UM Curators Prepared to Send Five-Year Capital Plan for Approval in April

By KACEN J. BAYLESS & COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN • 20 HOURS AGO

A Translational Precision Medicine Complex and renovations to the School of Nursing are the proposed top capital priorities for MU from 2019 to 2023.

The Board of Curators Finance Committee reviewed a five-year capital plan on Tuesday that identified major priority projects across all four UM System campuses.

“We’re putting our plans that we believe in as leaders of the University forward to our board and then they have a job to pressure test those plans,” MU Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Ryan Rapp said.

The capital plan reviewed on Tuesday will be brought to the full board for approval in April. However, Rapp said, this does not necessarily mean the priority projects will be completed. Approval of the plan just authorizes UM campuses to begin fundraising and planning for the projects.

Tuesday’s special board meeting was just another step in the capital planning process. The first step happened in November when the board approved the priority projects and included them in the preliminary capital plan.

In November, each priority project was ranked and scored on its program plan and community impact, sustainability and funding, and operating cost support. These components were scored on a scale one through 10 to create a Facilities Stewardship Index, or FSI. The projects were then ranked based on this index.
The UM System has $1.7 billion in facilities condition needs according to the preliminary capital plan and over half of the system’s academic buildings fall in the category of below average condition, poor condition, or replacement is recommended based on the Facility Condition Needs Index, or FCNI.

The priority projects for each UM school are:

MU:

- Translational Precision Medicine Complex
- School of Nursing — renovation and addition
- Medical Science Building — upgrade and maintenance of Research Vivarium

University of Missouri — Kansas City:

- Conservatory of Music & Dance
- Spencer Chemistry & Biological Sciences Renovation Phase II
- Health Sciences Interprofessional Education and Research Buildings

Missouri University of Science and Technology:

- Schrenk Hall Addition and Renovation – Phase III
- Engineering Research Lab Addition and Renovation
- Library/Learning Common
- Havener Center Renovation & Expansion

University of Missouri — St. Louis:

- Space Consolidation and Infrastructure
- Social Science Building Renovation
- Stadler Hall Renovation

The UM System placed the proposed Translational Precision Medicine Complex, or TPMC, at the top of its list of fiscal year 2020 requests for state funding. Each campus can submit one request for state capital
appropriations, Cartwright said. The UM System plans to request $50 million in appropriations to fund the complex.

Translational medicine is the combination of research and application: inventing new ways to treat and diagnose illnesses and then using them to help actual patients. Precision medicine is the practice of tailoring medical treatment to the molecule-by-molecule make-up of the patient. At a curators meeting last November, creation of the $200 million complex was deemed a top priority.

In February, Cartwright announced a plan to double MU’s research funding — from $200 million to $400 million in annual expenditures — and decrease the funding gaps between MU and other public schools in the Association of American Universities.

On Tuesday Cartwright said the TPMC is part of this plan.

“How do we think about putting in place the infrastructure needed to allow us to be more competitive nationally to attract more federal research funding? That is one of the bigger things we’re looking at in terms of that center. How does that allow us to attract that research funding?” he said.

Cartwright said he expects some of the projects in the plan to come back to the board for approval in April “because there are some of them that are pretty much ready to go,” in terms of funding and sustainability. He said he anticipates the renovations to MU’s School of Nursing and Medical Science Building will be approved for the next phase during April’s meeting.

The next Board of Curators meeting is scheduled for April 12 and 13 at Missouri S&T. Cartwright said if the plan is approved, the board will work on more specific details of the projects such as timelines and funding.
At University of Missouri Health Care, business is booming

By Rudi Keller

University of Missouri Health Care continues to be extremely profitable as it grows its market share of surgeries, births and in-patient hospital stays, a report delivered Wednesday to a Board of Curators’ committee shows.

In the first seven months of the fiscal year, the health system doubled the budgeted estimate for operating income, making $60.8 million on $583.3 million in patient revenue. That margin of 10.4 percent is more than three times the standard for the top financial rating from Moody’s Analytical, said Jennifer Doll, controller for MU Health Care, during the meeting of the Health Affairs Committee.

The net income Doll reported is $10.4 million more than through the first seven months of fiscal 2017. MU Health Care ended fiscal 2017 with net income of $98.5 million and if no unexpected downturns occur, this year will be the fourth consecutive year that margins have increased.

“We continue to have that volume growth and you would expect at some point that volume growth to slow down and it just hasn’t at this point,” Doll said.

The committee met for the quarterly meeting required by its Corporate Integrity Agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, signed in 2016 after billing issues that led to repayment of $5.2 million to the government. During Wednesday’s meeting, in addition to the financial report and a required report on implementation of the agreement, members discussed the now-suspended negotiations with Boone Hospital Center and plans to expand the reach of MU Health Care beyond the borders of Boone County.

“Both organizations are committed to providing the best care that is out there,” MU Health CEO Jonathan Curtwright said. “And if things, after there has been a chance for them to review some other options, if it could work out in the future we would be open to that.”

MU Health Care wants to become an integrated academic health system, with a broad reach of providers and services and products that help bring patients to clinics and hospitals for care, Curtwright said.
One idea being implemented is affiliations or leasing partnerships with several other hospitals, including Capital Regional Medical Center in Jefferson City. Another is to market all MU health care services as a provider network.

MU is offering “Missouri Custom,” Curtwright said, an insurance provider plan to employers with 50 or more workers in Boone and Cole counties that mirrors the “narrow network” it set up for university employees. The internal MU plan is a cheaper option than a traditional insurance provider network plan because it only includes MU providers and was chosen by about 60 percent of MU employees in the most recent open enrollment period.

The project has recently been launched, Curtwright said.

“It is a way that we are able to market the University of Missouri narrow network that is out there,” he said. “We are making bids as we speak to some medium and larger self-insured companies in mid-Missouri. I think this is a good, solid innovation and something the market is asking for.”

A new governing structure for the health system is being considered because of these new partnerships and products. The committee discussed it and plans for more work at the regular April meeting of the Board of Curators, with a potential vote in June.

The current structure divides responsibility between the curators’ Health Affairs Committee, the University of Missouri Medical Alliance Board and the MU Health Care Advisory Board, UM System President Mun Choi said. The new structure would combine those responsibilities into a Health Care Operating Committee, which would report directly to the Board of Curators.

The change would eliminate redundancy and allow for greater flexibility, Choi said.

“In many cases, we share reports but we don’t have time for the oversight that I would say that we need to talk about strategic decisions that are going to be made,” he said.
MU Health Care plans to increase its range of services in mid-Missouri

BY ELENA K. CRUZ

Plans for a more connected Missouri health care system and two new local clinics were topics of discussion at a Board of Curators meeting Wednesday.

MU Health Care CEO Jonathan Curtright and UM System President Mun Choi presented plans in front of the MU Health Affairs Committee on ways to increase connections between central Missouri medical centers, provide more at-home care for residents and build a more “streamlined” MU Health Care structure of governance, as Choi described it.

“We must think more broadly than we historically have,” Curtright said.

Statewide connected health care

Standing in front of a black-and-yellow-themed slide show, Curtright discussed MU Health Care’s position in the Integrated Academic Health System, which connects MU Health Care with other academic medical centers around central Missouri.

“Our goal is to create an integrated, academic health system,” he said.

The system, which Curtright said is being improved “each and every day,” allows MU Health Care to work closely with Capital Region Medical Center in Jefferson City. It also helps MU to connect with Bothwell Regional Health Center, Hannibal Regional Healthcare System and Lake Regional Health System.

The system incorporates electronic record-sharing technology from the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation so that doctors from different hospitals can see the same patient information.
“The days of faxing are over at (Capital) Region and beyond,” Curtright said.

Their goal is to provide trustworthy information to residents seeking medical attention, Curtright said after the meeting. If a Columbia resident needs health care but is in Jefferson City, for example, they would be able to get efficient help because of the collaborative system.

MU Health Care previously had discussed partnering with Boone Hospital Center, which is not part of the academic health system, but the talks have stopped for the time being.

**Local health care**

Two primary care clinics will open within the next two years in Columbia, Curtright said. One will be located near Battle High School and the other around Thornbrook, providing increased access to care on the north and southwest sides of town.

In addition, Curtright announced MU Health Care’s plan to improve its telehealth technology, which provides Missouri residents access to health care within their homes. With the technology, they can talk to a doctor by video for a flat fee.

“We want to be one of the leaders in telemedicine here,” Curtright said.

The service provides general and dermatology care to Columbia residents and people in rural communities. MU Health Care also uses it to provide physician training: For example, pain management specialists have instructed rural doctors about opioid addiction treatment, MU Health spokeswoman Jennifer Coffman said.

Curtright said the service is “not in its infancy, but it’s not an adolescent. It’s somewhere in between.”

**Streamlined leadership**

Choi walked to the front of the room following Curtright’s presentation to present a proposal for the new MU Health Care management structure.
“Efficiencies will only take us to a certain level,” Choi said during his presentation. “We also want to be transformative.”

The new model simplifies the organizational structure. Choi said it would make internal activities more efficient and improve communication with other medical centers as MU Health Care’s reach grows.

When Choi asked for feedback, the committee members expressed their support.

Committee member John Phillips said the plan “would be good because it would bring expertise into the oversight” through the inclusion of an operating committee. He said this emphasis on expertise “hasn’t happened before.”

Curtright also approved of the proposed model.

“I think the structure would be fantastic because there are many times I’d need guidance, feedback from executives who have walked a mile in those shoes before,” Curtright said.

After the meeting, Choi said people won’t lose their jobs because of the new structure. Instead, he said it would “help lead to growth.”

Choi also asked the committee members for constructive criticism on the model to improve it; he said the final version will be ready in June.
MU Health building two new primary care clinics in Columbia

By ALYSSA TOOMEY


**MU Health plans to build two new primary care clinics in Columbia, one on the south side of town and the other on the northeast side near Battle High School.**

CEO Jonathan Curtwright provided an update on the plans at Wednesday's Board of Curators' health affairs meeting, where he also presented MU Health's 2018-2019 strategic plan.

"We want to make it so primary care is available in every quadrant of the city and frankly many other parts of Boone County," Curtwright told ABC 17 News after the meeting.

Curtwright said they are looking for land right now, and said he hopes to have both clinics up and running in the next two years.

"We're going to hopefully be able to do that and make it so patients don't have to come down here to the main campus. They're going to be able to get their care right where they are," Curtwright said, adding that the two new clinics would be similar to the one they recently opened in Ashland.

The initiative is all part of a broader goal aimed at bringing health care to every resident in Missouri.

"We want to make it so patients are able to get their care in Jeff City, or at the Lake of the Ozarks or in Kirksville and make it so that we are able to do this without people necessarily having to travel to Columbia get that care," Curtwright said.

One possible means of achieving that goal is through telemedicine. Curtwright said it's still in the early stages, but he envisions things like a physician consult via Skype.
"Let's face it--oftentimes the most convenient place for them [patients] to get care is right in their own home," Curtwright said.

MU to sell Mizzou North property

By BRYCE MARLIN


COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri intends to sell Mizzou North, the former Ellis Fischel hospital located on Business Loop 70.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said building upkeep prompting putting it on the market. Basi said the building is very old, requires a lot of maintenance and is off campus.

“We have some places on campus that are not being utilized to the best of their ability, and Mizzou North is one of them,” Basi said.

Basi said operating cost is one of the central factors behind why MU is selling the facility.

“If we were able to sell Mizzou North and move everyone here, we would save about $1.3 million a year and that’s something that has been on a radar.” he said.

When the building first opened in 1940, it housed the Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital. MU bought the property in 1990.

The building currently houses the Museum of Anthropology and the Museum of Art and Archeology as well as 28 MU departments.

Basi said if the building is sold, the museums and MU departments will likely be relocated to MU’s main campus. He said it’s important to keep departments closer to other offices with whom they work.
Carrie Gartner, executive director of The Loop, said she thinks the plot of land will likely be bought and used for commercial development. She said because of the cost to destroy the nine-story building, the price to buy the land may be significantly lower.

Gartner said Columbia is in need of more space for small businesses. She said the 11 acres could be used for restaurants, coffee shops, and other niche businesses.

“Hopefully something is put there that doesn’t contribute to just the economic value of the street but also to the liveliness of the street,” she said.

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**MISSOURIAN**

**Plan to sell Mizzou North has unclear timeline**

BY KACEN J. BAYLESS

**Mizzou North, the 40-acre property two miles from MU’s campus and the former site of Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, will be put up for sale.**

Vice Chancellor Gary Ward announced plans to put Mizzou North on the market at a special Board of Curators meeting Tuesday, though when it might happen is still uncertain.

MU Health’s [website](http://example.com) described the 80-year-old, seven-story building — now considered a Columbia Historic Property — as a layered chocolate cake, with each sequential cream-colored story resembling a smaller layer.

Originally built to house the first state cancer hospital west of the Mississippi River, Mizzou North is home to several MU departments, including Health Psychology, Anthropology, Molecular Pathology, Engineering and the Law Enforcement Training Institute. The building also contains the museums of Art and Archeology, and Anthropology.

Museum director Alex Barker and Department of Health Psychology administrator Katrina Rowland work in the building. They said they were not surprised by the announcement.
“The university has been talking about reducing the costs associated with running Mizzou North for quite some time,” Barker said. “Mizzou North was a very expensive building to operate, and they were hoping to find ways of reducing the cost of operating facilities, especially those off-campus.”

UM spokesman Christian Basi said there is no timeline for when the property will be placed on the market and that campus leaders are still moving forward with the process.

“We don’t know where we’ll move,” Rowland said. “No one knows.”

Rowland said there was some concern within the building about the possibility of programs being cut.

“The question came up: What if they just decide to dissolve the department and don’t find a place for us on campus?” she said. “I don’t see that happening because we see patients and we have some patients booked out for like six months, so I don’t see that happening, but then again, I could be wrong.”

Ward announced the plan while providing an update to the board on the review of available space on MU’s campus. Basi said this review includes whether a building has outlived its life expectancy and a periodic assessment of available spaces on campus.

Basi said campus leaders have looked at selling the property “as a serious option” the past several months.

“One of the big pieces of real estate that we own is Mizzou North, and there are several issues with it,” Basi said.

Along with maintenance of the property, Basi said one issue with Mizzou North is its proximity to campus. The property sits about two miles north of MU’s campus.

“When you have people who are that far off campus working closely with folks who are on campus, it can become a struggle, and it can make things inefficient,” he said.
One of the goals of placing the building on the market is to get as many people back to campus as possible, Basi said.

“We’re estimating that we would save approximately $1.3 million in operating costs from that building each year,” he said.

He said the money saved from the property could result in fewer cuts or potential investments in other academic areas.

**History of the Mizzou North building**

The building at Mizzou North was erected in 1938 and dedicated as The Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital on April 26, 1940.

During its first year of operation, the 85-bed hospital was used to treat more than 1,000 patients. According to MU Health’s website, the hospital’s original mission was to treat Missouri residents unable to pay for their care.

In 1990, the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center merged with MU, and cancer physicians at MU Hospital relocated to the center. In the 2000s, MU Health Care decided that the then-septuagenarian building needed to be replaced, and in 2013, Ellis Fischel moved to its current location on MU’s campus.

In the fall of 2013, the Museum of Art and Archaeology was relocated to Mizzou North because of concerns about radiation from radium research that lingered in its previous location at Pickard Hall. The move and renovations took more than a year and a half to complete, and while parts of the museum were open to the public in 2014, the full renovation was not done until April 2015. The cost of the move and the preparation of the museum was $1.5 million.

After moving out of Swallow Hall in 2014, the Museum of Anthropology also reopened at Mizzou North last fall.
Despite not knowing when the property will be placed on the market, Barker said he was looking forward to moving the museums back to MU’s campus.

“We’re an academic museum,” he said. “Our purpose is to serve the facility and students of the University of Missouri and to be a part of the intellectual life of campus, and while we do our best to accomplish that goal here, it would be much easier if folks could simply drop by between classes instead of taking a two-mile hike up to Mizzou North.”

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Amid Mizzou fraternity closings, a new advisory council mulls Greek life changes

BY KATY BERGEN, March 21, 2018 06:28 PM

In late January, a group of individuals packed into a large board room at the University of Missouri’s Student Center to talk about saving Greek life.

Three months before, a Dyad Strategies report had highlighted pervasive risks associated with Mizzou's Greek system — from hazing and the overconsumption of alcohol to a fractured relationship between the university and Greek students that dated back years.

Now, almost 30 people — Greek student leaders, as well as faculty, alumni, parents, university officials, national organization representatives and fraternity and sorority experts — had been assembled by Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Gary Ward to discuss how to make Greek life safer and more equitable, not marked by danger and dysfunction.

In addition to other tasks, Ward's newly formed council will recommend changes that aim to mitigate hazing and drinking practices that have become associated with Greek life at a time of
national reckoning for American fraternities, some of which have been shut down by national organizations and subject to scrutiny in the wake of high-profile death of fraternity members across the country.

At the University of Missouri, three fraternities — Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and FarmHouse — have been closed by their national organizations during the 2017-18 school year for hazing and drinking violations, and several others are currently under investigation for similar infractions.

"What Mizzou is doing right now is in step with what everyone else in the country is doing," said Mizzou Dean of Students Jeffrey Zeilenga, whom Ward tapped to chair the counsel. "We jumped into this at the same time as most other major institutions that have decided, 'We have to do things differently."

Just how differently will be determined by the new Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council, which includes representatives from the university's four Greek organizations, the Interfraternity Council, the Multicultural Greek Council, the National Pan-Hellenic Council the and Panhellenic Association, by the end of the semester.

The Mizzou process is collaborative by design, school officials have said, and an effort to create buy-in around what recommendations made in the Dyad Strategies report should be implemented at Mizzou.

"We have really good people in all of our work groups that will spend a lot of time discussing and vetting the pros, the cons, as well as the alternatives that we should be considering," Zeilenga told The Star earlier this year.

Already, the university has made headway on some recommendations.

Staff at what was once the university's Office of Greek Life, now called the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life, has doubled from two employees to four, Zeilenga said.
A community scorecard will soon make chapter GPAs, as well as violation history, easily accessible to the public.

The scorecard, which is unfinished but posted to the university's website earlier this month, will be completed this semester by Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life staff and shared with the advisory board.

"As a parent or a prospective student you could make a determination on the fraternities or sororities that you want to be a part of as a result of what is reported on the scorecard," Zeilenga said. "It's in your best interests to have no violations and a real outstanding GPA."

But bigger changes are yet to come, and the recommendations with the most potential to be controversial will be made before the end of the semester.

The council's five work groups will ultimately recommend solutions to issues that consultants determined were particularly important in addressing when it comes to reforming Mizzou's Greek system, particularly within the fraternities governed by the Interfraternity Council.

Those issues include hazing, diversity and inclusion, risky social practices, academics and recruitment and the issue of whether freshmen members should be permitted to live in chapter houses.

The issue of freshmen living in houses is likely to be a sticking point for those following discussions about the feasibility of gradually implementing a policy that would require all or some freshmen to live out of chapter housing.

Supporters of such a policy say students are exposed to university programming and freshmen learning communities when living in campus housing, often perform better academically and avoid exposure to hazing and health issues found in some chapter houses.
But opponents of the policy often point to strong GPAs, in-house relationships and chapter resources as reasons to support freshmen living in chapter houses, which are not owned by the university. Some have also decried the economic impact that removing freshmen from chapter houses would have on alumni, students and housing corporation presidents.

"This work group should prepare a report outlining an implementation plan prioritizing the safety and well-being of students and the health of our fraternity/sorority chapters, but should also consider the financial implications and put forward a plan that minimizes the risk of any adverse financial impact on fraternity/sorority chapters or housing corporations," instructions in a university document describing the tasks of the council's work groups said.

Consultant Gentry McCreary, one of two professionals who conducted the Dyad Strategies report and is currently serving as an adviser on the council, said the council will likely convene in April before making recommendations in May.

"The purpose of this council and the work groups are to build some consensus on the plan moving forward and to ensure that we have buy in from the undergraduates and the alumni," McCreary said. "It's an effort to get everyone on the same page moving forward."

**Beta Theta Pi escapes fate of other frats**

By Rudi Keller

Beta Theta Pi, a fraternity placed on disciplinary probation for hazing by the University of Missouri, will not face additional sanctions from its national governing body.

The organizational discipline process at MU concluded that Beta Theta Pi, which has a chapter house at 520 S. College Ave., had engaged in hazing during the fall semester. The fraternity is on probation until Feb. 1, 2019, and must take other steps including monthly meetings with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life through Dec. 1.
The university’s decision to place Beta Theta Pi on probation satisfies the national organization, Justin Warren, director of media relations for the national fraternity, wrote in an email to the Tribune.

Undergraduate leaders of the chapter brought the hazing allegations to the national fraternity in December, Warren wrote.

“As a result, the General Fraternity collaborated with university officials to conduct a thorough in-person investigation that revealed an isolated incident involving a small number of members who deviated from the chapter’s no hazing policy,” he wrote.

Spencer Stapf, president of the MU chapter, declined to comment on the national fraternity decision.

FarmHouse fraternity, also put on probation for hazing, was closed Tuesday by its national organization, making it the second to receive that harsh penalty this month and the third since classes began in August. MU has also referred the findings of its investigation of FarmHouse to the Columbia Police Department for further investigation of possible violations of the state law against hazing.

At Beta Theta Pi, two members were suspended until graduation and lost their rooms at the chapter house but no additional sanctions will be taken against the chapter, Warren wrote.

Issues of bad behavior at MU fraternities have been in the forefront of campus concerns all year. When MU turned over the summary disciplinary findings showing Beta Theta Pi and FarmHouse were found to have engaged in hazing, spokesman Christian Basi said there were 11 additional investigations underway of Greek organizations.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was closed by its national organization in October, days after two freshmen pledges assaulted two other freshmen, breaking the jaw of one and breaking a tooth of the other. The students who were assaulted are suing the local and national organizations of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the alleged assailants, Nikolas Childress and Zachary Barabasz, face felony charges.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which was ordered to cease activities in December, was shut down for at least four years last week by the national organization for “multiple health-and-safety violations.”

A report from consultant Dyad Strategies, delivered in late October, made more than 50 recommendations for changes in rules governing Greek organizations and the structure of university oversight of those groups.

MU has not been formally notified by Beta Theta Pi that no additional sanctions will be imposed, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said Wednesday. The outcome is satisfactory and the university wants to work with the national organizations, he said.
“We have a whole process in place that we are going to continue to try to do our disciplinary actions internally, and we are going to enforce them,” Cartwright said. “There is a great number of positive things happening in Greek life. We want those things happening but we have to make sure these other things are not occurring.”

Fraternities nationally are being stricter with local chapters because of a series of fatal incidents involving alcohol or hazing. Kappa Alpha at MU was shut down in 2016 after a freshman, Brandon Zingale, almost died when he was directed to chug vodka. Zingale, who is no longer enrolled at MU, is suing the fraternity.

Beta Theta Pi’s national reputation was marred when Penn State University student Tim Piazza died of alcohol poisoning in February 2017. Initially 26 members of the fraternity were charged with crimes and 14 are still facing charges. On Feb. 28, the national organization shut down the chapter at Washington and Lee University in Virginia after an investigation of hazing at that chapter.

In a news release about Washington and Lee, Beta Theta Pi said its investigation was resisted by the local chapter and that it found “a systemic culture of hazing that includes physical intimidation, acts of servitude and the compelled consumption of concoctions intended to cause nausea.”

At the MU chapter, Warren wrote, chapter leaders cooperated with the investigation.

“Beta Theta Pi strongly believes that hazing has no place in the fraternity experience, and the Missouri investigation did not produce findings suggesting a systemic hazing culture within the chapter — an important distinction from the events at Washington and Lee,” he wrote.

The national fraternity worked with MU to determine what discipline was necessary for the local chapter, Warren wrote.

“Given the investigation’s findings, and the chapter leadership’s initial decision to proactively bring this matter to our attention, we support the disciplinary directives as currently presented by the university,” he wrote.
FarmHouse closes Mizzou chapter over hazing, alcohol violations

By KELLEY HOSKINS

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Joint statement: FarmHouse closes MU chapter

Watch video at: http://fox2now.com/2018/03/21/farmhouse-closes-mizzou-chapter-over-hazing-alcohol-violations/

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Another University of Missouri fraternity closed for hazing and alcohol violations. Leaders of the FarmHouse International Fraternity announced this week that it will close its chapter on campus.

The announcement comes after a joint investigation determined the fraternity clearly violated alcohol and hazing policies.

When our Fox 2/KPLR 11 news crews arrived on campus, the Farmhouse letters had been removed from the façade of the house and a moving van parked outside the fraternity building. Dozens of items were being boxed up to be removed. Other students did talk about the closure. Fraternity members refused to comment about the shutdown.

This is not the first time a fraternity has been shut down at the campus. Since last year, two other fraternities also have closed. Sigma Alpha Epsilon was suspended for multiple health and safety violations and Sigma Phi Epsilon closed in October after repeated code of conduct violations.

Officials would not elaborate on the allegations relating to the closure, but the case has been turned over to the Columbia Police Department for further investigation. Everyone must be out of the fraternity house by this weekend.
Fraternity leaders open their doors to community, address "systemic" issues

By CHARLES NICHELSON

COLUMBIA - A few community members met with Interfraternity Council (IFC) leadership to address what the Interfraternity executive board called "systemic" cultural issues within the Greek community.

It came just a day after FarmHouse, an international fraternity that was founded at the University of Missouri more than 100 years ago, was removed from campus amid hazing allegations.

“Our top priority is to foster a culture of safety and responsibility in our chapters,” FarmHouse International Fraternity CEO, Christian Wiggins said Tuesday, in a statement about the decision. “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.”

It was the second town hall in a series led by the Interfraternity Council's vice president of risk management, Joshua Chodor. He and his colleagues also met with Columbia Mayor Brian Treece earlier in the week in hopes of building trust within the community.

Chodor said he was doing this work for future generations of MU students.

"I really want this to be something that looks at the long-term." Chodor said. "When we come back to the university, as alumni in 20 years, we can say the Greek system is thriving because of the work we did."
Fraternities and sororities have been working to reform their practices since the release of the Dyad report, which was released in October and presented several recommendations to improve the Greek experience at MU.

During the past year, four fraternities have been kicked off, including FarmHouse.

The Interfraternity Council executive board members said they wanted to address systemic cultural issues, such as hazing, so more fraternities do not get removed from campus.

They expect decisions related to some recommendations made in the Dyad report before the end of the current semester and want to take on a proactive role in the reforms made.

MU system president to speak at alumni dinner

Story generated by direct pitch by MU News Bureau.

A dinner set for 6 p.m. today at the West Plains Country Club will feature special guest Dr. Mun Choi, University of Missouri (MU) system president, to provide an update on university affairs.

The annual Evening With Mizzou event is hosted by the Ozarks Black and Gold chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association and will also celebrate this year’s alumni scholarship recipients. The evening will begin with a social, followed by dinner served at 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is $15 per person, but reservations for the dinner are now closed.

Choi was installed as the president of the MU system on March 1, 2017, four months after his hire was announced at the conclusion of a nearly yearlong national search. Previously, Michael Middleton had served as interim president.

At the time of his hire, Choi had spent 24 years working in higher education, most recently serving as provost and executive vice president of the University of Connecticut (UConn), where he is said to have developed innovative programs that led to growth in enrollment and faculty hires, new research and expanded industry partnerships. From 2008-2012, Choi served as the Dean of Engineering at the university.
Prior to that, from 2000-2008, he was the department head of mechanical engineering and mechanics at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and he worked at the University of Illinois at Chicago teaching as an assistant and associate professor.

Choi, born in South Korea, immigrated to the U.S. with his family as a young child and grew up working in the family business in Chicago. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in general engineering in 1987 from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and later went on to study at Princeton University in New Jersey, earning master’s and doctorate degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering.

He has said that becoming the president of the MU system is “unquestionably the pinnacle” of his professional career. For more information about the dinner contact Betty Lou Stock, 257-1190.

MU researchers develop tool that could play role in studying Alzheimer's

By JOSHUA TYLER

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: MU neuroscientists develop potential tools for the study of brain function, could aid research in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s


COLUMBIA - MU researchers have developed potential tools that could aid research for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

The researchers said the tools will advance fundamental brain research and potentially lead to advancing “deep brain stimulation” treatments used for Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.
The research team looks into an unexpected source of tools for studying the brain: fruit flies.

Researchers from Brandeis University raised the possibility of using a protein found in taste receptors of fruit flies as a tool in brain research, and now MU researchers are building on that research.

"So currently all of the thermogenetic tools in use are derived from mammals and this protein is only found in fruit flies," said researcher Benton Berigan. "It gives the opportunity to have a entirely new class of proteins to be studied for their ability to be thermogenetic tools."

Identifying the special proteins would give scientists a better understanding of how neuronal circuits function, according to an MU professor of biological sciences, Dr. Troy Zars. Scientists may be able to use the special proteins to control cells in the brain.

"A powerful tool for a neuroscientist, is the ability to control individual cells by turning them on and turning them off," said Berigan. "So what we sought to do is just expand some of the tools that use temperature to also activate individual cells."

The hope for the future is that they may be able to use the same control process in other animals, including humans.

"In order to learn about how the neuron circuit affects causes these diseases and how the neuron cells communicate with each other, it's better to have external control of them," said one researcher, Marzi Amirshenava. "Then you can externally manipulate the cells in order to see the effect of those cells in the circuit."

The research for the protein is still in the early stages and is not yet being tested on humans.
Let’s think about who grades teachers

By Christie Bergin

EDITORIAL RESULTED FROM DIRECT NEWS BUREAU PITCH

Standardized testing has long been a focus of national discussion, but among teachers and schools, the other side of the coin — teacher evaluation — continues to be a hot topic of debate. As one of the primary means of assessing teacher performance, ensuring the accuracy of these evaluations should be a major priority.

The most common approach to teacher evaluations is having principals briefly visit a teacher’s classroom to observe teaching. Surprisingly, not enough research has been conducted on classroom observations to be sure these evaluations are accurate. This opens the door to biases and inconsistencies in the evaluation process. That’s why our research team at the University of Missouri is studying principals’ accuracy in evaluating teacher competence during classroom observations.

In our studies we looked at how accurate ratings were after principals had been trained by the Network for Educator Effectiveness (NEE). A high-quality teacher evaluation and growth system used by over 260 school districts in Missouri, the NEE emphasizes using teacher evaluation to identify what teachers already do well and what they need to improve. For example, an evaluation may reveal that a teacher is skilled at drawing critical thinking from students but not as skilled at helping the students collaborate.

Aside from ratings, the evaluations also provide teachers with specific feedback that targets areas for professional development. In identifying strengths and areas for growth, an evaluation can have a tangible impact on a teacher’s practice in the classroom. All the more important, then, that evaluations are accurate.

Interestingly, we found that principals tend to rate teachers leniently. Principals often have strong workplace motivations to rate teachers higher, such as building trust, maintaining relationships and motivating teachers. While most principals are reasonably accurate raters overall despite this leniency, about 12 percent of principals gave such biased ratings that their evaluations could be considered invalid.
We also found that a principal’s accuracy can vary widely depending on the type of teaching practice they are observing. In particular, most principals are accurate when rating a teacher’s ability to promote critical thinking, but their accuracy declines when they rate a teacher’s ability to monitor how well students were following the lesson.

This difference highlights the importance of analyzing evaluation accuracy. Just a few years ago, the same principals were less accurate at rating critical thinking. After principal training was revised to emphasize critical thinking, ratings became significantly more accurate for that teaching practice. It’s clear that our analysis can help tailor training for principals to ensure teachers are getting relevant and accurate feedback.

Overall, our studies have produced valuable, practical information for school districts that want to improve the accuracy of their evaluations. To improve accuracy, districts can have principals do more frequent observations, have multiple principals rate the same teachers and take leniency into account when looking at ratings. Districts should also provide additional training to principals who give biased ratings.

It is important for schools to approach teacher evaluations with the same attention to detail and eye for accuracy that they bring to student assessments. If students represent the future of our society, then teachers are the stewards of that future, and they deserve feedback that is accurate and useful. With so much depending on the success of teachers and their students, let’s make sure we get it right.

Christi Bergin is a research professor at the University of Missouri.

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**MU receives gold rating in most recent STARS report**

By Micheal Wilmarth

MU received its most recent Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System score this month, scoring 69.3 percent of possible points and achieving another gold rating. The current score is up 3.37 points from MU’s 2015 rating.

According to its website, STARS is, “a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.”

The STARS criteria consist of 77 sub-categories that are divided into six sections that range from institutional characteristics to academics. Nearly 900 universities around the world participate in STARS, most of them in the United States. 30.8 percent of the 340 rated institutions have achieved a gold rating. Only three institutions — Colorado State, University of New Hampshire and Stanford — have attained platinum, the highest sustainability rating.
Since MU’s last score in 2015, the STARS rating system has upgraded from version 2.0 to 2.1. The scores that determine each rating have stayed the same, but the criteria in order to obtain that score has become more stringent.

Despite more rigorous grading criteria, MU managed to increase its curriculum sustainability score, going up from 24.73 to 27.20, a 2.47-point increase.

Sustainability Office Manager Srinivasan (Raghu) Raghavan explained the uptick in academic points.

“Basically [it’s] because we looked at a lot more of the curriculum on campus,” Raghavan said. “STARS looks at the sustainability content of the curriculum. My suspicion is that last time we didn’t look at all of the courses offered on campus, but this time I went through about 4,000 courses offered over a year. I looked at their sustainability content and decided which ones were sustainable and which ones were not, and we made a lot of gains on the curriculum front.”

These advancements come despite the budget cuts that reduced the Sustainability Office to just Raghavan and one staff member.

MU gets over 39 percent of its energy from renewable sources and was recognized in 2017 as a national leader by the EPA’s Green Power Partnership. The renewable energy plant, located on west campus off Providence and identifiable by its two smoke stacks, is fueled by biomass energy.

“With regards to operations, the most outstanding aspect of our campus is our energy management program,” Raghavan said.

MU scored lowly, however, in waste minimization and diversion, receiving just 2.39 of 8 points. This is despite designated receptacles being placed around campus.

“Our recycling rate is abysmal; it’s below 20 percent,” Raghavan said. “One of the reasons our rate is so low is because students and staff and faculty don’t throw the right stuff in the right bins, and we have contamination.”

Raghavan uses a three-circle Venn diagram to represent sustainability as a balance between environmental, social and economic factors within a community. Where all three factors overlap is considered sustainable.

Raghavan said that sustainability does not necessarily have to include each of the three factors.

“For example, if there’s a course in the nursing school that looks at elderly care, that is sustainability…” he said. “Courses that look at issues from a holistic perspective, as full life cycle economics, that [also] has partial sustainability content.”

Raghavan said that there are a few courses that embody all three areas of sustainability, particularly in the rural sociology program. But for the most part, all departments have areas where they can improve.
“Some of this is counter cultural; it could be misinterpreted,” Raghavan said. “We have to look at our consumption patterns, and since we live in a consumer society, questioning our consumption patterns becomes a difficult task.”

Columbia students organize march in support of gun control

By Claire Colby

A group of local high school students are taking it upon themselves to organize a rally in support of gun control.

“I was super inspired by all the other students around the country leading similar events, and I thought that I could have a voice in this too and maybe make a change,” said Anushka, a sophomore at Rock Bridge High School.

Anushka is working with a group of other high school students to organize the March 24 rally. An official “March For Our Lives” will be held in Washington, DC. Hundreds of other solidarity marches are planned for the same day, including the rally in Columbia.

The march is set to start at the Francis Quadrangle on University of Missouri campus and finish at the courthouse, where students will speak about their thoughts on gun control.

Despite strong opinions on gun policy, the event isn’t intended to be partisan.

“We’re trying to make this as open and affirming to everyone’s political views as possible,” said fellow organizer Maddie, also a sophomore at Rock Bridge High School. “In the end, we all kind of want the same goals.” The Tribune is withholding the students’ last names since they are minors.

Students have been organizing this event for more than a month, drafting press releases and raising awareness. Teachers aren’t allowed to explicitly express support for the movement, but several have donated their classrooms as meeting locations and allowed announcements about the march during class.

“No matter what their own political ideologies might be, I just think they’re really proud of us for taking this into our own hands and doing something about this,” Maddie said.
The students organizing the event also participated in a walkout last week in support of gun control. Rock Bridge High School Principal Jennifer Ruckstad sent an email to teachers asking them not to discipline students who took part in the walk out. Police and teachers supervised the protest to ensure it went smoothly and safely.

“When I was younger, I was never into politics because I always thought of it as adult stuff,” said Kanchan, another one of the event’s organizers. “This is actually something that I can get behind and be a part of. There’s strength in numbers, and gun control is a really relevant issue right now because so many people care.”

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**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Former state lawyers criticize Hawley's investigation into Greitens' use of Confide**

By Sky Chadde

JEFFERSON CITY • Six lawyers who formerly worked for the state government under Democrats have sharply criticized what they call a “halfhearted” investigation by Attorney General Josh Hawley’s office into Gov. Eric Greitens’ administration’s use of Confide, an app that deletes messages.

The letter from the group comes as Hawley, a Republican who’s running for U.S. Senate, faces other complaints stemming from his political campaign for state office. The lawyers, who formerly worked for the attorney general’s office or the office of the governor under Democratic administrations, said the investigation left them wondering whether Hawley was protecting Greitens, also a Republican, or was “simply incompetent.”

“As lawyers who have served the state, we are dismayed by Attorney General Josh Hawley’s halfhearted investigation into Governor Greitens’ alleged use of Confide,” the letter reads. “The only thing more suspicious than the governor’s secret communication system is our attorney general’s apparent willingness to accept bogus legal arguments and implausible narratives from the Governor’s Office.”

Hawley’s office said the letter, which was issued Tuesday, was a partisan attack.

“It is deeply disappointing to see members of the Bar inject partisan politics into the work of the Attorney General’s Office,” Loree Ann Paradise, Hawley’s spokeswoman, said in a statement.
During the investigation, members of the governor’s staff told Hawley’s office they used the app for some state business, such as scheduling meetings. Hawley’s office never tried to interview the governor and did not retrieve any text messages. Hawley’s office ultimately found that no laws had been broken.

In the lawyers’ view, the finding is baffling.

“It makes no sense to coordinate the time, date, and location of meetings through a messaging app that shows only a few words at a time and immediately deletes the message after one reading,” the letter reads. “And why would anyone install a separate, super-secretive messaging app on his phone solely to schedule meetings while continuing to send regular text messages or email for everything else?”

The staff lawyer who led the investigation has defended his work, saying he would have resigned if Hawley had asked him to arrive at a predetermined conclusion.

Hawley’s office said the lawyers had written the letter because “they have an ax to grind.”

One “was removed from his position at the beginning” of Hawley’s administration and another “was General Counsel at the time the Koster Administration committed potential ethical and discovery violations,” Paradise said in the statement.

In December, Hawley’s office released a report that found that Koster’s office wrongly withheld evidence while it negotiated a wrongful death lawsuit with the family of Anthony Lamar Smith, whom St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley shot and killed.

None of the lawyers who signed the letter are mentioned in that report.

Hawley also is investigating the charity Greitens founded, The Mission Continues. During his run for governor, Greitens’ campaign received an email with the charity’s donor list from a charity staffer.

The lawyers who signed the letter are Andrew Hirth, Joanna Trachtenberg and Joe Bindbeutel, who worked under Attorney General Chris Koster, according to their LinkedIn profiles; Brad Ketcher, then-Gov. Mel Carnahan’s chief of staff; Ronald Holliger, who was a Court of Appeals judge before joining Koster’s staff in 2009; and Michael Wolff, a former state Supreme Court judge.

Hawley already is facing criticism for how he handled free legal work done on his behalf during his campaign for attorney general.

A former Republican House member, Kevin Elmer, requested emails and other records created while Hawley was a University of Missouri professor. In a subsequent lawsuit, Elmer claimed Hawley and the university prevented access to the records in order to conceal “the inappropriate use of university property for campaigning and other political purposes.”
A Washington D.C. law firm defended Hawley for free, which Hawley did not report on any campaign filings.

Last week, Jane Dueker, an attorney and a Democrat, filed a complaint with the Missouri Ethics Commission that accused Hawley of violating the law by failing to report the legal services.

And Sen. Scott Sifton, D-Affton, has requested that the state auditor’s office look into whether the documents Elmer requested should be released under the Sunshine Law.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**CPD: More officers won’t mean less overtime**

By Michael Maresh

As the city of Columbia looks into hiring more police officers, in part to lessen the amount of overtime being allowed, some public safety employees might be against bringing in more officers.

As of Feb. 10 the Columbia Police Department had spent $187,775 in overtime of the $584,305 budgeted fiscal year 2018. Police Chief Ken Burton told the council earlier this week that based on those numbers, his department will have sufficient funds available for the rest of the fiscal year.

Columbia Police Department Public Information Officer Bryana Larimer said hiring more officers would not decrease the overtime numbers.

“The short answer to this is no, it would not,” Larimer wrote in an email to the Tribune. “Essentially, unpredictable human behavior drives overtime. We cannot control when or what call for service an officer will have to respond to, but the response will always have to occur regardless of whether it’s on normal work time or overtime.”

A beginning Columbia Police Officer with no experience in law enforcement makes $42,141 a year. The midpoint is $50,569 and the maximum is $58,997.

The median salary for a Columbia police officer and one from Independence, Missouri, is almost the same at $51,579 and $51,884, respectively.

Columbia is allowed to have 173 commissioned officers, while the Independence Police Department has 203, but that is only part of the equation.
While the two cities are close in population — Columbia’s population is 118,000 and Independence is at 117,000 — the University of Missouri with its 30,000 students in Columbia has its own police force.

The University of Missouri Police Department currently has 50 commissioned officers, eight security officers, 12 dispatchers, four administrative staff and between 15 to 50 seasonal, part-time campus safety officers.

Larimer said officers may experience overtime depending on their completion of daily assignments. For example, an officer gets called to a disturbance late in the shift which results in an arrest, then it’s very likely that officer may have to stay over to complete the arrest and associated paperwork.

Beyond daily workload, there is also optional and mandatory overtime such as staffing at special events. Larimer said for safety reasons she could not release the number of officers per shift.

Paul Love, who is running against Michael Trapp for the Second Ward council seat, thinks officers should be able to use more technology to file police reports rather than having to write them out at the end of a shift. He thinks this could result in an extra hour per day for that officer to have for patrol.

Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala said there is a difference of opinion in how many officers Columbia needs. Dale Roberts, Executive Director of the Columbia Police Officers Association, thinks the city needs 128 more police officers. Skala said there is no way the city could afford to do that.

Skala thinks there are many police officers who are content with the force they have now.

“The existing police officers would not want to see more police officers because it takes away their chance to get more overtime,” he said, adding the city needs to do something to bring in more police officers.

Roberts said of the 174 commissioned officers with the CPD there are 70 Columbia patrol officers. He said there is a big difference with Independence having 30 more officers than Columbia.

Roberts said not all of the overtime can be avoided, but said some of it could be used to hire two to three officers. He also knows some officers don’t mind working more than 40 hours a week.

“There are some officers who like to work a little bit more for (more money),” Roberts said.

In calendar year 2017, CPD officers logged 23,000 hours of overtime, Roberts said.

He disputed the median pay scale, saying 70 percent of the police officers in Columbia are below that $51,500 figure, adding this could be one reason why the city is having difficulty in attracting officers.
Trapp said the overtime budget is used for instances like big investigations or security at an outside event, but otherwise overtime should be minimized.

He said use of overtime by the police department has been reasonable.

“If we could add officers it would be less of an issue,” Trapp said. “It’s a process to bringing in officers.”

Fifth Ward Councilman Matt Pitzer thinks filling the 10 officer vacancies would be the most efficient way to lower the overtime hours by police officers.

“It can’t be avoided completely, but I think it can be reduced greatly,” Pitzer said.

He does think officers would see the benefit of having more time off over extra pay if CPD added to its force.

Calls to the Independence Police Department and Mayor Brian Treece on Wednesday were not returned.

Residents get public meeting regarding CAFO

By Allen Fennewald

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a public hearing to discuss the Tipton East concentrated animal feeding operation application for a State No-Discharge Operating permit.

The public comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing, which will take place 6-8 p.m. April 18 at the Tipton Country Club.

The hearing is in response to more than 100 public requests for a meeting with DNR to discuss the possible installation of a proposed class 1C CAFO operation, managed by Pipestione System. The operation would be housed on 25 acres in Cooper County within a mile north of the Moniteau County line near Clarksburg.
Many area residents are opposed to the operation, which would consist of a gestation building housing 4,704 sows, a farrowing building housing 1,080 sows, and a gilt-development unit for 1,620 females weighing more than 55 pounds, and 324 nursery pigs, according to the application.

Opponents fear manure spread on adjacent crop fields could contaminate area springs and streams with excessive nitrates, and bacterial and viral pathogens; while possible leaks in the underground manure containers could poison the ground water on which many area farmers depend. Some area parents also fear the additional manure and decaying hog carcasses could result in health complications — such as E coli or respiratory illness — for their children and decrease their general quality of living through offensive odor.

**University of Missouri Extension assistant professor Teng Teeh Lim said Tipton East's water pollution impact could be well managed if the operation has enough land to apply the manure and the spreaders follow good application practices.**

Opposition members fear the operation can't be trusted to follow the best application practices.

Opposition member Fred Williams has pointed to Jackrabbit Farms in South Dakota, where residents are complaining of an existing Pipestone System CAFO, as proof that its method of corporate farming can have odor outputs that are detrimental to public well-being.

Lim conducted a brief evaluation of Tipton East's potential odor footprint using Purdue University's Livestock Odor Setback Model and the University of Minnesota Extension's Odor from Feedlots Setback Estimation Tool. He said for deep-pit CAFOs like the proposed Tipton East, the operation should have enough distance for the odors to be dispersed and diluted and enough crop fields nearby to land apply the manure at an agronomic rate.

Other residents support the proposal, because adjacent farmers could receive free manure fertilizer, area crop farmers could sell feed to Tipton East and the proposed operation would add 17 full-time jobs to the local economy. Agricultural organizations like the Missouri Pork Producers have voiced support for the proposal, because it believes Missouri needs more farrowing operations.
The smell of paint may attract bears in the Sierra Nevada, and Brenda Selman learned that the hard way.

Selman had set up her easel on a porch in northern California three summers ago rather than hike into the mountains because she was aware of the threat of mountain lions and other animals.

Her porch, she learned, was not as safe as she thought. She saw movement from the corner of her eye, dismissed it first as a ground squirrel, then discovered it was much bigger.

“I looked down,” she said, “and it was the nose of a bear.”

Painting is usually a relaxing pursuit for Selman, 56, MU’s assistant vice provost for enrollment management and university registrar. The walls of her office are filled with her own paintings, largely landscapes in oil from her trips to the mountains in California or the Flint Hills in Kansas.

Her work is sold through Bright City Lights and art shows with the Columbia Art League, but Selman said word-of-mouth is the most successful avenue. Her next step is to begin selling online, she said.

Selman became interested in painting when she was 13, when her mother would buy her new jeans in exchange for a painting.
“I’m just really grateful that my mom let me get started,” Selman said. Parents do not always support artistic ambitions, she said, especially in rural areas where painting doesn’t contribute to farm work.

At 14, Selman felt confident enough to enroll in a few university classes. She took weekend classes at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where the college students would tell her that “the children’s class is down the hall.”

Selman’s response was simply, “I know.”

Although she studied communications and journalism at the University of Kansas, she always found opportunities to showcase her art. The KU student center held a one-woman show for her paintings, and she later presented her work in a festival with her painting professor, Robert Sudlow.

At MU, several of Selman’s pieces were displayed in the Residence on the Quad when Chancellor Brady Deaton lived there.

“Having things in the residence here on the quad was amazing,” Selman said. “I was very honored to get to do that.”

About 13 years ago, her daughter, who also paints, convinced her mother to lead the advanced art project with the 4-H Club. Now Selman welcomes students aged 11-19 to her house every Monday night.

Both mother and daughter paint in their free time, and Selman said she is glad the two have an opportunity to bond.

“She was good at pushing me to maybe try a little bit of a different style, or, you know, we’ll talk about art together, and that’s really fun,” Selman said.

Being able to continue painting while working has also allowed her to remain healthy, both mentally and emotionally.
“I think it’s essential to my success. You need a release, you need an outlet,” she said. “It draws on the other side of the brain, from writing and logical thinking, and I think it really helps keep me balanced.”