



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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MU's new chancellor hopes to bring university's potential to light by understanding campus community

By ALLISON CHO

With a cup of coffee in his hand and a silver MU pin on his lapel, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright is faced with matters every day ranging from enrollment management to adjusting to the university. Cartwright officially began his duties on Aug. 1 after his appointment was announced in late May.

“I love being here,” he said. “It’s a great institution. We have outstanding students throughout the entire organization and great faculty, committed staff and people who really are trying to do the best for Mizzou.”

For Cartwright, choosing MU was an easy decision. In addition to being a land grant institution, the university is one of the 60 American universities in the Association of American Universities, an organization that recognizes leading research universities and places MU in an “elite class,” according to the chancellor. And like many MU students, when visiting the campus, it was love at first sight.

“I remember calling my wife and saying, ‘I’m going to be disappointed if I don’t get this position,’ because I saw this place and I had known a lot about it too, but it was nothing like walking on the campus,” Cartwright said. “Some people think it’s not that important, but seeing the care that someone puts into an institution and the care we put into our grounds tells you something about the pride of the institution, about how they value what we’re doing.”

Outside of his role as chancellor, Cartwright enjoys biking, reading and listening to music. He is a big fan of making playlists, drawing from a variety of musical styles and genres. A quick look at his playlists would reveal tracks from *Hamilton*, Ed Sheeran, Blake Shelton and The Lumineers.

Prior to his arrival at MU, Cartwright held positions as provost and executive vice chancellor at the State University of New York System and vice president for research and economic development at the University at Buffalo, as well as numerous other positions involving research and faculty leadership. His experience in New York helped him understand enrollment strategies and focus on the needs of students, which he plans to use to tackle issues at MU, he said.

Provost Garnett Stokes, who has worked closely with the chancellor since his arrival in August, has helped him as he gets accustomed to the campus, faculty and student body.

From presenting a survey on campus climate with Interim Vice Chancellor Kevin McDonald and President Mun Choi to the initiation of a monthly “joint leadership team meeting,” Stokes said that the MU administration team has already accomplished a lot since Cartwright’s arrival.

These monthly joint leadership meetings were started by Cartwright and include the chancellor’s staff, the vice provost, all of the deans, faculty counsel and staff counsel, as well as student government leaders.

“I would need to look at my calendar to remember all of the things we’ve actually tackled together,” she said.

Despite the recent concerns of enrollment and inclusion on campus, Cartwright has high hopes for the university. Although the 2015 protests continue to impact the university today, MU is “in a different place than then,” the chancellor said.

Cartwright continued that this year’s retention numbers have been almost record breaking at 87 percent, the second highest in MU history. To continue efforts to raise enrollment and retention rates, the university recently signed a \$1.27-million, three-year contract with a Philadelphia-based branding firm that will aid in creating a positive, unique image for MU.

The chancellor has confidence that if more student stories are presented in the media, enrollment and retainment numbers will increase.

“We have a lot of really good students here,” Cartwright said. “They know the truth [about the environment on campus]. They do. I’ve been trying to get more and more time with students. I really do want to set it up so that a couple times a month we’re hosting some students for different things. I’ve been trying to go have open hours with the student groups. And the reason is that I want to understand what the students are thinking about this place.”

Cartwright’s concern for students stemmed from his earlier career as a professor and researcher, where he enjoyed working with students and began looking at how to change the environment of an institution.

“I learned a lot by working three years at a system office, but now being able to work with students, to talk with students and think about what are the daily challenges that they have and how we might be able to help — that’s what I’m really excited about,” he said.

Cartwright’s attempts to reach out to the student body do not surprise University at Buffalo President Satish Tripathi, who has known Cartwright for 13 years. Tripathi and Cartwright began working together through a program called Faculty Fellows when Tripathi started his role as provost in 2004.

“I think one of the best things Alex really does is he listens to people and he actually tries to understand different perspectives and come up with decisions,” Tripathi said. “They may not be decisions in two minutes, but they would be good decisions, deliberate decisions and [decisions that are] really trying to understand different constituencies.”

Stokes agreed with this sentiment, affirming that that the chancellor “doesn’t take anything personally,” explaining that he looks for people to disagree with him to help him grow in understanding and perspective. She also values how he can find humor even in difficult situations, a sentiment that Cartwright talked about as well.

“I think my style in working with people is that if you work with me, you’ll realize that no matter how stressful it is, that I like to laugh. I like to enjoy what’s going on, even if it’s really stressful, because I feel that’s the only way I can handle it,” Cartwright said. “If you’re in it together, with any type of challenging situation you then can have the light moments also as the day goes on.”

Although Cartwright is no longer working at the University at Buffalo, Tripathi has no doubts that the chancellor will do a good job in aiding the future of MU.

“I’ve known Alex for thirteen years, and I know that University of Missouri has an excellent chancellor,” Tripathi said in an email. “He will do a terrific job. He is a wonderful teacher, mentor and leader. And, he is a really excellent scientist. He is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. These fellowships are a testament to the seminal work he has conducted in his field of electrical engineering.”

MISSOURIAN

State committee seeks to relieve Missouri student loan debt

By JIWON CHOI

JEFFERSON CITY — State legislators are looking to tackle Missouri’s enormous student debt.

According to the Project on Student Debt conducted by the Institute for College Access & Success, 57 percent of Missouri college students graduated with student loans in 2016. The average amount of the debt was \$27,532.

Student debt is the second largest form of debt in the U.S., according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Four spokespeople from MU, Webster University, Park University and Central Methodist University testified in front of the House Subcommittee on Student Debt Relief Tuesday afternoon, offering potential remedies to Missouri's student debt problem.

Erik Bergrud, associate vice president of external relations at Park University, suggested establishing a statewide work-study program that would partially cover debt and provide students relevant work experience throughout their college years.

Bergrud pointed to Park University's own work-study program, which allows students work for 20 hours a week on campus in exchange for free tuition.

"They get their tuition, room and board on campus, but they have to work and be engaged in community or campus," Bergurd said.

In the last legislative session, committee member Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, sponsored a House bill that would have started a work-study program, but it never became law.

Keri Gilbert, a financial aid advisor at MU, said a statewide work-study program and an expanded Access Missouri Program, a need-based scholarship, would help the neediest students and further reduce the overall student loan debt.

Committee Chairman Rep. Allen Andrews, R-Grant City, said no bill proposal targeting debt is in the works for the next year, when Missouri's higher education will face the budget cuts signed by Gov. Eric Greitens earlier this year.

"Where I stand, we need to do everything we can uphold our funding to our universities and to higher education," Rep. Andrews said. "It will be interesting to see what happens in the next budget year."

In August, Missouri Treasurer Eric Schmitt launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the state's college savings plan called MOST 529 — a statewide program that offers federal and state tax benefits including deferred income tax on earnings.

"At a time when student loan debt is skyrocketing, saving for higher education expenses has never been more important," Schmitt wrote in an email. "The more parents put away now, the less their kids will have to borrow in student loans in the future."

The committee hopes to hear more from Missouri's higher education sector through future hearings, with the next hearing scheduled for November.



University of Missouri curators to work on unifying system

POSTED 3:55 PM, OCTOBER 11, 2017, BY [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The University of Missouri System Board of Curators plans to be more directly involved in unifying and overseeing the system’s four campuses.

The Columbia Missourian reports that Curator David Steelman spoke Tuesday at a forum about the lasting effects of the Columbia campus’ fall 2015 protests. Steelman says the lack of strong, decisive leadership is largely was caused the Columbia campus’ public perception problems during and after the protests.

Stelman says former System President Tim Wolfe was “ill-suited” for the job, but that he was still surprised when Wolfe announced his resignation after the protests.

Stelman says poor system leadership won’t continue. Curators say they plan to work from a position of activism and strength.

Stelman says current system’s current president, Mun Choi, will be a “transformational” leader in education.

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Information from: Columbia Missourian, <http://www.columbiamissourian.com>



How climate affects the frequency of wildfires

Posted by Logan Jackson-Missouri October 12th, 2017

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A new model for understanding how climate affects wildfire frequency focuses on two variables: temperature and precipitation.

“Development of this model began as a conversation about what is controlling wildfire frequency across the entire United States,” says Michael Stambaugh, an associate research professor in forestry at the University of Missouri.

“Yes, humans can control fire, but the other big driver is climate—and that’s what we were really interested in, particularly in the future. How does climate constrain fire and can we predict it? We started thinking about the physics and chemistry involved in starting a single wildfire and relating that over time,” Stambaugh explains.

“We really think the model is powerful. The next step was moving away from the places where we have validation data and looking at what the model predicted for all temperature and precipitation combinations. We aren’t necessarily interested in where those climate conditions are, but, rather, what does the model say about how frequent wildfires are expected to be in that setting?”

Refining the model

The researchers have continually refined the Physical Chemical Fire Frequency Model (PC2FM) during the past several years, in part through fieldwork, such as gathering fire scar data from old trees. They used fire scars as a measure of when and how frequently fires occurred over long time periods.

While wildfires can’t be fully prevented, scientists can use the model to understand climate’s influence on wildfire probability and where and why it changes across different regions.

“We developed this model using concepts and equations used to predict chemical reaction rates,” Stambaugh says. “We reformulated them for wildfires occurring in forest landscapes. We started to think

of ways in which the model could be used to explore the chemistry of wildfires since fire is fundamentally a chemical reaction. For example, in the laboratory, you might want to know how quickly a chemical reaction occurs under specific conditions. In forests, the question is similar; you want to know how often wildfires occur in a particular climate.

“To develop the model, we needed long-term data on how often fires happen in many different places. As we collected more of these data, it was obvious that our model worked really well. We have consulted with many of our colleagues in other parts of the world, and they have been in general agreement,” he explains.

The team has traveled the United States and the world to get a first-hand look at wildfires in different climate conditions, allowing them to gather important information about how the climate and environment of an area can constrain or enhance wildfire occurrence.

“You can see patterns in global wildfire frequency that are obviously predictable,” Stambaugh says. “For example, Greenland doesn’t burn. It’s too icy and wet. It’s on one end of the spectrum. The other end of the spectrum is a place like the Sahara Desert, which doesn’t burn either. It’s too dry and there’s not enough fuel.

“Between those two extremes, we were confident that there was a way to describe the transition,” he says.

Traveling also gave the researchers new data to analyze and ideas for improvement. Long records of wildfires are key to improving the model. The team continually generates new data from their research on historical fires, along with similar data developed from colleagues, to train and validate their model.

“Some of the first data used to develop the model were from previous studies that described fire history of a single place,” Stambaugh says. “Many of those places are very climatically diverse. For example, we have data from wet and warm places like Louisiana, wet and colds places like Washington, dry and warm places like Australia. We wanted to include data from a broad range of climate conditions.

“This has allowed us to capture the extremes, show people where different places fit along a gradient of wildfire frequency, as well as the accuracy of our predictions versus what actually happened in the past,” Stambaugh says.

Looking at the past

As the team started plugging temperature and precipitation data into their model, they were encouraged that their model predictions were incredibly similar to actual wildfire patterns.

“We’ve constantly been surprised with the accuracy of the model, particularly considering that it’s not a super complex model,” Stambaugh says. “It’s not a model feeding a model that feeds another model. It’s one model with two variables—temperature and precipitation. The model comes from chemistry and it’s neatly packaged.”

Stambaugh adds that model results provide new information about how wildfire frequency changes and where climate conditions could push wildfire frequency in the future. At a national level, the model could be key for applications such as fire management, wildfire risk and preparedness, guiding wildfire policies, predicting future smoke emissions, etc.

“In the United States, we have put out wildfires so well since the early 1900s that we have few examples of the natural range of variability,” Stambaugh says. “By stamping out fires in the past century, we have lost examples of how climate can influence wildfires.

“Today, there is little expression of that. Many places burned much more frequently in the past. The historical data and this model really shows us how wildfires varied by climate conditions,” Stambaugh explains.

“We see a lot of evidence of past fires on trees through the scars. As a country, if we would have known how frequent fire occurred in the past and how they varied across regions, then we may have chose to do things differently in the past century in terms of forest management, especially in regions that are very prone to frequent or high severity wildfires,” he says.

Stambaugh says the team was already working on wildfire-climate projects for the United States Geological Survey. They were working on producing model estimates and maps of wildfire frequency for future climate scenarios.

The researchers outline their work in a paper in the journal [PLOS ONE](#).

The United States Forest Service, as well as the US Joint Fire Science Program, provided funding for the project.



University of Missouri Calls Off Search for Staff Lobbyist

By HANNAH HAYNES

The University of Missouri has called off its search for a staff lobbyist to replace employees it laid off in June.

After laying off employees in the University Relations office following system-wide budget cuts, the university started to search for a lobbyist to replace those employees, but they've canceled that search. This means the university is now relying on third party lobbying firms like Clark Hill and Statehouse Strategies.

Jake Haselswerdt is a political science professor at MU and was formerly a lobbyist for universities in Washington D.C. He said lobbyists are an important asset for universities. “Any university is going to have many issues involving government,” Haselswerdt said. “There’s just a lot of reasons why a

University would want to have a voice at the federal level. Then obviously at the state level for public universities a huge portion of their funding comes as a state appropriation.”

He says that public relations issues at MU have played a part in recent state funding cuts, and lobbyists can help protect that funding. “And as a lobbyist can you prevent all that from happening? No, but sort of like government relations, or public relations I should say, you can try to do some damage control and maybe try to get out ahead of some of that stuff with the legislature to minimize the impact it might have on your funding in the future,” Haselswerdt said.

MU spokesperson Christian Basi said after interviewing multiple candidates University President Mun Choi decided to cancel the search and take more time to decide how to move forward. “We want to take a look at the current resources that we have, and take a closer look at what the needs are for the campus and the system,” Basi said. “And then take some time to develop a longer term vision for the future of our governmental relations at the university.”

Basi says maintaining close relationships with lawmakers in Jefferson City is a priority.



[Black Culture Center, alma mater mourn death of MU sophomore on Rolling Rock Drive](#)

By BARRY MANGOLD

Watch video at: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/black-culture-center-alma-mater-mourn-death-of-mu-sophomore-on-rolling-rock-drive/636174396>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - [Richard Ward, a sophomore at the University of Missouri, died shortly after being hit by a gun shot on Rolling Rock Drive Saturday evening.](#) On Wednesday the University's Black Culture Center and the Ancona School in Chicago, Ward's alma mater, issued statements addressing the 20-year-old's passing.

The Black Culture Center (BCC) said in [a tweet](#), "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Richard Ward." Ward was active with the Center while he was a student.

The Ancona School in Chicago, Ward's hometown, issued a statement on [Facebook](#). The post states that "Richard is remembered by the community as an excellent student and athlete who was kind to all he encountered."

No one has been charged with murder in what the Boone County Prosecutor's Office has called a murder investigation.

The Columbia Police Department have not said Ward's death was a result of homicide. They are continuing with the "death investigation."

MISSOURIAN

Media portrayals, literacy among concerns of new MU center

By MYLES POYDRAS

Last spring, a Media & Diversity Center opened at MU to research big problems in modern media, such as how people are portrayed and how that affects them.

Large concerns focus on distorted depictions of certain groups as well as the degree to which people feel able to participate in certain digital environments, said Julius Riles, who co-founded and co-directs the center with Elizabeth "Lissa" Behm-Morawitz.

"We want to bring attention to this," Riles said. "We want to train future researchers in the examination of these issues so that we can make recommendations, so that we can engage in productive and healthy media consumption and participation that does not end up with these negative effects occurring."

The center, in the Department of Communication, is similar to others around the country. The idea to open one at MU came from agreement among colleagues that they should study diversity in the modern media landscape in a more cohesive manner.

Beyond identifying and researching problems, the center wants to engage the community directly to make the information more accessible.

“I think without the conversations, without an ability for people to discuss their experiences, these perspectives can be invisible,” Riles said. “It’s hard for people to know how certain representations can influence consumers and even people who aren’t consumers indirectly.”

Media distortion and negative portrayals of certain people lead to identity problems, Riles said; groups such as African-Americans, Latinos/Latinas and people with certain illnesses are depicted as dangerous and associated with criminality.

“We want to talk about these distortions as well as what research suggests about the effects of these distortions on the identity of those people who are members of these various social groups,” Riles said.

Another large aspect of media literacy is participation, he said. People dealing with the effects of negative portrayals often feel they can’t participate in the same ways or in the same venues as people with other social identities do.

The center is looking for ways to build better relationships with media outlets, Riles said. One way is by offering media literacy workshops in which participants can get a better grasp of problematic issues and how to avoid them. The workshops have typically been done by invitation, he said, but the center is looking for chances to expand that.

Public events are being planned for the annual media literacy week in early November.

Next week, Cynthia Frisby, a strategic communication professor and a research associate with the center, will speak on misrepresentations and descriptions of white male shooters. The Oct. 20 talk is open to the campus community, but space is limited. People interested are asked to email mediadiversitycenter@gmail.com.

“It’s kind of looking at how race and criminality are tied together particularly within the context of mass shootings — which, of course, is incredibly relevant now more than ever,” Riles said.

All of these efforts are an attempt to make media representations and their impacts more visible and help make people more aware of them.

“I think that an awareness on the part of the greater population that certain negative experiences are not only happening, but rampant and significant, is exactly what’s necessary,” Riles said, “because I don’t even think that step is necessarily taken in many segments of the population.”

Broad-scale improvement won’t happen overnight, he said, “but I do think that this is a priority for the university, and this center is well-positioned to make a true contribution. Nevertheless, there is much work to be done.”



After-school program moves into new building

By **GABRIELLE HAYS**

COLUMBIA - After spending 16 years on Trinity Place, Granny's House has a new place to call home.

With the help of outside local businesses such as the Veterans United Foundation, the organization was able to move to its own location on East Worley Street. The organization was previously in a shared space on Trinity Place.

Pamela Ingram is the founder and executive director of Granny's House, but to those who know her, she's "granny."

"This is our home. That's why it is so special to me and to the children because this is ours now," Ingram said. "We can paint the walls and move things around because we own it, it's our place."

Granny's House is an organization that caters to the needs of young people living in public housing in the Columbia area. But to those who've been touched by the group, it provides so much more than after-school programming.

Sue Crane is a 13th District Circuit Court judge. She said Granny's House touches young people in a personal kind of way.

"Young people can ask themselves, 'Is someone going to be there on my birthday? Is someone going to be at my graduation?' The answer is 'yes,'" Crane said. "And I can say yes because Granny's House makes it so."

The organization is funded with the help of private individuals, groups, local businesses, and various churches in the community.

Volunteers include students from the University of Missouri, members of local churches, and residents who just want to help.

Verna LaBoy is a health educator and community activist. She said Granny's House provides something that is transforming the lives of families all over Columbia.

"Granny's House brings that component. It turns on a light for people," LaBoy said. "No home is ever the same once a child has been poured into at Granny's House."

Ingram also said the new location will provide opportunity for new programs to open up to more children. She plans to start a book club in the upcoming months to promote putting down phones and picking up books.

"When I was a little girl, I used to get lost in books," Ingram said. "That's what I want to do in our new home, we're gonna make reading cool."



East Campus neighborhood residents, property owners re-look at lighting issues

By DEBORAH KENDRICK

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Residents and property owners still say lighting on East Campus needs to be fixed.

ABC 17 News has been following the lighting issues since 2014 when a student started a petition asking the city to install more lights in the area.

Students, residents say they don't feel safe walking around at night due to the lighting.

Molly Hart, a sophomore, told ABC 17 News that the lighting can be so bad in certain areas that she has tripped before.

In 2016, Councilwoman Betsy Peters and the neighborhood association president walked the neighborhood and agreed there was enough lighting in the area.

ABC 17 News spoke with Peters Wednesday night, she told us that there wasn't any specific area listed as to where the lighting was needed. She also said she is open to re-looking at the lighting.

Tim Ward, East Campus Major Housing Association president, told ABC 17 News at the end of September about 40 people including students, property owners and Peters walked the east campus neighborhood again. University students documented light readings, along with took pictures and interviewed residents.

Ward said MU students took the incentive to do the walk after the city's environment and energy commission voted that the lighting was fine in the area.

The report hasn't been finalized yet but Ward said it's a step in the right direction to get the lighting issue back on people's mind. He said it's unclear whether this will go to City Council. Until the report data is finalized, a decision will be made then.

The Wednesday meeting also opened up the dialogue for another neighborhood association creation. Residents and property owners that showed up to the community development meeting voiced their frustrations with the current East Campus Neighborhood Association saying they weren't being represented appropriately.

Residents said it's often times very hard to get a hold of the neighborhood association president, a lack of notification on meetings and events.

The East Campus Neighborhood Association president did not attend the Wednesday night meeting.