MU chancellor addresses increased enrollment, higher education funding cuts

By MARK SLAVIT


COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright has continued his fight for increased state funding for higher education.

He said his job has been challenging since he took the position six months ago. Cartwright said the number of freshmen and transfer applicants to his school is up and the increase in applications has showed an increasing interest in his school.

“We’re optimistic that we are going to see a turn around in our enrollment,” Cartwright said. "I’m anticipating that trend will continue over the next few years.”

Cartwright stated he has concerns about raising tuition as Missouri lawmakers have once again threatened to cut state funding for higher education.

“We don’t have a plan right now,” Cartwright said. "We’re still waiting to see what happens in Jefferson City. We’ve been working with them and talking about the importance of supporting higher education.”

Mizzou’s reputation took a hit in 2015 when racial protests made national news. Cartwright said donors and alumni were back as strong supporters of MU.

“I don’t want us to just be the University of Missouri. I want us to be the University for Missouri,” Cartwright said. "I want us to be providing solutions. We are that type of institution that wants to engage with the public and to provide resources and help to maximize their effectiveness in whatever they are trying to accomplish.”
Cartwright plans to give a public address Tuesday announcing new initiatives designed to boost research and creative activities on campus.

MU admissions director discusses student recruitment efforts in Fulton

By TAYLOR PETRAS

FULTON, Mo. - [MU officials at the University of Missouri said there has been an increase in applications for the upcoming fall semester.]

Chuck May, executive director of admissions, spoke to alumni in Fulton on Saturday about what the admissions office has been doing to boost enrollment at the university.

"We have staff visiting every school in Missouri for the first time ever, and I knew that was something that was going to be great for them to learn about," he said. "It's something I know guidance counselors and families around the state have been very happy to see us out and about in their communities."

May said the university has also started new scholarship initiatives, which include covering tuition and fees for students who are eligible for Pell Grants. The university is also waving application fees for FEMA-affected counties in Texas.

Admissions numbers haven't been released yet.
MU Chancellor to announce new research initiatives

By Columbia Daily Tribune

University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright will outline new initiatives to boost research and creative activities on campus at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The address will take place in MU’s Monsanto Auditorium in the Bond Life Sciences Center at 1201 E. Rollins St., the university said in a news release. No details about the announcement were given. A reception will be held immediately after Cartwright’s address. The university will stream live video online and a recording will be available after the event at chancellor.missouri.edu.

MU says it complied with Sunshine Law in lawsuit over cost of records request

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri “complied in good faith with the Sunshine Law” when it asked for more than $80,000 to fulfill a request for research animal records, attorneys argued in court filings seeking a judgment in the university’s favor in a lawsuit challenging the cost.

Animal Rescue, Media and Education sued the UM System in 2016, calling the charges excessive and intended to discourage records requests the university is bound by law to fulfill. The filing for summary judgment Thursday came a day before the deadline for final motions to dispose of the case before it is set for trial.

The case could become a precedent for Sunshine Law disputes over the amount public organizations charge for documents and the manner in which they are handled.
In the filing, university attorney James Farnsworth described the process for creating the estimate of $82,222.33 to compile the records for 179 dogs and cats used in MU research. The organization seeking the records operates the Beagle Freedom Project, enlisting the public to request records from institutions using dogs and cats for research and advocate for adoptions rather than euthanasia for animals no longer needed or useful.

To determine the time needed and the volume of records produced for each animal, the university gathered one animal’s intake, medical, daily care, cage card and applicable protocol documents. It was 559 pages, Farnsworth wrote. Records for all 179 animals would total 100,000 pages or more, he wrote, noting that would not complete the requirements of the request.

The time was applied to a spreadsheet of the staff and faculty who would have to work on the request and then records custodian Paula Barrett “sharply reduced the estimated hours” required for primary investigators, Farnsworth wrote.

“Ms. Barrett did not just accept the time estimates at face value — she took additional steps in an effort to mitigate the costs to Plaintiff,” he wrote.

Animal Rescue, Media and Education’s attorney, Eric Crinnian, has not had time to file his response to the motion. He could not be reached for comment Friday.

In its lawsuit, the organization accused the university of violating the state’s Sunshine Law in its response to the Jan. 4, 2016, request. The request for records on 179 animals followed requests from 27 individuals in which the university sought $400 to $700 for records about a single dog or cat used in research and refused to grant fee waivers allowed in the law.

The largest part of the expense was for the time needed by the primary investigators, the faculty, usually at the professor level, who lead grant-funded research projects. Their time costs $100 or more an hour.

MU’s refusal to comply with the open records law has hurt the not-for-profit group’s advocacy efforts and “allowed the University and its faculty and staff to shroud their activities in secrecy” without “any semblance of citizen oversight of a public and taxpayer-funded institution,” the suit claims.

The university could be fined up to $1,000 for knowingly violating the Sunshine Law and up to $5,000 for a purposeful violation. The law allows an award of attorney’s fees for a knowing violation and requires it for a purposeful violation.

The Sunshine Law directs agencies to have public documents available for public inspection at no charge, to maintain files to keep open and closed portions of records separate and to charge no more than 10 cents a page for copies of documents.

When a search for documents is required, the law allows an agency to charge for the search but directs that the cost be based on the lowest-paid employee competent to conduct the search.
MU has had difficulties with other animal rights groups in recent years and in June announced efforts to increase adoptions. At that time, the university had found homes for almost 700 research dogs and cats to be adopted over the previous 10 years. From the beginning of 2014 through September 2016, almost 400 dogs and cats were euthanized.

Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! in June 2016 asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fine MU for the death of a dachshund puppy and two boars. The department did not fine the university but it did issue a warning to do a better job securing animals in their pens.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine has pressured the university to stop using pigs in medical research. The organization staged a protest in November outside University Hospital just days after the university renewed its protocols for using pigs for an additional three years.

The Beagle Freedom Project has sought to embarrass the university into fulfilling its request. It found research studying alkali eye wounds in which seven female beagles were blinded and euthanized and publicized it as an example of cruelty. MU defended its research by stating it followed the protocols of the Animals in Research Committee of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

The climate is changing, but weather forecasting probably won’t

By EVIE HEMPHILL • FEB 23, 2018

Generated from News Bureau press release: Weather should remain predictable despite climate change

Despite a warming world, there’s little chance of weather becoming unpredictable – or at least less predictable than it already is. That’s according to new research from the University of Missouri’s School of Natural Resources.

On Friday’s St. Louis on the Air, host Don Marsh spoke with local meteorologist Cindy Preszler about the findings – along with Anthony Lupo, a professor of atmospheric science who helped lead the study.
Lupo’s team was curious whether rising carbon dioxide levels would affect the variability of the jet stream, a typically 10-to-12-day pattern upon which forecasters like Preszler heavily depend for making their predictions. Lupo said the research suggests that variability will remain the same – along with meteorologists’ jobs.

“I’m not surprised [by the results],” Preszler said after reading Lupo’s study. “I guessed that there would be no change.

“I found it interesting that we do see the big changes in the jet after about 10 days. I see that in the patterns right now across the country – we’ve got a trough out in the western half of the country, with a huge ridge out here in the east, and of course, St. Louis is right in the center of it, so we're getting the influence from both.”

Catch up on the full discussion about Lupo’s research and what all goes into weather forecasting.

Listen to the story: [http://kbia.org/post/climate-changing-weather-forecasting-probably-won’t#stream/0](http://kbia.org/post/climate-changing-weather-forecasting-probably-won’t#stream/0)

**SEC betrays double standard in dealing with Mizzou and South Carolina**

By: Vahe Gregorian

After the Missouri women’s basketball team upended defending national champion South Carolina on Jan. 7 in Columbia, Mo., Gamecocks coach Dawn Staley publicly questioned either the competence or the integrity of the referees.

In the process, she essentially suggested the game was somehow rigged against her team by telling reporters that she had texted the Southeastern Conference officiating coordinator shortly before the game started to complain about the officiating assignment.

Because, after all, two of the three officials had worked MU upset of South Carolina in Columbia the previous year, so how could they possibly be allowed to work this game?

“You’ve got to do better,” Staley said of what she sent to Sally Ball, SEC director of women’s basketball officials. “I’m not saying they’re the reason why, but you’ve got to do better when you’re coordinating officials.”
Think about this: Staley, who also made bizarre statements implying that fouls shouldn’t be called on her good players, more or less called the officials corrupt and taunted the SEC.

That’s far more egregious than mere complaints about specific calls that routinely get coaches reprimanded or fined.

But there was nary a consequence — at least publicly — for Staley.

**What followed instead was a cascading sequence of events that as of Thursday meant the conference announcing a punishment to … Missouri athletic director Jim Sterk.**

He was publicly reprimanded and fined $25,000 for comments alleging that Staley had cultivated a toxic atmosphere for MU’s return game at South Carolina on Jan. 28.

In what seemed like remarkable timing, that SEC decision was announced within hours of it coming to light that Staley had filed a lawsuit against Sterk alleging defamation and slander.

In announcing the decision, the league referred to Bylaw 10.5.1, which states, “Coaches and administrators shall refrain from public criticism of other institutions, their staff or players.”

Or as commissioner Greg Sankey put it in a statement: “The SEC Code of Ethics, which was adopted by all of our member institutions, sets forth clear expectations for sportsmanship, mutual trust and respect among all participants, coaches and administrators.”

Does it, now?

So Staley squawking about the very motivation of the officials after the game at MU, and that bit where she basically called Mizzou dirty two days before the Jan. 28 rematch in Columbia, S.C. (saying there were aspects of the previous meeting “that weren’t basketball”), that was all perfectly acceptable?

But Sterk complaining on KTGR that South Carolina fans had slurred and spit on MU players and that Staley had “promoted that kind of atmosphere” merited sanctions?

In fact, the punishment directed at Sterk to a degree is puzzling considering the seemingly contradictory corollary in the SEC’s disciplinary declaration that also “mandated a Conference office-led review of South Carolina’s game management procedures and visiting team security.”

Soooo … the SEC is punishing Sterk even as it acknowledges there are potential issues to investigate at South Carolina that might not be getting scrutinized if Sterk hadn’t spoken up?

Not to say that Missouri is all good in this and South Carolina all bad.

Sterk certainly could have been more, or less, specific with his words to much better effect.

A case certainly can be made that he was inflammatory and inappropriate when it came to how he spoke of Staley.
But Sterk also isn’t one to speak impulsively, and he’s certainly not one to concoct a scenario in which one of his teams was mistreated.

He took a stand that needed to be taken seriously.

That’s the heart of the matter here, especially at a time when safety seems more and more tenuous.

While there’s room to believe someone misunderstood some things that were said or done that day at South Carolina, the defensive response of Staley and South Carolina athletic director Ray Tanner in the aftermath indicated they were more interested in being offended than in what actually happened.

As if they could magically account for the actions of all 13,433 in attendance that day.

Tanner conducted a rapid investigation and found no evidence of the allegations — and thus concluded there was absolutely no one in the crowd who mistreated any of the MU delegation and that Mizzou had simply made the whole thing up.

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

No, they are serious and unproven — a big difference that South Carolina could easily have accounted for to diffuse this whole thing.

Repeat after us: “At this time, we have no proof that there were racial slurs directed at any Missouri players or that anyone in the group was spit on. But we condemn any such treatment if it happened, and if anyone saw or heard any of these allegations we want to know. There is no place for that at South Carolina.”

Presto, chango.

Interestingly enough, that’s how the SEC seems to be treating this despite its ruling against Sterk.

“We take seriously the reports from Missouri’s student-athletes about inappropriate language and actions directed at them by individual fans, and appreciate South Carolina’s willingness to engage in a full review of fan behavior from January 28,” Sankey said in the release.

Now, maybe a more moderate stance was impossible for Staley after Sterk made it personal by calling her out.

I’m betting if Sterk had it back, he wouldn’t have put it that way.

Not necessarily because of the lawsuit or the fine as much as diminishing the clarity of his broader point.

It ultimately distracted from the pressing issue.
So it’s true everyone needs to be better here, and it’s also true that there is much to admire about Staley, who deserves her good name.

She has become a coaching great, from whom there is much to learn, and at her core is the strength and humility I remember her showing in accepting the honor of being the flag-bearer for the U.S. Olympic delegation at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

But she also deserves to be treated under the same set of rules as others in the conference are.

Because the SEC failed to do that in the first place, dominoes fell and this became an unnecessary mess.

And the apparent double-standard in all this is in neon now — worst of all unfairly blinking over an otherwise enchanted season for No. 11 MU.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**BenFred: No winners to be found in flap between Mizzou and South Carolina**

*By Ben Frederickson*

*University of Missouri athletics director Jim Sterk and South Carolina women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley should sit down together and re-watch what happened at the end.*

As the final seconds of South Carolina’s 64-54 win against Missouri ticked from the clock on Jan. 28, South Carolina guard Doniyah Cliney fell near the Tigers’ sideline.

The screen was hard, but clean. Or was it dirty? Or was Cliney overselling?

That debate mattered not in the moment.

Cliney grabbed her shoulder and hit the floor as the buzzer sounded at Colonial Life Arena.

Immediately, Mizzou women’s basketball coach Robin Pingeton and her players moved toward Cliney, circling her to see if she was OK.

Here, in the midst of a rivalry that has gone from great to bitter to downright embarrassing for all involved, an encouraging ray of empathy broke through.
Now would be a good time for the clouds above both Columbias to subside for good.

Because no one caught in this storm looks good.

An athletics director who happens to be a white man is being sued by a coach who happens to be a black woman.

He believes he was defending his team’s players from racist verbal attacks by South Carolina fans.

She thinks he accused her of promoting a climate that promoted racism.

He has been fined $25,000 by a conference that watched a rivalry sour before taking action.

She has filed a ridiculous $75,000 civil slander lawsuit against him.

Everyone is now dumber for having been subjected to this.

Will the adults in the room please come forward?

Sterk is guilty of being too stubborn. He has passed on multiple chances to clarify or walk back a poorly worded comment (at best) those on his side feel was misinterpreted.

Staley is guilty of grandstanding. Even those with the most basic understanding of libel and/or defamation understand how hard it is to prove and how hard it is to prove when it involves a public figure, like Staley.

SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey is guilty of lack of oversight, or is it lack of influence? He waited too long to step forward, then failed to settle the matter when he did. Mizzou and South Carolina were called into the principal’s office before the fine and lawsuit. Whatever was said during that sit-down didn’t seem to solve much.

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• PODCAST: BenFred in 'Eye On The Tigers'

It is hard to believe this whole episode stemmed from one comment on a radio show and the he-said, she-said fallout from it.

“We had players spit on and called the ‘N’ word and things like that,” Sterk told Columbia radio station KTGR (1580 AM) on Jan. 30. “I mean it was not a good environment and unfortunately I think Coach Staley promoted that kind of atmosphere. And it’s unfortunate that she felt she had to do that.”

How you read Sterk’s quote is of course influenced by your opinion on this issue.
Anyone who doesn’t acknowledge that is refusing to look at this from a neutral point of view.

Staley read the quote as Sterk saying she promoted a racist atmosphere. Of course, this would be a silly thing for Sterk to say about an African-American coach. But Sterk said it in a way that left the matter open for interpretation, and that’s how Staley chose to interpret it.

Sterk could have apologized. At the very least, he should have clarified. He could have taken one of multiple opportunities offered by media outlets to say that he should have been more clear and wise with his words when discussing such a volatile topic.

Sterk might actually have a pretty good point about Staley’s program promoting an overly hostile environment for that game in South Carolina. The best example would be a tweet from South Carolina’s official team Twitter account that promoted the game as, well, a fight.

“#Gamecocks bring your battle armor Sunday,” read one tweet. “We are duking it out with Missouri at 6 p.m.!”

That message must have seemed cute in the moment. Not so much after a shoving match broke out during the game.

• MIZZOU TALK: Sound off about the 2017-18 season

Sterk’s criticism of Staley left the door open. Did he mean South Carolina promoted an overly hostile environment, or a racially hostile environment? Big difference. He should explain.

But he’s not the only one who has made mistakes.

How about Staley not walking back or correcting her dismissal of accusations from Sterk and others, including Mizzou radio play-by-play broadcaster Brad Tregnago, that racial taunts were directed toward the Tigers during the game?

Staley can only speak to what she heard. She cannot possibly know what was said by a crowd of nearly 13,500. To dismiss these claims is shortsighted, at best.

This issue does not belong in court.

If the setting was a living room, wise parents would send their kids to the basement and tell them to stay there until they could get along.

Sankey punished Sterk instead.

The commissioner let things fester, failed to solve the problem when he finally took action, then fined Sterk $25,000 and mandated a review of South Carolina’s game management procedures and security for visiting teams.

Swell.
But where was Sankey when Staley criticized SEC officiating as being biased in favor of Mizzou when South Carolina lost at Mizzou Arena on Jan. 7?

Did Staley not break the same league rule as Sterk — the one that frowns upon publicly criticizing another institution — when she claimed her team lost a game that was, for lack of a better word, rigged?

Again, no one looks good here.

Sterk, put yourself in Staley’s shoes. Understand how the comment that seemed fine to you must have sounded from the other side of the argument. Realize the difference between protecting your players and escalating an already bad situation.

Staley, stop grandstanding. Drop the attention-grabbing lawsuit. Perhaps show some concern that guests in your building said they heard vile things from your fans.

Sankey, act sooner next time. Make sure things are settled when you do.

Mizzou and South Carolina are highly ranked, fantastic teams that could meet again in the SEC tournament. Perhaps the NCAA Tournament, too.

That should be thrilling to consider. Instead the notion of another game makes the stomach turn.

Time to shed the battle armor.

NBC affiliate in Columbia, South Carolina

Gov. McMaster: Anything short of apology from Missouri is 'an insult to every South Carolinian'
By Claude Thompson

Gov. Henry McMaster has weighed in on the ongoing drama between Dawn Staley and the University of Missouri, saying that anything less than an apology and retraction is "insult to every South Carolinian."

Missouri's athletic director, Jim Sterk, recently said that he believes that Staley, who coaches the women's basketball team at the University of South Carolina, instigated and encouraged a
hostile environment for the visiting team that, according to Sterk, involved racial slurs and fans spitting on players.

Staley has since filed a defamation lawsuit against Sterk and Missouri seeking $75,000 in damages.

South Carolina governor weighs in on Mizzou defamation lawsuit

By GABRIELLA NUNEZ

NEW BLOOMFIELD — South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster said the University of Missouri and the SEC should apologize to the USC women's basketball coach, amidst a defamation lawsuit.

Gov. McMaster said in a tweet Saturday that anything short of a full retraction and apology from the athletic agencies is an insult to every South Carolinian.

"Dawn Staley is gold medal role model for our daughters and sons," he wrote. "We stand with Dawn."

South Carolina women's basketball coach Dawn Staley accused Mizzou Athletic Director Jim Sterk of slander and negligence in a lawsuit seeking $75,000 in damages. The lawsuit follows public comments on a radio talk show in which Sterk claimed South Carolina fans jeered and yelled racial epithets at Mizzou basketball players when the Tigers played the Gamecocks Jan. 28.
Communications law expert says lawsuit against Jim Sterk faces high standards

By GARRETT BERGQUIST

A professor of communications law on Friday said the lawsuit against University of Missouri Athletic Director Jim Sterk depends in part on what constitutes a public figure.

Sterk faces a defamation lawsuit filed by University of South Carolina women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley. The lawsuit follows public comments in which Sterk claimed South Carolina fans jeered and yelled racial epithets at Mizzou basketball players.

Prof. Sandy Davidson said in any defamation lawsuit, the burden of proof is always on the plaintiff, in this case, Staley. If the courts conclude Staley is a private citizen for the purposes of the lawsuit, she will have to prove Sterk spoke negligently, without checking his facts. If the courts consider her a public figure, the standard will be drastically higher. Staley would then have to provide clear and convincing evidence Sterk either intentionally made a false statement or spoke with reckless disregard for the truth.

“The Supreme Court itself has said many deserving plaintiffs will not be able to meet this high standard of proof that we’ve set,” she said.

Davidson said if Sterk produces evidence proving his statement was true, the lawsuit will fail.
It’s a Dog’s World, Especially in the Lab. Where Are the Cats?

By James Gorman

Recently someone (my boss, actually) mentioned to me that I wrote more articles about dogs than I did about cats and asked why.

My first thought, naturally, was that it had nothing to do with the fact that I have owned numerous dogs and no cats, but rather reflected the amount of research done by scientists on the animals.

After all, I’ll write about any interesting findings, and I like cats just fine, even if I am a dog person. Two of my adult children have cats, and I would hate for them to think I was paying them insufficient attention. (Hello Bailey! Hello Tawny! — Those are the cats, not the children.)

But I figured I should do some reporting, so I emailed Elinor Karlsson at the Broad Institute and the University of Massachusetts. She is a geneticist who owns three cats, but does much of her research on dogs — the perfect unbiased observer. Her research, by the way, is about dog genomes. She gets dog DNA from owners who send in their pets’ saliva samples.

The research I have been interested in and writing about involves evolution, domestication, current genetics and behavior. And the questions are of the What-is-a-dog-really? variety. Dogs and cats have also been used as laboratory animals in invasive experiments, but I wasn’t asking about which animal is more popular for those.

I had gotten to know Dr. Karlsson a bit while reporting on research she was doing on wolves. I asked her whether there was indeed more research on dogs than cats, and if so, why?

“Ooo, that is an interesting question!” she wrote back. “Way more interesting than the various grant-related emails that are filling up my inbox.

“The research has lagged behind in cats. I think they’re taken less seriously than dogs, probably to do with societal biases. I have a vet in my group who thinks that many of the cancers in cats may actually be better models for human cancer, but there has been almost no research into them.”
Better models than cancers in dogs, that is. Dogs do get many of the same cancers as humans, but in dogs the risk for these cancers often varies by breed, which narrows the target down when looking for the cause of a disease.

Furthermore, said Dr. Karlsson, cat behavior gets no respect.

“Non-cat people tend to laugh at the idea of studying behavioral genetics in cats, and the animal training world complains that people tend to dismiss cats as untrainable.”

Cats, of course, can be trained just as any animal can. Dr. Karlsson unwittingly trained her cat to hop up on the counter when she opened the door of a cabinet containing goodies.

And commerce has recognized cat trainability. There are several models of toilet training kits to teach cats to use human toilets. If such kits exist for dogs, I couldn’t find them. Not even for Bichon frises.

And as to the cancers, Dr. Karlsson said Kate Megquier, a veterinarian working on a Ph.D. at the Broad Institute in cancer genomics thought cat cancers deserved more attention.

Dr. Megquier said “I’ve been studying a lot of the dog cancers,” but that there are reasons studying certain naturally occurring cancers in cats could be valuable.

They get a lot of cancers called lymphomas, she said, and “they certainly have something to teach us about lymphomas.” They also get oral cancers similar to ones humans get and it’s possible, she said, that these might be related to environmental toxins they pick up while grooming themselves.

Investigating that possibility “could give us some insight into these cancers,” she said, helping pets and people. Dr. Megquier likes dogs, but is, by her own account, “definitely a cat person.”

Dr. Karlsson said that there are good reasons dogs are studied so intensively. There are many more dog breeds — about 400 compared to about 40 cat breeds. That means more genetic diversity, and better tools for studying genomes.

She did note, however, that a new reference cat genome is more detailed than the most recent dog genome.

“We’re all hugely jealous of it, and had to put up with lots of teasing from the cat geneticists at the meeting I was at last week,” she said.

Cultural attitudes toward pets creep into research even in the organization of scientific meetings, Dr. Karlsson pointed out. Putting the two animals together as the subject of a meeting is more related to their status as the iconic human pets rather than biological similarity.

My next email was to Elaine Ostrander, at the National Institutes of Health, who both owns pet dogs and studies dog genetics.
Her lab has identified eight genes that play a big role in determining dog size, the first being one important for making dogs small. The lab has also identified cancer genes shared by human beings and dogs. In particular, her lab identified a genetic cause of a kidney disease common to German shepherds before the same gene was shown to cause the same cancer in people.

Dr. Ostrander replied to my email by noting the attraction to science of the many different dog breeds and the vast range in dog size and shape. Some of the genes that affect growth, she said, affect “diseases of growth gone awry, like cancer.”

In addition, she wrote, “dogs have undergone this really striking bottleneck during domestication,” in which a few ancestral wolves gave rise to all domestic dogs. Later on Victorians produced many breeds that have even narrower bottlenecks, with much inbreeding.

Domestication, she said, has “happened in an amazingly short period of time and we don’t understand all the genetics associated with it. It remains one of the most interesting and challenging questions in biology.”

Some dogs suffer from behavioral problems that look similar to human problems like Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Those similarities, Dr. Ostrander said, provide “a great avenue for learning more about ourselves.”

That pretty much stated the case for dogs, I thought. Next, I called one of the main people responsible for the recent cat genome Dr. Karlsson was talking about, Leslie Lyons at the University of Missouri.

I asked her about there being more research on dogs than cats.

“That’s absolutely true,” she said, “for several different reasons.”

She agreed that the “the dog is a great model for cancers,” she said. It’s also true they have been domesticated longer than cats, and have more breeds, thus having a greater potential for studying inherited diseases.

But she also said there are social reasons having to do with popular attitudes toward cats that spill over into the realm of research. She said cat lovers are not as interested as dog lovers in fancy breeds — yet. Cats could be bred in many different shapes and sizes like dogs, she said, if there were interest. “We could have a Chihuahua cat and a Great Dane cat,” although, she said, “I think that would be a little dangerous.”

She said research funds are much harder to obtain for cats, even though cats are superior to other animals for studying some diseases, like polycystic kidney disease, or PKD. “Let’s put them in drug trials. We could fix the cats and we could fix humans.” Dr. Lyons keeps cats as pets and did mention, in an offhand way, during our conversation the common observation that “Cats rule, dogs drool.”
I also called Fiona Marshall, a bioarcheologist at Washington University in St. Louis. We had spoken a while ago for an article I did on donkeys. The domestication of donkeys is only one of her areas of interest. She also studies African cats and cat domestication and was one of the authors of a paper several years ago that dated the first evidence of domestic cats to a 5,300-year-old site in China.

She said that cats are rarer than dogs in archaeological sites, partly because they’re solitary and they don’t seem to have been eaten as much by ancient humans.

“If they’re not eaten, you don’t find them in waste piles,” she said.

“I also think that there is a bias as a result of medieval to later European views of cats,” she said. “Cats were considered to be bad animals because they didn’t do what humans said.” And yet, that is the source of their appeal now for many people. Dr. Marshall herself has pet cats.

And now the numbers: A search of Pub Med, a database that includes most biomedical journals, yielded 139,858 results for cats and 328,781 results for dogs. Google scholar results were 1,670,000 for cats and 2,850,000 for dogs. These are simple searches, of course, and don’t say much about the kind of research that was undertaken.

As for journalism, my searches on the news database Nexis for dogs and cats kept returning more than 3,000 hits, which my screen warned me would take a long time to retrieve. So I settled for searches of “dog genome” and “cat genome.” The result, 20 for dogs, 6 for cats. The dog genome was sequenced before the cat genome.

I would caution against concluding anything based on this haphazard browsing other than that the results do back up the researchers’ sense that there’s more research on dogs.

Also, a colleague raised a question that didn’t occur to a single expert I interviewed, which shows that devotion to science can sometimes limit your point of view.

“Is it possible,” my friend, who has had both cats and dogs, asked, “that there are more dog studies because the cats won’t consent?”

Of course. Why didn’t I think of that?
Here's What Happens to Your Body When You Don't Move All Weekend

By: Dana McMahan

Generated from News Bureau expert pitch

It's a brutal winter. The world outside can be a horrible place. Can you blame anyone for wanting to cancel their plans, stay in, sleep late and watch TV all weekend? It's self care, after all, and we can all get behind that.

I mean, it feels good to get cozy and binge on, well, pretty much any shows out right now. And who among us doesn't need some more shut-eye? But if there's a little nagging voice in your head that says maybe, just maybe, all this hibernation isn't so good for us after all, well, that voice could be right.

For one, hiding out from the world can keep us from being our happiest selves. We need other people to be happy, reports NBC – in fact, "according to biology, neuroscience, psychology, and more, our bodies actually tend to work better when we're not alone."

But beyond the impact of cooping up alone, there are the repercussions of not moving enough. I've spent (more than) my fair share of winter nights and weekends ensconced on the couch in our TV room burning through one series after another. And I can tell myself I need the downtime – a full-time freelance career and side hustle Airbnb hosting keeps me on and going many hours a day – but I had to wonder about the physical cost of all this lying about. So I talked with Jacqueline Limberg, Ph. D., assistant professor of nutrition and exercise physiology at the University of Missouri, where they just happened to have done some research into what happens to our bodies when we're sedentary. Another of their professors specializes in the very topic.
Annnnd there's some bad news.

The Science Behind Your Sedentary Weekends

Here's the deal. Limberg and her colleagues had some people come to the lab for experiments where they sat still for three hours (otherwise known as about three episodes' worth of *The Handmaid's Tale*). These intrepid subjects either sat upright, laid on their side, or sat while wiggling their legs (I hope they let them use their phones during this experiment – *can you imagine?*). Afterwards, researchers assessed their blood vessel health.

And whether they were sitting or lying, the people who were immobile showed "significantly lower" blood flow, Limberg says. How low? Like, almost to the level of someone who's at higher cardiovascular risk.

Let's talk specifics. Vessel function went down by four percentage points after three hours, Limberg says. That's not awful, is it? Well, in larger studies, she says, they've seen it only takes a one percent drop to bump up risk of something like a heart attack by 13 percent. Yes, even if you're otherwise healthy and fit.

Ok, I'm sufficiently horrified.

How to Balance Your Binge-Watching

There's some good news. You can prevent this. If you do 45 minutes of exercise – anywhere from fairly light to somewhat hard during the day that can prevent the dangerous reduction. So maybe get out and take the dog for a walk, or go to yoga, and you're good. For that matter even jiggling your leg the whole time you're lounging keeps the blood flowing (although that's super annoying for the other person on the couch).

But you're not in the clear yet. There's also the risk of diabetes. Another study at the school found that when people restrict their physical activity for three days their measured sensitivity to insulin – their risk of diabetes – went up. And just going back to normal activity for one day doesn't immediately bring it back down. So if you spend your three-day weekend re-watching every season of *Deadwood* and get back to working out on Monday, too bad.

Yikes. Thinking of all the times I've stayed on that cozy couch between episodes, reading A.V. Club reviews (my obsession) while my husband goes downstairs for our Yasso frozen yogurt bars (my other obsession), my heart sinks. I knew I was being kind of a sloth, but I had no idea how much I could be causing myself harm.

I'm not ready to cancel my Netflix subscription just yet, but after talking with the professor I am certainly going to be more intentional about getting exercise every day, and at minimum removing myself from the couch between episodes – maybe I'll be in charge of going downstairs for those nightly treats now.
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. -- It didn't take long after Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens was indicted for alleged invasion of privacy for Missouri Democrats to tie him to Attorney General Josh Hawley, the presumed GOP front runner in Missouri's hotly contested U.S. Senate race.

Nor did it take long for Republicans to link the prosecutor who announced the charges to a prominent national Democratic financier.

The quick injection of politics was a strong sign Greitens' potentially prolonged legal battle stemming from an extramarital affair could have implications for the 2018 elections -- especially for fellow Republicans whom history suggests have a disadvantage as the party in power during the midterm of Donald Trump's presidency.

So far, Greitens, 43, has remained defiant against growing but not-yet-overwhelming calls to resign from some fellow Republicans, while instead portraying the felony charge against him as nothing more than a political jab by a "reckless liberal prosecutor."

The Missouri Republican Party noted St. Louis circuit attorney Kim Gardner had received more than $200,000 from wealthy liberal financier George Soros during her campaign -- casting the indictment as part of a broader Democratic attack on Republicans.
The Thursday indictment came just five days ahead of Tuesday's start of the candidacy filing period for Missouri residents wanting to run for U.S. Senate, Congress, and state and local offices. Hawley is challenging Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill.

An incumbent governor typically is a help to his party in races such as the Senate, but an indicted one could be a detriment.

"It doesn't help the image of the Republican Party, so in that sense it helps McCaskill and hurts Hawley" in the Senate race, said Ken Warren, a longtime political scientist at Saint Louis University.

The Missouri Senate race is being watched closely as one that could determine control of the chamber, where Republicans now have a bare majority of 51 seats. McCaskill is one of only two statewide-elected Democrats in Missouri, which Donald Trump carried by nearly 20 percentage points in 2016. Republicans got behind Hawley early after a disastrous 2012 campaign when McCaskill defeated Todd Akin following his comments about "legitimate rape."

Whether Democrats can effectively tie Greitens to Hawley remains to be seen. But indications are they will try.

On Friday, The Missouri Democratic Party noted Hawley had accepted nearly $50,000 in contributions from Greitens in 2016 and has not called on Greitens to resign. The attorney general is conducting an investigation over Greitens' use of a secretive app that deletes messages once they've been read. It's unclear when the investigation will conclude.

Hawley took to Twitter on Friday and, without mentioning Greitens, noted an indictment "is a serious matter" with no place for partisanship. He also expressed support for a newly announced legislative investigation into the governor, saying he's confident "the House's investigation will be thorough and swift, and will proceed without regard to party."

That House investigation could serve as a first step for impeachment proceedings against Greitens, though it also could determine he has done nothing warranting his removal from office.

University of Missouri political-science professor Peverill Squire said the 38-year-old Hawley is in a "very awkward" spot.

"As the state's chief legal officer, he has to not appear to question the veracity of the legal process and certainly be supportive of prosecutorial staff," Squire said. "The other problem is, of course, he's sort of the other young and up and coming Republican, and although he obviously doesn't wish to get confused with Greitens, it'll be hard for him to distinguish himself."

McCaskill, a former prosecutor, has not commented about Greitens' indictment, and spokespeople for both her Senate office and campaign did not respond to messages seeking comment Friday. But she took a political jab at him after the media reported last month Greitens had engaged in a 2015 affair with his former hairdresser. The woman was recorded as saying Greitens had blindfolded her, bound her hands and took an unwanted photo of her during a sexual encounter in the basement of his St. Louis house.
Speaking to Democrats in Columbia, McCaskill quipped last month Greitens had run as a political outsider.

"He was going to do things that literally no other governor had done," McCaskill said, as reported by the Columbia Daily Tribune. "Little did we know it was sex in the basement."

Republican consultant John Hancock, who is not affiliated with either Greitens or Hawley's campaign, called the indictment a "political sham" but added the underlying facts of Greitens' affair pose "a real political problem" for Republicans in the 2018 elections.

In presidential midterm elections, supporters of the incumbent president's party typically are less motivated than those in the challenging party, he said. The president's party typically loses seats in Congress. Hancock said Greitens' troubles could provide yet another reason for Republican voters to stay home Nov. 6.

"A depressed turnout affects the entire ticket," Hancock said.

Warren said if Hawley starts to fall behind in the race, Republicans could pressure Greitens to resign. Noting the governor's maverick streak, he doubts it would work.

"Since when has he taken cues from fellow Republicans?" Warren asked.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Missouri governor indicted under law targeting peeping toms

By John Hanna / The Associated Press

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens has been indicted on a felony invasion of privacy charge under a state law enacted to punish Peeping Toms who secretly photograph or shoot video of their victims. He’s accused of taking a compromising photo in 2015 of a woman with whom he was having an affair without her permission. He has admitted to the affair but denied criminal wrongdoing.

Here is a look at the law and legal questions about it:

What is illegal invasion of privacy

It’s knowingly photographing or filming another person nude or semi-nude without their consent in a place where the person should have “a reasonable expectation” of privacy, then distributing the images or transmitting them in a way that allows access to it on a computer. Under the
version of the law in place at the time of Greitens’ affair, the crime was a felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

What happened in Greitens’ case?

Shortly after Greitens and the woman began having an affair, her husband secretly recorded a conversation in which she said Greitens invited her downstairs at his home because he wanted to show her “how to do a proper pull-up.” The indictment says the incident occurred March 21, 2015.

She said on the tape that Greitens “taped my hands to these rings and then put a blindfold on me,” took a photo of her partially nude and warned her to remain silent. She said she saw a flash through the blindfold and he told her, “You’re never going to mention my name.”

Greitens has not answered questions about whether he took a photo and has denied blackmailing the woman.

How did Missouri get its law?

State lawmakers enacted the first version of the invasion-of-privacy law in 1995, after a southwestern Missouri prosecutor discovered that his wife, daughter and two secretaries were among female customers secretly videotaped at a combination tanning salon and video store.

How common are such charges?

According to the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, 274 felony invasion-of-privacy counts have been filed in 36 counties and the city of St. Louis after 2003. In St. Louis city, only one has been filed — apparently Greitens’ case.

How does law cover Greitens’ alleged conduct?

His attorneys argue that it doesn’t. In a request to have the charge dismissed, they said that the law does not apply to adults engaging in consensual sexual activity. Allowing Greitens’ case to go forward, they said, could lead to “criminalization of routine activity between consenting adults.”

But former state House Speaker Jim Kreider, who sponsored the 1995 legislation, said he believes the law applies to more than voyeurs who photograph or videotape strangers. He believes it covers instances in which a spouse takes a photo or video of another spouse without consent in their home.

“The whole key here is the reasonable expectation of privacy,” he said.

What evidence do prosecutors have?
That’s not yet clear, though the woman’s ex-husband was subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury.

Greitens’ former lover almost certainly would have to testify because of his constitutional right to confront his accuser.

The photograph in question might also be introduced.

**Ben Trachtenberg, an associate law professor at the University of Missouri, said it would be key to a successful prosecution. Without it, he said, “it is hard to see how there is a case.”**

“If the charge is that somebody has illegally taken a certain photograph, the jury is going to expect to see the photograph,” Trachtenberg said.

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**Missouri impeachment process is "politics unusual"**

By NORA FARIS


JEFFERSON CITY - Missouri has never removed a governor through impeachment. But after Gov. Eric Greitens’ felony indictment yesterday, some Missouri legislators are calling for the initiation of the impeachment process.

In Missouri, the impeachment process is anything but "politics as usual." In fact, it's quite unusual.

Missouri's impeachment process differs from the federal system and the systems of 47 other states.
The process starts in the House of Representatives, where a committee of legislators decides whether or not there should be articles of impeachment given a governor's actions.

House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, indicated that he was initiating this process in a Thursday statement saying: “We will begin the process of tasking a group of legislators to investigate these serious charges.”

If the committee finds that articles of impeachment are warranted, the articles go to the whole House for a vote. If the House votes to pursue impeachment, the case goes to a trial.

This trial would normally take place in the state Supreme Court.

But in the case of a governor, the impeachment proceedings are heard by a panel of seven "eminent jurists" selected by the state Senate.

It takes at least five of the seven judges voting in favor of impeachment for a governor to be removed from office.

**Frank Bowman, professor of law at the University of Missouri, said the real power in a Missouri impeachment lies with the House of Representatives.**

"That body of judges is not entitled to make any kind of political judgment at all," Bowman said. "All they are supposed to do is just decide if the official did the thing that the House of Representatives said that they did in the articles of impeachment."

Sen. Doug Libla, R-Poplar Bluff, said legislators are taking Greitens' indictment seriously.

"It's kind of been a dark cloud over the capitol," Libla said. "A grand jury doesn't hand down an indictment on a whim. I think the governor should seriously consider resigning."

The last time the Missouri House undertook impeachment proceedings was against Gov. Jay Nixon in 2014 for three proposed articles of impeachment: one related to an executive order on the tax status of same-sex couples, another accusing Nixon of failing to call special elections in a timely manner, and another on the release of a database of Missourians with concealed carry permits.
Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens was indicted Thursday evening on a charge of felony invasion of privacy. Since then, Missouri legislators have been making moves toward impeachment - but what does that mean, and how does it work in Missouri?

What is impeachment?

Impeachment is a process where government officials can be forced out of office for conduct not in line with what is expected of them.

In Missouri’s case, state officials can be impeached for “crimes, misconduct, habitual drunkenness, willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, incompetency, or any offense involving moral turpitude or oppression in office.”

This may seem like a long list of potential offenses, but it may not be as daunting as it seems. “In a case some years ago, the Missouri Supreme Court interpreted the long Missouri language in essence to mean that one can be impeached only for violating some law or another,” Frank Bowman, a professor at the University of Missouri School of Law, told us. “It doesn’t have to be a criminal law, apparently, and if it is a criminal law, the supreme court doesn’t specify the severity.”

So Gov. Greitens may face a battle for his job, especially if it becomes increasingly clear he committed a crime, as his indictment charges.

What would the process to impeach Greitens look like?

Impeachment is really a two-step process. First, the Missouri House of Representatives must vote to impeach Gov. Greitens. If this vote succeeds, he will have technically been impeached, but he will not yet be removed from office.
That’s when the impeachment moves into its second phase: a trial. In this trial, a commission of seven “eminent jurists” would hear in favor of and against Greitens’ impeachment. In order to remove Greitens from office, at least five of the seven members of this commission would have to convict him.

Unlike impeachments at the federal level, impeachment trials in Missouri do not ask the commission to decide if what a person is accused of is serious enough to merit removal from office. The commission would only need to come to the conclusion that what Greitens is accused of actually happened.

“Eminent jurists?” Who are these people?!

Normally, when a state official in Missouri is impeached, the commission that decides if they are removed from office is the Missouri Supreme Court. However, to avoid bias, if a member of the Missouri Supreme Court or the governor is impeached, a separate commission is elected by Missouri’s Senate.

Missouri’s constitution only says that these people should be “eminent jurists” — prominent members of the legal profession — so the commission could be made up of anyone fitting that description.

Would an impeachment trial be related to Gov. Greitens’ criminal trial?

Not necessarily. Impeachment in Missouri has a lot of similarities to a criminal trial, but a criminal trial of Greitens and an impeachment trial would not have to be related to each other. They could be decided at different times, and neither decision would necessarily affect the other.

So what happens next?

Right now, Gov. Greitens remains unimpeached. However, if the Missouri House of Representatives votes to impeach him, the full process of trial will begin.
COLUMBIA — A communications law professor on Friday said invasion of privacy cases such as the one facing Missouri’s governor is a relatively new territory.

University of Missouri Prof. Sandy Davidson said the fact that Gov. Eric Greitens and his mistress were engaged in a consensual sexual encounter has little bearing on whether his mistress consented to be photographed.

Greitens is accused of taking a photograph of his mistress while she was blindfolded and in a state of undress during an encounter in 2015 and threatening to distribute it if she ever spoke about their affair. The governor has admitted to having an affair with his hairdresser at the time but denies taking any photograph.

Davidson said state law prohibits taking nude or partially nude photographs of a person without their consent.

Lawmakers passed Missouri’s first invasion of privacy law following a case in the 1990s where a tanning salon owner videotaped women and girls using his facility. She said two people having a sexual encounter still have a reasonable expectation of privacy under the law.

“This is perhaps a case where the woman did not want the publicity to come forward, but an ex-husband did,” she said. “Now, one might say she is being victimized twice. I’m concerned about that aspect as well.”
Davidson said Thursday’s indictment only proves that a grand jury felt there was enough evidence to say that it is more likely than not a crime occurred. She said this probable cause standard is far lower than the standard a jury would have to apply at trial, where guilt would have to be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

The Green Duck Lounge continues the conversation of race in Missouri

By DANIEL LITWIN


COLUMBIA- On Sunday, MU Theatre closed out the world premiere of The Green Duck Lounge, a play that explores race relations in Missouri across several different eras.

Much of the inspiration for the play came from the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, as well as the 2015 protests on MU's campus itself.

"I look at Missouri as being a microcosm of the rest of the country when it comes to race," said Michelle Tyrene Johnson, The Green Duck Lounge's playwright.

The Green Duck Lounge follows several stories in Missouri's civil rights history. On one end, it chronicles the life and unsolved death of the lounge's owner, Leon Jordan, a Kansas City police officer and Missouri legislator from the 1960s. On the other end, it explores the death of the lounge's owner in 2015.
"These themes of fighting for equality, getting people on the same page about how to deal with that fight. Those aren't modern themes, and Missouri, unfortunately, in little and big ways, seems to keep reminding us of that," Johnson said.

In her play, Johnson wanted to focus on intergenerational conversations and issues, such as "issues involving the black community and the police."

"These aren't new issues, these aren't resolved issues from the past that people are making up today, they're the same issues that just have different voices attached to them."

The Green Duck Lounge is a double-cast show, meaning one actor plays a key character in each of the two main scenes. Johnson took this direction to further link her two scenarios and draw connections between race relations in 1970 and 2015.

Each showing of the play ended with a 30 minute Talk Back discussion with Johnson, the actors, and other people involved with the production in an effort to continue the intergenerational conversation on race.

MU hosts childhood advancement symposium

By ROB VENO


COLUMBIA - The Cradle to Career Alliance hosted a symposium Saturday on what strategies they recommend to help increase your child's chances of success.

The MU campus hosted the discussion, and those in attendance got the chance to ask questions to a roundtable of childhood development scholars.
According to Tom Rose, Chair of the Boone County Cradle to Career Alliance, "The alliance organized the event to kind of look at some of the factors that are associated with some of the disparities that we see in our student achievement."

Cradle to Career is an Alliance that attempts to review childhood achievement data, and develops strategies that maximize a child's potential. They also look to limit the barriers and factors that can contribute to limiting a child's chances.

"It was deciding how we as a community could come together, and seek out and adapt best practices, then use our data for continuous improvement," Rose said.

Rose mentioned race and poverty as two contributing factors that make an impact on the rate at which a child will achieve. He said this symposium gave the alliance a chance to have an honest discussion with the community on strategies to address these challenges.

"Having the people who are working with these children everyday informed about the cultural differences and the challenges that each of these children might face in their families and in their own life, and then having strategies to address that," Rose said.

Nikki McGruder, a leader in the Boone County Journey towards Inclusive Excellence, said discussions like these are crucial, because it allows people to talk and understand uncomfortable racial and cultural topics that affect a child's success.

"We have to have conversations about why not all of our children are achieving at the same levels and looking very closely into the different variables that impact that," McGruder said.

Rose said if we do not have discussions like this later in life, if the rate of childhood achievement is low, it can play a major role in poor economic development, higher crime rates, and higher poverty and unemployment rates.

"Those students that have these barriers to achievement, that have these barriers to social and emotional development, we know what kind of burden that will be on society," he said.

By focusing on the development of a child now, and discussing a variety of topics affecting their success, Rose said the community can have a brighter future.

"It does make a difference, we should be concerned with how our students achieve," Rose said.
MU announces new aerial journalism program

By Anna Kohls

The University of Missouri recently announced the creation of a new program teaching drone classes and other aerial classes, naming Judd Slivka as the first director of aerial journalism.

Slivka, an assistant professor of convergence journalism, teaches mobile journalism, including drone training, at the Missouri School of Journalism and serves on the graduate faculty.

“We’re looking to move the drone journalism program forward, beyond the basic how-to-fly-a-drone,” said Slivka. “We won’t just limit ourselves to drones. There are opportunities with satellite images and things we haven’t yet thought of. The space above our heads is vast and we’re just beginning to understand the opportunities and challenges.”

MU assigned patents awarded to Missouri inventors

Missouri inventors were awarded U.S. federal patents and two of them were assigned to the University of Missouri. The first, an “Endoscopic-enabled tongue depressor,” was designed by Eliav Gov-Ari, a Columbia resident. The invention will provide surgeons the ability to operate with both hands and allow a better view of the upper airway, as well as allowing for more observation of the surgical field for other surgical staff.

The second, an “In vivo method to treat cancer,” will inhibit tumor growth, specifically for pancreatic cancer, by administering patients with a treatment containing crocetinic acid. The co-inventors are Animesh Dhar, of Fairway, Kansas, and William G. Gutheil, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Edward Jones ranks 5th as best company to work for

Edward Jones ranked 5th on the 2018 FORTUNE 100 Best Companies to Work For list, the financial firm’s 19th time appearing on the list. The firm is the highest-ranking financial-services firm on the list.

Edward Jones also ranked as a Best Workplace for women, millennials, gender ‘x’er’s, those close to retirement, giving back, camaraderie and flexibility. The rankings are based on employee feedback from Great Place to Work-Certified organizations.
The firm’s financial advisors in Columbia are: Gary Anderson, Sabrina Basinger, Jim Bowman, Nathan Brown, Stuart Eastman, Ann Echelmeier, Joe Eddy, Travis Figg, Jody Frank, Bill Fretwell, Madalyn Gramke, JR Lawless, Gina Mauller, Kathy Lou Neale, Mark Richardson, Ray Schachtner, Kristen Shay, and Eric Willmeth.

New Haven Elementary in sweepstakes for new playground

The Project Playground program, launched by the probiotics brand Culturelle Kids last fall, narrowed down five finalists of schools in need of a new playground. Columbia’s New Haven Elementary School made it on the list.

The public has the chance to vote for their favorite school to win a new playground. Each vote cast enters the voter into the Project Playground Sweepstakes for a chance to win a $100 Target gift card or a box of Culturelle Kids Chewables.

People can vote daily at https://www.culturelle.com/ProjectPlayground.

State of Missouri hosts upcoming career fair in Columbia

The State of Missouri will host a career fair for recent graduates interested in working in state government or students interested in internship opportunities. Representatives from 12 State of Missouri departments will be in attendance to answer questions and provide information on employment opportunities. Below is a list of departments that will be in attendance:

• Office of Administration
• Department of Agriculture
• Department of Corrections
• Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
• Department of Health and Senior Services
• Department of Labor and Industrial Regulations
• Department of Mental Health
• Department of Natural Resources
• Department of Public Safety: Capitol Police
• Department of Revenue
• Department of Social Services
Department of Transportation

Staff from the Office of Administration’s Division of Personnel will also be on site to assist individuals with the electronic application system. All applicants for jobs and internships should bring a resume.

The fair will be held at the Missouri Job Center, located on the lower level of the Bank of America in downtown Columbia, 800 E. Cherry Street. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26.

Local group to host seminar discussing poverty and social/emotional development

The Cradle to Alliance is hosting a seminar with several speakers discussing the links between social and emotional development and poverty. The event will provide information to the public and allow for discussion of ideas for improving the community.

Six speakers will be taking part in the seminar, including keynote speaker Dr. Erik Pakulak from the Brain Development Lab at the University of Oregon.

The event is free and open to the public and free childcare will be offered based on registration. The seminar is today from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m at the Bush Auditorium in Cornell Hall at the University of Missouri.

'Rally for Dreamers' held in support and solidarity for DACA recipients

Over 100 people gathered at the Boone County Courthouse on Sunday to "Rally for Dreamers" and to call for legislation for the continuation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, gives those who entered the country illegally as minors the eligibility to work and receive deferred action on deportation. They are often referred to as Dreamers. In September, President Donald Trump gave lawmakers until March 5 to renew DACA. As of yet, nothing has been done.
Devin Grayson, a senior at MU, organized the "Rally for Dreamers." Grayson decided to take action as the deadline for renewing DACA loomed closer and still no steps had been taken. "I looked around and nothing was happening," Grayson said.

Grayson started planning the rally two weeks ago. In that time, it gained support from CoMo for Progress, Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation, Mid-Missouri Peaceworks and the MU Association of Latin@ American Students.

At the rally, many brandished homemade signs with pro-DACA quotes on them. On the wall behind the columns in the courthouse's plaza, signs had been hung that read, "No Bans, No Walls" and "Resist."

Grayson stressed that politicians from both parties are not doing enough.

"This issue transcends politics," Grayson said. "It's a human rights issue."

Members of the audience were angry that the future of DACA was put in jeopardy.

"The hypocrisy is real," said Samantha Matthews, a member of Students for a Democratic Society at Truman State University. "We're a country of immigrants."

Several speakers led the event, and each encouraged the members of the audience to contact their representatives about DACA.

"We will continue to speak out and take action," said Helene Fehlig-Tatum, an immigration lawyer. "We are not indifferent to the plight of our Dreamers."

With members of the audience repeating after her, Fehlig-Tatum led the crowd in a chant: "We want a clean Dream Act." The chant refers to the desire of DACA supporters to get legislation passed without concessions such as a border wall and the outlawing of so-called "chain migration."
Other speakers at the rally included the Rev. Dottie Mathews from the Unitarian Universalist Church; Ana Garcia, a DACA recipient; Renee Hoagenson, a Democratic primary candidate for Missouri's 4th Congressional District; and Valérie Berta-Torales, a social documentary photographer.


"I like to think that we are all dreamers, and they need our help," said Berta-Torales, warning the audience that if the Dreamers are forced to leave, there will be consequences for everyone. "The fate of the Dreamers has a lot more to do with your fate than you think."

"Our diversity is our strength," Berta-Torales said. "Our fight for Dreamers is a fight for the identity of our country."

Questions about leadership, social change raised during symposium

Ashley Jones had butterflies in her stomach. It was the summer of 2016, and she was in the car with her mother on the way to give a speech.

"Did you know you were, like, an accident?" her mother said.

"What?" Jones responded.

It took five years for Jones' mom to get pregnant with Jones' sister, but Jones was conceived while her mom was on birth control. Now, Jones sees her purpose in beating the odds — just like her unplanned conception did — and fighting for social justice.

"It makes me want to fight harder for social justice because I’m supposed to be here," Jones said.
Jones was one attendee of the Social Justice Symposium on Saturday at the MU Student Center. The event attracted 75 attendees and 12 presenters. Participants heard from keynote speaker and MU professor Christina Carney and attended breakout sessions on topics ranging from student activism to birth control.

The morning began with attendees picking up their name tags and writing in their preferred pronouns. After sipping their Lakota coffee and munching on muffins, participants entered Leadership Auditorium for a welcome. The audience offered snaps as a greeting after a group of graduate students in social work said they'd all come together to the event.

Jayme Gardner is the leadership development coordinator in the Office of Student Engagement and knows she doesn’t have it all figured out. She grew up in the military town of Lawton, Oklahoma, but it was only after coming to MU that she realized her community was made up of two stratified halves — those who’d been there their entire lives and those milling in and out for the military, a situation she described as a "strange power dynamic."

"Growing up, I didn’t learn about this kind of stuff, but coming to MU helped me think about my upbringing and change my ideas," Gardner said. "I had a lot to learn to grow in my ability to advocate for people who are different from me."

Gardner sees the relationship between leadership and social justice.

"I educate students who identify themselves as leaders," she said. "I think it’s really important for students to not only consider delegation and communication but also advocacy and community building."

The key is to adopt a learner’s mindset, not a guilty one. "I tell my students it’s always about being curious and open to others’ experience," Gardner said. "Like many people, I felt guilty about things I had and didn’t, but I learned your guilt doesn’t help anyone."

Elliot DeNard also understands the importance of being a student outside the classroom. "During the big group event, it became apparent to me that I can learn some things and that I shouldn’t be
unaware of situations," he said. "Definitely being a minority student, I’m all for equal rights, but I’m learning there are other problems beyond race that we need to deal with."

DeNard attended a breakout session called "Listen, Believe, Support: Being a Trauma-Informed Leader."

"We talk about being a leader in my class, but we’ve never been taught on how to be a trauma-informed leader," he said.

After this symposium, DeNard knows several things he can do to continue this spirit of social justice. "Just by asking how someone is doing is a really big way to help," he said. "College is really hard, and checking up on friends is really important."

Moving forward in her social justice activism, Jones applied for a teaching assistant position for the Chancellor’s Leadership class in order to promote diversity. She dreams of a pie chart with equal amounts of diversity represented.

Liz Lee, a graduate student studying social work, said it’s important to be involved in social justice both on campus and in the community. "Going to grad school was my first step to finding out what I can do," she said.

Lee sees the big picture — and its need for change. "It’s the system as a whole that’s broken," she said. "I wanted to do more than just one-on-one help."

One day she hopes to write policy on foster care or transitional living situations.

"I think the United States has done an OK job at progressing slowly," Lee said. "I think as Americans, we should demand social justice faster than we’ve been progressing as a society."