MU hires record-breaking number of minority faculty

15 new underrepresented minority faculty members join MU staff this semester.

By Zachary Murdock

Published Sept. 10, 2010

In addition to a record-breaking first-time minority freshmen enrollment, MU officials announced a record in minority faculty members hired at MU on Thursday.

According to an MU news release, MU hired 15 new underrepresented minority faculty members for this academic year, including eight Hispanic and seven black faculty members. Among the new faculty are four new Asian members and seven women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In 2006 the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative was created to set goals and to establish programs and partnerships in order to enhance diversity on campus. Prior to 2010, the record largest group of underrepresented minority faculty hired in one year was seven members.

At MU, underrepresented minority faculty include people from Hispanic, black and American Indian heritage. Although Asian and female workers in STEM fields are not included in the underrepresented minority data, the university does consider these members of the faculty to add to campus diversity, the news release stated.

Legion of Black Collegians President Lisa White said progress is important and the university has done a good job of listening to organizations and students suggestions on improving diversity.

“There’s been a push for more underrepresented faculty this year,” White said. “We’ve commended (the administration) for that, but we can’t stop there.”

MU Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said faculty play an important role in diversity on campus.

“As a more diverse and inclusive faculty, we provide our students with a better appreciation of the world they will enter,” Rubin said in the news release. “Direct, personal experience with people of different races, religions or cultures facilitates respect and understanding and is essential as the world becomes smaller. As faculty we look forward to the rich associations such diversity brings to campus.”

MU has made steps in the right direction, White said, but the university needs to continue to make progress.
students in general are aware that university is a whole.

President of the NAACP collegiate chapter at MU, also said in the news release that progress
not stop with one broken record.
Renovation has kid-friendly focus

Families get more space and privacy.

Photo by Don Shrubshell | Buy this photo

Timothy Fete, medical director of Children’s Hospital, explains the new look of a children’s hospital room during a tour Thursday morning. The private room features bright colors, a sports-themed bedspread with a stuffed animal and a couch parents can sleep on if they choose to spend the night with their child.

By T.J. Greaney

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Visitors to the University of Missouri’s new Women’s and Children’s Hospital might occasionally be stopped in their tracks by the sound of harp music bubbling over the intercom.

That music means something special has happened.
“What do they say — ‘Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings?’ ” said Timothy Fete, medical director of Children’s Hospital. “Well, here it means a baby has been born.”

That is one of the many flourishes that make the new $12 million, five-story renovation to Columbia Regional Hospital so unique. The 36-year-old building has been transformed into the state’s first hospital dedicated solely to women’s and children’s treatment. Doctors said it will provide care comparable to that found in any major metropolitan area.

The hospital was scheduled to hold its grand opening today, and leaders took a Tribune reporter and photographer on a tour of the facilities this morning. The kid-friendly philosophy of the place is clear beginning at the entrance and continuing through each specialized unit. It appears to be equal parts high-tech, sterile medical facility and play land.

The hospital has a jungle theme, including a nurse’s station painted like a giant palm tree and stuffed monkeys clinging from pillars. A mural of a waterfall at the entrance to the adolescent unit is activated to generate the sound of rushing water whenever a person passes.

The patient rooms are more spacious than those at University Hospital, averaging 244 square feet each and including a bathroom and sleeper sofa for family members.

The rooms also have large windows, showering the spaces in natural light. The brightly colored rooms come equipped with flat-screen television sets loaded with Blu-ray DVD players and Wii gaming systems, in addition to educational interactive software meant to teach children how to manage their ailments.

In total, the hospital features 43 private inpatient rooms for pediatric and adolescent patients. Each of the units includes an age-specific gathering space or playroom packed with games and allowing patients to “act like kids” and interact with other patients their age. These rooms are designated as off-limits for doctors, who are not allowed in even if invited.

“It’s important that this is a safe room for them,” Fete said.

Hospital veterans say this all comes in stark contrast to, for example, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at University Hospital. There, as many as four beds were sometimes grouped together in one room, and parents often spent the night slumped over in uncomfortable chairs.

“The science is pretty clear that private rooms not only are better for family privacy and healing, but patients who are cared for in private rooms are much less likely to have a medical error performed in the hospital,” Fete said.

The facility also boasts state-of-the-art pediatric intensive care and neonatal intensive care units. These spaces are just steps away from the Family Birth Center, where 1,863 babies were born last year. The proximity avoids traumatic and costly ambulance trips for premature babies.

“They’re both in the same building,” hospital Executive Director Keri Simon said.
"I had a premature baby, so I know how important those services can be. And even though we’d like to think they all come out 7 or 8 pounds, we know there are some babies that need to stay with us for awhile."

All in all, the hospital will offer more than 30 pediatric specialty services from more than 100 physicians. The entire renovation encompasses more than 60,000 square feet.

Reach T.J. Greaney at 573-815-1719 or e-mail tigreaney@columbiatribune.com.
State's first Women's and Children's Hospital celebrates grand opening

By Jing Zhao
September 9, 2010 | 9:30 p.m. CDT

The new MU Women's and Children's Hospital features an interactive area in the lobby of the children's section where children can play during their visit. "This will take their mind off the care they're receiving," Matthew Splett, media relations coordinator, said. | Lindsay Moser

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri Women's and Children's Hospital, the first hospital in Missouri with 157 beds dedicated to the care of women and children, celebrated its grand opening Thursday.

"MU Women’s and Children’s Hospital will focus on providing a full range of care to women and children at every stage of their lives," Keri Simon, executive director of the hospital, said in her welcome speech. "We not only serve moms and children in mid-Missouri, but also across the whole state."

The hospital will host a public open house and tours from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, with activities for children such as face painting.

The children's hospital features 43 private inpatient rooms decorated in jungle theme, with an average area of 244 square feet. The rooms are equipped with free wireless Internet access and a Wii Gaming system for kids.
"Our pediatric patient rooms reflect the vision we have for all of Children's Hospital," said Timothy Fete, medical director of Children's Hospital and chair of the Department of Child Health at the MU School of Medicine.

Hung Winn, chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health at the MU School of Medicine and David Hall, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, said in a news release that 21 physicians will provide a "full range of clinical health services to women of all ages" that range from fertility services to birthing and urogynecologic services.

Thomas Selva, a general pediatrician who has worked at MU Children's Hospital for 21 years, said he was excited about the new hospital. Selva dropped by last week to take a quiet look around although patients will not arrive until Tuesday. "I am excited with the new state-of-the-art facilities and that all rooms are 100 percent private," he said.

Simon and her colleagues are already talking about adding to the hospital. "Primarily, we need to expand the neonatal intensive care unit." There is no time line for this project.
Best locales for college: Lawrence and Columbia make the list

NO MENTION

If you're shopping for colleges this fall, you know that location can be important. And in that regard, Lawrence and Columbia rank well, according to a new index of 75 "best cities" for college students.

The index, compiled by the non-profit American Institute for Economic Research, ranked Lawrence ninth and Columbia 13th among the best college towns under 250,000 residents.

"Deciding what school to attend should involve more than what the school itself has to offer," Kerning Liang, the American Institute's lead researcher on the project, said in a statement. "Where to attend college is just as important, because like the colleges themselves, the towns and cities in which they are located vary widely in the opportunities they offer students and recent graduates."

The ranking of the 75 best towns and cities for college students was based on an analysis of 222 metropolitan areas with student populations of 15,000 or more, the organization said.

Cities were grouped in four population categories, from the large metro areas to small college towns. The rankings are based on 12 criteria in three general categories: academic environment (including student diversity and degree attainment); quality of life (arts and leisure, cost of living for apartments and other expenditures); and professional opportunity for students and recent graduates (earnings potential, brain gain/drain, unemployment rate).

The winners:
Major metros (over 2.5 million): San Francisco, New York, Washington, D.C.

Midsize metros (1 million to 2.5 million): San Jose, Austin, Raleigh, N.C.

Small cities (250,000 to 1 million): Boulder, Ann Arbor, Bridgeport, Conn.

College towns (under 250,000): Ithaca, N.Y., State College, Pa., Iowa City.

Other regional cities on the list: Ames, Iowa, (No. 4-college towns); Lincoln, Nebr. (No. 13-small cities); Oklahoma City (Mp/. 20-mid-size metros).
Lawrence tops Columbia on list

Economy affects town’s ranking.

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, September 9, 2010

The economy apparently is to blame for the fact Lawrence, Kan., has claimed Columbia’s spot in a list of the Top 10 college towns in America.

Lawrence this year ranks ninth in the American Institute for Economic Research’s annual guide to America’s best college communities. That was Columbia’s rank last year, but this year the community has slipped to the 13th spot.

Kerry Lynch, fellow senior adviser for the institute, said Columbia’s rank dropped four spots because of economic conditions. Specifically, income per capita, the percentage of the population with a bachelor’s degree and business activities declined slightly while the unemployment rate increased.

Lawrence improved in all of those categories, Lynch said.

The institute’s study indicates that Columbia’s unemployment rate based on a Bureau of Labor Statistic average was 6.4 percent in 2009 compared to Lawrence’s rate of 5.5 percent. Lawrence also saw a slight increase in the percentage of the population with a bachelor’s degree. The number was based on 2008 U.S. census data.

Columbia also trailed behind its border rival in academic environment and quality of life criteria. For instance, student diversity — based on the number of students holding foreign passports — was 6.6 percent in Columbia in 2008 compared to 7 percent in Lawrence. Lawrence also slightly beat out Columbia in degree attainment, research funding, arts and leisure opportunities, and city accessibility.

The institute’s rankings are aimed to help students get a better idea of the off-campus environment when selecting a college, Lynch said.

“I think when students are looking at colleges, their college experience is shaped not only by what goes on at the college but by attractions and events and activities beyond the borders of campus,” she said. “It gives a broad sense of what’s happening in a location in terms of culture, activities offered and prospects for getting internships and jobs.”
University of Missouri spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said MU doesn’t take rankings too seriously because criteria can change from year to year.

“We do think Columbia is a great place to live, and we have a great town-gown relationship with the community,” she said.

Columbia and Lawrence were ranked in the category of communities with fewer than 250,000 people. Ithaca, N.Y., claimed the No. 1 spot in that category again this year.

The institute also ranked major metropolitan cities, ranking San Francisco the best college town in that category; mid-size metros, where San Jose, Calif., claimed the No. 1 spot; and small metros, where Boulder, Colo., ranked first.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

High MU student enrollment stimulates Columbia economy

By Emily Roman
September 9, 2010 | 5:30 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — While some students may be complaining of longer lines, fewer parking spaces and crowded dining halls because of MU's record freshmen enrollment, the overall impact of this increase is actually stimulating Columbia's economy.

MU's student body spends about $1 million daily, Steve Wyatt, vice provost for economic development at the MU office of the provost, told members of Regional Economic Development Inc. on Wednesday. That means $5 million per work week. Multiply that by 50 or 52 weeks per year, Wyatt said, and you can figure that MU students pump about $255 million directly into the city's economy.

This number includes spending on food, clothes, gas and other miscellaneous items, but it doesn't count tuition.

Wyatt said it's also important that the community and MU create jobs and foster entrepreneurship so that students choose to stay in Columbia after they graduate.
New student center greets University of Missouri students; Shack is back, too (sort of)

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A new student center is open for business at the University of Missouri after several years of construction.

The $63 million project was completed in time for the start of the fall semester. The student union formerly known as Brady Commons includes a revamped dining area, meeting rooms, the university bookstore and more. The center is nearly twice the size of the old student union.

A formal dedication is scheduled for Oct. 22 during homecoming weekend. That's when the school will also unveil its latest incarnation of The Shack, the popular but run-down building that closed in 1984 and burned down four years later.
DEAR READER: Missourian changes should bring improvements to print, online content

By Tom Warhover
September 10, 2010 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

Dear Reader,

The Missourian newsroom has been working hard to be digital-first for some years now.

It's not easy. The habits of print die hard: The work flow and even the language of the newsroom are built around the presses rolling at a certain time and the paper hitting your doorstep in time for that morning cup of coffee.

The trouble, design editor Joy Mayer says, is that when the staff dreams, "we dream in print." So in May the editors made a series of decisions that are being put into place now.

First, the disclaimer: The print edition isn't dying. In fact, I hope you'll see improvements. (More later on that.) Still, the newsroom reorganization over the summer is the most significant in years.

So is one at USA Today.

According to an article in The New York Times, the national newspaper is turning its eye to a digital-first operation. The print edition remains, but the company's focus will move to getting breaking stories up on the Web 30 minutes after the event, and to multiple platforms such as digital news books.

USA Today already has a website. It was early on the iPad scene with its own "app" (short for application). That's not enough, according to the Times piece.

It's not enough at the Missourian either. So some of the changes:

- Standard news reports of the day go up to ColumbiaMissourian.com immediately after being approved by a city editor; the copy desk completes further edits after the article
is posted. More complicated enterprise reports or sensitive stories go through copy editors before publication.

- The copy desk — the place where traditionally stories were polished and headlines written — has an expanded mission. It is now responsible for publishing to all the various outlets (Facebook, Twitter, mobile, etc.); for finding interesting links to related material; for updating an article with new information, and even for monitoring comments and providing answers to questions (or referring them to reporters). That’s why it has a new name: interactive copy desk.

- A central coordinating desk — called the “hub desk” — includes editors for graphics, still photography, multimedia and article assignment. Its purpose is to better communicate ideas in the works and to assign the right piece of a story to the best vehicle for telling it.

Early results are good. You should be seeing more items throughout the day on ColumbiaMissourian.com, not just after midnight, which is a print deadline for getting pages to the press room.

It’s too early to read much into numbers, but at least they’re promising: The week of Aug. 24 saw a 50 percent increase in traffic over the same week a year ago.

The most radical change is one you shouldn’t notice. A print team has been created. It is charged with producing, and improving, the print edition of the Columbia Missourian. It is separate from the rest of the newsroom. Sealed off, if you will, from the digital production.

The group of students who proposed most of the restructuring said the Missourian could never truly concentrate on digital publishing until it became “unhinged” from print. At the start of the decade, a small band produced the digital Missourian while everyone else concentrated on print. Today, a small group produces the print edition while everyone else concentrates on digital.

I’ll still dream in print. But the way I, and the newsroom, work have changed.

I hope you’ll let me know — good or bad — of changes you notice.

Tom
MU opens doors to Women's and Children's hospital

The hospital is the first of its kind in Missouri.

By Travis Cornejo

Published Sept. 10, 2010

MU Health Care employees cut the ribbon at the grand opening for the MU Women's and Children's Hospital on Thursday morning. The hospital opened with 157 beds and cost more than $12 million to renovate.

The MU Women's and Children's Hospital opened Thursday morning, making it the first hospital in Missouri dedicated solely to the needs of women and children.

"Today marks a new chapter in the history of University of Missouri Health Care," MU Health Care CEO James Ross said. "By opening the first women's and children's hospital in Missouri, we're taking a bold step forward in providing the women and children a better health care facility that can take care of their needs at every stage in their lives."

The 157-bed hospital features separate entrances for both women and children. Renovations to the five-story building totaled more than $12 million dollars.

"We set out to design a children's hospital that continued the outstanding level of care we've been providing through the children's hospital for more than 25 years," Ross said.

In 2009, the Children's Hospital saw patients from 111 of Missouri's 115 counties. Its location by the intersection of Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 63 is supposed to help the hospital increase in visibility and allow it to be a more accessible location.

"What it does, it not only inspires us, it not only attracts people from all walks of life into Columbia, but it certainly is an important element in attracting health care professionals into our university as well," Chancellor Brady Deaton said.

Deaton said since the MU Women's and Children's Hospital was first announced two years ago, recruiting within the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health has increased by 30 percent.

According to a news release, nearly 60,000 square feet of the hospital is dedicated to children's services. The lobby is designed to be child-friendly, featuring a neutral, relaxed color scheme.
The Children's Hospital includes 43 private in-patient rooms for both pediatric and adolescent patients. Rooms are equipped with a Wii and Blu-Ray players.

Children's Hospital Medical Director Timothy Fete said the rooms are not only for entertainment, but education as well. Patients will be able to view programs to learn about their various illnesses.

"This facility is beautiful," Fete said. "It's gorgeous."

Fete said though the facility itself is well built, it is the people who fill it that really provide the care.

"Every person who comes to this hospital, to be admitted and cared for, is going to be cared for by somebody who wants to work here," Fete said. "They want to work with kids. They want to work with women."

In the Family Birth Center, a gynecologist will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the 2010 fiscal year, 1,863 babies were delivered. The center houses 26 antepartum and postpartum rooms, eight labor and delivery rooms, two surgical suites and a well-baby nursery.

"Our renovated facilities will bring added comfort to our patients and expand the state-of-the-art technology we use to ensure our expecting moms have a safe and healthy delivery," said Keri Simon, MU Women's and Children's Hospital executive director, in a news release.

Other services provided in the Women's Health Center includes robotic surgery, wellness services and care for women with gynecologic cancers.

"From fertility services to advanced birthing care and urogynecologic services, our 21 well-trained physicians provide a full range of clinical health services to women of all ages," Winn said in a news release.
Maryland Avenue becomes Tiger Avenue

The Alumni Association wanted a name with a stronger meaning for MU.

By Casey Purcella

Published Sept. 10, 2010

The Columbia City Council unanimously approved a proposal Tuesday to change the name of Maryland Avenue, a street that runs through the middle of MU’s campus, to Tiger Avenue.

Supporters of the name change said the new name will emphasize a stronger MU identity for the main thoroughfare and help MU’s branding effort, but some students complained the new name lacked originality. It also requires an address change for the students living in properties on the street.

The name change is effective immediately. MU spokeswoman Ana Compain-Romero said the Mizzou Alumni Association has paid Campus Facilities to produce new street signs using leftover funds from the recent installation of new, MU-themed street signs.

“There won’t be (an additional) cost to the university,” she said. “We’re very lucky.”

The council approved the name change, even though there’s a street named Tiger Lane about four miles from campus.

City staff was concerned that 911 dispatchers would mistakenly send emergency services to the wrong street but ultimately decided there was no significant risk of this happening, Director of Planning and Development Tim Teddy said.

“What’s a little different in this case is that the 'tiger' name is so strongly identified with the university, it’s hard to imagine that that street name would only be allowed at an off-campus location,” Teddy said.

He also said the address ranges for the two streets were different -- the buildings on Tiger Lane have addresses that range from 300 to 400 north, while on Tiger Avenue the buildings are all numbered above 600, making it easier for emergency operators to distinguish between the two.

Documents submitted to the mayor and council before its vote Tuesday included letters supporting the proposal from six property owners, but some students living along the street weren’t as enthusiastic about the name change.

“It’s kind of a trivial thing,” senior Chelsea George said. “(MU already has) tiger this and tiger that.”

George, who lives on Tiger Avenue, will have to change her address to reflect the new name. She said her major problem with the situation was that the date the new name became official was not well
publicized. She said she doesn't know when she needs to change her address, and she's concerned important mail might be delayed.

The change might be sudden for students, but Jay Dade, a member of a group of past Alumni Association presidents called The PRIDE, said the name change had been in the works for a while.

"The university approached us a little more than two years ago," he said.

Compaln-Romero said The PRIDE wanted a name to better represent the avenue's important role in transportation through MU.

"(They) have sort of bounced around this idea over the past years that it was odd that the main thoroughfare to the heart of campus was named after another state," she said.

Dade said members of The PRIDE researched the significance of why the street was called Maryland Avenue, eventually concluding the name had no historical importance.

"What we found out is that there was no tie to a student or professor or alum (sic) or friend of the university," Dade said.

In May 2009, the group gave MU several recommendations for names that could be used to rename Maryland Avenue, and MU eventually settled on Tiger Avenue. Dade said the name change stresses the street's symbolic importance, because it links Jesse Hall and MU's academic buildings with its athletic facilities using the name that is most closely associated with the university.

"Tiger Avenue works, in our opinion, because it captures two great traditions about the university," Dade said.
The event marked the 30th anniversary of the Women's and Gender Studies department.

By Garrett Richie

Published Sept. 10, 2010

The Department of Women’s and Gender Studies hosted a meet-the-faculty event Thursday night at the Pasta Factory to usher in the new semester.

The night included department-specific trivia, free Italian food and a chance for students and faculty to interact.

“It’s fall, it’s our 30th anniversary for the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, and it’s a great time for everyone to get reacquainted with the faculty and our two new incoming faculty members,” said Jessica Jennrich, Director of Undergraduate Advising, Curriculum and Programming.

This year, Zakiya Adair and Treva Lindsey will be joining the department as assistant professors. Both Lindsey and Adair aim to bring new perspectives and content to the department at MU.

“In the spring, I’ll be teaching a course on gender and hip-hop,” Lindsey said. “In the fall, I’ll be teaching the Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies course and a course called ‘From Laguna Beach to the Jersey Shore’ about reality TV.”

Lindsey, who earned a PhD in History from Duke University, will use her academic background to freshen up course offerings in the department.

“The gender and hip hop and gender and reality TV courses have not been taught here before,” Lindsey said. “I’m very excited about designing these courses. The Intro to Women’s and Gender Studies course has been taught before but it has been about a decade or so since it has been taught by a historian.”

Adair, who is teaching four courses this fall, will also be teaching new courses she based off her own research interests.

“I came from the University of Washington out in Seattle, and I got my graduate degree in Women’s Studies,” Adair said. “Two of my courses will be new courses dealing with cultural production in mass media and the other course will be dealing with transnational women’s cultural history.”

Alongside new and old faculty, a number of students attended the social to get to know their professors. Sophomore Maddie Byrne, who transferred from Truman State University, came to get acclimated with the department.
“I don’t know anyone in the faculty except the people who teach my classes,” Byrne said. “I want to network a little bit. I want to know what I’m getting into.”

Sophomore Ayelen Costa is taking her first class in the department this semester and attended the social to get familiar with the program.

“It’s not a bad idea if I’m going to be taking these classes,” Costa said.

The social also incorporated organizations outside of the department such as the Center for Social Justice. Support Staff member Struby Struble attended the event to interact with members of the department.

“I looked into the Women’s Center as an undergraduate,” Struble said. “It kind of tied in a lot with what the Women’s and Gender Studies department did.”

The Center for Social Justice works to apply what is being taught in the classroom to campus life outside of academics, Struble said.

“I get to spend 40 hours a week working on the non-academic side of student life,” Struble said. “It’s really cool to be able to do programming and events and have a space on campus that ties in what some departments teach.”

Struble said the event was an enjoyable way to begin the new semester.

“This is kind of an informative event but also a social event, so it’s just nice to see everybody get the semester started strong like ‘Alright, let’s do this, have a great semester,’” Struble said.
Policy keeps Greek Life out of The Jungle

Chapters cannot participate without a licensed alcohol vendor present.

By Sarah Clancey
Published Sept. 10, 2010

No Greek Life chapter or council is allowed to participate as a whole at The Jungle, the newly organized student tailgating area. According to the Office of Greek Life, the policies that govern the councils and individual chapters prevent them from reserving a spot.

“It's against a lot of chapters' national policies to do so because there isn't a licensed liquor venue involved,” Panhellenic Association spokeswoman Michelle Hanko said.

The policy in question states the Interfraternity Council and PHA may not participate in off-campus events where there is no licensed liquor venue distributing alcohol because their insurance policies won't cover such events. The Jungle is seen as a liability because there is no licensed venue involved.

According to Policy VII of the IFC Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual, “All social events shall use an approved third party vendor and chapters may not co-sponsor events or fundraiser with a third party vendor or alcohol distributor where alcohol is given away, sold, or provided to those present.”

The Jungle will be on-campus and there will be no alcohol provided or sold at the event, but IFC President Brandon Green said these are the specific policies preventing Greek Life from reserving a space at the tailgate.

Green said in order for the councils or chapters to participate, a change in this policy would have to be proposed by a president of a fraternity or sorority and then approved by both PHA and IFC, as their constitutions must align on the issue.

At the biweekly IFC presidents' meeting Thursday night, no president stepped up to propose a policy change, Green said.

As of this time, no fraternity or sorority can participate in The Jungle.

“I am a Greek student,” Missouri Students Association President Tim Noce said. “I feel like there's a big problem if I don’t know what's going on because I represent all students, both Greek and non-Greek, and if I can't tell what is going on, how is everyone else supposed to?”

Office of Greek Life Coordinator Julie Drury said both the office and MSA hope to work out an agreement that would let fraternities and sororities reserve spots in the future.
“The staff in our office and many student leaders have been in communication with leaders from MSA for the past year working to achieve a mutually respective policy, but that has not been achieved at this point,” she said.

Although there is no official reserved area for any of the Greek Life councils at The Jungle, Hanko expects many Greek Life members to tailgate there with other Student Life organizations.

At previous tailgate locations, including Reactor Field and Frat Pit, chapters could tailgate together.

“It’s a hassle because we’re all walking to the game together because we have group seating with the sorority, so we should be able to tailgate together before, too,” freshman Alpha Phi member Jessica Puckett said. “It would be more fun.”

Hanko said neither the Office of Greek Life nor any of the councils host Greek Life-wide tailgating events and individual chapters typically don’t have organized tailgates, aside from Parents’ Weekend activities. These tailgates generally don’t involve alcohol and usually take place at the chapter house or another site before the game begins.

The Jungle is the latest in MU’s long line of efforts to create a safe and regulated tailgating space.

“There always seems to be some sort of an attempt to have an organized tailgating system,” Hanko said. “I know that a lot of different universities have systems that work really well. It’s just a matter of finding something that works for the university and for the students.”
Editorial:

Why bar Greek Life from The Jungle?

Published Sept. 10, 2010

Welcome to the Jungle. Well, everyone with the exception of the Greek Life community.

The Jungle, MU’s new and improved, premier tailgating hot spot, modeled after the epic campus tailgating of universities like Ole Miss, is off limits for Greek Life. Although members of Greek Life are allowed to go to the area individually, chapters cannot rent out booths like other organizations affiliated with the university are encouraged to do. The Office of Greek Life says this is because of an Interfraternity Council bylaw regarding alcohol.

This would be totally fine if it were legitimate, except the bylaw has nothing to do with the consumption of alcohol on campus, so it’s not. It actually refers to off-campus events, in which the chapters must have a third party vendor if they are going to attend as such. The bylaw says nothing about on-campus events, and there is no reason for chapters to be banned from participating in this one.

Drinking is also technically off-limits at the houses. Basically, The Jungle is the only university-approved form of tailgating for MU on campus, and some of the most enthusiastic tailgaters can’t congregate together. If something doesn’t change, the tailgating will take to the streets -- and, with no other option provided for them, we’ll root them on.

Out of all things to finally apply Greek Life’s policies regarding alcohol to, why this? If you follow the IFC policies, fraternities can only have a limited number of parties per year, and they have to be registered. They must also offer non-alcoholic beverages to complement the alcoholic ones, and serve snacks. When was the last time you were offered a slice of pizza and some orange soda at a frat party?

If the Office of Greek Life is going to try to enforce the rules, they should start enforcing all of them rather than picking and choosing.
Editorial:

Tiger Avenue name change unnecessary

Published Sept. 10, 2010

The Mizzou Alumni Association won their not-so-hard-fought battle to change Maryland Avenue to Tiger Avenue on Tuesday.

The Missouri Students Association didn’t challenge it and the Columbia City Council gave its unanimous approval as well. However, there are plenty of reasons not to name another thing, much less a street, “Tiger” in this city.

First, let’s be honest: the Alumni Association definitely lost points on originality. There’s already a Tiger Lane, and it’s only about four miles away. We also have tiger paw prints on the highway exits, the MU logo on street signs, a plethora of billboards on I-70 and our own section at Walmart. Is Tiger Avenue really the cherry on top of the branding sundae? Why even bother?

Moving past the lack of creativity, it’s actually dangerous, according to Columbia’s policies for naming streets. There is a city code that says streets cannot have similar names because of the chance that they would get mixed up by 911 dispatch in an emergency. However, apparently because it’s MU, the city said that won’t be a problem in this case.

The decision is effective immediately, meaning that the students who have been living on Maryland Avenue for however many years or weeks are now living on Tiger Avenue without any prior notification.

Lathrop and Laws Halls and Greek Life chapter houses are examples of those whose addresses that will have to change. Magazines, birthday cards from grandma and whomever else you forget to notify before the post office’s grace period ends will be lost. And what will happen to the Maryland Avenue parking garage? The ripple effect could cause lost mail and identity crises alike.

The money used for the change is coming from the leftover budget the Alumni Association used to make all the campus signs black and gold. That money could be spent in better ways. Like on anything else.

The name isn’t anything special, it’s going to cause confusion and there are just better things to do with money than rename things after our mascot. In the end, it’s just an unnecessary change.
Letter to the Editor:

MUPD stifling student traditions

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In the September 3 Forum section, the Maneater printed a statement from the Office of Student Conduct warning of the legal ramifications of the Mizzou "seven" traditions.

I am assuming that this letter was prompted by student complaints to their attentive MSA President Tim Noce, and others, (from students) that were being arrested for 'riding the Tiger.' The letter quotes MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer who reminded that "if these traditions involve any type of crime, for example trespass or vandalism, appropriate enforcement action will be taken."

Thanks again MUPD, for constantly and diligently protecting and serving.

The letter goes on to say that six of the seven traditions are illegal. Now, don't get me wrong, student who trespass onto the field, or climb Jesse certainly assume their own risk. But, are we to garner from this letter that MUPD has made it a policy to arrest people for riding the Tiger? If not, are we to assume that riding the Tiger is a probable cause for arrest on minor in possession by consumption?

I want you, fellow students, to really think about the ramifications herein.

Moreover, I want to really ask the question when does MUPD truly protect and serve this student body? How often is an MUPD interaction with students a positive one? How long are we going to allow this oppressive state of student-police relations on this campus?

In its current state, MUPD is nothing more than a profit-seeking venture for the benefit of its own maintenance.

The letter states that "many students consider the 'Seven Things to do before you graduate' among the MU 'traditions.'" Well, I got news for you, kids. Whether you choose to partake or not, this IS an MU tradition. I would have serious doubts of anyone who says otherwise.