How would the Big 12 Conference play in Kansas City without Mizzou?

By BLAIR KERKHOFF

The Big 12 men’s and women’s basketball tournament in March injected an estimated $14.1 million into the Kansas City economy.

Big Ten Conference expansion isn’t just an issue for athletes, fans and administrators at the University of Missouri to consider. Kansas City — and two other close Big 12 schools, Kansas and Kansas State — have just as big a stake in whether the Tigers stay or go.

Kansas City is a college sports nerve center with the attendance and economic impact figures to prove it.

But if the Big Ten plucks Missouri, as has been widely speculated, Kansas City’s college sports identity will change.

What becomes of the Border War? The annual Missouri-Kansas football skirmish at Arrowhead Stadium has become a can’t-miss affair that generates more than $1 million a year for the game’s visiting team. But KU athletic director Lew Perkins told The Kansas City Star on Tuesday it would be difficult to continue an athletic relationship with a team that had left the conference.

Could the Big 12’s basketball tournaments and football championship games be conducted in a state that no longer had a member school? It hasn’t happened in any sport in the conference’s 14-year history. And would the city welcome Big Ten schools the way it does the Big 12?

The good news for Kansas City — and the Jayhawks and Wildcats — is that the Big 12 remains intent on surviving should it lose members. Replacing teams, operating with one or two fewer members, and cooperating with other conferences are options. Last week, conference athletic directors met with their counterparts from the Pacific-10 to discuss a television contract and scheduling alliance.

“We’re being proactive,” Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe said.

Which means staying together as a conference without Missouri — and possibly Nebraska, as has been speculated.
There’s a growing fear that a wave of conference realignment would prompt Texas, one of the country’s richest athletic programs, also to leave the Big 12, effectively dissolving the league. But sources in the Big 12 have told The Star that Texas is not looking to leave.

Longhorns athletic director DeLoss Dodds reaffirmed his school’s stance to Texas newspapers last week.

“It’s a great conference. It’s been good to us, and I hope it continues to be that,” he said.

Missouri has not received an official offer from the Big Ten, which announced in December it would explore expansion for 12 to 18 months. MU officials, including athletic director Mike Alden, have said the school will not comment on speculation related to conference realignment.

Perkins and John Currie, the K-State athletic director, said Tuesday that both schools were committed to the Big 12 and to each other. Currie said the Big 12 “will continue to be strong and viable.”

Perkins went out of his way to say KU wanted to stay tied to K-State.

“We have such great respect for K-State, and our relationship is getting stronger and stronger,” he said. “We think we have to be in the same footprint with K-State. That’s important to us.”

Even if the Big 12 goes on with KU and K-State, but not Missouri, Kansas City would feel a sense of loss. Missouri has never been anything other than a Big Six, Big Seven, Big Eight or Big 12 member, with Kansas City as a base, either officially or unofficially, for those conferences. The Big Ten has its offices in the Chicago area, and its men’s basketball tournament is played in Indianapolis.

But many Tiger fans seemed excited about the prospects of a new address. More than 5,000 responded to a Kansas City Star online survey this year that asked, “Should Missouri join the Big Ten?” Sixty-three percent said yes.

And like the parents whose child is about to be married, Kansas City wouldn’t be losing a team but gaining a conference.

“I don’t think being in the Big Ten would affect Missouri’s relationship with Kansas City in a negative way,” said Mark Vickery, former president of the Kansas City Tiger Club. “It would be an opportunity for the city to get to know some new teams on a more regular basis — a Michigan, an Ohio State. It’s like we’ve done with Texas and Texas A&M.”

**Keeping Big 12 events**

Still, could 10 or 12 schools bring their men’s and women’s basketball teams to Kansas City, stay in Show-Me State hotels, eat in its restaurants, support its ticket scalpers and not have a Missouri-based team?
"It's tough to imagine what the rotation would be if Missouri isn't in the conference," said Cindy Smith, director of national events for the Kansas City Sports Commission. "But we would remain aggressive in pursing championships."

Beebe didn't put a lid on the basket if Missouri were to join the Big Ten.

"It would be a consideration, and I'd say it's something we'd look at carefully," he said. "But Kansas City has done a great job with the tournament and is connected to many institutions in its region."

That's a key. Even without Missouri and Nebraska, Kansas City would remain the closest destination for some of the league's best traveling basketball fans.

"You'd still have KU, K-State and Iowa State, and those people come to tournaments and spend money," said sports consultant Chuck Neinas, a former Big Eight commissioner.

OK, so even if Missouri leaves, the Sprint Center could still play host to basketball tournaments, and football championships could be decided at Arrowhead Stadium.

That's a biggie.

Hoops also played a role in downtown's redevelopment. Kansas City was never directly told by Big 12 officials that a new arena was needed to remain a competitive bidder for the conference basketball tournaments. But with Kemper Arena growing outdated, the Big 12 didn't need to look far with new buildings springing up in Dallas and Oklahoma City — complete with adjacent entertainment districts that Big 12 officials said were a factor in a city's proposal.

The Sprint Center "was built for many reasons, but the Big 12 being dissatisfied with Kemper had a big impact," said Bill Bohde, vice president of sales for the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Not having basketball here for any reason would be a major hit."

That's probably not a threat in the short term. The Big 12 could announce future events as early as next month in Kansas City at its annual meeting.

The men's and women's basketball tournaments, conducted at the Sprint Center and Municipal Auditorium this year and next, are expected to be awarded through 2014, and Kansas City is among the bidders for the next round. Future football championship sites also could be revealed, and Arrowhead is up for those games as well.

The games are big business. The Big 12 men's and women's basketball tournaments in March poured an estimated $14.1 million into the local economy based on average spending by visitors, according to Bohde.

Hotel room occupancy in Kansas City for that week was up more than 17 percent over the previous year when the tournament wasn't in town.
"We want to be in the mix every year," said Shani Tate Ross, the Sprint Center's director of communications and marketing. "Based on the enthusiasm we've shown, it should be here."

The Big 12 events account for about one-third of the 350,000 or so fans who will have attended a college championship event or regular-season contest brought to Kansas City during this school year. The figure includes MIAA and NAIA tournaments plus football games at Arrowhead, including the biggest draw, the Missouri-Kansas game.

Vickery hopes the Border War contest — in all sports — would continue if the Tigers and Jayhawks found themselves in different conferences.

"I just can't imagine not playing them every year, and at least once a year in basketball," Vickery said. "Missouri-Kansas at Sprint Center would make our game in St. Louis look like child's play."

That would be Missouri-Illinois, which has become one of the nation's most intense non-conference basketball encounters. Scottrade Center is split down the middle, like the Mizzou-Illini football game at Edward Jones Dome and MU-KU football at Arrowhead.

But Perkins said KU hadn't discussed whether it would continue to play Missouri if the Tigers were in the Big Ten. Could the oldest football rivalry west of the Mississippi River be in trouble?

"If a school — not even talking about Missouri — if a school in our conference doesn’t want to participate in our conference," Perkins said, "it would be difficult to continue having an athletic relationship."

Alden declined to comment when reached Tuesday night by The Star.

**A different rivalry**

Missouri-Kansas games have counted in conference standings for more than a century. Those schools were among the five at the table at the Midland Hotel in Kansas City on Jan. 12, 1907, to start what originally was known as the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Nebraska, Iowa and Washington University of St. Louis were the others.

Iowa State and Kansas State soon joined, and most have been together ever since, with their proximity to Kansas City and large alumni bases here as common links. Along with basketball.

"The impact college sports has had on our region, the history and tradition — it's just one of those things that's uniquely Kansas City," said Bill Hall, president of the Hall Family Foundation. "If Missouri left (the Big 12), I think you'd lose an awful lot of excitement."

But perhaps not basketball tournaments or football games.

Kansas City has proved over the years that it will pursue any and all major college sporting events. More NCAA Tournament games have been played here than any other city. Until the Big
12 formed, it had been the home for every conference basketball tournament involving the area schools. Smith may see opportunity here. Keep the Big 12, absolutely. But also…

“Hey, maybe we could go after the Big Ten tournament,” Smith said.
Big Ten would mean big money for Missouri

By Chris Canipe
May 12, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Mizzou is going to the Big Ten. Mizzou is not going to the Big Ten.

As speculation mounts, MU and Big Ten officials have been reluctant to say anything at all. But both parties have one very good reason to be interested in Mizzou going to the Big Ten: money.

The Big Ten Conference announced in December that it was considering conference expansion. In spite of its name, the Big Ten has 11 schools. The addition of a 12th would allow for a more balanced conference schedule and a lucrative Big Ten Conference championship game. (An NCAA bylaw says a conference must have at least 12 teams to stage a championship game.) But recent speculation is that the Big Ten could expand by as many as five schools, making it a super conference.

"I guess the conventional wisdom is that when it all shakes out, there's probably going to be six conferences left," said Dallas Branch, associate professor in sports management at West Virginia University. "Six major conferences, and they're all going to have 16 teams or more."

Branch said any expansion would be driven by money — television money, to be precise. The Big Ten has an agreement with the Big Ten Network worth $2.8 billion over 25 years, and with ESPN for $1 billion over 10 years. The deals allow the conference to distribute between $18 million and $22 million annually to each of its teams.

Missouri got just under $8.4 million from the Big 12 in 2007, the most recent year for which tax documents are available. The Big 12 has one of the least lucrative television contracts of the BCS conferences — an eight-year, $480 million deal with ABC and ESPN, and a four-year, $78 million deal with Fox Sports Network.

Branch said the Big Ten is interested in expansion in order to increase its television revenue stream.

"They have got to find new revenue streams or larger revenue streams, and that's what this TV thing is all about — maximizing revenue," Branch said.

MU Athletic Director Mike Alden told the Columbia Daily Tribune in September that he was frustrated by the current Big 12 television contract. "Our hope would be that we could renegotiate our television package to provide us with more exposure, more revenue for the league and we could share all those revenues equally," Alden said.
These days, the MU officials aren't saying much at all.

Asked Tuesday before a speaking engagement at the Daniel Boone Regional Library if he or anyone at the university had been in contact with the Big Ten Conference, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said, "No comment."

A Kansas City sports radio show, citing anonymous sources, claimed on Monday that MU had been extended an initial offer to join the Big Ten conference. Dave Reiter, an associate director of media relations in the MU athletic department, denied the report, saying it was all speculation. "We're not going to comment on speculation," he said. Jim Delany, Big Ten commissioner, also denied the report Tuesday, according to Ohio State Athletic Director Gene Smith in an Associated Press report.

John Christie is the general manager of the SEC Digital Network — the flagship digital distributor of the Southeast Conference. Christie said television contracts are driving conference realignment, and he pointed to the SEC's recent agreement with CBS and ESPN worth more than $3.1 billion over 15 years as an example.

"(It's) bar none the most significant television contract in college sports," he said. "(The SEC) secured the copyright in those negotiations." That means the SEC retains the rights to broadcast and rebroadcast conference games, setting up a potentially lucrative licensing stream as highlight DVDs, classic game broadcast, and game footage to be sold for rebroadcast.

Christie thinks a big move by the Big Ten will start a domino effect that causes the other conferences to realign, and those realignments will change the dynamics of television licensing agreements.

"All those realignments will lead to new television negotiations and (to schools) trying to get bigger TV contracts," Christie said. "It will create more of a have and have-not situation in college athletics."

Branch said that, despite their big budgets, most Division I athletic departments aren't self-sustaining, and rely on student fees and general fund allocations to close the gap.

"If you look at Ohio State, Michigan, Michigan State and some of the bigger schools in the Big Ten, they have anywhere from $110 to $120 million (athletic department) budgets," Branch said. "The Big Ten Network has allowed the Big Ten schools to basically be totally self-sustaining. They don't receive any subsidies from students, their institution or the state."

Branch doesn't think it's the licensing agreements that make the Big Ten's television revenue so powerful. He thinks it's the teams themselves.

"What's bigger than a Michigan-Michigan State game or a Penn State-Ohio State game?" Branch said. "You're hard pressed to find another couple of teams that, when they get together, they command the kind of audience that they command. The network is basically quantified by the brand values of those institutions."
If Missouri is invited to join the Big Ten, that would mean the Mizzou brand is attractive to the conference. Branch said both Nebraska and Missouri could bring a big television audience. "(They have) value from the standpoint of eyeballs," he said. "They've got not just a state but a regional following ...."

Nothing has been confirmed. Big Ten Conference Commissioner Jim Delany has said only that the conference is considering expansion, and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton has said MU will not respond to speculation.

*Missourian reporters Patrick Sweet and Dieter Kurtenbach contributed to this report.*
Mizzou Center open house is Tuesday in Blue Springs

By BRIAN BURNES

An open house for the Mizzou Center, an initial step toward a new Blue Springs research facility being developed in partnership with the University of Missouri, is scheduled for Tuesday.

Brady Deaton, university chancellor, is among those scheduled to attend a brief program beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The event celebrates not a new building but office space leased near Interstate 70 and Adams Dairy Parkway. Still, this represents a beginning of what Blue Springs officials hope is a significant university presence.

“This sets the groundwork and helps finalize the scope of what MU will be doing,” said Brien Starner, president of the Blue Springs Economic Development Corp.

What is being referred as the Mizzou Center in university announcements is part of the larger research campus initiative still known as the Missouri Innovation Park, Starner said.

The park has been described as a bioscience research campus, or a regional home for “knowledge-based innovation.”

The university has signed a memorandum of understanding with the economic development corporation as well as with the city of Blue Springs. In March, university officials announced that the office space had been leased.

A former member of the Blue Springs City Council, Sheila Solon, said during a March council meeting that she thought the university would be constructing its own building. But economic conditions currently are not favorable for such a project, Starner told the council.

The idea, Starner added in March, was to have presence of the university whether it owned its own physical assets or leased office space. Brian Foster, University of Missouri provost, also appeared before the council to emphasize the university’s commitment to the concept.
The good news represented by next week’s open house, Starner said, is that the university has arrived in Blue Springs much faster than originally imagined.

“This is actually two years ahead of any plan that we had discussed,” said Starner.

The Mizzou Center initially is to include space for several university entities, including the College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies, according to a university press release. Also to be represented would be a university career services operation, extension food and nutrition programs, and a distance learning initiative.
COLUMBIA — Gary Maddox, director of the MU Extension Law Enforcement Training Institute, said he was removed from office April 28 after an anonymous letter-writer complained to his superiors about his references to God and his relaxed reaction to a bouncy-balls prank at an April 23 graduation ceremony.

University spokespeople have confirmed that Maddox no longer works at MU but are saying little else.

LETI provides education and training to law enforcement officials, the majority of whom are police officers, and Maddox has led the institute for 17 years. He said that on April 27, Debbie Robison, associate vice provost for MU Extension, called him into her office to read excerpts from the typed letter, which he said he was not allowed to see because he might be able to tell who sent it.

Maddox said Melinda Adams, manager of MU Extension’s human resources, was also present. He took notes on the meeting and the letter’s contents and was asked to explain each complaint. They also included the use of profanity from another instructor, the acknowledgment of another LETI instructor’s retirement and a joke he told to open the ceremony at the Hearnes Center Fieldhouse.

Robison later asked Maddox to return to her office the next day. When he did, she slid non-renewal papers across the desk toward him.

"Let’s get this over with," Maddox recalled her saying.

Robison put him on paid administrative employment leave until August and said his contract will not be renewed for the next fiscal year. She took his office keys, ID card and university cell phone.

LETI administrative associate Lisa Dority said students are concerned about Maddox’s removal but would not confirm how many calls and e-mails the LETI office has received since students learned of Maddox’s removal. She referred questions to MU Extension human resources.
Adams said personnel issues are confidential and would not confirm whether Maddox left or was fired. Robison and her secretary directed questions to MU Extension spokeswoman Dolores Shearon, who seemed to know few details about the complaints and confirmed only that Maddox no longer works for MU. She confirmed that Robison is the direct supervisor for continuing education directors.

MU News Bureau Director Mary Jo Banken said staff and faculty cannot talk about personnel issues because of a human resources policy (HR114) that makes them confidential.

**Letter: References to God are offensive**

Maddox said the letter-writer complained about references to God throughout the ceremony — in a closing prayer said by a student, his own comments at the ceremony and in a leaflet highlighting academy coordinator Ken Hawkins’ retirement.

Larry Parham, a Sedalia Police Department detective who teaches a training block about gangs for LETI, said it's common to include prayers at police graduation ceremonies. April graduate Aaron Levinson said the class requested the prayer, which was read by fellow graduate Dustin Millsap.

The class called Millsap “Rev” because he used to work at a Bible camp. At the ceremony in the Hearnes Center Fieldhouse, Millsap prayed for the safety of class members as they began their duties, Levinson said. Maddox said another instructor told him during the middle of the ceremony that the class wished to say a prayer and he allowed it on the spot.

Maddox said he said, “Amen, Mr. Millsap,” to the audience after he spoke. He also said, “May God bless and keep each of you safe,” to the class at the end of the ceremony.

The other use of God was in a half-page blurb in a leaflet acknowledging Hawkins as a Vietnam War veteran and a valuable LETI instructor. It said, “Ken, May God bless and keep you always. Your LETI family.” Maddox said the letter-writer faulted the Hawkins leaflet as a waste of ink, paper and MU resources. The writer said the use of God was offensive to non-Christians and had no place in the ceremony.

**Students prank Maddox at ceremony**

Students also played a prank on Maddox at the ceremony. Matt Peters, an April graduate, said a classmate purchased bouncy balls beforehand, and many students slipped a ball to Maddox when they shook his hand.

The prank was intended to be one last joke on their instructor, with Maddox left with 44 balls in his pockets, one for every graduate, Peters said. Maddox said a few students whispered in his ear that they had forgotten their ball.
He said that after the first student slipped him a ball, he saw the class laughing, so he shrugged his shoulders, bounced each one as it came and then put it in his pocket. His biggest concern was bouncing the ball too hard and having it roll away, he said.

Maddox felt the need to explain to the curious audience why he looked “like a hamster with his pockets bulging.” He told the audience that the prank had never happened to him before and that although there were many, possibly inappropriate, things running through his mind to say, he would leave the audience with a simple declaration: “Thanks to you class, I now have pockets full of balls.”

The letter-writer said the reference was to his male genitalia and that bouncing balls on stage was annoying and disrespectful, Maddox said. His superiors told him that his attempt at humor was the wrong thing to say, Maddox said.

“My attitude (at the academy) is I want you to work like there is no tomorrow, but I want you to enjoy your work every day,” Maddox said about his response to the prank. He said it was a way to let off pressure after a hard session, and he was glad the students could have fun at their graduation.

Peters said students were pleased with the “quirky” and “laid-back” instructor’s response.

“His reaction was wonderful,” Peters said.

Response to other complaints

A basket and a plaque were presented to Hawkins by Maddox on behalf of LETI instructors. The basket contained several Dr. Peppers, Snickers, Skoal and bologna. Hawkins was known for regularly bringing bologna sandwiches to work for lunch, Parham said. The anonymous letter-writer said the presentation took away from the graduates themselves and was a waste of time and money, Maddox said. Levinson said the students had no problem with their instructor being honored alongside of them.

“I thought it was kind of fitting since we are (Hawkins’) last class,” Levinson said. “I thought it made sense.” Parham said there was a standing ovation following the presentation honoring Hawkins.

Other complaints in the letter, according to Maddox, were:

- Chief firearms instructor William Stephens alleged use of the word “shit” during his ceremony presentation. Maddox said he did not hear this and did not know whether the complaint was valid.
- A Reader’s Digest joke, slightly altered to encompass LETI characters, which Maddox told to open the ceremony. The letter said the joke made MU look “cheap,” Maddox said.
- Maddox’s reference to LETI seminar coordinator and instructor Scott Connor’s “lovely diamond stud earrings” during staff introductions. Maddox said Connor asked him to explain that he was wearing the earrings for an undercover work assignment. The letter
criticized Maddox for “outing” an undercover police officer. It also said his comments toward a man wearing earrings insulted different gender and sexual preferences.

Maddox said Robison agreed with the letter’s author on every complaint. He said Robison and Adams thought allowing Millsap’s prayer and the way in which he handled the ball prank were improper. They also said Maddox should have disciplined Stephens for his language during the ceremony. They said Hawkins should have been honored after the ceremony, Maddox said.

“Every explanation I gave for every allegation against me was wrong (according to them),” Maddox said. He said Robison thanked him for his honesty in explaining his actions.

Maddox said Robison told him they did not know the identity of the letter’s author but that she believed that if one person felt compelled to write the letter, several other people must have been offended. He does not know whether there was an investigation into the letter’s complaints, but doesn’t see how a thorough investigation could be held in the five days between the ceremony and his termination.

The anonymous letter also made three demands:

- That Maddox apologize to all graduates and law enforcement agency attendees for offensive remarks.
- To require someone from MU Extension to attend all future LETI ceremonies and events.
- To train LETI instructors on university prayer policies. Banken, the news bureau director, said she did not know of any written MU policy that prohibits the use of prayer in MU events or ceremonies.

A wave of support

Tonya Logan Lyman, a former police officer, retrained in last summer’s LETI session. On May 2 she created the Facebook page "Reinstate Dr. Gary Maddox as director of LETI" after talking to the former director over that weekend.

Lyman said Maddox was a great instructor and was largely responsible for turning LETI into a well-known and reputable academy.

“When you saw he was going to teach a class on your schedule, you got excited,” Lyman said.

On the Facebook page, which on Tuesday morning had 292 members, students praised Maddox for his work as program director for the past 17 years and adamantly expressed that nothing about the April 23 ceremony was offensive. Maddox said he has received many e-mails, texts and calls.

“I’m very touched by the outpouring of support,” he said.

Future of the program
Shearon, the MU Extension spokeswoman, confirmed that Von Pittman became LETI interim director on May 7. Pittman will temporarily stop serving as director for the Center of Distance and Independent Study. CDIS Associate Director Gera Burton will take his place in his absence.

A national search for a permanent director will be held, Shearon said, and MU Extension hopes to fill the position in six months.

Both Lyman and Parham said that if they were in Maddox’s shoes they would seek legal counsel, though they do not know what he plans to do. Maddox has said only that he is keeping his options open.

“He’s been there for 17 years,” Parham said. “If I were him I would fight for it. I wouldn’t just give it up.”

For now, Maddox is looking for other jobs. Although he is paid until August, he is anxious to find work to support three of his four children in college. He does not think MU will give him his job back, despite the outpouring of support. For now, he is trying to get used to the idea of working somewhere else.

“I had every expectation of spending the rest of my time running LETI,” said Maddox, 57. “I would have worked to death to keep that place at the quality that it is.”

The LETI director position pays $87,153, according to the official manual of the state of Missouri.

He said the loss of his job is one of the most hurtful things he has ever experienced, and he is shocked that he lost it over an anonymous complaint.

“I spent my life teaching constitutional and civil rights,” he said, “and there is no such thing as being convicted based on an anonymous allegation.”
MU journalism student wins $10,000 grant in video reporting competition

A University of Missouri journalism student is one of five national winners of a top video reporting award from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

Alex Rozier, an MU senior from Minnesota, won a $10,000 grant to work on an international reporting project.

The competition, “Project Report,” is a partnership between the video website YouTube and the Pulitzer Center that encourages aspiring journalists to tell stories that ordinarily might not be told.

“Alex is the kind of young journalist who should make us all very optimistic for the future of news,” said Holly Edgell, an assistant professor of radio-television journalism.

Rozier’s winning entry, “The World Mobility Problem,” focuses on a Columbia man who started the Personal Energy Transportation project, which provides mobility devices to people in need around the world.
MU students aim to improve Columbia airport's terminals

By Patrick Henseler
May 11, 2010 | 4:34 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — “Wide Open Spaces” is no longer just a refrain from a Dixie Chicks song.

MU architecture students presented their final thesis projects on proposed Columbia Regional Airport terminal renovations to the public Tuesday afternoon.

Friends, family, airport advisory members and former students crowded the room to meet and greet the students and ask about their designs. Design concepts ranged from tunnels, to prairie grass, to ceilings designed as propellers, to birds in flight.

John Riddick of the board said he doubts any major renovations will be made to the terminal in the near future, but he saw some fantastic ideas in the displays.

Inspiration struck designer Matthew Reed in an unlikely place.

“I got the idea in a Walmart parking lot,” he said. “It was a truck’s bumper sticker that said ‘A Flock of Birds.’”

His design creates the outline of birds on the terminal’s floor that move with the sun through bird-shaped windows on the ceiling.

Reed said his design’s size and simplicity makes it viable. “It’s like a fancy box store, like a Walmart,” he said.

Alanna Smith incorporated the shape of a plane engine’s propeller into the ceiling of her model.

“I think this gets good shadow and light into the building, but I wanted to keep it primarily transparent so you could follow your way easily through the building,” she said.

The project took a year, from the “problem seeking” segment of the programming lessons in the first semester to the “problem solving” segment in second semester leading up to the final display, course professor Benyamin Schwarz said.

“The last week or so we basically lived in the lab, but the end result made it worth it,” Smith said.
While concepts and inspiration differed, all the designers seemed to agree on enlarging the size of the terminal. Student Bar Yarkoni referred to the current size of the terminal as "claustrophobic."

Airport Superintendent Don Elliott said the terminal is 15,299 square feet. The students' designs ranged from around 29,000 to 40,000 square feet.

On the heels of a new "master plan" laid out by the airport to extend runways to accommodate larger planes, Greg Cecil, chair of the airport advisory board, asked Schwarz if his students could create new terminal designs as part of their course.

"With a design company, we may have gotten one or two ideas, but here we got 18," Cecil said. "It's just awesome, these fabulous designs show me what Columbia could be."

The big challenge facing the airport, he said, is because of increased security measures in the past decade, and the terminal needs an update. He said the airport needs a huge secure area to hold those waiting for flights.

"I usually don't anticipate someone will take these designs as is," Schwarz said. "But some of the ideas and concepts are more than acceptable."

Cecil said that after a dip in customers last year, he expects the airport to rebound to about 30,000 passengers this year. He said that amount of passengers catches the eyes of airlines that don't already fly into Columbia and that the advisory board is looking to team up with a second airline.
With commencement season hitting full stride comes an Economic Policy Institute study reaffirming that a class like 2010 come along but once in a generation:

"Young Americans graduating from college or high school this spring are facing the worst job market in at least a quarter of the century."

The EPI reports the average jobless rate for college grads under the age of 25 has shot up to 9 percent in the past 12 months (compared to 5.4 percent prior to the recession). When underemployment is added to the mix the numbers only get worse.

And, sorry to say, the outlook is even bleaker for the Class of 2010, high school division. Unemployment for high school grads over the past year soared to 22.5 percent. Pre-recession rate: 12 percent.

Overall, the EPI found that the number of young people between the ages of 16-24 who are either working or searching for a job has dropped by 1.1 million since 2007.

“This is not because more people are choosing to wait out the recession by enrolling in school,” Bjvens said in a statement attached to the study.

The EPI findings support Tim Barker’s reporting in a Sunday Post-Dispatch story on the job market for college grads.

Barker wrote:

“Certainly, the economy isn’t the only factor involved. Some schools, including the University of Missouri-Columbia, see little correlation between the economy and the influx of students.

‘There’s been steady growth here since before the economy tanked,’ said Barbara Rupp, the school’s director of admissions.

The simple fact, Rupp and others say, is that high school graduating classes are bigger today than yesterday. Yet the influx of larger graduating classes does not, by itself, explain surging enrollment everywhere, experts say.”
In fact, the EPI notes that high school or college enrollment among 16-24-year-olds is now 53.6 percent, not even two percentage points higher than it was at this point three years ago.

"There is no evidence ... that these increases have been induced by the recession as they can be fully explained by a rise in the decades-long trend toward higher enrollment," said Bivens.
JEFFERSON CITY — Missouri lawmakers have given final approval to a bill that allows people conducting spinal cord research to receive larger state grants.

The legislation would increase the maximum size of grants for spinal cord research from $50,000 to $250,000. The grants are awarded by MU. They are funded by a $2 court fee charged on every criminal or infraction case.

The House passed the bill 94-63 on Tuesday. Senators had approved the legislation in March, so it now goes to the governor.
Access changes on track

Senate approves scholarship bill.

By Terry Ganey

Published May 11, 2010 at 11:29 a.m.
Updated May 11, 2010 at 1:53 p.m.

JEFFERSON CITY — Legislation that would equalize the level of scholarship support for needy Missouri college students beginning in 2014 appears headed for final legislative approval.

The Senate approved a compromise agreement 33-1, with Sen. Scott Rupp, R-Wentzville, voting no. The bill now goes to the House.

Earlier today, a House-Senate conference committee reached a compromise agreement that includes legislation pegging future Access Missouri Scholarship maximum payments at $2,850 per year no matter whether the student attends a public or private institution. Now, the program provides as much as $4,600 a year to students at private higher-education institutions and $2,150 a year to students at state universities, although the actual amounts being awarded are lower because of the state's budget problems.

"Everyone appears to be on board with the compromise that was reached," said Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia and a member of the conference committee that came to the agreement. The bill implements an understanding that was reached by the leaders of public and private universities earlier this year.

Rupp said public and private colleges had agreed to the existing program a few years ago and now was not the time to go back on that pact simply because of budget pressure.

The bill still needs final approval in the House before going to Gov. Jay Nixon, who supports the equalization plan.

About 47,000 students from lower- and middle-class families receive Access Missouri Scholarship assistance. About 30,000 attend public institutions and 17,000 go to private colleges.

The bill also contains language that closes University of Missouri records in cases where the university joins forces with a private entity to market an invention. Under the bill, public higher education institutions that own or have an interest in an entity that transfers technology from the university to the public market would be able to close meetings, records and votes that relate to sales projections, business plans, financial information or trade secrets.
Records that would remain open include the amounts the university receives in the relationship, employees' salaries and any non-monetary benefits received by the entity from the institution.
Bridging the race gap

Division seen at church, schools.

By T.J. Greaney

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Correction appended

Michael Schembre, 21, said he wakes up on Sundays, heads to the Tiger Hotel for services at Karis Community Church and wonders what he’s doing wrong.

“You look out, and you see a massive majority of ... white, upper-middle-class people. That’s it,” said Schembre, who is a group leader at the church. “And biblically, that’s such a poor representation of the kingdom of God.”

So last night Schembre came to a forum at the Reynolds Journalism Institute looking for answers. He wanted to know what his church could do to make its congregation look more like America.

A panel of five people from diverse backgrounds spent 90 minutes trying to remove some of the awkwardness and fear from conversations about race and diversity. The forum was part of “Intersection,” a regular program on KBIA radio, and it was simulcast online.

The table of panelists was small but contained multitudes.

Marie Glaze, 62, human rights specialist with the city of Columbia, grew up in a world where the boundaries of her First Ward Columbia neighborhood were more like walls. She was born in the basement of Boone County Hospital because her mother was not allowed to be treated on the first floor. She recalled older women recounting stories of not being able to sit at the counter of downtown soda shops.

“I don’t regret that I lived in that world,” Glaze said. “But I’m certainly glad that my daughters and granddaughters don’t.”

Roger Worthington, chief diversity officer at MU, had almost a converse experience. His Latin heritage had been erased from view since his mother, Catalina, had changed her name to Kathy and had internalized lessons such as the one she received as a child when she was held after school and trained to rid herself of an accent.
“I had a very assimilated experience,” Worthington said. “As an adult, I made it a point to
reclaim my own culture.”

Nathan Stephens, director of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center at MU, said he dealt with
what W.E.B. Du Bois called a “double-consciousness,” forcing him to act differently in “mixed
company.”

“There was this burden of race that I was taught to carry at a young age,” Stephens said. I
learned “you can only be who you are around people who look like you. Because they
understand.”

Stephens said that feeling is far from gone on the MU campus. He pointed to a 2005 survey of
MU students that found they were very willing to be friends with people from different
backgrounds but less willing to be roommates.

“The litmus test for not only this community but for this country is: We’re very comfortable
going fishing and playing golf or sitting together in a setting like this,” he said. “But can my
daughter date your son? And that’s where it gets sticky.”

It’s that type of hurdle that Schembre is trying to clear at church, where it is often said the hours
between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays are still the most segregated in America. Schembre left
the forum last night with an offer from Stephens to speak at Karis and extended a dinner
invitation to Glaze to discuss some of the issues brought up at the forum. He said he’s optimistic
he can open up his church to a broader audience.

“It sucks to look out and not to see that. It’s like, what are we doing wrong?” Schembre said.
“We’re weak evangelists. ... We’re never going to Douglass Park to invite someone into our
homes. ... I think deep down we just want to be able to go to church, have a spiritual, fuzzy
experience and then go home. But the day-to-day grind of exalting Jesus’ grace in your heart and
your life — that means reaching out to the people who are the most at risk, the most
marginalized.”

This page has been revised to reflect the following correction:

SECOND THOUGHTS: Tuesday, May 11, 2010

A story Tuesday gave the incorrect title for Marie Glaze. She is a human rights specialist with
the city of Columbia. Additionally, the story was unclear on the timeline of her experiences as a
young girl in Columbia. She was able to drink at downtown soda counters, while older women
remembered being unable to do so.

Reach T.J. Greaney at 573-815-1719 or e-mail tigreaney@columbiatribune.com.
Commencement ceremonies start Friday

By Janese Heavin

Posted May 11, 2010 at 10:04 a.m.

There will be 5,532 new Mizzou alumni after this weekend.

The University of Missouri will dole out 4,015 bachelor’s degrees, 931 master’s degrees, 258 doctorates, 101 medical degrees, 64 veterinary medicine degrees, 139 law degrees and 24 education specialist degrees in a slew of graduation exercises starting Friday.

Here’s a schedule of commencement ceremonies:

College of Veterinary Medicine: 1 p.m. Friday in Jesse Auditorium. The keynote speaker is John R. Clifford, deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services-Veterinary Services.

College of Human Environmental Sciences: 2 p.m. Friday in the Hearnes Center. Dean Stephen Jorgensen will deliver the keynote address.

Sinclair School of Nursing: 4 p.m. Friday in Jesse Auditorium. Student speakers include Andrew White, BSN candidate, Andrew Navarro, BSN candidate, and Susan Stroder, MSN candidate.

College of Education: 5 p.m. Friday at Mizzou Arena. Chris Belcher, superintendent of Columbia Public Schools, will give the address.

College of Engineering: 6:30 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. UM System President Gary Forsee will be the keynote speaker.

Graduate School: 8 p.m. at the Hearnes Center. Dean George Justice will deliver the speech.

Honors Ceremony: 9 a.m. Saturday on Francis Quad (if it’s raining it will be moved to Mizzou Arena.) Leon Russell, president of the World Veterinary Association, and Eugenie Scott,
executive director of the National Center for Science Education, will both speak and receive honorary degrees.

School of Natural Resources: noon Saturday in Jesse Auditorium. The speaker is Mark Templeton, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

College of Arts and Science: 1 p.m. Saturday at the Hearnes Center. Chancellor Brady Deaton will deliver the address.

School of Medicine: 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Jesse Auditorium. The speaker will be Alexander Garza, assistant secretary for health affairs and chief medical officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Trulaske College of Business: 3 p.m. Saturday at Mizzou Arena. Daryl Smith, vice president of human resources for Galls, Inc., will deliver the address.

College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources: 6 p.m. in the Hearnes Center. U.S. Sen. Kit Bond will speak.

School of Health Professions: 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. Judy Baker, regional director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will deliver the address.

School of Journalism: 8 p.m. in Mizzou Arena. Bill Geist, correspondent for CBS News and a New York Times best-selling author, is the keynote speaker.

ROTC Commissioning of Officers: Noon Sunday at Mizzou Arena. Gen. Barney Forsythe, president of Westminster College, will deliver the address.

School of Law: 1:30 p.m. Sunday in Jesse Auditorium. The speaker is Mavis Thompson, president of the National Bar Association.
MU lab to tackle obesity

Diet, exercise focus of study.

By Janese Heavin

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Exercise and healthy food are the keys to better health, but the problem is making good choices in a fast-paced world where a tasty cheeseburger is inexpensive and just a drive-through away.

A University of Missouri professor is developing a program aimed at combating the country’s obesity epidemic. Christopher Hardin, chairman of the Nutrition & Exercise Physiology Department, hopes to develop a multifaceted diet and exercise lab known as MU Nutritional Center for Health, or MUNCH.

Hardin came up with the idea shortly after becoming chairman of the nutritional sciences department, which is under the umbrella of three colleges: the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; the College of Human Environmental Sciences; and MU’s School of Medicine. The lab should help those three disciplines intersect, he said.

“What we eat, the food from the ag side, affects health on the medical side,” Hardin said. “MU has the potential to develop new, novel foods that can help improve human health.”

Hardin envisions that MUNCH would include a test kitchen where experts could demonstrate healthy cooking techniques to small groups. Cameras overhead would film the demonstrations, allowing them to be streamed online and accessible via MU Extension to all Missourians.

A more advanced metabolic kitchen would allow the university to conduct human feeding studies. For instance, if the college of agriculture developed healthier soy, researchers could compare the health benefits of that soy versus unaltered soy. Such studies would require participants to let researchers control everything they eat over an extended period of time.

MUNCH also will include an observation lab where researchers could watch how food choices are made. Likely, the program would use children from MU’s Child Development Lab next door, and observers would simply watch what influences food choices, such as advertising or instructions from a guardian.

Hardin anticipates the lab will cost $2.1 million, $600,000 of which he’s already raised through grants, donations and university contributions. He was set to open the first in September in the basement in Gwynn Hall. The basement now is unusable space that Hardin hoped to renovate.
Plans changed three weeks ago, though, when Hardin got word that Gwynn Hall will soon be gutted. Built in 1920, the hall moved up on MU Campus Facilities' renovation schedule after it was identified as being in critical need of renovation. Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said the building will be renovated and reopened in time for the 2013 fall semester. The project is estimated to cost $8 million and will come from capital maintenance funds.

Although MUNCH is delayed, “it’s a good problem to have,” Hardin said. “It’s a disruption, but exciting. It sets us back a couple of years but will result in a better facility in the long run.”

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.
LETTER: Not necessary for Pingeton to identify herself as a Christian

By Janet Conboy
May 11, 2010 | 11:31 a.m. CDT

I am writing this in response to David Rosman’s piece about Coach Robin Pingeton’s press conference remarks that generated some controversy.

From my perspective, a basketball coach who professes academic integrity, social responsibility and competitive excellence is not only consistent with the athletics department’s values but the community’s as well. That is why when Robin Pingeton identified herself with religion and family, the words were surprising in that they were “loaded” with what has often been divisive in the world at large. Community credibility is often destroyed on subtle messages with unintended consequences. Words have to be chosen carefully.

Coach Pingeton will represent a diverse community of Buddhists, Muslims, atheists, Unitarians, among others as well as a variety of relationship statuses, including partnerships, roommates, married people, singles and persons with differing sexual orientations. I believe MU and Columbia were seeking to hire a coach for all of us.

Do lesbians and gays within our community have a right to question Coach Pingeton’s beliefs? Of course. The subtext of many religion-associated statements of family values has been one of homophobia and denial of basic human and civil rights. Words mean everything in any attempt to forge support and sense of community. In any event, MU women’s basketball needs the support of everyone.

Many successful coaches in this nation are members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Several coaches within the Big 12 are married. Most of them have had no need to self-identify as a Christian or as married. It simply isn’t relevant or necessary. In recruiting, it cuts both ways: to some the information might be essential to committing
to MU; to others, off-putting in the least; frightening to many. Recruits will know, before
the community at large does, whether she is inclusive and respectful to all.

My hope is that Coach Pingeton finds a way to make it clear in her interactions with the
media that she is a coach of all the people, period. After all, words and actions mean
everything.

As a long-time fan of women's basketball at MU, I am looking forward to the
enthusiastic support of the team and coach Pingeton by the athletics department. Good
luck to both.
MU to introduce car-sharing program

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 | 5:17 p.m. CDT
BY Simin Wang

COLUMBIA — Starting this fall, MU students, faculty and staff need not have cars to do grocery shopping or run errands. They can rent WeCars instead.

MU will bring in a car sharing program by Enterprise Rent-a-Car called WeCar, where two hybrid vehicles and two sedans will be available on campus for rental. Members who pick the car up have to return it at the same location after use.

A shared vehicle can remove 15 to 20 cars from the road, according to an MU news release.

Membership is $35 per year plus an additional fee for each trip. Reservations for the vehicles can be made online.

Those ages 18 to 20 must have their own insurance.

For more information about the program, go to unions.missouri.edu/wecar.