Alumni group honors Kingery, Koukola

By Janese Heavin

Posted February 9, 2010 at 11:45 a.m.

Rep. Gayle Kingery, R-Poplar Bluff, and Christine Koukola, assistant to the chancellor for university affairs at MU, were awarded the 2009 Henry S. Geyer Awards at a ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City last night.

The Mizzou Alumni Association's Legislative Information Network presents the annual award to a state elected official and a citizen who have made a positive impact on higher education and MU.

Kingery, elected to the Missouri House in 2002, has chaired the Higher Education Committee for the past five years. He has sponsored legislation specifically benefiting MU, including a bill to establish a large animal veterinary medicine loan program for MU students.

Koukola has led public relations efforts at MU for more than 24 years during the tenure of five chancellors. As chief public affairs officer, she oversees all university communications and marketing efforts, including the MU news bureau and she directed communications for the For All We Call Mizzou campaign, which raised $1 billion.

"These two individuals embody the spirit of the University of Missouri and its commitment to providing a world class public higher education," said Jim Gwinner, 2009 chair of the Mizzou Legislative Network Committee, in a prepared statement.
In yet another version of the often-used phrase "tastes like chicken," scientists from the University of Missouri have come up with a soy substitute for chicken that seems to mimic the real thing.

Leading the effort is Fu-Hung Hsieh, a professor of biological engineering and food science in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the College of Engineering. Many soy-based meat substitutes are basically flavored, colored and/or textured to somewhat resemble steak, sausage or ground beef, but this one is more similar to chicken, with the same stringiness found in the cooked flesh.

That, said Hsieh in a news release, in part came from adding extra fiber to get that particular quality. He's been involved with research on the process that has published in the Journal of Food Science and the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, documenting the extrusion process that incorporates water, heat and pressure to achieve the desired results. "This particular soy substitute is different because we are working with a higher moisture content, which is up to 75%," Hsieh said in the release. "The high moisture content is what gives the soy a very similar texture to chicken--in addition to the appearance."

We have a few questions: If this product ever comes to market (Hsieh is currently refining it and doing taste tests), to whom will it appeal? Carnivores who are looking, for health reasons, for a palatable meat substitute that tastes like the real thing? Would vegetarians be interested in this at all? Will chicken noodle soup ever be the same?

-- Jeannine Stein

Photo credit: Spencer Weiner / Los Angeles Times
Campus coal forum tonight in Columbia

Columbia -- Students promoting a reduction in the use of campus coal are hosting a clean energy forum tonight at the University of Missouri.

The panel discussion takes place at 6 p.m. in the Reynolds Journalism Institute. The scheduled participants are Steve Burdic, the school's sustainability coordinator; environmental studies director Jan Weaver; environmental lawyer Henry Robertson; and solar energy marketer Jim Pierobon.

A national campaign led by the Sierra Club is targeting coal-based power at colleges, whether generated on campus or purchased.

Student organizers say colleges have a social obligation to reduce and eventually eliminate coal use in favor of renewable energy.
A University of Missouri student leader wants to bring a real tiger on the football field as the school's mascot. Missouri Students Association President Tim Noce says having a live tiger at Faurot Field would increase school spirit and draw attention to Missouri athletics.

He estimates the cost of using a live tiger at $2 million and says it would require private donations.

Similar efforts are in place at Louisiana State University and the University of Memphis, two other schools with tiger mascots.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Filling endowed chairs tricky in tight economic times

By EVA DOU
February 10, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — You’ve heard of the gift that keeps on giving. MU’s College of Engineering might have received the gift that keeps on taking.

Alumnus Glen Barton and the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association gave a $1.1 million donation last November to establish an endowed chair in flexible pavement technology — that is, asphalt. Endowed chairs and professorships are positions in which the interest from an endowment fund provides some of the salary and research funds. But because of the way these positions are financed, the College of Engineering can’t afford to fill the position right now.

While endowments provide supplemental funding for the positions, the university still pays the professors’ base salaries, said Beth Hammock, MU director of development communication. In funding an endowed position, the original gift isn’t touched; it’s invested, and only the annual interest goes toward funding the professorship or chair.

At an average annual interest rate of 5 percent, which is a typical benchmark, a $1.1 million gift yields $55,000 a year in interest. Sometimes that covers a substantial portion of the endowed position’s salary; sometimes it’s up to the university to cover most of the money for the position.

With the current constraints on hiring, this means there aren’t enough funds to hire the Barton Chair, despite the $1.1 million donation.

“With the university’s budget situation, we really can’t get a new faculty line right now, but we’re hoping it will be possible in the not-so-distant future,” said Mark Virkler, chairman of the department of civil and environmental engineering. The position would be in Virkler’s department.
For now, the department is hiring an adjunct professor to teach asphalt technology, Virkler said. Although it's a useful stopgap, the adjunct professor can't fulfill the research purposes of the chair, said Dave Yates, executive director of the asphalt group that made the donation.

By drawing a leading researcher in the field to MU, the person holding the Barton Chair is expected to do research that would benefit the field. He or she is also expected to bring in about $500,000 to $1 million a year in research funding, according to a memo by Sam Kiser, associate dean of research at the College of Engineering.

**Attracting talent**

The Barton Chair underscores the problem a cash-strapped university like MU faces as it works to establish new endowed faculty positions.

"We're not able to just come up with new money," Hammock said. "There's an expense that comes with the prestige (of an endowed chair), and it's an ongoing cost forever."

At the same time, endowed faculty positions help attract and retain the best professors whose work raises the stature of the university, MU Provost Brian Foster said. That affects a range of things, including winning research grants and attracting students, he said.

This directly influences a student's college experience, said John Foley, an MU classical studies professor who holds two endowed professorships.

"For students, it's one thing to have professors teach you based on other people's discoveries," Foley said. "It's another thing to go to a school where the professors are making those discoveries."

Foley has been the MU William H. Byler Distinguished Professor in the Humanities since 1985 and a Curators' professor since 1998. He said these appointments each came at "a very good time" when he had other job possibilities and ultimately helped him decide to stay at MU.

Hammock said it's no secret faculty salaries are comparatively low at MU. (Faculty salaries are second to last in MU's peer group of public schools in the Association of
American Universities.) In recent years, she said, many of MU's new endowed faculty have been internal hires.

Curators' concern

While the Barton Chair has not raised controversy, empty chairs have caused worry in past years.

In 2007, the UM System Board of Curators discussed the problem of vacant chairs. Don Walsworth, board chairman at the time, said donors were frustrated when their chairs remained empty. Curator John Carnahan voiced the concern that empty chairs might turn off potential donors.

The reasons behind the vacancies at the time were to do with the "unusual and peculiar" nature of those chairs, Carnahan said this week. He said he isn't able to comment on the effect of economic constraints on vacant chairs today.

Creating an endowed chair

There are two starting levels to fund positions at MU: a minimum donation of $1.1 million to establish an endowed chair or $550,000 to establish an endowed professorship. As of December, MU had 152 filled endowed faculty positions and 18 open endowed positions.

Within the UM System, required donation sums vary from campus to campus, and this affects how costly it is for a school to establish a new endowed position. For instance, the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla requires roughly twice as large a donation as MU does. There, as at MU, gifts are sometimes used as supplements for existing positions.

Using an endowment gift to supplement an existing position is not an option in cases such as the Barton Chair. The purpose of the Barton Chair is to advance an area of research the university doesn't specialize in, so an external hire is necessary, Virkler said.

Currently an external hire isn’t possible, but “if we had a faculty member retire, or if the university were to provide us with another faculty line, it might be possible,” Virkler said. “It’s a work in progress.”
Legislation would tighten rules on concussions

Bill comes in wake of recent injuries to high school athletes.

MU mention page 2

Chris Blank
The Associated Press

Jefferson City -- Young Missouri athletes who suffer concussions would not be allowed to return to practice or games without written medical clearance under legislation proposed in the state House.

Growing attention to the long-term risks of concussions for professional athletes has Missouri lawmakers joining those in at least a half-dozen states seeking to require the benching of injured younger players, for whom the dangers of a concussion are even greater.

Missouri's measure -- aimed at high school athletes -- would require players be kept out of practices and games until cleared by a licensed health care worker trained in evaluating and managing concussions. Athletes and their families also would need to be provided information about concussions and head injuries.

Sponsoring Rep. Don Calloway, D-St Louis, told a House health care committee Tuesday that his legislation would protect athletes who suffer brain injuries by ensuring they're healthy enough to play Calloway said he's considering expanding it to all youth sports.

The measure is modeled after a Washington state law that applies to all youth sports. Washington's policy is named after teenager Zackery Lystedt, who suffered a debilitating brain injury in 2006 when he returned to a football game shortly after suffering a concussion.

Professional teams are paying more attention to concussions. The National Football League has implemented stricter return-to-play rules and the National Hockey League is considering restrictions on hits to the head.

Dr. Stan Herring is a physician for the Seattle Seahawks and Mariners professional teams who assisted in passing Washington's law after treating Lystedt. He said media attention has made people more aware of concussions.

"How many times did you watch Tim Tebow get concussed?" Herring said. "That kind of exposure has raised everyone's awareness."

The Brain Injury Association of America estimates up to 3.8 million sports- and recreation-related concussions occur in the U.S. each year.
Concussions in young athletes generally take longer to heal than in adults. Teens or children who return to competition while still recovering from a concussion risk an even greater second injury, which can lead to serious disability or death.

Tom Martin, president of the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, said athletes and their families now recognize the seriousness of a brain injury. But there is pressure on athletes to downplay symptoms, he said.

"It is difficult for the person who had the injury to look at it unbiasedly, and for coaches, their goal is to win games, so it's difficult for them," said Martin, director of adult neuropsychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association says players should not return the same day they suffer a concussion. The association also recommends athletes with three concussions in one season be benched for the rest of the season and kept out until after a thorough exam. Also, players who lose consciousness cannot return the same day as the injury without written medical permission.

"A win is nice," said Fred Binggeli, an assistant executive director for the association, which governs high school sports statewide, "but why take a chance on rushing them back?"

Binggeli said the medical community and schools must work together to develop policies to protect young athletes.
Journalists discuss concerns over press freedoms

By Lauren Rauth
February 9, 2010 | 7:45 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — A journalist who was fined for not revealing a source was one of the people on a panel held Tuesday about "The Erosion of Press Freedom in North America."

Panelist Toni Locy, a former USA Today reporter, was charged in 2008 with contempt of court for not disclosing the identity of a source during the 2001 anthrax investigation. She is currently a Donald W. Reynolds Professor of Legal Reporting at Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

In 2005, Locy refused to give the name of a source during the government's investigation of the 2001 anthrax attacks. Former U.S. Army biowarfare scientist Steven Hatfill was said his privacy rights were violated by a story that named him a "person of interest" and sued the newspaper.

"My stories were fair," Locy said. "I was never told which word, sentence or paragraph violated Hatfill's privacy rights," Locy said.

The case eventually was dismissed on appeal.

The panel, held at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at MU, discussed confidentiality of sources and access to politicians and journalists' privacy on social networks.

"People don't understand how dangerous the world is for a journalist," said panelist Philip Gailey, who worked for nearly 44 years as a newspaper journalist.
"A threat to free press anywhere is a threat to free press everywhere," said Alison Bethel, director of the International Press Institute, on a memorial slide show about dead journalists worldwide, invoking a quote about justice from Martin Luther King Jr.

One concern is how the news is manipulated by government officials. During presidential press conferences, journalists are put on a list of who the president will call on for questions. If a journalist is not on the list, it becomes very difficult for journalists to ask the questions.

Another concern for journalists is the confidentiality of sources is becoming more limited. "The public is concerned for their privacy," said Charles Davis, associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism.

Some have discussed the possibility of a federal shield law, which would give journalists immunity from testifying in such cases. The panelists believe the threat of national security is a big reason for the standstill. The government does not want to seem "soft on terrorism," Locy said.

In order to be a watchdog of the government, journalists need to have the reassurance they will be protected, panelists said. "Be aggressive. Challenge authority, everywhere you see it," Locy said.

The protection of those who use blogs, Twitter and Facebook were also discussed at the event.

"The Internet is changing the definition of privacy," Locy said. "Things you put on Facebook are not private."
False idea of beauty disputed

Former anorexic talks to students.

By Janese Heavin

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Members of Kappa Delta sorority know there's more to a woman than the way she looks. The University of Missouri social organization partners with Dove's "Campaign for Real Beauty" and spreads that message to young Girl Scouts.

But it is tough sometimes to apply that message, members acknowledged last night after a special Love Your Body Week event at MU.

Hearing author Leslie Goldman's talk helped, especially knowing other women — even the thin and beautiful — feel the same uncertainties from time to time, sophomore Erin Stephenson said.

Goldman, the author of "Locker Room Diaries," spoke to about 70 mostly female students at Ellis Auditorium on campus last night about her own struggles with body image. The event kicked off Love Your Body Week, which continues today with a resource fair and tomorrow with a movie presentation.

Women in the audience laughed in recognition as Goldman talked about being jealous of a friend's breasts and the fact that she skipped a college course on world hunger because the images made her feel fat, even though she was anorexic.

But Goldman's talk had serious undertones. Eating disorders are life-threatening, she said, and can be as tough to overcome as alcoholism or other addictions.

Goldman began struggling with body-image issues when she started college at the University of Wisconsin. Seeing thin college women showing off their petite frames in spaghetti-strapped shirts made her insecure in the T-shirt and jeans that covered her average-size body, she said. "I remember thinking, 'Maybe I need to lose some weight,' " she said.

Goldman said she lost some 25 pounds in a few months. After her parents made her seek help, she got better but never actually recovered. She later experimented with bulimia, causing friends to intervene. Today, she's healthy but said she has to watch out for events that could trigger a relapse.
Goldman, a freelance magazine writer, based her book on discussions she overheard in the locker room of her gym. Women would call themselves "pigs" or "disgusting" — labels they’d never call their friends or sisters, she said.

Goldman then interviewed hundreds of women about body image, finding that girls as young as 3 are refusing cookies because they’re "on diets" and even women into their 90s are still worried about their weight.

Goldman blames airbrushing for giving women a false idea of beauty. She showed a handful of examples in which healthy women, including singer Faith Hill and actress Demi Moore, were altered in images to make them appear flawless. “Nothing, nothing, nothing is real,” Goldman said.

Stephenson said Kappa Delta members will relay Goldman’s messages to the Girl Scout troops they work with.

“The message is to just be comfortable with yourself,” she said.

The sorority women hope the younger generation actually gets the message, sophomore Allison Walton added. “We’re getting them while they’re young,” she said.

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MU senior returns for more ‘Jeopardy!’

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

University of Missouri senior Lindsay Eanet will make her second appearance on the “Jeopardy!” college championships tomorrow.

The semi-final match-up will air at 5 p.m. on KMIZ. Eanet will compete against students from Columbia University and the University of California-Los Angeles.

Eanet, a journalism major, won in a quarterfinal match Friday. The college tournament concludes this week, and the winner will take home $100,000.

Rules prohibit Eanet from talking about how she did on the game show, which was filmed last month in Los Angeles.