Missouri student leaders criticize Greitens' budget proposal

BY KACEN J. BAYLESS

Student leaders from seven of Missouri’s public universities condemned Gov. Eric Greitens and his proposed budget for higher education funding in a joint statement released Monday.

The statement was signed by Missouri Students Association President Nathan Willett and Vice President Payton Englert, and MU Graduate Professional Council President Alex Howe and Vice President Glenn Baker. The other signatures included leaders from Missouri State University, Missouri Western State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Central Missouri.

Last week, Greitens announced his 2019 fiscal year budget proposal to the state legislature, which included a 10 percent cut to higher education.

The statement reads:

“As student leaders of Missouri’s public four-year universities, we are writing to express our deep disappointment with the Governor and his administration’s proposed FY19 budget for higher education funding. The recommendation includes a $68.1 million or 10 percent-reduction to higher education spending. This is on top of the well publicized withholding in FY19 and base cuts in FY18.

“Public higher education is an unparalleled economic driver for states like ours. It is not an exaggeration to say that public education paves the way to the American Dream. In addition, it adds value to those who attend institutions of higher education and for those who benefit from the fruits of its labor.
“If the Governor’s budget proposal were to be implemented, it would place public universities in a position where they must continue cutting essential faculty, staff and crucial programs that benefit our state. This would be a shame because the impact that our universities have on the workforce and economy of Missouri make them crucial to Missouri’s resilience and long-term economic prospects. With this budget proposal, Governor Greitens is sacrificing the future and quality of higher education in Missouri, to the detriment of all Missourians.

“Budget reductions of this magnitude would undoubtedly cause the rising cost of college to be placed squarely on the backs of students in the form of increased tuition and fees. As some of the most affordable opportunities in higher education in the state of Missouri, this price tag is increasingly becoming one which students cannot financially justify. Not only is this an unfavorable outcome for the thousands of college students in our state, but it will leave a scar in the fabric of Missouri for years to come.

“Each year, public universities train and shape the leaders and the workforce of our state’s future. It’s time to invest in them.”

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Professor group pans University of Missouri programs study

By Rudi Keller

The task force that recommended closing 27 graduate programs and consolidating others at the University of Missouri used information from a flawed source that has been criticized elsewhere as unreliable and inadequate, members of the MU chapter of the American Association of University Professors said in a statement issued Sunday.

The statement, signed by chapter President Victoria Johnson, an associate professor of sociology, and five other faculty members focuses on the data from Academic Analytics, a North Carolina-based company that compiles data on faculty productivity.
The statement said the report of the Task Force on Academic Program Analysis, Enhancement, and Opportunities deserves respect but that it missed differences between academic disciplines in pursuit of a “one size fits all measurement” to determine the future of particular programs.

“Research and scholarship that contributes to the state, society and the world are not assembly line products,” the AAUP statement reads.

MU released the report, the product of 39 meetings over 10 months by a 15-member task force, last Thursday. The major reasons cited for each of the program recommendations were low enrollment or low research output. It targeted graduate programs, the report stated, because a study of undergraduate programs requires “a more extensive review that solicits a broader array of information and input than we have access to at this time.”

Related content

Task force final report on academic programs

Reaction to the report has been slow to develop. The chapter’s statement is the first by an organized group on campus. Requests for comments sent to deans with targeted programs did not draw a response on Monday.

In the chapter’s statement, the faculty members asked MU to release all the data used by the task force, including individual faculty profiles produced by Academic Analytics and to review all the data for accuracy. Georgetown University stopped using Academic Analytics in 2016, citing errors in data for similarly named academics, under-counting of research papers and a failure to include private grants in the data. The company did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Task force co-chairs Cooper Drury, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science, and Matthew Martens, faculty fellow for academic programs in the provost’s office, could not be reached for comment Monday.

During a meeting with reporters last week to discuss the report, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright emphasized that its release completes the first phase of the review. The recommendations won’t be implemented without additional study, he said.

“The next phase is going to require a lot of engagement with all of our units — the deans, chairs, the faculty — and understanding what is happening in each of those programs before we make any decisions,” Cartwright said.

The task force was formed as part of UM System President Mun Choi’s directive to review all programs on the four campuses to identify those that deserve additional support and those “that no longer meet the goals of excellence and those that we can no longer support ...”

When Choi took over, the university was straining under the twin budget problems of cuts to state support and declining enrollment on the Columbia campus. On June 2, he announced the first round of cuts worth $101 million, including $40 million for program enhancement. A
review of administration delivered to the Board of Curators in December identified up to $70 million in additional savings, including benefit changes.

The money dedicated to program investments, however, has been jeopardized by additional cuts proposed by Gov. Eric Greitens. In his budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, Greitens proposed cutting an additional 10 percent from appropriations for state colleges and universities.

The task force report did not identify any financial savings from its recommendations. An analysis of how much, if any, money the changes will save is to be completed as part of the final decision-making process, Cartwright said.

Some of the report’s recommendations mirror actions that are already underway. It recommends eliminating masters’ and doctoral programs in rural sociology in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

“We are in the process of that,” said Jere Giles, associate professor and director of graduate studies in rural sociology. “We started a long time ago of consolidating our degrees in the Division of Applied Social Sciences and reconfiguring them into emphasis areas. We were planning on doing them anyway.”

In the Mathematics Department of the College of Arts and Science, the report recommends eliminating a master of science of applied mathematics, consolidating it with a master of arts in mathematics. Department Chair Nakhle Asmar said the move would not save any money. The programs are similar with a different area of emphasis and it costs no more to offer both than one, he said.

He welcomed the chance to provide the details and show the program should continue, Asmar said.

“All I can say is that this is a healthy review of the program,” he said.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Editorial: MU following through on program cuts

By Hank Waters

Faced with daunting budget problems, incoming University of Missouri President Mun Choi promptly stepped on the third rail of campus governance by announcing a hard look at the viability of existing programs.
The clear implication was some would have to be eliminated, a promise that in the past always brought such howls it caused top management to back down. This time is different. A growing constituency, on and off campus, recognizes the hard fact of life: fiscal reality will not allow continuation of the status quo.

And, many of us believe, curricular quality can benefit as well.

It’s the old reallocation debate, this time augmented by a sense of real rather than merely alleged “exigency.” This time something has to go. The debate is over where cuts will be made and how they might actually augment quality.

When Choi brought in his new MU chancellor, a Bahamas islander named Alexander Cartwright, the president made sure he had a campus leader who shared his vision. Cartwright quickly took charge of a careful but determined process of program evaluation at MU, where most of the excess exists, and last week announced the first task force report: 27 graduate programs will have to be eliminated or blended with others.

I was impressed with the rationale given by the chancellor and his committee. Cartwright struck just the right tone by announcing he welcomes reaction but wants everyone to know the report was made only after the most careful research and evaluation of current course offerings. He wants substantive feedback from deans explaining how the affected programs have educational implications beyond their immediate realm. Even though a program may not have a large student body of its own it may have strong implications in its relationship to others, a network of interdependency that helps explain how program cuts in a complicated, comprehensive curriculum at a major research university is certain to be a devilishly fraught endeavor.

But good reasons exist for the once-in-a-lifetime overview. The arrival of President Choi and Chancellor Cartwright offer a perfect storm of opportunity. They are new on the scene. Their vision is right for the moment. And the existential pressures visiting on the university can’t be credibly denied. Their bosses, the university curators, are behind them.

There are signs the message also is being heard in Jefferson City, where state legislators seem ready to provide some badly needed second-guessing of the governor’s proposed budget calling for another 10 percent cut in UM system funding.

In this context we should recognize the leadership of Sen. Caleb Rowden and his fellow Republicans from our Central Missouri region. Rowden and other majority Republicans say they are ready to ignore Gov. Eric Greitens and make their own budget, a hopeful sign not only because of implications for the university.

The right horse to bet on right now is the one carrying the colors of President Choi and Chancellor Cartwright. They are in the process of making the most important reformation in memory of our beloved university, an important economic driver but even more important a crucial cultural influence enhancing our college town and others in the UM system.
If Choi, Cartwright & Co. are worth their salt, which I believe they are, as they make needed changes they will do so with the welfare of students, faculty and the mission of the university top of mind.

Graduate Programs on Chopping Block at Mizzou

By COLLEEN FLAHERTY

Dozens of graduate programs at the University of Missouri at Columbia are up for closure, combination or further review, based on the recommendations of a campus Academic Programs Task Force. Students in affected programs will be able to finish their degrees, and final decisions about the programs will be made during the spring semester, the Missourian reported. Ph.D. programs recommended for closure include those in romance languages, art history and archaeology, classical studies and chemical engineering. Master’s programs pegged for closure include religious studies, applied mathematics and dispute resolution. Programs of significant concern include the Ph.D. in history. The School of Medicine seeks to combine five Ph.D. programs into a single interdisciplinary degree.

Mizzou’s review process reportedly began last year, when University of Missouri system president Mun Choi called for an 8 to 12 percent budget cut and a review of operations to address decreased enrollment and state funding. Some faculty members have objected to the report, saying recommendations are based on old data. The task force considered such metrics as programs’ enrollment and years to degree completion.
Increasing enrollment projections encourage MU officials

BY KACEN J. BAYLESS

MU enrollment applications for the fall reflect a strong interest from potential and returning students, campus spokeswoman Liz McCune said Monday.

Although specific numbers haven’t been released, McCune said MU officials are encouraged by the number of applicants so far. Details will be discussed during a meeting later this week of the UM System Board of Curators.

McCune said Gary Ward, interim vice chancellor of student affairs, hopes MU will have enough interest from students to fill the residence halls left vacant this school year.

“Gary said our goal is to have the residence halls 100 percent occupied,” McCune said. “All I can say is that the numbers are pointing up, not just with new students but also increasing returning and transfer students.” If projections are correct and there are more students, that means the end of a new program in which empty rooms were rented out to campus visitors.

In June 2017, as MU faced lower enrollment, Ward proposed the idea. For $120 a night, visitors, including football fans and solar eclipse viewers, could stay in one of the 518 vacant rooms in Discovery, Excellence and Center halls. In total, this lodging option brought in just under $125,000 to MU, McCune said.

“The reason why we had these football weekends is because we had these residence halls that weren’t being used,” McCune said. “We don’t expect to have the space available to house the general public during football games. This is all based on projections at this point, but we’re hoping to fill all vacant residence halls.”
Of the three residence halls that were vacant this past fall, Responsibility will be the only hall unavailable for student housing next year. The hall is under lease by MU Health Care and being used for administrative needs.

McCune said officials have expanded the marketing of residence halls to include current graduate and transfer students. “We’ve just been reaching out to students to let them know what the housing options are and why being at the University of Missouri is a great value for students and the convenience that comes with staying on campus,” she said. “We want all of those students to know that we have space for them and we think the combination of getting more returning, transfer and incoming students will help to increase the occupancy of the residence halls.”

This increase in student interest comes after it was announced that MU’s campus dining and housing rates would be lowered by 3.5 percent next year. Currently, students with the lowest-cost plan pay $1,068 a month and $9,610 annually. Next year, the same plan will be reduced to $998 a month and $8,980 a year.

“In general, the university is focused on doing everything we can to make the cost of attendance as low as possible,” McCune said.

In May, the Board of Curators voted to increase UM System tuition by 2.1 percent. McCune said this increase in tuition and the reduction in housing and dining costs aren’t directly correlated.

“Housing and dining is considered an auxiliary operation and is funded by those individuals who choose to live and eat on campus,” she said.
Dorm room rentals on football weekends at the University of Missouri-Columbia are coming to an end.

Mizzou leaders hope to have enough students to fill the currently vacant buildings, so the brief, creative move to monetize the dorms is ending after one year.

When Mizzou administrators announced they would rent out 94 four-bed suites for the football season, the criticism rolled in.

The 528 reservations over seven home game weekends garnered Mizzou more than $124,000 in revenue and an additional $4,000 in private gifts, spokeswoman Liz McCune told the Post-Dispatch.

Empty dorm rooms from a smaller freshman class this school year cost the university about $5 million in revenue.

Deposits for next school year aren’t due until May 1, but McCune said the school “doesn’t expect to have the space available to continue” renting rooms because of increased interest in housing.

One reason is an affordability initiative announced in November that will cut on-campus living costs by 2.2 percent to 5 percent for a third of the dorm options, McCune said. Dorm options that aren’t decreasing will remain flat.

The University of Missouri's flagship campus is hoping to draw more students by lowering some. Some dining costs also will drop, with options that could reduce what students and families pay by $300 or more.

“We’re hoping to see incoming freshmen but we also increased communication to existing students and are making sure transfer students know we have space for them,” McCune said.

Campus administrators haven’t been willing to discuss whether they’re seeing increased applications for the fall 2018 class. Preliminary enrollment numbers are expected later this spring when deposits are due.

McCune said the campus would continue to offer guest housing, as it has for years, for visiting scholars and programs.
Mizzou no longer offering residence hall rooms to public for football games

By: Elizabeth Duesenberg

COLUMBIA, Mo. - A spokesperson for the University of Missouri announced on Monday that the school would no longer be offering residence hall rooms to the general public during football games next fall.

The spokesperson said the decision comes after officials saw interest from prospective students and current students to live on campus.

University officials believe there will not be enough space available to rent out rooms like the previous fall.

The spokesperson said the school will still offer the guest housing program which will serve scholars, parents, alumni and those on campus for conferences.

University of Missouri to Reopen Closed Dorms

By Trevor Hook

The University of Missouri will reopen the three dorms closed last year for students, according to UM System President Mun Choi.
The University of Missouri closed Discovery, Excellence and Respect halls to students last fall and rented out rooms in the dorms to the public for $120 per night. MU did this to compensate for the roughly $60 million in budget cuts for the 2018 fiscal year.

MU News Bureau Associate Director Liz McCune says that the housing program generated just under $125,000 in revenue.

“As an experiment, I think it was successful,” McCune says. “But we would much rather be using those resident halls for our students.”

In an interview with Missourinet, Choi says that there are several factors prompting the reopening of the dorms.

“Part of that is due to additional student interest in attending Mizzou, as well as reductions that were announced to reduce the costs of dining and residence halls at the university,” Choi says.

All of the halls will be used for student housing except Responsibility Hall, which is currently being leased by MU Healthcare. The dorms are set to reopen next fall.

 Execution photo framed Americans’ view of the Vietnam War

Generated by News Bureau expert pitch

NEW YORK -- It was a fraction of a second that jolted Americans' view of the Vietnam War. In a Saigon street, South Vietnam's police chief raised a gun to the head of a handcuffed Viet Cong prisoner and abruptly pulled the trigger. A few feet away, Associated Press photographer Eddie Adams pressed his shutter.

Taken during the North's surprise Tet Offensive, Adams' Feb. 1, 1968, photo showed the war's brutality in a way Americans hadn't seen before. Protesters saw the image as graphic evidence that the U.S. was fighting on the side of an unjust South Vietnamese government. It won Adams the Pulitzer Prize. And it haunted him.

"Pictures don't tell the whole story," he said later. "It doesn't tell you why."

After 50 years, the Saigon execution remains one of the defining images of the war. Time magazine has declared it one of history’s 100 most influential photos.
"It still represents a lot of what photojournalists do, that idea of bearing witness to an important event," says Keith Greenwood, a University of Missouri photojournalism-history professor. "There are ugly things that happen that need to be recorded and shared."

It was the second day of the Tet Offensive. North Vietnamese forces and Viet Cong guerrillas had attacked South Vietnamese towns and cities, including the capital, Saigon, during a holiday cease-fire.

Adams, a former Marine Corps Korean War photographer who joined the AP in 1962, and NBC cameraman Vo Suu had been checking out fighting in a Saigon neighborhood when they saw South Vietnamese soldiers pulling a prisoner out of a building, toward the newsmen.

The soldiers stopped. The police chief, Lt. Col. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, walked up and lifted his pistol. Adams figured the chief planned a gunpoint interrogation.

Instead, Loan fired, and Adams' photo froze prisoner Bay Lop's grimace as he was shot. Suu's footage also captured the moment, in motion.

Loan told the two: "They killed many of my men and many of your people" and walked away, Adams recalled in a 1998 interview for an AP oral history project.

At the AP's New York headquarters, photography director Hal Buell saw the image emerging from the radio-based system used to transmit photos at the time. After some deliberation, he and other editors decided to distribute it worldwide.

"I knew when it went out that you were going to get two reactions. The doves were going to say, 'See the kind of people we're dealing with here (in South Vietnam)?' And the hawks said, 'It shouldn't have been used - you guys gotta get on the team,'" says Buell, now retired.

But "the image had an impact, and its impact was felt by those people who were on the fences."

The photo appeared on front pages, TV screens and protest placards. The Tet Offensive proved a military failure for the Communists, but it fueled the American public's pessimism and weariness about the war. It ended when the North prevailed in 1975.

Adams, meanwhile, felt Loan was unfairly vilified by a public that didn't see something outside the frame: the killings of Loan's aide and the aide's family hours earlier by the Viet Cong.

"I don't say what he did was right, but he was fighting a war, and he was up against some pretty bad people," Adams said. He rued that "two people's lives were destroyed that day" - Lop's and Loan's - "and I don't want to destroy anybody's life. That's not my job."

Army photographer John Olson's work also captured death during the 26-day battle for Hue. During this time, 216 American troops were killed and another 1,300 were wounded.

Olson's photos are now on exhibit at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., to mark the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive.
Loan died in 1998 in Virginia, where he ran a restaurant. Lop’s widow told the AP in 2000 that she felt the picture helped turn Americans against the war.

Adams, who died in 2004, was more proud of his 1977 photos of people fleeing postwar Vietnam. Those images helped persuade the U.S. government to admit over 200,000 of the refugees. His legacy includes the annual Eddie Adams Workshop for emerging photojournalists, which marked its 30th year this fall.

Work and fundraising are underway to expand a 2012 short documentary about the famous photograph, "Saigon ’68," into a full-length film.

Director Douglas Sloan says it will encourage people to understand the context of what they see in powerful images.

PEOPLE Explains: There's a Huge Diversity of Dog Breeds, But Why Don't Cats Come in the Same Variety?

By: Saryn Chorney

With Puppy Bowl on the horizon in a few days and the Westminster Dog Show right around the corner, we couldn’t help but wonder about the diversity of dog breeds lately. Turns out, we’re not the only ones pondering the unmistakable variety of puppies and show dogs when it comes to traits like size, shape, weight, height, coat color, texture and many more variables.

Case in point: There’s a huge difference between a tiny Pomeranian and a giant English Mastiff (more than 100 pounds!), yet not so much between a small Munchkin cat and a large Maine Coon (maybe 10 — 15 pounds).

Business Insider released a video this week addressing that very topic, while simultaneously addressing the lack of variety in the world’s cat breed population. According to the American Kennel Club, there are currently 192 different recognized dog breeds in the U.S. (and that’s not even counting all the designer mix breeds and other varieties of mixed dogs out there; the World Canine Organization recognizes 340 breeds), while there are only 42 distinct cat breeds. How did this come to pass and why?
As seen in the above video, and expanded upon by Live Science, in domestic species of both dogs and cats, “breeds represent lineages that were carefully monitored and manipulated over time through selective breeding to consistently produce animals with certain traits,” says Professor Leslie Lyons of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri.

Variations in the way an animal looks (as well as behavior) often develop naturally through genetic mutations. However, these changes are further exacerbated by the human selection process: people who find the new traits appealing continue to perpetuate them when raising forthcoming generations of animals.

This is where we come to our first difference between dog breeds verses cat breeds: According to Prof. Lyons, the various cat breeds seen today have only been around for approximately 75 years, when humans started selecting for unique traits and raising unique types of felines. However, a 2008 study called “The Ascent of Cat Breeds: Genetic Evaluations of Breeds and Worldwide Random Bred Populations” released by the U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health further explains that most cat breeds were developed within the last 150 years, mostly in Europe and the U.S.

Although there are distinct genetic clusterings of cat breeds depending on their origins (the Mediterranean basin, Europe/America, Asia and Africa), the Cat Fanciers’ Association (CFA) has specified 16 breeds as “foundation” felines: Persians, Russian Blues, Siamese and Angora cats, for example. While they are distinct from each other, the purebreds are still very similar structurally to the random or wild-bred cats of their regions. As people continue to breed them, their overall groupings remain quite close genetically speaking.

Meanwhile, dog breeds have been developing for hundreds or even thousands of years. According to Elaine Ostrander, chief investigator in the Cancer Genetics and Comparative Genomics Branch of the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health, the domestication of dogs began at least 19,000 years ago (vs. cats 10,000 years ago). Although both species played roles helping early humans, dogs have been responsible for a number of different tasks or “working jobs,” while cats mostly just controlled vermin or acted as companions. Felines performed these limited tasks just fine in their original form, whereas dogs were literally shaped to mankind’s various needs. This difference is key.

“Our data shows that very deliberate crossbreeding and selection for particular traits played the biggest role in the amazing diversity we see running around the dog park today,” Ostrander said.

So, in our modern day where cats are working different jobs too — from firehouse pets to city mayors — will feline breeds ever catch up to their canine brethren?

Not likely, reports Business Insider. Carolyn Vella, a former CFA member, told the outlet that cats were mostly bred to be admired, and besides, “We have an awful lot of people who are against pedigreed animals of all kinds because we have a situation where we have a lot of shelter animals. They are very much opposed to breeding animals because they want the shelters to be empty.”

Vella’s comment alludes to groups like PETA, which are against breeding due to the health issues often associated with the practice. Bulldogs have breathing problems, German
shepherds often suffer from hip dysplasia and wrinkly faced shar-pei’s skin folds may harbor infectious bacteria. Similarly, pedigree cats are also associated with higher risk of joint and kidney problems, as well as cancer.

Prof. Lyons says the AKC and CFA are keeping track of scientific research about both cat and dog breed genetics. “[They] are trying their best to not allow bad things to happen with the good things they want as well,” Lyons said.

On that note, you can count on more designer dog breeds in the coming years. Stanley Coren, author of the 2008 book *The Modern Dog*, says “Dogs are constantly evolving as we’re continually building variants of dog breeds.”

Crowder event to honor comic strip creator Mort Walker

*Artist had ties to Camp Crowder, MU*

By: Ines Kagubare

NEOSHO, Mo. — In honor of "Beetle Bailey" comic strip creator Mort Walker, who died Saturday, Crowder College is planning to hold an event commemorating his life and work, although specific details are not yet available.

“This will be an educational opportunity for our students to understand (Walker’s) life and legacy,” said Jennifer Methvin, Crowder College president.

Walker, 94, died of old age in his home in Stamford, Connecticut, said Greg Walker, his eldest son and a collaborator.

“Beetle Bailey” began in 1950 and remains popular now.
“Today, after more than six decades, Walker’s creation is still one of the most popular comic strips in the world. More than 200 million readers enjoy Beetle Bailey every day in 1,800 print newspapers,” according to a release from King Features Syndicate.

The comic strip was set at Camp Swampy, a fictional Army station, which was inspired by Walker’s time at Camp Crowder in the 1940s.

Lyn Wallain, facility supervisor at Camp Crowder, said Walker chose that name in his comic strip because the camp was known to be muddy and swampy.

“When you read the ‘Beetle Bailey’ strip in the newspaper to me it’s Crowder, and there are times where I feel like I work around people like that, but it’s still a good and warm place,” Wallain said.

Walker was born in El Dorado, Kansas, and grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. He sold his first cartoon to Child Life magazine at the age of 11. His first comic strip, The Limejuicers, ran in the Kansas City Journal when he was 13. He submitted his first comic strip to a national syndicate at the age of 15 and sold magazine cartoons all over the country, according to the release.

In 1943, when he was 19, he was at Camp Crowder before being drafted in the Army and working overseas in Naples, Italy.

Upon his return, he earned a degree in humanities at the University of Missouri, graduating in 1948.

His work is celebrated throughout MU’s campus with a statue of Bailey outside MU’s alumni center, a dining place inside the student center called Mort’s and a wall with large blow-ups of early Beetle Bailey strips inside the Shack, a lounge center.

“For a certain population of our alumni, Beetle Bailey was pretty popular and people were very excited by the fact that (Walker) was tied to Mizzou,” said Todd McCubbin, executive director of MU’s Alumni Association.
“This is a way to showcase his work and the history of the campus to our students,” McCubbin said.

“Beetle Bailey” won the National Cartoonists' Society Reuben Award in 1953 and was named the society’s Best Humor Strip in 1966 and 1969, according to Globe files.

He also produced several other comic strips, including “Hi and Lois,” a Beetle Bailey strip spinoff that appeared in more than 1,100 newspapers, according to the release.

“The fact that the comic is still in syndication today with original material via King Features gave Walker the longest tenure of any cartoonist on his original creation in the history of comics,” the release said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

'Mort was an icon in the world of comics who set the standard for generations of cartoonists.'

MU students react to alum Mort Walker's death

By MARK SLAVIT

COLUMBIA — Mizzou administrators, faculty, staff and students continue to mourn the loss of one of their most famous alumnus.
Beetle Bailey comic strip cartoonist Mort Walker died on Saturday in his Connecticut home at the age of 94.

While at Mizzou in the 1940s, Walker spent a lot of his time drawing the world famous comic character at a small bar called The Shack.

Thousands of students walk by a statue of Beetle Bailey in front the Reynold’s Alumni Center, but many MU undergraduate students KRCG 13 spoke to were unaware of Beetle Bailey’s fame.

“I really didn’t know about it to be honest,” MU student Hope Sanford said. "It scares me at night when I walk by. Now, that I know, I think that’s pretty cool that we have an alumnus known all over the world for his comics.”

MU officials dedicated their Beetle Bailey statue in 2010.

Smithton graduate nearing completion of meteorological degree

By: Hope Lecchi

Ever since he was a young boy, John Ross had a future career on his radar. Little did he realize, his predication for the future would be 100 percent accurate.

Ross, a graduate of Smithton High School, is now in an internship position as an on-air weathercaster for KOMU-TV, an NBC-affiliated station owned by the University of Missouri.

“I won’t be a meteorologist until I graduate but I have always been interested in weather,” Ross said. “My interest in weather was initially sparked when I watched the movie ‘Twister’ for the first time. I couldn’t have been more than 6 or 7 when I saw it for the first time.”
As a senior at MU studying environmental science with an emphasis in atmospheric sciences, Ross commented that the classwork has been both daunting and challenging at times but his major-specific coursework is rewarding.

“People do not always realize that there are so many math and physics courses, which are just the core requirements,” Ross said. “The major-specific courses rely heavily on that prior knowledge as well.

“Some students enter with the goal of broadcast meteorology, but then realize that it is a bit different course load than most journalism degrees,” he commented. “Because my degree is atmospheric science, it does not require any journalism classes.”

After firing Ehren Earleywine, Mizzou hires former player as interim softball coach

BY AARON REISS
areiss@kcstar.com
January 29, 2018 05:34 PM

Missouri has announced Gina Fogue will serve as interim softball coach for the 2018 season.

Fogue — who played for the Tigers, served two seasons as the program’s director of operations and has had a coaching position since July 2013 — replaces Ehren Earleywine, the controversial coach who MU surprisingly fired on Friday, less than two weeks before the Tigers’ season opener.

Athletic director Jim Sterk said in a statement that he fired Earleywine because of a “culmination of leadership concerns, not just one incident.”

According to Earleywine, when the coach asked why he had been fired, Sterk told him, “I’m not required to give you a reason.”
In 2016, under former Missouri athletic director Mack Rhoades, Earleywine was under investigation for four months for alleged verbal abuse of players. His players had announced a boycott in May 2016. They said they were playing in protest of Rhoades’ investigation.

Sterk said in a statement that Fogue “earned the trust and respect” of the Missouri players. He called that “critical when making an important decision such as this.”

“Naturally, this isn’t the scenario in which you envision taking over as head coach, but I’m grateful for the opportunity to do anything I can to help this team move forward with a successful season,” Fogue said in a statement. “I’ve learned a tremendous amount under Coach Earleywine in my time here at Mizzou, and I look forward to building on this program’s proud tradition.”

Assistant coach Adam LaLonde will continue in his role for this season. Missouri expects to hire an interim assistant coach to take Fogue’s job on the staff.

Missouri begins its season Feb. 8 at the Kajikama Classic in Tempe, Ariz., against San Jose State.

Aaron Reiss: 816-234-4042, @aaronjreiss

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Mizzou opens investigation against suspended basketball player Phillips**

By Ashley Jost

An investigation has been opened into recently suspended basketball player Terrence Phillips by the University of Missouri-Columbia’s Title IX office, according to an email obtained by the Post-Dispatch.

The Title IX office is tasked with investigating issues of sex discrimination and sexual violence on campus.

The email sent Friday from the office to an alleged victim who had complained about Phillips in the past said that “based on additional information received by our office, the university is proceeding with an investigation against Terrence Phillips.”
The email was sent Friday morning, several hours before the basketball team announced Phillips, a junior guard, had been suspended indefinitely. Phillips did not return multiple messages.

It’s unclear how many alleged victims are involved in the investigation.

An alleged victim spoke on the condition of anonymity with the Post-Dispatch, saying her complaint against Phillips involves multiple allegations of physical abuse.

Because of privacy laws, the institution is not obligated to share details about open cases. The university released a statement Sunday afternoon acknowledging reports of a Title IX investigation but neither confirming nor denying that one exists.

“The university takes alleged violations of Title IX very seriously, and any allegations are investigated thoroughly and fairly,” the statement said. “In some cases, interim measures are taken while an investigation is pending.”

Basketball coach Cuonzo Martin told reporters Saturday night that he wasn’t sure when Phillips would return. Phillips didn’t travel with the team to Mississippi State University for Saturday’s game.

“Phillips’ future status with the program will be determined in coordination with campus and department leadership,” the team said Friday in the announcement of his suspension.

Both the Columbia and Mizzou police departments said Friday that Phillips has no arrest record. Neither department responded to emails asking if he was named in any incident reports.

The Title IX process runs independently of any law enforcement investigations.

Phillips, a starter each of the two previous seasons, has come off the bench this season and watched his role dwindle despite the team’s depth issues at point guard.

The 5-foot-11 point guard from Orange County, Calif., started 53 of 64 games as a freshman and sophomore under former coach Kim Anderson.

A campus report shows there were 423 allegations of misconduct against students under Title IX during the 2015-2016 school year. The bulk of those, 75, involved nonconsensual intercourse, while 68 involved sexual harassment and 47 involved dating violence.

Mizzou doesn’t have an annual report yet for the 2016-2017 school year.
MU's Title IX office opens investigation on Terrence Phillips

By BRYCE MARLIN

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri's Title IX office has opened an investigation on junior Mizzou basketball player, Terrence Phillips.

Phillips was suspended indefinitely from the Mizzou Men's Basketball team on Friday, Jan. 26 for a "violation of team policy."

Title IX offices focus on investigating sexual harassment, violence and discrimination.

MU released a statement Sunday evening recognizing the allegations, but said it could not confirm or deny any actions made by the Title IX office.

"We want to reiterate that the safety of our students, faculty and staff is paramount," the statement said. "The university takes alleged violations of Title IX very seriously and any allegations are investigated thoroughly and fairly."

The team released an official statement Friday reiterating Phillips' future with the team.

"Phillips' future status with the program will be determined in coordination with campus and department leadership," the team's statement said.
COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri police arrested Andrew Loetscher on Thursday after they were dispatched to Mark Twain Hall for an odor of marijuana.

Police said when they knocked on a door, they could smell marijuana.

Officers said during a search, they found multiple plastic bags with marijuana residue, multiple unused plastic bags and two working scales.

Two witnesses told police that Loetscher and another man were selling marijuana.

Loetscher admitted to police that he sold marijuana to friends on campus.

According to the probable cause statement, officers found approximately 42 grams of marijuana in the room.

Loetscher was charged with delivery of a controlled substance.