Frats still studying Dyad report

By Rudi Keller

Since the University of Missouri received a consultant’s report in late October warning that it needed to act to change the culture of fraternity life on campus, two fraternities have been shut down by their national governing organizations and two have been put on disciplinary probation for hazing.

One of the shuttered fraternities, Sigma Phi Epsilon, is being sued over an alleged assault by two members who are also facing felony charges for breaking one student’s jaw and knocking out another one’s tooth. Members at the other, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, have until Thursday to move out of their chapter house at 24 E. Stewart Road, president Ben Widger said.

Meanwhile, the recommendations from Dyad Strategies — to change recruitment, ban freshmen from living in chapter houses and require residents’ rooms to be open for inspection during parties — are still being studied, MU Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga said Friday. One of the objections to banning freshmen, Zeilenga said, is that many fraternity operating corporations are in debt for large new houses and need revenue to meet mortgage payments.

“Over the last 15 years or so, they have built some really, really big frat houses that accommodate a lot of students, so the economic model is to keep those houses as full as possible,” Zeilenga said.

A decision on removing freshmen from chapter houses will be made late in the spring or in early summer, when the full set of policy changes prompted by the report are made, Zeilenga said. The full response to the report is being studied by five working groups established by a fraternity and sorority advisory board made up of faculty, students, staff and parents, he said.

If the change is made, it will likely not take effect until fall 2019, he said.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon in December was ordered to cease operations by the national fraternity and the notice to suspend operations and vacate came on Monday, Widger said. The notice caught members by surprise, he said, because there was no investigative visit, no particulars with the general charges and no chance to appeal the decision, he said.

“I looked into that,” he said. “The national is pretty much the judge, jury and executioner here. I have had a lot of alumni contact me and they are very upset with this and how this all went.”
Sigma Alpha Epsilon has not been sanctioned by the university since fall 2016. The national fraternity acted on an anonymous letter that made allegations the chapter was not allowed to see, Widger said.

“We were in great standing with the university,” Widger said. “We didn’t fail any audits in the last year and a half.”

The statement issued by the national organization cited “multiple health-and-safety violations and an inability to adhere to the national organization’s standards and guidelines” but gave no specifics. The statement was similar to the one issued in December, when Sigma Alpha Epsilon was ordered to cease operations. The national fraternity has declined to comment further on its actions.

“We conducted an internal membership review a week before we got this anonymous letter sent in against us,” Widger said. “We kicked out 26 guys. That was one of the difficult things that I say defines my time there, because some of those guys were good friends. Everything I did was in the best interest of the house and I learned a lot about myself.”

Widger is a sophomore who lived in a dorm as a freshman. Transitioning to the fraternity house, with its added distractions, was difficult enough as a sophomore, he said.

“I totally agree with that,” he said. “That is something that adds a lot of pressure and added difficulties to college life.”

Dyad was paid $22,000 for its work producing the report and has been paid $15,000 since to help guide implementation. Dyad recommended a more robust oversight office and a different relationship between the administration and Greek organizations to end the perception that all the university was concerned with was punishing violations.

The Office of Greek Life, now Fraternity and Sorority Life, had only two employees, little positive engagement with the organizations and “it appears the office bounces from one fire to the next, spending the bulk of its time advising council officers and responding to allegations of misconduct ...” Dyad’s report stated.

Other Southeastern Conference schools have much larger staff working with their Greek organizations, Zeilenga said. The MU office will add two new employees soon and will be proactive in working with the chapters, he said.

“When we double the staff, we are going to be in a much, much better position to provide that kind of support to the community,” he said.

There are four governing councils for Greek organizations, but most of the problems identified by Dyad that give chapters a reputation for bad behavior are among the Interfraternity Council groups. All five actions to close or suspend chapters in the past two years have targeted IFC organizations.

The IFC did not respond to requests for comment.
The working groups are each working on a different part of the report, Zeilenga said. Four are specifically dealing with the IFC issues — freshmen and housing, MU’s definition of hazing as it relates to the state law making hazing a crime and national standards, how to manage alcohol and when recruiting should take place.

The fifth, he said, is looking at diversity in Greek organizations. The IFC and the Panhellenic Association govern fraternities and sororities that have been on campus since it was segregated. The National Panhellenic Council governs traditionally black fraternities and the Multicultural Greek Council, the newest governing group, oversees organizations that have a cultural or ethnic basis.

The goal is to have greater diversity in IFC and PHA organizations and strengthen the chapters in the other two councils, Zeilenga said.

The chapters on disciplinary probation for hazing after a university investigation are Farmhouse and Beta Theta Pi. State law makes hazing a misdemeanor unless it creates a “substantial risk to the life of the student or prospective member,” when it becomes a felony.

MU has not referred any individual found to have engaged in hazing for prosecution but it is training a team to do better hazing investigations, Zeilinga said.

The most common sanctioned violations involve alcohol, often because of underage drinking. The Dyad report recommended one step that could curtail problems associated with alcohol or drug use — opening resident rooms for inspection during social event audits.

“The glaring flaw of the current social audit process involves the fact that residents’ rooms remain closed during audits,” the report stated. “As a result, if a social event is happening, members and guests merely step into rooms and close the doors until the audit is completed.”

The recommendation should be implemented despite privacy concerns, Widger said.

“I could definitely see the concerns but at the end of the day if it helps this entire Greek community be safer and reduce tragic incidents, I am for it,” he said.
MU's Marshall Stewart: 'Our campus is the 114 counties of Missouri'

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY Mar 18, 2018 (2) 7 min to read

Marshall Stewart believes most strategic plans are doomed to fail without the right culture in place. In January, as MU’s vice chancellor for Extension and Engagement, he started a statewide book club for Extension faculty and staff.

The book is Roger Connors’ "Change the Culture, Change the Game," a New York Times bestseller that teaches the extreme importance of support within an organization preceding any strategic goal.

Stewart expected few people to be interested, but over 250 signed up.

That’s Stewart’s brand. By starting something as easy to join and potentially enriching as a book club, he’s doing his job: simultaneously teaching, learning from and connecting with people around Missouri. He’s showing them how to build successful cultures in their communities and workplaces, and he’s building a statewide culture of its own.

His way to accomplish this is collaborative at every level. He doesn’t want to simply tell people what the mission is. He wants to show them, so they can see for themselves why it’s important.

An avid bass fisherman and North Carolina native with a Southern accent and a perpetual half-smile, Stewart took over Extension in August 2016. He gravitates to the sweet spot of his job where extending the university intersects with engaging citizens. He doesn’t believe in leading as a sage on the stage, as the aphorism goes: “You do it as a guide on the side.”
When he travels across the state to meet people, Stewart recognizes he’s on their turf — bringing MU with him, yes, but in a posture of partnership. Extension is a network with offices in each of Missouri’s 114 counties that spreads the knowledge generated by MU to the people of the state. Extension offers 4H and programs to promote leadership, entrepreneurship and community involvement.

What lured Stewart from North Carolina State University, his alma mater and professional home for decades, was MU’s vision of the role Extension and Engagement could play in its identity as a land grant institution. The Morrill Act, first passed when Abraham Lincoln was president, established universities on public land to educate citizens.

Stewart is working to build MU into the pinnacle of what a land grant school can be, one where the school is connected to the people and the people are connected to the school. He wants to build mutual trust, understanding and support between MU and the community, and he’s doing that by going out into the communities and leading the way.

He sees MU as an institution with distinct potential. It’s comprehensive — as if the University of North Carolina were combined with N.C. State, he’s fond of saying. He believes that MU, by leveraging Extension and Engagement, can serve Missouri residents more fully than any other university.

This idea of educators going above and beyond to reach out to their communities is personal for Stewart.

When he was growing up in a farm community in North Carolina, it never occurred to him that he’d go to N.C. State. One day, when he was 14, an agriculture teacher from his high school, a man named Adolph Warren, paid a home visit to the Stewarts.

“I remember I was terrified that a teacher would show up at my home,” Stewart said with a laugh.
But Warren was there to encourage Stewart and to tell his father he thought the young man should go to N.C. State. This simple act, a teacher coming to him and providing faith and encouragement, changed Stewart’s life. He and his father knew that day that Stewart would probably go there. A vision for a different future emerged.

Stewart, 54, holds three degrees from N.C. State: a bachelor’s in agricultural education, a master’s in agricultural sciences and a Ph.D. in agricultural and extension education.

“I wouldn’t be here today had it not been for Adolph Warren,” Stewart said.

He was an FFA member, then a state officer, and later worked at the National FFA Organization. At N.C. State, he was an agricultural educator and an administrator. He was hired by MU in May 2016 and started the job three months later after moving to Columbia with his wife, Jan. Their grown son lives in Washington, D.C.

Stewart has traveled to more than 100 Missouri counties, shaking hands, giving speeches, listening to people and making connections. More than once, he’s been reminded of his rural North Carolina past, a 14-year-old unaware of his potential.

He’s found that sometimes people aren’t aware of just how much MU and MU Extension can help them. “I’ll say, ‘Tell me about broadband connectivity,’” Stewart said, referring to the challenge of internet access in rural communities. “And some will say, ‘What is broadband?’”

As he’s traveled to some of the state’s struggling areas, Stewart has recalled his childhood home when tobacco, textiles and furniture-making industries dramatically changed. Tearing up, Stewart described how he saw counties shrink in population as economic opportunity drained away and people left town. The struggling areas of Missouri are all too familiar.

“You look in their faces and see the pain,” he said.

The three pillars of a healthy community are the economy, health care access and a high-quality education system, Stewart said in a Feb. 22 speech at the Pettis County annual Extension Council
meeting. They’re interrelated: When one pillar is weak, it hurts the others; when one is strong, it helps. Extension can strengthen all three pillars, Stewart said, fortifying communities.

Stewart wants to do for the people of Missouri what Warren, the teacher, did for him.

“We not only have 31,000 students on campus. We have six million Missourians across the state who we are charged to serve,” Stewart said. “That’s what it means to be a land grant.”

Stewart has fallen in love with Missouri since he moved here.

It’s obvious in the way he waxes over where the best barbecue can be found, or when he grows animated talking with the Pettis County sheriff about how you can trace the population and history of the state along the Missouri River.

It comes out when he talks about how kind and welcoming the people are, how much he believes in the work being done by MU’s leadership or the differing pronunciations of crappie — which Stewart pronounces “crappy,” saying that’s how they said it back home.

What Stewart loves most about the state is the authenticity. He has loved going to the state fair, county Extension meetings and barbecues in the basements of churches or the ballrooms of motels.

“Our campus is the 114 counties of Missouri,” Stewart said.

Last year, Stewart visited an Amish community in northwestern Missouri. There was a produce market where home-grown fruits and vegetables were sold, and afterward everyone ate together. A woman approached Stewart, warning him that if he didn’t get in line soon he’d miss out on her famous strawberry pie — she wanted to make sure he tried it.

“That’s Missouri,” Stewart said.
When you’re in the car with someone you have two choices: Turn up the radio to listen to the music, or turn it down so you can have a conversation. Stewart chooses the second option, according to MU’s dapper Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Kevin McDonald.

“He’s all about engagement — 24/7 — he engaged me on the way here in the car,” McDonald said with a laugh.

The two of them started at MU about the same time, and McDonald rode along in Stewart’s white Ford pickup to the Pettis County meeting.

On that hourlong ride to Sedalia’s Best Western State Fair Inn, the two friends talked the whole time. “The GPS is the only other voice we heard,” McDonald said.

He described Stewart as exceptionally collaborative, relational, passionate and authentic.

“He couldn’t be someone else if he tried,” McDonald said, and if he were, “I wouldn’t have ridden here with him.”

Stewart worked the room at the Pettis County event like a seasoned conductor before an orchestra. He drew laughs with his tales of traveling Missouri. He slyly tossed in a request for more higher education funding to Sen. Sandy Crawford, R-Buffalo. He ate his plate clean and declared it the best barbecue he’d had in the state — adding he’d told every other county that as well.

Stewart strikes an impressive balance of practiced authenticity. His passion for his job and his new home is endearing, and his slight drawl and sense of humor disarm rural Missouri residents who may not expect to meet someone from MU with whom they connect so much.

“When I first started to talk, they’d say, ‘Are you sure you’re from the university?’” Stewart told the crowd to laughter.

Stewart described, in his speech, a hotel he stayed at in Missouri with a sign reminding occupants: “Don’t clean fish in room.”
When he saw that, he said, he texted a photo to his son, who responded: “Dad, these are your people!” Stewart agrees.

Along with that story, Stewart has a solid bullpen of about a half-dozen colorful anecdotes from his travels that he tells to most counties he visits — but that doesn’t make them less true or meaningful. Stewart obviously adores traveling Missouri and meeting its people, and the fun is infectious.

At the end of the event there was a drawing to win a few small prizes, and McDonald’s name was picked to take home a little stuffed MU tiger.

“Hey! I need to come with you more often!” he said to Stewart.

Stewart describes his job as though he’s just a middleman. He doesn’t have the answers, he emphasizes, he just listens and tries to connect people. The book club he started is the perfect example of Stewart’s leadership philosophy in action, the same philosophy that has pushed him to personally visit nearly every Missouri county and often go to two or three events a week.

He recalled a Missouri School of Journalism program that wanted to lead a two-day seminar in Columbia where employees of small-town newspapers would come to learn editing skills.

What wasn’t fully realized, Stewart said, is that rural Missouri newspaper editors often aren’t just that. They’re also farmers, small business owners, school board members or Little League Baseball coaches. They don’t have time to drop everything and come to Columbia for two days.

Instead, his team worked with the Journalism School to organize a traveling seminar where journalism faculty went out and shared their knowledge directly. As a result, they were able to reach many more people, he said, and the best approach wouldn’t have been obvious if he hadn’t made the effort to know Missouri residents personally.

“This is the Show-Me state,” Stewart said. “You’ve got to show them.”

“My job is to bring people together,” he said, “and let the magic happen.”
MU raises $13.7 million in one-day campaign


By Columbia Daily Tribune

University of Missouri students, faculty, staff and alumni combined to raise $13.7 million on the second annual Mizzou Giving Day, surpassing the total from last year by $5.5 million, the university said in a news release.

The one-day fundraising campaign included a $1.25 million estate commitment from Virginia and Charles Peterson to support the Virginia E. Peterson Scholarship in Biochemistry. Virginia Peterson retired in 2011 after 31 years on the faculty. The Mizzou Student Foundation, which provides funding for scholarships, raised $7,755 and the new Mizzou Alumni Association Scholarship Challenge raised more than $122,000, the university said.

Mizzou Giving Day is part of the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign that has a goal of raising $1.3 billion to support increasing the university’s endowment, funding signature academic centers and institutes, renovating facilities and expanded learning opportunities.

The fundraising day encouraged competition between schools for the largest donation totals and the greatest number of donations with matching funds and prizes.
COLUMBIA, Mo. - Columbia fire crews responded Monday morning to the Mark Twain residence hall on the Mizzou campus.

Residents were evacuated just after 6 a.m. when a fire was reported fire at 515 S. 5th Street.

Crews told ABC 17 news a small fire ignited in a grill outside the building, triggering the evacuation and response.

It was under control as crews arrived and no injuries or damage to the building occurred.

Firefighters cleared the scene about 30 minutes later.

Nearly 100 medical students and their families crowded into Acuff Gallery in the MU School of Medicine on Friday, smiling, laughing, but anxious.
In their hands were white envelopes containing letters with where they would spend the next several years during their residencies.

After months of applying, interviewing and touring residency programs around the country, the students learned their future on Match Day, an annual event held at the MU School of Medicine and other medical schools nationwide for the National Residency Matching Program. Students rank their residency program preference, program directors rank the students and the program uses that data to find the best matches.

At 11 a.m., the students burst into tears, hugged their families or screamed.

“I just kept reading it over and over because I thought surely there must be an error,” said Alan Keller, who will complete his residency in general surgery at his top choice, Oregon Health and Science University. “I’m just elated.”

Of the 96 graduating medical students, 99 percent of the class received a residency program match. Last year, the acceptance rate was 98 percent. They are just a few of the 43,000 medical school graduates nationwide who competed for 31,000 residency positions each year.

Nine of them have spent the last two years studying in Springfield under a partnership with CoxHealth and Mercy Health Systems, the MU medical school said in a news release. They are the first graduating medical students from the Springfield campus program, which university administrators are seeking state funding to continue.

Nathan Beckett specialized in pediatrics during his time at MU. He’ll continue his residency at MU, and felt relieved and honored along with some pressure when he opened his envelope. Twenty-seven percent of the students will stay on the MU campus for their residency training.

“It’s a really important responsibility,” Beckett said. “I’m really happy the university has trusted me with that responsibility so I’m excited and really hopeful about the future.”

During a residency a physician can practice medicine under the supervision of an attending physician. It can take three to seven years, depending upon the program and specialty.

“It’s important for them to be at a place where they can be happy,” Associate Dean for Student Programs Laine Young-Walker said.

Kelsey Clary is going into pediatrics at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. She is one of the 39 percent of the students who will remain in Missouri.

“I just really like primary care and children are the patient population that I like to work with the most,” Clary said. “It gives me a lot of options if I decide I do want to specialize in a body system after residency, so I knew I wanted to do that for quite a while.”

Clary and Beckett are both going into high-need primary care fields, which also include internal medicine, pediatrics and family medicine.
Engaged couple snags top-choice residency program at MU Match Day

BY ALEXIS ALLISON Mar 16, 2018 (0)

Generated from MU Health Care press release.

Their relationship was a match made in medical school.

What they didn’t know was that it would lead to another match, one long-awaited by fourth-year medical students and graduates across the world, and which presented itself Friday in envelopes unsealed and futures sealed.

Jeff Shuler, 27, and Bri Herriott, 26, from Kansas City and Lee’s Summit, respectively, met in their first year in MU’s School of Medicine. By the beginning of their fourth year, they were engaged. Not long after, they were applying together for pediatric residency programs.

At Friday’s Match Day ceremony, in which fourth-year medical students from MU and their families found out which residency programs chose them, Shuler and Herriott discovered that they’ll be together professionally for three more years at their top-choice pediatric program, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

“We didn’t know it would happen, but it did, and we’re very excited,” Shuler said.

Match Day took place in a wall-to-wall crowded Acuff Gallery. At 11 a.m., students opened envelopes that revealed where they’ll continue their next phase of medical training. The event
occurred at medical schools across the country, according to a news release from the National Resident Matching Program.

The class of 2018 comprises 98 students, according to MU Health Care spokesperson Jen Coffman. Ninety-six of them received a match Friday. Twenty-seven percent of the class will remain at MU, 39 percent will remain in Missouri, and 41 percent — including Shuler and Herriott — will join residency programs in high-need primary care fields such as internal medicine, family medicine and pediatrics. Another student was matched through the military matching system in December.

Shuler, whose parents met through medical school more than 40 years ago, had been considering pediatrics for a long time. One of his older brothers, born with Down Syndrome, died before Shuler was born. Shuler said he hopes to care for babies who have likewise been dealt a difficult lot in life.

Herriott said she found her love for pediatrics much later, during rotations in school.

“We’re both just incredibly excited about getting to take care of kids the rest of our lives,” Shuler said.

In this annual matching process directed by the National Resident Matching Program, fourth-year domestic and international medical students or medical school graduates and U.S. residency programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education rank each other after a season of applications and interviews. A matching algorithm decides the final match.

For couples who decide to apply together, “a match is established only if both partners match at a pair of ranked programs,” according to the program’s website. Shuler and Herriott were one of 1,165 couples that submitted their program choices, and the 2018 match rate for couples was 95.8 percent, according to the website.
Herriott and Shuler will enter their next binding commitment April 27, when they get married in Kansas City and where they may ask their guests to write them “prescriptions for love,” though that notion is still “in the idea phase,” Shuler said.

After that, it’s a honeymoon in Bali, their medical school graduation, and home-hunting in Cincinnati.

For Herriott, the victory is simple: today’s match allows them both to “follow our dreams individually — but do it together.”

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**Bill Nye delivers facts and laughs in Jesse Auditorium**

**BY KENNEDY SIMONE**

In a dark brown suit and his trademark bow tie, Bill Nye, or Bill Nye the Science Guy as most know him, spoke to a sold-out crowd in Jesse Auditorium on Friday night and covered a wide range of topics, from his father’s fixation with sundials to his mother’s experience in the Navy. He talked about how he came to love science, space exploration and his hope for the future.

But Nye spent most of his speech stressing the importance of addressing climate change. It was his keystone issue.

“Appreciate that there’s no, as the saying goes, ‘cavalry coming over the hill.’ There’s nobody to come help earthlings out if they screw up their climate and make it so it’s several billion people can’t live very well.”
Nye gave his audience tips on combatting climate change, pointing to education, access to the internet and both renewable and reusable electricity for all people. He presented multiple graphs showing the increase in global temperatures throughout the year, then pulled up a photo of the U.S. Constitution on the screen for the audience to see.

“I encourage you to look at the U.S. Constitution. Article 1, Section 8 refers to the ‘progress of science and useful arts,’” Nye said. “People, science is in the Constitution!”

Electrifying ground transportation was also one of Nye’s suggestions, particularly for MU.

“Get the university to use electric vehicles. Nobody goes (anywhere) in them, they just drive around campus. They can plug them in every night,” Nye said to a laughing audience.

Nye kept the audience laughing with some friendly political jabs at climate change doubters such as Ken Ham, Joe Bastardi and even President Donald Trump, and gave a show of his celebrity status. He made a call to a well-known astrophysicist in front of the audience.


Although Tyson didn’t answer Nye’s call, the audience still appeared impressed.

During the Q-and-A session with the audience following the presentation, a young boy with blonde hair and a blue-striped shirt gripped the microphone to ask Nye a question.

“Why do you want to teach kids science?” the boy asked.

Nye’s answer was simple: “To change the world.”
First woman admitted to MU 150 years ago, Women’s Leadership Conference celebrates

By COLLEEN SLOYAN

COLUMBIA - The 2018 Women’s Leadership Conference took place Saturday celebrating the 150-year mark since the first woman was admitted to MU.

Executive Director Jennifer Fowler said the attendees were excited to learn that women had crossed that threshold where women have been inspired and empowered for 150 years on MU’s campus.

“We’ve made so much progress and even though we have so much farther to go, we’ve just made such significant strides as women,” said Fowler.

This year’s theme was ‘YOUnity’ meaning unity starts with you. All of the speakers invited to WLC spoke about empowerment, self-love and issues facing women today.

“We’re really focusing on empowering your fellow woman, oneness between women, solidarity between women, especially in a time of like super intense division in our country,” said Fowler.

The last speaker spoke about her passion for the reproductive rights movement. 20-year-old Nadya Okamoto said accessible period products for homeless women is an issue women face not only in the United States, but worldwide.

The youth activist founded a non-profit called PERIOD, the Menstrual Movement, at 16-years-old after her family lost their home. Okamoto said she found women around her using brown paper bags, socks, and other non-sanitary items in place of normal period products.
Okamoto said reproductive rights isn’t generation exclusive and all women can relate.

“We’re in this together,” said Okamoto.

WLC coincides with Women’s History Month.

**Software creates 'dashboard' for diabetes docs**

By Robert Joiner

Some doctors are beginning to discover a downside to electronic health records. Call it EHR overload. It refers to instances when physicians have so much medical data at their finger tips that they are overwhelmed and have trouble finding what they need to make quick decisions about treating patients.

"**Electronic health records are actually giving us a lot of data,"** says Dr. Richelle Koopman, **associate professor of family and community medicine at the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Columbia.**

"But we've gotten to the point where there is actually too much data. We need to organize it in a better fashion to make it useful. That's what we've tried to do with the dashboard."

The "diabetes dashboard" is a godsend for doctors, helping them better manage medical information for treatment of diabetics, Koopman says.

Some doctors treating diabetics have to click the mouse back and forth up to 60 times to find and read all the relevant electronic records about a patient. The dashboard gathers all the data on a single screen with about three mouse clicks.

"Finding all this information in the medical chart (used to) take doctors an average of five minutes. The dashboard pulls all this information together ... (in) one minute. In other words, we're saving the doctor four minutes, and if you've got a 15-minute visit, that's a lot of time."
That extra four minutes, she says, gives a physician more "quality time talking to the patient instead of (having) your nose in that chart."

The dashboard software collects data common to many health conditions and chronic illnesses, but the main focus is on delivering better treatment for diabetics.

Created by the medical school in 2008, the dashboard is now marketed nationally by Cerner, a health information technology company based in Kansas City. Cerner offers the dashboard software to health providers who use one of its EHR systems. No information was immediately available on how many hospitals use the dashboard. There are competing products on the market.

Koopman says a university study of the dashboard suggests it can lessen medical costs by helping doctors avoid ordering needless medical tests.

"We created charts similar to patient charts with a similar amount of information," said Koopman who worked on the dashboard project. "Some of the information that doctors needed was buried. Some of our physicians found all of the information, and some of them couldn't."

In addition, she says, some doctors wrote down incorrect information when using the old system or failed to record the most recent results for some tests as they flipped and searched different computer screens to find information.

"That can happen when you're jumping around trying to find stuff," Koopman says. "When you are floating around through multiple screens and clicking and clicking, there's actually a lot of what we call cognitive load. It actually takes up part of your brain so that you make more errors. But the biggest category of errors was that the physicians didn't find stuff."

Even with the potential information overload, Koopman readily acknowledges that electronic medical records are important in health-care management. She remembers the days when she became a physician in 1993. Paper records were standard and doctors scribbled notes on paper, leaving it to someone else to compile the data into records.

"That's one of the valuable features about the dashboard. Nobody has to key in information because the software is pulling together information already in the patient's charts. It helps physicians coordinate care on a single screen. This streamlines and improves care at a lower cost."
Grant helps fund pollinator research
By Special to the Fulton Sun

In 2015, the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Agricultural Research Centers planted 22 acres of monarch habitat across the state. The goal of the plantings was to bring awareness to the monarch butterfly migration, a treacherous trip that can cover up to 3,000 miles.

For the past two years, the habitat has continued to grow at the Centers, allowing for observations and community education. The habitats have been showcased during several field days, as well as other community outreach events.

Those observations have now turned into a research study, with help from a grant from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. A group from MU will be working to find what combination of nectar plants and milkweed works best to not only keep the monarch population healthy, but the bumblebee population as well. The bumblebee population is incredibly important from an agricultural standpoint, as they pollinate the food grown every day.

"The monarch and bumblebee populations are both dwindling," said Tim Reinbott, assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. "Habitat is a big factor in that decrease. As we've made observations during the past couple of years, we've seen that we really need to research this topic more and find ways to help these populations."

Reinbott is teaming up with Debbie Finke, an associate professor in the Division of Plant Sciences, and Terry Woods, a research specialist at the South Farm Research Center, on the project.

Finke is an insect ecologist, meaning she studies insects and their interactions among other organisms, as well as their interactions with their environment. Woods in an entomologist and brings a strong background of managing insects and plants.

"As an agronomist, I can grow plants or get rid of them if need be," Reinbott said. "Working with Debbie and Terry gives us the perfect mix of expertise to make this project really worthwhile. We couldn't do this research without either of them."
Reinbott said they have used a "shotgun" approach with their past milkweed plantings, trying a variety of nectar species spread throughout a field setting. Those plantings have occurred where space has permitted at the various Research Centers. The goal of the research project is to find not only how much plant diversity should be included in a pollinator habitat, but where that habitat is best suited on a farm.

The project will include plots with a 10-species mix, a 20-species mix and a 40-species mix. It will be a replicated trial.

"It took us more than two months to decide of the mixtures that we want to try," Reinbott said. "The mixture with 10 species is one that we feel contains some strong nectar plants. The 20-species mix includes some extremely strong plants, as well as some that we are interested to know more about. The final mix with 40 species contains a little bit of everything. I'm a little worried about that final one, just because there are so many species in the area."

The group has chosen several locations to feature the plantings. The nectar sources will be planted in an open field, by trees and along fencerows. They wanted a variety of shaded and unshaded areas.

"I've noticed that a lot of these habitats are in shaded areas," Reinbott said. "So we wanted to try something similar. The plot near trees could be interesting. Debbie mentioned that we might just be creating a food source for the birds, so we'll see."

The team is using all native plants for the study.

"We appreciate the non-natives and we know they have a role, but we wanted to concentrate on native plants for this project," Reinbott said.

Reinbott has worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation in the past on different bumblebee projects. The nectar plants that were planted at the South Farm Research Center, in Columbia, led to seven different bumblebee species finding a home at the sites.

"People are starting to realize how important the bumblebee population is to our world in terms of pollination and how we grow our food," Reinbott said. "If we don't have bumblebees, our food production will definitely go down."

Monarchs by themselves aren't great pollinators. However, monarchs do share a habitat with other good pollinators. A safe habitat for monarchs will benefit a variety of species.

"Sometimes you have to market monarchs and bumblebees together," Reinbott said. "Bumblebees elicit a much difference response, usually one of staying away from them. Monarchs are an iconic insect which are much easier to sell."
When the Research Centers planted milkweed in 2015, the sites didn't focus on adding any nectar sources. The group has learned how important those sources are to pollinators.

"We've found out that monarchs don't always follow exact migration patterns," Reinbott said. "Last year, we saw them in April in central Missouri and then again in August. What happened to June and July? We've seen them in those months before.

"These pollinators have to have food. A lot of what we've seen, in terms of habitat management, is just 'we think' type of discussions. We're hoping to be able to provide more concrete research."

There will be a community involvement part of the research as well. There will be an observational form that individuals can fill out, describing when monarchs are seen across Missouri, as well as several other items.

"Observational learning is going to be a key part of this project," Reinbott said. "We want to get an idea of the monarch migration across the state.

"At the end of the day, we want to gather as much data as we can. We want to update the literature and make it more accurate. We want to rewrite the book."

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**Human relations panel partnering with writing project**

By Jeff Haldiman

While the Jefferson City Human Relations Commission finalizes administrative items, commissioners are looking toward long-term events.

The commission on Friday approved entering a partnership with the Missouri Writing Project.

*The project was founded in 1977 at the University of Missouri and is a charter member of the National Writing Project, a network of more than 200 sites throughout the country dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of writing, Heather Payne,*
who is part of the project’s leadership team, told commissioners. The MWP is one of five writing project sites within the state.

“We believe that writing represents far more than communication — that it also engages the mind, body and spirit in thinking, learning, discovering and connecting ideas, regardless of one’s age, ability, role, purpose or circumstance,” she said.

Payne said the Missouri Writing Project promotes improved understanding and appreciation of language learning at all levels of the elementary, secondary and higher education community and among the larger population.

“We’re not trying to come in and say this is a program from MU, and we have to do it,” she said. “We want to work with Jefferson City schools and Lincoln University.”

Commission members said the goals of the project mirror the efforts of the commission so a partnership was beneficial.

The project and commission plan to sponsor an invitation-only showing of “American Creed.” The documentary from the Public Broadcasting Service will be shown at Capitol City Cinema on East High Street. It deals with trying to determine the character of the nation and where are we headed as citizens through our social and economic backgrounds. Several community members, including members of the Jefferson City Council and Jefferson City Public Schools Board of Education, will be invited to attend the showing, scheduled for April 10.

Meanwhile, commissioners continue to finalize the commission’s bylaws and mission statement.

As part of the bylaws, they will decide the operation and makeup of the commission. One suggestion included enacting subcommittees to focus on specific work, such as education, social media and funding.

Since the Jefferson City Council revived the Human Relations Commission after the start of the fiscal year — Nov. 1 — the city does not have funds budgeted specifically for the commission and its projects.

The commission can approach city staff and the Jefferson City Budget Committee later this year about setting aside funds for future years. They also can request a supplemental appropriation if the commission needs funds this fiscal year.