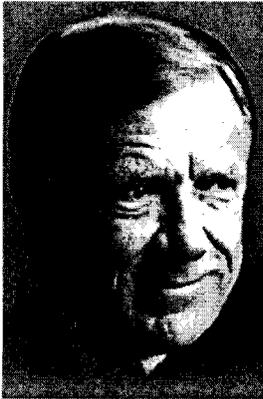


Hugh Stephenson, 1922-2012

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Hugh Edward Stephenson Jr., M.D., 90, of Columbia passed away on Thursday, July 26, 2012, at his summer home in Rehoboth Beach, Del. The cause of his death was Parkinson's disease.



Stephenson

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at First Baptist Church in Columbia.

Born in Columbia on June 1, 1922, Dr. Stephenson was the son of Dr. Hugh E. Stephenson Sr. and Doris Pryor Stephenson. He graduated first in his class at Hickman High School and went on to earn two bachelor's degrees from the University of Missouri in 1943. He completed medical school at Washington University in St. Louis and subsequently interned at the University of Chicago before spending two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Between 1950 and 1953, he was chief surgery resident at New York University's Bellevue Hospital. In 1956, he was named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Americans" by the United States Jaycees.

He was a distinguished cardio-thoracic surgeon, developed one of the first mobile cardiac resuscitation units and led the effort to establish a four-year medical school at the University of Missouri. As a pioneering heart surgeon, higher education supporter and organized medicine leader, Dr. Stephenson received many awards for his achievements. At the University of Missouri School of Medicine, he served as the John Growdon Distinguished Professor of Surgery, chair of surgery, interim dean and University Hospital's first elected chief of staff. Dr. Stephenson performed the university's first open heart surgery in 1958, and he was one of the very first surgeons to implant an automatic defibrillator. He performed the first successful resection of a coronary aneurysm documented in medical literature. He "retired" in 1992, but in 1996 he joined MU's Board of Curators and served as its president in 2000.

He was an advocate at the national, state and local levels for such organizations as the American Medical Association (a delegate for 36 years to the AMA and Chairman of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education), Southern Medical Association (president, 1998-1999), Missouri State Surgical Society (president), Missouri State Medical Association (vice president), American Heart Association (the local chapter presents an annual award in his name, and the annual Heart Ball is named after him), American Association of Surgery of Trauma, American College of Chest Physicians, American College of Cardiology, American College of Surgeons, , International Society of Heart Transplantations, Pan Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, Society of Vascular Surgery, American Trauma Society and Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB). He was a founding member of the University of Missouri Medical School Foundation and Medical Alumni Organization, which awarded Dr. Stephenson its highest honor, the Citation of Merit.

An author of nine books, Stephenson chronicled the history of the University of Missouri School of Medicine in his "Aesculapius Was a Mizzou Tiger." He wrote four editions of "Cardiac Arrest and Resuscitation," two editions of "Immediate Care of the Acutely Ill and Injured," and "America's First Nobel Prize in Medicine, the Story of Charles Claude Guthrie," and published more than a hundred articles in various medical journals.

As the first James IV Association Surgical Traveler from the United States, Dr. Stephenson visited more than 100 medical schools and hospitals before advising Missouri on where and how to train physicians. His approach to training students and residents has become a formal component of the MU School of Medicine's innovative curriculum, which emphasizes early exposure to clinical education and patient-centered care. Students would watch Dr. Stephenson spend an hour with each patient; such learning opportunities are rare in an era of outpatient surgeries and managed care. What medical students are taught inevitably changes, Dr. Stephenson said, but how they are taught should remain the same. "I always thought if you could make someone feel even greater than they are, they will rise to that occasion," he said. "You don't build great doctors by beating them down."

Dr. Stephenson was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He was Beta Theta Pi general fraternity president from 1978 to 1981 and the recipient of Beta's 30th Oxford Cup. Dr. Stephenson served the fraternity in nearly every capacity possible from vice president, district chief, Zeta Phi chapter counselor, a house corporation board member and chairman of two fundraising campaigns for a new chapter house in 1960 and 2010. For seven decades, until his health prevented him from attending, he administered the annual pledge class exam and attended initiation. In 2011 and 2012, when illness prevented him from attending, the pledge class came to him to serenade him and his Beta sweetheart, Sally. He took great interest in knowing a little something about each pledge.

An avid athlete and sports fan, Dr. Stephenson enjoyed attending Mizzou games and Beta intramurals. He had regulation-size goalposts in his front yard and spent many years kicking footballs with his son, Ted, and his daughter, Ann. Dr. Stephenson invented a drop-kicking technique that was difficult to block, and he developed a special shoe for kickers. He even authored a book called, "The Kicks That Count." When President Ronald Reagan read Dr. Stephenson's book on punting pigskins, the Gipper and doctor met to share their love of football.

President Reagan later wrote to Dr. Stephenson, "I would agree that when all is said and done, it is the kicker who usually spells the difference."

In 1996, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher presented Dr. Stephenson with the Freedom Foundation's Quality in Medicine Award. He was honored in 2002 alongside Walter Cronkite with the Mr. Missouri Award for his lifetime contributions to the state of Missouri. He was a lifetime member of First Baptist Church, the Columbia Rotary Club and the Elks Club. He was active over the years with the city's United Way campaign.

Dr. Stephenson is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Sarah "Sally" Dickinson Stephenson of Columbia and his adoring children, grandchildren, niece and nephew, including son, Hugh "Ted" Edward Stephenson III of Columbia; daughter, Ann Stephenson Cameron and husband Alex Cameron of Edmond, Okla.; his two grandchildren, Sarah and Scott Cameron; niece, Sally Anglin of Brunswick; and nephew, Rick Greenblatt of Boston.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the University of Missouri Medical School Foundation and the Zeta Phi chapter of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

MISSOURIAN

UM curators approve fiscal 2014 budget request

Friday, July 27, 2012 | 1:42 p.m. CDT
BY Jordan Shapiro

COLUMBIA — The UM System Board of Curators approved a state funding request on Friday that is millions of dollars more than it acknowledges it is likely to receive.

The curators unanimously approved a \$417.9 million core operating budget request via teleconference with little discussion. The request now goes to Gov. Jay Nixon as he prepares his fiscal 2014 budget proposal.

Nikki Krawitz, UM System vice president for finance and administration, presented the request but told curators it probably wouldn't matter, as Nixon has said he will hold the four-campus system's budget at the amount it received this year – \$396 million for fiscal 2013.

Krawitz said the "struggling economy" and only "modest revenue growth" are the reasons for the funding freeze.

Krawitz added that state officials are already anticipating a total \$220 million budget gap in the next fiscal year because this year's budget relied on money that will not be available in 2014. Missouri's public universities were the primary beneficiaries of a one-time fund of \$40 million gained from a court settlement against the country's five largest mortgage companies.

Higher education spending accounts for \$1.2 billion of the state's \$24 billion budget.

State revenue has been struggling since the 2008 financial crisis and economic recession. For fiscal 2013, state officials are projecting a 3.9 percent growth in the state's general revenue fund, which includes personal and corporate income taxes as well as sales tax revenue.

Slow revenue growth and increasing Medicaid costs have forced lawmakers to cut other areas in the budget, including higher education. In fiscal 2010, the UM System received \$475 million from the state.

As a result of the reduction in state aid, the UM System is raising tuition. In-state tuition based on 12 credit hours will rise from \$3,129 to \$3,282.

Final estimates of fiscal 2014 revenue won't be available until December, and Nixon will release his proposed budget in January. The Missouri General Assembly will then have its turn.

For fiscal 2013, the assembly worked to reverse a planned 15 percent cut in funding to public universities and chose to hold the higher education budget flat at fiscal 2012 levels.



UM takes on higher debt load Borrowing fills gap from state funding.

By Janese Silvey

Friday, July 27, 2012

Advertisement

The University of Missouri System's debt load has more than doubled in the past five years, and the borrowing spree doesn't appear to be ending anytime soon.

The UM System's debt total of about \$1.4 billion is up from \$650 million in 2007. The total, which requires an annual payment on principal and interest of \$76 million, does not include projects recently approved by the UM Board of Curators.

Nikki Krawitz, UM's vice president for finance and administration, said the debt has grown because the university has been taking advantage of historically low interest rates and the fixed-rate Build America Bonds offered through the federal stimulus plan.

A UM System analysis suggests the university has \$300 million in additional bond capacity at its current Aa1 credit rating.

Last month, administrators pitched the idea of increasing the system's debt capacity at the risk of lowering that rating. Curators were cautious about the idea, but Krawitz said it likely would not result in significantly higher interest rates.

Mostly, the university takes on debt to fund buildings and facilities that generate their own revenue, including the MU Athletics Department, which recently got the green light to issue \$72 million in bonds for upgrades at the football stadium. Other examples include residential halls and other buildings that students have agreed to pay fees for, such as the Student Recreation Complex and Student Center on the MU campus.

In recent years, though, the UM System has started finding revenue streams to upgrade academic buildings — projects that are supposed to be funded by the state. Recent renovations at Tate and Switzler halls at MU, for instance, were funded by dedicating a portion of the maintenance and repair operating budget to pay back the debt.

"The reason — and it's not just our university — the reason all universities are" increasing debt "is because the state is comprehensively failing to meet its obligations," said Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia. "The university is stepping in and filling the void. It's sensible given today's

interest rates. The money is very cheap, and the projects can be done inexpensively because contractors are so hungry."

Krawitz said she does not expect curators to stop approving building projects anytime soon. The four-campus system's building needs total \$3.5 billion, she said. This morning, curators approved a list of the most critical needs that the university will ask the state to pay for if funding becomes available.

Krawitz said she hopes a new law will give the university a better chance of funding some of those projects. Gov. Jay Nixon this month signed a bill that says public colleges that receive a pledge from a private donor for a building project can ask for up to a 50 percent match in state funds. "What we're hoping for is that it will give the state a compelling reason to provide some capital," Krawitz said.



UM outlines wish list for state funding Tight budgets still expected.

By Janese Silvey

Friday, July 27, 2012

The University of Missouri System wants nearly \$100 million more in operating funds from the state next year even though administrators know the money is not likely to materialize.

With little discussion, members of the UM Board of Curators today agreed to ask the state for an appropriation of \$483 million. That figure includes the amount appropriated this year, \$398 million, plus another \$15.7 million for core support and additional dollars to boost science, technology, math and engineering studies as well as health care programs across the four-campus system.

The requests are mostly symbolic. The state's budget office this week sent out notice that it is facing a \$220 million budget hole in fiscal year 2014.

"We've prepared appropriations requests, in part, to indicate what our needs are and what's of strategic importance to us," said Nikki Krawitz, vice president for finance and administration at UM.

And in case anyone thinks the university system is being greedy, Krawitz prepared another list of "strategic" needs that the university isn't asking the state to fund right now. That list totals \$58 million in funds to help the four universities get salaries and research dollars comparable to peer institutes, more money for science and medical education, and funding for maintenance and repairs.

It is important to track needs, Krawitz said, in case new revenue streams become available. Namely, higher education leaders are looking toward a 73-cent increase in tobacco taxes heading to the November ballot. If approved by voters, the tax increase is expected to generate at least \$283 million, of which 30 percent would be earmarked for public colleges and universities.

There is also a state bond issue on the table. Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, wants the state to ask voters permission to issue bonds and take advantage of low interest rates to pay for campus building projects. Previous attempts have not been successful.

"I'm coming back gangbusters next year," Kelly said.

If the state were to issue bonds, the UM System is ready with a list of prioritized requests. The list of top projects includes additions, reconstruction and renovations at Lafferre Hall, one of MU's engineering buildings. That project is expected to come with a \$68 million price tag.

Science buildings on the Rolla and St. Louis campuses, as well as a health science building at UM-Kansas City, also are on the priority list.

"Should the state do a bond issue, our projects would be selected from this list," Krawitz said.

Just below the top four campus facilities is a request for the state to fund a new State Historical Society of Missouri building and museum in Columbia. Plans for that building, expected to be constructed next to the Heinkel Building off Locust Street, have been on hold for three years.



The Tribune's View Paterno's friend, Pinkel

By Henry J. Waters III

Friday, July 27, 2012

Much has been made of the gaffe made by University of Missouri head football Coach Gary Pinkel, who almost alone among his peers publicly gave fallen Coach Paterno some serious slack. Pinkel indicated the world — and perhaps the press in particular — was making too much of Paterno's actions.

Well, maybe it's time to give Pinkel some slack. With the notable exception of his own personal tight spots, which he handled perfectly, we have learned Pinkel suffers from a tin ear when it comes to dealing with the public.

Usually he relies on inarticulation and his stated practice of "not reading about that stuff," a comment that seems to hold a certain amount of disdain for the press and even the public.

I have no doubt MU Athletic Director Mike Alden has invited Coach Pinkel into his private woodshed for a little chat about his Paterno comments. One of the things Alden likes best about Pinkel is his lack of "surprises." I reckon the director was surprised when the coach rose to speak about his friend from Happy Valley.

If he's telling the truth about his disinterest, Pinkel would do well to "read about that stuff" more. He would know the territory a bit better and would find that the newspapers — at least this one — treat him fairly.

Pinkel is a high-profile figure. As with all big-time coaches, the press and public are interested in what he does and will report and comment on same. If all of us, fans and reporters alike, never found anything to criticize, we simply would not be interested. For the sake of his career, he'd better pray it never gets to that.

Colleges are taking a closer look at crime-reporting procedures

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

MU mention page 3

The Clery Act seems simple enough:

Colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs — more than 6,000 schools nationwide — must let students and others know about crimes reported on their campuses.

But Penn State, in one of its many failings in the Jerry Sandusky child sex-abuse case, largely ignored the campus-safety law, according to former FBI director Louis Freeh's report.

“Like the rest of the university, the football program staff had not been trained in their Clery Act responsibilities, and most had never heard of the Clery Act,” the report said.

Now universities here and across the country are re-evaluating their crime-reporting procedures, and in some cases making changes.

“Did the Penn State situation make us do things differently, did it make us take a second look at what we are doing? ... Well, we would be pretty silly if we didn't pay attention and say, ‘How can we keep this from happening here?’ ” said Kim Vansell, director of public safety at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

The 1990 law is named for Jeanne Clery, a Lehigh University freshman who was raped and murdered by a fellow student in 1986. The law requires schools to provide daily updates on every crime reported on their campuses, or on nearby university-owned properties, even if the crime is not verified.

Before the law, campus safety advocates say, most students went about their daily college life with a false sense of security, not knowing when, where or how often crimes were committed on campus.

None of the larger universities in Kansas or Missouri — and only one smaller school — is listed by the U.S. Department of Education as having been found in violation of Clery.

The department in November launched an investigation into Penn State's compliance with the law. Results are forthcoming.

Experts on Clery have speculated that Penn State could see millions of dollars in fines, on top of the \$73 million in penalties announced last week by the NCAA and the Big 10.

Stepping it up

Since 2007, the Education Department says, it has launched 78 Clery compliance reviews, closed out 34 of them and assessed fines in 10 cases totaling \$1.4 million.

“For years DOE was doing some auditing and they weren’t fining, but they have stepped it up, and I think that is a result of some institutions getting really caught,” said Anne Glavin, president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

A school can be fined as much as \$27,500 for each violation. If the violation is deemed serious enough, a school could lose access to federal student aid dollars, a penalty that in most cases could shut down a school.

The largest fine to date was imposed on Eastern Michigan University after a student was raped and murdered in her dorm room in 2006.

School officials covered up the crimes for two months, telling her family and the community that the woman died of natural causes, a federal investigation found. The university didn’t acknowledge the crimes until a fellow student was arrested and charged.

The university’s fine: \$350,000.

The Clery Act drew attention again in 2007 after a shooting rampage at Virginia Tech that left 32 people dead. Campuses wrestled with how to comply with the part of the law that mandates that students, faculty and staff be promptly alerted about danger on campus.

A year after Virginia Tech, the FBI teamed up with the Department of Education to randomly review school procedures and policies for Clery compliance.

“Clery is so much more than crime stats,” said Maj. Chris Keary of the University of Kansas’ public safety office. “It is security procedures and emergency response, too, and it is not just the responsibility of the campus police; everyone in the campus community has a responsibility.”

Clery reports include crimes reported to police as well as those reported to other campus offices such as residence life, counseling services, women’s centers, athletic departments, health clinics and student activity sponsors. Any time a so-called mandatory reporter learns about a crime, he or she must tell the on-campus agency responsible for making it public and for passing the information on to the Department of Education.

Every university is responsible for compiling an annual report listing the totals for each crime. Schools are required to keep crime records going back seven years.

“It is challenging because there are so many facets to the law,” said Glavin, who also is police chief at California State University at Edgerton.

“Institutions have to stay on top of it. What it comes down to is training. Training is a critical thing for whoever on campus is the final authority for making Clery reports to the DOE.”

Regional schools

For the most part, an audit is conducted at a school after a tip of a possible Clery problem, Department of Education officials said.

That’s what happened at Lincoln University in Jefferson City.

A federal review committee in 2009 found that Lincoln had failed to fully comply with Clery. The review concentrated on 2008 and 2009 crime statistics required to be reported to the campus community.

The committee examined whether crimes were being correctly included in the school’s crime log and found several problems. One school report showed five burglaries in 2006, a year in which the school actually had 12 burglaries.

In another instance, the school reported two situations involving disciplinary referrals for illegal weapons on campus, but a report revised after the federal review lists eight such incidents.

Kent Brown, Lincoln’s general counsel, said the case was cleared in 2011 with Lincoln making all the Clery-required changes to the way it logs and reports campus crime. The school still has to make annual, detailed reports to the department on how it is handling Clery mandates.

“It was one of those situations where they didn’t find anything egregious; this was a problem with recordkeeping, not a coverup,” Brown said.

The Department of Education recently ran an audit of the University of Missouri’s financial aid services and touched on Clery, questioning campus police about how MU responds to the act, but found no problems, said university spokesman Christian Basi. DOE spokesman Chris Greene said records show MU has never been audited for Clery violations.

MU campus police get updates on Clery at least once a year.

“We make a very strong good-faith effort to be in total compliance with Clery,” said Police Capt. Brian Weimer. “We will report (a crime) if it is reported to us. We don’t have to prove it. But we can’t be everywhere at once. It’s so important for the entire campus to be aware.”

The University of Central Missouri has identified 400 people on its campus as mandatory reporters of crime. The school’s public safety office regularly reviews the list to make sure the right people are included and that they know their obligation to tell about any crime on campus.

Wichita State University this summer is hosting a training session on reporting campus crime for schools in the region.

Kansas State University has updated some of its policies related to campus crime, including one on sexual violence, said Karen Low, assistant dean of student life.

But she said K-State was ahead of the rush to check Clery compliance; it started the process a year before the Penn State scandal broke, after a letter from the Education Department reminded universities across the country to be diligent about reporting campus crime.

This month, Missouri State University in Springfield sent an electronic note to the campus community offering training on reporting crime on campus.

Missouri State also shortened the time the school takes to report a violent crime and tweaked wording in other crime-reporting policies to make sure people know what steps to take.

On this issue, said Penni Groves, the school's interim general counsel, "university officials continue to ask themselves, 'Are we doing enough?'"

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Employers weigh in on how they view online degrees

By Sarah Baraba | Posted: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:15 am | [\(0\) comments](#).

NO MU MENTION

In a few weeks, hoards of college students will set off to distances near and far for a new semester of college. Several others will travel to their kitchen table for distance learning, college courses and degrees completed online.

An increasing population of nontraditional students, who in addition to studying are often working or raising a family, has led area higher-ed institutions from Washington University to Southwestern Illinois College to add classes and degrees based entirely on the web. They join schools like the University of Phoenix as well as DeVry and Kaplan universities that have offered distance learning for years.

Convenient and flexible online schooling may be gaining popularity among students, but several of the region's top employers say they're skeptical of the programs and their graduates. Some admit that comes from an unfamiliarity with distance learning. Others cite bad experiences to back up their view.

"Some people might see these schools as an indicator of ability or commitment levels," said David Kaplan, chair of the Department of Management and associate professor at Saint Louis University's John Cook School of Business. "These aren't necessarily fair, but this is how people perceive things."

An online degree isn't the kiss of death. Coupled with a proven professional record, online degrees from accredited institutions are earning the respect of employers. But with 7.5 percent of the metro area's workforce out of work, employers also pointed out they have the luxury of being able to thin out a wide pool of applicants with a fine-toothed comb.

"This is the best time to have a job posted," said David Stoecklin, executive director of Madison County Employment and Training in the Metro East. "If I was going to let a traditional degree be the deciding factor, I could."

Battling a perception

Jayne Stewart, of St. Peters, wanted to finish his associate's degree in business, but he also needed to bring home a paycheck. He enrolled in some online courses at University of Phoenix that he could take after his shift.

"I liked that it had a local campus where I could meet people face to face," he said. "And at least, I've heard of it."

More than half the students enrolled in online degree programs look a lot like Stewart, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Fifty-three percent of students in online degree programs were 30 or older, and nearly 85 percent were working full or part time.

Stewart didn't end up finishing the classes. He dropped the courses because he had a hard time following the course structure, felt the program was disorganized and couldn't coordinate with classmates on group assignments.

Talking with some of the region's top job suppliers, they said that's exactly what concerns them about credentials earned online.

"There's something to be said about sitting in a classroom," said Kathy Hamann, director of human resources at Chesterfield-based Delmar Gardens, which employs more than 2800 people in the region.

"How do you know somebody else didn't do that person's homework or take their tests?" she continued. "The classroom experience just seems more valuable to me." Several employers agreed, adding there are a lot of unknowns about online education. On paper alone, a degree is only as good as the reputation of the name on it.

"We've had experiences where some online universities don't exist anymore when you go to do a background check on a potential employee," said Dave Estes, vice president of human resources and development for Fenton-based Maritz. He said there's some security in brick-and-mortar schools that have a legacy of accreditation, particularly when bringing on entry-level candidates.

"We're more comfortable with the reputation of those traditional institutions," explained Danielle Smith, vice president of human resources for The Bank of Edwardsville. "We just don't know as much about strictly online institutions."

That's pretty common, said Ryan Rauzon, spokesperson for the University of Phoenix. He said online coursework is often misconceived as independent studying or watching a lecture on a computer.

"Online degree coursework is extremely research and writing intensive. Students write every single day," he said. "I think few people can appreciate the coursework. They just haven't had the chance to experience it or just aren't familiar with it."

Gaining ground

Mercy Health, which employs about 10,000 in the St. Louis region, said it does not differentiate between candidates with degrees from online programs and those from brick-and-mortar schools.

"We realized that a lot of mature professionals are returning to school, especially with the change in the economy," said Linda Stark, director of recruitment.

The vast majority of students earning online degrees are also employed. The ability to hold a 9-to-5 and complete course work is a quality distance learning graduates should emphasize to potential employers, said Jennifer Lasater, executive director of national career services for Kaplan University, which offers online programs for everything from certificates to graduate degrees.

"Balancing a full-time job as well as being able to prioritize is a great way to illustrate your ability to stay on task and be focused," she said.

Employers agreed project management and multitasking are prized skills in the workplace, and added the more proven experience on a resume, the less emphasis they put on the degree. In fact, many said they would encourage their staff to pursue degrees through online programs to move up the career ladder.

"If it's an experienced candidate, I think it's less important," Estes said. "You're really hiring that person for their background and work experience, not for where they went to school."

United Press International

100 YEARS OF JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE

Sex content in movies linked to teen sex

COLUMBIA, Mo., July 28 (UPI) -- Young people who watch more sexual content in movies tend to engage more than others in sexual behavior, U.S. researchers found.

Ross O'Hara, currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Missouri and psychological scientists at Dartmouth College, found teens who watched more sexual content also began sexual activity at an earlier age than others.

"We can't say that watching sexual content in movies is directly responsible for adolescents' sexual behavior," O'Hara said in a statement. "However, there is a correlation between the two. Sensation seeking, or the tendency to seek more novel and intense sexual stimulation, does seem to increase in young people who watched more movies with sexually explicit content."

O'Hara and his colleagues recruited 1,228 participants ages 12-14 years. Each participant reported which movies they had seen, choosing from randomly selected lists of 50 top-grossing films from 1998 to 2004. The movies had been evaluated for the amount of sexual content they contained.

Six years later, the participants were surveyed to find out how old they were when they became sexually active and how risky their sexual behavior might have been.

The study, published in *Psychological Science*, found adolescents exposed to more sexual content in movies start having sex at younger ages, have more sexual partners and are less likely to use condoms with casual sexual partners.



Astronauts recall Sally Ride's impact MU experts point to legacy in education.

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Friday, July 27, 2012

Steven Nagel remembers Sally Ride as being smart, kind and humble when the two were in the same group of astronauts in the late 1970s.

But Ride's post-NASA career was just as impressive, said Nagel, who works in the University of Missouri's College of Engineering.

"She was famous because of being the first U.S. woman to fly in space," he said. "She probably could have capitalized on that more. But she chose to do things she thought were important, like education for young women, and I always respected her for that."

Nagel's wife, Linda Godwin — also a former astronaut — agreed. Although Ride will always be known for her inaugural flight, "in terms of lasting impact on the country, you never know how many girls she impacted," she said.

Ride, 61, died Monday after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Nagel and Ride were classmates in NASA's first group of astronauts to include women and minorities. The two shared an office but did not keep in touch after working at NASA together, he said.

Godwin joined the astronaut program in the 1980s after Ride had already left. She worked on a couple of projects with Ride through the Sally Ride Science educational program, she said.

"She chose to go into education, getting girls interested in math and science," Godwin said. "She chose a route that really made a difference even after her pioneering work as the first woman in space in our country."

Angela Speck, a professor and director of astronomy at MU, also praised Ride's impact after her space missions.

"Her legacy is not just being the first U.S. woman in space, although that's what everyone will think of," she said. "The impact she's had on providing opportunities for women to follow their passions in science, or even understanding that they can do that, I think is really important."

Few knew Ride was battling cancer, and fewer knew about her personal life. It wasn't until her obituary mentioned a longtime partner that it became public she was a lesbian.

"That it's out now is a great thing because here is someone who has always gotten respect," Speck said. "It's got to provide hope for people who are gay and feeling they have to be private about it."