



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

October 16, 2017

the Atlantic

The Decline of the Midwest's Public Universities Threatens to Wreck Its Most Vibrant Economies

And there could be far-reaching consequences for the national economy too

By: Jon Marcus

Four floors above a dull cinder-block lobby in a nondescript building at the Ohio State University, the doors of a slow-moving elevator open on an unexpectedly futuristic 10,000-square-foot laboratory bristling with technology. It's a reveal reminiscent of a James Bond movie. In fact, the researchers who run this year-old, \$750,000 lab at OSU's Spine Research Institute resort often to Hollywood comparisons.

Thin beams of blue light shoot from 36 of the same kind of infrared motion cameras used to create lifelike characters for films like *Avatar*. In this case, the researchers are studying the movements of a volunteer fitted with sensors that track his skeleton and muscles as he bends and lifts. Among other things, they say, their work could lead to the kind of robotic exoskeletons imagined in the movie *Aliens*.

The cutting-edge research here combines the expertise of the university's medical and engineering faculties to study something decidedly commonplace: back pain, which affects as many as [eight out of every 10 Americans](#), accounts for more than [100 million](#) annual lost workdays in the United States alone, and has [accelerated](#) the opioid addiction crisis.

"The growth of the technology around us has become so familiar that we don't question where it comes from," says Bruce McPheron, an entomologist and the university's executive vice president and provost, looking on. "And where it happens consistently is at a university."

But university research is in trouble, and so is an economy more dependent on it than many people understand. Federal funding for basic research—more than half of it conducted on university campuses like this one—has effectively declined since 2008, failing to keep pace with inflation. This is *before* taking into account Trump administration proposals to slash the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) budgets by billions of dollars more.

Trump's cuts would affect all research universities, but not equally. The problem is more pronounced at public universities than private ones, and especially at public institutions in the

Midwest, which have historically conducted some of the nation's most important research. These schools are desperately needed to diversify economies that rely disproportionately on manufacturing and agriculture and lack the wealthy private institutions that fuel the knowledge industries found in Silicon Valley or along Boston's 128/I-95 corridor. Yet many flagship Midwestern research universities are being weakened by deep state budget cuts. Threats to pensions (in Illinois) and tenure (in Wisconsin) portend an exodus of faculty and their all-important research funding, and have already resulted in a frenzy of poaching by better-funded and higher-paying private institutions, industry, and international competitors.

While private institutions are better shielded from funding cuts by huge endowments, Midwestern public universities have much thinner buffers. The endowments of the universities of [Iowa](#), [Wisconsin](#), and [Illinois](#) and [Ohio State](#), which together enroll nearly 190,000 students, add up to about \$11 billion—less than a third of Harvard's \$37.6 billion. Together, [Harvard](#), [MIT](#), and [Stanford](#), which enroll about 50,000 students combined, have more than \$73 billion in the bank to help during lean times. They also have robust revenues from high tuitions, wealthy alumni donors, strong credit, and other support to fall back on. Compare that to the public university system in Illinois, which has cut its higher-education budget so deeply that Moody's downgraded seven universities, including five to junk-bond status.

This ominous reality could widen regional inequality, as brainpower, talent, and jobs leave the Midwest and the Rust Belt—where existing economic decline may have contributed to the decisive shift of voters toward Donald Trump—for places with well-endowed private and better-funded public universities. Already, some Midwestern universities have had to spend millions from their battered budgets to hang on to research faculty being lured away by wealthier schools. A handful of faculty have already left, taking with them most if not all of their outside funding.

“We're in the early stages of the stratification of public research universities,” said Dan Reed, the vice president for research and economic development at the University of Iowa. “The good ones will remain competitive. The rest may decline.” Those include the major public universities established since the 1860s, when a federal grant set aside land for them in every state. “We spent 150-plus years building a public higher-education system that was the envy of the world,” said Reed, who got his graduate degrees at Purdue, in Indiana. “And we could in a decade do so much damage that it could take us 30 years to recover.”

That land grant was called the Morrill Act. Abraham Lincoln signed it into law during the depths of the Civil War, in 1862, resulting in the establishment or major expansion of, among others, Purdue, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Minnesota, the University of Missouri, and Ohio State. Along with many other major public universities in the Midwest, each would go on to have an outsized impact.

It was at Illinois that the first modern internet browser was developed, along with other advances in computer science and technology including early versions of instant messaging, multiplayer games, and touch screens. Today, researchers there are working on a new treatment for brain cancer, a way to boost photosynthesis to increase crop yields, and a solution to the growing problem of antibiotic resistance.

Scientists at the University of Minnesota created the precursor to the World Wide Web, performed the first open-heart surgery, and developed Gore-Tex waterproof fabric. The University of Wisconsin is where human embryonic stem cells first were isolated, and it has since become a center of stem-cell research. Researchers there are trying to develop new drugs to fight the Ebola and West Nile viruses. The University of Iowa's Virtual Soldier Research Program uses human modeling and simulation to design new military equipment, and its National Advanced Driving Simulator is heavily involved in driverless-vehicle research.

Universities perform more than half of all basic research in America, and public research universities in particular account for two-thirds of the [\\$63.7 billion allocated](#) annually by the federal government for research. That spending, in turn, [produces](#) more than 2,600 patents and 400 companies a year, according to the Association of University Technology Managers.

The impact on local economies is hard to miss. In places like Columbus, Ohio, and Columbia, Missouri, the big research universities are among the most important institutions in town. The checkerboard patchwork of farms on the approach to Port Columbus International Airport gives way to office buildings housing high-tech companies spun off by Ohio State and the affluent suburbs where their employees live. The real-estate company CBRE ranks the city as the country's top small market for attracting tech talent.

More than one in five graduate students who worked on sponsored research at eight Big Ten universities studied by Ohio State economist Bruce Weinberg, including Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Purdue, and Ohio State, stayed in the state where they attended school—13 percent of them within 50 miles of the campus. That may not sound like a lot—and, indeed, the exodus of highly educated people is a serious problem—but it's significant when considering that the jobs for these students exist in a national labor market. People with engineering Ph.D.s from Minnesota could take their talents anywhere. If even 20 percent stick around, that's a big win for states that can't expect an influx of educated elites from other parts of the country. These graduates provide an educated workforce that employers need, create jobs themselves by starting their own businesses, and pay taxes.

These universities have served as bulwarks against a decades-long trend of economic activity fleeing smaller cities and the center of the country for the coasts. Since the 1980s, deregulation and corporate consolidation have led to [a drastic hollowing out of the local industries that once sustained heartland cities](#). But a university can't just be picked up and moved from Madison to New York in the way a bank, an insurance company, or even a factory can be.

“What difference does having a major research university in a place like Wisconsin make?” said Rebecca Blank, the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin. “It's the future of the state.” If Blank is right, then current trends put that future in doubt for much of the Midwest. Many of these same universities have suffered some of the nation's deepest cuts to public higher education. Illinois [reduced per-student spending](#) by an inflation-adjusted 54 percent between 2008 and last year, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The figure was 22 percent in Iowa and Missouri, 21 percent in Michigan, 15 percent in Minnesota and Ohio, and 6 percent in Indiana. While higher education funding increased last year in 38 states, Scott Walker's budget for 2015 through 2017 cut another \$250 million from the University of

Wisconsin system. The University of Iowa recently had its state appropriation [cut by 6 percent](#), including an unexpected \$9 million in the middle of the fiscal year.

The University of Missouri is eliminating about 400 employee positions, many through layoffs, after protests over race and other issues resulted in the resignations of the chancellor and system president and a major drop in enrollment. That decline, plus state budget cuts, will [cost the school more than \\$31 million](#), though it hopes to make up some of that shortfall by increasing tuition.

These financial woes would only be made worse by Trump’s proposed budget, which would cut funding by between 11 percent and 18 percent for the federal agencies that provide the bulk of government support for university research. Congress has so far resisted this call, instead adding \$2 billion to the NIH and \$8.7 million to the NSF in the five-month budget extension approved in April. But budget cuts remain a threat. So does a Trump budget proposal to eliminate so-called indirect cost payments—billions of dollars’ worth of federal reimbursements for overhead such as lab space and support staff to conduct the research. (The House Republicans’ 2018 budget plan rejects that idea, at least for medical research.)

Private universities with big endowments and wealthy donors may be able to weather the storm. (So, too, may the handful of public universities, like the University of Michigan and the University of Virginia, that receive far more private than public funding.) But most public research institutions won’t.

[Story continues](#)



[Students tackle real-world problems at TigerHacks](#)

BY GRANT SHARPLES Oct 14, 2017

Since Friday evening, MU student Justin Hofer and his team have been building an artificial brain designed to detect when a news headline is true or false. So far, the “brain” has a 92 percent accuracy rate.

“It’s an artificial brain that I’ve trained to read text,” Hofer said. “We’ve basically got 20,000 headlines with a 50-50 split of real and fake news and fed them through it in order to train it.”

Hofer is one of 262 participants in TigerHacks, a 36-hour hackathon lasting all weekend on MU’s campus. Students came from Lindenwood University, University of Missouri–St. Louis, University of

Kansas, University of Arkansas, Purdue University and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to participate.

Although “hacking” is generally a term with a negative association, TigerHacks is not about intrusion, director and MU student Holt Skinner said. The event’s title can be misleading, but hacking means something different in the computer science industry, he said.

In software engineering, hacking refers to putting something together in a short amount of time. It’s about “tweaking little things here and there to make something that works very quickly,” Skinner said.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in workshops to learn about various kinds of development, including iOS, Android and Cloud.

“It’s really great, especially for people that are brand new to this,” Skinner said. “You can just go up to a team and see what they’re working on and maybe learn a little bit from them and get that kind of experience that you can’t get anywhere else.”

Participants are split into groups to work on a project over the course of the weekend. They present their work on Sunday. The ultimate goal of TigerHacks is learning and innovation, Skinner said.

“We want to just see the cool projects that come out of this,” Skinner said.

Prizes also serve as an incentive to create an interesting project. These prizes include four Nintendo Switches with “The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild”, an Amazon Echo and cash.

TigerHacks has been an annual event since 2013 (excluding 2015), but it operated under the name “Hack Mizzou” until this year. This year, TigerHacks is collaborating with the Reynolds Journalism Institute, and more specifically, its app-building competition. Anyone who participates in TigerHacks can participate in the app-building competition as well.

The participants’ work needs to relate to journalism in some form to be eligible for prizes. Paul Meyer, a student at Lindenwood University, is working with his team using the Amazon Echo, also known as Alexa.

Meyer and his team are working to help journalists take notes for articles through voice interaction.

“Further down the road, if we would create a prototype and go a step further, (a goal) would be to integrate analysis of your thoughts and maybe bind this to possible resources,” Meyer said.

For example, Meyer said this prototype would be able to link to journals, articles and other resources that could benefit journalists in creating their articles.

Skinner said he wants TigerHacks to give students an experience they can’t have in a classroom setting.

“You’re working very hands-on with the software as you’re building it,” Skinner said.

Meyer is eager to gain this experience from TigerHacks.

“It’s the only time outside of internships when you get a real-world problem,” Meyer said.

Business licensing rules hurt women professionals, speakers say

By Tribune Staff

Generated from MU News Bureau Pitch

Advocates say licensing rules hamper female workers disproportionately, and they say Missouri needs changes such as reciprocity with other states and, in some cases, relaxed rules.

“Moving across state lines shouldn’t mean losing the right to practice your profession,” said Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women’s Foundation. She and others spoke Friday in support of changes such as requiring fewer hours of training for cosmetology and not requiring that hair braiders be licensed as cosmetologists.

The advocates described an increasing regulatory burden over time. **One job in 20 required licensing in the 1950s, compared with one in four today, said Emily Johnson, associate director of the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Missouri, which has conducted research for the foundation.** Women are more likely than men to be in those jobs.

Bridget Sharpe, government affairs and industry relations manager for the Professional Beauty Association, said cosmetology needs to be licensed for safety reasons.

“But there should never be a restriction on someone’s ability to earn a living,” she said.

Her group favors 1,000 hours of training, as opposed to the current 1,600, for a cosmetologist. Doyle added that that’s far more hours than required of an EMT.

Johnson said certification or registration can be a good alternative to licensing, and less burdensome, as long as safety issues are not involved.

She also outlined some policy suggestions, including weighing the costs and benefits of these policies, specifically any risks of leaving an area unregulated. Reciprocity with other states, meaning a license in Missouri is honored in Kansas or California, would help. Also, waive fees for low-income workers.

The Institute of Public Policy also found that Missouri, Kansas and Washington are the least licensed states in the country, and that Missouri’s fees and education requirements “are some of

the lowest in the nation.” Still, researchers found 139 professions licensed in Missouri and neighboring states, though 41 percent of those were licensed in just one state.

Legislation in the Missouri General Assembly this year would have created “sunrise provisions,” that is, an evaluation beforehand of any new regulations. That bill could be back in 2018.

“We would also love to see action on reciprocity,” Doyle said.

The Women’s Foundation also has shared its findings with a task force looking at state boards and commissioners. That group’s report is due to Gov. Eric Greitens by the end of the month.



BJC seeks new lease with Boone Hospital Center or termination of partnership

By **ELIZABETH DUESENBERG**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - BJC Healthcare is looking to change its lease with Boone Hospital Center or leave Columbia all together.

In a letter written in 2016, BJC officials state why the current lease is not working.

BJC officials said the current lease is, "no longer responsive to what the hospital will need to succeed and thrive in the years ahead."

BJC has been partners with Boone Hospital Center for more than 30 years.

The current lease extends through Dec. 31, 2020, and would automatically renew for another five-year term unless either the Hospital Trustees or Christian Health Services terminates the lease by providing written notice in the month of December 2018 to the other party.

BJC officials said a new lease would be required if BJC were to remain partners with Boone.

According to the Assessment of Options for Boone Hospital Center, Progress Report, BJC wants a 30-year term with no exit except breach, BJC providing a fixed-dollar rent, establishment of a BJC-appointed, Columbia-based board as governing body for hospital accreditation and reduction or elimination of the annual capital expenditure requirement.

BJC officials said if they were to end their relationship with BHC they would help facilitate discussions with University leaders for a possible new partnership.

Boone Hospital trustee Jan Beckett said, "the trustees are willing to consider a new lease agreement with a 30-year term, but BJC should submit a proposal to the trustees.

If BJC does not wish to renew their lease, Boone Hospital has received proposals from Duke LifePoint, MU Health Care and St. Luke's Health System.

According to the assessment, the partnership with Duke would have the highest return potential.

Boone trustees said if the BJC lease is not renewed, they would need assurance from any potential partner that the staff currently working at BHC would be held harmless from any negative consequences of transition.

The release of the assessment comes weeks after BJC laid off 50 employees due to low patient volumes and declining revenue.

MISSOURIAN

Homecoming talent show team strives for inclusivity within tradition

BY SAVANNAH WALSH Oct 13, 2017 (0)

One of the mainstays of MU Homecoming is recognizing the abundance of talent in the community. Whether it's decorations at downtown storefronts or local organizations building elaborate parade floats, the weekend is designed to demonstrate these original contributions.

Homecoming also includes the annual talent show, a three-night event where Greek groupings typically perform skits onstage at Jesse Hall about campus traditions, from the iconic Columns to Tiger Stripe ice cream.

This year, the talent show —to take place Oct. 16-19 — is aiming for a more inclusive experience.

Talent Tri Director Brooke Novinger, who is not a member of a Greek chapter, said it's important that students outside of the 15 Greek pairings feel that they have a voice in the talent show, as well.

Novinger was on the Homecoming Steering Committee last year and said she saw a more concerted effort to get non-Greek students involved.

“We want to be open to a wider range of student talent and campus organizations that haven't been completely open in the past,” she said.

“We're working to try something every student will leave Mizzou appreciating.”

The plan is being carried out primarily through auditions for the talent show acts. Performers auditioned Sept. 24 to showcase their abilities along with the Greek skits in a variety of ways, including magic, comedy and even beat boxing.

For Alyson Friend, coordinator of student and alumni programs, student involvement in every part of the process is what sets the MU Homecoming apart.

“Students are a part of everything from start to finish — the costumes, set, choreography,” Friend said.

In addition to auditions and ticket sales, the group must also secure judges, and communicate venue guidelines about lighting and sound to the Greek organizations.

Lydia Jain, a member of the steering committee, said the people behind the scenes not only raise the bar for the finished product, but make the preparation an unforgettable experience.

“The highlight has been getting to meet so many people that love Mizzou as much as I do,” Jain said. “Because everyone has such a passion for this campus and making Homecoming be as great as it can be.”

The committee expects Jesse Hall to be packed during the talent show with students holding spirit sticks and Greek letters, and doing lots of chanting.

Friend hopes the talent show exemplifies the Homecoming theme, “Rhythm of the Roar,” by marrying a beloved tradition with each student’s story — Greek or otherwise.

“It’s always exciting to see what students come up with to take storied traditions and weave something (new) into them,” said Friend.

MISSOURIAN

Revisiting the history of Homecoming

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF Oct 15, 2017 (0)

In 1911, Missouri head coach Chester Brewer invited alums to “Come Back Home” for the Tigers’ game against the Kansas Jayhawks, establishing Homecoming at MU.

The tradition grew, but in 1918, Homecoming was canceled due to an influenza outbreak on campus.

During the 1926 Homecoming, the dedication of the new Memorial Tower honored MU soldiers who lost their lives in World War I. That year also marked the first Homecoming game in the larger Memorial Stadium.

Homecoming grew into a community event with the introduction of house decorations for sororities and fraternities in the 1930s.

With the beloved Don Faurot coaching the Tigers, football games attracted some of the largest crowds Memorial Stadium would ever see. In the 1956 Homecoming game, his players carried him off the field after winning his last game as head coach. The playing field at Memorial Stadium was renamed Faurot Field in 1972 to honor his achievements.

Other changes in the 1970s included increased focus on service projects and social change. Parade floats had themes centered on peace efforts. In 1971, Jill Young Menears was elected as the first black Homecoming Queen.

MU’s Homecoming blood drive, first held in 1985, is now one of the largest in the nation.

Opponents have changed over the years as the tradition of alternating with Kansas for Homecoming ended. While in the Big 12 in 2010, Missouri upset Oklahoma for the first time in a decade. Since moving to the Southeastern Conference, Missouri lost a heartbreaker against South Carolina in 2013. For the second year in a row, Missouri plays a non-conference opponent for Homecoming.

MISSOURIAN

Plaintiff in landmark marriage equality case delivers speech on love

BY KACEN J. BAYLESS Oct 13, 2017 (1)

When Jim Obergefell stepped in front of the Monsanto Auditorium's audience Friday night, he told a simple love story.

Tissues found their way out of purses and pockets, as Obergefell, the plaintiff in the landmark 2015 Supreme Court case that legalized gay marriage, described the story that forever changed him from a grieving husband to an LGBTQ activist.

Obergefell's talk marked the finale of MU's [Life Sciences and Society Program's "The Science of Love" symposium speaker series. His speech, held in the Bond Life Sciences Building, focused on his 2016 book "Love Wins: The Lovers and Lawyers Who Fought the Landmark Case for Marriage Equality."](#)

"It's really my love story," he said. "It's the story of John and me and our lives together, my life as a kid growing up, the love of family and the love of community."

Before Friday night's speech, Obergefell joined students and faculty in MU's [LGBTQ Resource Center](#) for a mid-afternoon meet-and-greet. MU's Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, Kevin McDonald, came to hear Obergefell tell his story.

Later that day, Obergefell took the stage, clad in a blazer and a multi-colored bow tie, to tell his story again.

Brief introductions from Donald Burke-Aguero, interim microbiology and immunology chair at MU, and Tim Blair, MU graduate and founder of the [Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBT Coverage in Journalism](#), welcomed Obergefell, who took the stage shortly after 7 p.m.

His speech centered around his love for his husband, John Arthur, and the events leading up to the Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision. In 2011, John was diagnosed with ALS.

"In case you're not familiar with ALS," Obergefell told the audience, "it's pretty much a death sentence."

As he talked about taking care of his dying husband, Obergefell's voice began to crack slightly, and

audience members dabbed their eyes with tissues.

“It was scary, tiring, but more than anything, it was my privilege to care for the man I loved,” he said.

Obergefell said one of his friends and role models, Edith Windsor, was the lead plaintiff in the United States v. Windsor Supreme Court case that overturned the Defense of Marriage Act. After the act was overturned, Obergefell told John, his partner for 18 years, that he wanted to get married.

“Thankfully he said ‘yes,’” Obergefell joked.

With Obergefell and John unable to get married in their home state of Ohio and John’s condition worsening, the couple made arrangements for an unorthodox ceremony.

Obergefell and John married on July 11, 2013, in a small medical jet on a Maryland tarmac. John’s aunt, “Auntie” Paulette Roberts, officiated the wedding.

Obergefell’s speech then shifted to the dramatic court rulings that would forever shape the LGBTQ community. He realized that John’s death certificate would not include his husband’s name.

“It started out as a very focused, it was about us, it was about our marriage and John’s death which was coming soon,” he said. “It was really just learning that this piece of paper, the last record of John’s life would be wrong. It upset us. It made us angry. It was just that realization: These laws in the state constitutional amendment really do hurt people. It harms people.”

“No, I don’t accept this. It became personal, and it was harmful, and all I could say was no, this is my husband, and when he dies, he deserves to die as my husband, not a legal stranger. So it started as that and became something so much bigger,” he said.

At the end of his speech, Obergefell read a few quotes from former President Barack Obama.

“Sometimes there are days like this, when that slow, steady effort is rewarded with justice that arrives like a thunderbolt,” Obergefell recited.

Overcome with emotion, he described what it was like to be “a part of that thunderbolt.”

“I’m not going to talk about the current climate and the unease people may be feeling,” he said. “If you care about anyone who’s different, the best thing you can do is vote — and not just in a presidential election. Make sure you remember those elected officials who vote against our values. Equal justice under law. Without love, what’s the point?”



Same-sex marriage activist speaks at Mizzou

By MATT WELLER

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/same-sex-marriage-activist-speaks-at-mizzou>

COLUMBIA - Jim Obergefell never expected to become a vocal activist for same-sex marriage.

"I was a very private person and never an activist," he said. "My husband could walk into a room of strangers and talk to anyone. Not me."

But when his husband, John, died in 2013 and Obergefell fought to have his death certificate carry the couple's last name, he was thrust into the national spotlight. His case, Obergefell v. Hodges, was a key step towards same-sex marriage being legalized in the United States.

"To become a face and name of this has changed my life completely," he said. "I find that I don't mind losing some of my anonymity because when people stop me they share a story, say thank you, show me photos, and every time they do, it's a gift. It's a reminder of why my late husband John and I decided to fight."

Obergefell spoke to around 100 Columbia residents and MU students Friday as part of the Bond Life Sciences Center's "Science of Love" symposium.

Obergefell shared his story and talked about the challenges people face when determining how to reveal their sexuality to friends and family.

"I want to let them know, come out, there is nothing better than living your authentic life as who you really are," he said.

He said he hopes gay students who have not revealed their sexuality find strength in his story.

"I want them to feel empowered. To think, okay this person has gone through what they have. They seem happy, they seem content. They seem proud of who they are," he said. "No matter

what it is that I said or did, if I can help one kid feel better about themselves, and have that sense of empowerment, then my job is done."

One attendee of Obergefell's talk said he changed her life.

"My wife and I owe him a great debt of gratitude," Rose Hayden said. "Embracing the struggle, living with the struggle, persisting with the struggle, and ultimately creating an opportunity for my wife and I to get married."

SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Mizzou economics professor, weighing GOP Senate bid, talks to Greene County Pachyderms

By: Will Schmitt

Hailing from the "the People's Republic of Columbia" and self-billing as a conservative "no safe space" college instructor, Aaron Hedlund delivered several strong statements and one obvious hedge to an audience of local Republicans.

The 33-year-old Hedlund, an assistant economics professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, traveled from Planet Boone to tell the Greene County Pachyderms his thoughts on taxes. In general, he thinks they should be lower and simpler — with fewer carve-outs and yes, fewer deductibles — and he insists the Internal Revenue Service needs an overhaul.

"I absolutely believe that money is better spent when it's in your own hands," Hedlund told his audience. "You know what your preferences are. You know what your priorities are. You know the economic realities on the ground in a way that people in D.C. have no clue about, so I'm all for less money going to the federal government."

If this sounds like a pitch from a conservative politician to Republican voters, that's because it just might be.

Hedlund says he'll decide by the end of December whether to campaign against other Republicans for the right to compete with Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Missouri, who is seen as one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the 2018 election cycle. For now, he'll say he's "seriously considering" getting into the race but stops short of committing.

"We have no free-market economists in the Senate," Hedlund reasons, adding that he is anti-abortion, supports a strong national defense and opposes the current Affordable Care Act.

Asked by one of the Pachyderms why he deserves their vote, Hedlund again cautioned that he hasn't formally decided to run.



MU to hold staff forum Tuesday at Stotler Lounge

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

The University of Missouri will hold a staff forum at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Stotler Lounge to field questions and hear concerns about the campus.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, Vice Chancellors Gary Ward, Patty Haberberger and Rhonda Gibler and Director of Health and Wellness Jessica Baker will answer questions for up to 90 minutes. The forum is not specifically tied to the recent release of a climate survey showing more than half of staff responding considered leaving their positions within the past year but the issues of pay raises and lack of advancement are likely to be a major topic.

The forum will be livestreamed on MU's website.



Mizzou, KU Basketball To Play Exhibition Game For Hurricane Relief

COLUMBIA, Mo. (MIZZOU) – In unity, the University of Missouri and the University of Kansas men’s basketball programs will square off in a charity exhibition game Sunday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m. at Kansas City’s Sprint Center. The purpose of the charity event – Showdown for Relief – is to raise awareness and financial support for hurricane relief efforts.

MU, KU and the Sprint Center, working in concert with the Kansas City Sports Commission, have collectively agreed that proceeds from the game will be donated to organizations assisting victims of the natural disasters that have occurred recently in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Money raised from the game will be contributed to the organizations that the five living former U.S. Presidents have come together to support: the Houston Harvey Relief Fund, the Rebuild Texas Fund, the Florida Disaster Fund, Juntos y Unidos Por Puerto Rico and the Fund for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

MU and KU together sought and received a waiver from the NCAA to play the extra exhibition game.

“The opportunity to use the platform of college basketball to help so many people in need is the most important aspect of this event,” Mizzou head coach Cuonzo Martin said. “Buy tickets to this game, but also please donate if you are able to, as there are people in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who need our support. This scrimmage will not only be fun for fans of Mizzou and Kansas, but also for people all over the world.”

“The opportunity to make an impact on those suffering as result of the hurricanes, through the game of basketball, is a great opportunity for our program,” Kansas coach Bill Self said. “When I brought the idea to our administration we immediately decided that, if we were going to do this, it needed to be selfless, impactful, and there could be no recognized revenue as a result of the competition. With that in mind, I contacted Coach Martin and discussed the possibility of us playing an exhibition game for the benefit of so many affected by the catastrophic storms. We both felt that this would be a great opportunity to impact others.”

The two schools will split the approximately 18,000 seats in the Sprint Center; each athletics department will distribute its allotment. The game will not be televised or streamed, but each school’s radio network will broadcast it. The goal is to sell out the Sprint Center, which could yield approximately \$1 million to distribute among the five charitable organizations.

Members of the Tiger Scholarship Fund will have the opportunity to purchase tickets from the Mizzou allotment first based on donor rank. TSF members should watch their e-mail for more details. A limited number of tickets for Mizzou students will be available to purchase starting on Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Any remaining tickets from Mizzou’s allotment will go on sale online only through <http://www.sprintcenter.com> starting at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Similar stories ran nation wide



ST. LOUIS

Could MU-KU exhibition lead to NCAA basketball schedule reforms?

ST. LOUIS, MO- **Count me among the legions of University of Missouri basketball fans thrilled to hear that the Tigers will square off against the Kansas Jayhawks on the**

basketball court next weekend, even if it is only for a men's exhibition game. The rivalry, lost to the Tigers' move to the SEC and further buried by hard feelings since then, needs to be brought back to life, for the good of both schools, and college sports.

I know these are special circumstances. Sam Mellinger of *The Kansas City Star* [has laid out how this was Bill Self's brainchild](#), even though he's probably the biggest obstacle in the way of resuming the series.

I hope this game lights a spark under other schools and the NCAA.

Division I programs can't play each other in exhibition games under existing rules. Instead, they can hold up to two "[secret scrimmages](#)" where the games are closed to the public and the media in lieu of playing a game open to the public against non-D1 teams. Beating up on a D2 or NAIA program doesn't draw well at the gate, and isn't a great barometer of your team's progress either.

Here's my solution: bring the scrimmages out of the shadows. Keep them as exhibitions. Donate proceeds to charity. Mizzou needs only to look at the goodwill generated from the Rally For Rhyan game as an example. In the time since I started writing this, word got out that Kansas State will play Missouri State in a charity game next weekend, with proceeds going to hurricane relief.

Fans yawn at the so-called "blood donor" games which litter the early season schedules of most major power conference schools. They're a necessary evil for the smaller schools, who use the paydays gained from what is most often but not always a loss, to fund large chunks of their athletic department budgets. The large schools hope to load up early on wins ahead of tougher conference play so that come NCAA tourney selection time, they can point to a record with more than 20 wins.

As Mellinger pointed out, the NCAA's blessing for allowing these hurricane games comes with a hitch...low expenses, no frills. MU and KU can bus to Kansas City, same with Missouri State and K-State's travel arrangements.

Think about next year. Barring conflicts with actual regular season games, MU exhibitions against Wichita State, Missouri State, and dare I saw SLU seem at least plausible, don't they?

And to think if it actually caught on, I'd have to thank Bill Self for it. I'm willing....how about it NCAA?



Missouri and Kansas Men's Basketball Will Face Off to Raise Money for Hurricane Relief

By CAITLIN McCARTHY

For the first time since 2012, the University of Missouri and the University of Kansas will play each other in a men's basketball scrimmage to raise money for hurricane relief.

Despite the historic MU and KU rivalry, both teams are partnering with the Sprint Center and the Kansas City Sports Commission and are hoping to collectively raise \$1 million through tickets sales at the game on October 22. The game will be held at the Sprint Center.

Nick Joos, MU Executive Associate Athletics Director of Communications, spoke about the impact he hopes this event will have.

“There are a lot of parties coming together in the spirit of collegiality and to bring a special event to Kansas City and to also help a lot of people in need who have had their lives really impacted by the hurricanes,” Joos said.

The teams are hoping to sell out the Sprint Center, which holds 18,000 people.

All of the proceeds will go toward organizations that benefit victims affected by the hurricanes in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Both of the teams received clearance from the NCAA to have a scrimmage. KU is a part of the Big 12 and MU moved to the SEC in 2012.

The scrimmage will not be televised or streamed, but each school will be able to have their radio network to broadcast it to fans.

Jim Marchiony, KU Associate Athletics Director of Public Affairs, explained what both teams are hoping to do through this event.

“The only focus is to raise as much money as we can for people who have been devastated by these natural disasters.”



[A Border War skirmish: Mizzou-KU to play for hurricane relief](#)

By ANNIE HAMMOCK

COLUMBIA - Mizzou and KU are briefly resuming the Border War to benefit hurricane victims.

University of Missouri and the University of Kansas men's basketball teams will hit the hardwoods for a charity event called Showdown for Relief on Oct. 22, at 3 p.m. at Kansas City's Sprint Center.

Proceeds will go to the Houston Harvey Relief Fund, the Rebuild Texas Fund, the Florida Disaster Fund, Juntos y Unidos Por Puerto Rico and the Fund for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The opportunity to use the platform of college basketball to help so many people in need is the most important aspect of this event," Mizzou head coach Cuonzo Martin said.

MU and KU together got a waiver from the NCAA to play the extra exhibition game.

"We both felt that this would be a great opportunity to impact others," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

The goal is to sell out the Sprint Center, which could yield approximately \$1 million to distribute among the five charities.

Each school will get about 9,000 seats to sell.

Members of the Tiger Scholarship Fund will have the opportunity to purchase tickets from the Mizzou allotment first based on donor rank. A limited number of tickets for Mizzou students will be available to purchase starting on Oct. 17.

Any remaining tickets from Mizzou's allotment will go on sale online only through www.sprintcenter.com starting at 10 a.m. on Oct. 18.

Martin said, "Buy tickets to this game, but also please donate if you are able to, as there are people in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who need our support."

MISSOURIAN

GUEST COMMENTARY: MU Extension and Farm Bureau's century-long partnership

ERIC BOHL

Improving the way of life in rural America is one of the main reasons Farm Bureau exists. This central purpose has guided us through more than a century of change and growth and has incorporated such wide-ranging challenges as rural electrification, spreading modern agriculture practices and deployment of broadband internet. Throughout every one of these issues, University of Missouri Extension has worked hand-in-hand with Missouri Farm Bureau (MFB) to improve the lives of rural Missourians.

I recently had the chance to talk with Marshall Stewart, MU's Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement, for the MFB weekly podcast, "Around the Kitchen Table." Dr. Stewart has been leading Extension for just over a year now, coming to Missouri from his home state of North Carolina. When he arrived last year, his engaging and humble personality immediately made a

strong impression across Missouri. He has quickly become an important part of his new home state.

Some of the most fascinating things I learned during our half-hour discussion involved just how closely Farm Bureau and Extension have been linked over the past 102 years. Although MU was founded in 1839, it was not until the 1914 Smith-Lever Act that Congress created the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service that expanded the university's mission beyond its campuses and into every county across the state.

More importantly to Farm Bureau, I learned that it was not coincidental that county Farm Bureaus soon began popping up across Missouri, with the first founded in Saline County in March 1915. As Dr. Stewart explained, the Smith-Lever Act required a local partner to receive funding for those programs, so groups of farmers in many counties chose to organize a county Farm Bureau in order to receive Extension funding. Today, every county in Missouri has both an Extension office and a Farm Bureau office. Few, if any, other public or private institutions can claim the same.

Extension now includes not only rural and agricultural interests, but all of Missouri. It offers programs for workforce development, nutrition education and even urban gardening — ways to make life better for all Missourians. Extension has also partnered with Missouri Farm Bureau this year to promote the expansion of broadband internet to all corners of our state to bring opportunity and quality of life to everyone, no matter where they were born.

In a sense, I even owe my actual birth to Extension. The only reason my dad moved to the county where he met my mom is because he was placed there as an Extension agent upon graduation from the University of Missouri in the spring of 1960. Without Extension, they never would have met and Farm Bureau would have a different director of public affairs.

Even if you don't owe your existence to Extension, you certainly benefit from its work. Everyone in Missouri deserves the finest opportunities for success and education, and Farm Bureau and Extension will continue to work together to make those opportunities a reality for generations to come.

Eric Bohl is a Columbia resident and the director of public affairs for Missouri Farm Bureau. Today, every county in Missouri has both an Extension office and a Farm Bureau office. Few, if any, other public or private institutions can claim the same.



[Strip Trial Program takes the guesswork out of farming](#)

By CLAIRE KOPSKY

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/strip-trial-program-takes-the-guesswork-out-of-farming>

COLUMBIA - Harvest season is drawing to a close and MU Extension is offering a research opportunity for farmers.

The 2017 Strip Trial Program gives farmers the chance to test nitrogen application timing, cover crops, phosphorus and ILeVO seed treatments.

The program lets farmers perform trials on their own land or on a research farm. Farmers also can also choose what kind of trial to run and how large it should be.

Christine Tew, the communications director for Missouri Soybean, said the trial gives farms a chance to really “invest in their soil.”

“Soil health is an incredibly important conversation among farmers,” she said. “When you visit with growers, most of them tell you the health of the soil on their farm depends on their success in raising a crop each year.”

In addition to MU Extension, Missouri Corn Merchandising Council and Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council are sponsoring the program. The groups offer crop consultants to help farmers make the best choices for seed and fertilizer during the trials.

MU Extension said farmers use their own seed and equipment to complete the free trial.

When it ends, MU Extension's program will give personalized results that help the farmer choose what's best for his or her soil.

Tew said the results are the most helpful part of the trial because trial and error is expensive.

"Our farmers invest a great deal of their check-off dollars into research each year. We know that soil health is important to farmer success and the Strip Trial Program shows us not only soil health, but also how that relates to the crops they grow in a really nice side-by-side comparison way."

MU Extension's [website](#) has more information on the program.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Lure of the Lazy River

By JACK STRIPLING

The only way to truly appreciate the new lazy river at Louisiana State University is to get high above it. From there, its audacious contours take shape. The winding waterway, shaped in the letters "LSU," is encircled by a palm-tree-dotted landscape that feels a world away from lecture halls, libraries, and laboratories.

The river, part of an \$85-million renovation and expansion of LSU's recreation center, is the one feature that students consistently said they wanted most. Yet, nothing has inspired editorialists like this 536-foot-long lounging pool, which has provided an easy target for anyone skeptical of the university's priorities.

"Frivolous," the *Daily Reveille*, LSU's student newspaper, proclaimed.

The lazy river "rolls on, despite school's budget woes," Fox News scoffed with thinly veiled contempt.

A generation ago, there would have been little public argument that a lazy river qualified as a luxury amenity — a proverbial line in the sand that even the most fun-loving of institutions dared not cross. But the gradual moving of that line represents a broader shift in the balance of power in public higher education. The leaders of cash-strapped institutions feel obliged to service the whims and desires of tuition-paying students, whose satisfaction has become ever more crucial as state support wanes.

On a recent sun-drenched afternoon, a group of dignitaries assembled at the center for a grand opening. Rolfe H. McCollister Jr., a member of the university's board, grinned and made small talk as he moved through a crowd of smiling celebrants. Sizing up the facility, he said, "Whoa, it's first class, yeah. But nowadays you've got to have it."

That's the sentiment. Gotta have it.

The recreation center is a mishmash of exercise equipment, dance studios, spinning classes, Ping-Pong tables, and swimming pools. At the grand opening, the center was at its most carnivalesque, as throngs of students devoured free smoothie samples in the shadow of a 35-foot climbing wall. A costumed Tiger mascot breezed through the lobby. Students splashed in outdoor pools, navigating a floating inflatable obstacle course and balancing atop rolling logs, as a nearby DJ blasted hip hop.

For all its appearances of frivolity, the center represents a university's broadened thinking about the campus as an all-inclusive compound from which students need never stray. Better here than drunk at the bars across the tracks, the thinking goes. F. King Alexander, LSU's president, said as much at a lectern before the ribbon-cutting.

"Quite frankly," he said, "I don't want you to leave the campus ever. So whatever we need to do to keep you here, we'll keep you safe here. We're here to give you everything you need."

Lazy rivers, while still relatively rare in higher education, are becoming a staple at public universities known for big-time college sports and vibrant social scenes. **You'll find them at the Universities of Alabama, Iowa, and Missouri and at Texas Tech.** The University of Central Florida has plans to build a [lazy river just for athletes](#), as part of a "Recovery Cove" that will also include miniature golf and beach-volleyball courts.

Mr. Alexander did not mention the lazy river in his speech. No one who talked at the event that day did. But when asked about it later, he wondered what the downside politically could possibly be. What fiscal conservative, who hasn't turned on LSU already, would finally lose faith in the university over its opulent new water ride?

"We've got nothing to lose," Mr. Alexander said. "We've been cut 16 times in nine years. They're the ones who want to sit outside the university and cast stones."

[Story continues.](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month culminates with cultural parade

COLUMBIA — Hispanic Heritage Month came to a close this weekend with an event in Columbia.

A group gathered on the lawn of the Boone County Courthouse Saturday to celebrate all of the different cultures represented in mid-Missouri.

Flags representing Brazil, Mexico, Guatemala, and other Latin American countries waved high in the air as the group chanted "Viva!"

The group also took time to read poetry, sing songs, and learn dances representative of the different cultures.

"What we're trying to do is bring awareness, but also help people realize the importance of Latinos," University of Missouri Graduate Student David Aguayo said. "The contributions that Latinos are having not only at the national level, but also at the local level."