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The★Star
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

MU presidential search picks up pace

COLUMBIA, Mo. | University of Missouri curators will meet behind closed doors Saturday morning for the third time this month as they continue to search for a new system president.

The governing board's Presidential Search Committee, which essentially consists of the full board, is scheduled to meet at Jesse Hall on the Columbia campus and by teleconference for out-of-town curators. The search committee meetings are closed to the public.

The curators are seeking a replacement for former President Gary Forsee, who stepped down in January to care for his wife as she battles cancer.

Curators chairman Warren Erdman said in October that he expected the board to narrow the field soon to an unspecified number of finalists.

Those finalists will be interviewed by a 20-member advisory panel.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

No announcement expected after UM Curators meeting Saturday

By Zach Murdock

November 18, 2011 | 2:07 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – Don't expect to be toasting to a new UM System president this Thanksgiving.

The UM System Board of Curators will meet via teleconference again Saturday morning to discuss matters regarding the search for a new system president, but spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said no meetings are scheduled for next week.

This will be the third time the curators have met via teleconference in more than two weeks; all three meetings will have been held behind closed doors. No announcement will be made following Saturday's meeting. However, board Chairman Warren Erdman said Friday morning that the committee is making progress and has moved past interviews and "continues to discuss candidates and additional information."

Erdman said he would not disclose any information about candidate interviews or how many candidates might be brought forward as finalists.

The presidential search, now 10 months old, has cost approximately \$160,000 as of the end of October, Erdman said. That figure includes major expenses such as travel and meeting expenses and the cost of hiring Greenwood/Ascher & Associates as a search firm. The search committee was given a budget of \$234,500.

Erdman reiterated that there is no specific timeline to put forward a list of candidates to the presidential search advisory committee.



MU looks at tuition hike of 3 percent Funding could boost salaries.

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Friday, November 18, 2011

University of Missouri students might see their college bills go up again next year.

Administrators are eyeing a 3 percent tuition increase, expected to be equal to this year's consumer price index. The increase amounts to about \$8 more per credit hour for Missouri undergraduates, who would pay \$269.40 per credit hour, up from \$261.60, if the increase is approved, said Tim Rooney, MU budget director.

This would be the second year in a row tuition has gone up, after two years of a tuition freeze. MU received approval this school year to increase tuition and fees by an average of 5.8 percent. State law requires schools to get special permission from the Missouri Department of Higher Education to raise tuition by more than the rate of inflation.

Administrators would not need the state's OK to increase tuition by the expected 3 percent CPI.

Students also could see 3 percent hikes on residential charges, which vary by dorm room, and on student health fees. Additionally, professional schools are asking for increases in fees not subject to state approval, and some colleges are asking for hikes in supplemental fees.

The UM Board of Curators will see specific proposals at its December meeting, Rooney told faculty members at a meeting this week.

Increases in student costs would net revenues of about \$3.6 million, Rooney said. That is after a portion is taken out for scholarships.

The extra funding could translate into higher pay for faculty and staff. Rooney plans to pitch a 3 percent salary increase guideline, up from the 2 percent pay raise most employees got this year.

Raises might depend on state funding. Administrators are hoping the state will hold funding flat but also are preparing for a potential 5 percent cut. If the latter happens, 3 percent pay raises might be difficult, he said.

The Missouri Students Association also is interested in a fee hike that would cost students an extra 75 cents to \$1 a semester. Because the increase is minuscule, it does not require a student vote, MSA President Eric Woods said.

A student fee review committee is considering the proposal. If approved there, it would head to the MSA Senate for final approval.

The money would pay for extra staff. For instance, it would allow MSA to increase a part-time media adviser's position to full time. That person was hired this year to train students to use the improved equipment at the KCOU station in the new MU Student Center, Woods said.

Students also want to hire a full-time worker to help run the equipment for student concerts and guest speakers, he said.

The remaining portion of revenue would pay for a part-time attorney to advise students in smaller legal matters. Right now, MSA has an attorney who advises students on all legal matters. With someone else to work smaller issues, such as minor-in-possession cases, Woods said the full-time attorney would be allowed to spend more time on larger cases, such as landlord-tenant issues.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

University of Missouri mulls stadium expansion

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | Posted: Sunday, November 20, 2011 12:02 pm

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri is considering a modest stadium expansion as it prepares to leave the Big 12 Conference for the football-mad SEC.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that a facilities master plan calls for the addition of an unspecified number of premium outdoor club seats on the stadium's east side. The vertical addition would mirror the press box and luxury suites on the stadium's west side.

Memorial Stadium's current seating capacity of 71,004 will rank 10th among the Southeastern Conference's 14 schools. Missouri and Texas A&M plan to leave the Big 12 for the SEC next year.

Missouri associate athletic director Tim Hickman says the addition could cost between \$30 million and \$40 million and will likely be built using department reserves or money raised from private donors. A marketing consultant will help determine the number of seats, the physical layout and pricing options, he said.

Hickman suggested the expansion could add between 1,200 and 2,500 seats on two to four levels.

Missouri currently offers two types of indoor premium seats - 20-person private suites and the communal club seats of the Tiger Lounge. Club seats currently cost \$425 for a season ticket. In the outdoor version, fans can go inside to get food and drinks and come outside to watch the game.

The university plans to begin a major fundraising campaign in 2012, but the athletic department is without its top development officer after Whit Babcock's recent departure to become athletic director at Cincinnati.

Hickman said that the impending cost of Big 12 exit fees - an amount yet to be determined but pegged at as much as \$26 million by school officials - won't hinder the project. He also expects fan excitement over the SEC move to translate into more donations.

"It will be totally separate funding," he said. "We will not use any university dollars, any tuition dollars for exit fees. We will fund that out of reserves that we'll pay back over time. . We think we can find other opportunities to do that and focus those potential gifts on improving our facilities and programs."

Hickman said there are no plans to expand the seating capacity above what will be added with the club seats. Missouri has sold out only one home game this season, its homecoming victory over Iowa State., and had nearly 10,000 empty seats in its most recent home game, a Nov. 12.victory over Texas.

"I don't think our intention is to go out and 'build it and they will come,' " Hickman said. "I don't think adding pure numbers is priority No. 1. Our priorities are to accommodate our premium-level demand and also to keep our stadium as a first-class stadium."

Other planned facility improvements include a new artificial turf surface for Faurot Field, which Hickman said could be installed as soon as the upcoming offseason.



MU Health Care wins quality award

Columbia Daily Tribune Friday, November 18, 2011

University of Missouri Health Care has been recognized for quality leadership as the recipient of a statewide award.

The Missouri Quality Award from the Excellence in Missouri Foundation designates MU Health Care as a "role model organization" in terms of leadership. It is the first time MU Health Care has won the award, and it is one of four winners this year. Others are the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, St. Louis-based SSM Health Care and SSM Integrated Technologies. The four were selected after an evaluation process that included an application and site visits.

MU Health Care's application highlighted patient safety measures, achievements in information technology, patient satisfaction, strategic planning and other achievements.

The Missouri Quality Award is a business, academic, health care and government initiative that promotes quality awareness, modeled after the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

Pinkel pleads guilty to DWI, receives suspended sentence

By Mike DeArmond - Posted on 18 November 2011

Suspended Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel on Friday morning plead guilty to a class B misdemeanor for driving his car while intoxicated and was given a suspended sentence of 30 days in jail - meaning he will serve no time - and no fine.

Pinkel will be on probation for two years with any similar incident in that period resulting in Pinkel having to serve the jail time.

According to the offense report obtained from the Boone County Sheriff, Pinkel told an officer he had two glasses of red wine. When asked how large the servings were, Pinkel responded "jumbo." Also according to the report, Pinkel was asked to count from 73 to 62 and told an officer he could not do that normally. Although a sample of Pinkel's blood was taken, the report did not indicate if a blood-alcohol content test was made or what the result was.

Bogdon Susan, the attorney representing Pinkel in Boone County Court, said the sentence was: "The same as any other member of the community facing the same charge."

Susan further said: "The resolution of Coach Pinkel's case is consistent with the remorse he has already acknowledged, and his desire to take full responsibility for his actions."

Just prior to the announcement of the sentencing agreement with the Boone County Prosecutor's Office, an arraignment was listed on the Missouri courts database for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, in Boone County before Judge Larry A. Bryson. Friday's action will wipe that from the court calendar.

Missouri statute also includes a penalty of 30 days suspended driver's license and a possible 60 days of possible further driving restrictions. That will be applied in Pinkel's case, Susan said.

Within an hour of the 11:30 a.m. sentencing agreement being announced, the University of Missouri posted on its athletic web site an open letter to MU fans written by Pinkel.

It said:

"Tiger Nation,

I reach out to you with a sense of great personal disappointment and regret over the decisions I made this past Wednesday night. We've known each other for a long time and I've worked hard to represent you and the University of Missouri, a place we all love, with the highest standards of integrity. I put myself in a situation that was absolutely counter to those standards and it pains me to know that I let you all down. We've built a family here at Mizzou, and it's built on trust.

On Wednesday night I betrayed that trust.

Social responsibility and discipline are two things I constantly emphasize to our team. My lack of both in this instance will hopefully prove to be a teachable moment and serve as an example to others of what not to do. I've stressed to my players that there are consequences to your actions and I face stiff consequences for what I've done.

It will be the most difficult day of my professional life to not be with my team this Saturday. My heart goes out to this group of seniors who will be playing their final home game at The Zou. They've accomplished so much and I'm very proud of them. Don't let my mistake shed a negative light on the many outstanding ways all of our players represent Mizzou.

I realize it's not as simple as saying sorry and moving on. I expect to be held accountable. I embrace the challenge of building back the trust of Tiger fans everywhere.

It's a great honor to be your coach.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Pinkel"

Pinkel, who was stopped by Boone County Sheriff's Office deputies at 10:15 on Wednesday evening for lane change and signal violations, was on Thursday suspended for one week by Missouri athletic director Mike Alden.

Alden announced numerous financial penalties that could cost Pinkel in excess of \$306,000 in withheld salary and incentives.

Pinkel will not coach Missouri in its Saturday afternoon home game against Texas Tech. He can have no contact with the MU football program until next Thursday morning, when he will be reinstated as the team's head coach.

The final game of Missouri's regular season is Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m. against Kansas at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. Pinkel will be Mizzou's head coach for that game.



Pinkel earns penalty and 2nd chance

By Joe Walljasper

Columbia Daily Tribune Friday, November 18, 2011

Sometimes when you hear about an arrest, you turn the newspaper page and take the next bite of cereal. Sometimes when you hear about an arrest, you spit coffee all over the newspaper.

If ever an arrest fell into the latter category, it was Gary Pinkel getting pinched for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. I would have been only slightly less surprised yesterday morning to learn that I had been arrested Wednesday night — and I spent Wednesday night nodding off in a recliner.

Gary Pinkel got arrested? What?

Quin Snyder could spawn better rumors of extracurricular activity in one lunch hour than Pinkel produced in 11 years as Missouri's football coach. Pinkel is known to occasionally have a glass of wine at dinner, but he doesn't close down the bars. He is extremely image conscious. He was furious when two players and an assistant coach were arrested for DWIs last year. His coaching philosophy, in a word, is "discipline."

But here he is, benched for tomorrow's final home game against Texas Tech, including the pregame senior day ceremony that annually leaves him in tears. He has lost up to \$306,538 in wages and bonuses. He has become national sports news in the wrong way. He has become a do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do coach to his players, the latest in a long line of leaders who don't follow their own advice.

And all that was before the legal system had a go at him.

So no matter the circumstances, this is a black mark on his permanent record. As poor Woody Widenhofer can attest, even 21 years down the road it will be dredged up anew if another coach runs afoul of the law.

With all that said, if we're going to have a reasonable conversation about drunken driving as opposed to a hysterical one, the circumstances do matter. Having one drink too many at dinner and driving is a crime most adults have committed many times over. Going on a daylong bender and plowing into a telephone pole in the middle of the night is a different story.

What we know about Pinkel's case is he was arrested at 10:15 on a night when he was at football practice until 5:30 or 6, plus however long the coaches met after practice. He was seen with a few friends that evening at a local restaurant. That doesn't leave a whole lot of time for drinking, so I doubt we're dealing with a grossly irresponsible situation like former Iowa State basketball Coach Larry Eustachy's 2003 bender in Columbia, when he had trace amounts of blood in his Natural Light stream.

The Boone County prosecutor's office charged him with a Class B misdemeanor today and Pinkel pleaded guilty, but the results of his blood alcohol content test weren't listed on the probable cause statement. That number is important to determine whether Pinkel's problem is more on the driving or drinking side.

Eleven years of good behavior does buy him some benefit-of-the-doubt, at least to me. He owned up to the mistake with a written apology, saying, "I am very disappointed in myself for my lack of judgment in this instance. Nobody should drink and drive, including me."

MU handled the punishment in a quick and appropriate way. Some people quibble with a one-game suspension vs. two — last year his players had to sit out two games after DWI arrests — but the financial hit was enormous, even for a guy making \$2.7 million.

The only thing I would have done differently was to place Pinkel at the lectern for yesterday's press conference rather than Athletic Director Mike Alden. If the message being sent was accountability and remorse, it should have been delivered by the man who was accountable and remorseful.

The public is eager to forgive contrite people for their mistakes, especially when their track record makes the very idea of the mistake shocking.



More details emerge from Pinkel's DWI arrest

MU coach: 'I'm not a scumbag. ... My whole world will change.'

By Dave Matter

Columbia Daily Tribune Published November 18, 2011 at 7:04 p.m.

Updated November 19, 2011 at 1:12 a.m.

More details emerged from Gary Pinkel's drunken-driving arrest after he pleaded guilty yesterday to a Class B misdemeanor.

I'm not a scumbag. ... You have to do what you're doing. I respect that. My whole world will change.'

Yesterday afternoon the Boone County Sheriff Department released the offense report and video footage from the patrol car during Pinkel's arrest. Pinkel was pulled over after deputies first observed him driving his Chevy Avalance about 30 mph north on Highway 63 at 10:09 p.m. Wednesday. Pinkel sped up to the 65 mph speed limit, exited onto Broadway and failed to signal for a lane change.

From there Deputy Phillip Smith followed Pinkel, who made a wide right turn at the top of the exit ramp from the left turn lane. As he approached Keene Street, Pinkel made a wide left turn and crossed the double yellow line several feet before the intersection. His vehicle nearly struck a curb as he turned left into the Boone County National Bank parking lot at 205 S. Keene.

Smith pulled him over and immediately recognized Pinkel when he approached the vehicle. Smith noted Pinkel's eyes were bloodshot and watery. Pinkel appeared confused when questioned initially and said he had not been drinking. After Smith said he could smell alcohol on his breath, Pinkel said he had two glasses of wine during dinner with friends.

From there, Deputy Robert Paul took over the questioning. Pinkel told him he had consumed two glasses of red wine between 8 and 9:30 p.m. He later told Paul the glasses were "jumbo" sized.

Pinkel declined a field sobriety test because of an Achilles' tendon injury and agreed to do other tests that would not require walking. Paul noted Pinkel was swaying during a series of eye tests. Pinkel told Paul he has a prescription for the sleep medication Ambien but did not indicate whether he had taken any.

Asked to say the alphabet from E to R, Pinkel struggled to recite all the letters. Asked to count backward from 73 to 62, Pinkel declined and said, "You kidding me? I can't do that normally."

Several times during the tests, Pinkel told Paul he was "very nervous."

Paul asked Pinkel to take a preliminary breath test and he declined. At that point, Paul told Pinkel he was placing him under arrest for DWI, putting the 59-year-old coach in handcuffs and into the back of his patrol car.

With Pinkel in the back seat, his attorney, Bogdan Susan, arrived at the scene and talked for several minutes with one of the deputies.

"I just can't believe it," Susan is heard saying. "He hasn't slept for I don't know how long. I can't believe he's drunk."

The deputy told Susan they were taking Pinkel to Boone Hospital to draw a blood sample. Pinkel refused to provide a sample, but Paul insisted, due to "exigent circumstances."

In the car, Pinkel is heard telling Paul, "I'm not a scumbag. ... You have to do what you're doing. I respect that. My whole world will change. It's my responsibility. I understand that."

Pinkel asked that Paul remove the handcuffs before they enter the hospital, and Paul agreed. The blood samples were sent to the State Highway Patrol crime lab, according to Paul's report.

Pinkel was transported to Boone County Jail where he was processed. He refused to answer questions without an attorney present and posted \$500 bond.

After pleading guilty yesterday in Boone County circuit court, Pinkel was given a 30-day suspended jail sentence and placed on two years probation. The results of his blood-alcohol test will unlikely be released now that the case is closed.

"Coach Pinkel's sentence is the most common resolution for a first offense driving while intoxicated charge in Boone County," Susan said a news release. "We were able to review the relevant reports, and after discussions with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, reach an agreement that the facts and evidence were consistent with, and appropriate for, a standard first offense resolution, the same way as any other member of the community facing the same charge."

Pinkel will not be in attendance for today's game against Texas Tech while serving a one-week suspension until Thursday morning. Defensive coordinator Dave Steckel will serve as acting head coach.

Gary Pinkel pleads guilty to Class B Misdemeanor

By [Karen Miller](#)

November 18, 2011 | 12:55 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Gary Pinkel, MU's head football coach, pleaded guilty Friday to a Class B misdemeanor. He was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated Wednesday night.

Pinkel received a 30-day suspended sentence, said Cassandra Rogers, assistant prosecuting attorney for Boone County. The suspended sentence means Pinkel will serve 30 days in jail if he violates a two-year probation.

On Friday, Pinkel sent [an open letter to Tiger Nation](#) apologizing for the incident.

The following narrative comes from the probable cause statement from Boone County Sheriff's deputy Robert Paul, who arrested Pinkel. The probable cause statement does not include Pinkel's blood alcohol content. Pinkel was first seen at 10:09 p.m. driving north on U.S. 63 toward Stadium Boulevard. The statement said Pinkel was driving 30 mph in a 65 mph zone. He then sped up to the speed limit and failed to signal a lane change.

Pinkel made a "wide right turn onto Broadway from a left turn lane," the statement said. When he approached Keene Street, where he was pulled over, his car crossed a double yellow line while turning left several feet ahead of the intersection.

"I observed his eyes to be glassy and bloodshot," Paul said in the statement. "I detected the strong odor of intoxicants on Gary's breath, which was sustained throughout my contact." Pinkel admitted to drinking two glasses of wine between 8 and 9:30 p.m., the statement said.

Pinkel did field sobriety tests that did not involve walking because of an Achilles' tendon injury. The statement said Pinkel showed signs of impairment during the field sobriety test. The exact signs are not described in the statement.

Pinkel told Paul that he would not provide a blood sample, the report said. Pinkel was transported to Boone Hospital for a blood draw "due to exigent circumstances," the statement said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Pinkel sends letter to Tiger Nation following arrest

By Missourian Staff

November 18, 2011 | 11:53 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA – In response to his arrest Wednesday night for driving while intoxicated, MU football coach Gary Pinkel wrote an open letter to Tiger Nation apologizing for his actions.

Pinkel was pulled over by Boone County sheriff's deputies on Wednesday night for lane and signal violations, and he was taken into custody when it appeared that alcohol was involved, a previous Missourian story reported. On Thursday, Pinkel was suspended from coaching for one week, among other consequences.

On Friday morning, Pinkel was charged with a Class B misdemeanor for driving while intoxicated. He pleaded guilty to the charges, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Cassandra Rogers said.

Here is the letter Pinkel wrote to Tiger Nation:

Tiger Nation,

I reach out to you with a sense of great personal disappointment and regret over the decisions I made this past Wednesday night. We've known each other for a long time and I've worked hard to represent you and the University of Missouri, a place we all love, with the highest standards of integrity. I put myself in a situation that was absolutely counter to those standards and it pains me to know that I let you all down. We've built a family here at Mizzou, and it's built on trust.

On Wednesday night I betrayed that trust.

Social responsibility and discipline are two things I constantly emphasize to our team. My lack of both in this instance will hopefully prove to be a teachable moment and serve as an example to others of what not to do. I've stressed to my players that there are consequences to your actions and I face stiff consequences for what I've done. It will be the most difficult day

of my professional life to not be with my team this Saturday. My heart goes out to this group of seniors who will be playing their final home game at The Zou. They've accomplished so much and I'm very proud of them. Don't let my mistake shed a negative light on the many outstanding ways all of our players represent Mizzou.

I realize it's not as simple as saying sorry and moving on. I expect to be held accountable. I embrace the challenge of building back the trust of Tiger fans everywhere.

It's a great honor to be your coach.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Pinkel

Head Football Coach

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Pinkel is part of the 1 percent problem

By Christine Doerr

November 21, 2011 | 6:00 a.m. CST

To the Editor:

Play the System 101 with Missouri Football Coach Gary Pinkel:

- First, decline standard field sobriety test citing default injury.
- Second, decline blood test thus extending time for metabolism of alcohol.
- Third, legal loop out of blood-alcohol results being made public.

This is part of what the 99 percent is talking about.

MU is having trouble hiring custodians at \$18,000 annual salary because of stains on applicants' background records; dedicated employees at \$22,000 to \$30,000 per year are in fear a mistake would cost them their jobs, yet with an annual salary of almost \$3 million, the Pinkel percent — I mean the top percent — is untouchable.

If one could measure the so called "lack of judgment" exhibited by Pinkel and compare it to equivalent cases, we would find fatal accidents, imprisoned persons of lesser means and shattered lives left in the wake.

For our preeminent educational institution to ignore the consequences of this learning opportunity for countless youth and to not immediately fire one whose pay scale demands much more, leaves not only our community but our entire state in shame.

The learning opportunity here, kids: Screw the rules, the moral codes, the ethics and responsibility to our greater society, and if you're lucky enough to be in the ruling class, just learn how to play the system and damned be our collective souls as long as we are having fun, right?

Christine Doerr lives in Columbia.



The Tribune's View

MU football coach's DWI

Receiving the lash

By Henry J. Waters III

Columbia Daily Tribune Saturday, November 19, 2011

Major college football coaches perch precariously atop a lofty pedestal, enjoying perks but subject to a bruising fall.

MU football Coach Gary Pinkel seemed particularly secure, known as a leader of high integrity who demanded the same from his players. As a role model, he set high standards. His stern demeanor implied moral certitude.

His boss, MU Athletic Director Mike Alden, loved Pinkel's style and expected no unpleasant surprises from his highest-profile coach.

Then all of a sudden Pinkel was arrested Wednesday night on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. He had been quick to impose stiff penalties on players who committed similar errors. Alden quickly followed suit, removing Pinkel from sideline coaching duties for today's game, ordering hours of community service and imposing monetary penalties potentially amounting to more than \$300,000.

Pinkel was remorseful, graciously apologizing to everyone in sight.

Public reactions will vary.

"My, how far the mighty have fallen," some will say with a mixture of curiosity and the kind of secret pleasure the envious feel for high fliers who hit a bump. People who know the coach will be surprised and sorry, believing this incident is not characteristic of his usual behavior.

Coach Pinkel was commonly seen in local restaurants having a glass of wine or two but never seeming drunk. Often he was having dinner or ordering takeout food. His alcohol consumption seemed ordinary, nothing more than most of us might have.

Of course, I know nothing about what he did Wednesday evening. He said he had dinner with friends. About 10:15 p.m. he was stopped for lane and signal violations on Keene Street and displayed signs of being intoxicated. He did not challenge the official charge.

Certainly, Pinkel's violation indicates no loss of ability to coach football. Had he gotten home without arrest, his status would be unchanged today. But his ability to manage the depth chart is not the issue. His ability to act as leader is. Having assumed the role of moral exemplar, the essence of integrity for the entire program, he has no wiggle room.

He is fortunate Alden lashed him so severely. Nobody can say he got a pass. He can point to himself as the example for his players of what happens when rules are broken. His serious demeanor as coach will resume, and most fans quickly will return to their primary concern: wins and losses.

Pinkel seems no more of a knave than before. He has at least one foot of clay, like all of us. And, like most of us, he will whack himself on the forehead and be more careful in the future — particularly since his pedestal is so high. Those of us who have only an inch or two to fall need not worry so much. The notorious always are more vulnerable. DWI is a serious offense, threatening the safety of others on the road, but no more so when a famous person is the perpetrator.

If his stock as coach diminishes in the future, it won't be because he is a boozier. He's still in position to set high standards for the team. In a way, he can do so with more authority than before. May his program proceed without additional distraction.



Mizzou's move is right call

SEC fan ignores favorable facts.

BY BOB MARTIN

Columbia Daily Tribune Sunday, November 20, 2011

Fans are not my favorite group of people. It does not matter the team or the sport — fans as a group seem to me to be the least knowledgeable, most opinionated people on Earth. Therefore, I largely ignore their comments about “predictable offense” or “a receiver’s ability to hold on to the ball” (with two defenders hanging on them). In my opinion, responding to these and similar thoughts is a waste of time and energy.

But the recent letter to the editor from Richard O’Neal of Winter Springs, Fla., got my attention. He admits not living in Missouri during his adult life but still feels so strongly about Missouri’s move to the SEC that he was compelled to write to the editor to express his opinion. His comments are the least informed and most blatantly unfounded of any I have heard recently on a subject about which he apparently knows nothing.

Watching Miami, Florida State and the Florida Gators play football on TV does not qualify one to be an expert in conference affiliation. Nor does being a native Missourian provide one with the ability to judge a Missouri football team that one has not supported through most of his adult life.

What are the facts O’Neal chose to ignore when he predicted a Missouri record of 1-11 in the SEC?

According to the Sagarin rating system used by USA Today, the Big 12, not the SEC, is the best conference in America. And, accordingly, Missouri is the 11th-best team in the country. In the top 10, there are three SEC teams (LSU, Alabama and Arkansas). The Big 12 is represented in the top 10 by four teams (Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Texas A&M and Kansas State).

The SEC has two teams in the second tier (Georgia and South Carolina), and the Big 12 has three (Missouri, Texas and Baylor). In the top 50, the only Big 12 team missing is Kansas. Kentucky and Ole Miss from the SEC are out of the top 50.

The Big 12 has an average rating of 22. The SEC average is 37. The worst team in the Big 12 is Kansas at 87th. Kentucky (94th) and Ole Miss (115th) are below them.

So let us add a bit of speculation to the above. Had we been playing in the SEC this year (with a first-year quarterback), we might have been 7-2 in conference play with wins over Florida (31), Georgia (12), South Carolina (14), Kentucky (94), Vanderbilt (45) and Tennessee (48). We did beat Texas A&M (9). Assuming two losses to Western Division teams — LSU (1) and Alabama (3) — Missouri (11) would have won the Eastern Division undefeated and played for the SEC championship. Assuming a 2-1

nonconference record, the overall record becomes 9-3. That is a long way from 1-11, as O'Neal predicted. Of course, he assumed 11 conference losses, which is impossible because of the scheduling.

So maybe this move from the Big 12 to the SEC is in reality a step down for the Tigers from a football win-and-loss stand-point. With the addition of Texas A&M and MU, suddenly the SEC is the top conference — with four in the top 10 and three in the second 10 — versus the Big 12 — with three in the top 10 and two in the second 10.

Regardless of all of the above, in my opinion the move to the SEC is the right one for Mizzou to make because of the SEC's league stability, integrity and relationships. Unfortunately, the days of the Missouri Valley are gone, and it is time to move on.



Merchants hope move to SEC will bring more visiting fans

By Jacob Barker

Columbia Daily Tribune Sunday, November 20, 2011

With the final MU home football game in the Big 12 done, the move to the Southeastern Conference next season looms large. But will the conventional wisdom about Southern fans — that they'll go anywhere to see their team play — hold true? Downtown merchants are buying it.

"Once they started talking about the SEC, I was really excited," said Jay Rader, general manager of Bengal's Bar & Grill.

The fans at many of the SEC's storied football programs are known as good travelers, or so that's what everyone has heard. Whether they'll travel this far west — especially given that MU has been tapped to join the SEC's Eastern Division — remains to be seen. For now, though, downtown merchants are optimistic SEC fans will add a bit more to their already brisk business on game days.

Rader has been following the conference realignment closely, both as a fan and as the owner of one of Columbia's premier game-watching watering holes. Everything he has heard points to more travelers flocking to Columbia on several autumn weekends a year, or at least more than the Big 12 teams sent. Many of the Big 12 teams' fans weren't great travelers, he said, with one exception: Nebraska.

"Losing them was a big hit to our business," Rader said, referencing the school's announcement last summer that it was leaving the Big 12 for the Big Ten, effective this season. "When Nebraska came to town, the stadium was red."

He said he has noticed fewer visiting fans this season, and he said MU's move to the SEC should be good for Columbia's economy — or at least the game day economy. "Personally, I think it is moving on to bigger and better things," Rader said.

Harpo's General Manager Jared Ater said the Big 12 has been a big part of the bar's identity, but over the next year he expects it will add SEC memorabilia. As for more business on game days, he said he hopes so.

"What I hear through the grapevine is these schools in the SEC live and die for football, and they travel exceptionally well," Ater said. "We think it's good for business, good for the University of Missouri and good for Columbia."

It's not just the bars that hope for a boost from the realignment. Southerners are known to dress up a bit for their school's games, and Lily Dawson, manager of Elly's Couture, hopes that translates into more shopping traffic on game day. One of the clothing lines the store carries, Judith March, is designed by a

Southerner and some of the designs are specifically influenced by the team colors of some SEC schools, Dawson said. She thinks that clothing line should be a big seller as visiting fans shop before and after games in Columbia.

“To have visitors from those schools who recognize the brands we carry ... I think that’s going to be really good,” Dawson said.

Whether the SEC traveling tales materialize or not, many merchants seem optimistic about the change, especially given the unraveling of the Big 12 over the past 18 months. As Rader argued, it wasn’t like MU’s soon-to-be old conference was sending tons of fans to Columbia anyway.

“Even if it does not meet the hype everyone says it will it can’t be a whole lot worse,” Rader said.



Helping out has health benefits

By Caroline Dohack-McCrary

Columbia Daily Tribune Sunday, November 20, 2011

When we talk about volunteer work, so often the focus is on how the recipients of the effort benefit.

OK, that's fitting. The point of volunteering is to do something for someone else. But what sometimes gets overlooked is what the volunteer takes away from that effort.

That warm, fuzzy feeling is a good thing, but there's much more than that.

When I was speaking with Kenny Freeman for this week's cover story about the program he created, which seeks to help people in the business community improve their communication skills, I was struck not only by the work he put into it but also by what Freeman took away.

Freeman, who had struggled with alcoholism for a number of years, was able to overcome it after redefining his sense of self-worth through community service.

Research shows Freeman's gains through volunteerism aren't an isolated incident.

A study at the University of Missouri found that teens in rural areas who engage in "prosocial behavior" are less prone to substance abuse.

The study focused on rural teens because they're more likely to use drugs and alcohol, perhaps because there aren't as many recreational outlets available to them.

But data collected from surveys of teens living in these rural areas showed a correlation between volunteering and decreased substance abuse. This could be because those prosocial behaviors help strengthen one's sense of moral obligation.

And there's more.

An article by Orly Avitzur, a board-certified neurologist and medical adviser to Consumers Union, explored several studies that show how volunteering can be good for health.

One study examined the health of older adults who volunteered at least 15 hours a week at an elementary school. Those who rated themselves as being in "fair health" at the beginning of the study were the most likely to improve their fitness levels, gauged by their abilities to climb on a stair stepper, over eight months. Members of the non-volunteering control group who also rated themselves as being in fair health did not experience similar improvement.

Other studies, Avitzur writes, have shown people who volunteer also have reduced rates for depression and stress and show an overall increased sense of satisfaction with life.

The take away is that doing good is good, but for more reasons than we sometimes think.

Mizzou Alumni Association to host events for Border Hunger Showdown

By [Melissa Gilstrap](#)

November 18, 2011 | 6:48 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA – The Mizzou Alumni Association will sponsor two events in Kansas City and compete in the 2011 Border Hunger Showdown during the week of Thanksgiving.

The Tiger Club of Kansas City will also host a pep rally the Friday before the MU vs. KU football game at Arrowhead Stadium.

The Border Hunger Showdown is a virtual food drive competition between MU and KU, where participants can make donations online to the Harvesters Community Food Network in Kansas City. A \$1 donation buys five meals, according to the Harvesters website.

As of Friday, KU was in the lead for the most donations with \$9,565, which can buy 47,825 meals. MU lagged behind with \$5,895, or the equivalent of 29,475 meals.

There will be opportunities to donate to the 2011 Border Hunger Showdown at the three events in Kansas City, Alumni Relations Director Jayson Meyer said.

Even if MU and KU no longer play each other in the future, Meyer said he hoped the food drive would continue.

"During the holidays, and during this economic state, there are many people without the resources to feed their families," said Carrie Bien, coordinator of student programs at the Mizzou Alumni Association. "And it's always good to beat KU in something."

The Mizzou Alumni Association has won the annual Border Hunger Showdown for the last four years.

Donations can be made at the [Border Hunger Showdown 2011 Virtual Food Drive](#) website.

Deep roots can't keep Border War from being ripped up

By J. BRADY McCOLLOUGH

In the years after the Civil War, Thomas Records settled in Blue Springs and opened up a business that helped serve Confederate soldiers who were returning from the front lines with their lives and families in tatters.

Around the same time, a man named Andrew Carr moved to southern Kansas and homesteaded. He had fought in the war on the side of the Union, tending to telegraphs and fighting American Indians at a post in Laramie, Wyo.

Records would send his sons to the University of Missouri, which was down the road about 100 miles in Columbia. One of the boys, Will, played on the first Missouri football team in 1890.

Records' other son, Tom, met Carr's daughter, Bertha, and married her. The merging of the Records and Carr families' roots, an inevitable happening all over the Kansas City area, had begun.

Joanne Records Bodner is 67 years old now, the great-granddaughter of Thomas Records and Andrew Carr. She grew up in Kansas City in the heat of the post-World War II Border Wars between MU and the University of Kansas. Most of her family rooted for the Tigers, and it was expected that she would join the third generation of Records and don the black and gold for her college years.

But Joanne also knew that she was part Kansan. She became curious about what she might be missing.

"Perhaps it was a little bit of rebellion," Joanne says.

It was the 1960s, after all, and in 1962, Joanne broke her daddy's heart and chose to be a Jayhawk. She fell in love with KU football watching Gale Sayers run, but she'd always pull for MU unless the schools were playing each other. This rivalry was and will always be a part of her, sketched deeper than any family tree could show.

So, mention the fact that the 120th Border War game next Saturday might be the last one because of MU's decision to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference and KU's stated unwillingness to play the Tigers as a nonconference opponent, and Joanne, the sweet-sounding retired schoolteacher in Prairie Village, will turn cold.

"I'm bitter about the whole thing," she says. "It was a lot of fun. It ruins a lot of fun between families and friends."

Rivalries do end, and rarely are the reasons satisfactory to fans. Sometimes it's because of a change in conference. Other times one school will feel disrespected by the other. With the Border War — the second-most-played series nationally at 119 games — it is a combination. MU left the conference, and KU, hurt that its longtime partner chose to depart, reacted with a "good riddance."

In other words: The hate that kept this rivalry going through two World Wars and plenty of bad football is the very thing that will likely put an end to this unmatched period of border brawling.

For many on both sides, it will never be the same.

"I've been surprised at being so emotional and upset about it myself," Joanne says. "I love college sports and the Big 12, but I didn't know until this all started happening how riled up I would get and how much I would rant and rave about it. It's been an eye-opener for me, too."

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Frank Broyles knows how rivalries end, and he remembers the day that he made all of the Arkansas fans that lived in the state of Texas very, very angry.

It was about three years before Arkansas would leave the Southwest Conference for the SEC in 1992, and Broyles was supposedly taking a golf trip to Birmingham, Ala. But Broyles, the school's former coach and acting athletic director, had other plans. He saw the writing on the wall: The Dallas Cowboys and Houston Oilers were dwarfing interest in Southwest Conference football, and he was seeking a new home for his beloved school.

"The Southwest Conference was doomed," Broyles said. "I went and met the Southeastern Conference commissioner and two or three athletic directors and told them I had gotten permission from my board of trustees to become a SEC member."

Broyles knew that Arkansas' rabid fan base in Texas would disapprove of the move. They'd been loyal for years, filling stadiums in Texas with cries of "Pig Sooie!" With the departure, the Razorbacks no longer participated in old and heated rivalries with Texas (known as the "Big Shootout") and Texas A&M (the "Southwest Classic").

The Texas-Arkansas series originated in 1894, and Texas led 54-19, including a victory in the 1969 "Game of the Century." Texas was Arkansas' most heated rival, but, when the schools

played a couple of home-and-home arrangements in 2000, '03, '04 and '08, Broyles said the intensity wasn't close to the same.

Now Broyles claims rivalries with LSU, Mississippi and Tennessee, and he is licking his chops at bringing another nearby school, Missouri, into the SEC. Of course, his motives are purely selfish.

"The University of Arkansas benefits the most from Missouri coming into our conference, because the recruiting is the key to your success," Broyles said. "MU will be in the SEC, so the high-school coaches and players will be reading about the Southeast Conference on a daily basis in the newspapers there. I'd walk all the way to Columbia to give the bid if they'd let me. It's just perfect for us."

The Tigers are leaving a league that wanted them because of a century-old relationship and shared history. They're going to a league that is eyeing them as fresh prey — the same decision Arkansas made two decades ago.

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Sam Jankovich knows how rivalries end. For those born in or after the 1980s, it is not common knowledge that Florida and Miami were once rivals.

The Gators and Hurricanes began playing in 1938 and battled for the right to carry a wooden canoe off the field starting in the early 1950s. After Miami took home the canoe in 1987, it would stay there forever, to Jankovich's dismay.

Jankovich was the athletic director at Miami at the height of its 1980s football glory and wanted the schools to continue playing forever. It was a huge game for Miami, which could count on filling the Orange Bowl against Florida and Florida State. But Florida athletic director Bill Arnsparger decided it was no longer in Florida's best interest — the Gators had been struggling — to play the juggernaut Hurricanes. Jankovich couldn't persuade him otherwise.

"Everybody was very mad," Jankovich says. "That was a big-money game for us."

Now Jankovich sees what is happening in college athletics and can't believe his eyes. No more Texas-Texas A&M? No more Kansas-Missouri? For what?

"All of this conference realignment is atrocious and ridiculous," Jankovich says. "College presidents are supposed to give such a profound balance to it, but they're giving no balance at all. All they do is destroy conferences and great rivalries and everything that made college football what it is."

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Rod Rutherford knows how rivalries end — with a 6-foot-2 Pittsburgh quarterback running into the end zone for the only touchdown in a 12-0 win over Penn State.

That was in 2000, and the Panthers and Nittany Lions haven't played since. Rutherford, a native of Pittsburgh who was recruited by Pitt and rivals Penn State and West Virginia, will be the last man to score a touchdown in the rivalry at least until 2016, when the teams are scheduled to resume the series with a home-and-home.

Entering that last game, Rutherford and the Panthers had heard the prevailing thought: Penn State coach Joe Paterno was only willing to play Pitt one time in Pittsburgh for every two times in State College. Pitt had too much pride to allow that, and Paterno knew it.

"In our locker room, we felt like it was them that was ending the rivalry," Rutherford said. "It wasn't us. They felt like they were better than us."

Rutherford played Penn State his first two seasons but not his last two. He says the "Backyard Brawl" between Pitt and West Virginia is now the biggest rivalry. Of course, with Pitt leaving the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference and West Virginia leaving for the Big 12, that rivalry could be on the outs, too.

"That's sad because Penn State is only two and a half hours away, and West Virginia is one and a half," Rutherford said. "To not play those schools, who all pull from western Pennsylvania, it's disappointing that you can't watch a good rivalry now. It's just sad that college football has turned into this much of a business that people lose sight of the fans and the things that made schools what they are today."

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Bob Spear knows how a rivalry stays strong, despite numerous conference switches and hatred that goes back to the original charters of South Carolina and Clemson.

The Gamecocks and Tigers play in the longest uninterrupted rivalry in the South, and Spear, a retired columnist who wrote for The State in Columbia, S.C., says it will always be played. Why? The politicians wouldn't have it any other way.

Spear brings up a perfect example from 1952, when the teams played in the Southern Conference. In 1951, the Tigers qualified for a berth in the Gator Bowl, but the conference had a rule that said it had to approve a team playing in a bowl. The league denied Clemson, but the Tigers went ahead and played anyway. As punishment, the Southern Conference ruled that Clemson and Maryland (which had done the same thing) could only play each other during the 1952 conference season.

According to series historian Don Barton, that's when the South Carolina General Assembly enacted a joint resolution "to require the football teams of the University of South Carolina and Clemson College to play their annual game on Thursday of Fair Week, 1952."

The Southern Conference had no choice but to let the teams play, and the Gamecocks won 6-0.

Since that day, there have been reasons to quit playing. South Carolina left Clemson behind in the ACC in 1971 to become an independent. In 1991, the Gamecocks joined the SEC and could have broken ties then. But the politicians have control in the Palmetto State, so breaking up has never been a matter for discourse.

State politicians won't save the Border War. Then again, the schools hailing from different states with varying states of mind is what makes the Kansas-Missouri rivalry special.

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Joe Mortensen, like many Jayhawks over the years, learned about the Border War from former KU coach Don Fambrough. Nobody loved to hate Missouri more than Fambrough, who died Sept. 3 at the age of 88.

Mortensen, a linebacker for KU from 2004 to 2008, can still recite the circumstances of William Quantrill's sacking of Lawrence and the Jayhawkers.

"People don't realize the first KU Missouri game was probably about 20 to 25 years after that happened," Mortensen says. "It's basically your grandparents maybe were killed by some of Missouri's players' relatives. It's definitely a lot more history than playing K-State."

There's a feeling among those who played in the rivalry that it's being taken away just as it was starting to get good. It has been a rare occurrence that KU and MU were both excelling on the field at the same time. As recently as Glen Mason's nine years at KU from 1988-96, the Border War was played to an announced average of 33,000 fans.

But on Nov. 24, 2007, the second-ranked Jayhawks and third-ranked Tigers met in front of 80,537 in the first of five games at Arrowhead Stadium — an epic clash dubbed "Armageddon at Arrowhead." Former Missouri wide receiver Tommy Saunders, a native of Kearney, recalls the drive to the stadium.

"You think about the sun setting behind Arrowhead," Saunders said. "Fans on one side of the bus are cheering for you, and on the other side they're yelling at you."

The game, a 36-28 Missouri victory that featured 11 future NFL players for MU and nine for KU, was just as memorable.

"Every play was big, it seemed like," Saunders said. "You'd go listen to the coaches and get back to watching the game as soon as possible. It was really intense."

Next Saturday's game will pit a 6-5 MU squad against a 2-9 KU team in a matchup that will mirror most of the Border War battles. It will not be a ratings-grabber nationally, but it will mean everything to the people of Missouri and Kansas.

There may be bragging rights on the line that will last forever.



Assault reported at fraternity party

Columbia Daily Tribune Friday, November 18, 2011

Columbia police are investigating an alleged sexual assault at a fraternity party last week.

Early Sunday evening, a woman who attended a party at the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house at 908 Curtis Ave. reported the assault to police. She said the assault occurred about 1 a.m. Friday.

Sgt. Jill Schlude said the charges are under investigation, and no arrests have been made. She did not release any details of the alleged assault.

Tom Jarvis, Pi Kappa Phi's vice president for internal relations, said today he was not aware of the investigation and had not been at the party. He said he did not know what kind of party was being held that night or which of the fraternity's 124 members attended.

Along with the police investigation, the sexual assault allegations could be reviewed by the Office of Student Conduct, University of Missouri spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said. If the party was an officially sanctioned fraternity event, she said, the national fraternity organization would investigate if the allegations are considered credible.



Student petitions on mobile home park delivered to Deaton

By Jacob Barker

Columbia Daily Tribune Saturday, November 19, 2011

A University of Missouri student representing the unofficial campus chapter of Grass Roots Organizing said yesterday he and others had gathered more than 1,000 signatures opposing the rezoning of the Regency Mobile Home Park.

MU graduate student Andrew Bisto said students, Regency residents and GRO members gathered 1,147 signatures during three days at Speaker's Circle on the MU campus. They presented the petition to Chancellor Brady Deaton's office yesterday, he said. Bisto plans to present the petition to Columbia City Council members Monday night when they take up Aspen Heights' proposal to rezone the park so it can build high-end student apartments.

"Aspen Heights is saying they're doing this development for students and student needs, and we're trying to get together and say, 'No, this is not what we want,'" Bisto said.



City's deal with Regency will hold developer to word

By Jacob Barker

Columbia Daily Tribune Saturday, November 19, 2011

NO MU MENTION

The agreement that governs the possible redevelopment of the Regency Mobile Home Park would require the developer to prove that it has paid residents the amounts promised them and allowed them to stay until spring before the city of Columbia issues any building permits for the site.

In anticipation of a possible city council vote Monday, the prospective developer, Aspen Heights, held a meeting at the park Tuesday. There, Charlie Vatterott, Aspen Heights executive vice president of development, asked residents to support the rezoning, offering them a moving allowance of \$1,800, or \$3,000 for a double-wide trailer. He said Aspen Heights would allow them to stay until April 30 or, if a family has school-age children, until May 31. He also threw in a \$500 bonus if they signed a document supporting the incentives Aspen Heights was offering.

Residents are facing eviction after the current owner, George Gradow's Regency of Missouri, issued eviction notices to residents mandating they leave by Feb. 29.

About 55 people signed the papers Tuesday night, Aspen Heights attorney Robert Hollis said. Vatterott estimated about 71 people remained on the property as of late October.

The Tuesday night meeting offered only promises. What actually binds the developer to the moving incentives is the ordinance authorizing the rezoning and the development agreement between the city, Aspen Heights and Regency of Missouri. The documents, released yesterday, seem to ensure that tenants get what they were promised.

"Between the media and the city council and that" agreement, "it would be awful hard for them to back out of it if they wanted to back out of it now," said Michael Carney, an attorney with Mid-Missouri Legal Services who has advised several Regency residents.

The agreement stipulates that before the city issues building permits, Aspen Heights must prove to the city it has paid "\$2,300 for each occupied single-wide mobile home" and "\$3,500 for each occupied double-wide mobile home," apparently giving people the \$500 bonus even if they didn't sign Tuesday night.

City Counselor Fred Boeckmann said the developer will be the one paying the residents. "It's the buyer of the property paying it, and they're the ones who are going to have an interest in the land, and I think that's the safer situation to be in," Boeckmann said.

Should Aspen Heights fail to purchase the property after rezoning is approved, the city would be obligated under the agreement to rezone it again to allow mobile homes.

The only provision that caused Carney any heartburn was a section stipulating that if a "third party" owns a mobile home, that party is entitled to half the relocation allowance. Will residents have to present a title or bill of sale, he asked, in order to get their money? Some residents have had trouble obtaining their title from Regency of Missouri, he said.

"That did not seem to be the agreement that was proposed to the tenants," Carney said. "It seemed to be 'You get the money if you own it or not.' "

Hollis and Boeckmann said the contract couldn't be interpreted to mean Regency of Missouri is entitled to any money because it is a party to the development agreement and not a "third party."

"I'd prefer to see that language just disappear," Carney said. "It's definitely an issue that needs to be addressed."

MU Campus Dining strives for sustainability

By [Rikki Byrd](#)

November 18, 2011 | 5:46 p.m. CST

four bays that will each hold a week's worth of food waste from the campus dining halls. | [BJ Worley](#)

COLUMBIA — **The Bradford Research Center** held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Friday to launch its new project known as the "Zero Carbon Vegetable and Compost Production System."

Tim Reinbott, the center's superintendent, hosted the ceremony.

Despite the stench of the manure being poured into the more than \$70,000 compost facility, there wasn't much nose pinching. Instead, smiles were strewn across the faces of the MU students, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources engineers and community members who came to witness what they believed was a significant step toward sustainability.

The compost will run on what the research center is calling a "closed-loop" cycle. According to a press release, the compost will be used to grow vegetables, which will be sold to Campus Dining Services. The pre- and post-consumer food waste will then go back to the research center.

"It's a huge education opportunity," said Kat Seal, president of Sustain Mizzou. "We really have an opportunity to manage waste."

Reinbott said biotechnology students and students involved in Tigers for Community Agriculture will be in charge of maintaining the compost. In the future, he would also like students studying or involved with economics to participate, in hopes that they can find ways for the project to benefit the economy. The cycle will also include converting waste vegetable oil from the university's dining service into biodiesel to fuel the trucks required to transport the materials and deliver the vegetables to campus.

"I'm always interested in being as green as possible," Reinbott said.

Missouri high school graduation rate dips as formula changes

NO MU Mention

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH/The Associated Press

November 21, 2011 | 6:00 a.m. CST

KANSAS CITY — Like many states across the country, Missouri's graduation rate isn't looking as hot since the state switched to a new federally mandated formula for calculating the statistic.

Numbers released Monday show the state had a 79.8 percent graduation rate in 2011, down 6.6 percentage points from the graduation rate the old formula produced for the same year. The change was even more dramatic among poor and minority students. Black students, for instance, graduated at a rate of 63.9 percent under the new formula, compared to a rate of 75.1 percent under the old formula.

In the past, states used a variety of formulas that produced wildly different results. Starting this year, most states were required to move to the uniform calculation that requires them to track each student individually, giving a more accurate count of how many actually finish high school.

The new formula essentially takes the number of graduates in a given year, divided by the number of students who enrolled four years earlier. Students who transfer don't hurt a school's graduation rate, but there must be documentation.

"I do think it's an important rate because it allows us to compare ourselves to other states in a more comparable way, and we are looking to see which percentage of our kids graduate in four years," said Leigh Ann Grant-Engle, assistant commissioner for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

While making the switch, some states have reported graduation rates that are 10 or 15 percentage points lower than with earlier methods.

In the past, Missouri and half the other states used a calculation called the "leaver method," which has gained a reputation for being the most generous.

The method works like this: If a school had 100 graduates and 10 students who dropped out from their freshmen to senior year, 100 would be divided by 110, giving the school a graduation rate of 90.9 percent.

One reason the "leaver method" tended to produce higher graduation rates than the new calculation method is that it didn't hurt schools if students took more than four years to graduate.

To make sure it gets credit for students who need extra time to finish their schooling, Missouri plans to track its five-year graduation rate separately. That number won't be available until next year.

"There are many students that it is appropriate for them to take longer than four years possibly for them to graduate," Grant-Engle said.