Applications jump at University of Missouri campuses

Ashley Jost

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Interest in attending the four campuses of the University of Missouri appears to be trending up — by as much as 35 percent in UMSL’s case.

University system President Mun Choi announced the influx of applications for incoming freshmen Friday at a meeting of the Board of Curators on the Columbia campus.

The highest boost in applications is at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where a 35 percent increase translates into about 750 students. UMSL is the only school that didn’t also see an increase in transfer student applications.

In a statement, UMSL Provost Kristin Sobolik said she was “delighted” to see the increase in interest in the St. Louis campus. According to the statement, the increased interest is “especially noticeable” from St. Louis County, as well as from Illinois.

Mizzou has received more than 2,500 more freshmen applications for the coming fall, a 17 percent increase. The flagship’s transfer student applications are also up by 12 percent.

“Mizzou is roaring back,” Mizzou Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in a statement. “We have been aggressively looking for opportunities to share our story with prospective students and their families, and that story is resonating.”
At the Missouri University of Science and Technology, freshman applications are up 13 percent, and the Kansas City campus saw a 27 percent increase. Both had just fewer than 20 percent in transfer student applications.

Leaders from all campuses are hopeful ahead of May when students are expected to pay deposits. That will be a better indication of how many applications will turn into commitments.

Enrollment for the current school year dipped at UMSL by 2.6 percent this past fall from the previous year. Mizzou’s enrollment dropped by about 7 percent this past fall.

New numbers have Mizzou leaders boasting the university is on the rebound

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
mdwilliams@kcstar.com
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Is the University of Missouri making a comeback after the 2015 racially charged protests that erupted on the Columbia campus, tarnished its reputation and stunted enrollment growth?

University leaders sure think so.

As proof, they’re pointing to MU’s latest preliminary applications-for-admission numbers from potential freshmen and transfer students.

As of Jan. 29, freshman applications at MU were up 16.8 percent, from 15,060 at this time last year to 17,583. Transfer applications increased 12.2 percent, from 806 to 904.

“Mizzou is roaring back,” Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright said in a statement Friday afternoon.
Cartwright said that to reverse the two years of declining enrollment, MU has added more personal outreach, more events in high schools and at college fairs, and increased out-of-state recruitment.

“We called on our team to re-examine how we do things and think outside the box,” said Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management. “I am proud of these efforts and encouraged by these early numbers.”

Morrice said the latest numbers show that “Mizzou has momentum, and we plan to keep that energy going.”

As late as September the university reported that its fourth-week census enrollment numbers for the 2017-2018 academic year showed enrollment down, but not as much as had been expected given the drop the previous year.

The University of Missouri’s reputation, and enrollment, still reel from racial protests. Seven things about Mizzou’s declining enrollment.

**Total enrollment this year 30,870.** The university had expected a lower number — just slightly more than 30,000. September numbers for the 2016-2017 academic year put MU’s enrollment at 32,777. The year before it had been nearly 35,000.

MU officials admitted this fall that the school was still working to recover from the blow it took to in the fall of 2015 when student-led, racially charged protests resulted in the toppling of the university system president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus.

Both stepped away from their positions after football players threatened not to play a game and a student languished on a seven-day hunger strike. Students and faculty called for their resignations because of how claims of systemic racism on the campus were handled and because university administration seemed slow to respond to a list of demands for more diversity among faculty and students on the campus.

Since then the university has stepped up recruitment and put millions into advertising. MU recruiting teams visited more than 600 Missouri high schools last fall. They also:

- Attended more than 450 college fairs nationwide.
- Hosted more than 20 counselor events.
- Added new, off-campus events, including “Scholars Nights” in St. Louis and Kansas City.
- Introduced the Common App, which applicants can use to apply to hundreds of colleges and universities worldwide.

Not only has the university focused on increasing its freshman class, it also has worked to build bridges with transfer students, an MU news release said Friday.
Last May the university signed a memorandum of understanding with community colleges to ease the transition into the four-year Columbia campus.

In addition MU has taken steps to make getting a higher education on their campus more affordable and this summer announced that the university is offering a free or significantly subsidized education to students who qualify for a federal Pell Grant based on financial need.

MU officials now boast about an array of other cost-saving measures the university has launched in the last two years to encourage potential students to apply and enroll, including several new scholarship awards for students who live in one of eight Missouri border states and children of alums and ROTC students. The university has also lowered on campus food and housing costs and started program that cut costs on textbooks.

University officials said they are using the latest application numbers as a chance to let the public know what they’ve been doing to rebound from the setback of 2015.

“We have been aggressively looking for opportunities to share our story with prospective students and their families, and that story is resonating,” Cartwright said. “I am delighted to see students voting with their applications. We can’t wait to welcome them to campus.”

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri campuses show strong application growth

By RUDI KELLER

Enrollment at the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus should begin to rebound in the fall as applications have already exceeded the total received in the spring of 2017.

Through Monday, MU had received 17,583 applications for admission from high school students who will be freshmen in the fall, compared to 16,373 for all of last year and 17 percent more than through the same date in 2017. Applications from transfer students are also up over last year’s to-date figures, with 904 applications from students enrolled elsewhere, compared to 806 at this time last year.

If the same share of applicants enroll in the fall as enrolled in fall 2017, the incoming class of first-time freshmen would be more than 4,400, the first sign of growth after two years of decline. The first-time freshman class was 4,134 in the fall and total enrollment of 30,870 was the lowest since 2008 and down 12.9 percent from the record set in 2015.
“It will be a big impact because that, of course, is a larger number of students, it helps with our
dorms, it does all of the things we want to do and it adds to the vibrancy of the campus,”
Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said. “Let’s hope we can get those yields or better.”

The university has increased its scholarship funding, cut prices for dorm rooms and made open-
source textbooks available at little or no cost as it tries to keep student costs under control. The
initiatives include benefits for both in-state and out-of-state students and new paths to transfer to
MU. The university has also stepped up its recruiting efforts.

What elements have been most successful are difficult to isolate, Cartwright said.

“The marketing is important, what we are doing in terms of competing with the surrounding
states is important and understanding that Mizzou is back and that we’re a strong institution and
really we are in a position where we want to recruit the best and brightest and we want to give
them all opportunities to excel,” he said.

The application figures were one of the bright spots of a two-day meeting of the Board of
Cuurators that included discussions of state budget cuts, efficiency measures to save money and
the prospect for tuition increases. The good news wasn’t limited just to the Columbia campus,
with freshmen applications up 35 percent at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, 27 percent at
University of Missouri-Kansas City and 13 percent at Missouri University of Science and
Technology in Rolla.

UM System President Mun Choi shared the figures with the board as part of a broader discussion
that included ways the university is lobbying lawmakers to reject Gov. Eric Greitens’ proposed
10 percent cut in state appropriations. The university also wants legislators to pass a bill relaxing
the law that ties tuition increases at public colleges and universities to the inflation rate.

Greitens withheld about $30 million from the UM System budget soon after taking office in
January 2017 and cut spending on colleges and universities by 9 percent in the current fiscal
year. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, Greitens recommends cutting an additional $41.8
million from the UM System allocation.

To make up for the proposed cut, Choi said, the curators would have to increase tuition by 17
percent.

During a news conference after the meeting, Choi and curators’ chair David Steelman said the
university is not in conflict with the governor but wants to show that it can use the money saved
from administrative streamlining to support education and research.

“We recognize why there is the need to have public education and other sectors in the state step
up and contribute to the deficit the state is facing,” Choi said. “So we definitely want to play our
role in providing relief for the current situation but we also know we have to pursue efficiency
measures.”

A consultant’s report delivered in December identified up to $70 million in administrative costs
that could be saved by centralizing some functions and changes in employee benefits. Curator
Darryl Chatman is leading a curators’ task force that includes all four chancellors that will look at ways the system of four campuses can work more closely together.

The task force is going to make its first report at the April board meeting.

“This is a very ambitious goal but at our April board meeting we hope to sit down and really lay the foundation on some basic principles of what makes us one university,” Chatman said.

While he was lobbying legislators in Jefferson City this week, Choi said the university will hold tuition increases to the rate of inflation if the university can avoid cuts in its state appropriation. He told the curators it would take a 17 percent tuition increase to cover the shortfall in state support.

Under state law, the UM System would lose up to 5 percent of its state appropriation if the tuition increase for in-state students exceeds the general increase in prices unless granted a waiver. The legislation under consideration would allow an increase of up to 10 percent plus the rate of inflation.

In the meeting and during the news conference afterward, the discussion of tuition also moved into an attempt to justify larger increases through an argument that it helps provide the resources that the state isn’t providing. Choi put up charts showing that Missouri has had small increases compared to other states but that some surrounding states, where tuition is increasing faster, are drawing more Missouri students than they are sending to the state.

Steelman said tuition increases can be a positive for the university, the state and for students.

“The political challenge is, it is always easy to say I don’t want to increase tuition,” Steelman said. “To me, that is the wrong question. The right question is can we make use of more revenue to better serve the state of Missouri and its students and to increase accessibility. It is a hard thing to understand and it is a hard thing for us to communicate.”

MU Applications Way Up For Fall Of 2018

By DANIEL KONSTANTINOVIC & COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN • FEB 2, 2018

Freshman applications to attend MU next fall are up by about 17 percent over this time last year, according to information presented Friday to the UM System Board of Curators.

The number of freshman applications were 17,583, up from 15,060 at this time last year.

The number of transfer applicants were up by about 12 percent — up to 904 from 806 last year at this time.
Applications numbers are up across the University of Missouri System: about 35 percent at the University of Missouri-St. Louis; about 27 percent at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and about 13 percent at Missouri University of Science & Technology.

"These numbers demonstrate that Missourians and out-of-state students recognize that they can receive exceptional and affordable educations while becoming career-ready," UM System President Mun Choi said in a news release.

"Our strong applications come at a time when there are fewer high school graduates throughout most of the country and increased competition among higher education institutions," Choi said.

Transfer numbers are up at three of the four campuses, the largest at UMKC.

These announcements come a day after UM Chief Financial Officer Ryan Rapp announced that all of MU’s residence halls will be in use for fall 2018 with the exception of Responsibility Hall, which is leased by MU Health Care.

The Missourian will update this story as the curators continue meeting Friday.

**MU announces promising application numbers**

By CAROLINE PETERSON


Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Mizzou applications are ‘roaring back’

COLUMBIA – UM System President Mun Choi announced of “very promising” application numbers at Friday's meeting.
Applications are up at every campus compared to last year. This could mean first-time college and transfer enrollment could increase across the system when the 2018-19 academic year begins in August.

Mizzou had 2500 additional applicants when compared to last year- a 17 percent increase.

“Our strong applications come at a time when there are fewer high school graduates throughout most of the country and increased competition among higher education institutions,” Choi said.

Choi also presented diversity progress across all campuses. According to US News and World Report, Mizzou ranks twelfth in African American enrollment when compared to top 50 universities.

Choi said he was “pleased to note that compared to last year, throughout the University of Missouri system, there are now 2300 more African American and Hispanic student applicants.”

Curators then talked about possible solutions to compensate for the state’s proposed budget cuts. Two questions brought forward by curators: Do you increase tuition, or do you keep cutting staff?

Choi said Missouri is the fourth lowest in the nation for tuition increases from 2008 to 2015. However, he said they have seen a dramatic number of students leaving the state.

“This is called a brain drain- something the system cannot afford,” Choi said.

Choi said the FY19 budget would put funding, which is proposed at $376 million, at the 1998 level in nominal dollars and 1970 in real dollars.

“We can’t cut our way to excellence,” Choi said.

He said there have been $101 million in budget cuts and reallocations, and more than 500 faculty and staff separations.

Choi said the two biggest priorities in terms of funding are getting $40 million in core funding restored and getting relief from Senate Bill 389. The bill eliminates tuition caps.

The board will meet again in April.
Admission applications up for every UM System campus

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

Watch video at: http://www.abc17news.com/news/admission-applications-up-for-every-um-system-campus/695512948

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Mizzou applications are ‘roaring back’

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri System President Mun Choi and chancellors for campuses across the system shared application data to the University of Missouri Board of Curators on Friday.

The data showed that applications at every campus are up compared to last year. The numbers indicate that first-time college enrollment and transfer enrollment could increase across the system when the 2018-19 academic year begins in August.

These numbers demonstrate that Missourians and out-of-state students recognize that they can receive exceptional and affordable educations while becoming career-ready,” Choi said.

According to the data, there were 15,060 applications for Mizzou in 2017 and 17,583 in 2018 showing a 16.8% increase.

Recruitment efforts at all four campuses have been bolstered by additional activities and marketing, for targeted ad campaigns to ramped up recruitment efforts in Missouri and elsewhere.
Number of MU applicants increases, enrollment still down

By GABRIELLA NUNEZ

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Mizzou applications are ‘roaring back’


COLUMBIA — In new data presented Friday, the University of Missouri announced an increase in freshmen and transfer applicants to the school.

Mizzou reported preliminary application numbers show increasing interest in the university.

Comparing numbers from Jan. 29, 2017 to Jan. 29, 2018, Mizzou reported freshmen applications were up 16.8 percent. Transfer student applications also increased by 12.2 percent.

MU credits the increase to its aggressive recruitment strategy which included visiting over 600 Missouri high schools and adding Mizzou to the Common App, which allows applicants to apply to several schools at the same time.

“We called on our team to re-examine how we do things and think outside the box,” said Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management in the news release.

“I am proud of these efforts and encouraged by these early numbers. Mizzou has momentum, and we plan to keep that energy going.”

Though the efforts seem to have helped spark more interest in the university, the spike may not undo a noted previous decrease in enrollment.

There have been 2,523 more freshman applicants so far for the fall semester of 2018. There were 98 more transfer student applications for the upcoming semester as well.
The chart below demonstrates freshmen and transfer applicants increasing from 2017 to 2018.

Mizzou applicants
Infogram

The numbers may seem promising, but the increase in potential enrollment may not undo the widely reported harm of the 2015 campus protests.

According to University of Missouri enrollment reports, numbers have sharply decreased since Fall 2015. The sharpest decrease was seen when undergraduate enrollment dropped from 25,898 students to 23,817— a decrease of about 2,000 students. The chart below illustrates a sharp decline in actual enrollment since 2015.

According to US News, experts recommend high school seniors apply to a range of four to eight universities, making the chances of a senior committing to Mizzou less probable.

The 2,523 increase in freshmen applicants could only help Mizzou recover from its decrease in enrollment if every single applicant was accepted and committed to the university. The numbers still wouldn't match Fall 2015 enrollment.

The increase in interest still holds the potential to close the gaps in enrollment.

"Mizzou is roaring back," Mizzou Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in a news release.

"We have been aggressively looking for opportunities to share our story with prospective students and their families, and that story is resonating."
Distance Learning Discussed at MU

By BETSY SMITH • 2 MINUTES AGO

The University of Missouri Board of Curators discussed problems and goals of distance learning and collaboration among campuses at a meeting on Friday morning at the Columbia Campus.

UM System President Mun Choi wants to increase the number of online courses and programs offered. The board of curators says more online classes are necessary for student flexibility.

Curator David Steelman says the four campuses need to find a way to use distance learning so students can graduate on time.

The board of curators' task force will work on solving problems and removing boundaries from online courses among the four campuses.

Listen to the story: http://kbia.org/post/distance-learning-discussed-mu#stream/0
A new residence hall at University of Missouri has been named for one of Kansas City’s most famous African American citizens.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators voted unanimously Thursday to name a dormitory for the late journalist Lucile Bluford, former publisher of the Kansas City Call newspaper.

The hall’s atrium will honor Gus T. Ridgel, MU’s first African-American graduate.

University officials said both Bluford and Ridgel, as African-American leaders, shaped the history of the Columbia campus.

“From this day forward, Lucile Bluford Residence Hall and the Gus T. Ridgel Atrium will stand as testaments to the spirit of justice and perseverance that animated both of these individuals,” said David Steelman, chair of the Board of Curators.

“Lucile Bluford and Gus Ridgel exemplified the university’s values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence.”

MU Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright said he hopes the names on the hall and the atrium “will remind us all of our duty to ensure that Mizzou is welcoming to all students, faculty and staff.”
The hall’s naming was recommended by Darryl Chatman, the only African American board member and the board’s vice chairman, and by Courtney Laurer, the student representative to the board.

“We celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of these two individuals who’ve had a tremendous impact on our institution,” Chatman said in a statement.

He said there was widespread support from the MU community including faculty, staff and students for naming the residence hall for Bluford, who died in 2003 at 91.

In 1939, Bluford, a graduate of the University of Kansas, applied to the Missouri School of Journalism to do graduate work. She was accepted but when she arrived on campus and it was discovered that she was African American, she was turned away.

“Through her eloquent writing, bold actions, courage and resilience, Bluford helped change the way African-Americans are treated, especially in the area of higher education,” a university statement said.

In 1984, she received an Honor Medal for Distinguished Service from the School of Journalism, and in 1989 she was awarded an honorary doctorate in journalism from MU.

Ridgel, who received a master’s degree from MU in economics in 1951, has led a distinguished career as a researcher, teacher and administrator.

Ridgel taught for a year at Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Ga., a historically black college, and then went on to earn a doctorate in economics from the University of Wisconsin. He did postdoctoral work at the University of Chicago, Indiana University and Duke University among other schools.

In 1960, he was hired as head of the Department of Business at Kentucky State University. He retired in 1996 as vice president for finance and administration.

In 1987 MU established the Gus T. Ridgel Fellowship for underrepresented minority graduate students in any discipline.

In a statement from MU Ridgel described Thursday’s naming as “humbling” and said, “The University of Missouri holds a very dear place in my heart...”

Lucile Bluford Residence Hall is at 502 Kentucky Blvd. The facility opened last fall and offers community-style double and single rooms.
Editorial: Too many campuses? Jago introduces the elephant again

By HANK WATERS

I have been noticing the vagaries of University of Missouri governance longer than many of you have been alive. Many UM presidents ago I first heard the proposition that we have too many public four-year universities in Missouri. The idea still makes sense.

The other day on these pages MU Professor Emeritus Art Jago paid attention once again to what he called the “elephant in the room,” the presence of too many college campuses making it increasingly difficult to support all of them properly. Having noticed with pleasure the recent work of an MU task force that recommended reallocation of program spending to deal with the campus budget crunch, Jago said we should look further by closing a campus, or as he put it, two or three.

Even though he has joined me in the never-never land of the emeriti, Jago swears he is not naïve. He knows the extraordinary resistance a plan to downsize the number of campuses would elicit. It made me think of the relatively benign move by former President Elson Floyd to incorporate Northwest Missouri State University into the UM system.

NMSU officials favored the idea. They recognized the increasing financial difficulty their standalone campus was having with finances. If it’s hard to get sustainable funding for UM’s flagship campus imagine what the operators of Northwest go through trying to get money for a campus closer to Nebraska and Iowa than Jefferson City.

Well, you know or can guess the rest of the story. Soon enough Floyd limped from the field bruised and battered. You would have thought Northwest Missouri State was the gem of Missouri higher education.

In his column Jago cited a more familiar case, the 1982 debacle in which then-MU Chancellor Barbara Uehling tried her best to implement a serious reallocation plan adopted by UM system management, only to be abandoned by superiors and left hanging out to dry. Uehling barely escaped being ridden out of town on a rail. Wishful souls harboring another temporary dream of realizing the benefits of reallocation went back into hiding. MU’s complicated array of program offerings remained in place. And sadly, advisors were vindicated who had told Uehling to do nothing until she saw the lay of the land.

The courageous chancellor began to pack her bags for another career location.
Of course Uehling was right and the rest of UM governance was wrong. It would have required a lot of backbone, but had UM embarked back then on a well-planned program of budget reprioritizing its current circumstances could be different.

Large organizations, particularly places of higher education, will always grow so long as enough money can be found to entertain the excess, even when not enough money can be found to do it right. But in Jago’s treatise I received a shocking revelation. In the past decade the State of Georgia has reduced its 14 colleges to 7. Dare we imagine Missouri might do something similar with our 13 public colleges?

Surely we can do anything Georgia can do.

The case is persuasive for retaining and strengthening the unique UM flagship campus, but it would make sense to openly discuss the other 12. Not only is the idea worthy, posing this larger change will make intramural reallocation more palatable.

Jago deserves credit for having reminded us of the merits of campus downsizing. Even with the addition of my puny voice we remain far from an overwhelming force. Maybe others in higher places will join in.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**Top Drawer**

By TRIBUNE STAFF

**ONWARD AND UPWARD**

_Rebekah Hudson_, local certified physician’s assistant, has been nationally recognized for earning a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Emergency Medicine from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Hudson earned this distinction by meeting licensure, education and experience requirements and passing a national exam in the specialty. **She is employed by the University of Missouri Hospital and has worked in the medical specialty for 16 years.**

University of Missouri Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Garnett Stokes announced **that Carolyn Henry, former associate dean for research and graduate studies and current interim dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named as dean effective immediately.** Henry, an oncology researcher, earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at Auburn University and, after practicing small animal and emergency medicine in Alabama and Georgia, later returned to Auburn to complete an oncology residency and a master of science degree. She joined the faculty of the University of Missouri in 1997 as an assistant professor of oncology. She has served as the associate director at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center since 2011.
KUDOS

The Central Bank of Boone County Board of Directors named Ajay Vinze to the board at its December meeting. Vinze is dean of the University of Missouri Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business. The Board believes that Vinze’s extensive academic and business experiences will make him a real asset to the board.

(The AAU science news website)

We don’t tend to ‘like’ these photos on Instagram

Posted by Cailin Riley-Missouri February 1st, 2018

Although Instagram users have a variety of reasons for using the platform, the majority head to Instagram for social news and entertainment and are less likely to engage with political or controversial images, according to a new study.

The study also identifies several strategies for increasing engagement with audiences.

Although an average of 4.2 billion “likes” occur on the popular media-sharing app Instagram every day, researchers are still trying to understand why certain types of content attract more engagement than others. News organizations in particular are trying to determine what strategies work best for cutting through social media clutter to get the news out to their audiences.

“The reasons that users avoid political or controversial news photos are multifaceted,” says T.J. Thomson, a doctoral candidate in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri.

“Some users says they felt badly about ‘liking’ a photo of a tragedy while others says they turn to other sources when they seek serious news stories. Many people view Instagram as an oasis where they can escape from the troubles and concerns of everyday life,” Thomson explains.
Thomson and Keith Greenwood, an associate professor of journalism, identified the following three user groups that emerged from the study’s sample:

- Feature lovers, who mostly engaged with exciting photos that showcase adventure and travel.
- News hounds, who engaged most strongly with photos concerning politics and global culture.
- Optimists, who engaged with uplifting, positive, and funny images.

While the majority of users in the groups preferred feature images to news images, the researchers found that news images can garner strong engagement if they are presented in ways both aesthetically pleasing and empowering.

“Most users in our study preferred simple, clean images,” Greenwood says. “So news organizations might draw in more engagement from users if they post images that are representative of the story they’re telling, but are still friendly to the eye.”

Researchers determined other factors that might impact an image’s engagement:

- People—the fewer the people in an image, the greater the likelihood that someone will comment on or like the photo. Moreover, posts with visible facial features are more likely to draw engagements.
- Watermarks—images with watermarks, or stamps, noting the image creator were more unpopular than original content without markings.
- Landmarks—participants were less likely to engage with posts that originated in their local community or featured recognizable landmarks, in favor of images showcasing exotic, unfamiliar locales. “We suspect that because these familiar landmarks are often seen by these users and are shared in other media throughout the community, Instagram users are more drawn to photos that show a place they wouldn’t see every day,” Greenwood says. “Photos of exotic, faraway places also reflect many positive characteristics that people relate to, such as beauty, adventure, and uniqueness.”
International students targeted by scammers


Generated by News Bureau Direct Pitch

COLUMBIA - Scammers are posing as FBI or IRS agents to steal money from college students. The scammers are primarily targeting graduate and international students, telling them they could be deported.

The con artists are calling students saying they owe fees and asking them to transfer money.

Andrew Zumwalt, co-director of the Office for Financial Success at the University of Missouri, said scams are usually prevalent during tax season.

"We've been talking a lot about filing taxes, where to file taxes. And so the fact that the scams pick up now when it's more top of mind for people, they're more likely to pay attention to that scammer and maybe actually follow through with the scammer's intentions," he said.

Zumwalt said people should be careful about giving their information because it is difficult to get money back from these types of scams.

MU student Huong Truong said she was not surprised students were the main targets.

"I feel like scammers target students specifically because students aren't actually the most knowledgeable people when it comes to scams. Especially when it comes to credit card debt and or when it comes to financial issues," Troung said.

Zumwalt said people can sometimes identify scams. He said if someone is pushy over the phone, or if they fight to keep people on the line, they are probably scammers.
"If someone calls you and they say you need to pay now and they ask you for an unconventional form of payment using a wire transfer or going to a third party payment service, that's not the IRS," he said.

He also said anyone can report a potential scam on the IRS website.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

**Amid turbulent week, Sterk’s stances serve Mizzou well**

BY VAHE GREGORIAN

vgregorian@kcstar.com

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Updated February 02, 2018 07:42 PM

COLUMBIA - **If we’ve learned anything about University of Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk in his year-plus on the job, it’s that he’s a congenial man and not prone to rash or reckless actions or comments.**

That’s why, for instance, he dropped by football coach Barry Odom’s office the morning after the repulsive 35-3 loss in September to Purdue to offer support and encouragement.

But you’d be wrong to mistake his nurturing inclinations and amiability for ambivalence or being a pushover.

That firm side surfaced in a hectic week at MU that included the indefinite suspension of basketball player Terrence Phillips amid a Title IX investigation made up of complaints from at least four women, the seemingly abrupt firing Jan. 26 of controversial softball coach Ehren Earleywine and an ugly scene surrounding the Mizzou women’s game at South Carolina on Sunday.

Sterk on Friday declined comment on these matters.

He was legally bound in the Phillips case. And he was surely wisdom-guided otherwise, since there was no reason to stoke more back-and-forth with Earleywine (who on Saturday issued a statement pleading ignorance as to why he was fired), and South Carolina, which had denounced recent comments by Sterk, who on radio station KTGR alleged that fans at South Carolina had
slurred and spit on MU players. Sterk also said coach South Carolina Dawn Staley had “promoted that kind of atmosphere.”

Even if Sterk might have done well to clarify his point about Staley, one of the nation’s great coaches, and it would be great to hear the specifics about the Earleywine decision, his actions stand for themselves about what we should want in sports — especially at the collegiate level.

First of all, no matter what Earleywine says, no matter how much you enjoyed the tenacity and success and color he brought to his work, it’s impossible to think that his removal was purely whimsical — just before the start of the season — as he would have you believe.

Earleywine, who was investigated for alleged verbal abuse of players in the past, in his statement acknowledged that he thinks “this all boiled down to a philosophical coaching difference between MU and myself.”

He should have stopped there.

Instead, he makes it seem like he was fired just because he was too fiery — and as if his way made him the only Mizzou coach who cares enough. The school, he said, has a “love affair with soft coaching.”

Try telling the demanding likes of Odom or men’s basketball coach Cuonzo Martin or women’s basketball coach Robin Pingeton or wrestling coach Brian Smith and other MU coaches that they’re soft.

Then there’s the matter of South Carolina, the defending national champion in women’s college basketball, which has had something bubbling with Missouri since at least Mizzou’s 83-74 victory over the No. 4 Gamecocks on Jan. 7 and evidently going back to MU’s 62-60 win at home last year.

Staley was ejected from the Jan. 7 game after receiving two technicals.

Then she implied the officiating somehow was rigged when she let it be known that she had texted the Southeastern Conference officiating coordinator before the game to complain about the referee assignment.

Why? Because two of the three officials had worked the game at MU the year before, which she apparently saw as disqualifying.

“I’m not saying they’re the reason why (we lost),” she said after the game, “but you’ve got to do better when you’re coordinating officials.”

If this seems like the stuff of a reprimand or fine from the SEC, especially since she was questioning not merely a call but either the competence or the integrity of the officiating, none was forthcoming — at least publicly.

All of which fed into the sequel last Sunday in Columbia, S.C.
Two days after Staley basically called MU dirty (there were some things in the previous meeting “that weren’t basketball,” she said) the school summoned extra security and handed out plastic hard hats to some students for a game the school’s women’s basketball Twitter account promoted by saying “bring your battle armor Sunday. We are duking it out with Missouri at 6 pm!”

And so the teams did in a 64-54 MU loss, lowlighted by an eye-of-the-beholder moment in a loose-ball scuffle — one a South Carolina fan would say was notable for Sophie Cunningham shoving away a South Carolina player and an MU fan would see as Cunningham protecting a teammate on the ground.

Disturbing stuff for which both schools bear responsibility.

As for whatever was happening in the stands, Sterk should have chosen his words more carefully about Staley herself, making it clear he wasn’t saying she maliciously incited fans.

The fairly obvious presumed point needed to be clear: As one of the most prominent coaches in the nation, Staley has a responsibility not just for her own team but to the game itself — and that her words can carry great sway in how their fans might respond.

But if you don’t think it was appropriate for Sterk to speak out at all, a broader point of the need can be found in South Carolina’s reaction to the accusations of slurs and spit by South Carolina fans.

Nothing to see here.

South Carolina athletic director Ray Tanner conducted an investigation and found no evidence of the allegations and now is seeking a retraction from Sterk.

“The accusations are serious and false,” Staley said earlier this week.

It’s possible that they are, or that words heard were misunderstood, and there’s no way to know without tangible proof.

It’s also entirely possible that some jerk or jerks in a crowd of 13,433 did say or do things that were as rotten as alleged.

And that should have been accounted for in Tanner and Staley’s responses.

As simple as, ‘We know of no evidence of the accusations, but if they’re true we condemn the behavior.’

Or otherwise along the lines of Pingeton’s response when she was told someone in the crowd at Mizzou had called South Carolina players thugs, calling it “ignorant” and disappointing if true.

The absence of that is why Sterk needed to make those points, because if true they can’t be tolerated at the risk of emboldening more and worse in an increasingly volatile climate in sports and beyond.
And the response from South Carolina is why Sterk is smart now to table this until an opportunity to meet with Tanner and SEC commissioner Greg Sankey that likely will take place at next week’s SEC meetings.

Not because Sterk was somehow uncharacteristically reckless, but because he had to stand up for and protect his program.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Editorial: Earleywine’s firing warrants answers

BY TRIBUNE EDITORIAL BOARD

More than a week has passed since Ehren Earleywine’s ouster, and Mizzou softball fans are still scratching their heads as to why one of the university’s most successful coaches was dismissed 13 days before the season began.

So much of this unusual saga doesn’t make sense. In a prepared statement released shortly after he was fired, Earleywine seemed equal parts confused and angry. The same can be said for many of the Mizzou softball faithful.

The problem is the only individuals who can shed light work inside the University of Missouri Athletic Department, and so far they haven’t said much.

This week the department declined three Tribune Sunshine Law requests concerning Earleywine. We asked to see Earleywine’s performance reviews and complaints filed against him and we requested to know how many complaints had been filed.

All were denied. The MU Athletic Department is hiding behind an exemption to open records laws. To be clear, Missouri’s Sunshine Law says Mizzou may choose to withhold this information, not that it must withhold it. This lack of transparency is troubling, especially considering a recent situation where the university decided to publicize similar information regarding a past faculty member.

Last year, the university released reports about why it fired Galen Suppes, a tenured engineering professor, days after winning a civil case against him. Former MU Provost Garnett Stokes said at the time it was the university’s policy to not release such information, but “because we believe it is in the interest of the public and our campus community to know the details of the dismissal” an exception was made.

Suppes, not to diminish his accomplishments, could hardly be considered a household name. Earleywine, however, is a different story.

Earleywine posted the highest winning percentage ever by an MU softball coach (.746). He led the Tigers to 11 straight NCAA Regional appearances, eight Super Regional appearances and
three straight Women’s College World Series appearances. His teams were ranked among the top 25 for 134 consecutive polls. Clearly winning wasn’t the problem.

So what was?

The reason for Earleywine’s dismissal doesn’t appear to be criminal in nature. From what we know it was more about his temperament and coaching style. Or perhaps his bosses’ patience ran out after a 2016 Title IX investigation of his coaching conduct and allegations of verbal abuse.

With the current crises on university campuses like that of Michigan State, it’s more important than ever information regarding dismissals of faculty and coaches working with female athletes be available.

Was Earleywine put on notice for his old-school, hard-nosed approach to coaching? Did his superiors address their concerns previously? Did Earleywine fail to meet those expectations? MU has a responsibility to players, parents and the public to shed some light, just as it did in the situation involving Suppes. Demanding consistency isn’t asking too much.

“Mizzou enjoyed a proud softball tradition before Earleywine took over in 2007, but he’s clearly since taken the Tigers to the next level,” according to mutigers.com, the MU Athletic Department’s own website. To paraphrase a quote former provost Stokes, “in the interest of the public and our campus community,” details about Earleywine should be released.

Student leaders publish letter to express displeasure with 2019 budget cuts

The letter includes signatures from leaders of all of Missouri’s public universities.

By Evan Ochsner

In response to Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens’ proposed 2019 budget, student leaders from Missouri’s four-year universities published a letter on Monday to express their “deep disappointment” with the budget’s proposed cuts to higher education.

Those who signed the letter on behalf of the University of Missouri were Missouri Students Association President Nathan Willett, MSA Vice President Payton Englert, Graduate Professional Council President Alex Howe and GPC Vice President Glenn Baker. Also listed on the letter were leaders from Missouri State University, Missouri Western State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Southeast Missouri State University, University of Central Missouri, University of Missouri–St. Louis, Missouri S&T and University of Missouri–Kansas City.

“We felt the need to stand up for the future of Missouri,” Willett said.

The letter was first published on Twitter on Jan. 29, one week after Greitens’ budget proposal was first released. The proposal contains a $68.1 million cut to higher education — $43 million
of which will come from the University of Missouri System. Higher education is the largest single categorical cut in the proposed budget.

“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,” the letter reads. “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.”

Student leadership concerns over the budget have been growing for years as cuts to higher education have piled up.

GPC Director of State Affairs Mike Hendricks and Director of National Affairs Rachel Owen added their thoughts to the letter before it was approved by MSA and later by the other public schools in the state. However, the letter originated from Willett and MSA.

“It’s just getting to the point where if you keep cutting higher education, it’s not going to simply affect the students the faculty and the staff of all four campuses, it’s going to start affecting all Missourians,” Hendricks said. “The UM System is the second biggest economic driver for the state of Missouri and provides billions of dollars in support for Missouri residents, so if it keeps going down this path, we’re going to keep getting hurt, and there’s going to be no future for the state of Missouri.”

Something that both Willett and Hendricks stressed was their concern that continued cuts to higher education would begin to negatively impact the entirety of the state.

“If you don’t invest in the workforce, business will go to other states,” Willett said.

“There’s only so much the university can keep cutting to try to get the budget they need, and it’s getting to the point where if you keep cutting these things, it’s going to affect these people, and that’s not just students faculty or staff – it’s starting to trickle down to all residents of Missouri,” Hendricks said.

Despite the extensive cuts in the budget and urgent tone of the letter, student leadership remains optimistic that the cuts can be reduced. Willett and the GPC hope that Governor Greitens will visit campus sometime this spring in order to get students’ perspectives about higher education.

Hendricks was also encouraged by the stances of state legislators and Boone County representatives, who were “unified together” against the budget. Those opposed to the proposal include Missouri State Senator Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia.

“I hope they’ll listen to us and hear our voices, but most importantly I want to connect with the people of Missouri,” Willett said.
Editorial: Critical trail project deserves approval

By CHIP COOPER

With no oceans, mountains or significant lakes, Columbia’s unique and beautiful nature trail network enhances our quality of life and economy, especially when competing for high tech families and retirees who can live anywhere but choose to call Columbia home. Our rolling terrain allows our spectacular nature trail network to wend its way along the gentle slopes of our creek corridors, thus bypassing our many significant ridges and taking us into Columbia’s most stunning, but hidden, landscape. It is a true gem.

The current east side of the network now runs continuously from just north of I-70 (through the Links Apartments) in the northeast all the way to the southwest edge of Columbia, and on down to the KATY Trail at the Missouri River. That’s about 13 miles. This route is nearly level except when it hits Old 63, between East Broadway and Stadium, from either direction. In this key area, bikes and pedestrians must climb one of the longest, steepest hills in Columbia, creating a significant obstruction in the trail network. Few are interested or even able to climb a 100-foot hill on a routine basis. Leaving it as-is profoundly undermines the overall value of the network.

There has been a long-standing, formal City plan to alleviate this obstruction by extending the Hinkson Trail from Grindstone Park to Stephens Lake Park and the Hominy Branch trail. On March 16, 2015 the Columbia City Council, after extensive public input, approved the trail routes needed and directed staff to proceed with the project.

On Monday, the city council will be asked to review the final plans, easements required for the trail and authorize staff to begin the bidding process. Some real good news making this decision even easier: the University of Missouri, recognizing the important of connecting students and staff to campus, has now donated the easement for the trail on their property.

The money necessary to complete this critical link is in place, in great part as a result of the federal GetAbout funds. Such funds must be used for trail projects or other related projects intended to facilitate mode shift, i.e. encouraging people to walk or bike instead of driving a car. In the decades to come, our nature trail network can serve millions of people and effect measurable mode shift. Eliminating the need to struggle up one of the largest and longest hills in Columbia is absolutely essential to realizing that wonderful opportunity.

Finally, the “Altis property,” a key area of this project, is NOT a pristine nature area as claimed by some. It is, instead, a highly-disturbed urban remnant that hosts two very large sewer trunk lines along with a utility road for easy access to those sewers, many jutting concrete structures and vents that are part of those sewers. The area is overrun with invasive species. The proposed trail itself will largely sit atop the current utility easement/road, few trees will be removed and there will be a substantial, organized effort to improve the ecology of the area, including
removing invasive species and replacing them with native plants. It likely won’t happen, otherwise.

We know that people come to love trails like this once they are completed. While there is inevitably some friction during the planning and construction phases, it dissipates quickly thereafter, and is replaced by large numbers of people who highly value it.

I strongly urge the Columbia City Council to approve this critical project.

*Chip Cooper is the founding president of the PedNet Coalition, Inc., former executive director of the Missouri Innovation Center and currently a board member for the Community Foundation of Central Missouri.*

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**THE KANSAS CITY STAR.**

‘I think it raises taxes.’ GOP lawmakers aren’t buying Greitens’ tax-cut plan

BY JASON HANCOCK AND BRYAN LOWRY

JEFFERSON CITY - Gov. Eric Greitens spent the last week assuring Missourians his plan to cut taxes will result in $800 million in the pockets of Missourians without hurting the state’s budget.

And the political nonprofit his advisers founded last year plans to spend $1 million on television, radio and digital ads to help hammer that idea home.

But Republican leaders in the Missouri Senate aren’t buying it. And it’s becoming clear that tax cuts as Greitens has envisioned them will be a hard sell this year.

“The governor’s tax plan I don’t think is valid. It’s got some holes in it,” said Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, a Joplin Republican, later adding: “I think it raises taxes.”

He was joined in his criticism by Sen. Dan Brown, a Rolla Republican who chairs the Senate appropriations committee.

“I think it’s going to be difficult to get done this year,” Brown said.

The heart of Greitens’ plan calls for lawmakers to cut the top individual income tax rate to 5.3 percent from 5.9 percent. Corporations would see their tax rate cut to 4.25 percent from 6.25 percent. The governor’s plan also includes an earned income tax credit for low-income workers that Greitens says would essentially eliminate taxes for 380,000 people.

Those cuts would total around $787 million, said Joel Walters, director of the Missouri Department of Revenue.

To offset some of those costs, the governor’s plan would cut deductions and eliminate certain tax incentives for businesses that Walters said would total about $748 million.
Analysis by the Revenue Department concluded that when the tax rate reduction is coupled with the elimination of certain deductions, Greitens’ plan provides roughly $279 million in net income tax cuts for individuals.

Net taxes on corporations and other businesses would go up an estimated $253 million.

During a speech Tuesday in Riverside, Greitens repeatedly claimed his plan would lower taxes on 97 percent of Missourians.

“In the past, plans like this were focused on the well-connected. They were focused on insiders, people who had an inside track. Our plan, it works for working families,” Greitens told a crowd at the U.S. Farathane plant, which makes plastics for automobiles.

Parker Briden, the governor’s press secretary, told the Associated Press that “there are certain people that are going to have their taxes increased under this, but we’ve worked really hard to make it really good for most businesses and really reward Missouri businesses.”

The plan’s estimated $25 million price tag should be considered “revenue neutral,” meaning it will have no significant impact on the state’s finances, said Joseph Haslag, an economics professor at the University of Missouri and chief economist for the conservative Show-Me Institute.

“For major tax reform efforts like this one, any estimated increase or decrease in revenue projections of less than $50 million is considered revenue neutral by any reputable economist,” Haslag said.


SANDY DAVIDSON: Libel laws aren't perfect, but could they actually be better?

BY: SANDY DAVIDSON

Sandy Davidson, Ph.D., J.D., teaches Communications Law at the Missouri School of Journalism. She is a Curators Teaching Professor and the attorney for the Missourian.

As President Donald Trump gave his State of the Union address to a deeply divided nation, the Turner Classic Movie channel played “King Kong,” American Movie Classics played “Demolition Man” and BBC America showed “Braveheart.” The Syfy channel chose “The Goonies.” Were these channels engaging in political statements?

One thing President Trump has done that irritates journalists, among others, is call for a change in libel laws. Libel is an untrue statement that damages reputation. Trump said last February that he wants to “open up our libel laws,” meaning he wants to more easily sue news organizations. He does have a point, insofar as it’s not easy for a public official to win libel cases. But that’s how the U.S. Supreme Court decrees libel law should be.
Libel law has an interesting history. In 1964, the Supreme Court’s decision in New York Times Co. v. Sullivan spun libel laws around 180 degrees. The law changed from being favorable to plaintiffs to being favorable to defendants, which are often newspaper or broadcasting companies.

Here’s the way the law was prior to 1964, in what Trump would surely see as the “good old days”:

First, strict liability prevailed, meaning plaintiffs didn’t have to show any fault by defendants to win. Although strict liability is a concept that has been going out of favor, it’s still viable in some areas of the law. For example, if you own a wild animal, you’re strictly liable for your critter’s misdeeds.

Let’s say you own a tiger. Actually, an MU fraternity wanted to own a tiger. What could possibly go wrong? Say the tiger gets loose and kills a pet or even a person. Under strict liability, courts wouldn’t ask how careful you were while keeping your tiger. No, there would be only one question: “Is that your tiger?”

To win, plaintiffs also didn’t have to prove they suffered any damages from the libel. Instead, damages were “presumed.” And the burden of proof was on the defendant, who had to prove the statements in question were true.

But then the Supreme Court totally revolutionized libel law. Gone were strict liability, presumed damages, and defendants carrying the burden of proof. The Supreme Court said that, instead, the U.S. Constitution required that the plaintiff prove fault on the defendant’s part and show that damage actually occurred. And the court said it was the plaintiff’s burden to prove that the statements in question were FALSE, not the defendant’s burden to prove TRUTH.

The Supreme Court thought the old way of doing libel law was having a chilling effect on news media and decided it was time to give them “breathing space.” The court feared that news organizations could have important stories to tell, but would be so afraid of having to prove truth in court that they would just kill their stories. The court valued a free flow of information and also realized that the messengers are human, and humans sometimes make mistakes.

In short, the court decided to protect mistakes. If the “fake news” is a mistake, journalists are protected by the Supreme Court’s view of what the Constitution requires.

The total revolution in libel law took ten years, from 1964 to 1974. The court says that in order for public officials or public figures (think Oprah) to win, they must prove the defendant acted with “actual malice,” meaning with “knowledge that the statement was false” or with “reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.” Journalists are spared when they’re sloppy, but not when they knowingly spread a falsehood or entertain doubts about whether a statement is correct, but choose to spread it anyway.

Further, the court said it is not enough to prove actual malice by the usual preponderance of the evidence — anything over 50 percent. Instead, there must be “clear and convincing” evidence.

For private individuals, the court says states may set the standard for liability, so long as they require “fault.” In other words, strict liability is out, but states may decide that the lower standard of “negligence” — not taking the amount of care that reasonable journalists would take under the circumstances — is enough for private plaintiffs to prove.

Here’s a kicker: In the 1964 case New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, which involved a public official suing a newspaper for libel, the court ruled unanimously to require public officials to prove actual malice to win. But three of the justices, William O. Douglas, Hugo Black and Arthur Goldberg, would have gone further than the rest of the court by recognizing an absolute right to publish criticisms, which Justice Goldberg speaks of as an “absolute, unconditional privilege to criticize official conduct.” Had the court gone as far as these three, then public officials would have been precluded under the Constitution from bringing libel suits concerning their official conduct.
Wow! Giving anybody an absolute privilege to publish what they want would arguably unleash some real
dogs of war — ones who would say anything as they go in for the kill of public officials they don’t like.
Fortunately, the “absolute, unconditional privilege” didn’t prevail.

In 1974, the Supreme Court admitted that "plainly many deserving plaintiffs, including some intentionally
subjected to injury, will be unable to surmount the barrier of the New York Times test." If the court is
setting standards so high that some individuals who were intentionally wronged still can’t win, then that
arguably shows a flaw in our law. Could it be corrected without doing more damage than good? I’m not
sure.

Clearly, under the old pre-1964 law that used strict liability, news organizations had to be very careful in
fact-checking. They had no “breathing space” that the court says is constitutionally necessary. President
Trump is saying, perhaps, that he’d like to suck the air out of that “breathing space.” He’d like to grease
the skids for easier wins. In short, it seems he’d like the future to be like the old pre-1964 past.

MU Black History Month starts off
with tribute to black female musicians

By: ELENA K. CRUZ

Tammy Kernodle began her Thursday evening tribute to black female singers with a request.

"Ground rules: I don't want you to sit still," Kernodle, a musicology professor at Miami University of Ohio, said. The 250 people packing MU’s Stotler Lounge laughed and
responded throughout the two-hour performance.

It was the first of Black History Month and last of Martin Luther King Jr. Day events at MU. Peppering
the lecture with songs, Kernodle emphasized the impact black female musicians have had in the fight for
civil rights and equality throughout U.S. history. She encouraged the crowd to react throughout it with
claps, snaps and shouts.

"I hope I inspire people to understand the power of their voice," Kernodle said.

Kernodle performed songs by black women from the early 1800s through the late 1900s, varying from the
spiritual hymn "Wade in the Water" to "I'll Take You There" by the Staples Singers. Between each song,
she explained the history of the musicians and the power their singing had.

Backlash Blues

"Her focus on black women is one we don't hear enough of," said Stephanie Shonekan, chair of MU's
Department of Black Studies, after the performance. Earlier, she introduced Kernodle to the audience.

Listeners including toddlers and older people seemed enthralled with the performance. While Kernodle spoke, some people silently leaned forward in their seats; others whispered words of agreement. When she sang, suddenly people tapped their feet, bobbed their heads, clapped along and let loose celebratory hollers.
"I think that having a female artist come and perform this work, somebody who understands the culture and the message within these stories and the music, can really help us understand these stories and their relevancy today," said audience member Brittani Fults, education and prevention coordinator in the MU Office for Civil Rights and Title IX.

Although Kernodle's program centered on the impact of past music, she said people need to continue to speak up about political, economical and social issues today because they have not been solved.

"As long as you still have to worry about getting in your car and being stopped before you get home, there still is work to be done," Kernodle said.

Fults said Kernodle's presence, as well as conversation that results from it, is relevant and meaningful on campus.

"I think it's important to happen at MU because there were a lot of contributions from African-American men and women in terms of their contributions to the academy, to socialization on campus, to raising awareness about our identity here," Fults said.

Less than 70 years after black students were allowed to enroll at MU, Fults said a "transfer of knowledge" remains important.

"What does it hurt to have somebody different performing and to have the conversation take place in a different way?" she said.

The event celebrated Harriet Tubman, Fannie Lou Hamer, Roberta Flack and other influential black women. But even though the show highlighted historical figures and celebrities, Kernodle said she hopes her program inspires the average person to access their voice's power.

"You don't have to have the credentials behind your name," Kernodle said. "You can be the agent of change if you are willing to stand up and speak."

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Agriculture park gets boost from tourism funds

By ANNA KOHLS

Construction of an agriculture park on Ash Street could help to boost hotel occupancy in Columbia, the director of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau said after the organization approved funding for the park.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board approved $75,000 in funding for Clary-Shy Community Park on Monday. Although out-of-town visitors may not come specifically for the park, Schneider said the “presence and events” at the park may have visitors extend their stays and fill hotel rooms in Columbia. The CVB is funded through the city’s tax on hotel and motel rooms.

The money will be given in increments of $25,000, after each phase of the project is complete. In the last 14 months, the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture has raised about $3.1 million to
build the park. The organization is continuing to raise money and talk with donors and potential partners about helping to get this park built, Center for Urban Agriculture Director Bill Polansky said.

**Donations so far include $400,000 from the city’s parks sales tax, $400,000 from University of Missouri Health Care, a $400,000 grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, $700,000 from the Missouri Foundation for Health and $150,000 from the Boone County Community Trust.**

Construction of the project’s first phase is scheduled to begin is in April with a completion date by the end of the summer. Polansky said a secured timeline will not be known until contractors have been selected.

Phase one will involve site work and putting in utilities and stormwater pipes and concrete foundations. Phase two will consist of construction of a barn, outdoor classrooms building and the farm/garden area. Phase three involves finishing the outer construction of the main building, adding an office and kitchen and putting in additional parking.

Polansky said the phases are an outline, and some work in subsequent phases might be done earlier if funding is secured in time.

An architect is reviewing bids for the project and those bids are not yet public, according to the Columbia Finance Department.

The Columbia Farmers Market will temporarily move from the park this summer to accommodate the work. This will be the first time the farmers market has moved from its original location in 23 years. The park will move to the northeast parking lot at Parkade Center starting March 17.

Columbia Farmers Market Executive Director Corrina Smith said the agriculture park will be beneficial in allowing the farmers market to stay in the same location throughout the year.

“We are extremely excited about it,” Smith said. “It’s been something the market has been working on to get and to build for years. It’s exciting to have the farmers market be in a place year-round.”

Good neighbors: MU exhibits see past the surface of people’s lives

By AARIK DANIELEN

If you are predisposed to avoid the University of Missouri campus — for lack of parking options, for fear of being jostled by harried college students, for whatever reason — this might be the moment, even if just for a moment, to suspend that stance.
Two exhibits, right across Lowry Mall from one another, find very different but equally compelling ways to look beyond the surface of sights we take for granted or think we know how to read.

FOUL PLAY

St. Louis-born artist Zoe Hawk gives us glimpses of what are, at first, harmless scenes, the type we’d see from the corners of our eyes and think nothing of. Yet, in the most subtle ways, she displays how they are stained with expectation and emblematic of an incredibly quiet form of social engineering.

Hawk’s work portrays girls at play and, in these otherwise delicate images, finds the connections between girlhood and conformity, mortality and socialization.

“The narratives depicted in the paintings are meant to be sweet and somewhat familiar to the viewer,” she writes in her artist’s statement, “yet upon closer inspection they take a mysterious or unsettling turn.”

“How Many Janes,” for example, takes the viewer inside a schoolroom. Several girls are poised to write on a chalkboard, perhaps even in synchronized fashion. Others are tracing one of their classmates on a large sheet of butcher paper. One, however, is in the corner, her face pressed up against the wall as if she is trying to disappear into it.

“Cry Sally Cry” takes place in a schoolyard, a circle of girls surrounding a classmate seated in the middle, her posture one of distress.

Hawk’s work asks the viewer to consider how our definitions of girlhood makes girls disappear rather than flourish, and pits them against each other rather than encourages them to lift each other up.

“An intricate play of yearning, contention, camaraderie and mischief develops between these characters as they navigate their own little worlds — somewhere between childhood and adulthood, between fairy tales and the dark realities of womanhood,” she writes.

Some of those darker realities are revealed in understated ways. “Dream Home” finds a girl, looking into what seems to be an earthen bunker in the shadow of a billboard depicting a stylized, picture-perfect living room.

In other works, however, darkly-veiled women clasp hands with virtuous young girls, acting as harbingers of what’s to come and leading them off, unsuspecting, to their fates.

Hawk is a supremely talented artist, her substance met perfectly by her style. In fabric and facial expression, she captures fine details that say everything. While much of her work is wry, ominous even, she finds room for tender expressions and moments of sheer beauty.

She clearly is well-versed in these rituals and types, portraying them accurately, then slowly subverting them. Reading her paintings like texts reveals her mastery at portraying the smallest degrees of difference. The characters in many of her works sit along a spectrum between falling in line and lashing out, many of them just the slightest variations on one another.

Hawk’s self-awareness plants the seeds of greater awareness in her viewers, that we might see past the innocent and the “normal” to our own complicity in the act of placing girls in boxes.
Through Feb. 15 at the George Caleb Bingham Gallery inside the MU Fine Arts Building. Find more details at https://art.missouri.edu/bingham-gallery-exhibitions.html.

MAN ON THE STREET

It is fitting, poetic perhaps, that Jon Luvelli’s photographs now hang at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

As a Missouri native with national and international stature, Luvelli’s work deserves to be preserved. More than this, his street photography records the sort of state history that will almost never be recorded in official documents or books.

The works here introduce us to the neighbors we’ve never met: a serious-looking little boy with a doll and a book, a couple sitting in the center of downtown commerce, a man whose sad face is framed by street advertisements.

The amount of visual detail here is stunning, as is the level of compassion and honesty within the work. Luvelli’s work suggests that no person can be summed up by their worst moment or their bravest face.

The most compelling image is “Before the Norm,” a portrait of a skinny older man in drawstring Superman pajama pants. His torso is more tattoos than untouched skin, wispy white chest hair runs down its middle and his shirt is pulled up over his head, framing his face.

The image tells us that he is not, in fact, Superman. None of us are. We are, however, all people who need to be seen — with our guards down, with all our weeks and months and years etched into our expressions, with our great capacities to be hurt and be loved.

Jon Luvelli: Images from Central Missouri is on display through spring at State Historical Society of Missouri on MU’s Lowry Mall. Learn more at shsmo.org.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Why Students Are Leaving Illinois in Droves — and Why It Matters

By DAN BAUMAN

For the fourth straight year, the University of Illinois system has frozen tuition for in-state students at its three campuses. Announcing the move in January, the system’s president, Timothy L. Killeen, was explicit about its purpose: to stop the hemorrhaging of Illinois residents enrolling at out-of-state colleges and universities.

Many have laid the blame for that exodus at the feet of state leaders. A bruising budget stalemate between Illinois’s Republican governor, Bruce V. Rauner, and the Democratic-controlled legislature, stretching from 2015 to 2017, led to furloughs, layoffs, and emergency measures at several Illinois public colleges. Some observers say the affair created unease among prospective Illinois students about the long-term health of their home-state higher-ed options.
Sure enough, since the impasse began, enrollments at many of Illinois public universities have slid precipitously from year to year. (Just this fall, freshman enrollment at Western Illinois University fell by 21 percent.) And preliminary data indicate that a greater number of freshmen sought higher education outside the state, while fewer out-of-state students chose to study in the Land of Lincoln. In 2016, the state experienced a net loss of 19,195 students, a 15-percent increase from 2014’s 16,000-student gap, and second only to New Jersey’s 29,000-freshmen deficit. The deepening loss was largely driven by more Illinois residents seeking to study in other states.

But the fact is that Illinois has been losing students long before its budget mess. In both 2012 and 2014, before Governor Rauner’s election, around 33,000 Illinois residents attended college as freshmen outside the state. The state filled only about half of that deficit with the enrollment each year of about 17,000 out-of-staters. Over the last decade, Illinois has averaged a net loss of 8,000 freshmen in each of the five years that data were collected. (The federal government surveys colleges about freshmen-migration patterns only in even-numbered years.)

In fiscally stable times, that migration deficit might have been problematic, but it wasn’t dire. But the budget stalemate exposed and exacerbated a long-running problem: Without regular and certain state funding, public and private colleges needed to enroll more Illinois residents to raise much-needed tuition revenue. However, the uncertainty created by the impasse led more students to take their dollars elsewhere. Hence, as a last resort, the years of tuition freezes.

The feedback loop of uncertainty that Illinois has been stuck in is relatively new, and pressing. But researchers say the broader phenomenon of freshman migration has been present for decades.

"You can trace it back to the 1960s," said Eric Lichtenberger, deputy director of information management and research at the Illinois Board of Higher Education. "It’s nothing new. It’s been going on for the past 50 years or so."

‘Very Strong Interest’

Why does Illinois have such difficulty retaining students? First and foremost, the state offers out-of-state colleges a deep and lucrative recruiting pool to turn to. It’s the most populous state in the Midwest, and many of its prospective students are appealing to nearby universities. Illinois freshmen who enroll outside the state are disproportionately likely to belong to wealthier, suburban families, and to earn above-average test scores in high school, according to an Illinois Education Research Council study on which Lichtenberger was a co-author.

With that in mind, neighboring states have built appeals to Illinoians into their recruitment strategies. In 2016 the University of Iowa enrolled the most Illinois residents of any out-of-state school. Nearly 30 percent of freshman Hawkeyes hailed from Illinois in 2017, according to university data. Kirk R. Kluver, director of admissions, said the university’s Illinois recruitment strategy leaned heavily on that close-to-home factor.

"We’ve had very strong interest from students living in Illinois for years," Kluver said. "The University of Iowa is a great choice for many reasons, including being a Big Ten institution where students can receive a high-quality education at a good value that’s only a few hours from home."

To help lure students, the U. of Iowa in 2013 began offering grants of up to nearly $10,000 to out-of-staters to make up the difference between Iowa’s resident and nonresident tuition rate.
Meanwhile, other Midwestern states make it easier for students to establish residency and, by doing so, gain access to cheaper tuition rates. At the University of Missouri, students must demonstrate that they’ve lived in-state for a year, earned limited income, and carry a state driver’s license, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Roughly one in three Mizzou students hails from out of state.

Lichtenberger’s paper found that the No. 1 reason students left the state was that they thought they’d pay more to stay in Illinois. To counteract the perception that Illinois’s in-state tuition is too costly, Lichtenberger’s paper recommended that policy makers increase the number of affordable in-state options. Better marketing of those options would also be effective, Lichtenberger said.

Another way to mitigate student migration is to ease enrollment for lower-income students. That’s where stable government funding would really help, said Jennifer A. Delaney, an associate professor of higher education at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. Low-income students tend to be less mobile; for them a lack of affordable options means no college, rather than college in another state.

Delaney pointed to Illinois’s need-based MAP grants, which for a time went unfunded by the legislature. "That’s going to shape how many Illinois residents state institutions are able to bring in," she said.

**Economic Loss**

Should public universities be making a concerted effort to lure students from other states? That’s a subject of debate in some statehouses. Proponents point to the economic benefit of counting more college graduates as residents; critics argue that institutions should prioritize state taxpayers.

But there’s little argument that states would prefer to hold on to their collegebound students. Of Illinois residents who study in their home state, more than nine out of 10 graduates start careers there. But of the Illinois residents who study out of state, Lichtenberger found, around one-third don’t come back to start a career. The study estimated that if those students had completed college in Illinois, they would have earned $10.1 million in wages three years out — a significant loss of tax revenue for a state in desperate need of it.

More worrisome for Illinois: Graduates with valuable STEM degrees were the least likely to return to Illinois for employment.

So if its net-loss numbers are a problem, what’s Illinois to do? There are no easy fixes, Delaney said. One possibility is to expand opportunities for out-of-state residents to receive in-state tuition rates. In 2016-17, only one Illinois college participated in the Midwest Student Exchange Program, a tuition-reciprocity agreement, through the Midwest Higher Education Compact. Illinois has some innovators in this category, like Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, which has offered in-state tuition rates to Missouri residents since 2009.

But the potential enrollment and revenue gains promised by tuition-discounting proposals must be weighed against lost revenues for students who would have attended anyway, Delaney said. And Illinois institutions would need to coordinate to solve the migration problem, Delaney said. The impact of any one decision could be diluted if colleges, systems, legislators and other stakeholders don’t act deliberately on a shared plan.
The best way for Illinois to keep its students in state might have little to do with tuition
discounting or recruitment strategy, said Larry A. Isaak, president of the Midwestern Higher
Education Compact. A year or two without pessimistic headlines about the state of public higher
education could make a real difference in Illinois.

"Students are reading newspapers and watching news programs on television," said Isaak. "They
look at what is happening. And so I would advise certainty in budgets and certainty in financial-
aid funding."