

SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Mizzou chancellor speaks to alumni in Cape, says university will focus on donations and research

Thursday, November 12, 2009

By Abina Busch - Southeast Missourian

As the University of Missouri in Columbia copes with declining state appropriations, it will focus on increasing research opportunities and gaining financial support from donors.

Chancellor Brady Deaton spoke to a roomful of alumni Wednesday at Celebrations in downtown Cape Girardeau. The Southeast Black and Gold chapter of the alumni association sponsored the event. The university has about 1,900 alumni in Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Perry and Scott counties.

Deaton said faculty salaries and deferred maintenance have been hardest hit by the decrease in appropriations. He said the university spends about \$12 million per year on building maintenance. The university should be spending about \$30 million for upkeep and 34 campus buildings need renovations.

In 2001 the university received \$193 million from the state compared to \$189 million this year. If state appropriations kept up with inflation and enrollment increases, it would have received \$319 million, he said. Enrollment grew by 3.7 percent this year to 31,314 students.

The university will focus on increasing donations and research moving forward. He said soliciting support from state legislators is still a priority to maintain the purpose of a public institution.

"Private funding in no way offsets our needs from the state," he said.

During the previous fiscal year the university raised \$123 million from donors. So far, the university has raised \$41.8 million toward its goal of \$100 million for the current fiscal year.

Research is a priority for the university to create new jobs and technology. He said the university brought in more than \$203 million in research funding from external agencies in fiscal year 2008. The university accounted for 73 percent of research money coming into the state's public universities, he said.

Deaton also spoke about the university's recently unveiled program, Mizzou Advantage. The program increases funding to five interdisciplinary areas of study: food-related research, new media, food and animal health, sustainable energy and transformational technologies. The program will increase visibility, he said.

"We cannot be all things to all people," he said.

The university will invest \$6 million a year into the program to hire staff and expand research opportunities. He said the program resulted in prioritization in hard economic times. It will lead to more collaboration across department lines, a weakness in higher education, he said.

Honoring the young and old

As times change, so do challenges.

Army ROTC Cadet Platoon Sgt. Justin Tucker marches in front of a barrier displaying the seals of the Marine Corps and Navy Wednesday morning during the University of Missouri's ROTC programs' 24-hour vigil honoring Boone County veterans at the Boone County Courthouse. The Veterans Day vigil was capped by a parade and a ceremony outside the courthouse.

Nakole Hill Wooley served in Iraq but has a hard time thinking of herself as a veteran today.



Nakole Wooley

"When I think of veterans, I don't think of myself because I'm young," the 27-year-old said. "I think of people who are 60, 70, 80 years old. It's different to think of veterans as 18- or 19-year-olds coming back."

Still, she said, it's important to realize that the latest generation of veterans faces different challenges than their predecessors. Many soldiers are coming back from their third or fourth tours. They live in a different political climate than past generations. And, in light of last week's shooting that left 13 dead at Fort Hood in Texas, even those stationed at home aren't necessarily shielded from danger.

"You think if you're on a military installation here, you're safe and protected," Wooley said. "That was violated. I know, as a social worker, the process they're going to have to go through to heal and to feel safe again. It is a journey, and it's going to take a while."

Wooley is pursuing a degree in social work at William Woods University in Fulton, where she enrolled after being medically discharged from a tour in Iraq in 2006.

Wooley enlisted in the Missouri National Guard after graduating from high school in Bevier, near Macon, in 2000. She became attached to a unit of 50 male soldiers, and although they became like big brothers to her, she said, she had to help them get over common stereotypes.

“They worried about cussing in front of me and would open the door for me,” she said. “I had to let them know I could open my own door, and I can tell jokes, too.”

As a civilian, Wooley worked in a nursing home while training in the National Guard as a heavy-equipment operator.

In Iraq, she helped inspect and rebuild bridges along military supply routes. Although she experienced enemy fire once while building a float bridge, for the most part, she said, she never felt as though she was in danger.

Before her tour was complete, Wooley developed Raynaud's disease, a condition that caused her to lose circulation in her hands and feet and made her extremely fatigued, making her a hazard to other troops.

Even though she left Iraq, Wooley hasn't left military service behind. She now has an internship at the Missouri National Guard's Family Assistance Center, where she helps coordinate educational programs for soldiers.

Tonight, she'll celebrate Veterans Day with her mom, who also is active in the Missouri National Guard. To her, the day is a time to think of those who serve without hesitation.

“It's a time to say ‘thank you’ to people who made sacrifices,” she said. “They don't ask questions, they just do it.”

And, despite her age, Wooley deserves as much credit as anyone who has served, said Korean War veteran James Porter Jr. of Columbia.

“I regard her as a veteran as much as any veteran I've met,” Porter, 80, said. “They deserve recognition. They're pretty much doing the same thing we did.”

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Veterans Week continues at MU

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Student veterans at the University of Missouri are celebrating Veterans Day this week by collecting goods for their older and less advantaged military peers.

Ten members of the Mizzou Student Veterans Association spent yesterday afternoon and evening standing outside Walmart stores asking residents to purchase and donate appliances, clothing, furniture and other household goods. Those items, in turn, will be donated to the Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing unit, which provides services for homeless veterans.

"This is our way of giving back to the community," said MU senior Billy Froeschner, who spent four years in the Army, including a year in Iraq.

Veterans Week at MU continued today with a morning parade from the MU Columns to the Boone County Courthouse, where a vigil had been set up since yesterday morning. Events will continue tomorrow when Adm. William Fallon, a retired U.S. Navy commander, will give a guest lecture at 7:30 p.m. in the Conservation Auditorium in the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building.

Woman reports rape at fraternity house

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Columbia police are investigating a 19-year-old woman's report that she was forcibly raped at a University of Missouri fraternity house early Saturday.

The woman told police the incident occurred at about 2 a.m. at the Delta Tau Delta house, 506 Rollins St. Police spokeswoman Jessie Haden said the victim knew the suspect, but she declined to disclose additional details.

No arrests had been made by this morning.



SEC, Big Ten set the standard for media rights money

By Michael McCarthy and Steve Wieberg, USA TODAY

NO MU MENTION

As the Great Recession lingers, the major-college conferences' competition for media rights bucks has increasingly paralleled their competition on the field. And right now, things are tilted decidedly in favor of the Southeastern and Big Ten.

The SEC is sitting on a pile of cash, having negotiated a whopping annual average of \$206 million-plus over 15 years from ESPN and CBS. The Big Ten is looking at a similar windfall. Their schools can pour that money into coaches' salaries and other enhancements, and the pressure to keep up is on.

"That's the feeling I have sitting in the conference office," Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe says, "and I think it's the feeling of some athletics directors who are more closely located to the Big Ten and the SEC. ... There's a concern and awareness of the possibility of being left behind to some degree."

The issue looms as those leagues start negotiating new media deals. The Atlantic Coast Conference, whose major contracts expire at the end of the 2010-11 school year, is in talks with current rights-holders ABC/ESPN and Raycom, says Commissioner John Swofford, who touts a potential merger of football and men's basketball into a single package. The league currently draws an annual average of almost \$67 million a year in rights fees.

Swofford hopes to work out a new package by the spring, he says. The Big 12 and Pacific-10 are eyeing the expiration of media contracts in 2011-12. They're making annual averages of \$78.4 million and \$57.5 million, respectively.

Exposure, as well as money, is at stake. As the SEC's national cable home, ESPN will show more than 5,500 football, basketball and other SEC games and events on its outlets over the life of its deal. The nationally televised games even come with their own branded logo: "SEC on ESPN."

The Big Ten has 51% ownership of its own cable arm, the Big Ten Network, as well as separate football and basketball deals with ESPN/ABC and CBS, respectively. The latter are worth a combined annual average of \$102 million a year, according to

"That puts (the Big Ten and SEC) at a different level than any conference in the country," says one ACC athletics director, Wake Forest's Ron Wellman. "Over a period of time that will have a serious impact on the competitiveness of all of college athletics. It's very important that we do the best we can in the current negotiations."

Despite its big deals with the SEC and Big Ten, "We want to be in the ACC business," says Burke Magnus, ESPN senior vice president of college sports programming. The NFL Network also is interested in the ACC and others, says Charles Coplin, the league's vice president of programming.

Even with its Notre Dame deal, NBC Sports looks "at any very important package that becomes available," President Ken Schanzer says. Fox will "take a serious look at each one," spokesman Dan Bell says.

The SEC has been lucky and good. The conference negotiated its new TV deals in the summer of 2008 — before the stock market crash on Wall Street triggered a global economic recession.

The ACC and other leagues won't have that luxury. While they'll likely post increases in rights fees, especially if the economy rebounds, they might find it hard to get SEC-type money.

Before the first pencil is sharpened, CBS is taking itself out of the picture, says Mike Aresco, its executive vice president of programming. Alluding to SEC schools' ownership of football's last three national titles and Florida's or Alabama's prospective entry in this season's title game, Aresco says, "Obviously, we've got the best conference."

Beebe acknowledges talk of the Big 12 and other conferences joining to create their own cable network, following the Big Ten's blueprint. "We're certainly not leaving any option out," he says.

College sports is cyclical. When the ACC struck its current 10-year, \$300 million basketball contract with Raycom, it was a pace-setter. Then the Big Ten set up its network. The SEC was playing catch-up.

Despite the recession, TV consultant Neal Pilson predicts the ACC and others will make out just fine: "TV ... reflects what the public wants. And there's a real interest in college sports."

MU ranked #30

Best Places to Work 2009: Academia - Top 40 US Academic Institutions

	2008	Institution	Strengths	Strengths	Weaknesses	Weaknesses
1	2	Princeton University, NJ	Peers	Teaching and Mentoring	Job Satisfaction	Pay
2	12	University of California, San Francisco, CA	Job Satisfaction	Peers	Tenure and Promotion	Infrastructure and Environment
3	-	Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY	Research Resources	Management and Policies	Infrastructure and Environment	Pay
4	-	University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK	Pay	Tenure and Promotion	Infrastructure and Environment	Job Satisfaction
5	-	Emory University, Atlanta, GA	Peers	Job Satisfaction	Research Resources	Infrastructure and Environment
6	1	J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, CA	Infrastructure and Environment	Management and Policies	Tenure and Promotion	Peers
7	7	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN	Research Resources	Pay	Tenure and Promotion	Teaching and Mentoring
8	15	Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA	Infrastructure and Environment	Management and Policies	Tenure and Promotion	Job Satisfaction
9	8	The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK	Research Resources	Management and Policies	Teaching and Mentoring	Tenure and Promotion

2008		Institution	Strengths	Strengths	Weaknesses	Weaknesses
10	-	Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN	Infrastructure and Environment	Pay	Tenure and Promotion	Teaching and Mentoring
11	3	Trudeau Institute, Saranac Lake, NY	Job Satisfaction	Teaching and Mentoring	Pay	Management and Policies
12	46	University of Pittsburgh, PA	Research Resources	Job Satisfaction	Tenure and Promotion	Management and Policies
13	-	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA	Infrastructure and Environment	Peers	Job Satisfaction	Pay
14	-	Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA	Job Satisfaction	Pay	Infrastructure and Environment	Peers
15	-	Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY	Peers	Teaching and Mentoring	Tenure and Promotion	Infrastructure and Environment
16	31	Children's Hospital Boston, MA	Infrastructure and Environment	Pay	Tenure and Promotion	Job Satisfaction
17	-	Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	Job Satisfaction	Tenure and Promotion	Research Resources	Infrastructure and Environment
18	42	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	Peers	Infrastructure and Environment	Tenure and Promotion	Pay
19	-	Stanford University, CA	Infrastructure and Environment	Pay	Tenure and Promotion	Management and Policies
20	-	Wadsworth Center, Albany, NY	Pay	Tenure and Promotion	Peers	Teaching and Mentoring
21	-	H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL	Infrastructure and Environment	Management and Policies	Tenure and Promotion	Research Resources
22	10	University of Rochester, NY	Job Satisfaction	Teaching and	Infrastructure and	Peers

2008		Institution	Strengths	Strengths	Weaknesses	Weaknesses
				Mentoring	Environment	
23	-	California State University Fullerton, CA	Tenure and Promotion	Teaching and Mentoring	Research Resources	Peers
24	-	University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT	Tenure and Promotion	Teaching and Mentoring	Pay	Infrastructure and Environment
25	36	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX	Research Resources	Infrastructure and Environment	Tenure and Promotion	Pay
26	-	Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, CA	Infrastructure and Environment	Management and Policies	Tenure and Promotion	Job Satisfaction
27	-	University of California, Davis, CA	Job Satisfaction	Infrastructure and Environment	Research Resources	Management and Policies
28	14	Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA	Infrastructure and Environment	Research Resources	Tenure and Promotion	Teaching and Mentoring
29	-	Wayne State University, Detroit, MI	Teaching and Mentoring	Pay	Infrastructure and Environment	Peers
30	33	University of Missouri, Columbia, MO	Teaching and Mentoring	Tenure and Promotion	Peers	Pay
31	-	The University of Texas at Austin, TX	Job Satisfaction	Infrastructure and Environment	Research Resources	Management and Policies
32	-	Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC	Management and Policies	Research Resources	Teaching and Mentoring	Peers
33	32	University of California, Los Angeles, CA	Tenure and Promotion	Pay	Research Resources	Infrastructure and Environment

2008		Institution	Strengths	Strengths	Weaknesses	Weaknesses
34	9	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN	Pay	Infrastructure and Environment	Job Satisfaction	Teaching and Mentoring
35	-	University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI	Infrastructure and Environment	Peers	Pay	Tenure and Promotion
36	44	Washington University, St. Louis, MO	Teaching and Mentoring	Tenure and Promotion	Pay	Management and Policies
37	20	Indiana University, Bloomington, IN	Research Resources	Job Satisfaction	Management and Policies	Peers
38	30	Duke University, Durham, NC	Peers	Infrastructure and Environment	Pay	Tenure and Promotion
39	-	Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA	Management and Policies	Infrastructure and Environment	Tenure and Promotion	Teaching and Mentoring
40	-	Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA	Job Satisfaction	Research Resources	Teaching and Mentoring	Pay

KC School District is topic for revived Missouri civil rights committee

By JOE ROBERTSON

A Missouri civil rights committee ventures back into the public arena Saturday to re-engage the community on issues of equal opportunity.

The first topic: The Kansas City School District.

Among those scheduled to appear before the Missouri Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights: Mayor Mark Funkhouser, Superintendent John Covington, Kansas City Public Library Executive Director R. Crosby Kemper III and local NAACP President Anita Russell.

The committee also is making charter schools part of the discussion.

"It's about time," said Taylor Brown, a senior at Kansas City's Paseo Academy who will be a student representative on one of the panels. "I'm thrilled so many people are going to sit down and talk about it."

She said she's not surprised that the state committee chose to look at education in the high-poverty and high-minority communities served by the Kansas City School District.

She's seen too many other students not find their way successfully through school the way she has.

Brown is heading to Prairie View A&M University in Texas after high school, planning to be a pre-law student double-majoring in black studies and English.

But she came from a family of educators. She had intense support from home. Many other students lack support, she said, and fall out of high school or head on to college ill equipped to succeed.

"That's an excuse to say (students fail because) they don't have parental involvement," she said. "That doesn't mean a child's education isn't worth fighting for."

The committee — back after its charter lapsed several years ago — had no shortage of concerns it could have chosen for its first mission, said Chairman Michael Podgursky, an economics professor at the University of Missouri.

"But schooling kept bubbling to the top."

Charter schools also needed to be a part of the discussion, the committee determined. Charter schools — public schools with public funding that are run independently by their own school boards — have grown in enrollment as the Kansas City School District has declined. Charters now serve more than 8,000 students; the school district's enrollment is close to 17,000.

"They're all educating," Podgursky said. "They're all part of the solution."

Among the experts who will appear is Jay Greene, Manhattan Institute senior fellow and head of the University of Arkansas' Department of Education Reform.

Greene said he expected to discuss research into alternative solutions to education's problems that aren't based on increased public funding.

"Not that more money doesn't help," he said. "But it's not sufficient. What shows promise is to expand choice and competition."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is familiar with politically tangled environments. The commission was established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957 as a bipartisan, independent body to advise policymakers and the nation on issues of equal opportunity. It championed much of America's landmarks in civil rights legislation.

State advisory committees were created at the same time to report state-level concerns and findings to the U.S. commission.

But the commission has had to navigate through political conflicts in its federal appointments throughout its history. A 2006 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office described neglect by the commission that had allowed charters to lapse for 38 of the 51 state advisory committees, including those in Missouri and Kansas.

Kansas and Missouri both were rechartered in 2008.

The regional office probably will spend several months working with the Missouri Advisory Committee to produce a report to present to the U.S. commission and publish for the public, said Farella Robinson, Kansas City's regional director.

The details

The Missouri Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will meet for a public hearing on the Kansas City School District and education opportunities in urban settings.

When: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

Where: The Kauffman Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Road.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

USDA grant expands an MU Extension program

By Catherine O'Neill

November 12, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU Extension began the farmer education courses in Missouri. Now, a grant through the U.S. Department of Agriculture is helping it grow.

A \$730,000 grant will fund an expansion of the Grow Your Farm program and other beginning farming services in the state. MU, Lincoln University and the Jefferson Agricultural Institute are partnering in the three-year project.

“We're seeing an increasing number of people trying to get into agriculture from a nonfarming background,” said Rob Myers, director of programs at the Jefferson Institute. “They need some good, solid assistance.”

The program will reach farmers who have less than 10 years of experience as well as those farming with limited resources. From 2008 to 2009, MU Extension's Grow Your Farm program included a series of eight weekly seminars and three farm tours.

With the additional funds, trained Extension agents will teach the program across the state, primarily in four targeted regions of Missouri. The closest Grow Your Farm program is located in Callaway County.

Registration for the program usually costs \$200, but a recent grant through the USDA will offer the winter program to members of the Columbia Farmers Market free of charge. Those interested in the winter session can register until Monday.

“Our goal is to help the farmers put together a business plan so that they can do a better job of not just growing their vegetables, but how to look at their profitability as well,” said Jim Jarman, an agronomist and the contact for the Callaway County program.

The locations and registration information for existing courses are listed on the MU Extension Web site. Prospective Central Missouri participants can also contact Jarman, for registration information.

The Grow Your Farm program focuses mainly on business management skills and successful strategies for planning a farm, Myers said. With increased funding, the program will offer a second tier of training courses and workshops. According to the grant proposal, the courses will center on small acreage farmers interested in sustainability and direct marketing, such as selling at farmers' markets.

"Participants will be given a choice of topics and can then select which workshops are most relevant to their situation," Myers said.

These topics include developing fruits, vegetables, specialty grains and small livestock as well as honing basic farm equipment skills, Myers said.

The Jefferson Farm, an educational farm on New Haven Road, will host some of the workshops. The grant will provide new funding that will help overcome some of the challenges the institute faced in the recession, Myers said.

"We had a shortage of funds because of reduced donations from foundations and other sources," Myers said.

The grant will also fund the development of online networking tools for beginning farmers.

"If you have somebody in Kansas City who wants to grow two acres of vegetables, there are other vegetable growers near K.C. who can help," Myers said. "It's a way to help make sure people are linked to people doing similar things."

Myers said he is developing Internet tools to help farmers market their produce online.

The fourth component of the program is based on a class already offered at MU. The Return to the Farm course started as an Extension project in the 1980s as a reaction to the farm financial crisis, said Kevin Moore, who teaches the class.

It is now a course in agricultural economics, and students learn business planning and management required for operating a successful farm — including transferring farm assets, acquiring farmland and developing credit. The grant will sponsor the development and statewide distribution of training modules based on this course, according to the project narrative.

"You can no longer just be a successful producer to be a successful farmer," Moore said. "You have to be a successful businessperson as well."

While Moore has witnessed numerous success stories in the course's history, he is looking forward to the grant's increased impact. Once a universal curriculum is developed, all participating institutions will be trained in the course. Moore aims to begin the training in 2011. Until then, MU students can enroll in the course.

"This will help us reach those kinds of farms that you know probably aren't as commonly represented by the students who come to MU," Moore said. "It's all really exciting."

The public will have access to the program through a page for beginning farmers on the MU Extension Web site. Myers plans to have the Web site, which will list all the courses and workshops, completed by January or February.