

Mizzou Weekly

Oct. 9, 2014 Volume 36, No. 7

Human rights activist who helped write South Africa's post-apartheid constitution to lecture Monday

A film on the former justice will also be shown



Albie Sachs, a former South African judge who fought apartheid and helped draft the country's post-apartheid constitution, will be part of several events Monday at the University of Missouri.

Sachs will give a lecture titled "Confessions of an Activist Judge" at 7:30 p.m. in Cornell Hall's Bush Auditorium. A documentary on Sachs titled [Soft Vengeance: Albie Sachs and the New South Africa](http://www.softvengeancefilm.org/MAIN.html) (<http://www.softvengeancefilm.org/MAIN.html>) will be shown at 3 p.m. in 7 Hulston Hall; following the screening, Sachs and the film's director, Abby Ginsberg, will answer questions.

The events are free and open to the public.

The lecture is part of the [Chancellor's Distinguished Visitors Program](http://distinguishedvisitors.missouri.edu/) (<http://distinguishedvisitors.missouri.edu/>), which brings prominent scholars to MU to participate in academic programs, collaborate in research and meet the campus community.

As a young lawyer, Sachs was a high-profile activist in South Africa. In 1988 he paid a price for it when a bomb exploded in his car. The mayhem resulted in Sachs losing his right arm and sight in his right eye.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela appointed Sachs to the Constitutional Court, similar to America's Supreme Court. In 1995, the justice wrote the court opinion that legalized same-sex marriage in South Africa.

Sachs is a regular lecturer at the [University of the Western Cape](http://www.uwc.ac.za/Pages/default.aspx) (<http://www.uwc.ac.za/Pages/default.aspx>), one of MU's sister learning institutions. He has also donated much of his art collection and private legal papers to Western Cape, said Rodney J. Uphoff, a professor at MU's School of Law.

This year, Sachs received the Tang Prize, which recognizes exceptional scholars in fields that include law.

Oct. 9, 2014 Issue

- [MU's enrollment is highest ever](#)

- [University chef publishes pastry book](#)
- [Missouri senator discusses sexual violence on college campuses](#)
- [Open forum with Chancellor Loftin Oct. 15](#)
- [Title IX Office expands website](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

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Missouri senator discusses sexual violence on college campuses



Sen. Claire McCaskill, a former sex-crimes prosecutor, has been vocal about combating sexual violence throughout her career. Photo by Rob Hill.

Sen. McCaskill engages students during her talk

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) spoke at the University of Missouri Tuesday to about a dozen students and more than 100 representatives from mid-Missouri colleges and universities, law enforcement agencies, the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and victims advocate groups about sexual violence on college campuses.

"This is about making sure systems are in place that nurture and support young women because right now on this campus and thousands of others just like it there is a young woman who is not coming forward because she doesn't have the right information," McCaskill said.

McCaskill, a former sex-crimes prosecutor, has been vocal about combating sexual violence throughout her career. She asked direct questions of Columbia Police Department Detective Mitchell Baxley, University of Missouri Police Department Chief Jack Watring and RSVP Center Coordinator Danica Wolf about how they are trained to handle sexual violence on campus.

But some of the most eye-opening revelations came when McCaskill called on the students in the room. When asked if they knew where to go for support, one student hesitantly suggested the police.

Although McCaskill acknowledged that the police are a resource, she said if students don't know about the additional on-campus resources, there is a problem.

“It would be like building a brand new beautiful building on campus and never telling anybody it was ever open,” McCaskill said. “If you’re going to build a system that works, it will only work if the kids know about it.”

Another student said the bigger problem among students is not understanding what is considered sexual assault. “Sexual assault is so vague,” she said, rattling off a handful of situations from inappropriate touching to a boyfriend going too far. “Do you report that? How do you know? When is it too little? Where is the line?”

McCaskill said the students’ responses should be “a wakeup call” for the administrators in the room who are working to improve the policies and procedures surrounding Title IX violations. Referring to her work with the U.S. Air Force’s Special Victims Counsel program, which assigns an independent lawyer to victims who report sexual assault, McCaskill said one of the most important things higher education institutions can do is establish a “confidential access point” for students.

“What we have found [in the U.S. Air Force] is that once these victims had someone they could rely on for good information, the unrestricted reports shot up,” McCaskill said. If a student who was unsure about what is considered sexual assault “were to call confidentially and ask those questions, she could get that clarified. I still think the most important thing is a confidential access point for support and information.”

McCaskill wrapped up by discussing the Bipartisan Campus Accountability and Safety Act, which establishes an annual climate survey at universities, increases cooperation among campus and local law enforcement by requiring a memoranda of understanding among all pertinent agencies, and establishes a penalty of up to 1 percent of the institution’s operating budget for violating Title IX.

After her campus tour, she said her next course of action will be to revise the proposed legislation based on her conversations.

— Kelsey Allen

Oct. 9, 2014 Issue

- [MU’s enrollment is highest ever](#)
- [University chef publishes pastry book](#)
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[More in the archive »](#)

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MU's enrollment is highest ever



Fall semester's freshman class, some of whom are shown in this photo from Tiger Walk Aug. 18 on Francis Quadrangle, is officially 6,515, a record. Photo by Rob Hill.

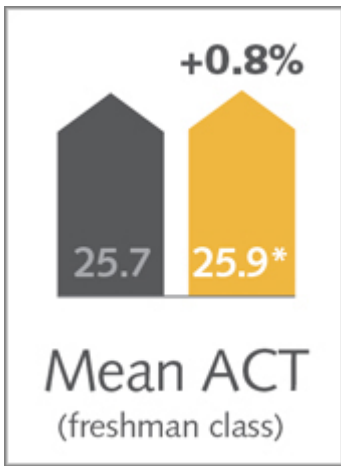
Bright Flight students increased by nearly 30 percent from 2013

Another milestone is celebrated during the year of the University of Missouri's 175th anniversary. Official enrollment for the fall semester is 35,441, the largest in school history.

Along the way, record-breaking enrollment was achieved in the freshman class (6,515), among graduates (6,565) and in the overall undergraduate student body (27,654).

Furthermore, a record 5,486 minority students and 2,417 international students are enrolled this semester. Both are records.

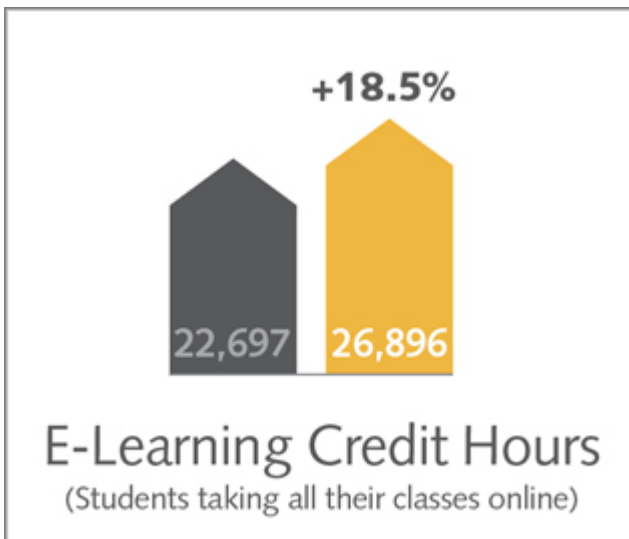
"Students come to Mizzou to achieve their unique goals, whether it's a program of study, leadership in student organizations or extracurricular opportunities that add to their MU experience," Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a news release. "What is clear is that the University of Missouri is the place more and more want to be."



The numbers show that the student body is getting smarter. Bright Flight students increased by almost 30 percent from 2013, and students recognized either as Curator Scholars or Chancellor’s Scholars rose more than 35 percent.

“It’s exciting to participate in recruiting a student body that is not just growing in size and diversity but also has the highest average ACT score in our history,” Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management, said in a news release.

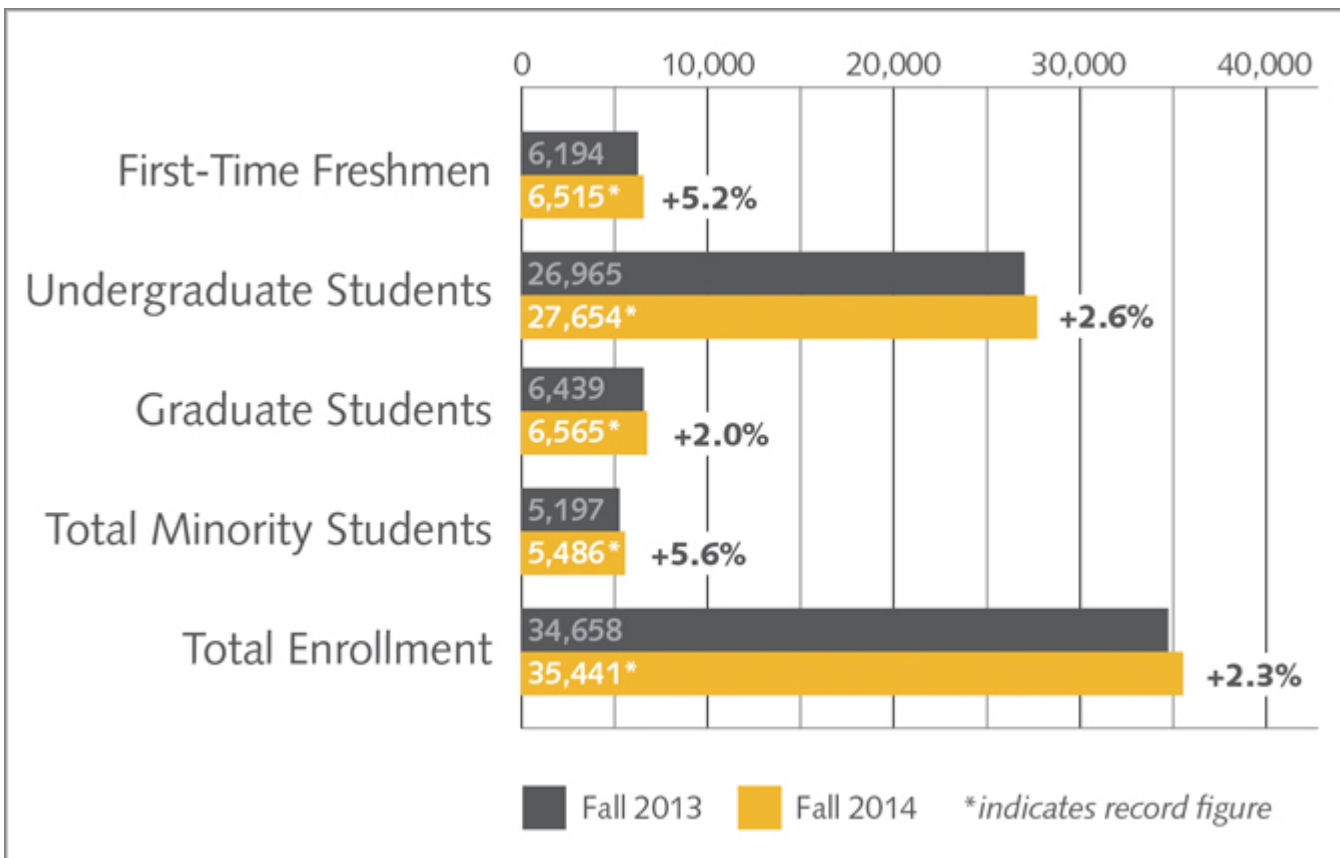
Finally, online instruction at MU is increasing. The number of credit hours of students taking all their classes online increased 18.5 percent, while credit hours of students taking at least 80 percent of their courses online are up nearly 15 percent.



Loftin is not surprised that more students than ever are choosing MU and that many are staying to earn advanced degrees. In an interview, Loftin said he speaks with students nearly every day, and one question he asks is, Are you happy? The typical response: Yes.

“That is extraordinarily important to a leader like me,” Loftin said. “After all, we know this place isn’t easy. We demand a lot of our students in terms of their academic success. They demand a lot of themselves in terms of their engagement on campus and beyond.

“But fundamentally they are happy.”



[\(enrollment.pdf\)](#)

Oct. 9, 2014 Issue

- [University chef publishes pastry book](#)
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[More in the archive »](#)

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Open forum with Chancellor Loftin Oct. 15

An open forum for staff featuring Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin will be held 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Oct. 15 in Missouri Theatre.

Also on hand will be Karen Touzeau, associate vice chancellor for human resources at MU; Betsy Rodriguez, vice president for human resources at the University of Missouri System; and leaders from Staff Advisory Council.

Part of the forum will focus on changes to [health benefit plans for 2015](http://www.missouri.edu/~j.../36-2/article/index.php.html). Changes include the offering of a third benefit option, the Custom Network Plan. Benefit-eligible employees will need to choose a plan or opt out during week of Oct. 20-31.

Up until Sept. 30, the Staff Advisory Council was accepting staff questions to be answered at the forum. The forum will also include questions from the audience to the panelists.

For more information, contact the [Staff Advisory Council](http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu) by email at staffadvisorycouncil@missouri.edu, or call 882-4269.

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Title IX Office expands website

Online form available to submit report

The University of Missouri Title IX Office has expanded its website to make it easier for the campus community to report sexual misconduct. [The addition \(http://title9.missouri.edu\)](http://title9.missouri.edu) offers online reporting of an incident, information in emergency situations and rights and responsibilities. There is also general information on Title IX reporting and procedures.

Reports can be filled out anonymously or with identifying information.

Besides expanding its website, the office has been reaching out to students, faculty and staff in an effort to educate them and answer questions about the rules and regulations surrounding sexual discrimination on campus. In the past two months, the team has spoken to more than 1,250 students.

Title IX, part of the 1972 Education Amendments that applies to students and employees at the university, prohibits sex discrimination. Sex discrimination is an umbrella term that includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking on the basis of sex, dating and intimate partner violence, and sexual exploitation.

Last month, Salama Gallimore, the office's Title IX investigator, spoke at an informational session called "What Is Title IX? Requirements, Reporting and Responsibility."

When it comes to reporting, Gallimore said it's better to be safe than sorry — even if a possible Title IX violation is only a rumor.

"If there's something that's not right or you don't feel like it's right or you're hearing rumors that are concerning, there's nothing wrong with letting us know," Gallimore said. "We'll encourage you to report that because we're in the business of figuring everything out and getting to the truth of the matter."

If a victim of sexual discrimination approaches a mandated reporter (all employees other than those who have a legal obligation to maintain confidentiality), Gallimore suggests assessing the person's safety and the need for an emergency response. If no present danger, Gallimore recommends disclosing mandatory reporter status as soon as possible, as the student might want to speak with someone in confidence.

"If they don't want to speak to you, physically walk them to the [Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention] Center or the Counseling Center," Gallimore said. "We found students are much more likely to use these resources if you can physically take them there or follow up with them."

If the student shares the situation with you, be an empathetic listener. "Remember, it's not the time to educate them on not drinking or being more safe," Gallimore said. "This is the time for you to listen."

Then offer campus resources, make referrals and submit a report at the Title IX site.

Although faculty and staff need to report Title IX violations, they can also help in prevention and education by connecting students to campus resources such as the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, the Women's Center, the LGBTQ Resource Center, the Student Health Center and the MU Counseling Center.

“We want the community to know that this university does not stand for sex discrimination,” Gallimore said. “Not only did we address the problem, but we also took the extra step of providing education to the community.”

Title IX team members include:



Linda Bennett

Title IX coordinator

321 Townsend Hall, Suite Office 1

573-882-7915

BennettLi@missouri.edu



Salama Gallimore

Title IX investigator

304A Tate Hall

573-884-7526

GallimoreS@missouri.edu



Cathy Scroggs

Vice chancellor for student affairs/Title IX deputy for student affairs

Memorial Union S1

573-882-6776

ScroggsC@missouri.edu



Sarah Reesman

Executive associate athletic director/Title IX deputy for athletics

1 Champions Drive, Suite 200

573-884-6428

ReesmanS@missouri.edu

Noel Ann English

Director of MU Equity/Title IX deputy coordinator

S303 Memorial Union

573-882-9069

EnglishNo@missouri.edu

Phil Shearrer

Organizational development consultant for MU Health Care/ Title IX deputy and grievance officer

573-499-6035

ShearrerP@health.missouri.edu

MU confidential reporters include those at the following centers:

RSVP (Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention) Center

G210 MU Student Center 573-882-6638 rsvp.missouri.edu (<http://rsvp.missouri.edu/>)

Student Health Center

1020 Hitt St. 573-882-7481 studenthealth.missouri.edu (<http://studenthealth.missouri.edu/>)

MU Counseling Center

119 Parker Hall 573-882-6601 counseling.missouri.edu (<http://counseling.missouri.edu/>)

— Kelsey Allen

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University chef publishes pastry book



University Club executive chef Daniel Pliska signs copies of his book *Pastry & Dessert Techniques* May 1, 2014, at the Reynolds Alumni Center. The book is available on Amazon and at the Mizzou Store. Photo by Madeline Beyer.

Recipes are for all levels of expertise

When Daniel Pliska got his first job at a restaurant, the 15-year-old wasn't disappointed that it was as a dishwasher. After all, he played guitar and was going to be a rock star when he grew up. Sure, he loved his grandmother's and mother's cooking. "But I was a rock 'n' roller," Pliska said.

Then he stumbled upon a Time-Life book series on classical French cooking. For the first time, he saw how cooking and playing music were both artistic endeavors. "I got really enamored with the beautiful presentations," he said. "It was a flashbulb moment."

Pliska didn't give up the guitar entirely, but he started picking up his chef's knife more often than his guitar pick. He honed his cooking chops at private clubs and hotels for five years before landing an apprenticeship in a Düsseldorf, Germany, bakery.

"That's where I fell in love with baking pastries," Pliska said.

Now, after more than 35 years in the kitchen, Pliska has written a book, *Pastry & Dessert Techniques* (American Technical Publisher, 2014) with which to share that love. The book is for anyone from home cooks to seasoned professionals to the culinary students he works with as executive chef for the University Club of MU and University Catering.

“Cooking is creative: a little bit of this, a pinch of that. But pastries and desserts are more exacting. It takes a lot more measurements than cooking does,” Pliska said. “I wanted to demystify pastries and desserts.”

In the cookbook-meets-textbook, Pliska breaks down 35 foundational pastry techniques and then, utilizing step-by-step photos, demonstrates how to create and artistically plate 65 savory and sweet pastries and desserts. The book comes with a QR code that allows readers to access additional information. Teachers can download online chapter summaries, objectives and quizzes for class use.



The book features 65 savory and sweet recipes, including smoked salmon with chive crepe roulade with watercress lemon mousseline. Photo by Madeline Beyer.

Pliska describes his cooking style as applying classical European techniques to make local and regional ingredients. He also enjoys fusion cooking, like blending Latin American with Mediterranean and Asian flavors at one of the many internationally themed dinners hosted at the University Club.

For *Pastry & Dessert Techniques*, Pliska showcased tried-and-true recipes, such as his go-to piecrust that he has been using since his first job in a kitchen, as well as new recipes he's whipped up in recent years, such as a basmati rice pudding with a Swiss meringue and infused strawberry lavender syrup.

Pliska put in more than four years on the book: picking the recipes, converting the metric measurements to the standard cups and tablespoons, testing each dish hundreds of times, and photographing the final product (many shot by MU journalism student Robert Watson).

Although it was a long process, he's ready to get started on his next work. The chef divides his kitchen in the Reynolds Alumni Center into three areas — hot food, cold food, and baking and pastries — and he'd like to ultimately have a book for

each area.

“They’re meant to be learning books,” Pliska said. “That’s what’s great about this industry. You never learn it all. I’m always going to conferences or seminars or taking master classes with other great chefs. I’m still learning.”

Pastry & Dessert Techniques is available on [Amazon \(http://www.amazon.com/Pastry-Dessert-Techniques-Daniel-Pliska/dp/0826942679/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1412777907&sr=8-1&keywords=Daniel+Pliska\)](http://www.amazon.com/Pastry-Dessert-Techniques-Daniel-Pliska/dp/0826942679/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1412777907&sr=8-1&keywords=Daniel+Pliska) and at [the Mizzou Store \(http://www.themizzoustore.com/default.aspx?skinid=1\)](http://www.themizzoustore.com/default.aspx?skinid=1).

— Kelsey Allen



One of the sweet recipes in the book is this trio of eclairs featuring hazelnut butter cream and mocha pastry cream and chocolate mousse glazed fondant and chocolate ganache. Photo by Madeline Beyer.

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