Study urges better financial aid formulas

New U.S. rules for student financial aid should use a method of assessing net worth that doesn't foster inequalities in distribution, researchers say.

A study by the University of Missouri released Friday concludes that the Federal Application for Student Financial Aid, known as the FAFSA, needs a better way of assessing a family's net worth.

UM researcher Tansel Yilmazer says under the current method two families with the same income can end up with widely different amounts of financial aid.

"Right now, if one family invests more in retirement or in huge homes with high equity, then that family might be eligible for more financial aid than the family that doesn't make these investments," Yilmazer says.

The Missouri study, "The Impact of College Financial Aid Rules on Household Portfolio Choices," will be published in the December issue of the National Tax Journal.

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Budget offers MU faculty a gloomy outlook

Salaries at bottom rank in peer group.

By Janese Heavin

Saturday, October 3, 2009

University of Missouri faculty members are going to need some tough talks about how the system should boost salaries to a level comparable with peer universities.

That was the take-away message of a more than hourlong meeting yesterday between Betsy Rodriguez, vice president of human resources, and about 40 MU faculty members on campus.

The presentation was a scaled-down version of the five-hour presentation Rodriguez gave the UM Board of Curators in August.

“I don’t want you to leave depressed, I want you to leave with a lot of questions” and things to discuss, Rodriguez said at the end of the program.

The facts aren’t encouraging. MU ranks at or near the bottom of every salary list when compared to peer universities, even when colleges on the coasts are taken out of the mix.

And a salary gap between new employees entering at market value and their more experienced counterparts creates a systematic salary problem, she said. In some cases, new hires end up with higher salaries than veteran faculty members.

And that can be awkward, said Greg Alexander, a School of Nursing assistant professor. He said he has noticed when filling out grant forms with co-investigators that he makes more than veteran colleagues. Although no one talks about it, “there’s definitely a morale issue,” he said.

Boosting salaries requires money the system doesn’t have. Rodriguez said it would cost $8 million to increase salaries by 1 percent.

A $32 million increase in state funding would allow the university to give a 4 percent raise, roughly a cost-of-living increase, Rodriguez said. But if current trends continue, the state won’t have that kind of extra money to spend. The Associated Press reported yesterday that Missouri tax revenues plunged 10 percent in the first quarter of this budget year.

Another option to give a 4 percent raise would be to raise tuition 8 percent. That’s also unlikely because state law limits how much a public university can raise tuition in a year without special permission. Plus, that increase would be a hard sale to the public and students, Rodriguez said.
She challenged employees to consider whether they'd want to reduce some benefits — such as a better-than-average early retirement health plan — in exchange for higher take-home pay. She also questioned whether employees would want to look at doing away with systemwide tuition and salary increases and instead base those increases on individual campuses.

"These are tough discussions," Rodriguez said. "We can no longer afford not to" increase salaries, "so how are we going to pay for it?"

Although there are no current answers, MU Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said there are places to consider. For instance, she questioned whether duplicate programs are needed on each of the four UM campuses.

Mainly, she said, faculty needs to have a seat at the discussion table.

"Whatever the solutions are, they need to be coming from the bottom up as well as the top down," Rubin said. The decisions "are not going to be easy."

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.
MU's Faculty Council Forum addresses low salaries

By Ben Wieder
October 2, 2009 | 6:58 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU's faculty salaries are significantly lower than most of its peer institutions. But judging by attendance at Friday's Faculty Council Forum on salary and benefits, faculty members don't necessarily want to talk about it.

Cornell Hall's 500-capacity Bush Auditorium, the venue for the forum, was less than 10 percent full.

"A lot of people are demoralized," faculty council chairwoman Leona Rubin said.

Among those who did attend, discussion was engaged and reflected concerns about the overall retirement plan, salaries for faculty funded through grants and policy differences among the four campuses in the University of Missouri System.

Betsy Rodriguez, the UM System's vice president for human resources, presented data comparing MU faculty salaries to the 33 other public institutions in the American Association of Universities and unveiled the beginnings of a human-resources strategy on salary, which she said she hopes to have finalized later this year.

She had earlier shared the information with the UM System Board of Curators at its meeting on Aug. 22.

The comparison of public AAU institutions showed that MU's ranked faculty salaries grew the least of any institution between 1998 and 2008. Despite a 7.2 percent increase in average salary between 2007 and 2008, MU had the second-lowest average salary in 2008, better only than the University of Oregon.
Rodriguez likened faculty salaries to physical infrastructure, including buildings and utilities, and concluded that "deferred maintenance" of faculty salaries led to MU's current state.

Poor salaries may have contributed to a high rate of attrition among both faculty and staff, Rodriguez said. In their first five years of employment, one in five faculty members leaves the UM System, while one in four staff members leaves.

Small annual salary increases for existing faculty members are viewed by some as one of the major problems.

Because faculty members are hired at what Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, calls "the most competitive salaries on the market," small annual increases result in salary inequities among faculty members depending on when they were hired.

"What you have is someone who's been working five years making less than someone just hired," O'Brien said.

Rodriguez disagreed that incoming faculty members are paid at "market rate," saying that MU's assistant professor salaries ranked the lowest of public AAU institutions.

But she did not dispute the poor rate of annual increase in salary.

Rodriguez offered no solutions for how to fix MU faculty salaries, but she outlined how difficult it will be.

The two major revenue streams for the UM System are state funding and tuition. UM can only control the latter, but it takes a 2-percent increase in tuition for every 1-percent increase in overall salary.

Still, she was pleased by the reaction of the Board of Curators when she first presented the information.

The board was "enlightened" by the presentation, Rodriguez said.

"Many of them understand how serious this problem is," she said.
UM adds legal staff to cash in on research

By Janese Heavin

Friday, October 2, 2009

The University of Missouri System is seeing more marketable ideas emerge from research on its four campuses than ever, causing administrators to shuffle resources to support those endeavors.

The latest investment will be the addition of two new attorney positions in the general counsel’s office to handle business transactions and intellectual property issues. Those jobs will be underwritten by some of the money saved from 22 system position cuts made last year. In May, UM System President Gary Forsee said he planned to reinvest some of the expected $2.5 million savings in economic development initiatives.

Even though vacancies remain unfilled elsewhere and salaries are flat, MU Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said the new legal positions are crucial. “We’ve complained for a couple of years now that we need that,” said Rubin, an associate professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine. “We need legal help to get these things out to the market. There are things being developed here that need to get out.”

The general counsel’s office works with the UM Department of Research and Economic Development to hash out legal issues surrounding technology transfers, research contracts and the development of research parks.

That office is understaffed, said Michael Nichols, vice president of research and economic development. UM has seven attorneys, compared to 20 to 30 lawyers who deal with developments at similar research universities in the Midwest, he said. Forsee “is dedicated to building that up to the right size — not overbuilding it, but making it the right size to get things done in a reasonable manner,” Nichols said. “One of my big goals is to reduce the time between a discovery and a license. Right now, the average is three years, and that’s way too long. … I want to get that down to less than a year.”

Though not all discoveries turn into marketable products, investing in the marketing of new ideas is paying off. During the fiscal year that ended in June, UM generated a record $10 million in licensing income. Nichols said Forsee wants to increase that figure to $50 million in five years.

That’s why the jobs are exempt from the systemwide hiring freeze that remains in place.
"At a time of significant economic challenge to the university, the president believed that the addition of these two positions was justified in order to enhance potential revenue generated by economic development activities," said UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead.

Advertisements for the two new jobs do not include salary ranges, but other attorneys in the general counsel’s office make between $100,000 and $154,000, not including General Counsel Steve Owens, who makes $338,000, according to the system’s 2008 salary library.

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Large universities changing freshman experience

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER/Associated Press Writer
October 4, 2009 | 4:45 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The freshman experience at large state universities can still resemble a failed social experiment more than the start of a four-year journey to enlightenment.

Overwhelmed freshmen in many places still sit anonymously in large lecture halls, surrounded by hundreds of peers whose names the professor couldn’t possibly remember. Dorm life isn’t much better, with total-stranger roommates sharing little in common other than a desire to survive those first rocky semesters.

But such cattle-call approaches to higher education are becoming increasingly out of fashion. At MU and many other schools, from large public universities to selective liberal arts colleges, freshmen students increasingly live and learn in small groups with those who share similar interests — everything from environmental activism to budding cyber entrepreneurs. At MU, there’s even a group for aspiring storm chasers.

Merrill Arens, 17, graduated from a small-town Missouri high school with just 300 students — about 1 percent the size of MU’s student body. Joining a freshmen interest group for film and theater buffs allowed her to feel like more than just a name and number at the state’s flagship university, she said.

"It was definitely overwhelming being in a school so big," said the Montgomery City native, who said the group has allowed her to make connections she otherwise wouldn’t have sought. "It’s really nice to see people from class back in the dorm."

Nearly one-third of MU’s 5,620 first-year students participate in freshmen interest groups, or FIGs. They share rooms with each other or entire sections of residential
housing together. They take four courses together, making the over-sized auditoriums "psychologically smaller" as one university official said.

FIGs meet in small groups with a peer adviser who helps them navigate the school bureaucracy while offering tips on time management and how to speak with professors.

"It's an immediate connection," said Matt Hibbard, a junior peer adviser and former interest group participant. "You build really strong relationships right off the bat."

These so-called living and learning communities, as well as first-year seminars, which don't include a residential component, are not new. But as enrollment at many schools continue to increase, so does the popularity of such programs.

The first-year residential program at MU has grown from 21 interest groups in 1995 to 110 this year, with nearly 1,900 participants. FIG participants typically have had higher GPAs and graduation rates, school statistics have shown.

South Carolina received credit for launching this idea, creating its "University 101" course for new students 36 years ago.

At the University of Michigan, freshmen students are paired with faculty researchers and participate in weekly forums as part of the Michigan Research Community.

At Illinois, the Weston Exploration Program has allows students to tap the expertise of academic advisers, career counselors and other resources on the 41,918-student campus.

"Residence halls are not just places for students to eat, flop and make love," said John Gardner, executive director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College and one of the creators of the landmark South Carolina program. "These are places where students can learn. You want to take control of that environment."

Students who have participated in such programs are less likely to drop out and more likely to graduate, Gardner said.

A 2007 survey of more than 22,000 students at 52 colleges found similar results. The National Study of Living Learning Programs found that students who have built stronger relationships with faculty were more likely to seek internships and study abroad and less likely to abuse alcohol.
Ryan O'Sullivan, a psychology major from Chicago, said the one-credit FIG seminar on college survival skills taught him that sitting in the back rows of a large lecture hall isn't an effective learning strategy.

"In high school, we never had a class of 300 people," he said. "Here, if you sit in the back of a room with 300 kids, you just sit there with your Macbook and check out Facebook."
Weeknight football to disrupt parking

MU health workers urged to take off.

By Janese Heavin

Friday, October 2, 2009

Next week’s rare weeknight football game will require hundreds of workers and students to move their vehicles midday, has forced dozens of patients to reschedule doctor’s appointments and will likely make for extra-congested rush-hour traffic along Stadium Boulevard.

But Thursday’s game against Nebraska will also shine a national spotlight on the University of Missouri as ESPN cameras roll.

Last year, the sports network “asked if we and Nebraska would have a Thursday night game, a unique chance for a national, exclusive telecast,” said department spokesman Chad Moller.

“That’s going to be the only game played in the nation that night. That exposure is something you can’t put a figure on. It’s great exposure for the football program, the athletics department, the university and the city of Columbia.”

Kickoff is at 8 p.m., and parking lots will open at 4:30 p.m. That means MU faculty, staff and students are going to be required to move their vehicles by 4 p.m. or face being towed. They will, however, be allowed to park in Lot 7 and the Maryland Avenue parking garage, both of which will be off-limits to the public that day, said Jim Joy, MU director of parking and transportation.

MU Health System employees have been asked to either take vacation or personal time that afternoon. The system is suspending clinic hours in the medical buildings at 1 p.m., said spokeswoman Mary Jenkins. About a month ago, hospital staff contacted some 60 patients who had appointments on Thursday afternoon and asked them to reschedule, if possible.

“Most patients were appreciative that we notified them traffic is going to be congested,” Jenkins said. “The majority opted to reschedule their appointments.”

Columbia police Sgt. Tim Moriarity advised local residents to avoid the stadium area if possible.

“If you’re not affiliated with the game, avoid it at all costs,” he said. “There are ways to get around the center part of Columbia.”

Those who do need to travel that route should give themselves plenty of extra drive time, he said.
The game not only will give MU a national stage for sports but will also highlight some of the other aspects of the university. ESPN has offered to air feature commercial spots that showcase the Missouri School of Journalism and the athletics department’s partnership with Children’s Hospital.

“We’ll get good coverage during the Nebraska game of academic and health issues that go on at the University of Missouri,” MU Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin told members yesterday.

Thursday will mark the second time the Tigers have played on a weeknight in school history, Moller said. The first was in 1992.

“This is a very rare occurrence,” Moller said. “We know that it has potential to cause a lot of anxiety for people because it’s so unique. It’s not something we’re going to do regularly. It’s a rare chance to have the national spotlight exclusively on Columbia.”

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MU plans for future make great sense

By Bob Roper

Sunday, October 4, 2009

The University of Missouri has big money problems, and everyone knows it. The budget year that started on July 1 was a good deal for MU, inasmuch as state appropriations were not cut and the budget was balanced. Much of that was thanks to federal stimulus funds. Unfortunately, we only have one more year of stimulus money to rely on. After that, Missouri might well face a revenue shortfall equal to 5 percent to 10 percent of the overall budget, a scary prospect regarding appropriations for MU.

Adaptive leaders and adaptive organizations always do a good job of looking at the world as it is and doing something about it, rather than living in the world of illusion. So it is that UM System President Gary Forsee and the UM Board of Curators are doing some interesting things. Back in August, the UM System announced an accountability project, whereby the university would work to see how all campuses stack up against comparable institutions, including whether administrators are dealing with problems appropriately, meeting expectations, etc. The report card basically will look at five key areas: research, service, teaching and learning, administrative efforts and economic development.

Forsee has indicated an outside auditor will provide assurance that all measurements are reasonable and that everyone can have faith the results are both reliable and valid.

So what are we to make of this? Forsee noted it will show Missourians how well the university is doing. He also noted it could be used with respect to evaluating the performance and salaries of university employees. In these tough times, that would appear to be a no-brainer.

Though I have no inside knowledge, I suspect it can and will also be used for something else. During my long years in the business world, two aspects of everyone’s job were worthy of analysis. The first is obvious; namely, how well the individual employee is performing. The less obvious question, however, is equally as important: How important is that job? How important — if not mission critical — is the program that job supports? Is there a better way to handle the work being done by that job, department or division?

It is no surprise, then, that the university has reached an agreement with the Cerner Corp. to outsource the function of about 100 information technology jobs in the MU health system. Fortunately, those 100 jobs are not lost; rather, they become Cerner employees. The idea is to
save a lot of money by the use of Cerner’s state-of-the-art online medical records system. It should improve patient care and safety in the process. And commercial applications for good revenues should occur. I absolutely understand the university simply has to do whatever it can to reduce its costs to complete its core mission. The use of third-party vendors when appropriate is simple common sense.

Missouri, like other states, is going to have to do a “reset” because it is likely to see a permanent reduction in tax revenues. That means states and other government entities, such as Boone County, the city of Columbia and the university, will likely have to reduce the size and scope of their services. It also means becoming more efficient. The university is wise in trying to get ahead of the curve.

A CHICKEN IN EVERY YARD?

A proposed ordinance to allow Columbians to keep and raise at least some chickens in their yards is alive and incubating, so to speak.

Though I grew up working on farms every summer and was around chickens a lot, my instincts tell me this is not a good idea. Yes. I am sure all sorts of special control provisions could be written into the enabling ordinance. And surely the law could include an “opt out” provision for neighborhood associations. I suspect, however, that a whole lot of people around town really would not want to have a pen of chickens in their neighbor’s yard — especially if a rooster is included.

THOUGHTS ON U.S. DEBT

People wonder when a country gets into really big trouble because of the amount of debt it has accumulated. According to Bruce Bartlett, a columnist for Forbes Magazine, the International Monetary Fund maintains the critical point is when a government borrows money to pay the interest on its debt. Where is the United States on that paradigm? According to the Congressional Budget Office, we will reach that point in 2019 if current trends continue. I suspect we will, in fact, reach it sooner. Yet our spending continues to careen out of control. Inflation, anyone?

ISRAEL VERSUS IRAN

The rest of the world might dither on in collective self-delusion and be played for fools by Iran, but I do not believe Israel feels it can let Iran develop a nuclear bomb, which intelligence agencies believe it will be capable of before the end of 2010.

A nuclear-armed Iran would be an existential threat to Israel, in the view of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. If Iran developed a bomb, it likely would give it to a terrorist proxy such as Hezbollah. Netanyahu has made clear there will be no second Holocaust on his watch.

Iran has to import gasoline, so a blockade might work. And maybe regime change can be “induced,” especially since this ruthless, barbaric regime is largely hated within the country. But if those options do not work ...
If Israel strikes Iran, some things are certain: We surely will become involved if war breaks out. We will have to do what we can to make sure the world’s oil supply continues to flow. Such a strike would create a large disruption in the oil markets, and I suspect the price of oil would go sky-high. No one knows what else might occur.

Just another happy update from your friendly Tribune columnist.

Tribune columnist Bob Roper is a former local banking and investment executive with a longstanding interest in public issues.

This article was published on page D2 of the Sunday, October 4, 2009 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune.
'Pepper' friends forever

Outpouring of love won't be forgotten.

BY PAUL PEPPER

Sunday, October 4, 2009

After four decades at KOMU-TV, Sept. 18 brought a major change to my life. I was a young 23-year-old when I first walked through the front door of Mid-Missouri's first television station. I never expected to spend 40 wonderful years of employment there, first as a "booth announcer" — that means doing live commercials in station breaks — then for nearly 25 years as a weatherman and finally with my dream job hosting "Pepper & Friends" for 27 years.

Along with Uncle James Mouser, we were afforded the opportunity to come into your home five days a week with a wide array of guests, ranging from dogs, cooks, doctors, exercise gurus, more dogs, dancers, acrobats, clowns, still more dogs, authors, comedians, more dogs and most of the residents of Central Missouri, plus more dogs and cats.

We used to say that, at one time or another, everyone in Central Missouri walked through our studio doors.

James and I want to express our heartfelt thanks for all those years. We are especially thankful for all of you who mobilized after the May 22 announcement that KOMU planned to cancel our show. The outpouring of support and love will never be forgotten. The e-mails, phone calls and personal visits are all firmly etched in our hearts.

The protest rallies and the calls made to KOMU and University of Missouri management were all much appreciated, and the effort by many of our "Pepper & Friends" advertisers to save the show was more than we would have imagined. We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.

We do, however, want to set the record straight once and for all. In my opinion, none of this had to happen. When KOMU notified us it planned to cancel "Pepper & Friends," we were told it was strictly for financial reasons. First we were told the show was losing $60,000 annually; a few weeks later we were told it was $70,000. A letter sent to "Pepper & Friends" supporters in August at a town hall meeting offered the figure of $74,000. Neither KOMU nor the university ever showed James or me any figures. We heard all of it the same way at the same time the public did.
When we offered to give back $58,000 in salary and benefits, we were ignored. So were our sponsors, who offered to make up the difference of the so-called loss. So, we are left to assume the financial reasons given for canceling the show were not completely true. Let me make it clear: This was not an offer of a short-term infusion of cash, as KOMU and university management continue to say. This was an offer of a permanent fix to the so-called cash shortfall.

“Pepper & Friends” offered the community a platform and voice for all. That voice has been silenced by the television station. Our last show on Sept. 18 is one we will never forget. It was a culmination of love over the years. So many wonderful friends worked so hard to make it special. Travis McMillen, who edited all the final montages; Perry Cooper, our director for 19 years who put together special pieces for the weeks leading up to the last show; and our wonderful “Pepper & Friends” crew. We say thanks to each of them and to our guests and sponsors who came to that last show.

Special thanks go to Mike Dunn at KBIA for affording me the opportunity to continue sharing the happenings of Central Missouri with Central Missouri. I hope you will join me for “Radio Friends” at 8:50 each weekday on 91.3 KBIA.

This article was published on page D3 of the Sunday, October 4, 2009 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune.
Documents spared in sprinkler mishap

Friday, October 2, 2009

Rare historical documents were spared from a sprinkler mishap Wednesday that soaked a State Historical Society of Missouri room at Ellis Library.

Damage was confined to multiple, backup copies of state documents, primarily Missouri state agency reports from the 1970s to early 1990s, the historical society reported in a prepared statement. At no time were any original manuscripts, rare books or artwork in danger, the statement said.

Columbia fire crews responded to Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday after an automatic sprinkler alarm was activated. Firefighters arrived on the scene within minutes and, finding no fire, shut off the water.

Patron services were not interrupted. Employees hope to finish cleaning up the room today.
Olathe college campus joins trend to trayless dining halls

By EDWARD M. EVELD

The end of trays is upon us.

That's right, cafeteria trays. Those flat, plastic quadrilaterals perfect for transporting a meal's worth of plates, bowls, glasses and silverware to a seat in a college dining hall.

And maybe for “borrowing” as a sled after that first snowfall blankets campus.

This fall, students at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe joined thousands across the country in a trend that's changing communal eating: They went trayless.

“I think it's a good thing,” said Steven Harris, a sophomore.

“I get the point, but I don’t like it,” said senior Ashley Rielle.

What is the point? Sustainability. Tray-free advocates hope trays go the way of incandescent bulbs and internal combustion engines, only faster. The convenience trays offer, they said, isn't worth the massive amounts of water, chemicals and heating energy it takes to wash them.

“It's estimated one tray uses a half-gallon of hot water every time it's washed,” said Donna Brunton, food service manager at Mid-America Nazarene. “That's a lot of hot water.”

More disturbing for many: Trays can promote food waste. The impulse in a cafeteria is to fill the tray before sitting down, and items from an overfilled tray end up in the trash. Trayless plate jugglers are not so tempted.

“I don't see as much food coming back to the dish room,” Brunton said.

Of course, curbing food waste and reducing water and energy consumption can mean cost savings for food services and colleges.

Then there's this: Some students are finding they eat less overall.

“I sit down and start talking, and then it's not worth it to go back up and get another plate of food,” said junior Bret Olendorff.

Brunton said the conversion to trayless has been smooth. Students have been mostly positive, with a few negative reactions from faculty members. Many students had gone trayless voluntarily last school year. The dish room conveyor recently was equipped with a wider belt to handle smaller items.

Mark Orlowski, executive director of the Sustainable Endowments Institute, said the organization last year counted 126 colleges across the country that at least partially converted to trayless dining.

The institute's latest "College Sustainability Report Card" is due out next week, and that tray-free figure is sure to go way up. The institute tracks environmental practices at several hundred colleges and universities.

Also this fall, Baker University in Baldwin City, Kan., went completely trayless for the first time, said Steve Rottinghaus, public relations director. Last year, the cafeteria put away the trays once a week.
The University of Kansas removed trays last fall after much study and discussion. An earlier trial at three residential halls had shown a whopping 38.2 percent reduction in food waste and a 53.6 percent drop in liquid waste, said Sheryl Kidwell, assistant director of dining services.

In Kansas City, Avila University continues to use cafeteria trays. The University of Missouri-Kansas City and Rockhurst University, served by Sodexo food services, stopped using trays last fall. Michael Johnson, a Sodexo general manager, said the company found that going trayless can decrease food waste by 20 percent at campuses.

In Columbia, the University of Missouri is in the throes of the tray-vs.-no tray debate.

“We’re discussing this with students,” said Julaine Kiehn, campus dining services director.

In a residence hall association survey last year, a majority of students were not in favor of removing the trays, she said.

For Kiehn, the focus is on reducing food waste.

A program called “Can the Waste Campaign” starts next week. At each of the five all-you-care-to-eat dining halls, she said, staff will gather the untouched food on returned trays and assemble a buffet display of the food.

“Not for consumption,” Kiehn said, “but to show what was discarded at the previous meal. It will be a real visual representation of how much food is wasted.”

To reach Edward M. Eveld, call 816-234-4442 or send e-mail to eeveld@kcstar.com.
Carey Southall, 1921-2009

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Advertisement

Carey Thomas Southall, 88, former professor of education at the University of Missouri, died in his sleep of natural causes on Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, in Columbia.

At the request of Dr. Southall, his memorial and celebration service will held on Saturday, Nov. 21. His greatest wish was to bring together his friends from different locales who would enjoy celebrating shared memories and faith. Memories and anecdotes may be sent to the address below.

Carey Southall’s personal journey from Palatka, Fla., to his resting place in Columbia reflects the growth of a country and a man. The arc from a segregated South to the election of Barack Obama paralleled his own complex and personal path to the man he became, as did his transition from active Marine to a patriotic and proud veteran who deplored war.

Born in Palatka, Fla. on Sept. 21, 1921, the fourth of five children, Carey was raised in poverty. His parents, who were illiterate, did not know how to encourage his quest for higher education, but his own initiative next took him to the University of Florida.

When war broke out in December 1941, he enlisted in the Marines. He saw action in Guam and Okinawa and later was based in Beijing. He was discharged from the service in 1946 and returned to the University of Florida, where he met Lola Jean Rose. They married in 1948.
Carey completed his master's degree while Lola worked as a social worker with the state of Florida. He was a high school social studies teacher from 1948 to 1951. As the Korean War heated up, he was recalled into the service and went into the Air Force. Based in Warner Robbins, Ga., for 22 months, a son was born who died in infancy. Returning to the University of Florida, he was urged by his wife, Lola, to complete his doctorate in education while also working as a high school teacher.

Carey became an assistant professor at East Texas State College in Commerce in the mid-'50s. In 1957, he accepted the position as assistant professor of education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

In 1964, he moved to the University of Missouri and became a full professor in 1977. He loved teaching and his students. Although he received many honors, awards and citations throughout his 40-year career, he was very proud to be named Teacher of the Year in 1986 by one of his own students.

He stretched out his teaching to the last moment, finally reluctantly retiring in 1997 at age 76. But he continued to teach in the summer at MU and later was an adjunct professor at William Woods University until 2006.

He was a prolific correspondent and an avid participant in professional and community organizations. He was a proud member of the Rotary Club, attending meetings all around the world. He served on the national board of the Association of Teacher Educators and was also former state president in both Texas and Missouri. He was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, member of the Missouri State Teacher's Association and board member of the Salvation Army.

He is survived by Lola Jean Rose Southall of Columbia, his wife and companion of 61 years; one sister; and his children and their families: Daughter Carole Southall Telyan, senior vice president with the United Way, and her husband, Hermon, an architect, now live in Wilton, Conn. Their two children are Taylor, attending the Art Institute in Chicago, and Harrison, age 18, a senior in high school. His son, Thomas "Tom" Carey Southall, a former architect, is a graduate student in the American history program at the University of Missouri. His daughter, Katherine Southall Hansen, a physician at University Medical Center in Princeton, lives in Warren, N.J., with her husband, Peter Hansen, senior vice president with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. They have a son, Christian, 16, a junior in high school.

As a child of poverty who benefited from receiving clothes and Christmas presents from the Salvation Army, Carey requested that anyone wishing to make a gift give to the local branch or the national headquarters.

The family had a private service on Oct. 1 but invite everyone to a tribute and celebration of the life of Carey Southall. It is open to everyone and will take place on Nov. 21 at Missouri United Methodist Church. Please save the date.
The family encourages friends, colleagues and students to help create a tribute book by contributing memories and anecdotes. Please send to Lola Southall at 2914 Bluegrass Court, Columbia, Mo. 65201; or to LrsoutL5@msn.com. The book will be available for viewing at the tribute service.

Online condolences for the family may be left at www.parkerfuneralservice.com.

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