

identify

BIANNUAL PUBLICATION FROM MU INCLUSION, DIVERSITY & EQUITY

FALL 2018 | ISSUE 3



2018 MIZZOU HOMECOMING
P. 32-25

identify

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IDE CHAMPION



DR. DAVID KURPIUS

“Our goal is to make sure our students of color are successful and that the School of Journalism and the University of Missouri is a place they feel comfortable.”

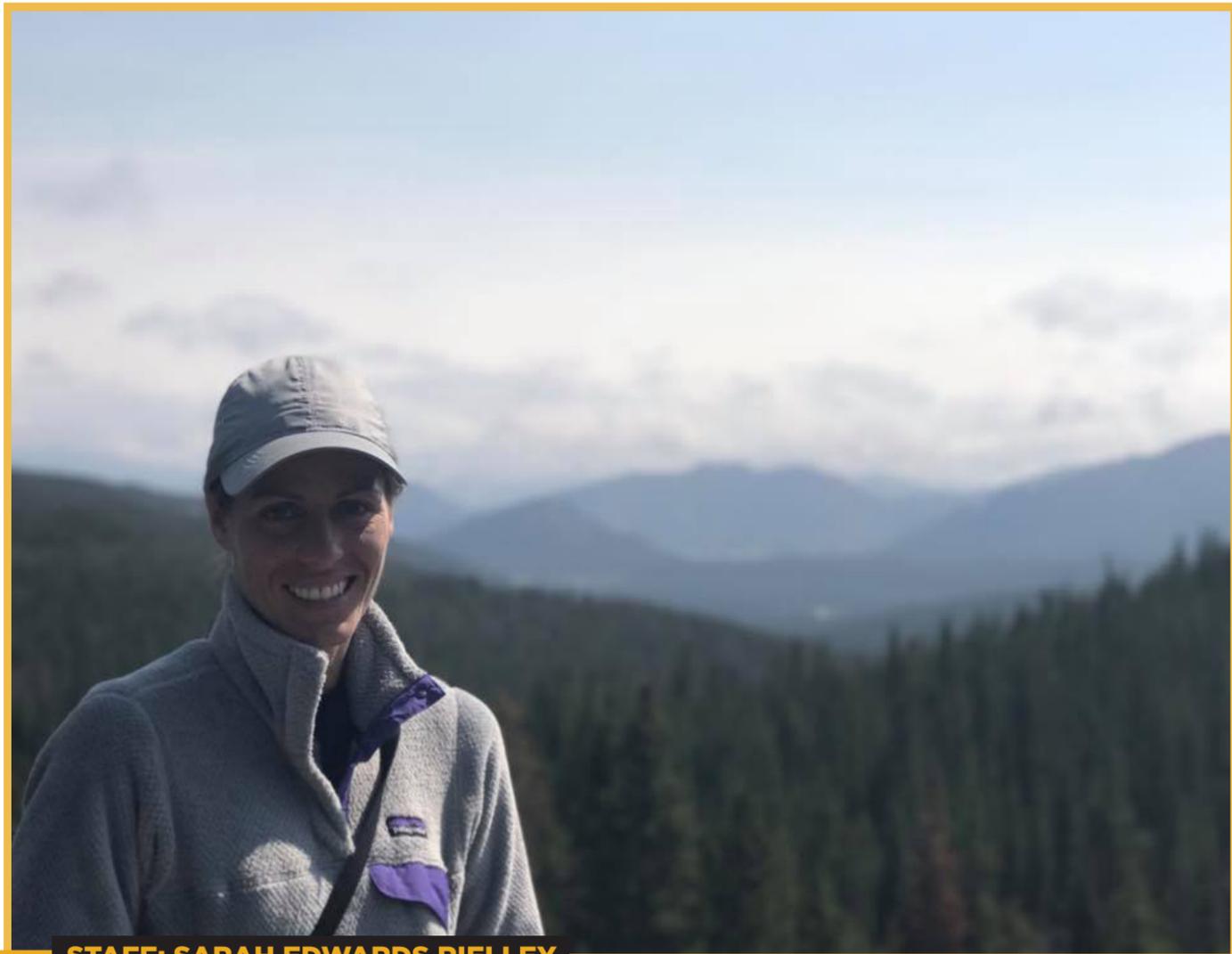
There has never been a more exciting time to be a part of our Missouri journalism family. Journalism, as we know it, takes on many forms. At the Missouri School of Journalism, we embrace the various storytelling techniques that help citizens fully engage in society. This means not covering the story in the same way as everyone else, allowing silent voices to be heard and respecting others' viewpoints and opinions.

I had the honor of sitting down with Associate Professor Ron Stodghill to discuss the School of Journalism's diversity efforts. In reflecting on my time here, it is powerful to see the change that has taken place in the last few years. Minorities now represent 17.2 percent of the Journalism faculty up from 11.1 percent in July 2015. African-Americans now represent 8.6 percent of our faculty compared to 2.5 percent in July 2015. Cynthia Frisby, Ph.D., was promoted to full professor this year, the first African-American woman to be promoted to that status in the School's history. This diversity in our faculty is making a difference in our school. They are representing the School and the University in a very positive way.

The School's diversity efforts extends to our student body. The School graduated one of the most diversified Ph.D. classes this spring that included two African-Americans, one Latino and two Asian students. We saw an increase in the diversity of our undergraduate student population grow from 17 to 20 percent over the last year. This fall, Ron Kelley, Ph.D., launched a new pilot mentoring program for upper-class minority students who will be matched with minority journalism and strategic communication alumni. The goal of this program is to have the mentors provide guidance to our students for retention and professional development. The mentorship will continue after graduation to help students make the transition from college to their professional careers.

We are building a community of diverse faculty, students and staff. A place where the best students, professors, researchers, leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators and others come to collaborate, create, discover, learn and more.

Dr. David Kurpius is the Dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.



STAFF: SARAH EDWARDS RIELLEY

Nomination from Barb Hammer

Sarah Edwards, in her role as the Coordinator for Mizzou Alternative Breaks (MAB), has made and continues to make a positive impact for students with disabilities at MU. MAB is known for its powerful commitment to service and leadership. It is also recognized as one of the largest alternative break programs in the nation.

Over the years, though, a significant challenge has been to ensure that the program can be accessible for students with disabilities. Transportation, program sites, and the application process: all of these features lacked accessibility when the program first began. I have heard too many stories of disabled students who said they wished they could have participated, but couldn't see how it would work, for reasons related to one or all of the features listed above.

Over the past couple of years, though, Sarah has been diligently, quietly working toward improved access. Her thoughtfulness in considering options, and in reaching out to

those of us in the Disability Center, the Office of Accessibility and ADA, and to students themselves has paid dividends. She listens carefully, and incorporates suggestions effectively.

Through her efforts, the application process, and the methods by which students are assigned to site visits now consider applicants with disabilities and allow for accommodation. Trips are being designed that are fully accessible and are advertised as such. Community partners — those who are at the sites visited — are being encouraged to provide housing options that are accessible.

A "Commitment to Accessibility" statement is now prominent on the Mizzou Alternative Breaks website. And Sarah has advocated for, and may soon have accessible transportation available for trips on short notice. I respectfully urge the committee's sincere consideration of Sarah as a recipient of the Lee Henson Access Mizzou Award. Her modest efforts over the past couple of years exemplify a true commitment to access and inclusion and she should be recognized for them. Thank you.



FACULTY: L. PHILLIP SILVERMAN

Nomination from Susan Lever

Phil Silverman has had the responsibility for dealing with thousands of students for over 15 years here as the lab coordinator for the undergraduate chemistry laboratories and an instructor of a number of undergraduate chemistry classes (with the exception of when he taught at the US Naval Academy for an active duty rotation).

In my mind, Phil has gone above and beyond helping a student succeed no matter what the need a student might have. I knew the impact Phil made in two specific cases and I asked them to comment for this nomination.

One student, who was severely injured in a car accident resulting in having a full arm cast, writes: "He was very accommodating for me and paired me up with a partner that was ok with being a scribe for me. So I did all of my pre- and post-lab work with my partner, and the partner would submit the paper with both of our names. Even once the cast was removed, he didn't want me to overwork my wrist, so he allowed me to do that for the remainder of the semester. He also made himself very available for office hours if I had any extra needs due to my limitations with writing. I went in a few times for help on a few topics and he was always very nice and concerned with how my wrist was doing. I'm very appreciative of his help that semester."

Another student writes: "When I took Dr. Silverman's lab (the organic chemistry lab) he met with my lab assistant one on one to prepare them for working in the lab, since my lab assistant had

never worked in a chemistry lab before. That really was helpful for my assistant because he had expressed to me before that he was a little nervous to use chemicals and lab tools, especially since he only assisted me in the lab, not lecture, and therefore was unfamiliar with a lot of the concepts."

In general, Phil has traditionally allowed students to take exams here in the Chemistry Department which permits him to check in on the student. In addition, this decreases the need for the Disability Center to provide space for these students.

A student writes about Phil: "he just tried to make it as easy and efficient as possible while still meeting my access needs."

Phil literally has an "open-door" policy - that is, his door is always open and students drop in all the time: for assistance, for a snack, for coffee. He is ready to help whatever the need. I know on two specific cases he physically walked students over to the RSVP Center or to the Student Health Center or Counseling Center.

It is my opinion that Mr. Phil Silverman embodies the spirit of Lee Henson every day to make Mizzou a more inclusive place for ALL. But, don't take my word for it, take the word of just a few of the students he has helped.



GROUP: KBIA FACULTY AND STAFF

Nomination from Amy Simons

I would like to recognize the faculty and staff who work in the newsroom at KBIA-FM (Ryan Famuliner, Nathan Lawrence, Rebecca Smith, Bram Sable-Smith, Kristofer Husted) for their continued effort to create an inclusive environment for students with disabilities.

This team has gone out of its way to create a seamless environment for two students in particular, ensuring that the KBIA reporting and anchoring experience is as rigorous and as rewarding for Blake Tarrant and Madison Lawson as any other student. With the support of the KBIA staff, Blake is able to write his scripts in Braille and anchor his newscasts live on the air. Madi is able to report, produce and anchor.

The Missouri School of Journalism prides itself on its commitment to serving diverse student populations, but the nature of our work doesn't always create the most accommodating environments for students with disabilities. Shooting photographs or lifting heavy camera equipment can make working in some of our newsrooms an impossibility for students with disabilities.

KBIA has gone out of its way to not only welcome every student, but to make the "accommodations" fit seamlessly into the workflow so as not to single out students who require them.



RUBY BAILEY NAMED COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN'S EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Story by **MISSOURIAN STAFF**
Photo by **NATE BROWN**

A journalist whose reporting has ranged from hyperlocal coverage of Michigan suburbs to the Iraq War and whose editing has spanned the evolution of print and digital editions has been named executive editor of the Columbia Missourian.

Ruby L. Bailey, a local news editor at the Sacramento Bee, will begin her new role on July 1. She will be the first woman to lead the Missourian's coverage in the newspaper's 109 years.

"I'm very excited to be a part of the Columbia community but also the Mizzou community," said Bailey. "This is an awesome responsibility, but also a privilege to represent the industry I love and to help students prepare to take the baton and take over. This is my chance to give back to a career and a life that has blessed me so richly and to help ensure that the function of the press remains strong," she said. "That starts in communities."

In addition to holding the title of executive editor, Bailey will hold the Missouri School of Journalism's Missouri Community Newspaper Management Chair. In that role, she will work with community newspapers across Missouri to help improve their coverage and operations.

"Ruby Bailey brings a rare set of skills and experience that make her the ideal next leader of the Columbia Missourian," said David Kurpius, dean of the school and publisher of the Missourian. "She cares deeply about connecting with communities, telling important stories and doing so in a way that keeps pace with the constant state of change in journalism today."

Bailey, 51, earned a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University in 1989 and worked for the Flint Journal in Flint, Mich., for three years before joining the Detroit News. In 1998 she joined the staff of the Detroit Free Press, where she worked for 16 years. There she was a business and enterprise reporter and became a Washington correspondent, where she covered news of interest to Michigan readers. She also covered the 9/11 attacks, and was embedded with the U.S. Navy in 2003 for three months covering Operation Iraqi Freedom. She later became an assistant metro reporter in Detroit focused on improving the newspaper's online edition.

In 2014 she joined the Sacramento Bee, where she led a team of reporters focused on increasing and improving the Bee's digital content. She has experience covering and editing all aspects of local news, including business, entertainment and feature coverage.

Bailey replaces Mike Jenner, who has served as interim executive editor since January 2017. Jenner will return to his role on the journalism school faculty as the Houston Harte Endowed Chair.

Bailey said she hopes to get out in the community and across the state and get a feel for the needs, issues and hopes of people. "I will be outward facing," she said. "My hope is to be accepted and to become a part of the community in Columbia and the journalism community in the state."

Major Garrett, Chief White House Correspondent for CBS News, is the president of the Missourian Publishing Association, the non-profit Missourian's governing board. Garrett said, "The Missourian is the nation's most important collegiate laboratory for daily journalism. It is also Columbia's voice and heartbeat at the connection between university and community."

"Ruby Bailey is the bold, innovative and experienced leader this community newspaper needs. She is a reporter and newsroom leader who excelled as technology changed and economic challenges multiplied. That is not easy," Garrett said.

"This experience and Bailey's boundless enthusiasm will give the Missourian a knowing voice and vision for the future. On behalf of the board of the Missouri Publishing Association, I enthusiastically welcome Bailey to the Missourian and say, 'This treasure is yours and you have our full confidence and respect.'"

The Missourian is where the "Missouri Method" was pioneered, where students learn the practice of journalism by covering real news for a real audience. Its editors are members of the Journalism School's faculty, but the reporting, photography, design and production of the print and digital editions are done by students of the school. Over the years it has produced thousands of journalists, including Garrett and Jenner — and many editors, reporters and journalists in the state's community newspapers.

"Ruby has a wonderful ability to connect with journalism leaders," said Kurpius. "The unique combination of holding the top newsroom position and the endowed chair will allow her to share her experiences and knowledge with editors and publishers across Missouri and nationally."

Doug Crews, former director of the Missouri Press Association, which helped found the school and funded the chair Bailey will hold, served on the search committee that identified her as a finalist for the job.

"I'm very optimistic about Ruby and the prospects of having her in this position," he said.

"Ruby brings a lot of outstanding editorial skills. She's also skilled in new approaches in digital media. She's very enthusiastic," he said.

"The press association endowed that chair almost two decades ago to establish a liaison between the press association and the School of Journalism," said Crews. The chair was previously held by professor Jim Sterling, who retired in 2017. "We look forward to having Ruby in that liaison role, and I think we can build on that and develop some cooperative projects."

Bailey, who describes herself as "passionate and high energy," is eager to get started.

"My mission has always been to serve the readers. Whether interviewing a beat cop or the President of the United States, I was working to serve the readers," she said. "When you come to Columbia with that kind of background, Columbia becomes home and its concerns are my concerns. Its successes and challenges are mine."

Story originally appeared in the Columbia Missourian



Colbrecht makes jokes during the meeting with police officers on the evening shift. She says she tries to interact with the community in a positive way to avoid the negative connotation sometimes associated with police officers. Photo by Di Pan.

FOR LONGTIME MU POLICE OFFICER, STRENGTH AND EMPATHY ARE A ONE-TWO PUNCH

Story by **ALEXIS HAMBY**
Photos by **DI PAN AND JASON VANCE**

When future MU Police Lt. April Colbrecht arrived on MU's campus in 1993, she parked illegally like any other lost and confused freshman.

"I moved out by myself with everything in my car," she said. "I had no idea what I was doing. All I knew was Jesse Hall had the big dome."

She had no clue that day she moved away from home in Imperial, Missouri, and into her dorm that she would never leave the university.

Colbrecht, 43, has served with MU Police for 20 years. She loves getting to know the community and mentoring students through her work, but parts of the job, like dealing with negative attitudes towards police, can be challenging.

However, bearing witness to cases of sexual assault and helping students who are struggling with their mental health has been the hardest part of the job. As a victim of sexual assault herself, she can relate on a deep level.

"I've been depressed before and it's a heavy, heavy feeling," she said. "To see someone else going through that is hard. You feel kind of helpless."

One way she channels that experience is through her work as coordinator of MU Police's Rape Aggression Defense program. The R.A.D. course aims to empower women to feel safer through self-defense and prevention strategies. This year, MU Police offered an additional session because so many women wanted to sign up — the result of rumors at the start of the semester about human trafficking in Columbia.

One of Colbrecht's goals is to make people feel more capable and secure in themselves. For her, watching how strong women become throughout the course is gratifying.

She also sees herself as a mentor for college students who, away from home, begin to reckon with their sexual identity. A 2018 survey from the Human Rights Campaign found that 78 percent of LGBTQ teens have not come out to their parents because their parents have made negative comments about LGBTQ people. Colbrecht has been involved with MIZ-OUT, an organization on campus that supports people of gender and sexual minorities.

Colbrecht was disinclined to speak about her accomplishments. But Kristen Temple, who worked in residential life at MU for 26 years, has known Colbrecht since she was a freshman living in Graham Hall. Temple, 54, doesn't hesitate in calling Colbrecht a true servant who is passionate about knowing her community.

Temple often worked alongside Colbrecht when cases arose in residence halls. Temple admires Colbrecht's ability to listen — something she views as a rare skill. Colbrecht makes everyone feel important, she said.

"She was one of those officers that I could always call and say, 'There's one room (with) a lot of people coming in and out...'" she said. "(Colbrecht) would do a 'knock-and-talk' and use that as an opportunity to develop a relationship and get to know that student."

Temple recalled an evening in the late '90s where a student told her she'd been sexually assaulted. The student was deeply traumatized and didn't want to talk. Temple knew exactly whom to call.

"When the student sat in front of April, (the student's) body language went from being in knots to much more relaxed," she said. "Even in that setting, in a sterile interview room, April was able to get that student to let her guard down."

For Colbrecht, being such an invested officer can be exhausting. The expectation to solve issues quickly and move on can be difficult for her.

"It's hard for me because I'm the type of personality that likes to be here all the time," she said. "You want to follow up and do the best job for victims, but you have to be able to set boundaries of not doing work."

MY FAMILY IN BLUE

Originally from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Colbrecht moved to the St. Louis area at age 6. She grew up in a single-parent household with three younger siblings, often taking on the caregiver role.

"My mom did the best she could to keep everybody's heads above water," she said. "We couldn't afford to do a lot of things, so if something broke we fixed it ourselves. That shaped me for who I am: self-reliant."

In her first year of college, Colbrecht commuted 250 miles round trip on weekends to work at a Burger King in Arnold, Mo. As sophomore year approached and she became more acclimated at MU, she knew it was time to find a job on campus.

One day, Colbrecht and a friend were walking across campus and noticed a student in a uniform assigning parking tickets.

"My friend said, 'Hey, you could do that.' So I did," Colbrecht said.

For her next four years on campus, Colbrecht worked as a campus safety officer. She was a squad leader for three of those years, overseeing a group of safety officers. Although she was studying animal science at the university in hopes of becoming a veterinarian, reality intervened.



Colbrecht communicates with Officer Zachary China about the detail of a case after the meeting. Colbrecht said she wants MU students to realize they can "come here for help." Photo by Di Pan.

"The fact that I chose law enforcement I blame solely on chemistry class," she said, laughing.

Working with animals in the lab also gave Colbrecht doubts about becoming a veterinarian. She realized she might be too squeamish for the job.

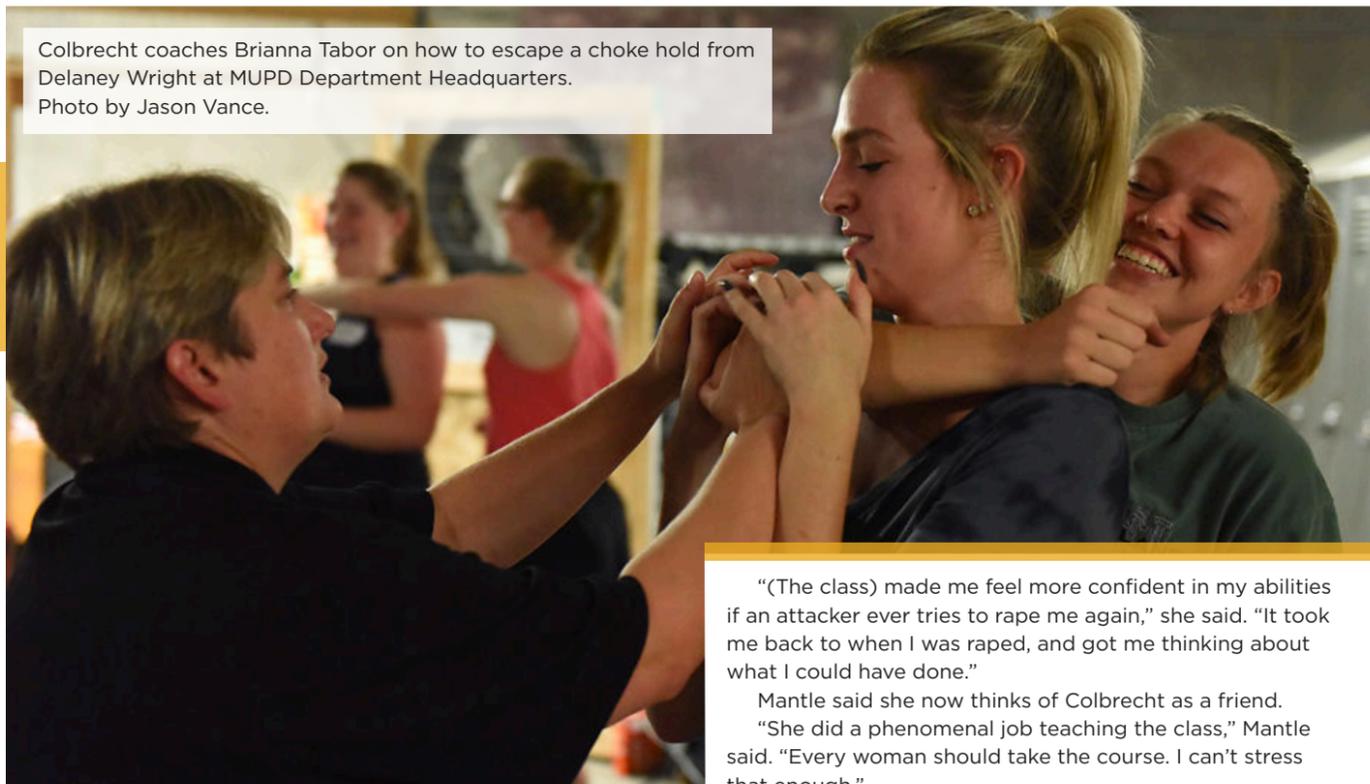
"There are some things I just knew I couldn't do," she said, "Like putting down pets. I'd be crying too hard." It was time to choose a new career path. She drew on her history of caring for others and her experience as a campus safety officer. And that's how she became an officer for MU Police post-graduation in 1998.



Lt. April Colbrecht sits at her office after the roll call for the evening shift at the MU Police Department station. Colbrecht has worked for the department for over 20 years and says she is passionate about her job. Photo by Di Pan.

Continued on the next page

Colbrecht coaches Brianna Tabor on how to escape a choke hold from Delaney Wright at MUPD Department Headquarters. Photo by Jason Vance.



“(The class) made me feel more confident in my abilities if an attacker ever tries to rape me again,” she said. “It took me back to when I was raped, and got me thinking about what I could have done.”

Mantle said she now thinks of Colbrecht as a friend. “She did a phenomenal job teaching the class,” Mantle said. “Every woman should take the course. I can’t stress that enough.”

From day one on the job, Colbrecht felt at home. She said MU Police’s community-policing approach, which is based on relationship-building, translates into the relationships between officers as well, she said.

“I have a family and love my family,” she said. “But these guys are my family in blue, and we take care of each other.”

Along with the strong bond the officers have with each other, Colbrecht especially likes the university atmosphere where she can mentor students as she once mentored her younger siblings.

Chief of MU Police Doug Schwandt has worked with Colbrecht since he first started at the department 18 years ago. He supported her promotion from supervisor to lieutenant in 2013. Since then, he has had no second thoughts.

“April shows a great deal of common sense, patience and compassion,” he said, “Day in and day out, she exemplifies MUPD’s philosophy: We are part of the academic mission of our university.”

R.A.D. is Colbrecht’s favorite course to teach. Along with other instructors, she simulates various attacks and self-defense strategies when teaching the course. The class is high-energy and noisy, with women shouting “No!” and “Stay back!”

During an attack simulation in a recent class, an instructor locked his arms around Colbrecht and yelled, “What is a straight kick, April?”

Colbrecht responded while demonstrating, “Pointed toe, and kick him in the ding ding!”

Jennifer Mantle, 51, who is a business support specialist for MU Health, completed the R.A.D. course recently. She’s a rape survivor, and though it happened decades ago, she said there isn’t a day that goes by that she doesn’t think about it, she said.

LOVE, MARRIAGE AND COMMITMENT

Colbrecht and her wife, Kristen, have been married for almost two years. Originally from Michigan, Kristen, 31, moved to Columbia in 2011 and has worked in the MU International Center ever since.

“I love April — everything about her,” Kristen Colbrecht said. “Her humor, personality and the love that she shows all people.”

When Kristen first came to MU, she and Colbrecht became friends immediately. She could tell Colbrecht was genuine.

“She was just so welcoming and warm and compassionate,” she said. “From there it was like I just want to be your best friend.”

Kristen said their wedding day was the best day of her life, with family and friends showing love and support. It was also the first time Colbrecht had missed working a home MU football game in more than 20 years.

Colbrecht is grateful for the respectful and acceptance she’s experienced at MU Police. Closed-minded officers don’t last long, and most are even weeded out before they have a chance to try, she said.

“I didn’t come out of the closet until 2002,” Colbrecht said. “I was worried about how that might be received, but with everyone here (at MU Police) it wasn’t any different.”

Colbrecht grew up in Lutheran schools and didn’t always feel accepted as a gay person. If she could give her younger self a piece of advice from the future, it’d be to “hang in.”

“High school for me was awful,” she said. “I struggled with being gay in an environment that tells you you’re going to hell every day.”

Colbrecht wishes she would’ve known that there are many good people who are gay, and it’s okay to be who you are.



Colbrecht demonstrates an attack on Officer James Young to a self-defense class. More than a dozen women attended, learning how to defend themselves in different situations. Photo by Jason Vance.

BEING POLICE

Colbrecht has seen a lot of things change in the 20 years that she’s been a police officer, but one change that bothers her more than others is what she feels is an increasingly negative perception of police officers. She sees the 24-hour news cycle as a contributor.

“Nobody wants to hear about the good stuff,” she said. “It doesn’t matter what profession you are in, there will always be people who should not be in that profession.”

Colbrecht reminds herself that the people she comes in contact with are all going through their own struggles, so she strives to be empathetic, even when people are hostile.

“You can sit at a stoplight, look over at the person in the car next to you and know that they are dealing with their own issues,” she said.

If there was one thing she could change, it would be the abuse of alcohol MU Police witnesses on a nightly basis.

“Some of the most devastating things I’ve seen — alcohol has been a part of,” she said. “Most of the rape and sexual assault cases that we have here on campus — alcohol is involved in some way, shape or form.”

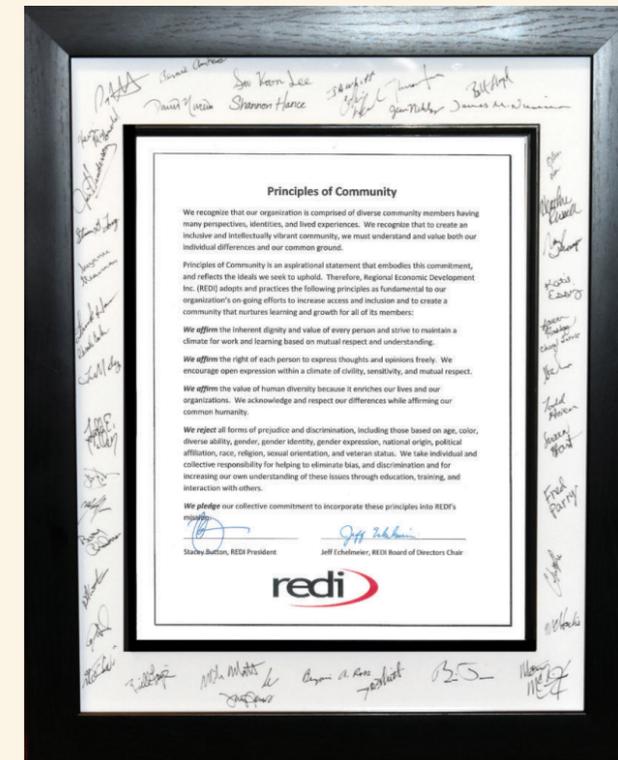
On the days she just wants to quit the job, she goes out into the community and talks to people.

“I go out and teach and have positive interactions,” she said.

“And when I’m done I can walk away and say ‘Yeah, this is why I do what I do.’”

Story originally appeared in the Columbia Missourian

REDI ADOPTS MISSOURI PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY



Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI) has adopted the Missouri Principles of Community as part of their continuing efforts to grow and foster diversity and inclusion within their organization. REDI is a nonprofit public/private partnership created to enhance the vitality of business and increase the number of quality, sustainable jobs in Columbia and Boone County. The board adopted the resolution in March, and it is now framed and on display with the signatures of its supporters in the REDI office.

REDI was founded in 1988 when community leaders recognized the need to collaborate to attract, expand and grow business, and preserve the area’s exceptional quality of life. It is funded by the City of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri, and more than 100 local businesses and municipalities to coordinate the area’s economic development activities. REDI is governed by a 19-person Board of Directors selected by and representing its public and private investors, and staff also serve as the Economic Development Department of the City of Columbia.

The Principles of Community is an aspirational statement that embodies our commitment to creating and fostering an inclusive and intellectually vibrant community through understanding and valuing both our individual differences and our common ground. Visit our PoC website to read the values we affirm and digitally sign the pledge!



PASSIONATELY PINKED OUT



GREEN DOT DAY



PRIDE 2018

The University Concert Series strives to present a diversity of performances that educate, engage and entertain the communities it serves. Tickets for the 2018-19 Season are available now through Ticketmaster, or by calling or visiting the Missouri Theatre box office and the MSA/GPC box office in the MU Student Center.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis

Monday, Nov. 26

The Great Russian Nutcracker

Wednesday, Nov. 28

NOEL

Wednesday, Dec. 5

The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)

Wednesday, Dec. 12

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Jan. 20

Legally Blonde, The Musical

Friday, Feb. 1

Peg + Cat Live!

Wednesday, Feb. 6

Canadian Brass

Monday, Feb. 11

ETHEL and Robert Mirabel: The River

Thursday, Feb. 21

Shanghai Opera Symphony Orchestra

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Celtic Nights: Oceans of Hope

Tuesday, March 5

Show Me Opera: The Magic Flute

Friday, March 15
Saturday, March 16

Russian String Orchestra

Tuesday, March 19

Plowman Chamber Music Competition Finals + Awards Ceremony

Sunday, March 24

Missouri Contemporary Ballet & Columbia Chorale: Carmina Burana

Friday, April 5
Saturday, April 6

Glenn Miller Orchestra

Saturday, April 13

MU Choral Union: Mozart's Requiem

Thursday, April 25

Ozark Mountain Devils

Friday, May 3

Missoula Children's Theatre: The Frog Prince

Saturday, May 11

Missouri Contemporary Ballet: Alice in Wonderland

Saturday, June 1
Sunday, June 2

To obtain additional info, visit concertseries.missouri.edu/concert/.



Homecoming Royalty Tyler Brumfield and Jalyn Johnson (center) celebrate with 2017 winners Tori Schaefer and Sean Earl. Photo by Jennifer Manning

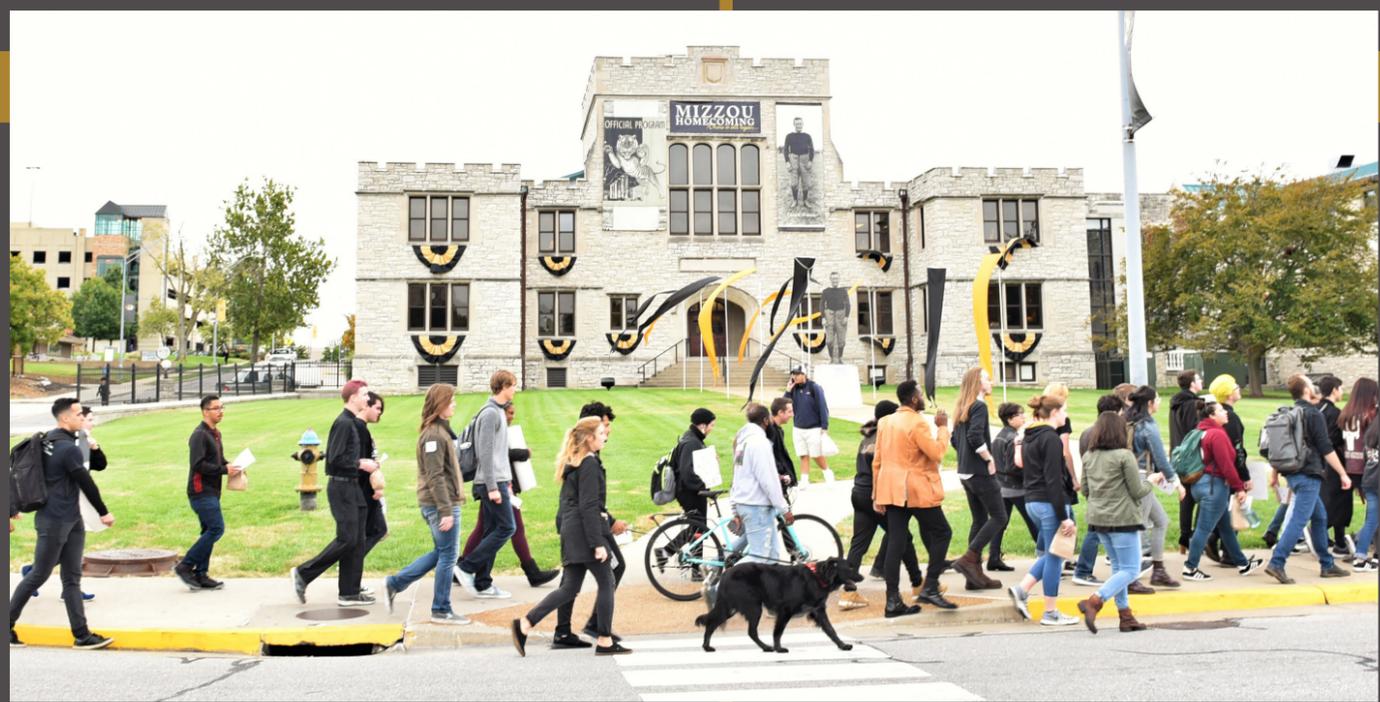


Four Front holds a Homecoming Solidarity Walk en route to Bluford-Brooks-Ridgel celebration. Photos by Ryan Gavin



LBC performs its annual Step Show in Jesse Auditorium. Photos by Sam O'Keefe





Students, staff and alumni participate in the annual Homecoming Parade. Photos by Ryan Gavin



Members of the Mizzou community reflect on the significance of Lucile Bluford, George Brooks and Gus Ridgel at the residence hall naming celebration. Photos by Ryan Gavin



LBC CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

2018 LBC ROYAL COURT

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Story by **MORGAN MCABOY-YOUNG**
Photo by **TAYLAR WARREN**

The MU Legion of Black Collegians has a rich, history and heritage at Mizzou. In the fall of 1968, LBC was established by black students at Mizzou who desired to have student leadership in place that would focus on issues facing underrepresented students. In October, LBC celebrated 50 years of service as an official MU Student Government.

Using the theme "An Eternal Legacy, Speaking Our Truth," students members kicked off the weeklong celebration aimed at highlighting LBC's impact and reinforcing a sense of belonging for black students at Mizzou. Celebratory events took place during Homecoming Week, giving current students as well as alumni an opportunity to look back at efforts made over the years to improve the black-student experience at Mizzou. The week's activities included a Solidarity March, Sunday's Best Talent Showcase, LBC Debates, Market Wednesday, the dedication of two residence halls named in honor of African-Americans who significantly contributed to Mizzou's history, and the annual Black Family Reunion Tailgate.

TO HELP CELEBRATE LBC'S LONGSTANDING HISTORY OF SERVICE TO THE MU COMMUNITY, SEVERAL CAMPUS PARTNERS SERVED AS SPONSORS FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:

- ◆ Department of Social Justice
- ◆ Division of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity
- ◆ Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center
- ◆ Mizzou Black Alumni Network
- ◆ MSA/GPC Black Programming Committee

Since the group's founding, LBC student members have gone on to sponsor annual programs, offer financial and programming support to GOBCC umbrella organizations, serve as hosts for the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government, and coordinate annual Black Culture Awareness Week activities at Mizzou.

To learn more about LBC, visit lbc.missouri.edu.



2018-19 LBC OFFICERS



HOMEcoming SOLIDARITY MARCH



LBC DEBATES

INTERNATIONAL DAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY





MU CELEBRATES DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Bree Newsome

Community Organizer and Activist Who Removed the Confederate Battle Flag from the South Carolina State House

Wednesday, Jan. 23 2019
7-8:30 p.m.

Jesse Auditorium
801 Conley Ave, Columbia, MO 65201

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For additional information regarding this event, please visit diversity.missouri.edu/our-work/mu-celebrates-martin-luther-king-jr/.



MIZZOU ALUMNA HAS GLOBAL TRAJECTORY

Taylor Cofield found her passion at Mizzou. Three national fellowships and scholarships later, she's taking that passion across the world.

Story by **SARAH SABATKE**
Photo by **MONIQUE WOO**

Sometimes small choices can lead to big opportunities. Mizzou alumna Taylor Cofield always knew she wanted to study political science in college, but she didn't know exactly how. It all came into focus when she took an Arabic class during her freshman year. The class opened up a new world and has shaped her career path ever since.

Cofield discovered a passion for the languages, histories and cultures of the Middle East, ultimately deciding to add a major in international studies. Her interests in foreign policy and diplomacy, paired with her passion for the region, has taken her across the world.

Cofield received a highly competitive scholarship from the Critical Language Scholarship Program through the U.S. Department of State to further her Arabic study. She traveled to Jordan in summer 2016 and lived with a host family for three months. She immersed herself in the local culture and intense study of Arabic.

“I definitely learned that, regardless of [our] societies and cultures, we have a lot more in common than we allow ourselves to believe,” she says. “That’s something I got from living with a host family and being forced to speak a different language, to live in a different culture. It was something that was new to me, but it didn’t feel odd.”

Cofield credits her experience in Jordan with leading her to the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, which provides graduate students with financial support, mentoring and professional development to prepare them for a career with the State Department.

“It basically set me up for life,” she says.

In addition to her coursework, Cofield’s career path was shepherded by her out-of-class activities. She participated in student government as a senator in the Missouri Students Association and a member of the group’s social justice committee, which tied in well with her political science and international studies majors. She was also a three-year athlete in pole vault, which is what brought her to Mizzou. She liked her coach’s emphasis on academics. “We’re athletes, but we’re students first,” she remembers the coach saying.

“Ultimately, you’re here to get an education.” Her education not only earned her the Pickering fellowship but also the federal Harry S. Truman Scholarship in spring 2017. Cofield graduated from Mizzou this past May and will do two years of graduate school at Texas A&M University, studying international affairs with a focus on national security and diplomacy. Her involvement as a Pickering fellow will ultimately lead her to a career as a diplomat with the U.S. Foreign Service.

Cofield credits her Mizzou mentors for teaching her to stand strong in her convictions and to find her voice, one of the reasons why she decided to get involved in student government.

“Don’t be afraid to speak up, not only for yourself but for others, because if you don’t, you never know who will,” she says. “That’s something they instilled in me.”

CHANGING THE STATUS QUO

Kenny, Brandon's father, has seen it before — kids from the inner city of Indianapolis who show promise, both academically and athletically, but fail to make it all the way through their high school or college careers, often due to circumstances out of their control.

He remembers a young student-athlete whose mother rented an apartment but was never around. The student-athlete took care of himself, went to school and played sports, but it wasn't sustainable.

"Eventually, it got the best of him," Kenny said. "The family structure is just not there in the community the way it used to be years ago."

In 2016, 12.3 percent of households in Marion County, Indiana — Indianapolis makes up 90 percent of the population — were single-parent homes, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Community Survey. Poverty plays a role, too. A study by the Sagamore Institute, which is based in Indianapolis, found that 21.3 percent of people in Indianapolis lived in poverty in 2015, up from 11.8 percent in 2000. Indiana Department of Education data shows, 29 percent of Marion County residents who are at least 25 years old have a bachelor's degree.

Nationally, 23 percent of children live with a single mother and 4 percent live with a single father. Although Marion County is lower than the national average in terms of single-parent homes, it doesn't meet the national average for poverty (12.7 percent) or those with a bachelor's degree (33.4 percent).

This, in part, has motivated Kenny, who is a youth pastor at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis, to encourage the children he works with to strive to further their education to the highest level and break the mold.

Brandon Lee bought into the idea at a young age. Years later, in 2014, the opportunity to go beyond a bachelor's degree presented itself when he redshirted in his first year at Missouri. Suddenly, the linebacker was going to be in Columbia for more than four years, and the plan to pursue a master's degree began to take shape.

The logic checks out. Lee would complete a bachelor's degree in four years, then still have one more year to reach his academic goals thanks to the redshirt season. Moreover, having a master's degree, he figures, will give him a backup plan that sets him apart from the competition in a job search if he doesn't make it to the NFL.

In May, the plan fully materialized when he graduated with a finance degree and, a few weeks later, was accepted into Missouri's MBA program.

Even if he turns pro and puts his master's pursuit on hold, Lee intends to return to Missouri to finish his degree. Why?

These days, the trips that Lee can make back to Indianapolis are few and far between. But every time he goes back, all eyes are on him.

"He's kind of like a celebrity," Kenny said. "... He's been away for five years now, and he's kept it together and kept his head on straight. A lot of people want to talk to him about that and talk to him about football. He's surrounded every time he comes home."

Lee is fully aware of the impact he can have on the people in his community, inside and outside his family. The master's degree is more than just a backup plan.



Brandon Lee and his mom after his undergraduate graduation from MU in May 2018.

PUTTING THE WHEELS IN MOTION

Two years. That's how long it will likely take Lee to finish the program.

And that doesn't account for the time he has already invested in blazing his path.

In the summer of 2017, Lee interned with Krilogy Financial in St. Louis. Two or three days a week, the linebacker went to summer workouts with the Tigers in the morning, then hopped in the car to drive to the Krilogy offices in Creve Coeur, where he worked the rest of the day before driving back to Columbia at about 6:30 p.m.

And he wasn't just the intern who makes coffee runs. Lee helped analyze client portfolios and evaluated risk and return projections while working under Kent Skornia, Krilogy's president and CEO.

"He was knee deep in everything for us," said Skornia, who played football at Missouri in 1995 and 1996. "... He's a hard worker, which can get you pretty far, but he also has some God-given talents in terms of his brains that are pretty off the charts."

Lee recently flexed a little of that brain power.

This past summer, Lee took two courses at Missouri and interned at Edward Jones in Columbia. On top of that, he took three online classes through Harvard as part of the prerequisites for Missouri's master's program.

Yes, that Harvard. But Lee doesn't see it as that big of a deal.

"If I was to get a true certificate from Harvard or something on paper saying that, it would be really cool. But I can't walk around and say, 'I did this and that at Harvard,'" he said.

This semester — and those to come — don't offer much relief. Although Lee said his class work isn't much more difficult than the courses he took as an undergraduate, he only needed one word to describe his schedule.

"Busy," he said.

On a recent Wednesday, the Tigers had workouts, film and practice from 6 to 11 a.m., but Lee had to leave for class before practice concluded. Another class — one from 6 to 9 p.m. — awaited him later, as well. Afterward, he decided the long day was worth a reward.

"It's changing the standard," Lee said, "and the general standard back at home for those that look up to me — whether it's those that are looking from the shadows, or that I don't know that are looking up to me, or my nieces and nephews, my younger cousins, all my family members.

"... I'm just trying to set an example and open up different paths that they can take, and show them that it is possible that a guy from the inner city can make those things happen. So this is just the beginning, but I also have to complete the program so I can actually do that for them."

"As soon as that (last) class finished, I called Texas Roadhouse and ordered the Wednesday steak," he said.

The task ahead certainly isn't a cakewalk, but Lee believes it's manageable and said the classes are more enjoyable.

Ask anyone around Lee — his teammates, his coaches, his family — and none see anything but success in his future.

"He's just starting," Skornia said. "I think there's a lot more to what Brandon's going to do."

PRESIDENT LEE

Because of his internship this summer, Lee often left workouts in a suit and tie to cries of, "It's President Lee!" from his teammates.

"They admire it. Even though they're joking, I know that they're getting something out of it," Lee said.

"People think of football, they think of people that are just dumb jocks," sophomore linebacker Jamal Brooks added. "That's something I've gotten before in high school, but I took AP classes in high school. I was happy to see someone going after their degree not just to get through school, but to actually have a plan and do something. He's a huge influence on me."

Lee's influence isn't limited to off-the-field matters. Inside the linebacker room, he's one of the leaders. Lee has an extensive knowledge of the playbook and experience at all three linebacker spots for the Tigers. In turn, the young players often look to Lee for guidance — including sophomore Aubrey Miller Jr., who had to make a transition from strong side to weak side linebacker.

"The man's so smart," Miller said. "He knows everything that's supposed to go on."

Lee's play speaks for itself. A season ago, he posted a career-high 42 tackles, five of them for loss. In a 45-17 win over Vanderbilt, he returned an interception 42 yards for a touchdown.

"I think he's got a chance to play football past this year, I really do," head coach Barry Odom said. "He's a talented kid. He's intelligent, very driven (and) focused."

"He's going to have a chance to play pro ball. He's a prototypical guy," outside linebackers coach Brian Odom added. "He's smart. He's played multiple positions — as far as inside and outside. He understands the game."

He runs really well and he's got great size. Brandon Lee's a guy that kind of has it all."

Lee has set himself up well. Down one path, a future in the NFL might be around the bend. Down another, a Master's in Business Administration is in sight. But time and time again, Lee circles back to his belief that it is all bigger than him, that it's about others.

Kenny and his wife, Terry, hope to make the trip to Columbia for the Tigers' Week 2 matchup with Wyoming. If they can't, they know Missouri comes to their backyard just one week later, as the Tigers will travel to West Lafayette, Indiana, to take on Purdue.

"I imagine there will be 50 or better (family members) there to watch that game," Kenny said.

And all eyes will be on Lee — the linebacker and graduate student who carries his last name well.

Story originally appeared in the Columbia Missourian

Bree Newsome

Community Organizer and Activist Who Removed the Confederate Battle Flag from the South Carolina State House

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019

7–8:30 p.m.

Jesse Auditorium

801 Conley Ave, Columbia, MO 65201



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