SOURCES: Steward leaving seat on UM System Board of Curators

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – **David Steward, the only African-American on the University of Missouri System Board of Curators is leaving his position with the embattled university system.**

Steward, a devoted supporter of former university system president Tim Wolfe, was appointed to the University of Missouri Board of Curators in 2011 by Gov. Jay Nixon. His term was set to expire on January 1, 2017.

Last week an email from Wolfe was made public listing a long account of failures at the university and several of his opponents as the cause for those problems. He asked alumni to pressure the university to provide him with a larger severance package as a means of healing the college.

Steward is chairman and founder of World Wide Technology in St. Louis, a systems integrator which provides technology products, services and supply chain solutions to customers around the globe.

Previously, Steward was president and owner of Transport Administrative Services and Transportation Business Specialists in St. Louis and has held various senior-level management and sales/marketing positions with Federal Express Corporation, Missouri Pacific Railroad and Wagner Electric.

Steward received a bachelor’s degree in business from Central Missouri State in Warrensburg, Mo., and honorary doctorates in humane letters from Harris Stowe State College and Lindenwood University.

The resignation leaves three open spots on the board.

**Opinion:**
MU: How bad is it going to get?

By BOB ROPER

Sunday, January 31, 2016 at 12:00 am

For more than 150 years, the University of Missouri built its reputation as an excellent teaching and research university, including membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities, or AAU. That’s where things stood on Jan. 1, 2015.

Here is where things stood on Dec. 31, 2015:

- A great many Americans view MU as a systemically racist campus.
- A great many Americans view MU as a laughingstock.
- A great many Americans no longer believe Truman the Tiger is the face of Mizzou. That honor now goes to Assistant Professor Melissa Click.

How we got to this state of affairs is a long, sad tale. Here are some of the details:

- Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin required the resignation of Hal Williamson from his post as a respected supervisor — and referee — of the medical school dean and the executive director of MU Health. A consultant later said that was a mistake, so Williamson, formerly retired, is now back and “unretired.”
- Loftin required the resignation of medical school Dean Patrice Delafontaine. He offered no explanation, and many people were upset.
- MU’s graduate teaching assistants, who already had other legitimate concerns about their treatment, were informed that in fewer than 24 hours they would lose their health insurance. Try telling that to a female graduate student due to give birth in a week — this actually happened. This was, of course, soon reversed, thanks to an immediate outcry and intense press coverage. Graduate students are now probably going to join a union to protect themselves.
- Then there is the Concerned Student 1950 movement, which began MU’s negative publicity on a national scale. Comprising a mix of students, both black and white, sincerely angry about the racial climate on the campus and reportedly some professional outside agitators, it caught the administration 100 percent flat-footed. This is odd, considering the Ferguson riots had occurred just up the road a year earlier. The target was President Tim Wolfe, not Chancellor Loftin — in part, probably, because he appeared to them not to be taking their racial concerns seriously enough. He was faulted for that after not engaging with the protesters during their disruption of a downtown parade in October.

Having read the statements and testimonies of many current and former black students, I believe the racial climate at MU has been a problem for a long time.

The common theme is that black students are called racist names and endure other insults regularly. A complaint is made to someone in the administration, and nothing happens. Ever. If
this happened to you, would your anger build to the point that you would support Concerned Student 1950 and its leader, hunger striker Jonathan Butler? Probably so. This group was camping on public property without a permit — i.e., trespassing — and, yes, some of their demands were absurd, but still. ...

Is MU a systemically racist place? No. But by not taking legitimate individual racial complaints seriously over time, it is partly to blame for being called that.

- A byproduct of Concerned Student 1950 was the on-camera efforts by Assistant Professor Click and Associate Director of Student Life Janna Basler to deny First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly to, of all people, a student photographer in the MU School of Journalism. Who can forget the video of Click screaming “I need some muscle over here!” to remove those pesky reporters? She has been charged with misdemeanor assault.
- All of this prompted Republican legislators to sign a letter urging that Click be fired forthwith, claiming this is what angry constituents throughout the state are most upset about. Rising in high dudgeon, more than 100 faculty members countered with a letter of their own, decrying the interference by the elected solons. It is hard to imagine how this counter-letter could be helpful to Click or the university.
- During this period it was disclosed that 51 percent of tenured faculty are not teaching at present, thanks to waivers to conduct research. Fair enough, as long as the justification is clearly appropriate. Still, it appears MU’s 51 percent is higher than the average compared to other institutions, which is hardly good news when legislators are already skeptical of what is going on.
- As much as one would prefer not to mention it, there is the Planned Parenthood matter. No matter what one’s views are on Planned Parenthood and abortion, it is always wise to remember the issue is radioactive to many Missourians and to a large majority of state legislators and senators. Thus, when it was discovered Loftin brought both back into MU, a lot of powerful people who could hurt the university were unhappy — one more big thorn in Mizzou’s side.
- To complete this strange tale, we saw the Alice in Wonderland story of our football team unfold. Several players, in support of the Concerned Student 1950 movement, announced they would not play their next game unless President Wolfe resigned or was fired. Rather than tell them they were scholarship players and could not do that, or that the rest of the team would play without them, or that they would be dismissed from the team and lose their scholarships if they did not play, Coach Gary Pinkel, joined by Athletic Director Mack Rhoades, actually supported the players instead of Wolfe, their boss.
- Shortly after that, Wolfe abruptly resigned, for what he deemed to be the good of the university, and Loftin was essentially fired later that day. Loftin has a great golden parachute. Pinkel will now be a “goodwill ambassador” for the program for three years, with total compensation amounting to $950,000.

Bob Roper is a retired bank executive and conservative commentator.
EDITORIAL: This is not the time to cut financial support for Mo. universities

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH, 1 hr ago

Study after study shows the financial benefits of a college education. Employers must have an educated local talent pool to draw from. If not, they’ll go elsewhere.

Politicians love to talk about the “knowledge economy” and the “21st century workforce.”

And yet nationally, college enrollment has actually declined for the last four years. Private, for-profit colleges are taking a beating because some of them have been shown to be debt factories.

Most elite universities aren’t having a problem, but some public universities are. And the problem is particularly acute at two-year colleges, which are the most financially accessible. Experts are baffled by the problem.

Some point to flatlining in the 18-to-24-year-old population. The Census Bureau expects the number of traditional college-age Americans to stay level for at least 10 years.

Some point out that college costs have risen dramatically while most states have cut assistance to public universities. There are too many anecdotes about college graduates being unable to find work in professions that they may have racked up $100,000 in debt to prepare for.

Any pro-business legislator must understand that a failure to properly fund public universities and colleges is a formula for investment disaster. This is not the time to cut back.

As more jobs are becoming available, even those that aren’t necessarily career-track jobs, many would-be students are choosing reliable employment over classrooms. They must not be frightened off by the rising costs of higher education.
The Pew Research Centers reported two years ago that, “On virtually every measure of economic well-being and career attainment — from personal earnings to job satisfaction to the share employed full time — young college graduates are outperforming their peers with less education.”

The annual earnings gap between someone with a bachelor’s degree (median income $45,500) and someone with a high-school diploma (median $28,000) has never been greater, the study said. A four-year degree is key; those with some college or a two-year associate’s degree earn a median of $30,000.

Even so, the trend is in the wrong direction. The Post-Dispatch’s Koran Addo reported last fall that at the four campuses of the St. Louis Community College system, enrollment has been down in 22 of the last 25 years. Those two-year schools have long been a feeder system for the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Last fall, UMSL was expecting a 2 percent enrollment increase; it got a 4 percent decline instead and now has a $15 million hole in its budget. At the University of Missouri-Columbia, enrollment is down by 5 percent and there’s a $25 million budget gap.

The entire business model of American higher education may be threatened. The idea that growth was inevitable has proved to be a fallacy.

But state and federal governments must never give students the impression that higher education doesn’t rank as a worthy investment.

Which is why they must set the example by investing financially so the quest for students doesn’t become an unobtainable pipe dream.
Opinion: As Embarrassments Pile Up, Mizzou Continues Its Downward Spiral

As a poet once said, you don’t know what you got ’til it’s gone, and that sentiment is pretty relevant right now to the University of Missouri-Columbia and its credibility as a steward of tax dollars. Since I wrote about the university’s woes late last year, Mizzou has gone through one nightmare news cycle after another — and it only has its self to blame.

For one, faculty and students at the university should probably be more judicious with how they deal with the folks who fund them. Late last year over a hundred elected state representatives demanded the dismissal of Melissa Click, the Mizzou professor who called in “some muscle” against a student during last year’s campus protests. Those officials represent the people who give the school hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Whether Click was dismissed or not, their viewpoint should have been accepted for what it was, given its import.

That didn’t happen. In response to the People’s representatives, faculty members issued a letter of their own: supporting Click, her “outstanding record of teaching and research” and poo-pooing the commentary of outside groups “with agendas external to that of the University.” Setting aside her peers’ apparent support of her Twilight, Thomas the Tank Engine and Martha Stewart studies, the idea that these professors thought this response would be a net benefit to themselves and Click is baffling in its ignorance. Rule one in running from a bear (an animal that also happens to be emblazoned on Missouri’s seal) is don’t stop to poke it.

But not to be outdone, protesters with Mizzou’s Concerned Student 1950 group issued a statement of their own on Click. A sampling:

One would think that society has learned from its evil past. However, those who wish to perpetuate oppression would rather utilize power and influence to label Click as a ‘criminal’ instead of dismantling white supremacist patriarchal capitalism within the University of Missouri system.

So, yeah.

Er, did I mention Melissa Click was charged with assault?

Click was charged with assault. Interestingly in a news dump this past Friday, we found out she won’t be prosecuted if she essentially keeps her nose clean for the next year. For now it looks like Click will remain on paid leave.

And speaking of getting paid, last week we also found out that in a letter to his former colleagues, former university system president Tim Wolfe indicated he is not very happy with the state of his severance
package. Perhaps Wolfe should be thankful instead; if his severance package was pegged to the level of his leadership during the protests, he’d owe the university money.

Importantly, though, Wolfe notes in his letter that thanks to the protests, “the threatened loss of state funding [to the school] could be as much as $500 million.” Although I would not bet on a straight-up defund by the Missouri legislature (it’s possible, but a significant budgetary haircut appears more likely,) it seems that Wolfe may be among only a handful of players in Mizzou’s saga that appreciates the gravity of the university’s situation.

Rather than accommodate the concerns of taxpayers, faculty and students at Mizzou appear prepared to test the idea that the university can do as it pleases without consequence from the real world. Unfortunately for them, that’s a bet on a bubble — and apparently from inside a bubble.

MISSOURIAN

DEAR READER: Not much is in equilibrium at MU

TOM WARHOVER, Jan 30, 2016

Dear Reader,

The Missourian covers the entire Columbia community, not just the MU campus. Really. It just doesn’t seem that way on some days. The U keeps making news.

I walked out of the newsroom about 6:15 Wednesday evening thinking, "Whew, what a day." That morning, we chased the revelations and accusations of the now ex-president of the UM System as he laid a scorched-earth strategy of contract negotiations. In the afternoon, MU’s interim chancellor, Hank Foley, gave a major pay increase to graduate student workers, even as they push to create a union on campus.

All old news by 6:45 p.m., when higher education editor Liz Brixey called to say a UM curator had resigned and the most nationally well-known professor at MU, Melissa Click, had been suspended.
Thursday morning, editor John Schneller leaned over to me and said, “I’m trying to find anything that’s not about the university.”

Still, this is a company town, and the company product is higher education.

It’s the second week of the semester, and the Missourian’s reporting students still have a bit of that glassy-eyed look you see when a storm is about to break right on top of you. So it’s good to have a “veteran” team to call on.

We’re lucky that two higher ed reporting stalwarts of last semester, Kasia Kovacs and Emma Vandelinder, have returned to continue covering the ongoing controversies at MU. They were on hand Wednesday, along with several of our more experienced reporters.

In January, I expected Kovacs, Vandelinder and reporters Daniel Christian and Aaron Reiss to have the luxury to produce a steady stream of enterprise articles around race and diversity. Yet here they were Wednesday doing what they did last year: scramble as big news hit.

Chancellor Foley had an explanation for the continued stream of controversy on campus: punctuated equilibrium. That’s a theory of evolution that says species stay pretty much the same for a long time and then — wham! — rapid change occurs.

A lot of folks are looking for equilibrium to re-establish itself at MU. I see a lot more punctuating happening ahead.

Foley’s is as good a theory as any. I’m sticking with the more lowbrow theory made popular by the character Howard Beale in the 1976 film “Network”:

People who are tired of being ignored and marginalized have said they’re as mad as hell and aren’t going to take it anymore.
Curators' vote on Melissa Click could spark more action, Concerned Student 1950 warns

By Rudi Keller

Friday, January 29, 2016 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators succumbed to “social and political violence” against Assistant Professor Melissa Click when it voted Wednesday to suspend her, the Concerned Student 1950 group wrote in a statement issued in response to the vote.

The statement, posted on the group’s Twitter account Thursday, accused the university of ignoring Concerned Student 1950’s demands for addressing racism on campus. The statement warned that the group will use “any means necessary” to see its demands are met.

Senior Black Studies student DeShaunya Ware, when asked if that means a renewal of campus protests, would not be specific about the group’s plans.

“I think that you just have to keep your eyes open to the campus,” Ware said.

Click, a faculty member in the Department of Communication, was suspended with pay after misdemeanor assault charges were filed against her Monday in Columbia Municipal Court. She was charged for actions captured on a video that went viral, in which she ordered a photographer to leave the protest site and called for “muscle” to push reporters away. City prosecutor Steve Richey said Friday that he reached a deal with Click that will allow her to avoid prosecution.

In December, 99 Republican members of the Missouri House and 18 GOP members of the state Senate sent letters demanding Click be fired for her “inappropriate and criminal actions.”

“Those who wish to perpetuate oppression would rather utilize power and influence to label Click as a ‘criminal’ instead of dismantling white supremacist patriarchal capitalism within the University of Missouri system,” Concerned Student 1950 wrote.

The university has taken several steps to meet the students’ demands, including diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives approved by the curators in November, system spokesman John Fougere wrote in an email. A search is underway for a chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the system and each campus has an officer in place for those issues, he wrote.
The curators also established a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force that will seek input from students and will be followed up by campus-level task forces, Fougere wrote.

Click’s actions occurred Nov. 9, after Concerned Student 1950 had achieved one of its demands: the resignation of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe. The resignation ended a hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler and a boycott of athletic activities by the Tigers football team.

On Monday, after charges were filed against Click, state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia and several other Republicans criticized interim Columbia campus Chancellor Hank Foley’s decision to allow Click to continue teaching while the charges were pending.

Black lawmakers, however, called the criticism of Click a distraction intended to soothe white resentment about the outcome of the protests.

The curators’ actions are also being criticized by the MU Faculty Council and the American Association of University Professors.

The Faculty Council, in a statement from the executive committee, accused the curators of acting outside the established rules governing faculty discipline.

Foley, who said Monday that Click’s actions Nov. 9 would be reviewed as part of her tenure consideration, should be trusted to complete that review, council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said.

“I would say one of the reasons we have these processes in place in advance is precisely because hard cases, controversial cases sometimes arise,” Trachtenberg said.

Click has apologized, been admonished by the provost for her actions and subjected to “threats of death and rape sent to her University email account and made by telephone,” the faculty council’s executive committee wrote in its statement. Faculty opinion is split over her future, but “at least some faculty concluded that no additional University proceedings were necessary, believing that the reprimand and public opprobrium which Professor Click has suffered constituted more than sufficient punishment.”

Association spokeswoman Laura Markwardt wrote in an email to the Tribune that the vote “appears to disregard university policies in the faculty handbook as well as AAUP procedures and raises concern.”

The association procedures recommend suspension only when a faculty member poses a threat of immediate harm to others. The curators’ statement did not say that was a concern and Foley said he did not believe Click posed a danger during his Monday news conference, Markwardt wrote.

Curators Chairwoman Pam Henrickson did not respond to a call or email seeking comment.
The university’s claims that it has acted to meet student protesters’ demands are not backed up by actions, Ware said. Interim President Mike Middleton, who met with Concerned Student 1950 several times before his selection to replace Wolfe, has not met with them since, she said.

In addition, no curators have met with the group, she said.

“If we are just going to put a person in the position, put a token in the position to appease the students, that won’t stop the rest of our demands,” she said.

Middleton was not available by the Tribune’s deadline.

At a news conference Monday, Missouri Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin, said he had not read the Concerned Student 1950 demands but would be willing to meet with representatives of the group. The students have met with lawmakers, but not Richard, Ware said.

“We are absolutely open to having that conversation and engaging in the dialogue with him,” Ware said.

UM System considers cuts to retiree benefits

Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 12:00 am

**The University of Missouri System is considering cuts to retiree benefits for many of its employees because officials say the retiree insurance costs are “unsustainable.”**

Interim UM System President Mike Middleton released a video Friday in which he says the system’s retiree insurance costs are escalating rapidly and that “the current program is unsustainable into the future.” Middleton said UM officials are considering changes to insurance benefits that were suggested by an advisory committee.

The committee’s report, which was released in January 2016, suggests maintaining benefits for current retirees and their dependents but attempting to find lower-cost insurance plans. The report also stipulates eligibility requirements for current employees to receive benefits. Employees would have to meet all three criteria:

- Employees must have at least five years of service by Jan. 1, 2018.
- Employee must be at least 60 years old upon their retirement date.
- Employees must have at least 20 years of service to the UM system upon their retirement date.
Additional criteria would determine how much of a subsidy those employees might receive.

University officials will present the recommended retiree benefit changes to the UM System Board of Curators, Middleton said, as well as hold forums in February and March to discuss the changes. No changes will be made to the benefits system until after the forums, Middleton said.

University of Missouri to increase stipends for some students

The University of Missouri-Columbia will increase the minimum stipend for some graduate assistants from the current $12,000 to $15,000 this summer and to $18,000 in summer 2017.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced the change this week.

The increase applies only to those who currently earn the minimum amount. Individual departments have discretion to increase stipend amounts for student-employees who already make more than the minimum.

Graduate assistants are students pursuing doctoral degrees who also teach classes, grade papers and conduct research. Recently they’ve spoken out about what they describe as a gradual erosion of benefits.

They were stripped of their health insurance subsidies earlier this year before getting them back after a loud public outcry.

Foley called the restoration of benefits the best approach for the university at this time.
Professor Who Called for ‘Muscle’ to Remove Reporter Cuts Deal With Prosecutors

Melissa Click will be required to complete 20 hours of community service

The University of Missouri professor charged with misdemeanor assault after calling for “muscle” to remove a student journalist from a campus protest cut a deal with prosecutors on Friday.

Melissa Click, an assistant communications professor, will be required to complete 20 hours of community service as part of the agreement, according to USA Today.

Click, who was suspended from the university this week, drew national attention in November, when a viral video showed her trying to eject a student journalist from an area where protesters were gathered.

Protests broke out at the University of Missouri last year over the school’s handling of racial issues, prompting the resignation of university President Tim Wolfe in November.
A suspended University of Missouri professor charged with assault in clashes with two student journalists can avoid prosecution if she does community service and stays out of trouble for a year.

Columbia’s city prosecutor, Steve Richey, announced the agreement Friday with Melissa Click, assistant professor of communications. He said the terms were in line with how his office handled “dozens” of similar cases.

During the height of student protests over racial issues at MU, Click on Nov. 9 was videotaped calling for “some muscle” to remove the journalists from the campus quadrangle. In the deal Friday, she agreed to the year’s probation and to serve 20 hours of community service.

If tried and convicted of the third-degree assault charges, which were filed Monday, she could have faced 15 days in jail and a $300 fine.

Like the prosecutor, Click’s attorney, Christopher Slusher, said the agreement for dismissal of charges was common in cases with similar facts. He noted Click’s “public and personal apologies” and continued regret of her actions and said she “wishes to apologize again to those directly involved in the events and to the community.”

Although the agreement settles her legal status with the city, Click remains a focus for controversy. Scores of Republican lawmakers in Jefferson City have called for her firing, and the university system’s board of curators suspended her Wednesday.

That suspension was outside the university’s usual channels and drew a formal request Thursday from the MU Faculty Council that the curators follow established procedures.

The council’s committee for such matters told the curators that suspending Click and “conducting its own investigation to determine whether additional discipline is appropriate, without using the existing procedures that the board has approved, undermines confidence in the current leadership of the university.”

The committee also noted that many faculty members thought Click had been through enough, given that she had made “a heartfelt apology,” received death and rape threats after the video went viral, and been reprimanded by the university’s provost.
Videographer Mark Schierbecker, who had been Click’s target for removal along with photographer Tim Tai, told the Columbia Daily Tribune he thought the agreement to defer prosecution was “reached in a timely manner” and he hoped Click “can hold to her bargain.”

But Schierbecker, who pursued the charges, declined to say whether he thought the community service and year’s probation were appropriate punishment.

Columbia prosecutors have reached a deal with University of Missouri-Columbia assistant professor Melissa Click, in which she will avoid prosecution for a misdemeanor assault charge stemming from a November run-in with student journalists.

Click’s part of the deal requires her to complete 20 hours of community service work and not break the law for one year.

“Based on the facts of this case, I believe this disposition to be appropriate,” Columbia City Prosecutor Stephen Richey said in a news release.

The deal, he added, is in line with how his office has handled similar cases. He said it “adequately serves the interest of justice by ensuring the defendant will not engage in similar conduct.”

Click gained national attention last year after she was captured on video blocking student journalists and calling for “muscle” to keep the journalists from taking photos and videos of a campus demonstration.

Students had gathered on campus to celebrate the resignation of University of Missouri system President Timothy M. Wolfe.

Wolfe had angered students over the perception that he was indifferent to a number of racist incidents on campus.
The video prompted a strong backlash from members of the public, school officials and legislators, some of whom called for Click to be fired.

The university's Board of Curators on Wednesday suspended Click until further notice while the university's general counsel conducts an investigation to determine whether more discipline is necessary.

This week, interim Mizzou Chancellor Hank Foley resisted calls to fire Click. He said he would wait for due process to play out.

City prosecutor forgoes criminal charge against Melissa Click

ELISE SCHMELZER, Jan 29, 2016

COLUMBIA — City Prosecutor Stephen Richey has deferred prosecution of a misdemeanor assault charge against MU assistant professor Melissa Click in exchange for community service. The move comes two days after Click was suspended from her MU faculty position.

Click was recorded asking for "some muscle" to remove MU student Mark Schierbecker from Mel Carnahan Quadrangle on Nov. 9 as student protesters celebrated the resignation of former UM System President Tim Wolfe after weeks of protests on campus. She was charged in Municipal Court on Monday with misdemeanor third-degree assault in connection to the incident.

In exchange for not being prosecuted, Click has agreed to complete 20 hours of community service, to not break the law for a year and to waive her ability to use the statute of limitations in her defense should she be charged again. The charge will be dropped after a year if she meets all the terms. If she fails to meet any of the terms, the city will continue prosecution of the assault charge, according to a news release from Richey's office.
"Based on the facts of this case, I believe this disposition to be appropriate," Richey said in the release. "This disposition is in keeping with my office's handling of dozens of similar Municipal cases and adequately serves the interest of justice by ensuring the defendant will not engage in similar conduct."

Click has "accepted constructive criticisms of her actions and learned valuable lessons," Christopher Slusher, Click's attorney, said in a news release.

"She continues to regret her actions during the chaotic moments following the announcement that the hunger strike would end," Slusher said in the release. "She wishes to apologize again to those directly involved in the events and to the community."

Schierbecker said he did not participate in the decision-making process and hadn't been in contact with Richey since Jan. 10. Richey told him about the agreement in an email Friday morning, Schierbecker said.

"I think she obtained favorable terms," he said. "I'm hoping she'll learn something from the terms."

Schierbecker said he didn't plan to pursue any further legal action unless advised otherwise by his attorney.

On Wednesday, the UM System Board of Curators suspended Click pending further investigation. The city prosecutor's decision to forgo prosecution won't affect her paid suspension, UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Monday that the criminal charge would factor into Click's tenure process, which began in September and will be decided by August, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Earlier this month, 117 Republican lawmakers called for Click’s dismissal in a letter addressed to Foley, UM System Interim President Mike Middleton and the Board of Curators.
Concerned Student 1950, the group of student protesters that Click was trying to keep Schierbecker from approaching, said in a letter Thursday that MU and the UM System were using Click as a scapegoat instead of working to rectify racial injustice on campus.

Melissa Click reaches deal with city prosecutor

Click is still suspended by the Board of Curators for Concerned Student 1950 campsite incident.

Assistant communications professor Melissa Click will avoid prosecution and serve 20 hours of community service in exchange for pledging to avoid further violations of the law, according to a City of Columbia news release.

"Based on the facts of this case, I believe this disposition to be appropriate," City Prosecutor Stephen Richey said in the release. "This disposition is in keeping with my office's handling of dozens of similar municipal cases and adequately serves the interest of justice by ensuring the defendant will not engage in similar conduct."

Richey’s decision comes four days after he charged Click with third-degree assault for her actions Nov. 9 at Carnahan Quad. In a video taken and posted online by junior Mark Schierbecker, she called for “muscle” to remove him from the site.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley told reporters Monday that Click’s job was safe. However, the UM System Board of Curators suspended Click on Wednesday pending further investigation. UM System spokesman John Fougere could not be reached Friday for comment on if Click’s deal will impact the investigation.

The Executive Committee of Faculty Council said in a statement released Thursday that suspending and investigating Click without following the bylaws that the Board of Curators previously approved “undermines confidence in the current leadership of the university.”

According to the statement, the university’s Faculty Bylaws state that a person or multiple people may file “charges alleging breaches of professional ethics or commission of irresponsible acts” against MU’s faculty.

The stated provisions are designed to “protect the rights of accused faculty and protect the university’s interest in identifying and responding to faculty irresponsibility,” the statement read.

The statement addresses reasons that faculty have not brought charges upon Click.
According to the statement, Click received death and rape threats by way of phone and email in addition to “admonishment” by Provost Garnett Stokes. Some faculty who had considered bringing charges against Click chose not to because Click issued an apology.

“Some faculty concluded that no additional university proceedings were necessary, believing that the reprimand and the public opprobrium which professor Click has suffered constituted more than sufficient punishment,” the statement reads. “It appears that public confidence in the university, its administration, and its faculty would have been bolstered had a charge been filed against professor Click during the fall.”

In a separate statement sent out Thursday, Concerned Student 1950 in support of Click.

“White supremacy is on the hunt for social degradation once again,” Concerned Student 1950’s statement read. “It is unfortunate that Melissa Click has become the victim of social and political violence. Click is a white woman, professor, and ally who supported historically marginalized students at the University of Missouri during a time when students were exposing the institution for preserving racism.”

In the statement, Concerned Student 1950 accused the UM System of dedicating time to “tarnishing Click’s career instead of dismantling the oppressive RACIST social system it perpetuates.”

Genetically engineered animals could be coming to a plate near you

Tucked away in a University of Missouri research building, a family of pigs is kept upright and mostly happy by a handful of researchers. Two new litters recently joined the assembly of pudgy, snorting, pink piglets.

While they look like an ordinary collection of pigs one might find in hog barns all over the country, these animals are special. They’re genetically engineered and they are part of a new crop of GE animals with technology that could be coming soon to the food on your dinner plate.
A team of researchers from the University of Missouri and Kansas State University developed the pigs, a new breed that is resistant to an incurable disease that plagues hog barns. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRSS) can spread rapidly through swine populations and often forces hog farmers to euthanize whole barns at a time.

The research team published their findings as a commentary in the journal Nature Biotechnology in December 2015. Research was partially funded by the company that ultimately bought the rights to the technology.

“[PRSS] is a devastating disease,” said Kristin Whitworth, a research scientist at the University of Missouri who worked on the project. “It causes persistent infection. It causes abortions in pigs so they lose their litter. It causes a lot coughing and the pigs get very sick.”

Once the virus enters a pig, it spreads with the help of a protein. Whitworth and her team genetically edited the gene that makes this protein, effectively removing it.

“Once that molecule is no longer present, then the virus could not only not get inside the macrophages, but could not spread from pig to pig,” Whitworth said.

The scientists say they hope hogs produced with the gene editing technology will be on U.S. dinner tables in a matter of years. That hope rests on garnering approval for the biotech pigs from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which won’t be an easy task.

There is just one animal currently approved for marketing in the U.S. -- a salmon that has been genetically modified to grow twice as fast as wild salmon. It took decades for the company that developed the fish, AquaBounty, to gain approval. The company faces a new setback, in fact, in that the FDA issued a ruling Friday that may block its sale for years.

“Up until this point, even though the technology was developed more than 30 years ago, that’s the only thing that’s ever gotten through regulatory [procedure],” said Alison Van Eenennaam, an animal biotechnology and genomics specialist at the University of California, Davis. “And it took about 20 years and tens of millions of dollars to get it through.”

Scientists have developed genetically engineered livestock in the past and there are other genetically engineered animals in the works, from hornless cattle to hypoallergenic cows. None have yet made it to stores, largely because of the novelty of the underlying technology, which is expensive and un-tested by regulators and consumers alike.

“The animal breeding community is looking to see what the response of the regulators is going to be to this technology,” Van Eenennaam said.

There is no one-size-fits all study that will quell scientific concerns. Each animal and genetic modification is different.

“For example if you’re introducing a brand-new protein that perhaps humans don’t typically eat, is that something we’re allergic to?” asked Kevin Wells, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri who worked with the PRRS-resistant pigs and sat on the federal advisory committee on the AquaBounty salmon. “Whereas you wouldn’t necessarily have to ask that question of something we eat every day.”
The companies spending millions on this technology are also worried about consumer response, especially as genetically modified food remains a hot-button issue.

Opponents of genetic engineering in animals argue there are too many risks and too many unknowns associated with GE animals. They worry about environmental impacts and changes to human health.

Products of GE animals are not currently required by the FDA to be specially labelled, though the agency did issue draft guidelines for a voluntary labeling initiative. Sen. Barbara Murkowski of Alaska has threatened to battle the confirmation of a new FDA commissioner over the agency’s safety and labelling decisions of GE salmon.

When it comes to the PRRS-resistant pigs, researcher Whitworth says Genus, the company that purchased the technology, will do the hoop-jumping for federal approval.

“They’ll look at feed efficiency and growth and they’ll introduce the edit into their genetic lines,” she said.

And if that happens, it likely won’t be long before the pigs are in grocery stores across the country.

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Student journalists could gain more free speech protection, editorial control

COLUMBIA - Missouri could soon allow student journalists more control over what they publish, both in classes and in school-sponsored publications.

The Missouri House of Representatives will hear testimony Monday concerning the Walter Cronkite New Voices Act.

Sponsored by Rep. Elijah Haahr (R), the act states that "a student journalist is responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media".

University of Missouri Communications Law professor Sandy Davidson said the bill is not the first of its kind.
"We've seen New Voices Acts being considered across the country. It began in North Dakota last year, and about twenty states so far have at least started discussing it," Davidson said.

Davidson said while the idea of outlining student journalists' rights is certainly not limited to Missouri, the passage of such an act could positively impact the environment for student journalists in the state.

"We all may be thinking of a certain incident between a professor and a student on MU's campus," Davidson said. "This act would not necessarily prevent other confrontational situations, but the tone of the bill suggests that the legislature is standing with student journalists."

Missouri was the starting place of one of the Supreme Court's most contested decisions regarding student speech in 1988 - *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*.

The Supreme Court ruled in the *Hazelwood* case that editorial control over school-sponsored media was ultimately in the hands of school administration, not student writers.

Davidson said that while individual states cannot decrease the First Amendment right to free speech, they can grant additional free speech protection, effectively changing the *Hazelwood* decision on a statewide level.

"Eight states give students greater freedom of expression than the First Amendment. The question is, will Missouri join those states?" Davidson said.

**New bill to help stressed out medical students**

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri House of Representatives discussed a bill Thursday to help minimize stress and reduce the risk of depression in medical students.

The bill proposes medical students take an online survey to screen for symptoms of depression. The system will then report any at-risk behaviors to mental health professionals.

Suicide rates for medical students are 15-30 percent higher than the normal population, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
“Asking for help is something that should be okay and that shouldn’t be really a question or dilemma people have to go through and I think working to make that easier for people to get the access and care and assistance they need is always a good way to move,” University of Missouri medical student Drew Hensel said.

He said while he sees stress affecting his fellow students especially during test times, he doesn’t let the every day stress get to him.

“You had to do a lot to get in this medical school so I feel like I’ve been very well prepared going here for undergrad and just going through life. Yes, it will be more stressful but it won’t be anything I can’t handle,” Hensel said.

The bill is part of the “Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Act” and would establish a committee consisting of representatives from each of the medical schools in Missouri and the Director of the Department of Mental Health.

MSA President Payton Head steps back into office

Head and Vega will serve in office while the student body selects its next MSA president and vice president, who will be chosen through a special election process.

Missouri Students Association President Payton Head has been called on once more to carry the MU student body through a difficult transition. Last semester, Head was an active supporter of Concerned Student 1950 and worked diligently with students and administration to improve the campus climate.

After evidence of a compromised election was brought to light by screenshots of a GroupMe conversation between the Gomez/Hanner campaign staff, which prompted the resignation of MSA President-elect Haden Gomez, the student government was seemingly left with no leadership.

Gomez stepped down at Wednesday’s full Senate meeting. Earlier that night, former Budget Chair Bill Vega asked Head if he would consider remaining in office temporarily.

“I’m getting ready to graduate obviously,” Head said. “But at the same time I care about MSA, I care about the students and I want us to be in a much better place. I don’t want to leave MSA in a place where it’s not productive and not serving the student body like it should be.”
Head accepted, despite his concerns over responsibilities in his personal life, and was confirmed immediately following adjournment. Vega was confirmed as interim MSA vice president in an Operations committee meeting shortly after.

Head and Vega will serve for 30 days, per Article X Paragraph C of the MSA constitution, while the student body selects its next MSA president and vice president, who will be chosen through a special election process.

“All kinds of things would happen and this was the neatest, easiest way to do it where we weren’t breaking any by-laws,” former MSA Vice Presidential candidate Heather Parrie said in an interview after Senate. “We didn’t waste people’s time, but we did what we needed to do, and that’s what’s most important.”

Vega’s term as vice president overlaps with the annual MSA budgetary process. The MSA budget, which is an estimated $1.6 million of MU student fees, is allocated to MU departments and auxiliaries every spring semester.

“I was going to say no,” he said in an interview after Senate. “I wanted Payton to appoint someone else, but after tonight I realized that we need some sort of change in the association, and I feel like that’s one step that I can take personally that should shock the senate a little bit and get some new blood and new momentum.”

Head said he also hopes to do some internal re-vamping within MSA over the next 30-day interim period. He believes the election season proves there are some issues that need to be addressed within the organization.

“Today, we saw students come in with different testimonials and they were able to speak on their experience here at Mizzou and their perception of MSA,” he said. “I think it was really eye opening for senators and people involved in MSA to see the fact that you’re sitting up in these offices all day long and you say that you’re doing student advocacy and you’re doing student work but you don’t know the student body. So it’s extremely important for us to keep that in mind moving forward.”

Tax sites offer free tax help statewide
COLUMBIA - People statewide can get free tax assistance at sites across Missouri. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sites provide free tax preparation and are located in libraries, community centers and other public locations.

Assistant extension professor with the University of Missouri Extension Andrew Zumwalt said VITA sites serve the purpose of helping low-income individuals who make $54,000 or less to get their taxes done. He said the sites help community members, students, faculty, staff, and anyone who meets the criteria.

**People can bring their tax paperwork to the sites and sit down with volunteers who are MU financial planning students.**

"We evaluate the situation, we prepare the return, we review it to make sure everything's entered correctly, and we electronically file the return. If it shows direct deposit they get their refund fairly quickly," Zumwalt said.

Zumwalt said the sites are busy in February, calm down a bit in March, and then get busy again in April.

"It gets really busy again in April because people who have procrastinated or put it off, they're looking to get their taxes done," Zumwalt said.

He said tax fraud is becoming a bigger and bigger issue.

"Tax fraud is becoming a bigger and bigger issue and so we work with clients who maybe their return is rejected, somebody's already filed using their number and so we work with them to file an identity theft affidavit to show the IRS that no this person is the real taxpayer," Zumwalt said.

The VITA sites in Columbia are the Family Impact Center and Stanley Hall and the Law School Library at MU.

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**Volunteers get a jump on tax season by helping lines of KC clients**

Hundreds of people went to Union Station on Saturday looking for tax help

They got it from dozens of volunteers, some coming from a long distance
More help days are scheduled

James Carter (left) of Kansas City got free help with his taxes from Americorps volunteer Michelle Reinertson on Saturday during Community Tax Day at Union Station. Susan Pfannmuller Special to the Star

BY RICK MONTGOMERY
rmontgomery@kcstar.com

Looking for free tax preparation help, Cheryl Lewis stepped into Union Station on Saturday with her chihuahua Chuey in a tote bag.

She left with a smile.

“My refund was better here than when I’d go to professional services,” Lewis said.

“I have easy taxes — don’t own much or make a lot of money. I got tired of the others taking their $200 from me every year.”

Hundreds joined her at the Community Tax Day event, where three dozen volunteer tax preparers kicked off a season of form-filling for people of modest means.

Co-sponsored by Next Step KC, University of Missouri Extension, the United Way of Greater Kansas City and other not-for-profits, the launch day for tax assistance was met with long lines of clients waiting before the service center opened.

“We’re overwhelmed the first weeks of tax season because everyone wants their refunds as soon as possible,” said Carol Smith, United Way’s vice president of community impact.

From here, the free service leaves the station and spreads to a variety of schools, churches, community centers and other locations across the metro area. Smith said more than 7,000 area households are expected to be served before the April 18 filing deadline.

“It takes a large number of volunteers to make this happen,” she said. “I’d say at least 250 is a safe bet.”

On Saturday, they included 10 traveling members of AmeriCorps, a national civilian service program. Working with MU Extension, the army of young adults
obtained Internal Revenue Service certification to spend 12 weeks in Kansas City helping taxpayers file.

Through his training, Randall Hamilton, 23, of Ardmore, Okla., learned enough about tax law to know that some of his disabled and older clients qualified for a Missouri tax credit for renters.

He prodded at least one Kansas City client to phone his landlord and get the rental company’s tax identification number so Hamilton could complete the form. The client was happy to do so.

“I could use any credit I can get,” he said.

For those without health insurance, preparers are checking to see if they’re exempt from paying a tax penalty under terms of the Affordable Care Act, said Next Step KC board president Mario Urquilla.

Volunteers streamed into the station from all walks of life: military veterans, retired accountants, college students majoring in business.

They included Kansas City newcomers Casey and Jared Pessetto, a couple in their 20s who arrived and saw dozens of clients and their children waiting for assistance.

“We just moved here and thought to do something for our community,” said Casey Pessetto. “And to learn a little ourselves.”

For a list of area locations to obtain free tax form assistance, as well as dates and what to bring, call the United Way’s 2-1-1 help line or go to NextStepKC.org.

Student photographer from MU protests testifying in Jefferson City
COLUMBIA, Mo. - **ABC 17 New has confirmed a student photographer caught in the middle of a controversy about the MU protests last fall will testify before a state panel Monday.**

Tim Tai is going to speak in front of a House committee in Jefferson City, where they are talking about a new bill.

House Bill 2058 establishes the Cronkite New Voices Act and would protect students trying to do their jobs as journalists, without fear of censorship from teachers or staff.

On Friday city prosecutors also announced Melissa Click, one of those teachers caught in the same video, will no longer facing charges under a new deal. University leaders have also suspended her with pay.

## MISSOURIAN

**Kids go brick to brick in Lego robot competition**

**BRIANA SAUNDERS, Jan 30, 2016**

COLUMBIA — After months of practice and anticipation, two teams prepared Saturday to enter the obstacle course stage with their Lego robots, hoping to win it all.

Team The Final Elements set up its robot, Mr. Agent Pickles, at the edge of the raised platform to race against team St. Martin Short Circuits’ robot, Jaguar.

Both teams used their engineered robot and critical thinking skills to complete missions, such as sorting colored Lego blocks into different bins for recycling and putting Lego animals into their designated habitat.

Before the timer started, the crowd began to cheer: “Three, two, one, Lego!"

**The MU College of Engineering, 4-H Center for Youth Development and Missouri AfterSchool Network came together for the third year in a row to host dozens of kids ages 9**
to 14 in the FIRST Lego League competition. FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology."

The winner of Columbia’s match will get to participate in the World Festival which features winning teams from around the globe. This year, the event will be held in St. Louis.

“We’re not just about building robots, but building quality kids,” FIRST Lego League coordinator Bill Pabst said.

According to its website, FIRST Lego League is a worldwide competition that teaches kids and teens how to find solutions to scientific questions or problems, build Lego robots to perform a series of missions and learn how to work as a team.

Every year, FIRST Lego League has a different challenge that’s based on a worldwide topic or problem. This year’s challenge was focused on turning trash into treasure by using renewable resources or composting to eliminate waste.

An opening ceremony introduced the crowd in Middlebush Hall at MU to unique team names such as the Benton Destroyers, STEM Gems and NERDS (Nocturnal Explosive Rubber Duckies). Team members dressed in matching outfits, like lab coats and superhero capes.

The competition judges awarded points to each team based not only on completion of missions but also how well they demonstrated values like teamwork, inspiration and spirit.

During the interview, judges proposed a team-building challenge for the kids to complete and looked at how well they were able to communicate and work together.

“My favorite part is being able to work together and learn about robot programming,” 13-year-old Jackson Beeler said. “I really wanted to get involved with an activity after school, and I knew I liked building with Lego. So, in the end, this group was a blessing from above for me.”

This was coach Josh Ray’s first year leading the Benton Destroyers.
“One of our main goals is to introduce them to what technology and engineering can do together but also to have fun and not focus on competing against the other teams,” Ray said.

Coach Bethany Morris wanted her Queen BeeBots to have confidence and not to be afraid to enter STEM activities.

“We want to serve a population who aren’t normally introduced to robotics and include any girl interested in it,” Morris said. "I want to build their confidence and have this be a positive experience for them."

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Week: What You Need to Know About the Past 7 Days

By Lawrence Biemiller JANUARY 31, 2016

Follow the Money

So the good news is that American colleges and universities raised $40.3 billion in 2015, according to an annual report by the Council for Aid to Education. The less-good news, at least for the vast majority of colleges, is that close to a third of that haul went to only 20 institutions. Stanford alone pulled in $1.63 billion, followed by Harvard, with $1.05 billion, and the University of Southern California, with $653 million.

Meanwhile, an annual study of endowment performance turned up lackluster results for the 2015 fiscal year. The average return on investment was just 2.4 percent, a big drop from the 15.5-percent return the year before. But don’t panic yet about next year’s budget: Many colleges anticipate the vagaries of markets by basing endowment-income spending on a three-year average of investment returns, cushioning the impact of both lean and fat years.
Role Reversals

Faculty members so often think of themselves as resolute free-speech advocates that it was big news when Melissa A. Click, an assistant professor of communications at the University of Missouri at Columbia, was seen in a video shouting for "some muscle" to keep reporters away from protesters gathered on a campus quadrangle.

Ms. Click (above) was in the news again last week, when she was suspended by the university’s Board of Curators. The board’s vote came shortly after a local prosecutor charged her with misdemeanor assault for her role in the November confrontation, during which she and other supporters of a protest begun by black students sought to bar student journalists from what was being called a "media-free safe space" on the quad. The charge arose because one of the student reporters, Mark Schierbecker, had filed a municipal complaint alleging that Ms. Click had grabbed at his camera in a way that made him "fear he was in danger of immediate physical injury."

Ms. Click apologized for her actions within days of the incident. But more than 100 Republican Missouri state legislators — not necessarily the first people you’d think of as strong advocates for reporters’ rights — called on the university to fire both her and a student-affairs administrator also involved in the incident. That, in turn, prompted the release of a letter in which fellow faculty members came to Ms. Click’s defense, saying she had made "at most a regrettable mistake."

The curators, who are appointed by Missouri’s governor, ordered the university’s general counsel to investigate the incident and report back so the board "may determine whether additional discipline is appropriate."

Blame Game

The same Missouri protests, of course, led quickly to the resignation of Timothy M. Wolfe, president of the University of Missouri system, and R. Bowen Loftin, chancellor of the
Columbia campus. Last week an astonishing "confidential" letter from Mr. Wolfe turned up in *The Columbia Missourian*. In the letter, dated January 19, Mr. Wolfe complains about "specific unconscionable behaviors" that led to his being forced out and that prompt "grave concerns over the future of the university."

For instance, Mr. Wolfe says Mr. Loftin shifted protesters’ focus "to me from him once he discovered his job was in jeopardy." And when black football players joined the protest, Mr. Wolfe says, it was "the equivalent of throwing gasoline on a small fire." He adds that their coach, Gary Pinkel, "missed the opportunity to teach them a valuable life lesson" and that "the end result could be financial catastrophe for our university" because, he says, the university will lose "more than $25 million" in revenue from reduced enrollment next fall.

And speaking of assigning blame: John E. Coyne III, chair of the Board of Trustees at Mount St. Mary’s University, in Maryland, released a scorching statement late last month in the wake of a student-newspaper article alleging that the university’s president, hoping to bolster retention numbers, had sought quick dismissal of freshmen he thought weren’t ready for college. The controversy was initially inflammatory because the president, Simon P. Newman, was quoted as talking about drowning bunnies.

Mr. Coyne threw gasoline on that little fire by writing on the university’s website that the board and its lawyers had conducted "a forensic investigation" that "found incontrovertible evidence of the existence of an organized, small group of faculty and recent alums working to undermine and ultimately cause the exit of President Newman. This group’s issues are born out of a real resistance to positive change at Mount St. Mary’s." He said the investigation also found "that President Newman continues to be the right kind of talented leader to be at the vanguard of Catholic higher-education growth."
No Moose Need Apply

Lord Jeffery Amherst doesn’t get much press these days — he died in 1797 — but there he was last week in The New York Times, losing his job as Amherst College’s unofficial mascot. Lord Jeff is being retired at the insistence of students (right) taking part in a group called Amherst Uprising, who last fall began calling on the Massachusetts college to condemn "the inherent racist nature of the unofficial mascot."

Lord Jeff, the British commander who drove the French out of Canada, is now also remembered for a particularly ignoble suggestion: He recommended trying "to send the small pox among the disaffected tribes of Indians" during an uprising in the 1760s. By then Amherst, Mass., had already been named for him by a colonial governor; when the college was founded, in 1821, it took its name from the town. Students seem to have adopted Lord Jeff as a mascot "roughly a century ago," the chair of the Board of the Trustees, Cullen Murphy, said last week in a refreshingly thoughtful statement.

Mr. Murphy, an editor at large for Vanity Fair, said Lord Jeff had many defenders among alumni. But he said: "Amherst College finds itself in a position where a mascot — which, when you think about it, has only one real job, which is to unify — is driving people apart."

After what he called a "wide-ranging and intense conversation," the trustees voted to rename the college’s inn — the one official use of the Lord Jeff name — and otherwise just avoid referring to him. "This is not about political correctness; it is about present community," Mr. Murphy wrote.

Meanwhile, Yale said that the master of the residential college named for John C. Calhoun would take down three portraits of him, two in her house and one in the dining hall, and would also stop using a ceremonial cane that once belonged to him. (Calhoun, as you doubtless remember, was a defender of slavery who served as vice president under both John Quincy
Adams and Andrew Jackson.) But whether the university will rename the college, as demanded last fall by a group called Next Yale, is still up in the air.

Also up in the air, by the way, is whether Amherst should finally adopt an official mascot. "There is strong sentiment in favor of the idea," Mr. Murphy noted. A campaign in its favor notwithstanding, he added, "there is also strong sentiment that it should not be a moose."

But Wait, There’s More

North Korea arrested Otto Frederick Warmbier, a University of Virginia student visiting with a tour group, and said he was being questioned about "antistate activity." … The Federal Trade Commission sued DeVry University, alleging that the for-profit institution’s claims about graduates’ employment rates are deceptive. The company said they’re not, adding that there is "no national standard for calculating employment statistics" among colleges. …Jordan E. Kurland, longtime associate general secretary of the American Association of University Professors, died on January 23 at the age of 87. The association said Mr. Kurland, who "was a tireless champion of academic freedom" for more than 50 years.

MU holds first India Day to showcase culture and relations

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri held the first MU-India Day Saturday to highlight ties between the country and the college, and showcase Indian culture.
Surendra Gupta, the president and CEO of the American Radiolabeled Chem. Company in St. Louis, was the event's keynote speaker.

Gupta talked about his journey from a graduate student to an entrepreneur to a CEO, calling himself the "slumdog millionaire."

MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and other faculty members also discussed the ties between the university and India. Foley said he didn't know why MU hadn't held such an event in the past.

James Scott, MU vice provost for international programs, listed MU-India historical milestones. The most recent was the MU global scholars traveling to India in 2014.

Scott said at MU, there are more than 100 Indian-born or educated faculty and staff members and more than 1,000 students with Indian heritage. He said that excluding the MU School of Medicine, there are 72 visiting scholars from India.

Another speaker, Ausaf Sayeed, who serves as the consul general of India-Chicago, said the United States is one of India students' favorite destinations for education. Foley presented Sayeed with a commemorative plaque to celebrate India Day.

After several speakers discussed MU-India ties, performers danced to traditional Indian songs as part of a Republic Day celebration.

MISSOURIAN

First MU India Day celebrates country's Republic Day

ANNIE RICE, Jan 30, 2016

COLUMBIA — MU’s Cultural Association of India held its first India Day at Anheuser Busch Conservation Auditorium on Saturday.

India Day featured speakers including Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India-Chicago; and Surendra Gupta of American Radiolabeled Chemistry, as well as Indian dances and song performances for Republic Day.
India celebrated its 67th Republic Day on Tuesday, and MU’s Cultural Association of India held Indian dances and songs by children ages 5 to 11. The Republic Day portion started with children singing both the American and Indian national anthems and ended by installing the new officers of the Culture Association of India.