



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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ABC affiliate in Lafayette, Louisiana

University of Missouri students help build homes in Lafayette

Watch the story: <http://www.katc.com/story/37219512/university-of-missouri-students-help-build-homes-in-lafayette>

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A group of college students are spending winter break in Acadiana. However, that break will involve nearly 40 hours of work over the next week.

At the corner of Theriot and Pinhook road, you'll hear more than the sound of traffic.

The sounds of saws and hammers also fill the air, as students from the University of Missouri work with Habitat for Humanity to build homes for families in need.

"I think it's really empowering," student Anjay Patel said. "A lot of students give up their breaks and free time to go around the country and try to do some good."

The students arrived in Lafayette over the weekend to spend their winter break working in the community.

"It's a program called Mizzou alternative breaks, which sends 10-12 people on trips around the country for different services," Patel said.

The students will help build two houses.

"We have girls painting and people inside doing flooring," student Sara Helfrich said. "There is a lot of work for all of us to do. We all feel like we're really making an impact."

It's an impact that will be felt for years to come.

"Each person here has a real passion for service," Patel said. "It's definitely what service is about. It's about going and learning about different cultures and seeing where you can serve and give back to the community."



President Choi: University would have benefited from "open dialogue" in 2015

By ALYSSA TOOMEY

Watch video at: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/president-choi-university-would-have-benefited-from-open-dialogue-in-2015/683172770>

UM System President Mun Choi said the University of Missouri would've benefited from "open dialogue" during the 2015 protests on campus.

Choi said he would've held a number of open forums if he had been at the university during that time.

The UM system president made his remarks during a special committee hearing at the Missouri State Capitol Monday after urban issues committee chair Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis asked Choi what he would do to make sure the events in 2015 didn't happen again.

A "university should be a place where tough discussions happen," Choi said.

Choi and MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright both spoke at the hearing, which was centered on campus climate and campus security.

"Our door is always open, if there's an issue come talk to us," Cartwright said.

Choi said the university has made a lot of progress, but there is still a lot of room to grow. He cited the campus climate survey in which 19 percent of respondents said they experienced some sort of exclusionary behavior.

"We want to be able to address that by asking all of our stakeholders what can you as individuals to make someone else feel welcome and included at the university," he said.

Rep. Curtis was particularly concerned about campus safety after the reported rape at UMKC last year. Choi and Cartwright both said safety is a top priority.

"We made mistakes. The university made mistakes," Choi said of the alleged sexual assault. "As soon as we found out--the senior leaders found out--we had an all hands on deck meeting to talk about where the failures occurred. Failures occurred in training the actual staff member to call the police...not notifying the university community that this occurred was also a big mistake. So, as part of that, we revised the way we train our employees who work in the dormitories and the reporting protocol to make sure situations like this don't happen again."

Asked for his response to the security steps the university has taken, Curtis replied, "I'll have to take the wait and see approach."

Both Choi and Cartwright also highlighted the changes the university has made in terms of both leadership and diversity efforts. They said there are 20 new leaders on campus, and 9 of 13 deans are new within the past two years.

"In 2017, Mizzou hired 17 African American and Hispanic faculty, which represents 33 percent of the total pool of hiring," Choi said. "This was by far the best year Mizzou has had in terms of diversity hiring."

Curtis was upset that Choi and Cartwright [couldn't attend the last special hearing](#). This time, he said he was "pleasantly surprised."

"This conversation we had today was basically to lay the foundation for the relationship moving forward to hold them accountable. I was pleasantly surprised that they did have a lot of answers for the questions that the committee posed and I look forward to see them move the university and the system in the right direction," he said.

MISSOURIAN

[MU still has ways to go in diverse faculty hiring, Choi and Cartwright say](#)

BY BRENDAN CROWLEY

JEFFERSON CITY — MU had its best year in recent history hiring faculty of diverse backgrounds, but it still hasn't reached its goal of having 10 percent of the faculty come from underrepresented minority groups, UM System President Mun Choi and MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said on Monday at a hearing of the Missouri House Special Committee on Urban Issues.

In 2017, MU hired 17 African-American and Hispanic faculty members, who made up 33 percent of the total hiring pool, Choi said, calling it “by far the best year Mizzou has had in terms of diversity hiring in the recent past.” He said currently 3.7 percent of MU’s faculty is African-American and 4.5 percent is Hispanic. MU also saw a 35 percent increase in applications from minority students, Choi said.

“We are making a marked improvement in the diversity of our students and our faculty members,” Choi said, adding that there was still work to be done.

Cartwright said MU has a goal of having 10 percent of its faculty come from underrepresented minority groups over the next few years.

“Part of student success is making sure we can teach from different backgrounds,” Cartwright said.

MU also has goals of raising the freshman retention rate from 87 percent to 93 percent and raising the four-year graduation rate from 47 percent to 53 percent. Cartwright cited the university’s decision to pay the full tuition of all students eligible for Pell Grants as a move in the right direction.

Committee Chair Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis, D-St. Louis, said agreeing to pay the full tuition of all students eligible for Pell Grants was nice but seemed like a public relations move considering the drop in minority students enrolling at MU after protests over racial issues on campus in 2015.

Cartwright said one issue students have is worrying about paying bills, which keeps them from focusing on school.

“I’m a big believer that you want to lower barriers for people to be successful,” Cartwright said. “So if we can make it easier so that some of those students don’t have to work so many hours, do something a little different to help and advance their completion rates, that’s something we want to do.”

Vice Committee Chair Rep. Dan Stacy, R-Blue Springs, shifted the subject to ask Choi his position on “safe spaces” on campus.

“The university should be a place where difficult conversation is had from diverse perspectives,” Choi said. “That’s how we’re going to train students who will be educated citizens, who will be productive, who will become resilient.”

He said he agrees with the [University of Chicago’s anti-safe space statement](#) it issued before the 2016 school year. The university’s dean of students, Jay Ellison, told the incoming freshman class that “safe spaces” and “trigger warnings” went against the university’s principles of academic freedom.

“The university is where our concepts, whether it’s a concept I hold, or a concept a student holds, will be challenged, but it’s going to be challenged in a respectful way,” Choi said.



Ibuprofen linked to male infertility, study says

By SUSAN SCUTTI

Ibuprofen has a negative impact on the testicles of young men, a study published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found. When taking ibuprofen in doses commonly used by athletes, a small sample of young men developed a hormonal condition that typically begins, if at all, during middle age. This condition is linked to reduced fertility.

Advil and Motrin are two brand names for ibuprofen, an over-the-counter pain reliever. CNN has contacted Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson, the makers of both brands, for comment.

The Consumer Healthcare Products Association, a trade group that represents manufacturers of over-the-counter medications and supplements, "supports and encourages continued research and promotes ongoing consumer education to help ensure safe use of OTC medicines," said Mike Tringale, a spokesman for the association. "The safety and efficacy of active ingredients in these

products has been well documented and supported by decades of scientific study and real-world use."

The new study is a continuation of research that began with pregnant women, explained Bernard Jégou, co-author and director of the Institute of Research in Environmental and Occupational Health in France.

Jégou and a team of French and Danish researchers had been exploring the health effects when a mother-to-be took any one of three mild pain relievers found in medicine chests around the globe: aspirin, acetaminophen (also known as paracetamol and sold under the brand name Tylenol) and ibuprofen.

Their early experiments, published in several papers, showed that when taken during pregnancy, all three of these mild medicines affected the testicles of male babies.

Testicles and testosterone

Testicles not only produce sperm, they secrete testosterone, the primary male sex hormone.

All three drugs then are "anti-androgenic," meaning they disrupt male hormones, explained David M. Kristensen, study co-author and a senior scientist in the Department of Neurology at Copenhagen University Hospital.

The three drugs even increased the likelihood that male babies would be born with congenital malformations, Kristensen noted.

Tringale noted that pregnant and nursing women should always ask a health professional before using medicines.

Knowing this, "we wondered what would happen in the adult," he said. They focused their investigation on ibuprofen, which had the strongest effects.

A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, ibuprofen is often taken by athletes, including Olympians and professional soccer players for example, before an event to prevent pain, Jégou said. Are there health consequences for the athletes who routinely use this NSAID?

The research team recruited 31 male volunteers between the ages of 18 and 35. Of these, 14 were given a daily dosage of ibuprofen that many professional and amateur athletes take: 600 milligrams twice a day, explained Jégou. (This 1200-mg-per-day dose is the maximum limit as directed by the labels of generic ibuprofen products.) The remaining 17 volunteers were given a placebo.

For the men taking ibuprofen, within 14 days, their luteinizing hormones -- which are secreted by the pituitary gland and stimulate the testicles to produce testosterone -- became coordinated

with the level of ibuprofen circulating in their blood. At the same time, the ratio of testosterone to luteinizing hormones decreased, a sign of dysfunctional testicles.

This hormonal imbalance produced compensated hypogonadism, a condition associated with impaired fertility, depression and increased risk for cardiovascular events, including heart failure and stroke.

For the small group of young study participants who used ibuprofen for only a short time, "it is sure that these effects are reversible," Jégou said. However, it's unknown whether the health effects of long-term ibuprofen use are reversible, he said.

After this randomized, controlled clinical trial, the research team experimented with "little bits of human testes" provided by organ donors and then conducted test tube experiments on the endocrine cells, called Leydig and Sertoli cells, which produce testosterone, explained Jégou.

The point was to articulate "in vivo, ex vivo and in vitro" -- in the living body, outside the living body and in the test tube -- that ibuprofen has a direct effect on the testicles and so testosterone.

"We wanted to understand what happened after exposure (to ibuprofen) going from the global human physiology over to the specific organ (the testis) down to the endocrine cells producing testosterone," Kristensen said.

More than idle curiosity prompted such an extensive investigation.

Questions around male fertility

The World Health Organization estimates that one in every four couples of reproductive age in developing countries experiences childlessness despite five years of attempting pregnancy.

A separate study estimated that more than 45 million couples, or about 15% of all couples worldwide, were infertile in 2010, while another unrelated study suggested that men were solely responsible for up to 30% and contribute up to 50% of cases overall.

Meanwhile, a recent analysis published in the journal Human Reproduction Update found that sperm counts of men in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand are plunging. Researchers recorded a 52% decline in sperm concentration and a 59% decline in total sperm count over a nearly 40-year period ending in 2011.

Erma Z. Drobnis, an associate professional practice professor of reproductive medicine and fertility at the University of Missouri, Columbia, noted that most drugs are not evaluated for their effects on human male fertility before marketing. Drobnis, who was not involved in the new study, has done extensive research into sperm biology and fertility.

There is evidence that some medications are particularly harmful to the male reproductive system, including testosterone, opioids, antidepressants, antipsychotics, immune modulators and

even the over-the-counter antacid cimetidine (Tagamet)," she said. "However, prescribing providers rarely mention these adverse effects with patients when prescribing these medications.

She believes the new study, though small, is "important" because ibuprofen is among the most commonly used medications.

Though the new research indicates that ibuprofen disrupts the reproductive hormones in healthy young men, she thinks it's possible there's an even greater negative effect in men with low fertility. The other OTC drugs concerning for potential fathers are cimetidine and acetaminophen. She recommends that men who are planning to father a child avoid drugs for several months.

"Larger clinical trials are warranted," she said. "This is timely work that should raise awareness of medication effects on men and potentially their offspring."

Jégou agrees that more study is needed to answer many questions, including whether ibuprofen's effects on male hormones are seen at low doses and whether long-term effects are reversible.

"But the alarm has been raised now," he said. "if this serves to remind people that we are really dealing with medical drugs -- not with things which are not dangerous -- this would be a good thing."

"We need to remember that it is a pharmaceutical compound that helps a lot of people worldwide," Kristensen said. He noted, though, that of the three mild analgesics examined, ibuprofen had "the broadest endocrine-disturbing properties identified so far in men."



(Nationally syndicated radio segment distributed to more than 580 radio news outlets)

[MU: NATIONAL CENTER ON BEEF REPRODUCTION AND GENOMICS](#)

January 8, 2018 By Julie Harker Filed Under: Livestock, News

Generated from News Bureau direct pitch.

Listen to the story: <https://brownfieldagnews.com/news/mu-national-center-beef-reproduction-genomics/>

The University of Missouri has received a \$300,000 USDA grant to set up a National Center for Applied Reproduction and Genomics in beef cattle.

Jared Decker, an M-U Extension beef geneticist, tells Brownfield Ag News there is a lack of training across the country, “One of the things that we noticed as we were going out doing trainings for veterinary groups or trainings in other states is that there was really lacking a national presence to train various people about the use of these technologies to produce better beef.”

Decker tells Brownfield success achieved by Missouri cattle producers (in the Show Me Select heifer program, for example) can be achieved by all beef producers with a combination of reproductive and genomic tools, “We’ve seen this happen time and time again from producers here in Missouri and so, really, what we’re trying to do in the center is to take that success that we’ve had here in Missouri through various programs and spread it across the United States.”

The center, in conjunction with the M-U College of Veterinary Medicine in Columbia, Missouri, will provide education to veterinarians, vet students and cattle producers. Decker says a big component will be research to show cattle producers their return on investment



Ag Day is a national news show. This segment aired on 15 television stations.

University of Missouri starts rural residency program

Generated from MU Health press release

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1a8aa63d-4a40-4b06-931f-0c7d337cab21>

MISSOURIAN

MU welcomes new international students at event Monday

[MARIA F. CALLEJON](#) 12 hrs ago [\(0\)](#)

International students have lunch at the International Students Welcome on Monday in Memorial Union. Students hailed from six continents and ranged from the undergraduate level to visiting scholars.

Kristen Colbrecht is the international student coordinator and assistant director of international student and scholar services for for the International Center. An earlier version of this article misstated her title.

Many American MU students may not have packed their bags yet for classes to start on Jan. 16, but international students are ready to start their MU experience.

International students participate in a five-day orientation, including tours, registration and social events, before formally starting their studies at MU. A welcome event on Monday featured sponsors sharing useful information for the new students. Shelter Insurance and Bank of America were there alongside off-campus housing options for students, such as The Reserve at Columbia, Brookside, Campus View, Campus Lodge Apartments and Rise on 9th. Other activities throughout the week include bowling and pizza, meeting professors and learning more about their areas of study.

Daniel Larsen, an exchange student from Denmark, chose MU for being a top exchange destination at his university. As a journalism major, he's hoping to have some hands-on experience and to practice his English.

"So far it's been great," Larsen said.

Kristen Colbrecht, international student coordinator and assistant director of international student and scholar services for the International Center, said the top countries for international students coming to MU are China, South Korea, India, the United Kingdom, Australia and Germany. However, numbers were lower than in the fall, which is a common trend.

"It's more common to start in the fall," Colbrecht said.

Several students said they chose MU because of its academic programs. Biochemistry freshman Ciprian Comsa came from Romania to pursue the degree he hopes will take him to medical school.

"It's what I need for my career," Comsa said. "It's a good university."

His father, who lives in Columbia, was another important factor in his decision. Comsa, who has visited the U.S. before, is happy about the outcome.

"I came back because I love the U.S.," Comsa said.

Ibrahim Kholil moved from Kansas to pursue his doctoral degree. Originally from Bangladesh, he came to the U.S. for his master's degree in mathematics at Emporia State University.

Not only did he find the degree he wanted in Columbia, but also something unexpected: "I can get Asian food here," Kholil said.

He described how the previous town he lived in was smaller, so he could not find spices, vegetables or halal food, which follows Muslim dietary restrictions.

Others, like Marie Ellefkås, an exchange student in organizational psychology from Norway, came to Columbia looking to experience what she called "a big town." However, she admitted that, in comparison to Norwegian towns, all American cities were big.

For some, the weather has been the biggest shock. Loreto Urrea, a graduate student in civil engineering from Chile, said the first couple of days were shocking.

"I left Santiago with 30 (degrees Celsius)," she said, which is equivalent to 86 degrees Fahrenheit, since it's summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

Aside from the weather, Urra said she "loves" the city and its people.

"Everybody has been very nice," she said.

Mother Jones

Online magazine with 4.5 million unique visitors per month

[This Weed Killer Is Wreaking Havoc on America's Crops](#)

Is Monsanto profiting off the problem?

When farmer Darvin Bentlage surveyed his southwestern Missouri soybean fields in August, he knew something was amiss in one of them. "I've been looking at soybeans for about 60 years, and these didn't look right," he says. The plants' leaves had shriveled upward, taking the shape of little cups: a telltale sign they'd been exposed to dicamba—a potent herbicide that Bentlage does not use. It had wafted onto his farm from his neighbors' fields.

Bentlage is hardly alone. By mid-October, state departments of agriculture nationwide had received 2,708 complaints from soybean farmers who claimed their fields had been damaged by wayward dicamba. Some 3.6 million acres had been affected, an unprecedented case of herbicides gone rogue. The Missouri, Arkansas, and Tennessee agriculture departments all temporarily restricted or banned dicamba (several more states will do so in 2018), and farmers launched at least four class-action suits demanding restitution from dicamba-makers. The company at the center of the firestorm was Monsanto—which in October struck back with its own lawsuit, seeking to halt an Arkansas regulation that limits dicamba use.

This spring, the dicamba wars will likely intensify. What gives? Back in 2016, the seed and pesticide giant rolled out soybeans genetically engineered to withstand not one but two herbicides: glyphosate, branded as Roundup, and dicamba. It was a blockbuster: By the summer

of 2017, 20 million acres—nearly a quarter of US soybeans, and more than 6 percent of all US land devoted to crops—were covered with Monsanto’s novel soybeans.

In October, company executives hailed the debut as a “tremendous success” and told investors they hoped the product would conquer two-thirds of the US soybean crop. If Monsanto hits those growth targets, it will add up to \$350 million in revenue within just two years.

And investors can bank on precedent. Back in the late ’90s, Monsanto released corn and soybeans—the two crops that cover about half of US farmland—that had been genetically tweaked to tolerate Roundup. The pitch: Spray Monsanto’s wonder chemical and all those pesky weeds will vanish, leaving the genetically modified crops to flourish. By 1999, more than half of US soybean plantings were “Roundup Ready.” Ten years later, herbicide-resistant seeds had spread to 91 percent of soybean plantings and 68 percent of corn.

There was just one big Darwinian problem. Hit any crop with a fatal dose of the same poison year in and year out, and most plants will promptly die. But a few genetic freaks will survive, passing the trait to offspring—ultimately allowing resistance genes to proliferate.

Predictably, a plague of Roundup-resistant weeds swept through farm country, so in 2016 Monsanto introduced Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans, designed to fend off not just Roundup, but also dicamba, an older, more toxic herbicide. And scientists expect dicamba resistance to rise. But the more urgent problem is that unlike glyphosate, dicamba is volatile. That is, after it has been applied, it’s prone to convert into a gas and be carried on the wind to nearby fields. In addition to soybeans, vineyards, home gardens, and oak forests have been hit by dicamba drift.

Monsanto, along with other companies, is selling a new, supposedly low-volatility dicamba formulation. It insists that any off-target damage is due to user error. But several independent weed scientists have disputed Monsanto’s assessment, arguing that volatility is a major driver of the problem. **University of Missouri plant pathologist Kevin Bradley says his research shows that in the warm summer months, even a low-volatility dicamba formulation can remain in the air and float to an unintended target as many as four days after application.** Aaron Hager, a University of Illinois weed scientist, says that in at least half the affected acres he observed in his state in 2017, the damage was “too uniform to be explained by anything else.”

In early November, Environmental Protection Agency officials warned in a meeting with herbicide-makers that they could lose dicamba approval if their products continued to damage crops. And Bradley says growers might spray less dicamba in 2018 to avoid trouble with their neighbors. But on the flip side, more farmers may buy the double-resistant seeds, to protect themselves from dicamba. Indeed, Bentlage says, one seed dealer recently hit him with this pitch: “You might as well buy some dicamba seeds. You know your neighbor’s gonna spray it—you might as well buy it, too, to keep from getting damaged.” In other words: Nice little soybean crop you have there; be a shame if something bad happened to it.

MISSOURIAN

National headquarters shuts down MU fraternity

BY JENNA KIESER 14 hrs ago (0)

Sigma Alpha Epsilon at MU has been placed under a cease-and-desist order last month by the national headquarters for the fraternity.

According to a statement released Dec. 13 by the Fraternity Service Center, the Missouri Alpha chapter of SAE must immediately stop all chapter operations until further notice.

The cease-and-desist order comes after an investigation into health and safety violations by the national headquarters for SAE. According to Johnny Sao, the director of communications for SAE, the Fraternity Service Center is still reviewing the case. After the review is completed, “the appropriate actions will be taken”.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the action was initiated by the national organization, not the university.

“Moving forward we will definitely be working with the national organization in making sure that we are creating a good environment for all our students who wish to be active in the Greek community,” Basi said.

MU completed a review of all Greek life operations during the fall semester. The vice chancellor of operations and the Office of Greek Life at MU made the decision to bring in an outside higher education consultant to review all Greek life practices related to alcohol, drugs, hazing, recruitment and retention.

Three of SAE's chapters have been closed within two months by the national headquarters, including the chapter at MU. The University of Texas at Austin chapter was shut down in early November, followed by the University of Mississippi's chapter closing in early December.

According to statements released by the Fraternity Service Center, both chapters were "suspended as a result of health and safety concerns and an inability to adhere to the national organization's standards and expectations".

The University of Texas at Austin chapter was shut down after staff at the national headquarters anonymously received information through the hazing hotline. After an investigation, details were provided to the Fraternity Service Center that resulted in the chapter being suspended for at least four years.

The University of Mississippi was found to be continuing activities after being placed under a cease-and-desist order. The Fraternity Service Center further investigated the chapter and found "important and concerning details" that led to the chapter being suspended indefinitely.

SAE at MU has had a history of trouble in the past. In September, it was revealed through a plea agreement that the former volunteer treasurer for the fraternity had embezzled more than \$380,000 between March 2008 and August 2014.

SAE is the fifth MU fraternity to be suspended in the past two years. Delta Upsilon was suspended by its national headquarters in 2016, following repeated violations of the fraternity's policy. MU banned Sigma Pi in 2016 because of several hazing violations. Kappa Alpha Order also was suspended in 2016, and Sigma Phi Epsilon was suspended in 2017, both following claims of hazing.

Some fraternities have been getting national attention for incidents related to hazing. Two fraternities in Pennsylvania are under investigation after pledges died during hazing rituals.

According to The New York Times, a fraternity has been charged with aggravated assault and involuntary manslaughter after the death of a Baruch College freshman four years ago. The

Asian-American fraternity Pi Delta Psi is facing one of the harshest punishments for the hazing death of student Chun Hsien Deng. The fraternity has been banned from the state of Pennsylvania and faces \$112,500 in fines.

Members of a Penn State fraternity are also facing charges after the hazing death of sophomore Timothy Piazza in February of last year. Some members of Beta Theta Pi are charged with involuntary manslaughter following the incident.

Prosecutors have been increasingly taking a harsher stance in fraternity hazing deaths, according to The New York Times.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Jurists urge Missouri Supreme Court to end 'abuse of judicial power'

By **CAITLIN CAMPBELL**

The legal dispute over the Business Loop CID election has drawn the attention of some of Missouri's most well-respected jurists, who are calling for the Missouri Supreme Court to end what they call an abuse of power by trial court judges across the state.

The call for action comes in the form of an amicus brief filed last week, which is supported by Michael Wolff, emeritus Missouri Supreme Court chief justice and emeritus dean and professor at the Saint Louis University School of Law; Jeffrey Berman, emeritus associate dean and law professor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law; R. Lawrence Dessem, emeritus dean and law professor of the University of Missouri School of Law; and Pauline Kim, law professor at the Washington University School of Law.

The brief accompanies a petition filed last week in the Missouri Supreme Court by former Missouri Solicitor General James Layton and University of Missouri law Professor Richard Reuben.

However, the Missouri Supreme Court on Monday rejected the suggestions in support of the petition. The court did not provide a reason for its rejection but attorneys pointed to the court's

rules regarding such briefs, which note that they are “not favored,” and typically require the consent of all parties under court rules. Amicus briefs, which are filed in support of a legal argument by parties who are not part of the lawsuit, are rare in the Missouri Supreme Court.

The petition and brief seek an order requiring Boone County Circuit Judge Jodie Asel to issue a final judgment that can be appealed in a local community improvement district election lawsuit. A judge must issue a final judgment — a decision acknowledging a case is over — in most instances before another court will consider an appeal.

By refusing to enter a judgment that an involved party can appeal, some judges in Missouri trial courts deprive litigants of their right to challenge or overturn their decisions, the amicus brief states. Win or lose, a petitioner to the courts has the right to a final determination and is entitled to an appeal to ensure the trial court applied the law correctly, the brief states.

“A trial court’s refusal to enter a final judgment when all issues have been resolved undermines the ability of the appellate courts to perform their essential error-correcting function ...” the brief’s four authors wrote. “Neither justice nor liberty would exist if trial judges could arbitrarily decide they simply don’t want to enter judgment to permit appeal in a particular case.”

Each of the signees teach or have taught civil case procedure at one or more of the four law schools in Missouri. The group argues the abuse of power is a failure to follow those rules.

Asel dismissed a challenge against a December 2015 sales tax election held by the Business Loop CID without prejudice after hearing arguments that the courts do not have jurisdiction to hear any challenges to CID elections. Such a challenge is the only remedy for someone wanting to contest the results of an election. In the case of the Business Loop CID, the lawsuit alleges the election violated Missouri law and voters’ constitutional rights because of a lack of adequate notice of the election, lack of a secret ballot, lack of a secured ballot box and lack of a neutral election administrator.

A dismissal without prejudice often results from procedural or technical issues, and allows claims to be amended or another lawsuit to be brought back to the court for the same cause, and thus are not considered final judgments. In general, a decision with prejudice acts as a final decision and precludes that same claim from being brought to the trial court again. Court rules require a deadline be set for an amended complaint in the case of a judgment without prejudice.

The petitioner in the Business Loop CID election lawsuit declined to amend her complaint and stood by her original claims. But no deadline was set, and no final judgment was entered. Subsequent attempts to appeal Asel’s ruling were dismissed by the appeals courts on procedural grounds.

The amicus brief lists a few other examples of dismissals without prejudice insulating a decision from appeal, including another Columbia case — a lawsuit which stemmed from the 2014

approval of building permits for the Opus Development Co. student housing project downtown, now known as District Flats.

Beginning in 2014, attorney Jeremy Root, on behalf of local residents Betty Wilson and Michael MacMann, sought to stop the city from issuing construction permits for the Opus development, citing concerns that downtown infrastructure could not support the development. A judge dismissed some counts of the lawsuit; Root later voluntarily dismissed other counts.

Root's attempts to appeal were dismissed for lack of jurisdiction — a dismissal based on the fact that the judge had not entered a final judgment.

The amicus brief states the use of the dismissal procedure “as a sword” against plaintiffs “undermines the rule of law and public confidence in the courts.”

“There is no place for such an abuse of judicial power in Missouri’s system of law,” the brief states.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

[After Pledge's Death, Fraternity Is Banned for 10 Years in Pennsylvania](#)

NO MU MENTION

By **ANDY THOMASON**

Pi Delta Psi, an Asian-American fraternity, has been barred, for 10 years, from operating in Pennsylvania after it was found guilty of aggravated assault and involuntary manslaughter in the 2013 death of a pledge at Baruch College, *The New York Times* [reports](#). The hazing incident, in which Chun Hsien Deng was brutally beaten, occurred in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

The strict sentence, by a state judge, Margherita Patti-Worthington, comes amid more rigorous prosecution of fraternity members involved in hazing deaths. The fraternity and five men were charged with third-degree murder. Four of the men pleaded guilty to reduced charges of voluntary manslaughter, for which they received varying sentences for as long as two years in prison, while the fraternity was acquitted of the murder charge.

According to the *Times*, the fraternity said it would appeal the assault and involuntary manslaughter judgments. "Michael Deng's death was a loss not only to the family, but also to the fraternity and the community at large," the fraternity said in a statement quoted by the newspaper.

The aggressive approach by prosecutors echoes that surrounding [the death of Timothy Piazza](#), a Penn State sophomore who died at a fraternity party in 2017. Eighteen members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity faced criminal charges, the most serious of which [were later dropped](#). But a county district attorney [filed new charges](#) in November, including involuntary manslaughter, against former members of the Penn State fraternity after the recovery of video that had been deleted from a basement security camera. Judge Patti-Worthington referenced the Penn State case in handing down the sentence, according to the *Times*.

The sentencing follows a tumultuous semester for fraternities nationwide. Several prominent colleges [suspended](#) all Greek activities campus wide after reported deaths or injuries.

MISSOURIAN

GUEST COMMENTARY: Counting your way to a college A

JILL BARSHAV

NO MU MENTION

At the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor, about 8,000 students have earned their ordinary course grades in an unusual way. They start out the semester with a zero, but each has the opportunity to earn an A by racking up points. The professor determines how many points each assignment or test is worth, and there's various ways to get to an A. If students botch an assignment, they can try something else. Each student can track his or her point tally online and see options for earning more points.

Since developing this system, named "GradeCraft," five years ago with two colleagues, education professor Barry Fishman gleefully admits he's awarding many more A's. He estimates that he's doling out A's to 80 percent of his students now compared with 50 percent or 60 percent beforehand. But, he claims, his students are working a lot harder.

"Colleagues say I'm not rigorous enough," said Fishman. "I think rigor should be about how challenging the material is, not how hard it is to achieve a certain outcome."

In surveys conducted by GradeCraft's inventors, students reported that they worked harder and felt more in control of their class performance. Those results were published in the January, 2018, issue of Games and Culture.

Higher grades and more motivated students sound good. But it's unclear if students are actually learning more. No one is asking these students to take additional, outside assessments to measure their learning gains. Inferring learning gains from their current coursework is complicated across subjects as varied as political science and computer programming. Plus, it's hard to gauge how much students already knew prior to taking a course.

But Fishman argues that conventional grading systems can undermine learning. That's because if you fail the midterm, and it's worth 30 percent of the final grade, you might realize that you'll never be able to claw your way back up to an A, and stop trying. "You moderate your behavior and try less hard to maintain a B average. You see it all the time," said Fishman.

The opportunity to earn an A, even late in the semester, keeps students engaged, Fishman argues. And it encourages students to take risks, knowing that they can repair the damage later if they fail at first.

In one undergraduate class, Fishman offers a menu of 1.4 million points. Students need to reach 900,000 to get an A. "You could never earn a good grade just by doing dumb stuff," he said.

In another graduate seminar, Fishman assigns only one paper. But students can revise and resubmit it over and over again to earn an A.

Fishman was inspired to turn his grading system into a game after reading James Paul Gee's 2003 book, "What Video Games Have to Teach us About Learning and Literacy." Best-selling games, Gee argued, are great learning environments where players work hard and build skills.

"The challenge for us in education is that well-designed games aren't teaching the things we want to teach," said Fishman.

Many researchers and educators are experimenting with ways to get students to learn, joyfully, through video games. But Fishman thinks learning is hard work, and a lot of it requires reading, writing, practice and reflection. Instead of trying to turn his course material into a game, Fishman started brainstorming about turning the entirety of school into a meta-game, one where players engage in a conflict, defined by rules with a quantifiable outcome. In this case, the “conflict” for the student is whether he or she can master the material.

He teamed up with a political science professor, Mika LaVaque-Manty, who was also experimenting with ways to motivate students through games. Graduate student Caitlin Holman came up with the idea of an online console, or dashboard, so that students could track their progress.

Almost 100 professors in 28 different programs and departments at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor have tried GradeCraft, and most are repeat players. A couple professors didn’t like it. It can be an onerous burden to manage so many different assignments. The system has been particularly hard to implement in large science classes where students are traditionally graded on just a few, often multiple-choice tests.

Another reason some educators resist, however, is the deeply ingrained belief that grades shouldn’t just be a reflection of how well students have mastered course material, but a mechanism for ranking students and signaling which students in the class are best. That’s why some professors like to grade on a curve, in which only the top 20 percent can earn an A.

So far, the system has been used mostly at Ann Arbor, an elite institution where students tend to obsess about their grades. One science high school in Chattanooga, Tennessee is testing it, too. Other colleges, including the University of Michigan at Dearborn and the University of Arizona, are experimenting with using GradeCraft in initiatives to keep students from dropping out. Time will tell whether counting your way to an A works for less motivated students.