MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

March 16, 2018
Annual Mizzou Giving Day raises more than
$13.7 million


COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri officials announced on Thursday that the annual Mizzou Giving Day raised more than $13.7 million.

The event surpassed last year's total by more than $5 million. The event was celebrated on from Wednesday to Thursday.

“The support we have received from Mizzou alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends shows how much this university and its mission means to them,” said Todd McCubbin, executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association.

“Private support for Mizzou is an important part of growing the university. We asked our supporters to step up through Mizzou Giving Day and they did in record fashion. They are all-in on making Mizzou stronger.”

The School of Journalism, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business, and the College of Engineering raised the most money.

The new Mizzou Alumni Association Scholarship Challenge raised more than $122,000 for students scholarships through the Mizzou Giving Day website. Every dollar given through the website for the challenge was matched up to $2,500 per participating local chapter or affinity organization.
MU donors give more than $13.7 million on Mizzou Giving Day, surpassing last year’s total by $5 million

By Ryan Matheny

(Columbia, MO) -- Alumni and friends show their love for the University of Missouri by donating more than $13.7 million for the annual Mizzou Giving Day. This year's event topped the 2017 total by more than five-million dollars. The Mizzou Giving Day campaign ran from 12 P-M Wednesday to 12 P-M Thursday. The day started with a one-point-two-five-million-dollar gift to the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The Mizzou Alumni Association raised 122-thousand dollars for scholarships. Executive Director Todd McCubbin says private support is an important part of growing the university, and the supporters are "all-in on making Mizzou stronger." Mizzou Giving Day is part of the larger "Mizzou: Our Time to Lead" campaign with an overall fundraising goal of one-point-three-billion dollars.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapters at both the University of Missouri and the University of Kansas have been closed indefinitely this month by the fraternity's national headquarters.

By Katy Bergen
The Sigma Alpha Epsilon national headquarters said multiple health and safety violations prompted the closures after both chapters were investigated earlier this school year.

"All of the collegiate members have been suspended indefinitely from the Fraternity," national spokesperson Johnny Sao said in a statement related to the Mizzou closure. "The chapter will remain closed for no less than four years or until the last current members have graduated or left the institution."

The Mizzou chapter was issued the cease-and-desist order in December after allegations of infractions surfaced. It was not clear what those violations entailed.

Chapter president Ben Widger said that fraternity leaders were informed on a Monday night phone call from fraternity service center representatives that it was being shut down.

"We’re all pretty shocked and blindsided," Widger, a sophomore, said.

Widger said that after he took office in November, he and other chapter leaders initiated a membership review, and ultimately decided that 26 fraternity members should be expelled from the chapter, a "huge deal" for fraternity leadership. Shortly after, the chapter was informed by headquarters than an anonymous letter had prompted an investigation.

Widger said he and other members complied with the cease-and-desist order and "shutting us down didn’t seem like it was on the table."

He said that he was provided few details about what the original allegations were or what findings ultimately prompted the chapter's closing.

"Even if things went on that shouldn’t have gone on, even though I don’t think they were to a degree that warranted shutting down, we took steps to fix that," Widger said. "I feel like (the membership review) wasn't taken into account."

The members of Mizzou's Sigma Alpha Epsilon must vacate their house by next Friday.

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Kansas was ordered to suspend operations on Jan. 19.

On Jan. 31, before it's closure by its national headquarters, the KU chapter was sanctioned by the university for violations related to "organizational responsibility," "harm to persons," and "hazing."

The closings come as both national fraternity centers and university officials across the country have cracked down on violations related to hazing, alcohol consumption and sexual assault.

This week, the Interfraternity Council at KU on Monday announced a self-imposed temporary freeze on all activities for the 24 fraternities that it governs. Chapter presidents have pushed back against the freeze, which was implemented by a small group of Interfraternity Council executive officers.
Fraternity leaders will determine whether the freeze will remain in place at a meeting on Thursday night.

At least two other fraternities, including Delta Upsilon and Sigma Phi Epsilon, have been sanctioned for misbehavior at KU since the beginning of the spring semester. A warning related to behavior connected to hazing expired for the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity in December.

A similar freeze was initiated at Mizzou, where at least 11 chapters are under investigation by the University of Missouri’s Office of Student Accountability and Support, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune.

The Interfraternity Council suspended new member activities at all fraternities for two weeks on March 8.

---

**MU opens nation's first online veterinary public health masters degree**

Thursday, March 15, 2018 5:15:00 PM CDT in News
By: Rob Veno, KOMU 8 Reporter

COLUMBIA - **The MU Vet school is accepting applications for the nation's first online veterinary public health master’s degree.**
Program director Lise Saffran said the degree is designed to help students lead efforts worldwide in animal disease prevention and how it impacts humans.

"We need people who understand how humans, animals and the environment interact," she said.

The program will focus on the relationship between animal health and humans. For example, someone could study how the deer population in mid-Missouri impacts the tick population, and therefore the number of cases of Lyme Disease in the area.

"We really don't spend a lot of time thinking about what are the relationship between humans, animals, environmental health, and what does that mean for our future," Saffran said.
According to the World Health Organization, the need to prevent diseases in animals worldwide is on the rise. The organization says about 75 percent of the new diseases that have affected humans over the past 10 years have been caused by pathogens originating in animals.

"We encounter animals that have an impact on our health everyday, and in all aspects of our lives," Saffran said.

According to Stacy Snow, a spokesperson for Mizzou Online, putting the program online is part of the school's mission to make programs accessible.

"The more we move online, the more we achieve that mission," she said.

The university has offered a campus version of the program, but according to Kristofer Hagglund, dean of the School of Health Professions, putting the program online will open up the opportunity to far more students.

“Creating access to education at this level and in a field so critically important to societal wellbeing is at the center of our mission,” he said.

Saffran said it will also make the program more accessible to current professionals, giving them an opportunity to grow, while improving the quality of classes.

"Even students who are just beginning their careers, then have the opportunity to sit in a virtual classroom, with people who have been working in veterinary medicine for a very long time," she said.

The program accepted its first student Thursday. The online classes start in August.
Faurot Field south end zone work underway

by Mark Slavit, Thursday, March 15th 2018

COLUMBIA — Demolition crews were tearing down the south end zone of Mizzou’s football stadium.

The work is part of a $98 million improvement project at Faurot Field and replaces the stadium’s concrete seating structure with state-of-the-art training facilities for Mizzou football.

Tiger football fans will see more premium seating opportunities because of the changes.

Construction crews will work on the project through the upcoming football season.

“We’ll be ready for the 2019 season. During the 2018 season, you’ll see the construction move along and progress,” MU Deputy Athletics Director Tim Hickman said. "During the season, we’ll be able to watch how that progresses. It will be ready for the 2019 season.”

When the new south end zone opens for business in 2019, it will feature 16 suites and a 750-person field-level club that is similar to AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The demolition ends next week.
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY TOUTED AS BEST COLLEGE CAMPUS IN AMERICA

By Joel Hulsey

ST. LOUIS — Seriously, what did St. Louis do to get this much positive national attention in the span of one week?

Earlier this week, Washington University was named the No. 1 college campus in the country by Niche on its list of 2018 Best College Campuses in America. The list ranked schools based on school resources, performance venues, housing, food and recreational facilities, among other factors.

Washington University earned an overall rating of A+, with its highest-touted ratings coming in their academics, campus, professors, student life and total value. Their two lowest rankings, a B and B+, came as means of security and athletics.

"There's no place like home," said Washington University's Facebook page in response to the ranking.

The other schools to round out the top five campuses were Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine; Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.; California Baptist University in Riverside, Cali.; and University of California - Los Angeles.

**The University of Missouri in Columbia ranked as the 88th best campus, and Saint Louis University ranked as the 549th best campus in the list. No other Missouri schools made the cut.**
Gov. Greitens gets to choose the people who will investigate him for an ethics violation

By Will Schmitt

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Eric Greitens faces the unusual and politically unenviable task of handpicking Missourians to join a state watchdog agency that investigates ethics violations — including a complaint against Greitens himself.

Three of six seats on the bipartisan Missouri Ethics Commission will be vacant as of Friday. Greitens has yet to nominate anyone to fill those seats.

"The effect is that, as of tomorrow and until the next commissioner is appointed and confirmed, the commission will not have a quorum to meet," said James Klahr, the executive director of the ethics commission, declining to comment specifically on any individual complaint or investigation pending.

Like many state boards and commissions, members of the Missouri Ethics Commission are appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate.

For as long as Greitens does not appoint members, the commission will not able to investigate complaints against him or anyone else — such as the allegations against Greene County related to potential misuse of public resources to advocate for a sales tax increase.

A working commission also could consider a complaint filed Wednesday against the Republican governor by a former chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party, alleging that Greitens misled the ethics commission during an earlier investigation.

Due to the timing of the vacancies, Greitens is now in the position to appoint the people who will investigate him or, by leaving the seats vacant, delay an investigation altogether.

"This is, of course, an unusual situation," said Peverill Squire, a political science professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "The governor will likely find it hard to identify people who are willing to serve, given the complaint they would likely have to assess. The vacant ethics commission positions may well remain unfilled until after the governor’s current situation is resolved.

"That would, of course, mean that he would still face an ethics complaint should he survive the House investigation and the criminal case."

Greitens is fighting a felony charge of invasion of privacy, and a special legislative committee has been meeting behind closed doors to understand the facts underlying his indictment.
Dave Robertson, a professor of political science at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, noted that the multiple scandals enveloping Greitens have put him on the defensive and made him more isolated as a politician.

"Fair or unfair, all these different investigations are enveloping Greitens in a fog of public suspicion and distrust," Robertson said. "He will only make it worse if he does not present nominees for the ethics commission."

The ethics commission situation troubled two GOP senators, who spoke for about 15 minutes on the Senate floor Thursday to enumerate their concerns.

"I'm concerned that even if they do act and appoint someone that we have a constitutional crisis now on our plate," said Sen. Bob Dixon, R-Springfield.

"And we have seen how the governor can insist that people are appointed only who kind of agree to do his bidding, as in the state Board of Education," replied Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph, referencing Greitens' string of appointments to the state school board in order to oust the former commissioner of education.

"Can you imagine the verbal arm-twisting of the person (Greitens) would appoint to the ethics commission?" Schaaf continued, implying that the governor, whom he frequently criticizes, would lean on anyone he picks to join the Missouri Ethics Commission. "That's just not cool."

Story continues.

NFOIC joins a renowned FOI Center and First Amendment Project at the College of Journalism and Communications
The University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications and the National Freedom of Information Coalition today announced that NFOIC will be relocating its headquarters to the University of Florida.

UF’s College of Journalism will now be home to three units at the forefront of freedom of information and First Amendment issues: NFOIC, the Joseph L. Brechner Center for Freedom of Information and the Marion B. Brechner First Amendment Project. NFOIC will be located inside the Brechner Center and the two organizations will collaborate to create research and public-awareness projects advancing the access rights of journalists, and all citizens, to information about issues of public concern.

**NFOIC, currently located at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, is a nonpartisan alliance of state and regional organizations promoting collaboration, education and advocacy for open government, transparency and freedom of information (FOI). Its affiliates include citizen-driven nonprofit FOI organizations, academic and First Amendment centers and journalistic societies.**

The Brechner Center, founded in 1977, works to educate journalists, policymakers and the general public about the law of access today and how it should work tomorrow. The Center is a source of research, expertise and advocacy about the law of gathering and disseminating news across all platforms and technologies.

The Marion B. Brechner First Amendment Project is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to current and contemporary issues affecting the First Amendment freedoms of speech, press, thought, assembly and petition. Its activities include filing legal briefs, authoring scholarly articles, publishing op-ed commentaries and presenting speeches and papers at conferences and symposia across the country.

“By forming an alliance, our efforts in protecting and advancing the public’s access to information will be amplified. This is particularly true at the state and local level, where civic life at the grassroots level is fundamental to a well-functioning democracy,” said Diane McFarlin, UFCJC dean. “This work is more critical than ever.”

“Relocating to UFCJC and working with the prestigious Brechner Center strengthens our goal to enact needed legislative and administrative reforms to government transparency,” said NFOIC Board President Mal Leary. “The challenge to ensure state and local governments and public institutions provide access to their records and proceedings continues to grow.” Leary is a political correspondent for Maine Public.

The Brechner Center is led by Frank LoMonte, a nationally known media lawyer and former executive director of the Student Press Law Center. He was named director of the Brechner Center in 2017. The Brechner First Amendment Center is headed by Professor Clay Calvert, Ph.D., the Brechner Eminent Scholar in Mass Communication at UFCJC and one of the top First Amendment scholars in the country.

"With this strategic alliance, and with the vast resources of our journalism and law schools, the University of Florida becomes the preeminent center of thought leadership about improving public policy to advance the public's access to essential information,” LoMonte said. “The NFOIC's work as the nation's watchdog over state legislation affecting the public's right-to-know complements and augments our role at the Brechner Center in working with stakeholders from
journalism, government, law and technology to make information more accessible and civically useful."

NFOIC plans to complete its relocation by summer 2018.