Welcome BACK
WHAT’S NEW AT MIZZOU
Welcome back

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ABOUT THIS SECTION
Welcome Back is designed for students returning to MU after a summer away from campus. Inside, you’ll find news about the university and the city that happened over break, including new shops and restaurants, new administrators, programs and research results. In addition, you’ll see information about sports and entertainment.

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Living. Sharing. Transforming.
Graduate programs prepare for new year after academic cuts

PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR CLOSURE

BY SAM NELSON
news@columbiamissourian.com

Several graduate programs are facing adjustments this year after an academic review recommended their closure.

MU cut or combined 12 graduate programs based on recommendations from the Task Force on Academic Programs, Enhancement and Opportunities. In 2017, UM System President Mun Choi called for a review of academic programs and an 8 to 12 percent budget cut.

New departments have been created out of the combinations, such as the Department of Ancient Mediterranean Studies. The new department is in the sum of the Classics and Archaeology departments.

Students in the graduate programs that have been targeted for closure can still finish their degrees. Five students remain in the nuclear engineering doctoral program, for example, and program director John Gahl said some still have several years left to finish their degrees.

Kate Hofer, director of graduate student life, said the program will continue as normal until all students finish their studies.

The department even admitted three new students for this academic year, Hofer said.

“We just won’t accept any new students beginning next year (2019-2020),” Hofer said. “We confirmed that as it looks in the future, several aspects of the department may change because of a graduate program closure. If the graduate students are gone, he said, the teaching assistants for classes like Introduction to Religion and Indigenous Religions will be as well.

“These are very large courses that attract a wide cross-section of undergraduates from a variety of backgrounds and majors,” she said. “Without TAs, we simply can’t reach the numbers of students we have been teaching.”

A number of other programs have been closed for further review. They will develop an annual improvement plan until their identified weaknesses have been corrected.

Any new programs created as a result of merged programs will also be subject to further review.

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MU has resources for student parents

For students who are also parents, completing a degree can be challenging, especially if they’re unfamiliar with the resources available to them. At MU, there are many programs and facilities that might make pursuing a higher education while starting a family a little bit easier.

For students who need a quiet place to study or an area to spend time with their children while on campus, the Women’s Center in the lower level of the Student Center offers a family room, complete with toys, a computer and other resources. The Women’s Center is also home to a wide selection of books with topics ranging from pregnancy to parenting. The family room is also one of 11 lactation stations scattered across campus. These stations provide a comfortable, secluded location for mothers who need to nurse or pump. Most have furniture, lockable doors and privacy curtains.

If you’re looking for a place to live that’s family-friendly, the university-owned Tara Apartments offer family housing with a playground on the premises. They’re located off of Ashland Road, about 10 minutes walking distance from the center of campus.

Cub Hub is another resource available to student parents. Located at 4800 Santana Circle, Cub Hub allows students to use their private, Wi-Fi-equipped study spaces while their children are entertained with educational activities provided by the staff. The service is completely free, but the students must remain on-site. Additional parenting resources can be found at MU’s Family Impact Center and at the Daniel Boone Regional Library.

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A conversation with the new MU provost

BY KATHRYN ROSS
rosskathy04@gmail.com

Latha Ramchand took her post as MU’s provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs on Aug. 15. Second in command to the chancellor, the provost oversees MU’s colleges and divisions and sets academic policy.

The Administration sat down with Ramchand to ask her a few questions about her role and MU.

Q: You’ve been lightly edited.

Ramchand: Why do you ask?

Ramchand: I don’t know. I just wanted to come to the United States to get a Ph.D. That was a huge aspiration growing up. With that concept of a system and get my Ph.D. at Northwestern. That whole experience has been transformative in the sense that what I learned was that the system of higher education we have in this country is truly unique — in ways that we sometimes forget. It’s all about the United States losing its competitiveness advantage. I do believe that our system of higher ed is so unique and so aspirational for people from all over the world. We still stand as a place where we can challenge people to learn because our education is about openness and mind and asking about what can I dream of? What can I dare to do? Higher ed is the only place that allows you to do that unfettered.

I think to myself, “why do we have some of the biggest innovations and progress being made in this country?” We have a good economy and great leaders, but all of that is funded by people who challenge themselves, take on a challenge, and most importantly, are not afraid to fail. I think that’s the strongest in academia. Academicians are a place where we can challenge people.”

Q: As provost, how do you plan to help enrollment and college-affordability at MU?

Ramchand: Enrollment is about what a student wants. It’s our responsibility to tell our story in a way that fits what they want. The way we’ve done recruitment and retention at Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston is thinking about it like this: Students are not here for just a four-year experience. It’s not transactional, it’s a lifetime experience. It’s our responsibility to deliver that experience so that students want to come back and connect. I think there’s an opportunity to take that to the next level. We need to make sure we have effective ways that we can connect with students. We need to do that better.

Q: How will you advocate for more state funding?

Ramchand: Students talking about their experiences never fails to impress. As dean, much of my time was spent fundraising. In my experience, one student is equal to 1,000 deans. Some students might not know what a dean is engaged in all of that. I believe that’s part of what I do have any consequence.

Q: Some students might not know what a provost does. Nonetheless, your role is integral to shaping their academic experience. How do you plan to connect with and serve students?

Ramchand: When I started my academic life as a professor, I didn’t know what a provost does. Many people don’t. Deans are more connected because they’re closer to the experience, but at the end of the day, if you will, you never even know there is a provost. If they don’t do a good job, you will hear about it from that faculty. That’s been the traditional life for the provost — to facilitate the academic process which includes: recruiting, promoting and engaging faculty; curriculum design; college affordability and enrollment; graduation rates and success. The provost is engaged in all of that. I believe given my experiences, I would be hopeless and moribund if I didn’t connect with students. My plan is to visit every college on campus.

I’m hoping to connect with each student. I’m hoping to connect with each student.

Q: During the provost search, many faculty expressed a desire to see a more interdisciplinary approach to research across colleges and divisions. Do you share this sentiment?

Ramchand: Academia really needs to think about reimagining education. Problems don’t just come out of a textbook. A problem arises and you need to bring every approach you can think of to solve the problem in real life. That means our research and learning need to be a part of that process. We’ve got to break down silos.

Q: How will you push MU’s research goals further to make sure it remains competitive in the American University of Competencies?

Ramchand: The great learning experience we want to provide students come in huge part from what we do in research. Research is at the highest level and that’s what’s going to help us secure funding from sponsored research organizations and more.

Ramchand: How do we do that? We hire the best researchers and provide incentives for the best research. A focus on doing the best research we can to has in our campus DNA. We do that by making sure the process that fits the research is in place. We hire the best talent, promote the best talent, create the best talent, and give them the right tools to be able to rethink and reinvent the place to help people to the highest level to do and then move, and move us up in those rankings.

Q&A

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Graduate student suit remains in federal court

BY KATHRYN PALMER
news@columbiamissourian.com

Three years after MU’s graduate student workers first organized for labor rights, the Coalition of Graduate Workers’ quest for union recognition remains stalled in a federal appeals court.

An abrupt revocation of employee benefits in fall 2015 set the push for unionization in motion.

In August 2015, MU sent out an email telling graduate students holding research and teaching assistantships that their health insurance subsidy would be canceled. It spurred protest, and eventually the administration reinstated the health-care aid. But graduate workers, concerned they could soon face a similar slash to other benefits and pay, decided to unionize and voted the Coalition of Graduate Workers to represent them. However, the UM System Board of Curators refused to recognize them, and the graduate workers filed a lawsuit in Circuit Court in May 2016.

Just before school let out in spring semester 2018, a judge heard the final arguments in the case. Legal counsel for the UM System argued that the graduate workers did not fit the constitutional definition of “employee,” which grants explicit collective bargaining power.

“Our position is that they (graduate workers) have a pedagogical relationship” with MU, UM System lawyer Michael Kaemmerer said at the hearing. “They say they have a boss, but they have mentors. We may not agree with the characterization of employee status, but we all agree they’re students.”

Judge Harris disagreed, and two months later, ruled in favor of the graduate worker union’s status as “employees.” He said the UM System must recognize their collective bargaining power.

“The court finds that the graduate workers are ‘employees’ because the University, through its practices and policies, treats them like employees,” Harris wrote in his June 21 opinion.

As expected, the UM System has since appealed the lower court’s decision, and the fate of the graduate worker union’s recognition is now in the hands of an appellate court.
Although the design is still in its first stage, Singh expects the new device to help increase battery life of electronic devices from its current five-hour average to a possible five-hour charge.

A start-up company was proposed to accompany the research and get the device on the market.

Full-time APRNs can improve nursing homes

The Missouri Quality Initiative for Nursing Homes, a partnership between MU, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Medicare groups in the state, completed a study that showed the benefits of having full-time advance practice registered nurses employed at nursing homes. Marilyn Rantz, Curators Professor of Nursing in the Sinclair School of Nursing at MU, headed the study, which placed full-time advance practice registered nurses employed at nursing homes.

Registered nurses employed at nursing homes who worked with APRNs in 16 nursing homes.

A study that showed the benefits of having full-time advance practice registered nurses employed at nursing homes.

The study hoped to reduce unnecessary visits, improve the health of residents and reduce spending on health care.

Increasing social worker standards advances safety

A study by Aaron Thompson, an MU associate professor of social work, showed that increasing the standards we have for social workers will greatly improve school safety.

In an analysis of 4,000 social worker profiles from across the U.S., Thompson compared their backgrounds with the work they do in their position.

He found that some of the greatest indicators of a successful social worker were the level of education they received, where in the U.S. they worked and when they graduated.

Soy may reduce impact of menopause on bone strength

Soy may reduce the negative impact of menopause on bone strength, but also metabolic function in the rats they used for the experiment. They compared the hormone levels of those that did have improved results to those of rats that were fed a soy-free, corn-based diet.

Drug could be created for spinal muscular atrophy

Research from 2014 has found new purpose in the brains of people with spinal muscular atrophy. When the grandchildren of these original mice were studied in a voice chamber, their vocalization patterns were seen to be much different in pitch and length than those of the ones not exposed.

The group looked specifically at a group of genes identified in other studies to be influenced by BPA.

Earlier in the summer, Rosenfeld completed a similar study where she looked at the vocalization patterns in California mice in order to determine whether a BPA-based diet would have multigenerational effects. In this study, they exposed some mice to BPA, some to Ethinyl Estradiol (found in birth control) and some on a normal diet.

When the grandchildren of these original mice were studied as voice chambers, their vocalization patterns were seen to be much different in pitch and length than those of the ones not exposed. These changes could impact the way the pups communicate with each other and parents and might be evidence that BPA can impact communication patterns in humans, a possible link to autism spectrum disorder.
Columbia restaurants with pet-friendly patios

BY EMILY AIKEN
news@columbiamissourian.com

Restaurants and cafés are used to human patrons, but recently they’ve been seeing more and more animal visitors. The combination of pets and food has recently spiked in popularity in Columbia.

While most restaurants aren’t going as far as allowing pets into the building, here’s a list of those that allow animals on their patios:

■ Papa’s Cat Café at 14 S. Second St. (by Walgreens): It’s set up into two large rooms. The first is the café, where Fretboard Coffee and snacks are sold. A double-door entrance leads into a second room, where adoptable cats live.

■ Billiards on Broadway, 514 E. Broadway: Allows dogs on their back patio. General Manager Tom Weyerich said they have not had any issues allowing pups on the patio. “We get to be around dogs more often,” Weyerich said. “And who doesn’t love that?”

■ Café Berlin, 220 N. 10th St.: Their outdoor patio allows pets inside for breakfast, brunch or lunch when the weather is nice. The patio isn’t always open, so it’s recommended to call ahead of time and double check.

■ Uprise Bakery, 10 Hitt St.: It has a patio at the side of the building where pets are welcome. It is preferred by the staff, however, that pets enter the patio through the side gate, rather than walking through the restaurant.

LEFT: Ten-year-old poodle Ruby Dee drinks water while being led by owner Olga Williams outside Lakota Coffee in Columbia. Many Columbia businesses offer dog-friendly patio space.

BELOW: A water bowl for visiting pets sits outside Lakota Coffee where customers can sit with their dogs while eating.

PHOTOS BY INDIA GARRISH/Missourian
Columbia brew houses offer fall beers

BY EMILY AIKEN
news@columbiamissourian.com

Downtown Columbia is the home of many bars. For those who just like to sit back and enjoy a beer, local outlets will have specials during the fall.

Logboat Brewing Co.

Logboat has two seasonal beers and four special release beers available in the fall.
- Yeah Buoy: Indian pale lager available July-September
- Cowboy Me: Black lager available October-December
- Amarillo By Morning: Single hopped pale ale available in October
- Red Roil: Marzen Lager available September-October
- 1055: Red ale available July-August only in the taproom
- Mr. Most: Imperial brown ale available in November

Günter Hans

While Günter Hans does not focus on local beer, it will have some fall favorites, including Oktoberfest brews.
- Hellesbraume Oktoberfest: Pale lager for Oktoberfest
- Urban Chestnut Buchholzhead Cider: Golden cider available in the fall

Flat Branch Pub & Brewing

Flat Branch is currently brewing seasonal beers.
- Belgian Tripel: Golden ale with hints of honey, French Aramis hops, tradition Belgian yeast and malt flavors
- Hefeweizen: Cloudy German style ale with clove notes and a banana finish
- Vienna Lager (available during Oktoberfest): Copper color with hop and malt flavors

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BY EMILY AIKEN
news@columbiamissourian.com

Downtown Columbia is the home of many bars. For those who just like to sit back and enjoy a beer, local outlets will have specials during the fall.

Logboat Brewing Co.

Logboat has two seasonal beers and four special release beers available in the fall.
- Yeah Buoy: Indian pale lager available July-September
- Cowboy Me: Black lager available October-December
- Amarillo By Morning: Single hopped pale ale available in October
- Red Roil: Marzen Lager available September-October
- 1055: Red ale available July-August only in the taproom
- Mr. Most: Imperial brown ale available in November

Günter Hans

While Günter Hans does not focus on local beer, it will have some fall favorites, including Oktoberfest brews.
- Hellesbraume Oktoberfest: Pale lager for Oktoberfest
- Urban Chestnut Buchholzhead Cider: Golden cider available in the fall

Flat Branch Pub & Brewing

Flat Branch is currently brewing seasonal beers.
- Belgian Tripel: Golden ale with hints of honey, French Aramis hops, tradition Belgian yeast and malt flavors
- Hefeweizen: Cloudy German style ale with clove notes and a banana finish
- Vienna Lager (available during Oktoberfest): Copper color with hop and malt flavors

Columbia brew houses offer fall beers

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“`The human interaction is awesome. A lot of the people in the research labs are undergraduates who get to run test results or go over the research protocols with study subjects before their research sessions.”

— Caleigh Smith, Mizzou class of 2018

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**MU students open sweet and savory crepe cart**

BY SIOBHAN CONNERS
news@columbiamissourian.com

Starting your own business might seem ambitious for college students. Brooke Nickish and Nicholas Loeffelman were up to the challenge. The MU students have started the Crepe Cart of Columbia. “We’ve always loved crepes and have played around with the idea of doing something like this for a while, but it wasn’t until January when we put our idea into motion,” Nickish and Loeffelman said in an email.

The cart offers a rotating variety of sweet and savory crepes for prices ranging from $5–7. Nickish said they’re always testing new recipes.

“Our most popular crepe is the Spicy Chicken crepe,” Nickish and Loeffelman said. “You have got to try it!”

The best way to keep up with the Crepe Cart is to follow @CrepeCartComo on social media.

The business is literally a labor of love. Loeffelman’s grandfather helped them build the cart. Now that the cart is up and running, Nickish and Loeffelman are perfecting their business model.

“Being that we’re students, most of the people we are around are students as well,” they said. “So, we are able to spread our message through our peer group and social media! We are also working towards being able to set up on campus at Mizzou soon!”

Nickish and Loeffelman both worked in restaurants as teenagers, but they decided the food truck business was a better first-time business venture and would offer more scheduling flexibility.

JEFF KIESER • Missourian

ABOVE: Lorelei Babb, 16 months, holds herself up with a chair at the Speckled Frog toy store, 906 Alley A. Lorelei is the daughter of the store’s co-owner Erin Babb. The store opened July 14.

BELOW: Graham McCaulley shows his daughters Laney McCaulley, 4, and Jill McCaulley, 6, toys Monday at the Speckled Frog toy store. “It’s kind of our tradition,” said McCaulley about taking his daughters downtown. “We just have a day before school starts.”

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NEW STORES IN TOWN INCLUDE SPECKLED FROG
**Kombucha bar opens in downtown Columbia**

DrinKraft on 10th Street offers 16 rotating flavors on tap plus other drinks.

**BY SIOBHAN CONNORS news@columbiamissourian.com**

The idea for DrinKraft was born at a Christmas cookie and beer swap party. It was December 2016, and Pete Hinshaw and Josh Wexler were neighbors. Instead of his usual craft beer, Hinshaw brought kombucha, a fermented tea drink, to the party.

Wexler loved it, and he and Hinshaw became business partners, in addition to neighbors.

The pair are co-owners of DrinKraft, a kombucha bar at 300 N. 10th St. in Columbia’s Art District. Much of the bar’s decor — including the bar stool — has been salvaged from historic buildings.

“I think we have to be responsive to nature,” Wexler said. “Buildings are nature too. They’re man-made nature.”

The bar’s slogan is “creativity on tap,” and Wexler said that’s the foundation to everything that goes on at DrinKraft. It serves 16 rotating flavors of kombucha on tap, as well as cocktails and alcohol-free “no-proof” mixed drinks. Wexler said this caters to an untapped market — one for social spaces where you don’t have to drink. He described the vibe as similar to Uprise Bakery’s downtown. Customers can sip cocktails with their sober friends or bring their kids.

DrinKraft is a place for people to connect and learn more about their community, the business owners said. Instead of football games on flat screen TVs, the bar has a 3D printer and a craft area.

Wexler said he doesn’t plan to have formal classes for the craft area and hopes customers will learn how to do new things through the Montessori method. That, he said, will stimulate conversation and bring people together.

The classic Montessori method is self-motivated education by children themselves as they move freely through activities and instruction. “We don’t have dumb technology,” Wexler said. “We’re all for technology, but technology that you control. Not technology that controls you.”

**Photos by Jordan Kodner/Missourian**

**ABOVE:** Josh Wexler decorates the interior of DrinKraft, a new kombucha bar. The cafe is located at the corner of 10th Street and Park Avenue. DrinKraft will feature a mini-maker space in one of the rooms where kids and adults can be creative and build or design things. The mini-maker space also will feature a 3D printer.

**RIGHT:** Josh Wexler screws a piece of metal to the outside of a refrigerator at DrinKraft.
Envy Boutique closing after 13 years in town

Co-owner Steve Mercurio says the long days took a toll on him and other members of the family business.

BY SIOBHAN CONNERS
news@columbiamissourian.com

After 13 years in Columbia, the Envy Boutique is closing its doors. It’s the second of its six sister locations to close (Springfield was the first), marking an end to co-owner Steve Mercurio’s 35 years owning clothing stores.

“We loved Columbia,” Mercurio said. “It’s been a tremendous business.”

Mercurio owns the business with his two sisters and brother. He said they’ve loved the experience of getting to know the customers and staff, but working 12-hour days six days a week was beginning to take its toll.

At its height, the business operated a total of nine locations in cities like Columbia, Jefferson City and Overland Park. When it came time for the siblings to renew their lease, they decided to retire their business just how they started it: as a team.

“When you own your own business, you don’t really get to pick when you get to retire,” Mercurio said. “It’s determined by when the lease ends.”

The first store the siblings opened, Saffees, was in Columbia. Saffees’ selection of clothes and accessories was geared toward older women, so the Mercurio siblings replaced it with Envy, which caters toward a college-aged audience.

“Columbia was kind of our leader in fashion,” Mercurio said. “That told us what would do well at our other locations.”

Mercurio said the decision to close was difficult because of the relationships he’s built with his staff and customers. He realy appreciated all of the work his staff put in over the years, and thought of his customers as friends.

“It’s hard for us, because the relationships we’ve had with customers has been phenomenal,” Mercurio said.

The store has stopped buying more inventory, so it’ll close when-ever they run out of items. Mercurio said the store still has plenty of summer and early fall attire with great mark-downs.

Items that were originally priced $50 have been marked down to $9.99, accessories start at $1, and sunglasses are $5.

Gerbes closing store on Nifong after lease expires in January

BY KAILESH FELDKAMP
news@columbiamissourian.com

Marilyn Weeks has been shopping at Gerbes on Nifong Boulevard for 12 years because the location is convenient and the workers are always helpful.

By next year, though, Weeks will have to buy her groceries elsewhere. After more than 20 years on Nifong Boulevard, Gerbes will close its doors. Dillons, the company that owns Gerbes, will close the Nifong location when its lease expires in January.

“I really would miss them,” Weeks said. “I know it’s silly, but I don’t want to make that jump across the road.”

Gerbes’ lease at 205 E. Nifong Blvd. will not be renewed when it expires in January. While it is Dillons’ intent to continue operations at the store until January, Lowrie said she can’t guarantee that will happen. No official closing date has been assigned.

Dillons hopes to give its Nifong store employees jobs at one of the company’s other two Columbia locations, one on Paris Road and one on West Broadway.
Francis Quadrangle says goodbye to five pin oaks

BY EMILY AIKEN
news@columbiamissourian.com

Five towering pin oak trees were cut down on the MU Francis Quadrangle this summer.

The pin oaks were determined to be a safety hazard after a recent tree health and safety study, according to an MU news release Monday.

Pete Millier, MU director of campus facilities-landscape services and the Mizzou Botanic Garden, said two limbs from the pin oaks facing the north side of Jesse Hall dropped in the past few months.

“They could harm you even if you were wearing a hard hat,” Millier said.

More than 20 pin oaks have been planted on and around the quad since the 1950s. They live between 80 and 100 years but need more acidic conditions than are found on the quad, according to Millier. The 15 other trees will have any dead wood removed.

The pin oaks, which have pointed rather than rounded leaves, will be replaced with as many as four white oaks upon recommendation from a tree commission.

The commission consists of “forestry and plant sciences faculty, MU Campus Facilities Landscape Services staff, MU’s master planner and tree-knowledgeable alumni and community citizens,” according to the news release.

Millier said MU also consulted with the Missouri Department of Conservation on the tree replacement.

White oaks tolerate urban soils better than pin oaks and have a life span of up to 200 years, about double the life of pin oaks, Millier said. MU’s plant health specialist found the trees had few pests, but the condition of the trees was the emotional value of the trees but can’t take the risk of someone getting hurt.

“The trees are old friends,” Millier said. “But it’s time for them to be replaced.”

A fundraising campaign through the Mizzou Botanic Garden called The Legacy Oaks of the Francis Quadrangle will pay for the tree replacement.

The white oaks will be raised in a nursery, then planted on the quad. Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey: brixeye@missouri.edu, 882-2632.
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