A ‘one-stop shop’ for surgery

New orthopaedic facility begins work.

By Janese Heavin

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

With medical imaging equipment not even on the market yet and large patient rooms with flat-screen televisions and bathrooms big enough for wheelchairs, this isn’t your grandpa’s hip replacement experience.

The new Missouri Orthopaedic Institute opened in Columbia today, promising state-of-the-art procedures, from pre-surgery anesthesia to keep joints pain-free longer to a full-scale therapy gym. The $55.5 million facility, paid for with operating funds from University of Missouri Health Care, the MU School of Medicine and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, is expected to see its first patient June 1. This morning, officials marked the opening with a ribbon-cutting and media tours.

“To say that we are excited would be an understatement,” James Stannard, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, said in prepared remarks. “We have been very successful in recruiting world-class orthopaedic surgeons to MU. Now we have a facility that will offer a superior platform for patient care, education and research.”

The 115,500-square-foot, four-floor building was designed with patients in mind and to make procedures as quick and efficient as possible, he said.

“It’s a one-stop shop,” Stannard said, noting that the facility will work with all stages of a procedure, from preparation to recovery.

The first floor includes a large waiting and reception area, a dining area and a pharmacy. Three tracking boards hang in the lobby and nursing stations to allow family members and employees to track the stage of procedures and see where doctors are in their schedules. Similar to airport monitors, they provide real-time, immediate data, Stannard said.

A “crown jewel” is the set of five large operating rooms, where medical equipment provides screens that show X-rays and operating video right at a patient’s bedside. That will improve a system that forced doctors to walk away from patients to access information, Stannard said.

“These rooms represent a lot of thought by a lot of people,” said Ted Choma, a spine surgeon.
Other key features include:

- MRI equipment designed for orthopaedic needs that can scan without getting interference from metal.
- Custom-designed chairs in a patient waiting area that have flip-up computers to allow patients to enter health information.
- Large patient rooms with wheelchair-accessible bathrooms and a reclining chair for family members wanting to stay overnight.
- A therapy room where patients can use exercise bikes and other rehabilitation equipment with specialized therapists. That area is designed to allow doctors and therapists to closely interact as they monitor a patient’s progress.

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

Road closings, construction scheduled on campus for summer

By Wonsuk Choi
May 26, 2010 | 7:07 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Dormitory renovation, hospital expansion, classroom construction and air-conditioning upgrades are on the list of MU projects this summer. The construction projects will cost approximately $62 million, in addition to $30 million in revenue bonds issued by the UM Curator's board for the new Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

Campus Facilities schedules as much work as possible during the summer so that the effects on campus-goers will be minimal, said Karlan Seville, communications manager for Campus Facilities. "We try to accommodate the many visitors on campus by getting the word out early and working with departments to schedule closings when possible."

Construction will include short-term projects such as road resurfacing, manhole work, steam line replacement and chilled-water loop installation. Most of these should be completed by the end of the summer. Conley Avenue and Sixth Street and Pershing Drive and Rollins Street are currently closed because of construction. The city is also planning to repave streets around campus including Hitt and Wilson streets, Ashland Road, Kentucky Boulevard and Maryland Avenue.

Larger projects include renovating residence halls and classroom buildings and constructing a gymnastics and dance practice facility and the cancer center.

Air-conditioning system

Among the dozen ongoing construction projects on campus, the installation of chilled-water loops will be a "large undertaking" project for this summer, costing $2.2 million, Seville said.
The project would overhaul most of the air-conditioning system and is expected to improve cooling efficiency.

"A chilled-water loop is more efficient than having individual chillers at each building," Seville said. "By connecting buildings together with piping and strategically locating chiller plants, MU is able to cool over 100 buildings from just 16 locations."

Seville said she expects the project to save both money and energy after the completion.

"Because not every building will need maximum cooling at the same time, less chillers are required, and we are able to operate each chiller at maximum efficiency," Seville said.

Conley Avenue and Sixth Street are closed to accommodate the chilled-water loop installation. MU plans to leave one lane open on Conley until mid-August while chilled-water loops are placed between Maryland Avenue and Speakers Circle.

**Gymnastics and Dance Practice Facility**

A longtime desire of MU gymnastics and the Golden Girls team is about to become a reality.

Work on a new gymnastics and dance practice facility southeast of Memorial Stadium will cost $5.6 million and conclude this winter.

The gymnastics team has been using Hearnes Center since 1979, and athletes are currently training in a makeshift gym.

“We are excited to have a space dedicated to gymnastics to train in year round and will really help us become a better team,” said MU gymnastics head coach Robert Drass. “We will have the tools necessary to train at the elite level.”

Drass said the equipment includes trampolines, deep foam pits, overhead spotting belts and hard and soft landing surfaces for all events. Locker rooms, a training room and video replay equipment are also planned.

The gymnastics team plans to use the new facility mainly for practice and retain the Hearnes Center for competition.
“The team is eager for the gym to be completed,” Drass said.

A portion of Champions Drive will be closed from June to August because of the scheduled construction.

**Patient Care Tower**

The UM Board of Curators agreed Friday to issue $30 million in revenue bonds to finance a new Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, which has a budget of $203 million.

The new tower will be the largest construction project in MU history at its completion. Mizzou Arena currently has that record. Completed in 2004, it required a budget of $75 million.

This seven-floor cancer center would be equipped with medical facilities for radiation oncology, expanded radiology, imaging capabilities, chemotherapy treatment, outpatient surgical procedure rooms, recovery areas, 36 examination rooms, a pharmacy, The Margaret Proctor Mulligan Breast Center, cancer screening services, a cancer rehabilitation and lymphedema center and resource center and family support services, according to MU Health Care's website.

The project expects to fulfill patient needs by adding new surgery operating rooms and provide three patient floors with 30 private beds on each floor.

The first phase of this project involved the demolishing of Hadley-Major and Dockery Folk halls last year. Construction of the tower will be completed in winter 2012. Pershing Drive between Hitt Street and University Hospital will be closed until completion of the project.

**Building renovation**

Dormitory renovation has been ongoing since 2009 and will continue throughout the summer.

Hudson, Gillett and Rollins halls should be completed by fall 2011. It will be the complex's largest renovation project since it was built in 1965, costing $39 million.
The renovation includes central air conditioning throughout, new windows, new lighting and finishes, completely renovated community restrooms, and expansion and creation of three quiet studies on every floor.

In Rollins, a refurbished main lounge will include a student technology lounge and computing area and the relocation of front desk and mail operations, elevator equipment upgrade and relocation of main pedestrian access to building. There will be sprinklers throughout, new roofing, exterior brick work and replacing damaged exterior and the addition of an emergency generator.

Switzler Hall’s renovation and addition should be completed by summer 2011. With a $6.9 million budget, the construction is adding 180 classroom seats and seven faculty offices.

Tate Hall renovation should be finished by spring 2011 for $8 million. Plans are to add 90 classroom seats and 23 faculty offices.

Both buildings will be equipped with new elevator, new air conditioning facilities and better designs for handicap access, according to the Campus Facilities master plan.
MU looks to use dining waste for compost

By Kathleen Sprouse
May 26, 2010 | 11:24 p.m. CDT

Tim Reinbott wants students' soggy waffles, banana peels and leftover cereal.

For two years, the superintendent of MU's Bradford Research Farm has been creating plans to use food scraps from campus dining halls to grow fresh fruits and vegetables year-round for those same dining halls. Reinbott even has plans to fuel the vehicles that haul the waste — with waste.

Reinbott needs $95,000 to build a system at Bradford Farm capable of composting up to 2 tons of daily waste from MU's 13 dining halls.

Reinbott says the project is a way for MU to provide a model that schools and cities can use to keep wastes out of landfills, generate compost for landscaping and ultimately reduce their carbon footprints.

"The university has to set the standard," Reinbott said. "They've got to be out in front."

If all goes to plan, the compost from the dining halls could support a five-acre garden at Bradford Farm that would grow food specifically for the dining halls.

The compost would also make use of the 1,500 tons of straw bedding and manure from science and veterinary medicine programs that would normally cost MU $350,000 annually in landfill fees.

Transportation of the food waste from the dining halls accounts for a major cost of the composting project, and Reinbott plans to convert the dining hall's 3,000 gallons of waste vegetable oil into biodiesel. He envisions a biodiesel truck that would haul the waste and a biodiesel tractor at the Bradford vegetable garden.
Another benefit of the compost project would be providing research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, Reinbott said.

Composting can add nutrients to soil, control weeds, decrease plant diseases and reduce organic waste in landfills. Composting food scraps from dining halls could supply half of MU Landscaping Services’ compost needs, Reinbott said.

Marc Linit, associate dean of research and extension for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said it’s important for MU to be able to say they are purchasing food, and that they are not only feeding their students, but also their trees and floral gardens with that food.

“Our primary focus is to produce food from plants and animals,” Linit said. “That’s what we’ve been about for years. But more and more the issue is, what do you do with the waste stream?”
MU School of Journalism to change curriculum this fall

By Emily Smoucha
May 26, 2010 | 7:42 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The MU School of Journalism is about to revamp its undergraduate program.

Faculty members of the school's curriculum committee have completely restructured the program to tailor classes to students' specific interests. The changes begin with this fall's freshman class.

Instead of moving to a convergence-based media program as some journalism schools have done, MU is doing the exact opposite, said Brian Brooks, associate dean for undergraduate studies and administration. Journalism students will major in one of 25 interest areas.

Incoming students can follow a program in a specialized field, such as arts and culture or science and health journalism, among others. The programs suggest a variety of journalism and non-journalism elective courses to give students a background in topics they want to cover.

If none of these interest areas fit with what students are seeking, they will have the opportunity to create their own.

“It's designed to give students more flexibility,” Brooks said.

Currently, students choose one of six sequences of study: print and digital news, radio-television journalism, magazine journalism, photojournalism, convergence journalism and strategic communication. All students are required to take certain classes, such as communications law, regardless of their sequence.
"The real beauty of the interest areas is they break down those boundaries that students have felt. They won't feel as restricted," said Jackie Bell, head of the curriculum committee and photojournalism associate professor. Students will still be well-versed in editing and reporting for specific mediums, such as newspapers, but will gain more experience in different types of media reporting, such as video and print, she said.

Incoming students will be required to take a new class in multimedia reporting before entering their interest area. The class will teach them how to gather video and audio, make information graphics, blog and more.

"They won't have to stay in one publication, in one outlet," Bell said. "That's not how business works anymore."

Because the school already has a large faculty and about 100 different journalism classes, faculty members were able to restructure the curriculum almost entirely around existing courses, Brooks said.

Students already enrolled in their sequences will continue with the current curriculum. However, they can take suggested courses in the new interest areas as electives, Brooks said.

"We're going to try to be flexible to help current students get what they need," Brooks said.

The new program is structured like the School of Journalism graduate program, which has featured interest areas for 15 years, Brooks said.

Restructuring the curriculum has been ongoing for four years, and Brooks said he's excited about the result because it fits the curriculum to the students.

"That's what it's all about," Brooks said. "That's why we're here."
Conference focuses on immigration issues

By Janese Heavin

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Fixing the border to solve immigration problems without addressing other issues is a little like solving just one side of a puzzle, an immigration policy expert said yesterday.

“You fix one side of a Rubik’s Cube, but the rest is a mess,” Mary Giovagnoli, director of the Immigration Policy Center, said.

Giovagnoli spoke at the ninth annual Cambio de Colores conference in Columbia. The three-day event focuses on Hispanics and immigrants in Midwestern communities and is co-sponsored by the University of Missouri System, MU, MU Extension and the Cambio Center.

This year’s conference comes on the heels of Arizona’s controversial immigration policy that requires law enforcement officers to question individuals about their immigration status if there’s reason to believe they’re in the country illegally. Various polls conducted by national media outlets show slightly different results, but for the most part, the majority of Americans say they support Arizona’s law. Giovagnoli said she suspects the support is more that Arizona is taking action when the federal government isn’t than support for the specifics of the law.

She also pointed to studies that show most Americans would support comprehensive immigration reform that allows immigrants to register legally, work, pay taxes and learn English.

That’s not to say those here illegally aren’t already doing some of those things, said Domingo Martinez Castilla, director of the Cambio Center.

“A common misperception is that they don’t want to learn English,” he said. “We’re doing research with area families, and when you ask them, they say the first thing they’d like to do is learn English.”

But, he added, after people work 10 hours a day in a factory, the last thing they want to do is take an English class.
Castilla also countered the notion that illegal immigrants don’t pay taxes. When they purchase goods, they pay sales taxes, and when they pay rent, their landlord pays property taxes, he said. In some cases, employers also take Social Security and income taxes out of their paychecks, money that won’t be returned, he said.

One problem with the immigration debate, Castilla said, is that neither side has enough data to develop an effective system. For instance, some argue that immigrants boost local economies, but there’s no research to back that up, he said. On the flip side, there’s no data to support the argument that immigrants are hurting the economy, Castilla said.

The conference aims to promote education about the issues. This year, 110 participants attended Cambio de Colores, most of whom work with immigrants in their respective communities.

“The purpose of the week is to help the process of integrating newcomers into their receiving communities,” Castilla said. Attendees “are not just advocates — they’re helping communities.”

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