



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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MISSOURIAN

UM System President declines students' request for fossil fuel divestment

By EMILY HURLEY

In his speech at the Missouri Theatre in early October, environmentalist Bill McKibben recognized the Mizzou Energy Action Coalition as an example of how younger people are changing the world in the climate crisis.

"Young people are doing most of the leading around the world," McKibben said.

Since 2015, the coalition, a student environmental organization focused on divestment from fossil fuels, has worked to revitalize a fossil fuel divestment campaign at MU.

Mason Brobeck, a representative for the coalition and the Missouri Students Association, said fossil fuels are playing a negative role in the climate crisis, and they're also not going to raise global living standards.

In April, the Missouri Students Association passed a resolution asking that the UM System divest from fossil fuel companies. Frankie Hawkins, a representative for the coalition, said the UM System's estimated \$10 million invested in fossil fuels represents about 1 percent of the system's \$1.5 billion endowment pool.

While the organization would like for the UM System to invest in renewable energy companies, its main objective is divestment.

"This is a way to continue working towards sustainability without having to spend millions or billions of dollars on green energy infrastructure on campus," Hawkins said.

UM System leaders have refused.

In a June response to the resolution, UM System President Mun Choi and Maurice B. Graham, the chair of the UM System Board of Curators, sent the coalition a letter emphasizing the importance of fossil fuels in the global economy.

"From an economic perspective, the fossil fuel industry will remain a critically important component of the global economy for decades," the response letter said. "Disengaging from a

large segment of the global economy is not in the best interests of the university nor our community.”

The letter noted that the university could not function without the energy they provide.

“We do not believe that alternatives to fossil fuels exist today at the scale demanded by our global economy,” the response letter said. “We do not feel that there is currently any persuasive or compelling argument that suggests divestment by the UM System will have any meaningful impact on the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.”

Students at Washington University in St. Louis have launched similar campaigns.

Last spring, members of Fossil Free WashU — a student environmental group — met with the university’s chancellor, Mark S. Wrighton, to discuss the divestment of fossil fuels from its endowment fund, according to the organization’s Facebook page. Wrighton, like Choi and Graham, refused.

While the coalition has not planned any specific events to further its campaign, representatives said they intend to collaborate with other universities, like Washington University.

Despite the UM System's refusal, the coalition remains hopeful for grassroots change led by students and the community, Hawkins said.

“It’s clear that the people who are in charge of things are not going to be the ones who are calling to fix this crisis,” Hawkins said. “It’s normal people.”



[Monsanto And The Weed Scientists: Not A Love Story](#)

By Dan Charles

Listen to the story: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/10/26/559733837/monsanto-and-the-weed-scientists-not-a-love-story>

In a normal year, Kevin Bradley, a professor of weed science at the University of Missouri, would have spent his summer testing new ways to control a troublesome little plant called water hemp.

This has not been a normal year.

"I don't even talk about weed management anymore," [Bradley](#) tells me, and he sounds disgusted. "Nobody calls me and ask me those questions. I barely have time to even work with my graduate students. Everything is about dicamba. Every single day."

Dicamba, an old weedkiller that's now being used in new ways, has thrust Bradley and half a dozen other university weed scientists into the unfamiliar role of whistleblower, confronting what they believe are misleading and scientifically unfounded claims by one of the country's biggest seed and pesticide companies: Monsanto.

"It's not comfortable. I'm like anybody else, I don't like [it when] people are unhappy with me," says [Mike Owen](#), a weed specialist at Iowa State University. Then he chuckles. "But sometimes, like John Wayne said, a man's got to do what a man's got to do!"

"Certainly, there's not a weed scientist in any of these states who would back down, who would change their story," says [Aaron Hager](#), at the University of Illinois.

The tensions between Monsanto and the nation's weed scientists actually began several years ago, when Monsanto first moved to make dicamba the centerpiece of a new weedkilling strategy. The company tweaked the genes in soybeans and cotton and created new genetically modified varieties of those crops that can tolerate doses of dicamba. (Normally, dicamba kills those crops.) This allowed farmers to spray the weedkiller directly on their soybean or cotton plants, killing the weeds while their crops survived.

It's an approach that Monsanto pioneered with crops that were genetically modified to tolerate glyphosate, or Roundup. After two decades of heavy exposure to glyphosate, however, devastating weeds like [Palmer amaranth](#), or pigweed, evolved resistance to it. Farmers are looking for new weedkilling tools.

Dicamba, however, has a well-known defect. It's volatile; it tends to evaporate from the soil or vegetation where it's been sprayed, creating a cloud of plant-killing vapor that can spread in unpredictable directions. It happens more in hot weather, and Monsanto's new strategy inevitably would mean spraying dicamba in the heat of summer.

Monsanto and two other chemical companies, BASF and DuPont, announced that they had solved this problem with new "low-volatility" formulations of dicamba that don't evaporate so easily. Yet the companies — especially Monsanto — made it difficult for university scientists to verify those claims with independent tests before the products were released commercially.

"I wish we could have done more testing. We've been asking to do more testing for several years, but the product was not made available to us," says Bob Scott, a weed scientist at the University of Arkansas. "These are proprietary products. Until they release those formulations for testing, we're not allowed to [test them]."

To make matters worse, Monsanto started selling its new dicamba-tolerant soybeans in 2016, before the new low-volatility formulations of dicamba were even approved for sale. It tempted farmers to use older versions of dicamba on these crops, illegally, and some farmers couldn't resist that temptation. In Arkansas, there were widespread [reports](#) that dicamba was damaging neighboring fields that didn't have the benefit of Monsanto's new genes. In one case, a dispute between farmers led to a fatal [shooting](#).

That fall, at a meeting of weed scientists, Hager confronted Monsanto's representatives. According to Hager, he told the company that "you knowingly released these varieties in an area of the U.S. where you knew that glyphosate resistance [in weeds] was rampant. When you did that ... you knew what was going to happen!"

"I got a blank stare," Hager recalls.

This past summer, the floodgates on dicamba use opened. The new formulations of dicamba were approved for use (although Arkansas only allowed farmers to use BASF's product, not Monsanto's) and farmers rushed to adopt the new technology. They planted dicamba-tolerant crops on 26 million acres.

"The demand for it is overwhelming. The need to control these difficult-to-manage weeds is huge," says Scott Partridge, Monsanto's Vice President of Global Strategy.

When spraying started, [complaints](#) rolled in. The new "low volatility" versions of dicamba didn't stay where they belonged. They drifted into nearby fields, damaging crops there — mostly soybeans, but also vegetables and orchards. There were reports of damage from Mississippi to Minnesota, but the problem was worst in Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee.

"By the end of May, first of June, it became impossible; the calls were coming in, three or four a day. Sometimes eight or 12 a day," says the University of Arkansas' Scott. "There is no precedent for what we've seen this year."

At first, the companies selling these herbicides — both Monsanto and BASF — seemed unconcerned.

"All I got was denial that there was a problem," Bradley says. "What I kept hearing was, it's not a big problem nationwide; we always have these kinds of mistakes or accidents with the introduction of any new technology."

So Bradley, a past president of the Weed Science Society of America, started collecting data on crop damage from across the country, mapping the epidemic. By the end of the summer, Bradley estimated that at least 3.1 million acres of crops had shown some injury from drifting dicamba.

With the scale of dicamba damage increasingly clear, a fierce debate erupted over its cause.

Monsanto's executives insist that it's because the people who sprayed dicamba were just learning how to do it properly, and didn't follow directions. Scott Partridge says his company checked out more than a thousand cases of dicamba damage, "and in 88 percent of those instances, the label

was not followed." Farmers or pesticide applicators sprayed dicamba too close to neighboring fields, didn't clean out their equipment properly, or used the wrong nozzles.

"Every one of those [mistakes] is fixable by education," Partridge says.

University weed scientists say that's only part of the explanation, and the problem can't be fixed so easily.

Bradley, Scott and their colleagues in other states say that much of the damage they saw this year didn't appear to come from "physical drift" of windblown droplets of dicamba, coming directly from a sprayer. Physical drift, they say, typically produces a plume of damage that diminishes with distance from the source of the spray. Instead, they saw entire hundred-acre fields of soybeans with cupped leaves, and the damage was uniform from one end to the other. They also saw damage in orchards and fields that were far removed from any fields sprayed with dicamba.

This pattern, they say, looks more like what they'd feared all along: volatilization.

What's more, the scientists say, field experiments that they finally carried out this summer point toward evaporating dicamba as a cause.

Bob Scott shows me one such experiment, a field of soybeans at a research station near Lonoke, Ark. Here, soybeans were injured by dicamba that definitely did not enter the field through mistakes in spraying.

"It's important to remember, we did not spray this plot," Scott says. Instead, at a location far away from this field, he and his colleagues sprayed trays of soil with various dicamba-containing herbicides. Then they carried the trays into this field and placed them between the rows of soybeans for 48 hours. The trays and soybeans were protected underneath plastic hoops - essentially, miniature greenhouses - that were open at each end. The dicamba evaporated from the trays and injured the soybean plants nearby, curling their leaves and stunting their growth.

"A lot of people were very disappointed when they saw the plots," Scott says. "A lot of people didn't want to see what they were seeing, and were in disbelief."

These observations have huge implications. If the new formulations of dicamba evaporate and spread, they cannot easily be controlled.

"If this were any other product, I feel like it would be just pulled off the market, and we'd be done with it," Scott says.

But dicamba, and the crops created to tolerate it, aren't just any products. There's big money behind them. Monsanto, seed dealers, farmers who are struggling with weed problems — they all have a stake in this technology. The university scientists who are pointing out problems with them are confronting an economic juggernaut.

Monsanto — and farmers who want to use dicamba — have been fighting back. In Arkansas,

where state regulators [proposed](#) a ban on dicamba during the growing season next year, Monsanto recently sued the regulators, arguing that the ban was based on "unsubstantiated theories regarding product volatility that are contradicted by science." The company [called](#) on regulators to disregard information from Jason Norsworthy, one of the University of Arkansas' weed researchers, because he'd recommended that farmers use a non-dicamba alternative from a rival company. Monsanto also attacked the objectivity of Ford Baldwin, a former university weed scientist who now works as a consultant to farmers and herbicide companies. "I read it as an attack on all of us, and anybody who dares to [gather] outside data," Bob Scott says. "And some of my fellow weed scientists read it that way as well."

Kevin Bradley, at the University of Missouri, says executives from Monsanto have made repeated calls to his supervisors. "What the exact nature of those calls [was], I'm not real sure," Bradley says. "But I'm pretty sure it has something to do with not being happy with what I'm saying."

I contacted three academic deans at the University of Missouri, asking for details about the calls. A university spokesman said they were too busy to respond. Monsanto's Scott Partridge, for his part, says that "we are not attacking Dr. Bradley. We respect him, his position, opinion, and his work. We respect him, and academics in general."

Bradley says criticism from people in Missouri's farming community whom he's known for years hits him even harder. "To have somebody say that what [I'm] saying is bad for Missouri agriculture, that's a hard one to take," he says. "There's not a lot of glory in these positions, or major financial incentive. We chose these jobs to help the farmers in our states."

Monsanto's explanation for what happened this summer, and how to prevent it, seems to be carrying the day in Washington, D.C. Two weeks ago, the Environmental Protection Agency [announced](#) that it will allow continued use of dicamba next year. The EPA is imposing a few additional restrictions on who can spray it, and when. Those restrictions will have little effect, or none at all, on damage caused by volatilization. Arkansas' proposal to ban use of dicamba during the growing season next summer has not yet received final approval. A public hearing on the proposal is set for Nov. 8.

Kevin Bradley thinks there's one positive result from the controversy. "It has made more farmers aware of what we do, and that is, unbiased research and calling it like we see it," he says.

Over the course of recent decades, publicly funded agricultural extension services have shrunk, and farmers have turned to seed and chemical companies for advice. "It's become so weighted towards — well, the companies did their research, and it said this, so that must be the way it is!" Bradley says. "You know what? Maybe that's not the way it is."



[Animal advocacy group files complaint against University of Missouri](#)

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

Watch video at: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/animal-advocacy-group-files-complaint-against-university-of-missouri/644993020>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - [Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research and Experiments has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service requesting that the USDA investigate the University of Missouri.](#)

The complaint alleges that the university failed to comply with the Animal Welfare Act and corresponding regulations after carrying out a series of experiments to study corneal wound healing in dogs.

The experiments consisted of inflicting lacerations and chemical burns on dog's eyes to study corneal wound healing and fibrosis. At the completion of the tests, the dogs were killed.

"We found the database search to be wholly lacking in any non-animal methods to study corneal healing," said CAARE's president Barbara Stagno. "A range of methods are available."

"What is most disturbing is the PI's claim that computer simulations or in vitro studies would not be in adequate for the study. However, we could not find a single review of a non-animal method in their database search to support this conclusion."

"The MU animal research oversight committee should never have approved these experiments. MU had many choices besides conducting invasive, painful, permanently disabling, and ultimately lethal experiments on young, healthy dogs."

The University responded to the claims by saying, "All studies were performed in accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Statement for the use of animals in Ophthalmic and Vision Research and were approved."

Animal research is only done when scientists believe there is no other way to study the problem, and our researchers respect their research animals greatly and provide the utmost care, the University said.



[Advocacy group files federal complaint against MU over dog experiments](#)

By ALEXIS REESE

Watch video at: <http://www.komu.com/news/advocacy-group-files-federal-complaint-against-mu-over-dog-experiments>

COLUMBIA –The University of Missouri is once again under fire for a controversial study it conducted in 2016 involving dogs.

The Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research & Experiments (CAARE) said the university failed to comply with the Animal Welfare Act. It also filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

The [Animal Welfare Act](#) requires “minimum standards of care and treatment be provided for certain animals bred for commercial sale, used in research, transported commercially, or exhibited to the public.”

CAARE said MU failed to follow these directives during a study where researchers studied eye injuries in dogs. They blinded the [six beagles](#), then eventually euthanized

The [purpose](#) of the research was “to develop painless or non-invasive treatments for corneal injuries to the eyes of people and dogs, such as search and rescue dogs and other service animals.”

This isn't the first time the research project has been criticized.

The Beagle Freedom Project first caught wind of the research being conducted by the university last year.

The university stated all studies were “performed under the accordance with the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology” and “were approved by the MU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.”

Barbara Stagno, the president of CAARE, said they focused on the possible alternatives to the study.

“We believe there’s many cases of research happening that can be replaced,” she said. “When I read these experiments they struck me as very replaceable by a number of technologies that have been available for 20 years.”

Some of these alternatives include clinical studies, in vitro research and ex vivo organ cultures.

After obtaining copies of the database used for the experiment, Stagno said the university was lacking in non-animal methods.

Christian Basi, spokesperson for MU, said their researchers go through every possibility before using animals for experiments.

“Our researchers investigate any and all possible ways to complete the research without doing animal research,” he said. “And so yes, we have hundreds of studies across campus that are using other methods for their studies.”

Without these studies, Basi said many procedures and treatments for injuries would not have been created.

Basi also said their projects are routinely inspected.

T COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

Arrest warrant issued, revoked in student death tampering case

By **CAITLIN CAMPBELL**

A junior University of Missouri film student charged with a felony in the death of his roommate avoided jail on Wednesday after a failed drug test prompted a judge to revoke his bond.

Boone County Circuit Court Judge Deborah Daniels issued an arrest warrant for DeAndre T. Winters, 20, who is charged with felony evidence tampering in connection with the Oct. 8 death of his roommate and fellow MU student, [Richard Ward III](#). Daniels previously allowed Winters to bond out of jail after lowering a \$100,000 cash-only bond Friday to a \$4,500 surety bond with GPS-monitored house arrest and drug screening three times a week.

According to a motion filed by Winters' attorney, Josh Oxenhandler, the basis for Daniels' bond revocation was the presence of the marijuana metabolites in a drug test, which Winters took upon his release from custody.

The timing of the test "is clearly indicative of marijuana use prior to his arrest and not related to any violation of his bond," Oxenhandler wrote. The statement supporting the charge against Winters claims he was a marijuana user, and that a mason jar possibly holding the drug was removed from the scene of Ward's death.

Oxenhandler said on Wednesday that he would not comment on pending litigation.

According to the Mayo Clinic and other research organizations, cannabis metabolites can be detected during a drug screen for weeks after consumption of the drug. How long the metabolites stay in the body depends on frequency of use, the clinic indicates.

Winters' "best friend and roommate passed away" and he "needs the opportunity to grieve," Oxenhandler wrote.

Daniels withdrew the arrest warrant Wednesday afternoon.

Winters' was charged with felony tampering after police said he concealed a firearm at the home where Ward died of a gunshot wound. Fellow MU student Devon Carter, 20, is also charged with evidence tampering in connection with Ward's death.

The Columbia Police Department has avoided calling Ward's death a homicide, and called its investigation into the circumstances of his passing a "death investigation." CPD spokeswoman Latisha Stroer reiterated Wednesday that the department is conducting a death investigation, and officials have not made a determination as to the cause of Ward's death. Officials have not released autopsy results.

Court documents provide some insight into the uncertainty surrounding Ward's death, as they indicate he might have shot himself.

Winters called 911 just before midnight on Oct. 7 to report his roommate had been shot at their home on Rolling Rock Drive. Officers who responded to the scene found Ward's body with an

apparent gunshot wound just outside the door of the home, and did not find any weapons at the home, according to a probable cause statement in the case. Police noted the body had been moved to its location outside the home.

Winters then told police that Ward had shot himself, and that before police arrived he called Carter to the home, the probable cause statement said. Carter arrived with his girlfriend, who tended to Ward's gunshot injury, according to the statement. At Winters' request, Carter removed from the house the gun Winters found lying next to his roommate's body, the statement said. Winters also told police he asked Carter to remove a mason jar from the home, which Carter's girlfriend later said might have held marijuana, according to the statement.

Possession of more than 35 grams of marijuana is a class D felony; possession of a gun while also in possession of more than 35 grams of marijuana is also a felony, and about two weeks before Ward died, Carter was charged with two felonies after being found in possession of a 9mm handgun and marijuana. An officer smelled the marijuana after pulling him over in a vehicle for expired license plate tags. The officer found the gun after Carter told the officer one was in the glove compartment, according to court documents.

According to Missouri law, tampering with physical evidence is typically a class A misdemeanor, which can carry a sentence of up to one year imprisonment. Tampering with evidence becomes a class E felony — which Winters and Carter are charged with — if a person “impairs or obstructs the prosecution or defense of a felony.” The charge can result in a prison sentence of up to four years, and a fine of up to \$10,000 under Missouri law.

The charges against Winters state that his intentional concealment of the handgun made it unavailable in the investigation of Ward's death, and thereby obstructed prosecution of “the crime of murder, a felony.” It is unclear why the document mentions murder, as no one has been charged with murder in connection with the shooting.



Bullying researchers say awareness days are key to ending community issue

By CAILEIGH PETERSON

Watch video at: <http://krcgtv.com/news/stop-bullying-mid-mo/bullying-researches-say-awareness-days-are-key-to-ending-community-issue>

COLUMBIA — Wednesday marked Unity Day as part of National Bullying Prevention Month. Schools and organizations across the country wore orange to bring awareness to bullying as a community issue.

Dr. Chad Rose with the University of Missouri College of Education said bullying awareness is important in tackling the issue.

"Bullying in a community issue. Bullying doesn't begin and end with the school bells. Kids are experiencing bullying 24 hours a day. It's one of those things where we have to understand that in order to reduce bullying in our schools, we also have to reduce bullying in our communities," Rose said.

The Bully Prevention Lab was created to assist schools review bullying principles and train staff.

Rose said it is important to focus on the steps schools and organizations have taken to stop bullying.

"I think when we look at what we're forced to consume regarding bullying, it's mostly tragedy and problems, but there are a lot of schools doing some great things in bully prevention," Rose said. "I think what we have to do is change that narrative to what we can do as opposed to what's happening in the landscape of bullying."



CMS experiment saves millions, decreases hospital visits

By [Virgil Dickson](#) | October 25, 2017

Generated from News Bureau press releases

The CMS has seen a drop in avoidable hospitalizations of seniors and generated nearly \$50 million in savings from an experiment that aimed to keep nursing home residents out of inpatient care.

The agency [recently touted the results](#) of its three-year Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents, which saw a 17% relative reduction in potentially avoidable hospitalizations in participating facilities.

"These findings provide persuasive evidence of the initiative's effectiveness in reducing hospital inpatient admissions, ED visits and hospitalization-related Medicare expenditures," the report said.

Under the model, third-party organizations known as enhanced care and coordination providers, or ECCPs, hired nurses to provide education and clinical support to nursing home staff and help keep residents out of the hospital. All in all, 143 nursing homes in seven states as well as health systems, universities and consultants participated in the program, which ran from 2012 to 2016.

One in four Medicare beneficiaries residing in a nursing home were hospitalized in 2011, costing the CMS \$14.3 billion, according to a new report from the HHS' Office of Inspector General. A Health Affairs study found that 47% of hospitalizations of nursing home residents were potentially avoidable.

Given the frail state of many nursing home residents, moving them to the hospital can do more harm than good since the stress of the transfer can worsen a patient's condition and make them even more expensive to treat over time.

"It's pure misery having a person with dementia sitting in an emergency room for hours waiting to be admitted," said Dr. Kathleen Unroe, a geriatrician and assistant professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine. IU is an ECCP in the CMS experiment.

About 65% of nursing home residents are on Medicaid, which doesn't reimburse at a high rate. As things are now, nursing homes have a financial incentive to hospitalize residents who have Medicaid coverage. After a 3-day inpatient stay, the resident may qualify for Medicare payment for post-acute care in the nursing home. Medicare pays at a rate that is three to four times the daily rate paid by Medicaid, [according to a](#) New England Journal of Medicine analysis.

Health systems that participated in the experiment as ECCPs praised the initiative, even though it aimed to reduce inpatient traffic, which could affect their bottom line. The providers acknowledged that it can be better to keep patients in surroundings they know.

"Very often, if a person has some confusion or some cognitive challenges, a hospitalization can be very difficult and they often lose ground," said Brenda Bergman-Evans, vice president of the advanced practice at CHI Health, a Nebraska-based health system made up of 15 acute-care hospitals.

Hospitals can also gain from reducing potentially avoidable Medicare admissions, as it reduces

the chance that they will get hit with a Medicare penalty. A 2015 study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society showed that patients discharged to a nursing home had a higher 30-day readmission rate than the general community, at 34.4% versus 22.6%.

Hospitals face [\\$564 million in readmission penalties next year](#). That's up \$27 million from this fiscal year.

"Hospitals are looking for ways to reduce readmissions of high-risk patients, who are often times nursing home residents who have chronic illnesses," said Amy Vogelsmeier, associate professor of nursing at the University of Missouri which served as an ECCP in Missouri.

The experiment could lead to a sea change in how nursing homes care for patients, where the facilities catch ailments early and address them in-house rather than sending residents to the hospital, according to Tim Johnson, executive director of the Greater New York Hospital Association Foundation, which served as the ECCP for New York.

"Most clinicians have been trained to believe that the hospital is the best place for anyone with an acute change of condition," Johnson said. "This belief can result in what turn out to be avoidable hospitalizations."

Initiative participants have moved on to the [second phase of the model](#), which pays nursing homes at Medicare rates to treat patients with one of six specific ailments in their facilities and out of hospitals.

The six conditions—pneumonia, dehydration, congestive heart failure, urinary tract infections, skin ulcers and asthma—are linked to approximately 80% of potentially avoidable hospitalizations among long term care facility residents, according to the CMS.

ECCPs believe this second phase will generate even better results than the first phase of the initiative and puts nursing homes on equal footing with rates to hospitals.

"If the nursing facility is providing the same level of care as a hospital why shouldn't they get the same level of reimbursement," said Deborah Huber, executive director for HealthInsight Nevada, the ECCP of that state. "This levels the playing field."

themaneater

MU's School of Social Work receives \$1.8 million grant to support integrated behavioral studies

Generated from News Bureau press release: [MU, UMSL awarded \\$1.8 million to train social workers for vulnerable, underserved areas](#)

By TATYANA MONNAY

The Schools of Social Work at MU and UM-St. Louis received a \$1.8 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

“The grant is a workforce training grant,” grant training director Suzanne Cary said. “So as a part of the grant we train both students and the existing workforce in integrated behavioral health settings.”

The HRSA grant will be disbursed over the next four years and fund stipends for 120 master’s students spread across both campuses in the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals Program.

“For MU, we will be training up to 18 students and 18 field instructors,” Cary said. “We are also providing education for the existing workforce that is across the state, not just for our field instructors but for all the folks that work at our various agencies.”

The grant provides students with a \$10,000 stipend for their advanced clinical practicum. It also provides field instructors who work at local agencies with a \$500 stipend. Grant recipients are able to use the stipends however they see fit, as long as it allows more time for their studies or improves their work in some way. The grant will also be used to assist students with behavioral health employment opportunities in needed areas once they are done with training.

“The requirements are that they do have to participate in the grant evaluation process,” Cary said. “They also have to commit to seeking employment in the integrated health or behavioral health field and seek a practicum in that area as well, and then they go through an application process.”

The grant recipients are studying integrated behavioral health, which is the study of the interaction between mental and physical health.

“[Integrated behavioral health is practiced] at a community health center or a primary care center,” Cary said. “You’re combining mental health or behavioral health with physical health, so you can get all of your needs met in one area. The whole reason for integrated behavioral health is that people were dying 25 years earlier with mental health issues because of associated physical problems that tend to accompany mental health.”

HRSA previously awarded a \$1 million grant to MU and UMSL that disbursed from 2014 to 2017.

Missouri is the leading state in employment for integrated behavioral health jobs, and many awards have been given within the state for fieldwork, Cary said.

“[The grant] gives students so many more opportunities,” Cary said. “In addition, it helps them seek out employment in the area of integrated behavioral health, so it helps them to find jobs and helps to train our proprietors through the whole state.”

Integrated behavioral health is a growing trend in social work, so MU and UMSL want to educate their students on the subject, Cary said.

“This is important work happening in important places,” said Sharon Johnson, dean of UMSL’s School of Social Work and lead principal investigator on the grant, in a press release. “Being able to build an educated and experienced workforce to deliver needed behavioral health services to vulnerable individuals and their families is beyond beneficial — it’s necessary.”



Records reveal more on Sigma Phi Epsilon's ouster at MU

By LUCAS GEISLER

Watch video at: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/top-stories/records-reveal-more-on-sigma-phi-epsilons-ouster-at-mu/645410744>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Despite national efforts to change the culture at Sigma Phi Epsilon's MU chapter, the organization decided to disband the group.**

Records obtained by ABC 17 News from the UM System reveal more about the national fraternity ending its chapter at MU in September.

The emails and notes show that national leaders "seriously entertained" shutting down the fraternity house during the Spring 2017 semester. The fraternity was cited for providing alcohol to minors and having hard liquor in their home at a February party. The fraternity was already on probation after four incidents in the last five semesters.

National leaders in Sigma Phi Epsilon conducted a membership review, which led to more than half of the members being suspended. Those members were still allowed to live in the home, in the 400 block of Kentucky Boulevard, for the rest of that semester.

Only the September letter from the national office to members references the football tailgate party held at the house, in which a bottle was allegedly thrown, cutting a 6-year-old walking nearby.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was at least the second fraternity to take action against its MU chapter since 2016. Delta Upsilon suspended its MU chapter for two years after numerous violations in the Fall 2016 semester.

The university withdrew its recognition of at least two fraternities as student organizations in that same time. Both Sigma Pi and Kappa Alpha Order received the punishment due to school rules violations, including hazing. Sigma Pi's lasts indefinitely, while Kappa Alpha Order's withdrawal lasts five years.

St. Louis **Business** Journal

35 above \$400,000: The highest-paid University of Missouri employees

Of the 35 highest-paid employees at the University of Missouri, all but two reside on Mizzou's campus and make more than \$400,000.

Between the University of Missouri Hospital and the university itself, working in Columbia, Missouri, pays off. Two deans from UMKC made the list of the top 29, but Missouri S&T doesn't make its first appearance until its chancellor, [Cheryl Schrader](#), who ranked 61st with 2017 pay of \$334,950. UMSL's chancellor, [Thomas George](#), ranked 72nd with \$319,802 in 2017.

These salaries were provided by the [University of Missouri System](#) for the fiscal 2017 rate of pay, assuming that each employee completes his or her contractual duties for the year.

The UM System is Missouri's public school system that consists of UMKC, UMSL, Missouri S&T and Mizzou; a health care system; an extension program; and 10 research and technology parks.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2017/10/26/35-above-400-000-the-highest-paid-university-of.html#g/422850/7>

Check out the 35 highest-paid employees in the gallery above. And [click here to access a searchable database of payroll records for nearly 11,000 University of Missouri System employees.](#)

MISSOURIAN

Enrollment for MU faculty health benefits closes Friday

By KATIE ROSSO

More than 2,400 MU faculty and staff members have not completed their annual health benefits enrollment with two days left, spokesman Christian Basi said in an email.

Annual health benefits enrollment for faculty and staff ends Oct. 27 at 11:59 p.m. Faculty and staff who do not waive coverage or submit a choice for medical insurance will be defaulted to the Healthy Savings Plan, and will have to pay taxes on premiums and be ineligible for the tobacco-free premium discount, according to an email sent to faculty and staff Oct. 25.

There are 8,432 eligible staff members, but the current completion rate of 71 percent is "extremely close" to past years at this time, Basi said.



New Graduation Requirement: Patriotism

College of the Ozarks president calls new required course “a balance against a pervasive negative view of America.”

NO MU MENTION

By NICK ROLL

Quick quiz: Where is Omaha Beach?

If your answer was Normandy, France, the site of the D-Day landings, you're correct. But Jerry Davis is worried that kids these days might wager Nebraska.

That's why the College of the Ozarks, where Davis is president, has launched a new required course for freshmen -- dubbed Patriotic Education and Fitness -- to combat what he sees as rising anti-American, antipatriotic sentiments in American culture that have been "bubbling for many years." How much that is true versus how much that is his perception is certainly up for debate, but given that one of the college's five pillars is "patriotic education," the course certainly fits the culture of the Christian liberal arts college.

The college held a media day for local outlets in Point Lookout, Mo., Monday to show off the new four-credit course, which was piloted both semesters last year and debuted in earnest as a requirement for freshmen this semester. At the media day, a formation of students marched through campus and stood at attention as Davis addressed them. Terrence Dake, a Board of Trustees member and retired Marine general, told them to stand at ease before continuing with another address.

Speaking by phone with Inside Higher Ed Wednesday, Davis had criticisms of the younger generation but said the course -- which combines elements from ROTC programming, physical education courses and the college's patriotic education pillar -- was about building a positive citizenry.

"We can all be patriots, but we all can't be in the military. But we need to understand each other," he said. "We think that higher education should take a leadership role in closing what we think is a cultural gap, if you will, between the 99 percent [of American citizens] that don't serve in the military, and the 1 percent that does."

"We don't need that gulf to widen -- we need it to close."

The course includes physical- and military-oriented education components -- such as map reading, rifle marksmanship, military organization and protocol regarding the American flag -- as well as civics and government aspects. While the course is certainly oriented toward patriotism, it isn't necessarily partisan; the college's website prominently lists both College Republicans and College Democrats chapters as ways for students to become civically engaged.

"We don't need a bunch of kids running around thinking Omaha Beach is in Nebraska," he said. "There's a remarkable amount of ignorance in college students, no matter what their grades, nowadays. And it goes back to how they've been taught."

Davis wants colleges to "be intentional" about patriotism. But as the National Football League has come under scrutiny with accusations of "forced patriotism" in putting its players on the field for the national anthem, Davis rebuffed the idea that requiring a course on patriotism might dilute its purpose. "We require them to take English and other things, because we think it's important," he said. "It communicates a value, that it's important."

He added that in his four decades as a college president, he's "never found students reluctant to criticize anything," from parking lots to dining-hall options, and doubted that this course would leave to students reluctant to criticize the military or the United States.

Davis also said that he had received inquiries wondering whether the course was a reaction to recent protests by NFL players -- originally started last year by former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick -- which involve kneeling during the national anthem. The protests have played out in various sports and at various colleges as a way to protest police brutality against African-Americans, but its detractors have said it's disrespectful to the military. The College of the Ozarks concurred, and in September, Davis announced that the Bobcats would not play opponents whose teams don't stand for the national anthem.

"The college itself has a patriotic goal. And if you look at what that goal is, we define it as [encouraging] understanding of American heritage, civic responsibilities, love of country and willingness to defend it," he said. "That's one of the ways we do that, is with this course. It's not a reaction to something."

While he said that "people in this part of the country" generally aren't fans of "disrespect of the national anthem," he also believes that had been the consensus for a long time.

Though the course will almost certainly draw liberal or leftist detractors from around academe, Davis expressed confidence in the course's potential to be a positive impact in students' lives.

"I want them to have an appreciation for the country in which we live. They should understand how it works, and they should understand more about the military and how it operates," he said. "And they should come away with the idea that we're all Americans, and we have these things -- or should have these things -- in common."