



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

August 23, 2017



UM System president focused on rebuilding

By: Megan Sanchez

Watch the story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/um-system-president-focused-on-rebuilding>

MOBERLY — UM System President Dr. Mun Choi spent his day in Moberly Tuesday talking with community members and strengthening relationships. He and the Randolph County Mo Republicans gathered at Nelly's.

He said he is thrilled to be part of transforming the university's image.

"I really consider it to be an honor to be able to participate in the rebuilding of this great university," he said.

Dr. Choi said protests that occurred in 2015 still linger with the university. He said debunking people's perceptions is tough, but worth it.

"I think there's a perception out there that we are not a university that represents the values of some Missourians, and from other individuals we hear that we may not be a place that's safe or inclusive," he said. "My response to that is they should come and see."

Dr. Choi said the university is also working on recruiting community college students. He said they are expanding their partnership with [Moberly Area Community College](#) to ensure the transition from two-year to four-year schools is "seamless."

MISSOURIAN

MU announcement coming Thursday meant to help with college costs

EDWARD MCKINLEY

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment, will sign the Missouri Land Grant Compact on Thursday afternoon, an MU news release said.

The initiative is intended to address "the university's pledge to support competitive, affordable education for Missourians," the release said.

The compact is meant to make MU more accessible and affordable to Missouri residents. MU spokeswoman Liz McCune said details will be made public Thursday.

The signing will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Jesse Hall rotunda.



Microgravity may keep fractures from healing in space

Posted by [Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri](#) August 22nd, 2017

Generated from News Bureau press release: [MU Study Finds that Gravity, ‘Mechanical Loading’ are Key to Cartilage Development](#)

Bioengineers have discovered that microgravity, experienced in space, may inhibit cartilage formation.

The research suggests that healing fractures for astronauts in space—or patients on long bed rest here on Earth—could be compromised by the absence of what’s called mechanical loading.

Mechanical loading, forces that stimulate cellular growth for development, is required for creating cartilage that is then turned to bone; however, little has been known about cartilage development in the absence of gravity or mechanical loads.

“Cartilage tissue engineering is a growing field because cartilage does not regenerate,” says Elizabeth Lobo, dean of the University of Missouri College of Engineering and a professor of bioengineering.

“Because these tissues cannot renew themselves, bioreactors, or devices that support tissue and cell development, are used in many cartilage tissue engineering applications,” Lobo says.

“Some studies suggest that microgravity bioreactors are ideal for the process to take place, while others show that bioreactors that mimic the hydrostatic pressure needed to produce cartilage might be more ideal. Our first-of-its-kind study was designed to test both theories,” she says.

Chondrogenic differentiation is the process by which cartilage is developed and cartilage is the basis for bone formation in the body. Additionally, cartilage does not renew itself once it breaks down or fails in the body, making it a target for bioengineers who wish to help patients regenerate cartilage from other cells.

Using human adipose, or fat cells (hASC) obtained from women, Lobo and her team tested chondrogenic differentiation in bioreactors that simulated either microgravity or hydrostatic pressure, which is the pressure that is exerted by a fluid.

Researchers found that cyclic hydrostatic pressure, which has been shown to be beneficial for cartilage formation, caused a threefold increase in cartilage production and resulted in stronger tissues. Microgravity, in turn, decreased chondrogenic differentiation.

“Our study provides insight showing that mechanical loading plays a critical role during cartilage development,” Lobo says.

“The study also shows that microgravity, which is experienced in space and is similar to patients on prolonged bed rest or those who are paralyzed, may inhibit cartilage and bone formation. Bioengineers and flight surgeons involved with astronauts’ health should consider this as they make decisions for regenerating cartilage in patients and during space travel,” she says.

The study appears in [Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance](#).

The National Space Biomedical Research Institute through NASA, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation provided funding for the research. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agencies.

Additional researchers contributing to the study are from North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina.

MISSOURIAN

[UM System's human resources leader resigns](#)

BY SAMANTHA KOESTER NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

After nearly a year as the interim vice president for human resources and chief human resources officer in the University of Missouri System, Jill Pollock has resigned effective immediately.

UM System President Mun Choi notified staff of her decision via an email. Pollock did not immediately respond to an email Tuesday afternoon.

Ryan Rapp, the system's vice president for finance and chief financial officer, will oversee human resources, according to the email. Choi said he has asked Rapp "to develop a plan as part of the administrative efficiency study to consolidate HR and Finance at the System."

"We are facing a very challenging period in our institution's history, and many of the decisions being made in HR at the System and the campuses affect the very people who have been integral members of the UM family for many years," Choi said in the email.

Pollock's resignation comes as budget cuts continue to mean an upheaval in personnel at the system and campus levels.

Most recently, three full-time and four part-time positions in the system's Employee Assistance Program and the Healthy for Life program were eliminated. At MU, the equivalent of 429 full-time positions had been eliminated as of early June.



UM System VP of HR resigns, effective immediately

COLUMBIA - The Vice President of Human Resources for the UM System, Jill Pollock, has resigned, according to the University Spokesperson Christian Basi.

Vice President of Finance and CFO Ryan Rapp will oversee System HR, effective immediately. President Mun Choi announced Pollock's resignation in an email to faculty and staff.

The entire email can be read below:

"Dear Colleagues,

Jill Pollock has informed me of her decision to resign from the university. On behalf of the entire institution, I want to share the deep appreciation that we have for her dedicated service.

Effective immediately, Vice President and CFO Ryan Rapp will oversee System HR. I've also asked Ryan to develop a plan as part of the administrative efficiency study to consolidate HR and Finance at System.

We are facing a very challenging period in our institution's history, and many of the decisions being made in HR at the System and the campuses affect the very people who have been integral members of the UM family for many years. It is for these reasons that we need to treat each individual with the respect and dignity that they deserve. Transparent, open communication and collaboration are key as we navigate through the difficult times together. Only by working together and respecting the input from colleagues, will we be able to arrive at the best solutions for our faculty and staff.

I want to thank you for your commitment to the welfare of our institution and to the people who contribute to its success.

Best regards,

Mun"

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Health advocates urge incoming college students to get new meningitis vaccine](#)

[By Michele Munz St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) 17 hrs ago (0)

As young adults head off to college and into close quarters with others in dorms, cafeterias and classrooms, health advocates urge students and their parents to consider a new vaccine that may not be on their radar.

The meningitis B vaccine, federally approved in late 2014, can protect against most B strains of the disease, which account for about 50 percent of all meningitis cases in young adults.

Meningitis is a highly contagious bacterial disease that starts with flu-like symptoms of fever, fatigue and body aches. Teenagers and college students living in close quarters are high-risk groups for the disease. It can be spread by sharing things like cups, utensils, cigarettes and lipstick.

It can be treated with antibiotics if caught early but can escalate quickly to swelling of the brain and spinal cord. Though only about 1,000 people in the U.S. get meningitis each year, it leads to death in 10 percent to 15 percent of cases and can cause permanent brain damage, hearing loss and loss of limbs.

“It takes so little to be protected against it and the effects of meningitis are just so devastating, so why risk it?” said Jill Thompson, director of strategic initiative at Generate Health, a St. Louis regional coalition of organizations and advocates working to improve health.

The coalition has created a toolkit to help area college and universities educate students about meningitis, which includes sample letters to parents and students, informational graphics and social media tools.

“We do a lot to keep all those working in the immunization field up to date with this ever-changing field,” Thompson said, especially in the area of meningitis.

Many families are just becoming familiar with the combination meningitis vaccine that protects against the A, C, W and Y strains. It involves a shot at about age 11 and then a booster dose after age 16.

Missouri legislation took effect before the 2015-2016 school year requiring every public university student living on campus to get the combination vaccine.

Starting last school year, students entering the eighth and 12th grades in Missouri are also required to have the vaccine. Illinois started requiring it for sixth- and 12th-graders in 2015.

Now the separate meningitis B vaccine has been added to the mix. Because it is new, no laws yet require it, but Missouri legislation passed last year requires all public higher education institutions to educate students about the strain and the vaccine available to prevent it.

The Generate Health initiative is urging all students, not just those living on campus, to get both types of vaccines.

“If we can save lives or prevent any disabilities, I think we need to do what we can,” said Deborah Artman, an instructor at St. Louis University School of Nursing who is helping lead the initiative by Generate Health.

Artman said she is requiring her public health nursing students this fall to create a student awareness campaign about the new vaccine.

Outbreaks involving the B strain occurred on five college campuses from March 2013 to February 2016, according to the National Meningitis Association. These outbreaks, at Santa Clara University, the University of Oregon, Providence College, Princeton University and the University of California, Santa Barbara resulted in two deaths. One student lost both feet, and some suffered neurological effects.

A University of Missouri student was sickened by the strain in February 2015.

Over the past 10 years in Missouri, 154 people of all ages have been sickened by meningitis, according to state health department data. Of those, B strains were found to cause 34 cases, but the strain was unknown in 40 cases.

Currently, two brands of meningitis B vaccines are available. Both involve a course of two doses. One requires a third dose if a person has been exposed to an outbreak or has other chronic conditions.

Though the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [states](#) all preteens and teens should get the combination vaccine, it has yet to issue as strong a recommendation for the [B strain vaccine](#). More research is needed to determine how long its protection lasts.

The guiding federal agency states those ages 16 to 23 may get the B strain vaccine, preferably at age 16-18. But those who may have been exposed to an outbreak or have conditions such as a damaged spleen should get it.

Insurance companies may or may not cover the cost, which can range from \$125 to \$160 per dose if paying out of pocket.

Thompson said pediatricians were already suggesting the vaccine when teens come in for their annual appointments.

“It’s a deadly disease, and we want to protect our kids,” she said.



MU Honors College collecting eclipse glasses for donation

By: Craig White

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-honors-college-collecting-eclipse-glasses-for-donation>

COLUMBIA - A national organization doesn't want people to trash their special glasses from Monday's eclipse.

[Astronomers Without Borders](#) is accepting donations of gently used eclipse glasses for a new program to recycle them and MU is taking part.

MU Honors College director J.D. Bowers used social media to figure out what he could do to help people on campus dispose of their glasses, and he said there are around 1,000 donations already in the bin.

"We gave out hundreds here in the Honors College," Bowers said. "I sort of felt an obligation that those same glasses not appear in our trash cans, so that was a nice way to keep them from just being thrown out."

Astronomers Without Borders posted on Facebook saying the glasses will be sent to schools in Asia and South America for a solar eclipse passes over those continents in 2019. Parts of countries like Chile and Argentina will experience totality just like Columbia residents did.

Astronomers Without Borders founder and president Mike Simmons told Facebook followers the response to the donation program was "overwhelming."

"If you want to collect them from your friends, neighbors, school or anything else please do!" Simmons said. "Become an official AWB glasses collection center!"

The public is welcome to donate eclipse glasses at Lowry Hall 210 until Friday. For those who can't bring them in, Simmons said, donations will also be accepted through mail to Explore Scientific, 1010 S. 48th Street, Springdale, AR 72762.

Astronomers Without Borders is a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to sponsor and support astronomy and STEM programs in developing countries. It will formally announce its program for eclipse glasses donation at a later date and encourage the public to stay up-to-date through its [newsletter](#) or its [Facebook](#) page.

Those holding onto their glasses shouldn't expect another solar eclipse in Columbia until 2024, and a total eclipse in Missouri is still 488 years away.

Glasses that were safe for the 2017 eclipse should be fine for other, sooner, occurrences as long as they are not scratched or ripped.



[Schools struggle with teacher shortage](#)

By: Matt Schmittiel

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/schools-struggle-with-teacher-shortage>

COLUMBIA – School is back in session for Columbia students, but some school districts across the country are struggling with a teacher shortage.

"Currently, there are not enough qualified teachers applying for teaching jobs to meet the demand in all locations and fields," said the Learning Policy Institute, a national education think tank, [in a research brief in September](#).

Public schools in 48 states and the District of Columbia report teacher shortages in math for the 2017-18 school year, according to the US Department of Education. Forty-six states report shortages in special education, 43 in science, 41 in foreign languages, and 31 in teaching English as a second language.

MU Department Chair of Special Education Erika Lembke said educators need to help illuminate the importance of teaching positions like special education and provide opportunities to pursue a teaching career. One way MU is providing an opportunity is through a new masters program.

"We have a new online masters in special education. It doesn't lead to certification but we are getting students who applied to that, who maybe got certified in another area and now they like to go back. Their position is open in special education and would like to become a special education teacher," Lembke said.

CPS already took steps against this shortage last September when the Columbia Public School Board of Education agreed on a 57-cent property tax increase.

Board of Education Vice President Jonathan Sessions said part of the tax goes to increasing teacher's salaries.

"About 50 percent of that is going straight to teachers' salaries. Just under the other 50 percent is going into eliminating the deficit spending... And another portion of that, about four or five percent, is going to student programs that are designed to support student success," Sessions said.

Community Relations Director for CPS Michelle Baumstark said keeping teachers in the field is as important as finding teachers.

"One of the things we focused on with the levy in 2016 was really recruiting and maintaining within our district high-quality employees," Baumstark said.

MU Dean of the College of Education Kathy B. Chval said they have improved their enrollment in all shortage areas and taken steps to combat the shortages because they knew it was coming.

"We really have moved our college to a national recruitment model. Our current undergraduate class is from 27 states, very different from 10 years ago when all the students were from Missouri," Chval said.

Colleges like MU, Columbia, and Stephens are working with local school districts to promote seeking further degrees in education through grow your own programs like EdX

"We are doing that program with multiple districts. . . and that particular program is about students from under represented groups, and so we established a few years ago our Dorsey Scholars. They are funded by donors for a four year scholarship," Chval said.

Chval also said increasing teaching salaries and promoting a future in education can help this teacher shortage.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

NAACP travel advisory hurting St. Louis business, head of city tourism agency says

By Doug Moore

ST. LOUIS • The head of the city's tourism and convention agency said hotels have lost business because of a travel advisory issued by the national NAACP last month and that her industry is "being used as a weapon" politically.

"We have been notified by a number of area hotels that they have lost meeting groups that were in contract phase," said Kathleen "Kitty" Ratcliffe, president of Explore St. Louis, in a statement Monday. "We've also been working with a number of organizations that are already contracted to help them address any concerns that they have had expressed from their attendees."

The statement did not specify how much business was lost as a result, and Ratcliffe was not immediately available to address questions regarding her statement. A spokesman for Explore St. Louis, Anthony Paraino, said: "We do not have permission from the hotels or the groups to give their information to the press."

The NAACP travel advisory issued last month came at the urging of Rod Chapel, head of the Missouri NAACP, after state legislators passed a bill making it harder for employees to make a case for workplace discrimination.

The advisory was the first of its kind from the country's oldest and largest civil rights organization and set off a round of media interviews nationwide for Chapel and other NAACP leaders.

It also brought Missouri back into the spotlight as a state struggling with racial issues, from Ferguson in the summer of 2014 to the University of Missouri's Columbia campus the following year. But it was not until Senate Bill 43 came along that Chapel urged the national NAACP to take action in the form of a travel advisory, putting the rest of the country on notice of Missouri's ongoing struggles.

"I didn't feel like we had any other choice," Chapel told the Post-Dispatch prior to Ratcliffe's statement. "We tried to talk with legislators. That didn't work. Talk with the executive branch. That didn't work. Offer amendments (to the bill), and that didn't work. There was no other recourse but to tell people that if coming here, be careful and know what you are coming into."

The state NAACP will hold a rally Tuesday in opposition to the new law. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at Union Memorial United Methodist Church in St. Louis.

While the advisory has made a big splash, grabbing headlines and radio and TV time, it's unclear what kind of lasting effect it will have. It expires on Aug. 28, the same day the new law takes effect.

Daniel P. Mehan, CEO of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, which supported the legislation, said that while his office has no data to know exactly what kind of impact the NAACP statement will have on the state, "it is concerning that the travel advisory is partially based on legislation that does not have anything to do with travel. A piece of employment law legislation, which aligns Missouri law with federal standards, should not cause anyone to be concerned about traveling to Missouri. Employment law standards in the majority of other states are similar or even stricter than Missouri's new law."

When Gov. Eric Greitens signed the bill June 30, the governor said in a release that the law brings Missouri in line with 38 other states and the federal government.

Jerry Hunter, an attorney with Bryan Cave and former director of the Missouri Department of Labor, said the new law “has nothing to do with travel.”

He points out that in a Missouri Supreme Court decision in 2007, the standard of proof regarding discrimination was changed from “motivating factor” to “contributing factor.” The new law changes the standard back to how it was before and reflects national standards used by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Hunter said.

“If Rod had called and asked my opinion (on the law), I’d have given him the history,” said Hunter, who is African-American. He pointed out that Chapel also is a former director of the state Labor Department. “If you want to debate whether it should be contributing or motivating factor, I don’t have a problem with that. Let’s sit down and have a discussion. There could be legitimate views on both sides.”

However, Hunter said, when Chapel and others start labeling the legislation as “Jim Crow or Bull Connor, using those kinds of provocative terms, people won’t focus on what the real issue is. It defeats the whole purpose of the discussion.”

Cut off in the Capitol

The travel advisory was first approved in June by the state NAACP before the bill was passed and signed into law. Some who oppose the advisory are calling it Chapel’s shot across the bow after he was cut off during testimony against the legislation four months earlier.

During testimony in Jefferson City, Chapel criticized the measure, the heart of it requiring plaintiffs to meet a higher standard of proof in discrimination suits. He said supporters, which included the University of Missouri system, were “united in expanding discrimination.”

The comments frustrated Republican committee chairman Bill Lant of Pineville, who told Chapel to keep his comments focused on the bill. Chapel continued, calling the legislation

“nothing but Jim Crow.” Lant shut off Chapel’s microphone. The Republican leadership later apologized and Chapel finished testifying at another hearing.

Chapel said he has heard the arguments that a travel advisory could bring economic harm to people of color in Missouri if tourism and other revenue declines as a result. But he said the support he is getting for the decision has been overwhelming. This month, the heads of the Legislative Black Caucus and Missouri Faith Voices, a nonpartisan group representing various faiths, released a joint statement backing the NAACP’s decision.

The St. Louis County NAACP initially balked at the position of the national office, arguing the advisory would cause economic harm to African-Americans working in the hospitality industry and that Missouri should not be singled out when three-fourths of the states have the same standards in place. But two days later, after talking with Chapel, the county chapter changed course.

“After additional study and consultation with our state conference, the St. Louis County NAACP wholeheartedly supports the travel advisory issued by our national conference,” said chapter president Esther Haywood in a news release.

Schools react

Mun Choi, president of the University of Missouri system, issued a statement on Aug. 7 expressing disappointment in the travel advisory, saying that all campuses “have made remarkable progress” toward “creating a community that values the diversity of background, experiences, perspectives and thought.”

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Kevin Austin, R-Springfield, said the measure would align Missouri with federal standards. That alignment is why the University of Missouri supports the measure, former system spokesman John Fougere said at the time.

Washington University Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton weighed in last week.

“To our university community — especially the students and family members who will be traveling to campus — know that we will do everything we can to make your experience here fulfilling, rewarding and enriching,” Wrighton said in a university blog post.

Wrighton’s comments came after Joseph Sklansky, an assistant vice chancellor and associate general counsel for Washington University, testified in a bill hearing that the measure would correct overreach from a decade-old court decision that changed criteria for workplace discrimination lawsuits. Sklansky was a member of the school’s former Coordinating Council for Diversity Initiatives, which dealt with past employment discrimination lawsuits on behalf of Washington University.

Sklansky told the committee he was there on his own behalf. A school spokesman later said Sklansky took a vacation day to attend the hearing.

Ratliffe, of Explore St. Louis, said in her statement that any organization should be able to share its concern about a piece of legislation. “However, we are discouraged that the travel industry is being used as a weapon against politicians for their policies,” she said. “Ultimately, it is not the politicians who suffer from these actions, but it is the hard working men and women of our state’s hospitality industry that will bear the impact and outcome.”

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Citizens seek more economic opportunities at NAACP forum

By Brittany Ruess

While much of Tuesday night’s NAACP forum focused on policing in Columbia, community members also discussed issues concerning economic barriers and mental health access.

The Columbia chapter of the NAACP held a community meeting Tuesday at Second Missionary Baptist Church to pinpoint causes and solutions to major issues facing Columbia residents, especially those minority and low-income citizens. About 180 residents, city officials and community leaders attended.

Mary Hussmann, a Columbia resident, said though unemployment rates among Columbia's black residents may be down, the city should study wages of the local workforce. While more people may be employed, many are working minimum-wage or non-living wage jobs.

City Manager Mike Matthes touted the city's black unemployment rate dropping from 15.5 percent to 11.9 percent in two years, a historic low for the city.

"Think about that," he said. "I'm proud of that."

Columbia resident Pat Fowler said the city, Columbia Public Schools, the University of Missouri and all taxpayer-funded groups need to be held accountable by the public to offer living-wage jobs. Generally, living wage is a term used to describe a person's income needed to sustain basic needs.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's living-wage calculator, which considers a county's economic conditions, states a living wage for a single adult is \$10.62 an hour and a living wage to support an adult and a child is \$21.16 hourly.

The breakout group focused on economic issues said the community should lobby the state legislature to increase the hourly minimum wage, currently at \$7.70. This year, lawmakers approved legislation that prevents municipalities from setting their own minimum wage.

"There's no way you can make a living on minimum wage," said Martha McCrary, a member of the NAACP.

The Sharp End district, a former black business district downtown lost to redevelopment, should be revitalized, the group said. Members of the group also want more resources for entrepreneurship and mentoring from the city.

CPS Board of Education President Jim Whitt said that while the district has made strides in reducing minority students in out-of-school suspension, more efforts can be made. Out-of-school suspensions, which are high among minority students in Missouri, can put students on the school-to-prison pipeline.

The jail system was also a talking point in the group that discussed mental health.

Chimene Schwach, of Columbia, said jails too often are treated as mental health institutions, and Columbia needs more access to long-term mental health care. Columbia lacks mental health beds and providers, and there is also an issue of getting people access to care in a timely way, she said.

Valerie Shaw, a member of the NAACP, said her group, which focused on civility, discussed self-segregation after the topic was raised. She said she doesn't see an issue with self-segregation in Columbia, but rather forced segregation caused by lack of education or economic mobility.



Eclipse 2017 sparks STEM interests

By: Joey Parker

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/eclipse-2017-sparks-stem-interests/609853515>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Eclipse 2017 is being called a monumental teaching tool.

Educators in Mid-Missouri, and throughout the path of totality, are hoping the eclipse will pique an interest in young students when it comes to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs.

Dr. Angela Speck, from the University of Missouri, said she saw a great opportunity to inspire young people with STEM education. The Mizzou director of astronomy and ABC 17 News eclipse contributor took advantage of the eclipse “before, during and after” Monday’s moments of totality.

Dr. Peter Stiepleman, superintendent of Columbia Public Schools, said Monday’s eclipse “activities absolutely gave children an opportunity to experience a celestial event they’ll never forget.” He said his own children want to chase the [next total solar eclipse in 2024](#). He also said he anticipates an increase of interest in CPS' Columbia Aeronautics and Space Association program, which he calls “Columbia's version of NASA.”

At least one Columbia high school teacher says she's optimistic the eclipse will have a long-term effect.

Hickman High School teacher Janice Morris said she’s optimistic the 2017 eclipse will have a long-term effect and "I hope that the fact that they had an opportunity to see it at an age like this where hopefully they're going to remember it for the rest of their life."

It seems to have made an impact with student Wyatt Moore. "It was hyped up a lot. A lot of people were really excited about it and everything. And I didn't know what to think about it at first. But when it finally happened and I did see for myself I was awestruck honestly," Moore said.

Teachers will likely use pictures and videos from Monday to keep some of that educational excitement alive.



Eye doctors in mid-Missouri seeing patients with retina damage after eclipse

By: Caileigh Peterson

Watch the story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/eye-doctors-in-mid-missouri-seeing-patients-with-retina-damage-after-eclipse>

COLUMBIA — Ophthalmologists in mid-Missouri said they are already seeing patients with damage to their eyes following Monday's eclipse. The damage could lead to permanent vision damage.

Dr. John Jarstad, Director of Cataract and Lasik Surgery at MU Health Care said patients reported not wearing ISO approved glasses for periods of up to one minute.

"Some of these patients said they wanted to see if they could see it better without their glasses so they were staring at the sun for up to a minute," Jarstad said.

Jarstad said patients with sun damage from the eclipse could notice damage 24 to 48 hours after the event, but that in some cases the damage might not appear for weeks to come.

"It's similar to a sunburn. The retina gets swollen and there can actually build some scar tissue that builds there over the long haul, but the good news is most people will recover their vision in around two weeks," Jarstad said.

Some treatment can be done to help patients with retina damage recover.

"Some studies say Vitamin C and antioxidants are helpful in preventing some of the scarring," Jarstad said.

The most prevalent symptoms were pain in the eye and a blind spot in the center of vision.

Jarstad said worst case scenario, the damage from staring at the sun could lead to a patient being legally blind.



Penn State Blocks Event by White Supremacist

NO MU MENTION

By SCOTT JASCHIK

Pennsylvania State University on Tuesday announced that it has rejected a request by Richard Spencer, the white supremacist leader, to speak on campus. Penn State's action follows those of Texas A&M University, the University of Florida, Michigan State University and Louisiana State University in denying Spencer's request to speak or hold events on campus.

Eric J. Barron, the president at Penn State, said in [a statement](#) that the decision was based on the threat of violence, not Spencer's bigoted views.

"After critical assessment by campus police, in consultation with state and federal law enforcement officials, we have determined that Mr. Spencer is not welcome on our campus, as this event at this time presents a major security risk to students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus. It is the likelihood of disruption and violence, not the content, however odious, that drives our decision," Barron said.



Mizzou: Enrollment declines, retention rate remains high

By: Jeffrey Ray

COLUMBIA — While new enrollment numbers may be down for the University of Missouri, the retention rate for students staying at Mizzou are the second-highest in the school's history.

According to a university release, the preliminary numbers for Mizzou's retention in 2017 is at 86.6 percent. The retention rate itself measured the number of freshmen from the previous school year who return to the school for sophomore year.

“These are stronger numbers than what was indicated earlier this year. Additionally, our strong retention number, which is one of the highest among all of Missouri’s universities, shows us that students have successful academic experiences on campus,” said Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management. “This class is very reflective of the state of Missouri.”

Other preliminary figures pointed to another academically strong freshman class, with the average ACT score holding at 26. This score is above the state average, which is 20.2, as well as the national average of 20.8.

The preliminary figures taken from opening day were not the official figures as many students continue to enroll or drop within the first few weeks. The official census figures are taken during the fourth week of classes and should be released during late September.