Two MU professors named Kemper Fellowship award winners

By Kourtney Geers
April 5, 2010 | 4:57 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Two MU professors were caught off guard early Monday afternoon as they were paid visits from Chancellor Brady Deaton and were named recipients of a prestigious MU award. Part of the surprise included an award of $10,000.

The William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence have been given out to five outstanding MU educators annually since 1991 and are funded by a $500,000 gift from the family that founded Commerce and United Missouri banks. William Kemper was a 1926 MU graduate prior to his career in banking.

MU College of Engineering assistant professor Gregory Triplett's semiconductors and devices class was interrupted by Deaton, Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz and a group of supporters, including his wife and department heads, to award Triplett the fellowship. It is a tradition to present the award during a class.
Deaton described Triplett's work "teaching some of the toughest classes" in the department of electrical and computer engineering and emphasized his commitment to students. Triplett acts as the adviser to the MU chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to help increase retention of students in his field.

Upon receiving the Kemper award, Triplett said, "I think that this is more of an indicator of the support that I get from the department and the college to encourage excellent teaching. Sometimes it requires a lot of work, but I think that the students really give me real-time feedback and that helps out a lot."

He added, jokingly, "I'm not sharing the money, but thanks for the support."

Kelton Clements, a student in his class, said Triplett deserves the award. "From my experience, teachers are sometimes more focused on their research than the actual teaching part of the job, but Dr. Triplett actually does a great job of teaching."

The second recipient of the day, professor Anand Prahlad from MU's English department, is in the midst of a yearlong research leave as he works on a memoir and a manuscript of poetry. Prahlad usually works from home but was told he needed to be on campus for a meeting.

The soft-spoken Prahlad said he was in shock and that he considered it "a special honor" to be considered among the winners of the award.

Prahlad teaches creative writing, folklore, Africana literature and film studies. Deaton said he had been aware of Prahlad's reputation for a while because three of his children took classes with Prahlad during their time at MU.

MU English department executive staff assistant Sharon Black said, "Students comment about how much he cares. ... He's really concerned about them as people, not just as students."

Prahlad said he was influenced by mentors throughout his education and is aware of the impact they had on his life. "I try to be that kind of mentor for my students," he said.

Three more recipients of the fellowship will be presented the award Tuesday.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **Soybean scientists and industry leaders are gathering Wednesday for a daylong summit at the University of Missouri.**

The sixth annual Soybean Biotechnology Symposium will be held in the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center. The building at the Columbia campus is named for Missouri’s longtime Republican senator, widely known as Kit Bond.

Bond is scheduled to speak in the morning on the national Plant Genome Project. He’ll be followed by Jon Hagler, director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

The meeting is hosted by the National Center for Soybean Biotechnology, which is based at the Columbia campus.
North Face, South Butt reach settlement

By Dana Kimpton
April 5, 2010 | 6:04 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Never stop relaxing.

That's the motto of 19-year-old Jimmy Winkelmann's clothing company The South Butt.

Winkelmann can finally take his own company's advice now that it has reached a settlement with The North Face, which sued The South Butt in December for trademark infringement. The South Butt logo looks similar to an upside-down version of the North Face logo.

The settlement, which was reached out of court Friday, was not mentioned on either company's Web sites. Winkelmann echoed the secrecy.

"I'm really not allowed to say anything about the settlement," he said. "But yeah, we're still selling stuff."

The South Butt was doing more than just selling merchandise despite the lawsuit. Founder Jimmy Winkelmann handed out free apparel during his spring break stay in Panama City, Fla., according to the company's Twitter feed.

Albert Watkins, the St. Louis-area lawyer representing The South Butt, was unavailable for comment.

Winkelmann, an MU freshman from Ladue, originally started the clothing company to help pay for college and to parody his classmates' label-conscious, consumer-driven zeal for The North Face gear, according to previous Missourian reports. He kept the company alive because of its popularity and success.
North Face, creator of South Butt settle

By Janese Heavin

A corporate clothing company apparently does not want to hassle with a University of Missouri freshman who created an alternative apparel line.

Jimmy Winkelmann:
Creator of The South Butt clothing line

The North Face and The South Butt settled out of court Friday, according to a report in The American Lawyer magazine.

South Butt attorney Albert Watkins was not available for comment before the Tribune's deadline but told the law publication and other media outlets that the matter had been "amicably resolved." Watkins said he could not discuss details of a settlement.

Attorney David Roodman, who represented The North Face, declined to comment.

This morning, The South Butt Web site provided no mention of a settlement but continued to offer the apparel online. The company's Twitter account indicated Winkelmann spent his spring break last week in Panama City, Fla.

Jimmy Winkelmann, who is from Ladue, created The South Butt while in high school as a way to mock those who wear The North Face products.

The clothing line's logo is of a seated butt but also looks like an upside-down version of The North Face's mountain logo.
In September, Winkelmann first received warning from The North Face that he should stop selling South Butt items because they infringe on company trademarks.

Winkelmann, 19, did not comply and instead enlisted Watkins to fight the company.

The North Face sued in December, and in January, a federal judge ordered the two companies to find an out-of-court resolution.

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.
New LGBTQ group emerges for faculty

Monday, April 5, 2010

A new group is forming on the University of Missouri campus to support staff and faculty members who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. The LGBTQ Staff/Faculty Association will meet tomorrow for the first time, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Boone Tavern, 811 E. Walnut St.

The group is the result of efforts of a small group of faculty and staff members who coordinated with the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative Office, said Roger Worthington, chief diversity officer.

"It's good for staff and faculty to know if they're identifying themselves as LGBTQ or an ally on campus, they don't feel like they're the only one," said Ryan Black, director of the LGBTQ Resource Center, which is student-oriented. "If there's discrimination or at least fear of being discriminated against, this can provide support of other faculty and staff on campus."

Separate associations for minority groups aren't uncommon at MU. There are also associations for Hispanic and Latin American, black and Asian faculty and staff. The groups typically are autonomous and serve as liaisons or mentors for student associations.
The maneater

The South Butt resolves legal battle with The North Face

Attorneys from both parties refused to comment on agreement details.

By Jared Grafman

Published April 6, 2010

The legal battle between The North Face and freshman Jimmy Winkelmann's The South Butt clothing line has reached its conclusion.

St. Louis attorney Albert Watkins, who represents The South Butt, said he could not comment on details of the agreement reached between The North Face and The South Butt, but that the matter has been settled.

"The matter between The North Face and The South Butt has been amicably resolved," Watkins said.

Although Watkins, Winkelmann and attorneys from The North Face refused to comment on details of the agreement, The South Butt's Web site has continued selling merchandise and its pages related to the legal battle were taken down.

Winkelmann founded the spin-off clothing line two years ago after being annoyed by The North Face's popularity in his high school.

A letter was sent on behalf of The North Face on Aug. 14, 2009, asking for The South Butt to stop business, citing trademark infringement.

According to the letter, the use of The South Butt logo and its tagline of "Never stop relaxing" was more than a parody of The North Face.

"It is our client's hope that this matter can be amicably resolved and that you will voluntarily abandon your pending trademark application and immediately discontinue your use of 'The South Butt,'" the letter stated.

The North Face filed a complaint against The South Butt on Dec. 10, 2009, on grounds of trademark infringement and "other rights" of The North Face company that were allegedly violated by The South Butt.
A response to the complaint was filed soon after by The South Butt, citing the first amendment as one of several defenses to the accusation made by The North Face.

"Although the plaintiff has not likely been damaged, any damage which may have inured to the detriment of North Face by virtue of the marketplace presence of The South Butt is a direct and proximate result of the socially irresponsible, consumer backlash inducing, bully-like and erroneously premised demands and actions of North Face designed to do nothing more than rid the consuming public of freedom of choice and stifle pursuit of the American Dream," The South Butt's letter stated.

A hearing was held Jan. 27 to determine dates and deadlines for the lawsuit.

The agreement between The North Face and The South Butt to resolve the issue happened outside the courtroom, Watkins said.

David Roodman, The North Face attorney, and Winkelmann refused to comment on the agreement between the two parties.
Construction limits student center space

Walls will be installed near Truman's Takeout and the Leadership Lounge.

By Jared Grafman

Published April 6, 2010

Space in the student center's Leadership Lounge has been cut due to a temporary retaining wall constructed before spring break. Student and Auxiliary Services spokeswoman Michelle Froese said the wall would not be removed before the end of this semester.

The wall is meant to keep students out of construction areas while workers finish the final stages of Phase II of the student center.

"The construction wall was put up because the workers are now putting in a glass rail where the original (wall) was," Froese said. "They need access to the area."

Although the wall is temporary in the big picture of student center construction, it will remain in place for several months.

"The wall will be up until Aug. 18, 2010, when Phase II of the student center will open for students," Froese said.

Sophomore Katherine McClain has a class in Chambers Auditorium, which exits into the Leadership Lounge.

"Leadership Lounge looks a lot smaller now, but it's really not that inconvenient," McClain said. "It looks kind of cozier now, because everything is closer together."

The unpainted and impermanent wall has no windows, prohibiting students from looking out the lounge and at construction, which was possible before the wall was installed.

"The workers are working on the balcony area and need access to the area that is now blocked off to students," Froese said.

The Leadership Lounge will not be the only area affected by the retaining wall.

"There will probably be similar effects seen in the University Bookstore, specifically Truman's Takeout and the wall with the magazine racks, where construction and retaining walls will be put up for a temporary time," Froese said.
The installation of the retaining wall is not the only construction in the Leadership Lounge.

"There is currently construction happening on both sides of Leadership Lounge," Froese said. "Workers are putting up wall coverings around the walls of Chambers Auditorium, and the walls will have names of student leaders from throughout the ages laser printed on them."

Construction on the student center is ahead of MU's first schedule. It was originally scheduled for completion in January 2011, but new estimates place Phase II's opening Aug. 18, 2010.

Student Unions Assistant Director Joe Hayes said the retaining wall in the Leadership Lounge is evidence of the final steps to complete Phase II of the student center.

"It's a big push," Hayes said. "It's a minor inconvenience to students at the moment, but we're excited for the big day when everything opens."