

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Who Can Still Afford State U ?

As public colleges spend more and get less from the states, tuition costs are shifting to parents and students—often putting higher education out of reach.

No MU Mention

By SCOTT THURM

When Steve Joiner attended the University of Colorado in Boulder in the late 1980s, his parents—an Air Force mechanical supervisor and a teacher—paid his tab of about \$4,000 a year, roughly \$8,600 in today's dollars. He earned a master's degree and became a high-school math teacher.

Public universities have long been an attractive, affordable option for families with limited resources, but over the past decade, tuitions have skyrocketed. WSJ's Scott Thurm discusses with Weekend Review editor Gary Rosen. (Photo: Getty Images)

In August, Mr. Joiner's daughter Akaysha, the valedictorian of her high-school class, enrolled at CU, as the big campus here is known. But tuition, room, board and books for in-state students is now \$23,000 a year—a sum Mr. Joiner and his wife, a social worker, weren't prepared for.

The big difference between now and then: Though Colorado taxpayers now provide more funding in absolute terms, those funds cover a much smaller share of CU's total spending, which has grown enormously. In 1985, when Mr. Joiner was a freshman, state appropriations paid 37% of the Boulder campus's \$115 million "general fund" budget. In the current academic year, the state is picking up 9% of a budget that has grown to \$600 million.

A number of factors have helped to fuel the soaring cost of public colleges. Administrative costs have soared nationwide, and many administrators have secured big pay increases—including some at CU, in 2011. Teaching loads have declined for tenured faculty at many schools, adding to costs. Between 2001 and 2011, the Department of Education says, the number of managers at U.S. colleges and universities grew 50% faster than the number of instructors. What's more, schools have spent liberally on fancier dorms, dining halls and gyms to compete for students.

Still, Colorado ranks 48th among states in per-person spending on higher education, down from sixth in 1970, says Brian Burnett, a vice chancellor at the University of Colorado's Colorado Springs campus who recently published his Ph.D. dissertation on Colorado's higher-education funding.

The cost of attending public colleges is rising faster than the cost of private colleges, as states reduce funding. This graphic shows the published tuition and fees for state residents in 2012-13, and in 2006-07, for 72 public universities with substantial research activity, including many state "flagship" schools.

For generations of Americans, public colleges and universities offered an affordable option for earning a college degree. Now, cash-strapped states across the country are cutting funding for colleges and directing scarce resources to primary and secondary schooling, Medicaid and prisons. That is shifting more of the cost of higher education to students and their families.

Public higher education in the U.S. dates to the 1795 establishment of the University of North Carolina. In 1862, Congress passed the Morrill Act, which gave land to the states to establish colleges "to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes." The 108 so-called land-grant colleges still form the backbone of the U.S. public higher-education system.

Public-college enrollment exploded after World War II and the adoption of the GI Bill. As recently as 1951, more Americans were enrolled in private universities than public ones. Sixty years later, more than 15 million students were enrolled at the nation's 678 public colleges and universities, nearly three times the number attending private ones, according to the Education Department.

Akaysha's father, CU alum Steve Joiner, hadn't expected her tuition to be so high.

State subsidies for these public colleges and universities fell 21%, on a per-student, inflation-adjusted basis between 2000-01 and 2010-11, according to the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, a national research and advocacy group. Over that same period, tuition at two- and four-year public colleges rose an inflation-adjusted 45% to \$4,774 in 2010-11, according to the association. At public four-year colleges this year, tuition averages \$8,655, according to the College Board.

But education experts say wrenching decisions on the state level about how to allocate limited public resources are having a very big effect.

"Over the last 25 or 30 years, public higher education has lost out in the competition for state funds with Medicaid," says Cornell University professor Ronald Ehrenberg, director of the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute. "There's so much pressure to spend money on other things."

The University of Colorado isn't the only prominent public-university system getting squeezed by state fiscal pressures. State funding for the University of California system has fallen 25% over the past decade, to \$2.4 billion from \$3.2 billion, triggering tuition increases and student protests. At the University of Michigan, state funding has fallen 26% in the past decade. The state now covers 17% of the university's budget, down from 33% in 2002-03.

"The state obligations in Medicaid, prisons and K-12 education are just swallowing up state budgets," says John Vaughn, executive vice president of the Association of American Universities, a group of 62 research universities, public and private.

Such changes are eroding the once-sharp distinctions between public and private institutions. Public universities "are creeping toward the private, nonprofit model, where everybody pays market rates rather than subsidized rates," notes Kevin Carey, director of the education-policy program at the New America Foundation, a think tank. The University of Virginia's graduate school of business, for example, now receives no state funding.

Things were different when Mr. Joiner arrived at the University of Colorado, from nearby Aurora, in 1985. He says his father had told him: "If you want to go, it will be paid for." At that time, tuition for in-state residents was \$1,632—about \$3,500 in today's dollars.

Mr. Joiner says he loved his time in Boulder. He joined the track team and by junior year had earned a small athletic scholarship. He met his wife, Jessica. He majored in math and toyed with applying to medical school or working in finance. Eventually, he decided to become a teacher. He took loans to help finance a master's degree in education. He landed a job in the same Aurora school district he had attended as a child.

The state support that had made CU so affordable for Mr. Joiner began coming under pressure shortly after he left Boulder in 1992. That fall, Colorado voters approved a constitutional amendment limiting taxes and state spending, part of a multistate wave of tax-limit measures modeled on California's Proposition 13 from 1978.

Then, in 2000, education advocates who feared that Colorado's primary and secondary schools were falling behind those in other states placed a measure on the ballot that specified funding increases for those schools. Colorado voters approved it. The tax limit already in place meant that state colleges and universities were forced to compete with other state obligations for pieces of a smaller financial pie. Colorado state spending on higher education fell for four consecutive years in the early 2000s. It rebounded briefly, then the financial crisis triggered new cuts.

The financial pressure on CU isn't expected to subside soon. A 2010 study by the University of Denver, a private school, projected that Colorado, given its other funding obligations, might run out of money for colleges and universities within a decade. "We think it's sooner than that," says CU President Bruce Benson.

Other Colorado state educational institutions are feeling the pinch. At Adams State University in Alamosa, 200 miles south of Denver, the state covers about \$11 million of the \$40 million annual budget, down from \$15 million five years ago. Tuition has more than doubled since 2007, to \$6,448 this year.

Adams State is located in a rural area that is heavily Hispanic, where household income is about two-thirds the state average of \$57,685. More than 60% of Adams State students receive federal Pell grants

for low-income students. After years of growing enrollment, the freshman class this year shrank by nearly 10%, to 525 students. "We think we've priced some students out of the market," says Adams State President David Svaldi.

For years, CU, with about 24,000 undergraduates, managed to keep in-state tuition cheaper than at many comparable universities in other states, in part by keeping a close eye on administrative costs. Today, CU's administrative spending per student is less than half the average of other big research institutions, according to federal data.

But after a decade of big annual increases, in-state tuition at CU this year is \$9,482, nearly 10% above the national average for four-year public colleges. The state is contributing \$53.5 million to CU's budget, just \$500,000 more than it kicked in in 1989, when the budget was a quarter of its current size and there were 5,000 fewer students.

There are few visible signs of the financial crunch on campus, where the Rocky Mountains loom over the pink sandstone buildings and manicured lawns. CU counts five Nobel Prize winners among its faculty. Professors garnered \$275 million in federal research grants this year, among the tops in the nation. Work began this summer on a \$63 million gym renovation to include an outdoor pool and ice rink, which students voted to pay for with a \$250 annual fee.

When the 2008 financial crisis hit, some faculty positions were left vacant and support jobs were eliminated. As the faculty has shrunk, class sizes have grown. In fall 2007, half of undergraduate classes had 20 or more students. In fall 2011, 61% did. University statistics indicate that graduate students teach more undergraduate classes than they used to.

Kyle Daniels, a freshman from suburban Denver, was surprised to see 500 students in his introductory chemistry class. "For the amount of money I'm paying, you'd think the classes would be smaller," he says. He hopes to gain bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering in five years, financed by up to \$30,000 a year in student loans.

The interdisciplinary program in environmental studies recently dropped one of three required courses for graduate students because there weren't enough teachers, says Roger Pielke Jr., a political-science professor who teaches in the program. "Colorado is an example of a university trying to do more with less, but where we've reached the limit, we're doing less with less," he says.

CU administrators say the damage inflicted by the financial squeeze has been minimal. Philip DiStefano, the chancellor, says CU is focusing on its strengths. He eliminated a dean position by reclassifying the journalism school as a department. Some foreign-language and graduate programs have been dropped.

"The reputation of the university has only improved over time," says physiology professor Todd Gleeson, a former dean of arts and sciences.

CU has long attracted lots of out-of-state students, who pay higher tuition. Non-Coloradans currently pay \$31,559 for tuition, not counting room and board. The higher nonresident fees go "a long way toward keeping the lights on," says Mr. Gleeson.

In 2010, officials persuaded lawmakers to exclude foreign students from the cap on out-of-staters—currently 45% of freshmen—arguing that the foreigners would add more global perspective. But they also covet the additional revenue, which officials estimate at \$30 million a year. This year, CU is dispatching recruiters to more than a dozen countries, from Latin America to the Middle East.

Others are pursuing the same strategy. At Purdue University, 17% of undergraduates are from outside the U.S., mostly from China, up from 9% in 2009. At the University at Illinois, 13% of this year's freshmen are foreign students.

Genesis Quinones, a senior from Greeley, Colo., who is the first in her family to attend college, says she would prefer that CU focus on recruiting racial and ethnic minorities from within Colorado. "We want to see more diversity here, but more diversity from Colorado," she says.

In the 2010-11 academic year, 16% of CU students received Pell grants for low-income students, fewer than at other Colorado public universities and below the median of 26% for 72 major public-research universities.

Mr. DiStefano says CU admits every Colorado applicant who meets its admissions criteria. School officials say this year's freshman class is the most diverse ever, with 22% of students from ethnic or racial minorities. They say the school diverted 20% of the money from recent tuition increases to boost financial aid, so students with family incomes below \$60,000 on average now pay less than in 2009.

Akaysha Joiner, the Aurora girl whose father attended CU in the 1980s, graduated at the top of her high-school class. When she applied, her father was making about \$71,000 a year and her mother was temporarily out of work. CU offered her two grants totaling \$7,400 and a \$5,000 loan, which would cover slightly more than half the annual cost.

Mr. Joiner says that he hadn't set aside money for Akaysha's education and was surprised she hadn't been offered more aid because of her top class ranking, the fact that he and his wife are alumni and that she is the child of a black parent and a Hispanic parent. "I don't know that I expected a full ride," he says. "But I had no idea [our payment] was going to be that high."

Kelly Fox, chief financial officer for the Boulder campus, says the university awards most of its financial aid to Colorado residents based on need. She says about 10% of in-state Boulder students get merit-based scholarships, which are highly competitive.

By fall, Akaysha had won \$2,500 in non-CU scholarships, an additional \$700 CU scholarship and a work-study job. That left the Joiner family owing about \$9,000 for the year, including the cost of the loan. That is similar to what her father paid 27 years ago without any aid, after adjusting for inflation. Her grandfather gave her \$4,000 to help out.

Mr. Joiner says the experience has left him wondering whether his two younger children will even "be able to go to a state school—forget about out-of-state."

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Sandy Hook solidarity



By Ryan Henriksen

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton and his wife, Anne, place a wreath yesterday in front of the MU Columns for the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown, Conn. More than 100 people attended the ceremony, and bells in Switzler Hall rang as the wreath was placed.

MU Law School Dean Gary Myers plans for school's future

By Keith Reid-Cleveland

December 19, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — If he were to liken his career to a marriage, **Gary Myers, new dean of MU's School of Law, would say that attending law school was his honeymoon.**

Myers fell in love with law as an undergraduate in the early 1980s at New York University. He went on to earn a law degree and a master's degree in economics in 1986 from Duke University.

In August, Myers came to MU, succeeding R. Lawrence Dessem as dean of the Law School. For 23 years before that, Myers, 50, was at the University of Mississippi's School of Law, teaching and later serving as associate dean of research.

Myers' model

Myers calls his leadership style collaborative.

"I want to have conversations with people, get people's input in decision-making, so that we can make as informed a decision as possible," he said.

Myers has formed the style through observing other administrators and through his experiences in law school and the professional world. "I'm borrowing from about a half-dozen great deans that I've seen over the years," he said.

That list includes the late Louis Westerfield, the first African-American dean at the University of Mississippi, Taylor Reveley of the College of William and Mary and Larry Ponoroff of Tulane University.

Increasing resources, recognition

Myers said his top short-term goal is to increase the resources available for the Law School.

He hopes to increase fundraising efforts to support new programs and new courses in intellectual property and business and entrepreneurship law; criminal law could also be an option.

The faculty is one of the key strengths of the school, he said.

"I want people in the rest of the country to learn about, to see them and interact with them," Myers said. "I know it would lead to greater recognition for the Law School."

Decreasing student debt

Myers acknowledges that debt is probably the number one thing on the minds of many entering and applying to law schools.

"Our response, first of all, is that we offer an incredible value as a law school — our in-state tuition is a tremendous bargain," Myers said. "My way of seeing it is that everyone who comes to Mizzou Law gets a scholarship because our in-state tuition is very competitive and enables students to graduate with relatively low student debt."

In-state tuition and fees for 2012-13 for MU's School of Law is \$18,619, according to its website. That's one of the least expensive among law schools in the Southeastern Conference and in the Big 12.

Myers' view is that the competitive cost of attending MU's Law School allows students to expand the kind of work opportunities they might accept. Less debt would mean the ability to take jobs with lower-end salaries in public service, government, nonprofit organizations or smaller law firms.

"If they want a higher paying job with longer hours and more demanding work schedules, they can take those jobs," Myers said. "But they have the flexibility to consider the options that may give them the ability to have more of that balance."

Myers suggested that students considering this option talk to those who have recently taken up similar positions so that they can gain insight on their daily work responsibilities. Another of his most immediate goals is to increase the number of scholarships and tuition waivers for out-of-state students. In 2011-12, 73 students began the school year with conditional, or performance-dependent, scholarships — up from 67 students for the two previous years.

Raising the Law School's reputation

In the long term, Myers wants to increase the Law School's national reputation and expand the recognition of certain specialty areas.

"We have a nationally recognized Center for Dispute Resolution, which brings us considerable recognition," he said. "But I'd like to see us expand and have several other areas of strength for which we will be known."

The specific areas aren't yet set in stone, but Myers sees strength and potential for expansion in intellectual property, real estate, criminal law and civil litigation. In terms of his own expertise, Myers said he has been involved in intellectual property law for 25 years, dating back to his law school days when he worked for a professor who focused on it.

"Today, intellectual property is one of the leading fields in the law, one of the real growth areas, and I believe it will continue to be," he said.

Addressing diversity

In the class of about 135 students that entered MU School of Law this fall, 21 percent identified as minorities and 44 percent as women, Myers said. He is happy about these numbers but said increasing student diversity is a priority of the Law School and for himself as dean.

"I think it shows the efforts that have been made and that we are working every year to draw a diverse student body," Myers said. "I think that's fundamentally important." Myers believes the Law School needs to graduate a diverse group of students to meet the legal needs of a society made up of people from various environments.

"I know our Law School, as do others, works very hard to attract, retain and have successful students who complete the program, pass the bar and become a part of the legal community," he said.

Myers' future in the classroom

Myers plans to devote the first year or two of his deanship to learning his job and getting to know those around him. After that, he plans to get back into the classroom.

He hopes to teach in the areas of intellectual property, entertainment and anti-trust laws. However, he said he will teach whatever is needed most by the Law School, depending on what would fit within his areas of interest and ability.

Chicken substitute roosts in Missouri, but will diners devour it?

By EDWARD M. EVELD

COLUMBIA -- Making chicken that's not really chicken appears simple.

Certainly is quick. Start with the dry ingredients, then add water and heat inside a big stainless steel machine. A few minutes later, out pops the product.

"It looks like a piece of shredded chicken," says Bob Prusha, the head of operations at Beyond Meat, a new facility here. He takes a portion literally hot off the line from a production employee and pulls it apart.

Behold the Holy Grail of chicken-free chicken. At least that's the hope. It's a recipe and process honed to create a plant-based product that tastes like chicken, but more important, one that shreds like meat and fools the mouth: Chews like chicken.

The idea is that Americans are primed at least once in a while to choose such protein alternatives to meat, for their health, for animal welfare, for environmental reasons. And while vegetarians might be a forgiving bunch, the rest of us want our "chicken" to behave like chicken when we eat it.

A full production line began recently in a warehouse-turned-food-processing plant just off Interstate 70. It's the result of an entrepreneur, Ethan Brown, intersecting with two University of Missouri food scientists, who have labored on and off for two decades to fine-tune the mouth-feel of "texturized vegetable protein."

The ingredients include soy protein, pea protein and carrot fiber, and the process is one of extrusion, says Harold Huff, senior research specialist in biological engineering. Not a pretty word, extrusion, but common in food processing. Dry ingredients get mixed with water, blended, kneaded, cooked and pushed through. Getting it right has been anything but simple.

"Our very first attempts were total failures," says Huff, who counts himself among the vast majority who include meat in their diets and enjoy the experience.

"For it to appeal to us, when all is said and done, it has to chew right," he says.

Fu-Hung Hsieh, biological engineering and food science professor, says the beginnings of success were evident back in the 1990s.

“We could form the fibers, but it wasn’t consistent,” Hsieh says.

A research grant allowed the scientists to use more ingredients in larger batches, which led to a more stable process. Soy was chosen as a base because of its availability and affordability, Hsieh says, and because some people are sensitive to wheat gluten, another option.

Brown, formerly in the clean energy industry, founded a company, Beyond Meat, and chose Columbia for the full-scale operation, a decision hailed by city and university officials. It has 15 employees and one line with room to grow. Investors include Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Byers and the Obvious Corp.

To Brown, here was a chance to offer a better meat alternative than the current choices, to provide the “whole sensory experience” of eating meat. A vegan now, he says he nevertheless knows about the satisfaction of eating meat.

Earlier this year, Brown offered New York Times food writer and author Mark Bittman a blind taste test of chicken wraps, real chicken and Beyond Meat’s vegan “chicken-less strips” side by side. Bittman acknowledged he was “fooled badly.”

Brown says he got a flavor of agricultural life and an appreciation for nature growing up in Maryland when his father, a University of Maryland professor, bought a dairy farm in the western part of the state. Later he was nagged by the question of using animals for protein and invested in Washington, D.C.-area restaurants that served vegetarian and vegan entrees.

After surveying plant-based products from North America to Asia, he was most excited by the work of Huff and Hsieh, with whom he forged a partnership to make further calibrations to their creation and to bring the product to market.

“It was the fibrous structure of what they had developed,” he says. “It clearly mimics the fibrous structure of animal muscle or meat in a way I haven’t seen.”

The goal is not to replace real chicken, Brown says, but to serve a growing market of people who want to plan one or two meals a week featuring a plant-based protein in the center of the plate. That’s an estimated 90 million people in the United States, he says. Next up for the company will be analogs to beef and pork and broadening the range of protein types used in the products.

As for price, Brown says the goal is to be competitive with regular chicken.

“It takes six weeks to raise a chicken,” he says, “and about two minutes to run our process. We’re very set on passing those savings along to consumers. How quickly we can do that depends on volume.”

Prusha, vice president of operations, says the company expects to have its chicken-less strips in stores the first quarter of next year. Recently at the plant, which smells like cooking chicken, a chef dropped by Prusha’s office to talk seasonings, specifically pepper and rosemary.

The strips will be available with and without seasoning and can be used the same way you’d use chicken breast strips. The company currently is selling its strips to Whole Foods, which is including the product in prepared dishes. Its stores in Overland Park offer chicken salad made with the strips.

Will enough people bite?

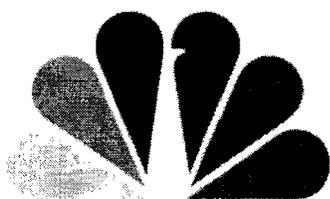
A Harris Interactive poll conducted this year for the Vegetarian Resource Group found that about 5 percent of Americans say they don't eat meat, fish, seafood or poultry. About half of those are vegans, the term for vegetarians who also abstain from dairy and other animal products.

Bottom line: 33 percent of all Americans are eating a "significant" number of vegetarian meals, and about 25 percent of the population is game for meat substitutes.

"People who love chicken want something that's just like chicken," says Charles Stahler, co-director of the Vegetarian Resource Group in Baltimore. "Others are switching to more whole foods, grains and beans. Often it will come down to taste and cost."

Prusha, a meat eater, says he's like a lot of folks who've cut back on red meat in favor of more poultry and fish. More plant-based alternatives is the next step, he says.

"It becomes an easy transition if you feel like you're not sacrificing."



NBC

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Mizzou dismisses freshman DB following second arrest for pot possession

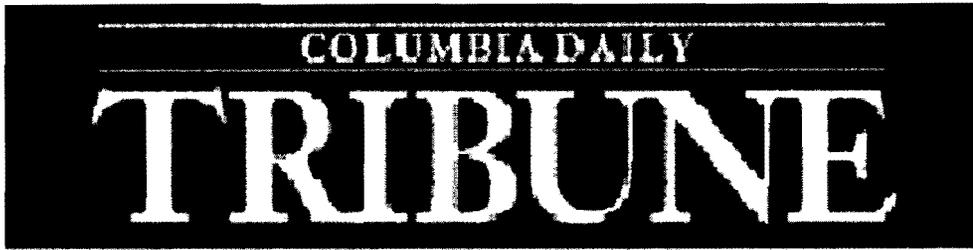
It appears that Missouri safety Ka'ra Stewart didn't learn from his first arrest for marijuana possession.

Stewart, a freshman who redshirted this year, was detained on Nov. 9 for possession of fewer than 35 grams of marijuana. Just over a month later, Stewart was busted again for pot possession, according to multiple media outlets.

University of Missouri police entered Stewart's dorm room Monday because of marijuana odor coming from the room. Though Stewart told police he was not smoking and did not consent to a search, officers obtained a warrant and found four bags that later tested positive for marijuana.

Stewart was taken to jail and later released on \$500 bond. Missouri has since dismissed Stewart from the team.

Stewart is the fourth Mizzou freshman to be arrested for marijuana possession in the past couple of months. In October, freshmen Dorial Green-Beckham, Torey Boozer and Levi Copelin were arrested by university police for the same charge.



MU freshman safety kicked off team

By Dave Matter

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Missouri freshman safety Ka'ra Stewart has been dismissed from the football team, MU spokesman Chad Moller said Tuesday. Stewart was arrested Monday on suspicion of possession of less than 35 grams of marijuana, University of Missouri police captain Brian Weimer said.

The arrest came just 12 days after Stewart pleaded guilty to the same offense stemming from a Nov. 9 arrest in Columbia.

On Monday, officers requested to search Stewart's dorm room at South Hall at 11:08 a.m. after detecting a suspicious odor. Stewart, 18, did not consent to a search. Officers obtained a search warrant and later found Stewart in possession of a small amount of a green leafy substance. As the search continued, police found four baggies containing the same substance, which later tested positive for marijuana. Stewart was arrested and taken into custody at Boone County Jail. He posted \$500 bail.

Stewart, from O'Fallon, Ill., redshirted this past season. He played one season at O'Fallon High School after transferring from Fork Union, Va., Military Academy.

On Dec. 5, he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of possessing less than 35 grams of marijuana, stemming from a Nov. 9 arrest by the Boone County Sheriff's department. Stewart paid a \$200 fine.

Stewart is the fifth member of Missouri's freshman class to be arrested for pot possession in Columbia. In October, receivers Dorial Green-Beckham and Levi Copelin and linebacker Torey Boozer were arrested in a parking lot outside Memorial Stadium. Green-Beckham and Copelin both pleaded guilty to amended city violations of trespassing. Boozer faces a disposition hearing in municipal court on Feb. 12.

Stewart is also the second player from the freshman class kicked off the team. Tight end Brandon Holifield was dismissed last month for violating undisclosed team policies, a few days before he was arrested by Missouri Highway Patrol on suspicion of marijuana possession. Holifield pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor possession charge, along with misdemeanor charges for speeding and driving without a license. He paid \$450 in fines.

After news broke of Stewart's most recent arrest, some fellow freshman teammates responded on Twitter. Linebacker Michael Scherer tweeted: "This is embarrassing. People can talk about the future all they want but there won't be one with everyone getting arrested like this."

Then Boozer chimed in: "There are some who learn from their mistakes, Then some who just dont care. Those who dont care should be gone!!! #myopinion #mizzoufootball"

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mizzou Alternative Spring Break offers its first winter service trips

By Ayano Shimizu

December 19, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Last spring, MU student Lucas Moore was translating Spanish to English at a community health clinic in the Dominican Republic.

He went as part of Mizzou Alternative Spring Break, which had started volunteering for Outreach360. The international service organization emphasizes education in the Dominican Republic.

Although the 10 students from MU were supposed to teach English and Spanish in local classrooms, Moore and two other members ended up helping the community health clinic organized by the University of Tampa. It was a wonderful experience, he said.

Moore, now expansion chairman of Mizzou ASB, as it is known, is heading back to the Dominican Republic — but sooner than spring break. For the first time, three Mizzou ASB groups are volunteering their time and energy during winter break.

Two are working with Habitat for Humanity in Marion County, Ala., and Lexington, Ky. The groups have 12 students each and are there this week.

Moore will be among the 30 students in the third group, which will be in the Dominican Republic from Jan. 12 to 19. Students will teach English and Spanish in classrooms and public health literacy in community centers.

"We thought there is a big opportunity in the winter," Moore said. The timing seems to work for a lot of students.

More than 100 students applied for the Habitat programs in Alabama and Kentucky, Moore said. The program in the Dominican Republic was open only to nursing students and site leaders in other disciplines, such as Moore, who is majoring in journalism and Spanish. It attracted more than 100 applicants.

Last year, 22 trips were organized through Mizzou ASB, which equaled about 15,000 hours of service work in a week.

The programs working with Habitat with Humanity are trying to finish up housing projects before the holidays.

"We are working on a house for a family who lost their house in a tornado," said Lauren Damico, one of the two site leaders for the Alabama program. Damico, a senior from Kansas City, is studying political science and history.

The foundation of the house was already set before they arrived, and they are constructing a safe room to protect the family from future tornadoes, she said. Because the family is living in temporary housing, the Habitat group would like to finish the house as soon as possible, she said.

Damico was working in South Dakota last spring to build a house for a Native American reservation. She said she can say with confidence that it was the best experience she has had in college.

With the new opportunity during winter break, "I would never say no," Damico said.

Moore, a senior from Glen Ellyn, Ill., said an important part of his experience in the Dominican Republic was getting to know Outreach360's 10 principles for successful volunteering.

One of the principles, "Serve, don't help," changed the way Moore sees the world. Anyone can help others, he said, but serving is different. Helping is doing something for others, he said.

Service, however, is a "two-way street, bringing good to both sides."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.



Mizzou Expanding Spring Break Trips

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - A University of Missouri program that matches student volunteers with spring break service trips is expanding to include excursions over winter break.

The student-run Mizzou Alternative Spring Break is sponsoring December service trips to Habitat for Humanity projects in Marion County, Ala., and Lexington, Ky.

A third trip will take Sinclair School of Nursing students to the Dominican Republic in January to teach Spanish and English literacy.

The Missouri program is based on a national effort that has grown increasingly popular on campus. Student organizers say Missouri will sponsor 37 trips in spring 2013. That's 12 more trips than just one year earlier.