Nixon in Columbia, St. Louis to discuss plan to make government more lean

By Associated Press

7:44 AM CDT, April 7, 2010

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Gov. Jay Nixon will make two stops on Wednesday to discuss his plans for making Missouri's government more lean and for promoting economic growth.

The Democrat will speak at 11:15 a.m. at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, and at 1:30 p.m. at the Olin School of Business on the Washington University campus in St. Louis.

Nixon laid out his plan three weeks ago in Springfield, and is expected to give a progress report on Wednesday in remarks to business leaders, MBA students and business faculty at the two universities.
Big Ten expansion could be seismic
By Vahe Gregorian
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
04/07/2010

INDIANAPOLIS — Even as the NCAA examines expanding its Division I men's basketball tournament from 65 teams to 96 in the weeks to come, it's the Big Ten's exploration of adding schools that could have a truly seismic, revolutionary impact on college athletics.

"I believe that if we expand, you probably ought to look at more than (just adding a 12th school)," Ohio State athletics director Gene Smith said.

Stressing that was his opinion and may not be shared by some colleagues, Smith added that he believed the impact "would be pretty massive."

As the Pacific 10 also has begun reaching out, massive is an understatement in the minds of a number of BCS conference administrators, athletics directors and coaches recently interviewed about Mizzou's future in the new landscape.

Some picture dominoes tumbling into four 16-team super conferences, which could lay the groundwork for a college football playoff and even beg the question, "Do they need the NCAA?"

Some speculate the Big Ten, while trying to maximize revenue, is just trying to smoke out Notre Dame and would stop there, others that more members are just more mouths to feed and others still that conference commissioner Jim Delany wants to make "a huge statement" that would shake up the college athletics scene for the next 25-50 years.

Nearly all are anxious, unsure what to expect or believe, who to trust or how to be proactive before the Big Ten announces its intentions in the near future. Smith said he hopes to get an update at conference meetings next month in Chicago.

"How do you sit across the room from people, not knowing who's having secret conversations?" one administrator said.

MISSOURI AND THE BIG 12

In this complicated climate, Missouri's stance remains that it is a proud member of the Big 12 but always will engage in due diligence to strengthen itself.

In an interview Monday, chancellor Brady Deaton noted he currently is vice chairman of the Big 12 board of directors and said, "We're focused on providing leadership in the Big 12 right now."
Among the planks of that are trying to enhance the conference academically and athletically. A key issue remains inequitable revenue sharing and a TV contract perceived as undervalued, particularly compared to those of the Big Ten and SEC that are shared equally among members.

"That's something all of us feel strongly about," said Deaton, adding that despite the fact revenue sharing is an old topic he could not "speak to any movement" on the matter.

Athletics director Mike Alden was on the same message as Deaton on each front, largely noting MU is focused on making itself the best it can be.

While stressing that as AD he would not be involved in decisions as momentous as changing conferences because that would be less an athletics matter than an institutional one, he added that "there certainly has been a frustration there for us" (and others) on the revenue sharing.

"We're only as strong as our weakest link, right?" he said.

Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe has been trying to negotiate better TV packages and navigate more equitable revenue distribution than the system that now disproportionately favors the schools whose football and men's basketball programs are on TV most often.

But Big 12 bylaws necessitate a super majority of nine votes needed to overturn that, and the votes haven't been there.

All of that, perhaps supplemented by frustrations with several recent bowl berths, helps explain why Missouri has indicated it would listen to the Big Ten if it knocks, a subtle yet public posture that has offended some of its Big 12 brethren.

Even so, Deaton reiterated Monday that an offer would merit a thorough analysis.

"We (would) owe that to the university," he said. "We (would) owe that to the state and our fans."

In a fall interview, Beebe said Missouri was a valued member of the conference and he hoped its history with the league's various manifestations would translate into a lasting future.

But he also said there wasn't much the Big 12 could do about Big Ten overtures to its schools other than accentuate what the Big 12 provides.

Asked if he were concerned about Missouri leaving, he said, "I think it would be negligent not to continually evaluate where and how you might go ... depending on how the landscape shifts."

THE IRISH QUESTION
While Notre Dame is the most high-profile and apparently most pivotal variable in the mix, the musical chairs won't necessarily revolve around the Fighting Irish, who may or may not be inclined to make a move.

Athletics director Jack Swarbrick told USA Today earlier this week that comments he made last month in New York had been misinterpreted as the school's being willing to move and added, "I really do believe strongly that we're sort of uniquely positioned to continue to chart our own course."

Regardless of what happens with ND, a free-for-all looms if the Big Ten adds multiple schools, most logically from a pool including, say, Iowa State, Missouri, Nebraska, Pittsburgh, Rutgers and Syracuse.

The Big East and Big 12 would be wounded and susceptible to more losses from the ACC, Pacific 10 and SEC.

If those emerged as the four super conferences, it's easy enough to connect dots from there to at least a limited college football playoff.

Smith, who was on the Big Eight expansion task force when he was AD at Iowa State, said he hasn't considered the landmark landscape beyond the immediate he has on "a napkin."

But he well-remembers the impact of the Big 12 expansion.

"Killed the (Southwest Conference), (which was) teetering anyway," he said, then listing the Mountain West, Big East and ACC as others influenced.

Those ripples, he added, were "slower probably than what this one would be." Although careful to say the Big Ten might not act at all, he added, "Whatever we do, and whatever we affect, (others) will adjust and they'll survive."

Perhaps so. Just not in any recognizable alignment.
JEFFERSON CITY, MO. — Students at Missouri's colleges and universities could face tuition increases next school year if cuts approved Tuesday by a Senate committee are upheld.

The Senate Appropriations Committee decided to cut nearly $65 million from the budgets of public colleges and universities.

That would negate a deal struck last fall by Gov. Jay Nixon and higher education institutions to freeze tuition in exchange for no more than $50 million of state funding cuts during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, said the state's financial problems have worsened since last fall and deeper cuts are needed to balance Missouri's more than $23 billion operating budget for next year.

But the committee's decision is not final. The Senate version of the budget must be reconciled with a House-passed plan that upheld the tuition-freeze deal by making $50 million in cuts. Lawmakers face a May 7 deadline to pass a final version of the budget.

Nixon intends to "strongly urge legislators to uphold the tuition freeze deal" when House and Senate negotiators meet in coming weeks, said Nixon spokesman Jack Cardetti.
"Gov. Nixon believes that freezing tuition for Missouri students for a second year in a row is vitally important as Missouri rebounds out of this economy," Cardetti said.

Mayer said making larger cuts to public higher education institutions was a better alternative than cutting deeper into public school busing or to college scholarships for students at private institutions. Nixon has proposed to eliminate all scholarships for private school students, which would save the state about $50 million.

The higher education funding cut approved by the Senate committee would reduce Missouri's aid by about the maximum amount allowed without needing federal permission under the terms of the federal stimulus package.

Steve Knorr, vice president of government relations for the University of Missouri system, said he expects the Senate panel's funding cut — and the potential for tuition increases — to generate a lot of discussion during a Board of Curators meeting next week.

If the tuition-freeze deal falls apart, universities still would be bound by a 2007 law that limits tuition increases to the rate of inflation, with a little extra for institutions at which tuition already is below average. For the 2010-2011 school year, the tuition cap would be slightly less than 3 percent, though institutions could seek a waiver from state higher education officials to charge more.

While cutting higher education, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee agreed with the House to hold flat basic funding for public K-12 school districts.

The Senate panel also agreed Tuesday to 10 percent cuts in aid to the Missouri State Historical Society and to Amtrak passenger train service between St. Louis and Kansas City.

Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, called both services "luxuries."

"It's a nice thing to have when you have money, but we have no money," Purgason said.

Senate committee members did agree to increase funding in at least one area — advertising for the Missouri Lottery.

Since 2002, the lottery's advertising budget has declined from about $8.2 million to $1.3 million, said executive director May Scheve Reardon. The Senate committee's plan would increase that by $8 million based on predictions from lottery officials that each $1 in additional advertising expenses should generate $3 in sales proceeds to be transferred to education.

Reardon said the lottery hopes to attract new players by expanding the types of games advertised, airing TV and radio ads in a greater number of media markets and for longer periods of time, and potentially by placing ads on the Internet and on convenience store gas pumps.
Tuition freeze in trouble as Missouri lawmakers look for cuts

BY VIRGINIA YOUNG
POST-DISPATCH JEFFERSON CITY BUREAU
04/07/20

MU mention on page 2

JEFFERSON CITY — For parents counting on flat tuition at Missouri's public colleges and universities this fall, the news was bleak in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday.

Senators sliced more deeply into the higher education budget than Gov. Jay Nixon had proposed. The committee cut $14.8 million on top of the $50 million reduction proposed by Nixon.

If the House agrees to the larger cut, colleges and universities will be free to break a deal they made with Nixon to freeze tuition during the coming academic year.

Higher education was far from the only target as senators combed every agency to come up with $500 million in cuts to plug a looming hole in next year's budget.

One program that could end up on the scrap heap: the state's career ladder program, which pays elementary and secondary school teachers extra for after-school work such as tutoring and working with student clubs. Eliminating the program would save the state $37.5 million.

Sen. Tom Dempsey, R-St. Charles, noted that legislative budget leaders warned school districts last year not to count on additional career ladder funding. "They had a fair heads-up on this one," Dempsey said.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, developed the latest list of cuts in consultation with Nixon's staff. More cuts are needed because state tax collections are down 13.3 percent so far this fiscal year, including a 17.8 percent slide in March.

"We didn't want to do it, but the situation continues to worsen," Mayer said of the additional higher education cut.

Some GOP senators complained that they were making tough decisions in open sessions while Nixon, a Democrat, had refused to publicly say where he would find the money to balance the budget.

Later Tuesday, Nixon's budget office released a working list of cuts but cautioned that the governor had not endorsed all the proposals, such as the larger cut for colleges and universities.

"The governor still does support the agreement" to freeze tuition, said Nixon's budget director, Linda Luebbering. Colleges and universities had agreed to freeze tuition if they lost no more than
5.2 percent, or about $50 million.

If more money is cut, "I think most will raise tuition, but that's an individual board decision," said Brian Long, who represents the Missouri Council on Public Higher Education.

**The University of Missouri would shoulder about half of the additional cut, or $7 million. MU lobbyist Steve Knorr said curators would probably discuss their options when they meet in Rolla this month.**

By law, four-year schools could raise tuition by the consumer price index, or 2.7 percent. If they wanted to raise tuition by more than that, they could seek waivers from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

There is no cap on tuition increases for community colleges.

The budget decision isn't final, because the House already passed the larger amount proposed by Nixon. A House-Senate conference committee must reconcile the differences by May 7, the deadline for sending the budget to the governor. It takes effect July 1.

Senators tried Tuesday to cut what one senator termed "luxury items." But opinions differed on what fell in that category as school transportation, independent living centers that help the disabled and Amtrak funding all took hits.

Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, said the State Historical Society, based in Columbia, Mo., was an example of a program the state can no longer afford in lean times.

"We've got a dirty job to do," Purgason said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Cut could jeopardize Missouri university in-state tuition freeze

NO MU Mention

By Trevor Eischen
April 6, 2010 | 9:15 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — The in-state tuition freeze deal struck between Gov. Jay Nixon and Missouri higher education institutions would be undermined under a budget cut tentatively approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday.

The committee voted to recommend a $15 million cut to the 2011 fiscal year higher education budget on top of Nixon's $50 million cut.

Late last year, Nixon announced an agreement that if only 5.2 percent were cut in state funds for the universities' budgets, they would not raise tuition for Missouri resident students.

"The reason why we discussed it is because we're trying to come up with $500 million (to cut)," said Committee Chairman Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, referring to the deficit in Nixon's proposed budget. Nixon has not presented a revised spending plan, leaving to the legislature to figure out where to make the cuts.

Mayer sponsored the amendment.

Last month, the House approved a $200 million trim from Nixon's overall budget. The remaining $300 million would come from federal money that remains tied up in Congress. The House Budget Committee chairman has expressed confidence Congress will approve that bill.

Mayer said the potential $300 million extra should be saved for the 2012 fiscal year budget — a year Mayer said he believes will be worse than 2011.
Mayer didn't specify how much money would be cut from each institution.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said he does not support the proposed $15 million cut from higher education.

"I vehemently objected," said Schaefer, the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. "I think we should continue with the governor's cut."

Schaefer said he was sure the in-state tuition freeze agreement would fail if the $15 million were to pass in a final version of the budget.

The committee has not taken any final actions on the budget. Mayer said he did not expect a final vote until next week.

Jack Cardetti, a spokesman for the governor, said he believes Nixon's agreement will stay intact once the budgets go to a House-Senate conference committee.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia and the senior Democrat on the House Budget Committee, said the Senate committee's $15 million cut could be a bargaining tool for senators to use during the conference to get more of their ideas and demands into the budget.

Kelly also said the proposed $15 million cut should be spread among elementary, secondary and higher education.

Mayer said he understands the importance of higher education, but added that the budget must take priority.

"Having had three sons who recently graduated, I understand the impact tuition has on a family's budget," Mayer said, "Higher education of course is important, and we hate to make this cut."

The Senate committee has scheduled sessions every day through Friday of this week to continue work on the state's budget.
Five at MU named fellows
Honor comes with $10,000.

Electrical and computer engineering Assistant Professor Gregory Triplett is surprised as University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton leads a delegation into his classroom Monday at the College of Engineering to present him with a $10,000 check as a recipient of the William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence.

By JANESHEAVIN
Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Gregory Triplett was quick to share the educational honor he received yesterday with his University of Missouri colleagues and students. But that was the extent of his generosity.

"I'm not sharing the money," he joked, referring to his $10,000 prize.

Nor does anyone expect him to. Triplett, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering in the College of Engineering, earned the cash as part of a 2010 Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and Jim Schatz, chairman of Commerce Bank, have spent the past two days honoring five faculty members with Kemper fellowships, a prestigious award that recognizes outstanding teaching. The William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence were established in 1991 with a $500,000 gift, and Commerce Bank manages the fund.

Deaton surprised Triplett with the honor in the middle of a class yesterday.
"We hear you teach some of the toughest courses," Deaton said, referring to Triplett's Optical Electronics and Semiconductor Device Theory course.

Department Chairman Noah Manring described Triplett as "one of the brightest spots in our department when it comes to student interaction."

Triplett, who has been at MU since 2004, also acts as the adviser for the National Society of Black Engineers and is involved with his college's efforts to recruit minorities.

Here's a look at the other 2010 Kemper Fellowships recipients:

- Anand Prahlad is a professor of creative writing, folklore and film studies in the English department and has served as director for students in the summer McNair Scholars Program.

Department Chairwoman Patricia Okker said Prahlad is skilled at making students know their perspectives are valued and for keeping the class connected to the subject matter.

He has been a part of MU's faculty since 1991.

- Michael Barnes has been teaching in MU's Department of Classical Studies since 2005. Department Chairman David Schenker said students "flock" to Barnes' classes.

"In my 25 years of teaching at the college and university level, I have never seen a better teacher than Mike Barnes," Schenker said in a prepared statement.

Barnes teaches introductory and graduate-level courses in the Honors College as well as humanities and language courses. Administrators said he combines a diverse approach to create a casual, unrehearsed feeling the classroom.

- Srinath Gopalakrishna is the David and Judy O'Neal MBA Professor and professor of marketing in the Trulaske College of Business. He also teaches a doctoral seminar and is a member of dissertation committees and the college's MBA Policy Committee.

"Gopalakrishna introduces each marketing concept and lesson as if it is a fantastic new discovery for mankind because it is, in fact, a new discovery for the students he is teaching," former student Eric Schupp said.

- Michael Ugarte, professor of Spanish and romance languages in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, is a "caring mentor" to students from all economic and cultural backgrounds, former colleague Margaret Olsen said.

In the classroom, Ugarte is known for asking students who did not grow up speaking Spanish to "transform" themselves into someone else to better understand the emotion and content behind whatever they're reading.

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Final three MU professors named as Kemper Fellowship award winners

By Kourtney Geers
April 6, 2010 | 4:56 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Chancellor Brady Deaton and a gaggle of supporters entered Professor Michael Ugarte's cramped classroom in Strickland Hall to announce that he was a recipient of a top teaching award at MU. For a moment, he clapped for himself. Then, he turned the attention to his students and applauded them.

Ugarte was the fifth and final recipient of the 2010 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. The fellowships are given annually to five outstanding MU educators and include a $10,000 award that is funded by a $500,000 gift from the family that founded Commerce and United Missouri banks. William Kemper was a 1926 MU graduate before beginning his career in banking.

The first two award winners were announced Monday and three more received unexpected visits from Deaton, Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz and supporters Tuesday.

The first award of the day was given to department of classical studies professor Michael Barnes in the middle of his Classics in a Cross-Cultural Context class. He also teaches introductory and graduate-level courses in the Honors College, humanities sequence and languages. Along with his role as a teacher, Barnes is the editor of "Classical and Modern Literature," a journal published by the department of classical studies.

The next award was given to Srinath Gopalakrishna, the David and Judy O'Neal MBA Professor and professor of marketing in the Trulaske College of Business. A marketing meeting was interrupted to surprise Gopalakrishna with the award.
Schatz said it was "particularly a pleasure" for him to assist in giving the Kemper award to a professor in Gopalakrishna's department, as three of his own children graduated from MU's business school.

Ugarte, the final award winner, was in the middle of an upper-level Spanish poetry class when he was surprised by the award group. Along with teaching Spanish, Ugarte is the Middlebush professor of romance languages in the department of romance languages and literatures.

When Schatz was introduced, Ugarte said, "I have one question for this man: Where is my money?"

Schatz laughed, offered his congratulations and his thanks on behalf of the Kemper Foundation and Commerce Bank for Ugarte's excellence in teaching. He then pulled a sealed envelope from his breast pocket and presented Ugarte with a $10,000 award.

A shocked Ugarte covered his mouth, turned toward the blackboard and, amid his class's laughter and cheers, said to Schatz, "Oh my God. I was joking!"

Ugarte thanked Deaton, Schatz and the rest of the guests in his classroom and called the presenters "good sirs" in Spanish.

Ugarte said he didn't know what to say in response to the award, but offered to the guests in his classroom, "If you want to stick around for a great lesson, you are more than welcome."
Siblings argue over personal space

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 7 (UPI) -- Siblings have conflicts over issues including personal space as well as equality and fairness, U.S. researchers say.

Nicole Campione-Barr, assistant professor at the University of Missouri, says some types of disagreements between siblings can affect the quality of sibling relationships.

"The first conflict area we found includes issues about physical and emotional personal space, such as borrowing items without asking and hanging around when older siblings have friends over," Campione-Barr says in a statement. "When these issues were present, both younger and older siblings reported less trust and communication. The second conflict area includes equality and fairness issues, such as taking turns and sharing responsibilities. These conflicts had no impact on relationship quality."

If both younger and older siblings reported personal space conflicts, older siblings reported these conflicts more frequently, suggesting older siblings are more sensitive to personal space issues, the study says.

The findings are published in journal Child Development.
University to host soybean summit
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Soybean scientists and industry leaders will gather tomorrow for a daylong summit at the University of Missouri.

The sixth annual Soybean Biotechnology Symposium will be held in the Bond Life Sciences Center.

Sen. Kit Bond will 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.

This article was published on page B6 of the Tuesday, April 6, 2010 edition.
LGBTQ group to form for MU faculty, staff

By Katy Bergen
April 7, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The two had never met. But as Greg Nelson and Barbara Willis sat at a Boone Tavern table Tuesday evening, the MU employees realized they had much in common. The MU health coordinator and Office of Service Learning employee both love fishing at Bennett Springs in Lebanon, Mo. And the two Columbia residents miss living in the country.

Nelson and Willis had come to participate in an informational meeting about a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer staff and faculty association that is in the works at MU.

Social work faculty member Carol Snively, an organizer of the meeting, said that the need for such a supportive group has been discussed for years on campus. Snively organized the meeting along with MU LGBTQ Resource Center Coordinator Ryan Black and College of Education associate professor Alejandro Morales.

Chief Diversity Officer Roger Worthington said he felt it is wrong that there is no group addressing LGBTQ issues for MU faculty and staff. Worthington said the Chancellor’s Diversity’s Initiative will support the LGBTQ association when it establishes membership and bylaws. The Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative sponsors other staff and faculty organizations, such as the Hispanic and Latin American Faculty and Staff Association.

Attendees discussed potential group names before suggesting activities for the association that should be reflected in the bylaws. Some, but not all, of the suggestions included:

- Creating support for domestic partnership benefits
• Adding “gender identity and expression” into MU’s non-discrimination policy in addition to “sexual orientation,” which is in the current policy
• Comparing the MU LGBTQ experience with those of other institutions
• Advocating exit interviews to determine the reason LGBTQ community members leave MU

While attendees said they came to the meeting to network and promote advocacy issues like domestic partnership, many also showed up for social reasons. Willis said she saw the event as an opportunity to network.

“I knew a few people, but I wanted to know more,” she said.

The group plans to meet again, but a date has not been set. They will vote on a name at that meeting or online. Those who want to be involved with association activities may contact the LGBTQ resource center at 884-7750.
Maya Angelou said, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

I have a few such agonies, but it is time to put one of them to rest. With so much press and so many opinions about the "Tiger Spot" mosaic at Lowry Mall on the University of Missouri campus, many people assume they know this story, but I have yet to see an accurate account in print, so I am writing to set the record straight.

The "Tiger Spot" mosaic remains the greatest project in which I have participated. Other than being an Eagle Scout, it is the accomplishment I am most proud of. I have never worked so hard nor given so much to any other endeavor, and it deeply saddens me to see what has become of it.

Many will remember the summer of 2001, when I asked for volunteers to be part of assembling hundreds of thousands of tiles to create our "Tiger Spot." Sixty dedicated, incredible people gave their entire summer to the task. Thousands of schoolchildren came to my gallery to each put a piece of glass in the mosaic.

This was, without a doubt, a very ambitious undertaking and something new for me as a professional artist, but it was not hastily thrown together without thought to the materials and the weather, as has been suggested. Every step of the process was thoroughly researched. University experts in construction and engineering were consulted. Experts in concrete and glass mosaics were also involved. I went to Italy and studied with the best artists in the world in the craft of outdoor mosaics. I made no decisions without the assistance and approval of the best minds available. The materials we used are the best available and quite suitable for this environment.

However, unforeseen problems compromised the integrity of the mosaic and allowed for damage to occur. First was the removal of the tent while we were pouring concrete in the rain, three days before the unveiling. We spent months after the unveiling reworking parts that were not allowed to set properly because of this error in judgment.

Next it seemed as if there were people who didn't want to see the project succeed. Every manner of vandalism occurred, from hammer blows, paint poured on the mosaic, concrete poured on it,
skid marks from a motorcycle and stolen supplies. Our vehicles were vandalized, and we received a slew of hateful notes.

Why anyone would want to attack this piece of art we worked so hard on remains a mystery. Each incident was reported to campus security and documented, but every press report blamed the weather. More than a dozen requests for security cameras went unfulfilled. Still, with each incident, I and another volunteer repaired the damage.

The university's response to the continued "weather damage" was to install a chain-and-bollard system around the mosaic. I was never consulted but instead found an industrial backhoe with a concrete-breaker bit, pounding giant holes within a foot of the glass mosaic. During an emergency meeting, we begged them to stop, but they continued to pulverize the still-curing concrete foundation for three solid days. The damage it caused was not immediately obvious but was the fatal mistake that allowed weather to become the cause of the mosaic's failure.

The university brought in a mosaic expert to assess the situation but never allowed him to speak with us. We only learned of his visit and saw his report afterward. Along with his report came an offer for his own company to repair the tattered tiger. His report spoke of our unorthodox methods of construction, but never was there a mention of any jackhammering around the glass. I'm certain he would have advised against that had he or anyone else been consulted in advance.

I read about the impending destruction of "Tiger Spot" in the newspaper. At that time, I asked for a meeting to see what could be done to remedy the situation. My own reputation had already taken a beating, but my concern was for the many volunteers who also gave freely of their time and talents, and how "Tiger Spot's" destruction would dishonor them and others who contributed to its creation.

Ideas were pitched on moving the mosaic to a new location, building something new on the site, all a smokescreen to sign away my moral rights to the mosaic. With each attempt to reach a compromise with the university, it became clearer their intention was to secure the right to destroy it without offering any guarantees of their own. I felt their offers were disingenuous and have agonized for years over how to honor the volunteers and donors while giving the university what it wanted.

I gave years of my professional career to this project for free. I used my own resources for much of the project and solicited donations from my friends. Neither one dime of taxpayer money nor one dollar of student tuition was used to create "Tiger Spot."

I still have broken glass in the palms of my hands to remind me daily of the incredible thing we built as a community. I don't want to see it bulldozed and would be willing to rebuild it, but I'm concerned the university would do no better job protecting it again. This situation hurts my heart, and I still have no remedy.

Where do we go from here?

I don't know. A little honesty from the university could have made the process easier, but as I was told by the university's head counsel, "An apology is out of the question."

Paul Jackson is an artist who lives in Columbia.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU student e-mail back online after 20-hour glitch

By Lindsay Ross
April 6, 2010 | 2:44 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A glitch rendered virtually all MU student e-mail accounts inaccessible for 20 hours, from Monday afternoon through Tuesday morning.

The cause was a problem with the domain name servers, said Terry Robb, MU Division of IT spokesman. Beginning around 2:20 p.m. on Monday, when students typed in the Web address for Outlook Live, the domain name could not be found.

Only student e-mail accounts were affected, as the faculty and staff e-mail is not provided through Outlook Live, which is owned by Microsoft and operates on its servers. Robb said student accounts were switched to Outlook Live late last year to provide more storage space.

Some e-mail accounts were accessible late Tuesday morning. By 12:45, the MU Division of IT Web site reported that all systems were operational.

Robb was unable to provide an exact number of how many student e-mail accounts were affected, but the current enrollment at MU is around 31,000, and each student is assigned an account.

Robb said this is the worst outage he has seen since the university switched to Outlook Live. He said he expected all universities that use Outlook Live to experience problems. He added he had heard of problems at schools around the country and as far away as Australia.
Rally for pot planned in Columbia

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **Marijuana users at the University of Missouri** plan a rally Thursday to build support for pot smoking as an alternative to underage alcohol use and binge drinking.

A group called Safer Alternative For Enjoyable Recreation organized rallies last week at more than 80 colleges and universities in 34 states. Proponents on the Columbia campus moved their event to this week because of spring break.

SAFER is asking campus presidents to endorse what it calls an “informed and dispassionate public debate” on recreational pot use.

The group’s Emerald Initiative is a play on the Amethyst Initiative signed last year by more than 130 college presidents. That movement suggests consideration of lowering the legal drinking age.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Craigslist founder speaks to businesspeople, students in Columbia

MU Mention on Pg. 2

By Bryan Richardson
April 6, 2010 | 5:38 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Craigslist founder Craig Newmark had an overall message on Tuesday for Columbia's journalists and businesspeople: serve your community.

"We (Craigslist) think of ourselves as something that helps a lot of people," Newmark said at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce's Business Showcase on Tuesday.

Silverware clicked constantly against hundreds of plates during the luncheon at the Holiday Inn Select-Executive Center, creating steady background noise for the keynote speaker. He spoke for about 20 minutes on the history and business approach of Craigslist, a Web site for free, local classified advertisements. Since its founding in 1995, it has grown to more than 700 local sites in 70 countries.

Throwing in some self-deprecating humor, Newmark acknowledged that his best work is in customer service rather than day-to-day operations.

"People were kind enough to tell me how much I sucked as a manager," he said. Jim Buckmaster has been the chief executive officer since 2000.

Craigslist has plenty of customers with monthly averages of about 50 million users in the United States and more than 20 billion page views.

The online classifieds site retains a basic look, in part because Newmark said he had no design skills when he started out. However, the Web site serves its purpose: providing an online community for locals.
"Exciting, cool Web design doesn't help people get a job or find a place to live," Newmark said.

Kathy Estes, who helped bring Newmark to Columbia, said Newmark has been generous with his time.

"Normally people speak then leave, and he's been here for two days," said Estes, global accounts manager for Helms Briscoe.

**Estes said Newmark has engaged in several activities since he's been in Columbia, including touring MU and speaking to about 80 Missouri journalism students and faculty Tuesday morning at the Reynolds Journalism Institute.**

During the introduction, RJI fellow Bill Densmore said Newmark might be considered a demon to newspapers — because the free online classifieds took revenue from print newspapers — but he's a savior to the community.

"We listen to what people in the community want," Newmark said about Craigslist's free and local emphasis. "We're very community-driven."

A 45-minute question-and-answer session produced feedback from Newmark on journalism's future:

**Who will create future journalism content?**

- "Networks of bloggers working with networks from traditional newsrooms."
- People will get their news from a trusted network of friends and news organizations. "You’ll want to be building your reputation now."
- The program with the best reputation for investigative reporting and fact-checking: "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," Newmark said that "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" with Stephen Colbert "deserve the trust they have." Both shows use humor to critique politics, culture and the media.

**How can newspaper publishers compete with Craigslist?**

- Newspaper publishers have told him having classifieds as a revenue stream was nice while it lasted.
Newspapers should focus on “better quality news in real-time with lots of fact checking.” Recent health care coverage was an "epic fail" because it focused on politics rather than legislation.

**How important will advertising be in the future?**

- There will be an increased emphasis on blogs and consumer reports to learn about products. This will cause a dramatic shift in advertising in the future, particularly for politics.

- As TV advertising becomes unimportant in politics, social media will become more important. Since using social media will be cheaper, politicians can spend less time fundraising for expensive TV ads, and “they can spend more time doing their job.”

When asked about his own future, Newmark said, “I guess I could maybe retire, but I wouldn’t know what I would do with myself.”