Obama weighed in — but although many of his teammates quickly tweeted praise for him Sunday, they have now mostly gone quiet.

"Congrats @MichaelSam52 for making your announcement. I support you and wish you luck in life and in the NFL," junior Kony Ealy, who played beside Sam, tweeted Sunday. But on Tuesday, Ealy's agent, Andy Ross, said his client was too busy training for the combine to talk about Sam.

"Proud of my bro Mike for finally coming out," senior linebacker Donovan Bonner tweeted Sunday. He did not return repeated messages left on his cellphone.

Whether Sam's story continues to resonate depends on how he performs on the football field.

When aging free-agent basketball center Jason Collins came out last spring, it also was front-page news. But 10 months later, he remains unemployed and has probably played his last NBA game. When the Galaxy signed former U.S. national team midfielder Robbie Rogers in May, his first game drew a national TV audience. But Rogers played just one full match, did not score a goal, and is now fighting to keep his job.

One thing that makes Sam's story different is that he came out to his teammates six months before doing so publicly. Then he shared a locker room with them while leading the Tigers to their second 12-win season in 112 years. So whether he makes it in the NFL or not, he has already succeeded in debunking the myth about gays in a male locker room.

"In an athletic environment — which we think those places are homophobic — nothing happened," said Wade Davis, executive director of You Can Play and a former pro football player who came out after his career ended. "So I think that we need to look back and say, 'Hmm, all these things that we're worried about have already been proven false.'
For Ivey, that's only part of the message. What Sam's story proves to him is that being gay is no more an indicator of athletic prowess than being left-handed or a Republican or Presbyterian.

"I think there's an assumption many people have made that if you're gay, you're weak. And what we learned, that's not the case," he said. "Gay is not weak. Gay is tough. Gay is strong. Gay is in your face. Gay is going up against the biggest player on the other team's front line and beating him.

"That's what gay is to us. Gay is standing up in front of your team and saying, 'I'm gay.'

"That's what we have seen. Not something weak, timid, something that's going to be easily intimidated. That's not Mike Sam."

The Tribune's View  
Sam I am

Michael is who he is

By Henry J. Waters III

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Missouri All-American football player Michael Sam made news Sunday by proclaiming on national media he is gay.

Quite a few locals knew it, particularly his Tigers teammates. Sam had come out to them last August and had given hints for all to see. In his recent public comments, he gives much credit to his friends in the clubhouse and Mizzou coaches for their understanding and support. Without it, says he, his season could not have gone as well as it did.

Sam is expected to be drafted by an NFL team in May. He wanted his gay lifestyle to be known beforehand and to control the way the news was broached. The league officially reacted positively. One wonders about the players and how the news might affect his draft opportunities.
Michael Sam is the first prospective or regular NFL player to openly proclaim homosexuality. Because of his skills and demeanor, he is a perfect person to break the ice. His timing is ideal, coming after a showcase season and just far enough ahead of the draft for the world, and the NFL in particular, to react.

The time will come when nobody will notice the sexual orientation of NFL players. Indeed, it's no secret that the league already harbors more gay players than anyone openly acknowledges, but football is built around an aura of macho maleness that implies heterosexuality. The first openly gay player in the locker room will pose a watershed but a great opportunity to pass muster.

Suppose the players accept Michael Sam as an associate whose private life is his own. Suppose they care more about how many opposing quarterbacks he sacks than the gender of his partners. Imagine what a huge step that would be for his team, the National Football League, professional sports and society in general.

One man's courage is not enough to change the landscape entirely. Bigotry has staying power. Homosexuality is not its only target. But Michael Sam is in a perfect position to move the needle. He has thrown the gauntlet. How will prospective teams react?

Some will regard Sam as toxic and want nothing to do with him. Some will have respect but will not be willing to take a chance. Others might want to help make the statement by eagerly accepting him. Most will probably pay more attention to his football skills, knowing soon enough hardly anybody will be thinking about his private life.

The dust will settle. Michael Sam will become known by his actions, not his sexuality. We will forget today's coming-out except for a while occasionally to celebrate his groundbreaking courage. His accomplishment will have been profound.

HJW III

Truth can be outraged by silence quite as cruelly as by speech.

— AMELIA E. BARR, WRITER, 1886

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Posted in The Tribunes View on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:00 pm.
Missouri basketball players give Michael Sam support

By Steve Walentik

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Michael Sam's decision to reveal he is gay has been met with support from all over the Missouri campus.

That included Mizzou Arena, where MU basketball players were asked about Sam's historic decision yesterday during their weekly meeting with reporters.

"Happy for him coming out," Jordan Clarkson said. "Love is love — it shouldn't change the person, what he is. He's a football player. That's what he does on the field, and it shouldn't matter what he does off the field."

Added Ryan Rosburg: "I'm definitely proud of him. I'm sure that's a big monkey off your back. I'm sure he feels so relieved knowing that it's out there, and he doesn't really have to hide it anymore. I think the Mizzou community has really done a good job of supporting him. Everywhere I go, I just hear good things about him, how everyone is so proud that he came from Mizzou and he's really being true to himself."

Jabari Brown said he hasn't been surprised by the positive reaction from most people, but he was a little surprised by the announcement given Sam's uncertain future as a projected mid-round pick in this spring's NFL draft.

"I guess he didn't feel like that would hurt his draft stock at all," Brown said. "That's the only reason I was surprised."

TOO MANY TREYS: Coach Frank Haith's team is back at Mizzou Arena, preparing for a three-game home stand as it looks to snap a three-game losing streak. The biggest downfall in the latest loss — a 91-88 defeat at Mississippi — was 3-point defense, which has been a recurring theme.

The Rebels made 14 3-pointers Saturday, the most Missouri has surrendered this season. MU opponents have made a league-high 87 3-pointers in league play. They're shooting at a 37.7 percent clip.
Only LSU has allowed opponents to make a higher percentage of their 3-point attempts.

"That's disappointing," Haith said of his team's 3-point defense, especially after MU held its first 13 opponents to 27.9 percent. "I think part of it is the teams you're playing, No. 1. But we're to be blamed ... in terms of how we're closing out, how we're affecting shooters. I think we've got to get better at that."

Early in the season, Missouri frustrated good perimeter shooters such as Nevada's Deonte Burton, who went 2 for 7 from beyond the arc, and UCLA's Jordan Adams, who was 1 for 6 from long range.

In the SEC, the Tigers have allowed everyone from Georgia's Nemanja Djurisic to Vanderbilt's Rod Odom to South Carolina's Brenton Williams to enjoy hot shooting days. Ole Miss' Marshall Henderson joined that list with eight 3-pointers, though he had defenders trailing close by and hands in his face for the majority of those.

"He was one of the top shooters in the country, so when he gets on, there's not much you can do about it," Brown said of Henderson. "Chasing him around the court, he's taking shots from everywhere, and he's going to hit those some games, and that's what he did."

Missouri was paying so much attention to Henderson that it left LaDarius White open from beyond the arc, and he made 4 of 5 3-pointers off the bench.

The Tigers have gotten into trouble at other times defending the 3-point arc because they've been concerned about opposing post players, such as Kentucky's Julius Randle. Kentucky's James Young made four 3-pointers against MU.

Thursday's game against Arkansas will test the Tigers again. The Razorbacks burned Missouri for 12 3-pointers — including four each by Rashad Madden and Michael Qualls — in 29 attempts to hang around when the teams met in Fayetteville two weeks ago. Missouri still prevailed 75-71 victory.

**LINEUP CHANGES NOT EXPECTED:** Freshman forward Johnathan Williams III has shot only 39.6 percent from the field while averaging 5.4 points in SEC play, and he might have played his worst game of the season against Ole Miss. He went scoreless with two shot attempts blocked, four turnovers and six rebounds.

Williams, who has started every game this season, seems to be getting frustrated on the floor, but Haith didn't sound like he has plans to scale back his minutes or remove him from the starting lineup.

"That's a fine line," Haith said. "It's very tentative. I don't think it matters who starts. As a coach, that's the way I feel."
One reason Haith likes the idea of keeping Williams in the starting lineup is because his second choice would be to insert freshman Wes Clark in his place and play with a four-guard lineup that includes Clarkson, Brown and Earnest Ross.

"You won't have a perimeter sub if you do that," Haith said. "But we will play that lineup as we did in that game" Saturday, "because I think that's our best offensive lineup."

"This article was published in the Tuesday, February 11, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Basketball players give Sam support."

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Posted in Mu Basketball on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:00 pm.

Michael Sam could be important face in gay community

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 | 10:38 p.m. CST
BY BRANDON FOSTER

Michael Sam is the face of next week’s Sports Illustrated magazine. Will he soon be the face of the gay community?

Sam has said his focus is on football, but others might not listen, says Scott Seitz, CEO of SPI Marketing, which focuses on gay and lesbian marketing.

“The world has just thrown him into a place where he’s an inspiration to a lot of people,” Seitz said. “Some people take a look at that and say, ‘He’s an inspiration,’ and other people are going to take a look at that and say, ‘He’s an activist.’”

Nonprofit organizations that support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community will try to use Sam’s fame to help their cause, Seitz said. Seitz has already received one such press release from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.
“Michael’s announcement also offers a time for reflection,” the statement read. “Are K-12 locker rooms and coaches in the United States as inclusive of LGBT people as the University of Missouri’s (locker room)?”

It’s not a bad thing, Seitz said. It’s just their job.

“All of those people, because he’s an inspiration, are going to want to attract him to an event or give him an award or do something,” he said. "Even without trying, he’s going to be thrust into a very visible role.”

In addition, Missouri state Sen. Scott Sifton used Sam’s announcement as inspiration to promote anti-discrimination legislation in Missouri.

But Sam’s biggest contributions can come on the field, said Bob Witeck, a business consultant and marketing strategist with Witeck Communications, which also has an emphasis in the LGBT market.

“He doesn’t have to be a civil rights leader,” Witeck said. “He doesn’t have to speak. He doesn’t have to endorse. He doesn’t have to do any of that. If he shows up and succeeds, he will have done far more for civil rights for gay people than almost everybody else in his generation at the moment.”

That said, Witeck believes Sam will profit from endorsements following his announcement because younger generations' acceptance of the LGBT community. "He’s at the moment in time when the brands that support major league sports recognize that it’s not so much their current loyal fans that they’re wooing, they have to talk to the next-generation fans," Witeck said. "And it’s Michael’s generation and the younger ones who’ll follow who are gonna determine the success of the brands in the future."

Witeck cites former tennis player Martina Navratilova as an example of the generation shift. Navratilova was a dominant tennis player but didn't reap the benefits in marketing because of her status as an openly gay woman, Witeck said.

Seitz sees Sam's identity as a marketing plus.

“There’s so many different communities of people that he has the ability to go out and attract,” he said. "I think that’s really terrific. He’s diverse in so many different aspects
of his life that I would hope that smart marketing people see that as an opportunity to really touch on a very personal level some key people.”

Mainstream corporations have become more interested in marketing to the gay community in recent years, Seitz said. The alcohol and soda industries, in particular, have embraced this change because of the marketing opportunities at gay bars. Much to the benefit of Sam, who could become the first openly gay player in the NFL, one type of gay bar in particular has thrived in the last 15 years.

"What started out as a phenomenon in the gay community as the gay video bar is now morphing into the gay sports bar,” said Seitz, whose company works with about 300 gay bars in 12 cities across the country. Other brands have gotten into the mix as well. Marriott Hotels and Resorts is sponsoring the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland. Seitz said this is a crucial example of a traditional corporation with more than 50 years of history supporting an event that welcomes athletes of all sexualities from around the world.

Gay and lesbian sports leagues have also grown in popularity, Seitz said. The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance consists of 800 teams in 45 leagues across the continent.

Professional sports leagues already showed support for the LGBT community before Sam’s announcement. The NFL teamed with the You Can Play Project for the High Five initiative, which gave players the opportunity to work with LGBT youth, and the NBA worked with GLAAD and Athlete Ally to train players how to be allies to the gay community.

Sam’s projected entrance into the NFL could take advantage of the improved relations between these two communities, but first, he must succeed on Sundays.

"If he doesn’t perform," Witeck said, "he’s a footnote."

*Supervising editor is Erik Hall.*
Former All-American diver Greg DeStephen was first openly gay Mizzou athlete

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST; updated 6:49 a.m. CST, Wednesday, February 12, 2014

BY ERIK HALL

COLUMBIA — Restaurant staff cooked enchilada beef on the grill. The capacity of El Rancho increased as college students pushed their way through the door for a spot in line after the bars closed. Greg DeStephen waited with his boyfriend to get food.

He heard some commotion. A man shouted, “F----t!”

It was directed at DeStephen.

Sounds of sizzling chicken, squeaking Styrofoam boxes and spatulas banging on the grill were pierced by that six-letter word. The rest of the man’s words are gone from DeStephen’s memory, but not that “F” word.

“I’ve only ever really been called that mean-heartedly to my face one time,” DeStephen says. “It wasn’t my favorite thing.”

The man thought he could pigeonhole DeStephen with a pejorative because DeStephen was with another man.

But DeStephen does not fit a stereotype. He was raised in Ohio in a sports fanatic family. He dealt with being outed as gay, having hostile teammates and diving with a broken back his freshman year, but none of it stopped him from becoming a four-time All-American diver at Missouri.

He is also the only Missouri athlete to publicly say he is gay while actively competing.
“Greg’s a very great representative of diving and the gay community,” says openly gay Florida State diving coach Patrick Jeffrey, who dove for the U.S. at the 1988 and 1996 Olympics. “He’s just a very good kid. He was a hard worker. He was a great athlete.”

DeStephen qualified for the NCAA Championship meet three of his four years at Missouri. He earned All-Big 12 honors a dozen times from 2007 to 2010. He made the U.S. national team in 2010 for the Canada Cup.

But after his first semester at Missouri, he felt ready to leave. He considered transferring to his hometown Ohio State Buckeyes.

“He would come and talk to me about it,” says Aimee Hukill, a member of the women’s swim team from 2005 to 2009. “He would be like, ‘I need to leave Missouri. I don’t want to be here.’”

Hukill and DeStephen shared a love for Dixie Cream Donuts, songs from “Taylor Swift” and watching HGTV. Those things provided DeStephen distractions.

Not much more could have gone wrong his first semester. He pleaded guilty to alcohol possession. He broke a bone in his right hand. He got E. coli poisoning. He dove for months with a misdiagnosed fracture in his spine. And he developed mononucleosis.

But the toughest challenge came when a teammate broke his trust and told the rest of the team that he was gay without his permission.

Freshman exposure
DeStephen went on a date a couple months into his freshman year — his first date with a guy.

He told only three friends in Ohio that he was gay before coming to Columbia. DeStephen felt an attraction to guys, but he thought he may be bisexual. He says he was still “involved” with girls when he made that first same-sex date.

“I was starting to figure out more that I was gay, but I was still also hanging out with girls as well at that point,” he says of his first couple months at Missouri. “I was starting to come to terms with it (being gay).”
DeStephen came to Missouri getting a 95 percent scholarship. The NCAA allows schools 9.9 scholarships for men’s swimming and diving teams. With 0.95 going to DeStephen, that left 8.95 to divide among the other 28 men in the Missouri program.

Jealousy could have been enough to make DeStephen an outsider.

But when a teammate revealed DeStephen’s date with a guy, the 5-foot-8 diver's chance at acceptance that year ended.

“For the divers, it wasn’t that big of a deal,” says Ryan Meeker, a diver and DeStephen’s roommate when they were freshmen. “For some of the older swimmers, especially, I think they may have felt uncomfortable with it. They didn’t spend as much time around Greg. ... I did definitely notice there was a little friction there for sure.”

The older swimmers ignored him and treated him like he was not there. They did not sit with him for meals at the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex. If they saw him at a party, members of the men’s swim team avoided talking with him.

“I probably wasn’t being invited to a lot of stuff,” DeStephen says. “When you’re on a team of that size and you’re together that much and you have to count on each other to compete and really make an impact, I think it’s always a good thing to have that connection to be able to count on them. It also drives you to want to do better for those people. ... That was missing.”

None of his teammates said a bad thing to his face, but he heard the things they said. He was told that one teammate said he was “going to hell.” Seven years later, the comment that hurts most was a teammate saying he did not want to change in front of DeStephen.

“It dug in deep,” DeStephen says. “I was there to do a job. I was there to compete and train. I wasn’t there to stare guys down in the locker room. ... I was insulted and kind of annoyed.”

As his challenges grew that first semester, DeStephen found a quote online that resonated with him: “Adversity causes some men to break, others to break records.” He typed it out, printed it on a half-sheet of copier paper and taped it in his locker at the Mizzou Aquatic Center. DeStephen read it each day for the rest of that season and throughout subsequent seasons.
“What I was going through at that point, I could draw on those experiences to make me work harder and really have an outlet for how I was feeling,” he says.

That approach got him to the NCAA Championship meet for the first time. DeStephen was one of only three Missouri men to compete at the 2007 NCAAs, and that success gained him acceptance on the team. His 20th-place finish in platform diving was the best result of Missouri’s three NCAA competitors.

“I think people who doubted him, whether or not it was because of his sexual orientation, gave him motivation to be better, to be stronger, to dive better, to accomplish more,” says Kendra Melnychuk, a Missouri diver from 2005 to 2009. “Any kind of negative talk that you can throw at him just made him fight harder.”

Falling in love
DeStephen spent the summer after his freshman year in a back brace and back in the closet.

He returned home to Columbus, Ohio, and worked as an intern with Nestle. He had yet to tell his parents he was gay.

He wound up in the back brace after attempting a front 3 1/2 pike off the 3-meter springboard at Ohio State’s aquatic center. The dive — which involved DeStephen performing 3 1/2 somersaults with his knees straightened and his body bent forward at the waist, leaving little gap between his upper body and his legs — went fine, but he could not move for 10 seconds in the water. An orthopedic surgeon found DeStephen had aggravated a fracture in his spine that had been there for months. His injury meant no diving from June to October.

Without diving, DeStephen found his first boyfriend.

A mutual friend introduced them at a party. They exchanged numbers. They started talking.

DeStephen desired to have his first relationship, and they became “involved” off and on for nearly nine months.

“I think it was just something that I wanted to experience at that time,” DeStephen says. “It’s something that I’d never had in my life. It was important to me to just have that experience. I think it was pushed a little bit hard and maybe not with the right person.”
The only time DeStephen remembers crying in college was during a trying time with his boyfriend.

But he also made DeStephen happy. Being able to say for the first time that he had a boyfriend was "relieving."

The negatives were eventually too much, and DeStephen ended things in April 2008.

The ups and downs of his first relationship did not stop his diving success. DeStephen captured his first All-American honor by finishing 12th in the 3-meter springboard at the 2008 NCAA Championships.

The accolade was significant for him and challenged stereotypes.

“It’s part of society’s beliefs that a gay man can’t be as athletic and successful as a straight man,” DeStephen says of sports overall. “It wasn’t as accepted even five years ago.”

The story

In May of his sophomore year, DeStephen read a story on Gay.com about Maryland-Baltimore County swimmer Fred Deal announcing he was gay. DeStephen sent the website an email that he liked the Deal story and that he was a gay diver himself. The site responded asking if it could tell his story — the gay All-American diver in the heartland.

“I wasn’t really sure what that (Gay.com) was,” DeStephen says. “I just stumbled upon the article. I was a little apprehensive about it.”

Missouri diving coach Jamie Sweeney encouraged DeStephen to let himself be written about, but DeStephen knew he had to do something else first. He had to finally tell his parents that he was gay.

“It put pressure on me to do something I wanted to do anyways,” he says.

He had 13 days back in Columbus between the end of spring semester and the start of summer school. On his 12th and final night at home, he sat with his mom, Karen, in his parent’s downstairs office and told her.

The next morning, he told his dad.
“I wanted to let you know that I am gay,” DeStephen said to his dad, Steve.

It was one sentence, and then he waited for a response.

Steve DeStephen remembers feeling compassion and thinking: “This is not something you really wish on your children” and “It brings extra pressure on you.”

But the words he chose have stuck with both of them for almost six years. Steve DeStephen looked into Greg’s blue eyes and said, “Honestly, I don’t care. I’ll support you. What is important is that you’re a good person in this world.”

They finished their conversation and hugged.

Greg DeStephen then drove the eight hours back to Columbia that final Wednesday of May in his black 2006 Subaru Impreza. He felt prepared to do what no Missouri athlete had ever done. He would soon tell the world he was gay.

Gay.com staff writer Robert Ordona interviewed DeStephen and Sweeney. The article “Dive Talkin” published online June 17, 2008. It was the day before the U.S. Olympic Diving Trials.

With astonishment, DeStephen posted on his Facebook page that day: “the front page of gay.com...what?”

It was the first time he made a Facebook post indicating he was gay. There was nothing more to hide.

“Once I came out and that was something that was put behind me, it let me really focus on what was important,” DeStephen says. “It just let me be who I was, and I wasn’t hiding a secret anymore. That definitely weighs on you.”

End of the Tiger's tale

He was free.

His team knew. His parents knew. The world knew.

He was done with serious boyfriends for the rest of college. His focus was diving.

But being honest about his sexuality gave DeStephen a new identity.
He was the openly gay Missouri athlete.

“For a long time, I didn’t want to have the reputation as the gay athlete,” DeStephen says. “I wanted people to get to know who I was and learn that’s a part of who I am. That’s not who I am. The fact of the matter is, when you are not a part of the norm, that’s what you are usually associated with. I feel like throughout the athletic department for a long time, that is what people related me to.”

By the end of his junior year, the swimming and diving team knew DeStephen for more than his sexuality. The team elected him captain for the 2009-10 season.

DeStephen’s senior year was Brian Hoffer’s 18th year as Missouri swimming and diving head coach, and the first time during Hoffer’s tenure that a male diver had been elected captain.

“It was really apparent that there was a respect from the team,” Hoffer says. “They respected him as a person and respected him as an athlete and, obviously, elected him a team captain. ... I’m really proud of the team for doing that.”

The respect for DeStephen came from his effort in practice and in the weight room. The 5-foot-8, 150-pound diver could squat 325 pounds as a senior. His thighs were so muscular that his teammates started calling him "Quadzilla," a play on the name of Japan's most famous monster.

A football underclassman tried to correct DeStephen’s lifting form once, late in his career. The lineman stood half a foot taller than DeStephen, but the diver politely let the lineman know that he could lift more with his legs than half the football players.

“In working with athletes, there are those that choose to separate themselves from the norm and outwork everyone else, regardless of the circumstances. Greg is that type,” Missouri weightlifting coach Tyler Looney said when nominating DeStephen to represent Missouri as a 2010 All-American Strength and Conditioning Athlete of the Year.

His hard work was derailed when he caught the flu in 2009 on the wrong weekend, causing him to miss that year's NCAA meet. He returned to NCAAs in 2010 and captured three All-American honors in his final collegiate meet.
A few weeks after the NCAA meet, DeStephen represented the U.S. at the Canada Cup. He says representing the country is the highlight of his diving career.

But it also marked the beginning of the end.

That August, DeStephen remembers talking to a club diving coach while waiting to compete at the U.S. Nationals and saying, “I don’t really know if this is something I want anymore.” DeStephen proceeded to have what he calls “the best meet of my life.”

He followed that meet with a break from diving. September arrived, and his passion was still gone. DeStephen decided he was done diving.

He graduated in May 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in banking and finance.

Making change
DeStephen now lives in Dallas and is a college recruiter for Ernst & Young.

After two years at a different company in St. Louis, he moved in July to Dallas, where, he says, his new employers make him feel comfortable about being openly gay. He recently started pursuing speaking opportunities to discuss being an out athlete. The website OutSports.com in November listed DeStephen as one of 107 LGBT athletes, coaches and administrators willing to share their stories.

“I felt for a long time that if I ever have the ability to change things for the better, that I would do that,” DeStephen says. “It is something that I’ve thought about a lot growing up and, especially, now.”

Part of that change involves ending the misconception that homosexuality defines a person.

DeStephen will probably never know if the man who confronted him at El Rancho has since changed his views on gay people. But he witnessed a transformation in acceptance among Missouri athletes. He went from outcast to team captain on the swimming and diving team.

He created an environment wherein Missouri swimmer Vito Cammisano came out to the team in 2011 and says he experienced zero anti-gay sentiment.
“I’m completely appreciative that Greg did everything he could to make that possible for people that came after him,” says Cammisano, who swam for Missouri from 2009 to 2012.

Sometimes, DeStephen saw acceptance change in the span of one night.

Near the end of his college career, DeStephen and some other athletes were drinking and preparing to go downtown. As they got in a car to head to Field House, wrestler Nick Marable told DeStephen: “You’re really cool for a gay guy.”

A multitude of ways to interpret that statement flashed through DeStephen’s head, but he settled on saying, “Thanks.”

“I saw it as perspectives changing,” he says now.

He didn’t know that night Marable would become a good friend, but he knew the wrestler's heart was in the right place.

DeStephen says, “He had a certain view of what a gay guy was supposed to be, and I didn’t fit into that box.”

*Supervising editor is Mark Selig.*

**Graduate students raise interest rate concerns with "Grads Have Debt 2" campaign**

By Ashley Jost

*Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 9:45 pm*

The Graduate Professional Council at the University of Missouri spearheaded an event today that encouraged students nationwide to tweet or Facebook members of Congress about the increased debt burden they face in their programs.
Today was dubbed “National Message Congress Day,” an idea organized by GPC and the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. Their concerns were chronicled with the hashtag #GradsHaveDebt2.

This effort started last July after U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, visited with MU student leaders to talk about student loans, Jesse Kremenak, GPC national legislative issues coordinator, said.

That month, Congress failed to extend a bill that impacted subsidized Stafford Loans for undergraduate students, causing interest rates to double. Weeks later, the “Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013” was signed into law, fixing the hike in interest rates for undergraduate students and curbing the interest rate for graduate students. At 5.41 percent – down from 6.8 percent the previous two years – graduate student Stafford Loan interest rates are still 1.55 percent more than undergraduate rates.

Kremenak said a takeaway for GPC members last summer was that graduate students “aren’t receiving the proper attention” in the student loan discussion.

“Even though decisions federal lawmakers are making affect graduate and professional students, they’re really not on the forefront of the discussion or the decision making,” he said.

After that, Kremenak said GPC leaders decided to create a campaign to help bring graduate students “closer to the front” of the interest rate discussion: “Grads Have Debt 2.”

"As someone who had to take out student loans to put herself through law school, I know firsthand the difficulties facing graduate students in financing their studies,” McCaskill said in a statement about today’s social media push. “Improving college affordability, including graduate and advanced degree opportunities, remains an important, ongoing challenge. I'm active on Twitter, so I'll be keeping an eye out for these posts, and I admire this group's commitment to raising awareness for this issue."

MU graduate student Sam Dozier was one of the participants in today’s social media event.

“I’m really passionate about this because it’s something that impacts my generation,” she said. “It’s an issue we’re going to be facing the next 10 years of our lives and I want to participate in activism to get that word out.”

Dozier said she didn’t know going into her graduate studies how big of an interest rate jump it was for her student loans. She’s studying laboratory science and is set to graduate this December with almost $30,000 in loans. However, her final semester will be paid for out of pocket, she said, as she has saved up the last two years working two jobs while going to school.

To supplement today’s event, graduate student leaders are sending letters to legislative leaders tomorrow on behalf of the students at their institutions – one of several call-to-action events the campaign is pursuing.
In December, graduate student groups across the country participated in a phone bank event where students called about one-third of Congress members to express concerns about student loan inequality. Another phone bank event is planned for April 9.

Additionally, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students has a semi-annual legislative action days event in Washington D.C. where students meet with their representatives and senators to voice concerns. The next event is March 1-4. Several representatives from MU will attend.

Though the “Grads Have Debt 2” campaign started at MU, it gained traction because of the affiliation with the national association, which represents 90 schools and more than 600,000 graduate students, Kremenak said.

Some of today’s tweets using the GradsHaveDebt2 hashtag are cataloged below.

MU student advocates for Missouri minimum wage increase
Tuesday, February 11, 2014 | 8:35 p.m. CST; updated 8:56 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2014
BY SCOTT DELHOMMER

JEFFERSON CITY — Two part-time jobs, a full course load at MU and an internship with a state senator might seem like enough work for three people, but it’s just a regular week for India Bloom.

To pay her living expenses and tuition, Bloom, a junior political science major, works at least 30 hours a week between her two minimum-wage jobs, but it still isn’t enough to make ends meet.

Bloom spoke at a hearing on Tuesday in the state capitol in favor of a Senate bill that would raise the minimum wage in Missouri to $10 an hour from $7.50 an hour, and would raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to 60 percent of the minimum wage from 50 percent.
Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, who introduced the bill, is also Bloom’s boss. Bloom works in Jefferson City every Monday and Wednesday as an unpaid intern for Nasheed.

Although Nasheed doesn’t think her bill would raise minimum wage enough to be a living wage, she said it is at least a starting point.

"This is easier to get done," she said. "We have to take small steps. If we can take small steps, I believe at the end of the day that we can get there."

The bill would also have a cost of living adjustment that could increase the minimum wage every year based on inflation.

Along with her capitol internship, Bloom also works in a grocery store in Boonville and in a dining hall at MU. She said the dining hall serves meals to its employees for 69 cents, which was sometimes the only way she could afford to eat last semester.

"There were months where sometimes that meal was my only meal the entire day because I didn’t have food," Bloom said. "I couldn’t afford food trying to make ends meet. It’s just not always possible."

Brad Jones, the state director for the National Federation of Independent Business, said the bill could hurt those it is trying to help.

The National Federation of Independent Business is an advocacy group for small businesses, which Jones said represents about 9,000 businesses in Missouri.

Some minimum-wage workers might not have jobs following the wage increases, he said. Many of the businesses he has talked to are worried about having to lay off workers or going belly-up if their costs increase.

Price increases will follow cost increases, which will make things worse for the people who would lose their jobs, Jones said. "The price of everything goes up," he said. "Not only do these people not have a minimum wage job, they don’t have any job at all. It’s kind of a vicious circle."
At the hearing, Webster University economist Allan MacNeill said the argument that an increase in the minimum wage would raise unemployment isn't supported by evidence.

"Economists have conducted numerous studies on this issue looking at counties next to each other with different minimum wages, and they have found that higher minimum wages have increased workers’ earnings without a significant impact on unemployment," he said.

Speaking in favor of the bill, MacNeill said in the hearing that increasing the minimum wage could help the economy because lower-wage workers spend almost all of their extra income, which puts their money right back into the economy.

At the hearing, he said a raise to $10 an hour isn't that drastic. If the minimum wage kept up with inflation rates it would be about $10.71, MacNeill said.

Bloom is also in favor of an increase in the minimum wage because she doesn’t think the current $7.50 an hour is enough to live on.

"Most months, I have enough for rent and about $100 left over to cover gas, groceries and anything else left for the month, and that’s it," she said.

“The worst is seeing your car get empty and knowing that you have so much time before you get paid again, before you can fill up your tank, so maybe you put $5 worth of gas in there and pray to Jesus that your car gets where you need to go,” Bloom said.

*Supervising editor is Elise Schmelzer.*
MU joins EPA's Green Power Partnership

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (3)

The University of Missouri has joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership, which includes more than 1,500 businesses, state and local governments and academic institutions.

According to a news release from Campus Facilities, MU ranks 16 on the Top 30 Colleges and Universities List and 95 on the National Top 100 list of Green Power partners.

To be a Green Power partner, organizations must get 3 percent of their electricity from renewable energy. At MU, 21 percent of the electricity comes from renewable sources, such as the biomass boiler, wind energy from the turbine on campus and solar.

MU is the highest-ranking university in on-site "green power" generation, ranking seventh on the list behind Wal-Mart, the U.S. Department of Energy, Apple, BMW, Coca-Cola and Kohl's.

All of the Green Power partner rankings were released at the end of January.

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Posted in Education on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:00 pm.
February 12, 2014

Gifts to Colleges Hit $33.8-Billion, Topping Pre-Recession Levels

By Don Troop

NO MU MENTION

Record giving to higher education is back, according to a survey released on Wednesday by the Council for Aid to Education.

America's colleges and universities took in $33.8-billion in charitable contributions during the 2013 fiscal year, nearly a 10-percent increase over 2012 and the biggest sum ever raised by the sector. The previous record for charitable gifts to colleges was $31.6-billion during the 2008 fiscal year, before the recession stifled donations.

The figures come from the council's annual "Voluntary Support of Education" survey, which tallies giving by individuals as well as by companies and foundations. A report on the survey, which comprises responses from 1,048 institutions, is a closely watched barometer of philanthropy because it counts only gifts that have been received, not simply pledged, during the fiscal year.

"This year's giving increased in large part due to the rebounding in the stock market," said Ann E. Kaplan, director of the survey.

The positive news echoed January's report that college endowments had returned an average of 11.7 percent in 2013, also based largely on the strong performance of the stock market. The four major stock indexes—Standard & Poor's 500, the New York Stock Exchange Composite, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and the Nasdaq Composite—increased by double-digit
percentages between the first and last days of the academic fiscal year (from July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, with a handful of exceptions).

Bruce W. Flessner, a fund-raising consultant with Bentz Whaley Flessner, said that academe is uniquely situated to benefit from a surging stock market. "Unlike the rest of the philanthropic pie, higher education is the most dependent on big gifts, and therefore a bull market is good for us," he said.

Alumni Give More

Nearly 60 percent of the survey respondents reported increases in giving over a year earlier. Foundations gave $10-billion of the nearly $34-billion total, followed by $9-billion from alumni, $6.2-billion from nonalumni individuals, and $5.1-billion from corporations. Foundation giving was up by more than 9 percent, while corporate giving dropped by nearly 3 percent, the only source to contribute less than a year earlier.

The largest growth by source was in total gifts by alumni, which increased by $1.3-billion, nearly 17 percent more than a year earlier. Yet the rate of alumni participation dropped by half a percentage point, to 8.7 percent. That rate is determined by dividing the number of alumni donors by the number of "alumni of record," or those whom an institution is able to contact.

Alumni participation has been on a steady decline for the past quarter century, Ms. Kaplan said, partly because even when more alumni are giving, technology has made it easier for colleges to stay in touch with their graduates, which results in a larger pool of "alumni of record." In addition, the average gift per contributing alumnus increased by 18.1 percent.

A rise of more than 12 percent in capital-purpose gifts, which tend to be major gifts, fueled the $2.8-billion increase in total contributions to colleges, Ms. Kaplan said. Three institutions—Columbia University, Stanford University, and the University of Southern California—reported receiving nine-figure gifts.

The Voluntary Support of Education survey lands a week after the philanthropic-consulting firm Marts & Lundy issued a report proclaiming that last year marked the return of major-gift contributions to academe. "Support by the very rich for all types of nonprofit organizations, but especially for higher education, has come roaring back," says the report,"2013 Giving to Higher

"Higher education remains the principal generator of the 'big ideas' that lead to big gifts," the Marts & Lundy report asserts.

Donald M. Fellows, president of the firm, said that landing a major gift requires persuading the prospect of its impact. "That's why you see almost all these mega-gifts going to colleges and universities and into medicine," he said. Often the biggest challenge is getting institutions to think at that scale, Mr. Fellows said.

"Donors usually get excited about something that's pretty big," he said. "If they're going to make a $25-million, $50-million, $100-million gift, they want to change the world in some way."

The fund-raising success of 2013 is no guarantee that this year will end as positively. Indeed, Ms. Kaplan said, the "lackluster" 2.3-percent increase of 2012 eased the way for the gains of 2013. "I'm not expecting it to go through the roof next year," she said.

But she is optimistic, given the performance of the economy and the stock market. "We're not in a recession," Ms. Kaplan said, "and so far there isn't a drop in the stock market. If both of those things are true, giving usually goes up."

The full "Voluntary Support of Education" report will be published this spring and can be ordered online.

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Bill Nye to speak at Life Sciences & Society Symposium at MU

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 | 5:04 p.m. CST; updated 6:57 p.m. CST, Tuesday, February 11, 2014

BY THOMAS DIXON
COLUMBIA — **Consider the following:** Scientist and educator Bill Nye will lecture for free at 10 a.m. March 15 in Jesse Auditorium.

**Nye will speak on the hows and whys of communicating with the public about science as part of the annual weeklong Life Sciences & Society Symposium. According to the Life Sciences & Society Program's website, the symposium's theme this year is "Decoding Science," focusing on how the scientist-public dialogue can be improved.**

"Scientists have not been very good about explaining to the taxpayers what their work means," Jack Schultz, director of the Life Sciences Center and program director for the symposium, said. "Data don't really speak for themselves. We're confronting an awful lot of fairly major problems like climate change ... and scientists would like to have a voice, but so far their voice has been too difficult to understand."

Karla Carter, executive assistant to the director, said they're hoping the Q-and-A section of the lecture will run about 45 minutes, as opposed to the normally allotted time of 20 minutes.

Carter said tickets will probably be available Feb. 21 at the campus events box office and the Missouri Theatre; 1,780 tickets will be available, with a limit of four tickets per person.

Nye made his name simplifying complex scientific concepts for millions on "Bill Nye the Science Guy" and has continued his educational crusade by lecturing across the country. Most recently, Nye made headlines in his [debate with creationist Ken Ham](https://www.billnye.com/debate-with-creationist-ken-ham/). Schultz said he hopes Nye's visit and the rest of the symposium will be the beginning of stronger communication between scientists and the public.

"We're hoping to make this topic a visible thing ongoing," Schultz said. "What we're trying to figure out is how to explain what we're doing here a little better, and if we can do that and make it entertaining, we're hoping this will turn into a real dialogue between the public and scientists."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
FROM READERS: Transferring from community college to MU can be challenging, but it's worth it

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST

BY CT SOUDER/MISSOURIAN READER

Missourian reader CT Souder transferred from Moberly Area Community College to MU during the spring of 2014. Souder, 23, studies communication.

In May I will be completing my Associates Degree from Moberly Area Community College (MACC), and will essentially be half-way complete with a bachelor’s program now that I have transferred to the University of Missouri. There are many benefits in getting an Associate of Arts degree (AA), one of which is the fact that more often than not, MU accepts transfer students with AA degrees with relative ease in terms of transfer credit. I would caution transfer students to be proactive in confirming between the two institutions what will transfer and what won’t, because occasionally the university will not accept a specific course as a transferable. Another benefit in one getting an AA degree is that if you happen to have received a low test score on an ACT exam, smaller schools such as MACC, will often still accept you whereas MU won’t. For students who find themselves in this situation it becomes imperative for them to attend a smaller institution and then transfer to a larger four-year school because the larger schools will only accept these students if they are transferring from another institution as opposed to only basing their acceptance on the merit of an ACT score.

In addition to the preceding benefits of going to a community college, the starkest contrast by far between these two kinds of schools is found in the cost of tuition. Community colleges are almost always less expensive than four-year institutions, and in the case of MACC, this no different. Regardless of how a student pays for their tuition (out of pocket, mom and dad, Federal aid etc.) it can be cheaper to do it at MACC. In my view, students who are serious about receiving a Bachelor’s Degree but want to do so in a way that limits the debt they take on in the process, really should consider the route of
someplace such as MACC. If you are smart about how you take courses, you stand to possibly make it half-way through a bachelor’s program without incurring any school-related debt.

Having now transferred to the University of Missouri I’m beginning to notice the differences between schools. The resources available to MU students far exceed that of MACC and most community colleges. Firstly, the bureaucracy at MU is more efficient and the staff more knowledgeable. It is interesting that a school with such a large student body can manage to utilize such an effective bureaucracy. Secondly, the library and online materials available to MU students far exceeds what you’ll find at a smaller school. MACC’s Columbia campus has no library to speak of and what you’ll find on the Moberly campus is dwarfed by the resources at Ellis Library. Thirdly, MU clearly has a larger student body with more diversity, something I very much enjoy. Added to the student body population is the opportunity for social interaction amongst students outside of class. There is nothing like this at MACC. Lastly, the resources available for student health are excellent compared to the non-existent student health programs at smaller institutions.

Another contrast between the schools can be found in the academics themselves. Classes at MU are definitely harder. This is a double-edged sword because on the one hand, it is refreshing to be challenged and forced to grow academically. On the other hand, I sympathize with students who struggle in, say, mathematics and science, and have the misfortune of being stuck in some lecture hall with hundreds of students and a professor, who isn't always guaranteed to coherently teach in English. At the community college, you will almost always find the professors are local and easily approachable. Usually they are able to interact with students in a far less formal setting. This can be especially helpful when you take those same students who struggle with math and put them in a classroom with perhaps only thirty students, and a professor who knows you by your name and is more aware of who is keeping up in class along with who is struggling.

As far as challenges, at this point the most frustrating obstacle has been cooperation between the community college and the university. While the university is pretty much black and white in what it is willing to accept in terms of transfer credits/degrees, the community college can be difficult to work with when it comes to financial aid and consortium agreements. They (the community college) drag their feet and can make the transition more cumbersome than it needs to be.
My first week went really well, albeit it is a big adjustment when it comes to transportation and the level of communication between students and professors. I would say that my stress level is running a little higher than normal simply for the fact that I'm in a new environment, and it can take some getting used to the change in institution. Overall I would strongly recommend that students seeking a Bachelor’s Degree begin their journey at a community college, but once they transfer to MU or a larger institution, the changes will not be disappointing.

This story is part of a section of the Missourian called From Readers, which is dedicated to your voices and your stories. We hope you'll consider sharing. Here's how. Supervising editor is Joy Mayer.

Drone use highlights questions for journalists
AP 11:34 a.m. EST February 11, 2014

MU Mention Page 2
The FAA is developing new rules as the technology makes drones far more versatile

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) -- As police responded to a deadly car crash, they noticed an increasingly familiar sight: a remote-controlled aircraft, equipped with a video camera, hovering over the wreckage.
The Federal Aviation Administration has opened an investigation of the drone, which was used by an on-call employee for a Connecticut television station. The FAA is developing new rules as the technology makes drones far more versatile, but for now operators can run afoul of regulations by using them for commercial purposes, including journalism.

The case of the Hartford crash, in which the victim's body was left hanging out of a mangled car, highlights some of the safety, privacy and ethical issues that journalists will wrestle with as interest grows in using drones for newsgathering.

"Here was a dead body still on the scene. We had covered it the best we could," said Lt. Brian Foley, a Hartford police spokesman, who said drones have been appearing more frequently at crime scenes. "You don't want the family to see that."

Hartford officers questioned the man operating the drone on Feb. 1 but did not ask him to take it down, Foley said. The man identified himself as an employee of WFSB-TV but said he was not working for them that day.

The station's general manager, Klarn DePalma, said it constantly evaluates new technology and is eager to see regulations spelled out for drones, but he said the temporary employee in question was not on assignment for them and has never been paid for drone video.

"We don't even own a drone," he said.

Aerial drones, long associated with the military, increasingly have been adapted for civilian use. They have been deployed widely to document the scale of disasters and, at the Sochi Olympics, they are being used to help broadcast the events.

**TECH NOW: A drone for every home?**

Media outside the United States have been using drones in news coverage, including news organizations in Thailand covering political protests in Bangkok over the past three months.

In the U.S., the FAA said Monday that it has issued 12 warning letters to drone operators, which can include orders to stop operations. It said in a statement that its investigations are intended to determine whether operators violated FAA safety regulations.

A law passed by Congress two years ago requires the FAA to integrate unmanned aircraft of all sizes into the domestic airspace by late 2015, but it's clear the agency won't meet that deadline. The FAA has been working for more than four years on regulations to permit
small drones - those weighing less than 55 pounds - to be used for commercial purposes, but it has missed deadline after deadline for proposing those regulations.

Last month, the FAA again moved back the date it expects to propose those regulations to November of this year. Even then, it will be just a proposal. It takes months and often years before proposed regulations become final.

The FAA is tackling small drones that are flown under about 400 feet - below where most manned aircraft fly - first because they’re the easiest. Regulations to permit commercial use of larger drones are even further behind.

Drones hold appeal for journalists because they would allow new perspectives and access, particularly in areas that are not reachable by helicopter or could pose dangers to people. New models can cost as little as $500. But regulators have to weigh free-speech considerations against concerns for safety and invasion of privacy.

**A small handful of media organizations have received warning letters since 2011, when an iPad newspaper owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp. was flagged for using a drone to film tornado damage around the country, according to Matt Waite, a journalism professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Last July, the journalism schools at Nebraska and the University of Missouri-Columbia were ordered to stop flying drones outdoors until they obtain government authorization.**

Waite, who founded the university's Drone Journalism Lab in 2011, said that once permission for commercial drone use is granted, journalists will need to consider psychological distress that a dozen or more drones buzzing overhead could cause people who become targets of media attention. Another issue, he said, will be the safety risks in deploying devices, each weighing several pounds, with rapidly spinning blades.

"What is a permitted risk? What is a responsible risk? Those two may be two different things," Waite said.

Waite said film companies also use drones extensively on closed sets, but because the work of journalism is so public, it stands to face more government scrutiny.

"This is why you're going to see journalists getting in more trouble," he said. "As a journalist, what's the point of going to the trouble and getting pictures if you're not going to publish?"
Farm profits will fall as a five-year crop boom ends

February 11

BY ALAN BJERGA
Bloomberg News

A waning boom in U.S. crop prices will cut annual farm profits 27 percent this year from a record, potentially denting demand for Deere & Co. tractors and Monsanto chemicals, the government said.

Agricultural net income will be $95.8 billion, down from a revised $130.5 billion last year, the Department of Agriculture said Tuesday in its first 2014 forecast. Income for major crops such as corn, soybeans and wheat will be $189.4 billion, down 12 percent. Expenses for feed, chemicals and other items will be $348.2 billion, down 11 percent.

Flat demand for corn to make ethanol and fewer exports to China may halt gains in farmland values after a 37 percent jump since 2009, leaving farmers with less to invest. The farm law President Barack Obama signed last week also will cut government spending on agriculture, further eroding profit.

Government subsidies to agriculture will be $6.1 billion, down 45 percent from last year. The farm bill, hailed by farmer groups as a way to better target aid toward producers during times when they need it, probably won’t add much to profit this year, said Patrick Westhoff, an agricultural economist at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The law ends a $5 billion annual crop subsidy and relies on subsidized federal crop insurance to guard against floods, drought, pests and other risks.

“We’re looking at an era of about three, four, five years of reduced profitability in agriculture,” said Matthew Roberts, an economist at Ohio State University in Columbus. Without substantial disruptions to crop production, “by 2015, 2016, farms that expanded very rapidly over the last few years could be vulnerable, and we would see the first significant farm failures.”

The slump in the value of U.S. crops will erode prosperity in Corn Belt states, harming rural business and, if sustained, may lead to a wave of farm failures for the first time in a generation, Roberts said.
In November, the department had estimated 2013 profit at a record $131 billion, the most since 1973 when adjusted for inflation. About 2.6 million people worked on farms in 2012, according to the USDA, with 13.9 million others in food-related industries. The combined total equals 9.2 percent of the total U.S. workforce.

For 2014, livestock producers’ revenue will be $183.4 billion, up 0.7 percent from last year. Among farm expenses, animal feed, the biggest single cost, will be $52.1 billion, down 1 percent from 2013 because of the lower cost of corn. Seeds will cost $21.6 billion, up 1.5 percent.

Futures for corn, the most valuable U.S. crop, sold on the Chicago Board of Trade slumped 40 percent in 2013, the most since at least 1960, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Soybeans, the No. 2 crop, fell 8.3 percent and wheat plunged 22 percent.

Archer Daniels Midland Co. said lower corn prices prompt farmers to hold their crop, reducing profit because the company has less to ship, chief operating officer Juan Ricardo Luciano said in a conference call last week.

Lower prices may cut tractor and combine production as much as 10 percent this quarter at Agco Corp., maker of Massey Ferguson products, chief executive officer Martin Richenhagen said last week.

U.S. loans for farm machinery are at a two-year low, the Kansas City Federal Reserve said last month. Lower crop prices will make farmland less attractive to investors and discourage farmers from seeking financing, which may hurt purchases throughout rural areas, Nathan Kauffman, an economist with the Kansas City Fed, said in an interview last week.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2014/02/11/4815709/farm-profits-will-fall-as-a-five.html#storylink=cpy

Evan Scholarships make dreams come true for Ciaramitaro, group of St. Louisans

By Dan O'Neill doneill@post-dispatch.com

If you need an example of how special the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship program can be, look no further than Nick Ciaramitaro.

A Lindbergh High senior, Ciaramitaro’s prospects of continuing his education at a major university seemed remote. His mother has struggled with health issues, his father had lost his job, and money has been extremely tight.
But Ciaramitaro has caddied at Sunset Country Club for the past four years, which allowed him to dream. Ciaramitaro was among a group of students from Missouri and Kansas who applied for the Western Golf Association's Chick Evans program – which offers a full, four-year housing and tuition college scholarship. And at Bellerive Country Club on Jan. 22, the dream came true.

**Ciaramitaro was among the 10 students selected as scholarship winners. He will begin college at the University of Missouri in Columbia in the fall.**

“I thought that my financial standing would inhibit me from attending a great college, and I simply did not want finances to get in the way of achieving the goals I set for myself,” said Ciaramitaro, who plans to study biological sciences. “It means the world to me and my family to not have to worry about my education.”

Evans Scholars are chosen based on performance records as caddies, excellent academics, financial needs and outstanding character. **The scholarship is valued at more than $70,000 over four years. Selected students can attend schools where the Evans Scholarship Foundation owns and operates an Evans Scholarship House, which includes Mizzou.**

The Bellerive meeting was the ninth of more than a dozen the Western Golf Association will hold across the country through March, with more scholarships to be awarded. Headquartered in Golf, Ill., the WGA has administered the Chick Evans Scholarship Program through the Evans Scholars Foundation since 1930. It is among the nation’s largest privately funded scholarship programs.

More than 9,800 caddies, including 442 from Missouri, have graduated as Evans Scholars since the program was founded by Chicago amateur golfer Charles “Chick” Evans Jr.

“These hard-working young men and women have personified sacrifice and dedication in the classroom, on the golf course and in their communities,” said Pat Reilly, lead WGA Director in Missouri and a Missouri Evans Alum. “They are more than deserving of this life-changing opportunity, and we look forward to watching them grow over the next four years.”

In addition to Ciaramitaro, here are the other Evans scholarship recipients announced at Bellerive, along with their high schools and club affiliations.

Andrew Acree (Chaminade, Algonquin), Nathan Talbott (Parkway West, Bellerive), Daniel Feinberg (Parkway South, Forest Hills), Kaitlin Nokes (Fort Zumwalt, Lake Forest), Nicholas Wojciechowski (Vianney, Westwood), Patrick Guilfoy (Kirkwood, Old Warson), Claire Gartland (Eureka, St. Louis), Robert Sieckhaus (Mehlville, Sunset) Daniel Reilly, (St. James Academy in Kansas, Indian Hills Country Club).

A tip of the Bogeyman cap to all and their proud parents.