A third fraternity is closing at the University of Missouri after a consulting firm warned last year of a lack of university oversight.

FarmHouse International Fraternity announced the closure of the Columbia campus chapter Tuesday in a news release. The release said that the closure was in response to a joint investigation the fraternity conducted with the university into allegations that hazing and alcohol policies had been violated. The release said the fraternity "will not tolerate this kind of behavior."

The release says Columbia police have been asked to investigate further.

Two other fraternities — Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Epsilon — have been shuttered by their national governing organizations since the university received Dyad Strategies' report in October. Another fraternity has been put on disciplinary probation for hazing.

Note: This story ran in multiple national and statewide media outlets.
Columbia police investigate hazing at FarmHouse fraternity

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri on Friday referred the founding chapter of FarmHouse fraternity to the Columbia Police Department for investigation of hazing, just days before a joint announcement with the international headquarters of the organization that the chapter has been closed.

The fraternity was already on disciplinary probation for hazing when MU and FarmHouse International Fraternity issued a joint news release Tuesday stating it would be closed.

“The chapter’s actions, including failing to adhere to the national organization’s hazing and alcohol policies, were in direct contradiction to FarmHouse values and our code of conduct,” Christian Wiggins, CEO of FarmHouse International, said in the news release. “We will not tolerate this kind of behavior in the fraternity, and we appreciate the university’s partnership as we have worked through the investigation and arrived at this conclusion.”

Columbia police spokeswoman Bryana Larimer wrote in an email that the referral occurred Friday and the case is being investigated by department detectives.

While MU is not disclosing what occurred that prompted the referral, the decision to send it to police underscores the serious nature of the offense. A total of 13 fraternities have been found guilty of hazing through MU’s administrative processes in the past five years, including two that were sanctioned on multiple occasions, and most were given warnings or put on disciplinary probation.
Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, asked if the referral represents a new commitment to stopping hazing, said he was uncertain how MU handled past cases. Cartwright arrived on campus to take his job Aug. 1.

“Certainly I want people to understand that anything that happens, we take seriously,” Cartwright said in an interview. “It is really up to law enforcement now as to how that goes.”

The university administration backs FarmHouse International in its decision, Cartwright said in the news release.

“We fully support this action by FarmHouse, and I will not tolerate this type of behavior,” Cartwright said. “There are many students trying to do the right thing and change the culture here and across the country as it relates to fraternities and sororities.

Hazing is defined in state law as any activity that endangers the physical or mental health of a student or is a crime that is required for membership. Hazing is a misdemeanor, unless the act creates a substantial risk to the life of the student or prospective member, in which case it is a felony.

FarmHouse is the third fraternity closed by national organizations at MU this academic year and the sixth to be suspended or closed by the university or national organizations since the beginning of 2016. Two closed fraternities, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Kappa Alpha, are being sued by students or former students who were injured in activities related to hazing.

Deciding to close the founding chapter, known as the Alpha chapter in fraternity lingo, was difficult, Wiggins wrote in an email.

“Closing any chapter is a difficult decision, and closing the chapter where we were founded is even more painful,” he wrote. “Yet, our top priority must always be to foster a culture of safety and responsibility in our chapters, and the Mizzou chapter’s actions were in direct contradiction to these values and our code of conduct. We cannot and will not tolerate this kind of behavior in the fraternity.”
Wiggins declined to go into specifics of the hazing charges because of the ongoing investigation. FarmHouse will reopen at MU in 2020, he wrote.

The move comes as the university is considering the recommendations in a report by Dyad Strategies looking at problems in MU’s Greek system. The most serious issues raised by the report involve fraternities that are members of the Interfraternity Council, one of four governing groups for Greek organizations on campus.

The council is resisting a recommendation that it allow inspections of members’ bedrooms by social event auditors during parties and hasn’t endorsed a recommendation that freshmen be barred from living in chapter houses. The council has endorsed requiring third-party vendors to serve alcohol at social events and barred new member activities for two weeks that ended Monday.

Both issues make it more likely that alcohol abuse and underage drinking will occur, the report states, and sorority leaders report they are worried for the safety of their members attending parties at fraternity houses.

The decisions on which recommendations to adopt will be made near the end of the semester, Dean of Students Jeff Zeilenga said in an interview Friday.

Any new rules will be intended to protect the safety and academic interests of the students involved, Cartwright said.

“We are looking at what is happening at other institutions and we are looking at what they are doing about those things and that is going to impact the final decisions we make and which strategies we implement from Dyad Strategies,” Cartwright said.
The MU chapter of the FarmHouse fraternity has been shut down, MU and FarmHouse officials announced in a joint statement on Tuesday.

A joint investigation between MU and FarmHouse International Fraternity found that the MU chapter violated alcohol and hazing policies. Because FarmHouse isn’t affiliated with MU, the investigation was turned over to the Columbia Police Department, according to the statement.

The MU chapter was the founding chapter of the fraternity, established in 1905. The chapter’s actions “were in direct contradiction to FarmHouse values and our code of conduct,” said Christian Wiggins, FarmHouse International Fraternity CEO. There are FarmHouse chapters on 33 other campuses.

“We will not tolerate this kind of behavior in the fraternity, and we appreciate the university’s partnership as we have worked through the investigation and arrived at this conclusion,” Wiggins said in the statement.

Wiggins said the organization planned to reopen the chapter in the fall of 2020. He said he could not elaborate on allegations relating to the closure because of the ongoing investigation by the Columbia Police Department.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in the statement the university supports FarmHouse’s decision to shut down the chapter.
“I will not tolerate this type of behavior,” Cartwright said. “There are many students trying to do the right thing and change the culture here and across the country as it relates to fraternities and sororities.”

Members have to be out of the house by 5 p.m. on March 25, Wiggins said in an email. He said the Department of Residential Life offered housing placement for the rest of the semester.

A moving van was parked outside the fraternity on Tuesday afternoon, and FarmHouse’s letters had been taken down. Members who answered the fraternity’s door said they couldn’t comment on the shutdown.

The fraternity is not an outlier in its closure. From fall 2017 to the present, two other fraternities also have closed. Sigma Alpha Epsilon was suspended on March 13 for no fewer than four years for multiple health and safety violations. Sigma Phi Epsilon closed in October after repeated code-of-conduct violations.

New member activities for all 29 fraternity chapters at MU were suspended between March 6 and Monday because of hazing allegations. During that time, a joint investigation was conducted between national fraternity chapters and MU’s Office of Student Accountability and Support.

An October report released by consulting firm Dyad Strategies recommended that freshmen no longer live in fraternity houses. The report was critical of Greek Life and also suggested fraternities register social events. From April 2016 to October 2016, at least 14 fraternities were placed on probation and three were suspended.
FarmHouse International Fraternity closes Mizzou chapter


COLUMBIA-- FarmHouse International Fraternity announced Tuesday it will close its University of Missouri-Columbia chapter after a joint investigation on hazing and alcohol violations.

MU and FarmHouse conducted this investigation after allegations of campus and fraternity hazing and alcohol policies, according to a press release from MU News Bureau.

The Columbia Police Department will also investigate, and MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said the university will assist in any way needed.

“We fully support this action by FarmHouse, and I will not tolerate this type of behavior,” Cartwright said.

An external report by Dyad Strategies was released in October that presented recommendations to improve the Greek system at MU.

“Any person or action that compromises the safety of students on our campuses will be dealt with swiftly and strongly,” Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary Ward said. "Every
student and parent should know that I am committed to making Mizzou’s Greek community a national model that provides students with an excellent and safe collegiate experience."

Alumni, friends of the university, students, staff and faculty have been reviewing the report and recommendations. Decisions related to some recommendations are expected before the end of the current semester, according to the press release from MU News Bureau.

“There are many students trying to do the right thing and change the culture here and across the country as it relates to fraternities and sororities,” Cartwright said. “We appreciate the cooperation we are receiving from FarmHouse headquarters and will continue our work to make the MU Greek community a model for the nation.”

FarmHouse closes MU chapter

By: Elizabeth Duesenberg

**Posted:** Mar 20, 2018 10:39 AM CDT

**Updated:** Mar 20, 2018 05:38 PM CDT


COLUMBIA, Mo. - UPDATE: FarmHouse CEO Christian Wiggins could not confirm when the investigation began, but ABC 17 News learned that a letter from the Office of Student Accountability referenced another hazing violation which earned the fraternity a disciplinary probation until Feb. 2019.

FarmHouse was already on probation after it violated alcohol policies this past fall. Its probation would
have ended in May before the alleged hazing violation.

Wiggins said the decision to close the chapter came from its specific investigation with the university.

The fraternity plans to return in 2020.

**ORIGINAL STORY:** Officials from FarmHouse International Fraternity announced on Tuesday the closure of its chapter at the University of Missouri.

The outcome was based on findings from a joint investigation the fraternity conducted with the university in response to credible allegations of violations of the campus and fraternity's hazing and alcohol policies.

“Our top priority is to foster a culture of safety and responsibility in our chapters,” said Christian Wiggins, FarmHouse International Fraternity CEO. “The chapter’s actions, including failing to adhere to the national organization’s hazing and alcohol policies, were in direct contradiction to FarmHouse values and our code of conduct. We will not tolerate this kind of behavior in the fraternity, and we appreciate the university’s partnership as we have worked through the investigation and arrived at this conclusion.”

FarmHouse is not affiliated with any MU school or college so the case has been turned over to Columbia police.

“We fully support this action by FarmHouse, and I will not tolerate this type of behavior,” MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said. “There are many students trying to do the right thing and change the culture here and across the country as it relates to fraternities and sororities. We appreciate the cooperation we are receiving from FarmHouse headquarters and will continue our work to make the MU Greek community a model for the nation.”

During the fall 2017 semester, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gary Ward hired Dyad Strategies to analyze the Greek community. The initial report presented several recommendations to improve the Greek experience at MU. Decisions related to some of the recommendations are expected before the end of the current semester.

“We are committed to ensuring students can come to Mizzou and benefit from fraternities and sororities in a safe and educational manner,” Ward said. “Any person or action that compromises the safety of students on our campuses will be dealt with swiftly and strongly. Every student and parent should know that I am committed to making Mizzou’s Greek community a national model that provides students with an excellent and safe collegiate experience. We have a rich tradition of a vibrant Greek community at Mizzou that has benefited thousands of lives throughout its history.”
The University of Missouri wants to sell the property known as Mizzou North, including the building originally opened in 1940 to hold the Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital, Vice Chancellor of Operations Gary Ward told the Board of Curators on Tuesday.

MU acquired the property in 1990 and moved inpatient services to MU Hospital in 2000. A replacement facility was opened in 2013 and since then the property adjacent to Parkade Center on Business Loop 70 has housed various university operations, including the Museum of Art and Archaeology and the Museum of Anthropology.

Ward revealed plans for the sale during a special meeting of the curators to discuss university capital needs over the next five years. In an interview, he said the 11-acre property probably won’t net much cash for the university because of the cost to demolish the 77-year old structure but that it will result in an annual operations savings of more than $1.3 million annually.

“I think it is very unlikely that someone will want the building,” Ward said. “They will want the land.”

The property that includes the Rusk Rehabilitation Center, on the same original lot as Mizzou North, will not be for sale, Ward said.

The statement that the property was for sale came during a discussion of how much space is needed for all campus operations and whether current space fits those needs. Mizzou North is remote from the main campus, making it a candidate to be sold, and the building isn’t suited to the uses being made of it, Ward said.

A large portion of the building is already vacant, he said.

“We’ve got to figure out how we will handle all of that now and do it in less space,” Ward said.

There are 28 departments listed as using space in Mizzou North, including the two museums, moved when renovations of Swallow Hall and Pickard Hall began in 2014. The Museum of Anthropology reopened to the public in September.

Both will move back to campus along with other activities at Mizzou North, Ward said.
At the special meeting, the curators discussed the new process for setting construction priorities and the costs for major projects at each campus. Vice President for Finance Ryan Rapp led the discussion and said the top four items – one from each campus – would be up for a vote at next month’s regular meeting for inclusion in the UM System’s state funding request to be submitted in the fall.

The largest item on that $301.6 million list is the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, a $200 million project slated to be constructed near College Avenue and Hospital Drive. The university is planning to fund $100 million of the project from internal sources, obtain $50 million in federal funding and ask lawmakers for $50 million, Rapp said.

“I would not be in favor of bonding all of it but we could bond part of it,” Rapp said, referring to borrowing by the university.

In all, the university intends to seek $134.1 million in state funding for the four projects. The priority projects for other campuses are the Schrenk Hall addition and renovation at Missouri University of Science and Technology, a $54.5 million project, renovation of the Spencer Chemistry and Biological Sciences building at UMKC at a cost of $37.6 million, and space consolidation at UMSL, estimated at $10 million.

Two other projects discussed for the Columbia campus are renovations and additions at the Sinclair School of Nursing, a $20 million project that will allow enrollment to increase 30 percent, and upgrades of the research vivarium in the Medical Science Building at a cost of $12.9 million.

The meeting is part of a newly created process to extend the review of capital needs by creating a five-year rolling plan. The projects that didn’t make the state priority list aren’t going to be shelved, Rapp told the curators.

“If it is fifth on the list or first on the list, we are still going to try to move forward with the project,” he said.

The curators will be able to review past decisions and make adjustments to meet changing needs, Rapp said. That is what the discussion is for, he said.

“It is your job as board members to pressure test those recommendations,” Rapp said.
UM Board of Curators review renovation, construction priorities

By NNAMDI EGWUONWU


COLUMBIA - The UM Board of Curators' Finance Committee met on Tuesday to review project plans for all UM campuses and their associated timelines.

Campus officials from MU, UMSL, UMKC and Missouri S&T reaffirmed their "priority projects" and expressed their funding needs.

MU projects highlighted include the Translational Precision Medicine Complex.

"That facility is going to allow us to have world-class clinical trials." said MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright. "We want to be at the forefront of medical treatment for our citizens."

Other MU projects include renovating and expanding the School of Nursing and upgrading and performing maintenance work on the Medical Sciences Building.

The curators, after listening to each presentation, asked further questions and will later review whether the projects will be included in the system's final 5-year capital plan.

Ryan Rapp, the vice president for finance and chief financial officer for UM, said while the plan is a good indication of where the system will allocate its funds, it is subject to change.

"It's a living, breathing plan so as soon as we've approved the first 5-year plan, we're going to start right away planning for the next 5 years," he said.

Projects at the other campuses largely centered on renovations and expansions as well.
The system focused the prioritization of projects on three standards: mission, stewardship and funding.

Rapp said while all three factors carry equal weight "It's important that first we answer the question of does it fit within the mission and strategy and is it sustainable. If the answer to both of those is yes, then we start to have a discussion around funding."

The mission standard considers the larger "state, regional and community impact" the project will have in furthering the system's goals.

"We should be making decisions on how we're investing in facilities around our vision and our desire as institutions," Cartwright said. "It isn't always driven just by cost."

Stewardship focuses on the infrastructure and functional sustainability of the projects, and funding measures the amount of external funds, whether in the form of state funding, grants or bonds, currently available.

"It's not about looking at any individual project either; Its about looking at the portfolio of projects, and making sure that when you think about those three areas, we're addressing them," Rapp said.

The meeting is just the latest in the now 6-month long process for the board of curators to create, review and approve a funding plan for the next five years.

The final plan is set to be voted on by the board this April.

UM curators Health Affairs Committee to meet Wednesday

By JOE MCLEAN

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Health Affairs committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday in Columbia.

The agenda for the 2 p.m. meeting includes quarterly compliance and financial reports, as well as updates on school of medicine leadership and the MU Health Care CEO.
The committee is also scheduled to discuss recommendations for the MU Health board's structure and meetings.

The Health Affairs committee was launched in 2016 to oversee strategy, governance, compliance, operations, and coordination of the clinical, teaching, and research missions.

According to the committee description, members "receive and review regular reports from the University of Missouri Health Care and the MU School of Medicine's faculty practice plan."

The meeting will take place at the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, 1100 Virginia Ave., in conference rooms 2252 and 2257.

ABC 17 News will be at Wednesday's meeting and update this article with more information.

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**There's no solid evidence that people get addicted to social media — and using it could actually be beneficial**

By ERIN BRODWIN

Generated from News Bureau Press Releases: [Social media does not decrease face-to-face interactions, MU study finds](#) and [Instagram users less likely to engage with political or controversial images, MU study finds](#)

True story: I once walked headfirst into a pole on my way home from work.

I can't blame the darkness (the sun had only just begun to set), and I can't blame my vision (I'd recently gotten new glasses). But I can blame my iPhone, whose vibration had lured me into staring at its crisp bright screen. The text I was responding to was not worth the heart-shaped bruise that I shamefully covered in makeup the next day.
Until my ridiculous injury, I had laughed at stories about the dangers of "walking while texting." I'd eye-rolled at reports of painful "iPhone neck" from leaning over tiny screens. And I'd never taken the idea of social media addiction seriously.

But that evening, I started to wonder if maybe our generation was screwed—and maybe our smartphones were to blame.

So I did some digging: I pored over scientific studies and talked to researchers who specialize in psychology, sociology, addiction, and statistics. A few experts were emphatic that social media addiction is real and should be added to the DSM IV, long considered the diagnostic bible for psychologists. Others hedged their bets and said more studies were needed.

But the conclusion I gathered was the opposite of what I've been hearing in the news. Social media and smartphones are not ruining our brains, nor will either become the downfall of a generation.

The vast majority of the large and well-designed statistical studies on smartphones and the brain actually suggest these technologies are having little to no effect on our health and well-being. And in some cases, the availability of social media and phones may be a power for good.

'The lowest quality of evidence you could give that people wouldn't laugh you out of the room'

Most of the headlines about social media—the ones that warn us about smartphones destroying a generation, ruining our posture and mood, and eroding our brains—are simply "a projection of our own fears," Andrew Przybylski, a senior research fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute, told Business Insider.

That's because most existing studies on social media's effects suffer from the same problems that have plagued the social science field for decades.

For one thing, many of the studies are too small to carry a lot of statistical power, Przybylski said. Researchers also often go into a study with an agenda or hypothesis that they hope their study will support.

Take, for example, the claim that because teen depression and iPhone ownership have been rising at the same time, they must be connected. This is a classic example of correlation, not causation: our phones are not necessarily to blame for cases of depression.

Przybylski has attempted to replicate some of the studies that suggested there's a strong tie between social media use and depression. When he used larger sets of people in a more well-controlled environment, he failed to find the same results. Instead, he's found either no link or a very, very small one.

"People are making expansive claims about the link between well-being and tech use, but if this was displayed on a Venn diagram, the circles would overlap one quarter of one percent,"
Przybylski said. "It is literally the lowest quality of evidence that you could give that people wouldn't laugh you out of the room."

Last year, Przybylski co-authored a study published in the journal Psychological Science in which he examined the effect of screen-time on a sample of more than 120,000 British adolescents. The researchers asked teens how much time they spent streaming, gaming, and using their smartphones and computers. After running the data through a series of statistical analyses, it became clear to Przybylski that screen-time isn't harmful for the vast majority of teens. In fact, it's sometimes helpful — especially when teens are using it for two to four hours per day.

"Overall, the evidence indicated that moderate use of digital technology is not intrinsically harmful and may be advantageous in a connected world," Przybylski wrote in the paper.

Even when it came to those positive results, however, Przybylski said the significance of the effects they observed was tiny.

"If you're a parent and you have limited resources, the question becomes: which hill are you going to die on? Where do you want to put your limited resources? Do you want to put it into making sure your kid has breakfast or gets a full night's sleep? Because for those activities the effects are three times larger than they would be for screen-time," Przybylski said.

Many parents fear that using social media is universally bad for teens. They get distracted by text messages during class; they miss out on family time because they're texting at the dinner table; they scroll through Instagram instead of going to sleep.

Once you see a few examples of phone-obsessed behavior — a whole family staring silently at their phones while eating a restaurant, say — you tend to notice it more wherever you go.

This may be partially a result of the phenomenon known as confirmation bias. Essentially, you see one event that supports an idea you already have, then because you are hyper-aware of these types of activities, you find more examples that appear to confirm that idea.

It's a bit like when you begin shopping for a certain kind of car — a Honda Civic, let's say — then suddenly notice that everyone appears to be driving a Honda Civic. In reality, that model hasn't gotten more popular overnight; you're simply primed to notice them.

"A lot of the research is bound up in these problems," Przybylski said. "Our concerns or panic about a new thing" — in this case, social media — "guide how we do the research and interpret the results."

Distorted, negative viewpoints have likely influenced the research on a host of new inventions and activities throughout history.
Unfortunately, paying attention exclusively to social harms makes us blind to the ways a new technology may be help us. In the case of social media, such biases can take attention away from other more serious problems.

"It's important to think about all the things we're not talking about here. We don't talk about things like privacy, advertisements, who owns your data, and all this stuff that's actually important. So actually it serves the interest of larger companies to be debating things like screen time and usage. When you bring it all together you have a big dog and pony show," Przybylski said.

Candice L. Odgers, a professor of psychology and social behavior at the University of California Irvine, specializes in studying new technologies and adolescent development. She told Business Insider that social media may be having some positive effects on teens and young adults, but many people are not paying attention to that research.

"The digital world hasn't created a new species of children. Many of the things that attract them to things about social media are the same things that attract them to other activities," Odgers said. "There are a lot of good things that are happening with social media use today and there's been a really negative narrative about it."

A large review of 36 studies published in the journal Adolescent Research Review concluded that instead of feeling hampered by their screens, teens are chiefly using digital communication to deepen and strengthen existing in-person relationships. The authors concluded that young adults find it easier to display affection, share intimacy, and even organize events and meet-ups online.

Similarly, the authors of a 2017 review of literature on social media and screen time published by UNICEF concluded that "digital technology seems to be beneficial for children's social relationships" and that most young people are using it to "enhance their existing relationships and stay in touch with friends."

Kids who struggle to make friends in person may even use digital tools to "compensate for this and build positive relationships," they said. A small 2018 study of British teens in foster care supports that idea — it suggested that social media helped young people maintain healthy relationships with their birth parents, make new friends, and ease the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Other research, including a small 2017 study of Instagram users aged 18-55, suggests that teens also turn to platforms like Instagram as a means of exploring the world and dreaming up potential adventures — a category of people the researchers classified as "feature lovers."

"Feature lovers want to see something that's exotic or unique; they're looking at Instagram and they're thinking, 'take me to China or Alaska or some place I can't afford to go,'" T.J. Thomson, the lead author of the study, told Business Insider.

You're probably not 'addicted' to Facebook or Instagram

Tomohiro Ohsumi/GettyThe researchers behind these studies emphasized that social media and smartphones are not so much an "addiction" as a novel, attention-grabbing platform for enhancing existing activities and relationships.

In other words, social media has similar impacts on the brain as lots of other types of activity — too much or too little can be linked with negative impacts, while moderate use can have positive results.

"Claims that the brain might be hijacked or re-wired by digital technology are not supported by neuroscience evidence and should be treated with skepticism," the authors of the UNICEF review wrote.

Addiction is a complicated but serious problem that neuroscientists have yet to fully understand. It typically stems from a cache of interconnected factors that include our environment and our genes. As a result, classifying our nearly-universal reliance on digital tools as an "addiction" simply isn't fair to the people whose lives have been torn apart by things like alcoholism or drug use.

A chief characterizing factor of addictive behavior is that use of a given substance interferes with daily activity so much that people can't function normally. Studies suggest that social media, by contrast, is often used to enhance existing relationships, and does not decrease real-world interactions or cause uniform harm.

Research does indicate, however, that people who may already be predisposed to depression and anxiety could suffer more as a result of using these types of "compare-and-despair" platforms.

A series of studies published this month in the journal Information, Communication, and Society found that while people's Facebook use had no impact on their social interactions later that day, scrolling through the platform did appear to be linked with lower feelings of well-being if the person had been alone earlier in the day.

"People who use social media alone likely aren't getting their face-to-face social needs met." Michael Kearney, a co-author of the study, said in a statement. "So if they're not having their social needs met in their life outside of social media, it makes sense that looking at social media might make them feel even lonelier."

There are plenty of simple, healthy ways to address these risks without resorting to harsh measures like breaking up with your smartphone. I, for one, no longer text when I walk.
It's a small change, but my forehead is grateful.

Study Finds Social Media Doesn't Affect Real Life Relationships

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Social media does not decrease face-to-face interactions, MU study finds

ST. LOUIS (KMOX) - You've probably told your kids, at least once, that their social media use will make them forget how to interact in real life. A just released study shows that's not true.

Dr. Mike Kearney, an assistant journalism professor at Mizzou, says researchers looked at a data set that spanned several years and another one that asked people about their activities throughout the day.

"We didn't find that the data followed what many assume to be true about the world - that you use social media you then have a decline in you face-to-face interaction, and that ultimately results in a negative effect on social well-being," he says.

Kearney says the idea that new technology will ruin our social skills isn't new. People were concerned about letter writing and telephones, too. But social media, he says, is different because it lets people stay in touch... without actually talking to each other.

"I can stay up to date on our friendship by looking at social media, but you're not aware that I'm putting forth that effort and investment in our relationship," he says.

He did find that social media can make the lives of social people better, while extended usage by lonely people can make them more lonely.

"I think the take away from this is to take some more personal responsibility in our own social interactions and our own social relationships, as opposed to blaming it on new social media," he says.
Future of higher education wavers amidst student concerns, new budget plan

By Allison Cho

Higher education cuts in fiscal year 2019’s budget may not be as severe as previously expected. On Jan. 22, Gov. Eric Greitens proposed cutting $68 million from higher education funding. However, the first draft of a different 2019 budget was finalized last week by the Missouri House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Under the governor’s proposal, higher education institutions would have had to “cut administrative bloat, eliminate duplicative, low-impact programs, step up cost-saving collaborations, and improve operational efficiencies,” according to the Jan. 22 budget summary.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education couldn’t provide comment on the specific effects of the cuts. The department manages a number of programs impacting post-secondary students, including Missouri’s state financial aid programs, but has little say in how funding will impact particular universities and higher education initiatives.

“The budget requests for the colleges and university are part of our higher education budget, but each college has a board of governors or curators who approve their own budgets,” said Liz Coleman, MDHE communications director. “[The boards] are the ones that make the decisions at specific colleges and universities. As far as impacts on students, that would be determined at the college or university level as well.”

Still, the governor’s proposal came as a source of concern for many MU students, especially in conjunction with a task force assessment released in late January. The report recommends the inactivation of degree programs across 13 disciplines, including the romance languages, chemical engineering and applied mathematics.

In response, MU Socialists led the formation of the Stop the Cuts Coalition, an organization that seeks to spread awareness and take action against higher education cuts and tuition hikes. Members discussed the governor’s proposal on Feb. 12 at the organization’s first meeting.

“It’s crazy that we’re cutting [higher education] engineering programs,” said junior Victoria Vitale of MU Socialists. “I mean, any programs really. We’re going to be losing students, and MU isn’t going to be a flagship university of research universities, which is what we advertise ourselves to be. It’s just going to decrease enrollment more.”

Vitale said budget cuts to higher education would decrease untenured faculty and force tenured professors to focus more on undergraduate teaching instead of facilitating research, which is “really not the best use of our faculty.” As a result, enrollment numbers would also significantly
decrease, as prospective undergraduates and graduate students in those initiatives would need to
find programs at other universities.

“People tend to start going to their undergrad where they want to get their Ph.D.s,” Vitale said. “I
mean, some people change, but I plan on getting my master’s here because I have professors I
know I’ll be able to get TA positions [with]. I have connections, and people want to get their
undergrad somewhere they can get connections. That’s going to continue to deteriorate MU.”

In the House’s budget draft, the $68 million in cuts to higher education previously recommended
by the governor will not be executed. However, Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick
said he would allocate $30 million of the $68 million to scholarships if public universities decide
to raise in-state tuition, according to the Associated Press. Stop the Cuts Coalition also hopes to
address the potential increases in tuition.

“It’s in the Missouri constitution that tuition for public universities and colleges can’t rise faster
than inflation, so this bill would allow tuition to raise up to 10 percent faster than inflation, and
colleges want this,” Vitale said. “Our board of curators is lobbying for this bill. Why? Because
they need to make up the money they’re losing in their funding. This budget is being balanced on
the backs of students.”

Recently, MU students and faculty have had firsthand experience with budget cuts on campus.
After revelations of a $60 million budget hole and subsequent faculty cuts, the approved draft’s
lack of a $68 million cut to Missouri higher education could be a comfort to some.

“We know there is a long process to be completed in the legislature related to our budget,” MU
spokesman Christian Basi said. “However, we’re very appreciative of the work that the
legislators have done over the last several weeks to help maintain our budget for the following
year. We’ll be working with them in the coming weeks to provide any information they need to
make a final decision about our budget.”

Further details on the 2019 budget will emerge as the appropriations process continues. Coleman
said the General Assembly will likely go through the process for the next couple of months,
though a consensus needs to be reached before the legislative session ends in May.
Physicians Committee offers School of Medicine free demonstration in opposition to live animals

By Stephi Smith

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine has offered the MU School of Medicine an on-site demonstration of a training method that would replace the use of live animals for emergency medicine resident training.

The offer came up after Dr. John Pippin, director of academic affairs for the Physicians Committee, allegedly sent a letter on March 15 to Dr. Chris Sampson, program director of the emergency medicine residency at MU, asking it stop using live animals in its training. Pippin said he did not receive a reply from Sampson and then went up the “chain of command” and sent an email to UM System President Mun Choi, who also allegedly did not reply.

Pippin said he did receive a reply from Jeff Henegar, director of animal care quality assurance in the MU Office of Research, who told Pippin he disagreed with his reasoning and believed animals are necessary in teaching emergency medicine.

Pippin first reached out to Sampson in May, when he asked for his reasoning behind using live animals in emergency medicine training. Sampson responded to Pippin in December, when he wrote to him explaining that he could not find replacements for some procedures.

“Thoracotomy and cardiac repair are still the 2 main procedures that I cannot find replicated in non-live models,” Sampson wrote in the email. “While I think the cadaver model with simulated blood infusion is interesting, I think the cost for cadavers would be prohibitive.”

Sampson wasn’t available for comment, but Jesslyn Chew, public relations manager with MU Health, spoke on his behalf.

Currently, the School of Medicine uses live pigs to demonstrate how to insert a test tube into a person’s body between their ribs, Pippin said. He offered an alternative to the university and said he knows of a simulation, EnvivoPC, through a company called Maximum Fidelity.

Pippin replied to Sampson’s message offering that the Physicians Committee pay for a demonstration of the EnvivoPC technology to residents studying emergency medicine.

“A perfused cadaver can be used to teach every procedure for which MU is using live pigs, including thoracotomy and cardiac repair,” Pippin wrote in the email. “In addition to ethical concerns, the use of live pigs for teaching emergency medicine residents fails to provide anatomical accuracy.”
Pippin wrote to Sampson that pigs have major differences in anatomy compared to humans, including the number of ribs in a pig’s chest and thicker skin.

Pippin said the Physicians Committee has no direct relationship with Maximum Fidelity and is offering it because it believes it will help the university’s medicine teaching methods.

“[The Physicians Committee is] only trying to find a solution for the university,” Pippin said.

Pippin said the demonstration that the Physicians Committee is offering is a $4,500 value. From there, the School of Medicine can choose whether to adopt the technology.

He also said “the vast majority of emergency medicine residency programs in the United States and Canada … use human-relevant training methods,” such as cadavers and simulations. In addition, he said every other emergency medicine residency program in the state of Missouri uses these methods in place of live animals.

“Torturing and killing pigs to train human medicine is archaic; it has just virtually disappeared,” Pippin said.

He also said it allows for a “substandard” method of teaching students.

“[The Physicians Committee doesn’t] understand why [the university doesn’t] look around and see that everyone around them has moved past the use of animals,” Pippin said. “We think they are just absolutely wrong about the need to use pigs for this training, and we have to wonder if they’re just not qualified or don’t understand how to use the simulation to do this.”

Chew said the primary goal of the School of Medicine is to provide emergency medicine resident physicians with the necessary skills and procedural knowledge for their future careers. This sometimes involves animals, but the university mainly uses simulations, she said.

She also said the courses include “national and international experts on emergency medicine simulation training.”

Chew said using live animals is a rare case, involving approximately six animals a year.

“When we need to train emergency medicine resident physicians on life-saving measures that are not adequately replicated through simulation, we use humane and strict protocols that are reviewed by the university’s Animal Care and Use Committee,” Chew said.

Pippin offered the demonstration through the Physicians Committee on March 15, which Chew said is currently being reviewed and that a decision has not been made yet.
$13.7 million raised in 24 hours during Mizzou Giving Day

Story generated by MU News Bureau release: MU donors give more than $13.7 million on Mizzou Giving Day, surpassing last year’s total by $5 million

By Lauren Bishop

MU raised over $13.7 million during its second annual Mizzou Giving Day, which ran from noon March 14 to noon March 15.

Gifts could be given online, over the phone or mailed during this 24-hour period. Gifts received via mail were accepted from March 12-16. Most MU schools, units and programs reached out to lead donors in advance of Giving Day to increase momentum for the event.

Executive Director Todd McCubbin of the Mizzou Alumni Association helped advise the Mizzou Advancement team during Giving Day. McCubbin also coordinated Mizzou Giving Day in 2017. He said the event is about participation from all types of people as a way to help MU overall.

“It's fun to see all the schools and colleges and departments and different groups that are supportive in some form or fashion,” McCubbin said. “It was just an all-around team effort. It really was about trying to celebrate private gift support for the university, which is very important to us.”

The top five units that raised the most dollars got a bonus from the dollar challenge prize pool in addition to the money they raised. The School of Journalism received a $5 million donation, and additional funds were raised to give the school a total of over $6.2 million in donations. The school received an additional $18,000 for first place in the dollar challenge.

Shannon Burke-Kranzberg, director of advancement at the School of Journalism, said the $5 million donation from Mizzou Giving Day will be used to fund a new building project for the School of Journalism. The rest of the donations will go toward various journalism scholarships and funds.

In November, MU presented a building project plan to the UM System Board of Curators that would demolish Neff Hall and its annex and replace it with a five-story building that houses different School of Journalism programs, including KOMU, the Columbia Missourian and the Novak Leadership Institute, according to the Columbia Missourian. The majority of this project would be funded by donations, Burke-Kranzberg said. Planning is ongoing.
Burke-Kranzberg said donations to the School of Journalism show that the MU community cares about the work the school does to educate journalists and strategic communicators.

“From the J-School’s perspective, we are seeing alumni and people who just care about good journalism stepping up and seeing us as a way they can support quality journalism and quality strategic communications,” Burke-Kranzberg said. “It’s really nice to have a day where we are all talking about the importance of philanthropy because the reality is it fuels a lot of what goes on on this campus.”

Each unit is also a part of a participation challenge, which ranks the top five units based on the number of gifts. Student Affairs received 318 gifts, earning it first place in the challenge and $18,000 for its program.

In addition to the MU colleges and programs receiving aid, the Mizzou Alumni Association created a scholarship challenge. Every dollar given online during the Giving Day period was matched by other donors for up to $2,500 per each chapter of MAA listed.

McCubbin said he was grateful for Giving Day’s success and said it shows how much the MU community cares about the university.

“With lagging state support and enrollment issues the last couple of years, I think it’s a really good, positive day to see what our alums, our friends, our parents, our students think about us, that they would rally together and have that sort of impact over a 24-hour period,” McCubbin said.

MU community members were also encouraged to participate in social media challenges:

- Hide-and-seek: Five stuffed-animal Truman the Tigers were hidden around campus. Whoever found each tiger first had to take a selfie with it and post the photo to social media.
- Draw the logo: Participants were asked to draw the MU logo and post it on social media to try to win an award for a program of their choice.
- Mizzou abroad: People were asked to post a photo of themselves wearing MU gear somewhere around the world.
- Campus close-up: Mizzou Giving Day posted a close-up photo of a self-proclaimed MU landmark. People were asked to identify the object on social media for a chance win a donation to the unit of their choice. The landmark was the statue of Beetle Bailey, located outside of Reynolds Alumni Center.
- Show your stripes: The community was asked to share a photo or video of themselves wearing MU’s black and gold to social media. These posts were tagged with #MizzouGivingDay on social media. The winner of each challenge was able to choose a college, program or school to donate bonus money to.

Senior Jalyn Johnson found a stuffed tiger in the Office of Admissions and was able to award a $40 gift to MU’s Legion of Black Collegians.

Johnson said the 4,065 donors who participated in Giving Day demonstrate the large scale of support that MU has created and maintained.
“Our alumni support system is crazy strong, and I think it shows that people really care about this university, and once you leave, you’re not detached from it,” Johnson said. “It’s always going to be a part of you. You’ll always bleed black and gold.”

During the first Mizzou Giving Day in 2017, more than $8.3 million was raised from over 3,500 individual gifts.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Warder receives Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Engineering from University of Missouri College of Engineering**

By Ryan Owens

In honor of his distinguished career, Richard C. “Dick” Warder Jr. received the Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Engineering from the University of Missouri College of Engineering in a ceremony March 16 at the Tiger Hotel in Columbia.

The award is given annually on the Friday of the College of Engineering’s Engineers’ Week celebration. Criteria are as follows:

Exceptional efforts by an individual or an organization to foster the professional development of young engineering college graduates, Exceptional ability in the planning and direction of significant and important projects in technical engineering, Exceptional contributions by an individual to technical engineering knowledge, and/or Exceptional contributions by an individual or an organization to insure and enhance the success of the college and its students

Warder is dean emeritus of the Herff College of Engineering at the University of Memphis. He received his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and his master’s and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Northwestern University.

Warder began his teaching career at Northwestern University as an assistant professor after completing his doctorate. He subsequently served as the manager of Energy Processes Research for the Space Sciences Laboratories of Litton Industries in Beverly Hills, Calif. He then joined the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at the University of Missouri in 1968.
From 1974 to 1976 while on leave from Missouri, he served as head of the Resources Section in the Division of Advanced Energy and Resources Research and Technology of the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. He also taught part-time at George Washington University while at the NSF. Prior to joining Memphis as dean of Engineering in 1994, he served for 26 years as a faculty member, James C. Dowell Professor and chairman of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Missouri, where he is professor emeritus.

He has extensive consulting experience with academia, industry and government, including an assignment with the Office of Science and Technology in the Executive Offices of the President.

In addition to the usual Who’s Who listings, Warder is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and an associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). He previously served on the ASEE Engineering Dean’s Public Policy and Data Collection Committees and served for more than 10 years on the ASME Committee on Engineering Accreditation and as a team chair for the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET on 16 domestic and international visits. He also is a long-time member of ASEE, AIAA and the American Physical Society.

He is a registered professional engineer in Missouri and Tennessee and previously served on the Board of Governors of the National Society of Professional Engineers Sustaining Universities Program. He has published extensively, including co-authoring one research monograph and has guided the scholarship of more than 50 honors, master’s and doctoral students. His research has been supported by the NSF, Army, Air Force, NASA and the private sector.

More information on the history of the Missouri Honor Award can be found here: http://engineering.missouri.edu/alumni/moha/.

Established in 1849, Mizzou’s engineering excellence includes nine disciplines, more than 110 faculty members and more than 3,000 exceptional undergraduate and graduate students.

MU freshman nursing student researches lymphedema

By Christina Long

Freshman Rachael Hillyer made history as the first Sinclair School of Nursing student to be selected for the Discovery Fellows Program.

The program, one of the MU Honors College’s longest-running fellowship programs, awards 46 $2,000 scholarships to first- and second-year students each year with an ACT composite score of
33 or higher who are looking to become more involved in the research community, according to the Honors College website.

Research experience with the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis during high school inspired Hillyer to apply for the program upon her admission to the Honors College.

“I felt like [Discovery Fellows] would be cool because I figured, ‘I kind of have a background with this,’” Hillyer said. “I didn’t really know if I was going to get it or not, but I figured it was worth a shot.”

The Discovery Fellows Program provides freshmen with the unique opportunity to get involved with research as undergraduate students.

“This is the only program that we offer that lets a freshman dive in on day one,” said Ava Corn, scholars and fellows coordinator at the Honors College. “They get a faculty mentor, and usually they get to connect during Summer Welcome or the first week of school. It’s a highly personalized learning experience that you really can’t get elsewhere.”

The program matches fellows with professors conducting research to serve as faculty mentors. Hillyer was matched with nursing professor Jane Armer.

Armer and Hillyer work together 8-10 hours a week in researching lymphedema, a disease that causes swelling in the arms and legs. It’s most common in people who have undergone cancer treatment.

“Last semester, I did a lot of interview transcriptions with breast cancer patients [about] their experience with lymphedema after being in remission from cancer and then going back to work with that,” Hillyer said.

Hillyer has visited breast cancer support groups to provide progress updates on the research and spread the word about Armer’s recent work: an app for lymphedema patients to help track their symptoms and communicate with doctors.

“We’re ready to take [development of the app] to the next step, but we’re seeking funding,” Armer said. “In the meantime, Rachael is helping us disseminate information about what we do.”

Hillyer said she has great respect for Armer as both a professional and a person.

“I look forward to every time that I meet with her,” Hillyer said of Armer. “I really can’t imagine doing this type of fellowship with anyone else. She has made it so enjoyable … She has a heart of gold, and you can tell just from talking to her.”

Armer had similar praise for Hillyer.

“I very much enjoy working with Rachael,” Armer said. “She’s truly delightful and is always positive in responding and great at problem-solving. It’s been a very nice, reciprocal relationship.”
Outside of research, Hillyer has found more ways to get involved on campus. She is a member of a club soccer team and Pi Beta Phi sorority. Hillyer also serves as an Honors College ambassador, a role she hopes to use to encourage other aspiring nurses and potential Discovery Fellows.

“I’ll probably talk a lot about Discovery Fellows when I meet with [visiting] families,” she said. “I think a lot of people would meet the requirements to get into the Honors College, but they just don’t realize how much of an advantage it is to be in that program, especially when you’re doing nursing.”

After college, Hillyer hopes to return to St. Louis to work at Barnes-Jewish Hospital as a bedside nurse. Armer believes the Discovery Fellows Program will help Hillyer reach her goals.