MU makes strides in faculty diversity
Minority hires hit record this year.

By JANISE SILVEY

The University of Missouri hired a record number of minority faculty members this semester, a boost its chief diversity officer said will improve education for all students.

MU welcomed 15 new faculty members from underrepresented minorities, including seven blacks and eight Hispanics. That's the highest since 2007, when seven faculty members from underrepresented minorities were added.

Additionally this year, seven women were hired in sciences, technology, engineering and math — all fields in which females are underrepresented. Four new Asian faculty members also were hired, although Asians are not considered underrepresented in higher education.

"Diversity in the faculty ranks is important for a number of reasons, certainly for the same reasons that diversity in our student population is important," said Roger Worthington, who heads MU's Chancellor's Diversity Initiative. "A more diverse institution is a better educational intuition overall. ... Students, when they're exposed to differences across cultures, across genders, across many different dimensions of diversity, tend to have better critical thinking skills, better problem-solving skills, fewer irrational prejudices and tend to be more civic-minded."

Preliminary data indicate a total of 89 faculty members from underrepresented minorities this semester, accounting for 5.71 percent of the total faculty.

Worthington pointed to studies that have shown students perform better when exposed to diversity.

Having direct, personal experiences with people from varied backgrounds also helps students when they compete in the workplace, especially essential "as the world becomes smaller," said Leona Rubin, chairwoman of MU's Faculty Council.

The Chancellor's Diversity Initiative began in 2006 as a way to improve diversity on campus. For at least 10 years before that, the faculty numbers of underrepresented minorities on campus had remained relatively flat, with new hires simply replacing minority faculty members who had retired or gone elsewhere, Worthington said.

"We had this revolving-door effect," he said. "We were remaining stable in our numbers but not increasing, and those numbers were rather dismal to start out with."

Over the past four years, Worthington said the campus has made "significant" progress in its efforts to recruit quality minority candidates. He has met with deans and department chairs to talk about effective recruiting and has encouraged administrators and faculty to make personal contacts with qualified candidates when they travel to conferences and conventions across the country.
This is the first year the efforts have paid off in hires, Worthington said. Although he's not sure MU can expect to see as many minority hires every year as it did this year, he's hopeful the trend will continue.

"It would be great if we got to the place where this is no longer news," he said. "I think we are on the right track. This is just one step forward. I think we will maintain our commitment and sustain our efforts to continue to diversify the faculty at Mizzou the same way we've achieved success in the student body."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
MU hires record-breaking number of minority faculty

By Josh Barone
September 10, 2010 | 12:01 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU hired the largest number of underrepresented minority faculty this year, which is more than double the previous record.

New hires for the 2010-11 academic year include 15 underrepresented minority faculty — eight Hispanics and seven African-Americans — according to figures released Thursday. Underrepresented minorities include people of Hispanic, African-American and American Indian heritage.

The total number of MU faculty who are minorities was not immediately available.

The previous record for underrepresented minority faculty hires was seven in 2007. MU hired five in 2008 and four in 2009 amid a soft hiring freeze that continues.

Asian faculty are not considered underrepresented in higher education, according to an MU News Bureau release, but “they are considered to add to the diversity at the university.”

The same philosophy applies to female faculty in sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. This academic year, there were seven women hired in those fields, compared with two in 2009 and three in both 2008 and 2007.

The Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative, launched in 2006, has worked to create a more diverse, inclusive environment at MU through various programs and strategic planning. Faculty diversity has been the initiative’s top priority since its inception, said Chief Diversity Officer Roger Worthington, who leads the initiative.

Among the initiative’s efforts is to provide support across the university to help deans, department chairs and search committees in their efforts to increase diversity, he said.
"We provide both financial support and (help) people to recognize and understand best practices in recruitment efforts," Worthington said. "We want to make sure that departments and colleges are actively working to bring highly qualified minority candidates into the applicant pool."

This year's increase in African-American hires helps offset a "revolving-door effect" created by faculty departures from 2006 to 2009, Worthington said. In that time, about 10 African-American faculty left the university for various reasons.

"We were only hiring enough underrepresented minority faculty during that time to replace people who were leaving or retiring or going someone else or for whatever reason," Worthington said. "So we were remaining relatively constant."

That the number of hires this year more than doubles the previous record is cause for celebration, said Harkiran Kaur, co-chairwoman of Four Front, an council of diversity-organization leaders at MU.

"That’s something everyone can feel proud of," Kaur said. "But it doesn’t end here. We need to strive to top our numbers."
Fans try out new pregame spot
New tailgate lot sees small group.

By CATHERINE MARTIN
Sunday, September 12, 2010

About 100 students were scattered around the sparsely filled campus parking lot recently designated as the new student tailgate spot yesterday afternoon before Missouri's first home football game.

Missouri defensive lineman Michael Sam lets out a scream after sacking McNeese State quarterback Jacob Bower in the second quarter of the Missouri Tigers game against the McNeese State Cowboys Saturday night on Faurot Field.

Meanwhile, hundreds of tailgaters filled a parking lot off College Avenue, one of several unofficial tailgate spots where fans played games, blasted music and, of course, indulged in alcoholic beverages.

"A lot of people started coming here when Reactor closed," MU junior Jillian Hoge said of the popular CG-1 lot at College and Stadium Boulevard. The Reactor Field lot was closed to tailgaters last year because of rowdy behavior.

The Jungle, the new student tailgate spot at the corner of Maryland Avenue and Rollins Street, had its grand opening with yesterday's game. It offers a different kind of atmosphere than many tailgaters are used to. No cars are allowed on the lot, and spaces must be reserved by student organizations. The lot has limited hours, and police patrolled the lot yesterday, ready to ID anyone drinking underage.

Charlene Stockman, president of MU's Student Bar Association, which reserved a spot at the event, said that although the rules might be a turnoff for undergraduate students, the new lot worked out perfectly for her organization.

"We can reserve the spot and let everyone know where we're going to be," she said.

In years past, Stockman said, the group often had to secure a spot the night before, making it more challenging to coordinate a tailgate for all law students.

For law students, who are old enough to drink legally, the site works well. But some underage undergrads were more reluctant.
"I wouldn't go now, since I'm 20, but I'd go next year," said Kyle Finnegan, an MU sophomore tailgating at CG-1.

Ben Hansen, director of the Missouri Students Association Department of Student Activities, said that while some people only see tailgating as an opportunity to drink, there are many other students the lot will appeal to.

"The main problem is, a lot of people forgot what tailgating really is," he said. The Jungle will offer students a safe environment where they can eat, rent games such as washers, listen to music and enjoy time with friends.

Hansen said he didn't think the rules were the reason for the slim turnout; he said the problem is that many people don't know about the new spot. Hansen said he thinks the spot will take off after it gets more publicity.

"We're dedicating our time now to preparing a sound foundation to make a safe, fun environment for students," he said.

For now, the students in attendance enjoyed the atmosphere

"I was pleasantly surprised," said Luke Pauley, an MU senior and member of the Phi Sigma Pi honor fraternity. "I wasn't sure what to expect, but it turned out to be a lot of fun."

Phi Sigma Pi was one of five organizations that reserved spots at the Jungle yesterday. Hansen said he expected a total of 200 people to stop by at some point before the game.

But there are still some tailgaters, like MU alumna Kristin Harlan, who don't think it's necessary to enforce rules like those at the new lot.

"Some of my most fond undergraduate memories come from tailgating at Reactor," she said. "I think if you give students that same experience, you'd see an increase in lifelong tailgating."

Meanwhile, near the tailgate areas on College Avenue, a 23-year-old male was injured when hit by a car yesterday afternoon. MU police said the victim was crossing against a red light. He was treated and released from University Hospital.

Reach Catherine Martin at 573-815-1711 or e-mail cmartin@columbiatribune.com.
MU parking lot CG-17, at Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue, turned into "The Jungle" for the first time on Saturday. The Jungle is a designated tailgating area for student organizations and is run by the Missouri Students Association. — Eve Edelheit

COLUMBIA — **MU**'s new student-only tailgating spot didn't exactly live up to its name Saturday afternoon.

"The Jungle" avoided the problems that resulted in the closure of previous student hotspots Reactor Field and Frat Pit, such as fighting and underage drinking, but it failed to draw much of a crowd. Vast sections of the lot at the corner of Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue were unoccupied throughout the afternoon leading up to MU's home football game against McNeese State.

Of the 54 available spots in the lot, 13 were reserved by six organizations, said Ben Hansen, director of the Missouri Students Association's Department of Student Activities. The Student Bar Association, with around 50 members present, had by far the largest showing.

The lot has several restrictions, including bans on vehicles, underage drinking and hard liquor.
Because the tailgate was an official university event, five police officers were assigned to the lot, MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said.

A few blocks away, a noticeably different scene existed at the tailgate held at the Newman Center, where a large crowd and dozens of vehicles filled the parking lot.

While many students at the center didn’t like the restrictions of The Jungle, a majority interviewed hadn’t heard of the new lot.

Several students who knew of the lot, including senior Sam Waters, 22, had little knowledge about it.

“I don’t have a clue what the rules are,” he said.

Others said the rules at The Jungle were too harsh.

“I heard there’s strict enforcement by police and you have to be 21 to get in,” said MU junior Maria Chandler, 21. “I have a lot of friends who aren’t 21. Why would they go there? Too strict.”

Senior Matt Hickey, 22, said he felt the police presence was a strong deterrent.

“It boils down to cops being there,” Hickey said. "Even if you’re of age, it’s uncomfortable to be around cops when you’re drinking.”

While officers aren't stationed at tailgating venues other than The Jungle, they do patrol the other lots, Weimer said.

Tim Noce, president of the Missouri Students Association, said students were using the lot's regulations as an excuse not to come.

“A majority of students should not have a problem with having a few drinks,” Noce said. “If (this system) works at Ole Miss, the best tailgate in America, it can work here.”

Back at The Jungle, law student Shawn Hoover, 28, was unsure of the impact the regulations had on the sparsely populated lot. He said he thought most organizations were just unaware of the new tailgate lot.
"We didn’t know about it until Thursday," he said.

Noce acknowledged that many students and organizations may not know about the The Jungle, but said misinformation has spread regarding its rules. Some students he talked to were under the impression that alcohol wasn’t even allowed, he said.

“We need to communicate better,” Noce said. “That’s the bottom line.”

Waters, a fraternity member, said a potential reason for The Jungle’s initial struggles was that Greek organizations are not allowed in.

Noce said the Office of Greek Life, which governs fraternities and sororities on campus, said it has a policy preventing Greek organizations from reserving a spot at The Jungle.

However, Noce said he isn’t familiar with that rule.

“As leader of my fraternity chapter... I’ve looked into (Interfraternity Council) policy, and I haven’t found where it says we can’t do this,” he said.

Despite the low turnout at the new tailgate spot, Hoover and several law students said they were enjoying themselves and planned to come for every home game.

“It’s not crowded,” Hoover said. "There’s no rowdiness. I’m happy.”

Hoover also said turnout might depend on the Tigers’ opponent from week to week.

“It’s McNeese State,” he said. “If it was Oklahoma, you’d have a different story.”

But Noce, who has been working on the The Jungle for a little more than a year, still showed some disappointment.

“I hope the lot picks up,” he said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Welcome to The Jungle: New tailgate spot opens Saturday

By Jaclyn DiPasquale
September 10, 2010 | 5:55 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The Jungle will be crawling with Tigers Saturday afternoon as the Missouri Students Association hosts the grand opening of its new student tailgate spot.

Since the closing of “Frat Pit” in 2007 and Reactor Field last year, students have gone without a designated tailgating location for MU home football games.

MSA hopes The Jungle will be a solution to this problem.

According to the MSA website, “The Jungle will provide a new, safe way for students of the University of Missouri to tailgate before the start of every home football game.”

The Jungle will be equipped with popular tailgating games such as washers, ladder golf, footballs and volleyballs, which can be checked out with a student ID. This weekend there will also be music, courtesy of campus radio station KCOU, and free sandwiches from Sub Shop.

Tailgating will begin four hours prior to kickoff and the tailgaters will be required to clear the spaces three hours after the end of the football game.

Only student organizations will be able to reserve spots at the tailgate, but guests of the organizations are welcome.

Reservations can be made until noon of the Friday before the home game. Reservations are currently being taken for the San Diego State University and Miami University of Ohio games. The spots cost $20 each and can accommodate up to 20 people.
According to Ben Hansen, director of the MSA Department of Student Activities, five organizations have reserved spots for tomorrow night’s game against McNeese State. Some of these organizations include the Student Bar Association, Phi Sigma Pi and the Residence Halls Association.

“I’m disappointed only a few organizations have signed up,” Hansen said. “But I understand why — there are restrictions at The Jungle that aren’t imposed anywhere else, which make it difficult for the students to adjust to.”

The restrictions at The Jungle were necessary to form an agreement between MSA and MU to create the new tailgate spot.

The restrictions listed on The Jungle’s website include:

- No vehicles allowed inside the lot
- Individuals must be at least 21 years of age to consume alcohol and must be ready to provide appropriate identification upon request
- No glass, hard alcohol, kegs or beer balls
- No coolers over the size of 70 quarts are permitted
- Propane grills are limited to 20 lb. tanks
- Post-game tailgating is strictly prohibited

Hansen said some of these restrictions may be causing apprehension among students.

“Some students feel like [The Jungle] is a trap to get caught by police, but we have made it clear if you are underage you should not drink at this spot,” Hansen said.

Despite some student concerns about drinking, MSA President Tim Noce said the responses to The Jungle have been good.

“A lot of people want to see how it will go tomorrow,” Noce said.

MSA will hold a meeting Monday to evaluate Saturday’s tailgate and make any necessary adjustments to improve for the next event.
Vigil reflects on tragedy of Sept. 11
9/11 still a raw topic for many.

By T.J. GREANEY
Sunday, September 12, 2010

Calling for “no more victims,” about 50 people gathered last night to remember the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the thousands killed in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since. The somber memorial at the A.P. Green Chapel on the University of Missouri campus was organized by the Columbia Peace Coalition. It was filled with soaring folk music and speeches that pointed to the folly of violence. The night ended with a moment of silence as the mostly baby boomer crowd held candles and formed a circle under the arched entrance to Memorial Union.

The event happened shortly after another commemoration for 9/11 victims across campus at Memorial Stadium, where a color guard participated in a pregame ceremony that included a B-2 bomber flyover.

For many at last night’s vigil, the events of that day are still raw.

“I ended up curled up in front of the TV watching them show it over and over again,” said Letitia Denhartog of Columbia. “My kids had to make dinner for themselves because I couldn’t deal.”

One of those children, Tabitha, is now 23 years old. She can barely recall a pre-9/11 world and finds it tragic that some of her junior high classmates are now fighting overseas in response to the events of that day.

“It was such a shock,” she said. “And to see us go, war, war, afterwards. And to just know that it’s wrong and that it shouldn’t have been the first answer.”

Mark Haim, director of Mid-Missouri Peaceworks, recalled the night after the attacks, when hundreds of stunned people gathered in Peace Park. He now considers that night a missed opportunity.

“The message then was condemn the tragedy, don’t compound it,” he said. “Unfortunately, that message was not heeded by our government. Instead of 3,000 victims, which is tragic, we’ve seen hundreds of times that.”

But some at the event weren’t ready to forgo war entirely. They recalled that in 2001, Afghanistan had become a training ground and safe haven for terrorists. Its Taliban-led government refused to hand over the architects of the 9/11 attacks, and this refusal prompted the U.S. invasion.

“While I believe in peace, I also grew up in a military family,” Letitia Denhartog said. “So while I would love for there to not be war, I also know there are reasons for it.”

Reach T.J. Greaney at 573-815-1719 or e-mail tigreaney@columbiatribune.com.
Bond digs in heels against ban of uranium esports

MU MENTION PAGE 2

By ALAN BAVLEY

9/11/10

Weapons-grade uranium crossing international frontiers. Doctors dealing with supply shortages. A nuclear reactor glowing an eerie blue. Tight-lipped scientists unwilling to talk.

At the center of all this?

Bond.

Kit Bond.

The senior senator from Missouri has doctors, scientists and nuclear nonproliferation advocates across the nation frustrated and perplexed.

The reason: He is single-handedly holding up a bill aimed at ending U.S. dependence on unpredictable foreign sources of medical isotopes. The isotopes are the essential radioactive material used in about 20 million scans of bones, hearts and other organs performed in the United States every year.

The legislation also would put an end to U.S. exports of the highly enriched uranium that is used to make medical isotopes, but that can easily be converted into bombs.

Bond says the export ban would jeopardize U.S. isotope supplies.

“My primary concern is ensuring the millions of cancer patients get the cures they need, and this bill puts their treatment at risk,” he said.

So far, no one appears to be backing Bond’s position.

Opposing him is practically every professional group dealing with nuclear medicine, along with groups trying to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
They say that Bond is just plain wrong. Or that he’s playing politics, perhaps trying to position the University of Missouri’s research reactor to become the key domestic supplier of the isotopes.

“We don’t think this is a bill that would cripple us,” said Michael Graham, director of nuclear medicine at the University of Iowa and past president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

“It’s a fairly unique opportunity for us to build a domestic isotope supply,” he said. “We’ve been doing what we can to convince (Bond) of that.”

This has been a rough couple of years for doctors like Graham.

Two aging reactors in Canada and the Netherlands provide most of the U.S. supply of molybdenum-99, which is used to create the most commonly used isotope for medical tests. And both reactors were shut down for months at a time for repairs.

Scans that use the isotope are essential for diagnosing cancers and infections and for determining how well the heart handles stress. No U.S. reactors make the isotope.

For about 18 months, hospitals rationed the precious stuff. Scans were rescheduled or postponed. Patients received smaller doses and spent more time lying under scanners. Or they received a different isotope that exposed them to more radiation.

But help seemed to be on the way.

In November, the House of Representatives passed the American Medical Isotopes Production Act on a 400-17 vote, an incredible margin for a politically polarized Congress.

The legislation would authorize $163 million to help build isotope production facilities in the United States that would not require highly enriched uranium. That would ensure a safe, uninterrupted supply, bill supporters say.

It also would set a timetable for ending U.S. exports of highly enriched uranium to other countries for making medical isotopes. That addressed the concerns of nuclear nonproliferation advocates who want to keep the uranium out of the hands of terrorists.

The United States currently ships highly enriched uranium just to Canada’s Chalk River reactor in Ontario, although exports to other countries are still permitted.

Supporters assumed the isotope production act would sail through the Senate. Instead, Bond put a hold on the measure to keep it from going to debate.

In a letter to his congressional colleagues, Bond said the legislation put a legally binding cut-off date on exports of highly enriched uranium but offered no guarantee that U.S. patients would continue to get their treatments.
“Let me be clear that I support finding new ways to produce medical isotopes, especially from domestic sources,” Bond wrote.

“However, I am unaware of any type of comprehensive planning or documentation that describes in detail exactly who is expected to supply medical isotopes in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of U.S. medical patients without disruption…”

There is no way the legislation would jeopardize U.S. medicine, bill supporters say.

Isotope production in the United States would begin years before exports of highly enriched uranium were scheduled to end, the supporters say. And if U.S. production were delayed, the bill would allow Congress to postpone the export ban.

“I just think he’s misinformed,” said Alan Kuperman, a political scientist at the University of Texas and senior policy analyst for the Nuclear Control Institute. “It’s sort of an embarrassment.”

Kuperman said the medical isotope production act was the product of unprecedented cooperation between the medical and nuclear nonproliferation communities.

The two groups had clashed for years over allowing exports of highly enriched uranium, or HEU.

“It was divisive and nonproductive and led us to the current situation, shortages of medical isotopes and HEU still being exported,” Kuperman said. “A few years ago those two communities realized they were better off working together.”

Nuclear nonproliferation groups worry that weapons-grade uranium at civilian reactors makes a ripe target for terrorists. The amount of HEU shipped to Canada each year is practically enough to build a bomb.

“I don’t think any civilian facility has adequate protection against terrorist attacks,” said Edwin Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

A half-life of six hours

Doctors who do nuclear imaging have had to contend with a complicated and precarious supply chain for molybdenum-99.

Only a handful of nuclear reactors in the world produce it, and they’re 40 to 50 years old and need frequent repairs. Chalk River, the biggest supplier to the United States, is set to close in 2016.

But there are day-to-day uncertainties as well.
When uranium is placed in a reactor, a small amount is converted to molybdenum-99. This isotope decays into technetium-99m, the isotope that is used in many medical scans.

There’s no way to stockpile either of these isotopes. The half-life of molybdenum-99 is 66 hours; technetium’s is six hours.

Hospitals must get new supplies of molybdenum-99 regularly and process it daily for technetium. If deliveries are held up, so are the scans.

When a volcano erupted in Iceland last spring, grounding air traffic, “that was a big hit for us,” said James Traylor, nuclear medicine supervisor at the University of Kansas Hospital.

“There was one week when all we could do was low-activity scans. We had to delay patients. We just need to have our own reactors.”

**MU’s reactor**

Experts have long considered the reactor at the University of Missouri the logical place to begin domestic production of molybdenum-99.

Built in the 1960s, it’s the largest university research reactor in the nation.

With its vintage control room and a reactor core in a 30-foot pool of water glowing radioactive blue, the facility looks like a downsized version of a James Bond movie set.

For years, MU has been working out the technical details and sharing information about its molybdenum-99 project at professional meetings. In January 2009, the university announced that it intended to become the first domestic producer.

“We’re shooting for supplying half of the U.S. need,” David Robertson, a chemist and associate director of the reactor, said at the time.

But in recent months, Robertson and other university officials have stopped talking.

“There are decisions at play at the highest level of the university that I cannot speak to,” he said.

Kuperman, who has sources at MU and the federal government, said the estimated cost of a processing center at MU has mushroomed from $40 million to about $150 million.

Recipients of federal grants for nuclear projects are required to ante up an equal amount of match money. That means MU would have to raise a sizeable sum.

At a nuclear medicine conference in March at Steamboat Springs, Colo., MU officials said they were talking to a private investor, said Graham of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

“But it seems to me it’s been dragging out for a long time,” Graham said.
Meanwhile, Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group and an alliance of GE and Hitachi have received grants from the Department of Energy to develop domestic isotope production.

That has led to speculation that Bond put a hold on the isotope production act to keep MU’s competitors from getting too far ahead.

“Since the University of Missouri couldn’t get its ducks in a row for matching funds, it didn’t want any of its competitors to get any further matching funds either,” Kuperman said. “There’s no smoking gun, but there’s a warm gun.”

Not even that, said Bond spokeswoman Shana Marchio. The speculation about the MU reactor is totally false, she said.

Kuperman said the more likely reason Bond has held up the isotope production act is just that his thinking on the issue is stuck in the past.

In 2005, Bond led a successful effort to loosen export restrictions on highly enriched uranium. At the time, he argued the controls were jeopardizing U.S. patient care.

But times have changed, Kuperman said, and no one is fighting the battle of HEU exports versus isotope imports except Bond.

“He is just stubbornly saying, ‘I’m not going to change this,’ ” Kuperman said.

Bond has suggested separating the issues of domestic isotope production and uranium exports. That would just renew the old divisions between interest groups, Kuperman said.

“You might not get either thing you want,” he said.

Bond is retiring from the Senate at the end of this year. If he doesn’t relent before then, the isotope production act could be reintroduced in 2011.

But with politics shifting away from government involvement in the private sector, the legislation could die in the next Congress, Kuperman said.

“If that’s what Bond really wants his legacy to be, he can single-handedly accomplish that,” he said.
MU researchers examine shortage of rural doctors

Associated Press | Posted: Sunday, September 12, 2010 6:51 pm

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Researchers at the University of Missouri are seeking to understand what might draw doctors to work in rural areas.

Kathleen Quinn, director of Missouri’s Area Health Education Center, and Michael Hosokawa, professor of family and community medicine at the university, have written a paper that involved extensive interviews with Missouri alumni who practice in small communities.

The results showed that some rural doctors appreciate a less hectic pace that allows them to sit down and engage with patients and educate them about their illnesses. Others told the researchers that they enjoyed such things as being stopped in the grocery store by appreciative patients and knowing the names of everyone in their hospital.

Nationwide, 20 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, but only 9 percent of doctors practice there. A recent survey of graduating medical school students showed that only 3 percent of outgoing medical school graduates planned to practice in rural areas, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

Quinn said the study is an “awareness piece” and was not designed to be overly scientific. Instead, medical school officials might use it to add interview questions during the admissions process to highlight incoming students inclined to practice rural medicine.
It could also help them improve the Rural Track Pipeline Program, which guides students from undergraduate studies, places them in rural settings for training during medical school and, ultimately, seeks to place them in rural practices.

Quinn said 50 percent of the students who travel through the rural pipeline program end up practicing in towns of fewer than 50,000 people.

The research noted that people who practice in rural areas generally have either grown up in a small town, married someone from a small town or completed training or a medical residency in a small town.

"Where you're from, where you train and who you marry are three major factors that determine where you practice," Quinn said.

She said three doctors in the study who grew up in big cities later found themselves drawn to practicing rural medicine. These people typically had some positive exposure to small-town life along the way, either professionally or personally, she said.

"Once they're exposed to it, they say: 'Wow there's no traffic,' or 'My kid can play on the football team just for trying out,'" Quinn said. "They realize things that they value and enjoy are found in smaller towns."
MU researchers study shortage of rural doctors

MU researchers study what draws some to small towns.

By T.J. GREANEY

Saturday, September 11, 2010

There is no such thing as a typical workday for Laura Morris. As a family practice physician, she has to be prepared to treat a newborn baby one moment and a wheezing elderly patient the next.

At the Callaway Physicians clinic in Fulton, Morris sees patients from a large swath of the region, stretching from Holts Summit up Highway 54 to Mexico.

“You recognize the need that you fill here,” she said. “They have us, but if we weren’t here, where would they go?”

Morris is a 2007 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Medicine. She entered the Bryant Scholars Pre-Admissions Program for rural scholars while a freshman at Missouri State University. Later, as a medical student, she trained at clinics in Boonville and St. Joseph through the MU School of Medicine’s Rural Track Pipeline Program.

The exposure to rural medicine solidified a passion for serving a region where doctors are in short supply. It didn’t hurt that Morris herself grew up in a small town, Holts Summit, and recognized the need.

“Ten to 15 years ago, I wouldn’t have been so unusual, but lately it’s felt like: ‘You’re really unusual,’ ” Morris said of her career choice. “I’m a small subset of a shrinking subset, unfortunately.”

Nationwide, fewer and fewer doctors are opting to practice in rural areas. According to a 2006 study, 20 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas, while only 9 percent of physicians practice medicine there. A 2008 survey of graduating U.S. medical school students found that this disparity might be getting worse. Only 3 percent of outgoing medical school graduates planned to practice in rural areas, according to the study.

A paper by two MU researchers to be published in a medical journal this spring seeks to unlock the answers to this problem. Kathleen Quinn, director of MU’s Area Health Education Center, and Michael Hosokawa, professor of family and community medicine at MU, conducted 15 in-depth interviews with MU alumni who practice in communities of fewer than 18,000 people.

The results of these hourlong interviews, they found, were revealing. Doctors opened up about how they enjoy being stopped in the grocery store by appreciative patients or knowing the names of everyone in their hospital. Others pointed to a less hectic pace that allows them to sit down and engage with patients to educate them about their illnesses. All agreed rural practice was a different type of medicine from the big-city variety.
“I think you’re kind of held to a higher standard when you come where everyone knows who you are,” said one doctor quoted in the study. “If you mess up, they all remember it, or if you lose your temper, everybody remembers that.”

In the end, MU researchers noted some main themes. People who practice in rural areas generally have either grown up in a small town, married someone from a small town or completed training or a medical residency in a small town.

"Where you’re from, where you train and who you marry are three major factors that determine where you practice," Quinn said.

Perhaps most interesting to Quinn were the three doctors in the study who grew up in big cities but later found themselves drawn to practicing rural medicine. She said these people typically had some positive exposure to small-town life along the way, either professionally or personally.

“Once they’re exposed to it, they say: ‘Wow there’s no traffic,’ or ‘My kid can play on the football team just for trying out,’ ” Quinn said. “They realize things that they value and enjoy are found in smaller towns.”

The study, Quinn said, is an “awareness piece” and was not designed to be overly scientific. Instead, medical school officials might use it to add interview questions during the admissions process to highlight incoming students inclined to practice rural medicine. It also might help them improve the Rural Track Pipeline Program, which guides students from undergraduate studies, places them in rural settings for training during medical school and, ultimately, seeks to place them in rural practices.

Quinn said 50 percent of the students who travel through the rural pipeline program end up practicing in towns of fewer than 50,000 people.

Reach T.J. Greaney at 573-815-1719 or e-mail tigreaney@columbiatribune.com
Mizzou campus street name change assures no more confusion with another 'M' state

By Associated Press

4:01 AM CDT, September 13, 2010

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Officials in Columbia have honored a University of Missouri request to change a campus street name that some boosters thought gave undue attention to another state.

The City Council voted unanimously last week to rename Maryland Avenue as Tiger Avenue.

A group of former Mizzou Alumni Association presidents known as The Pride helped push the measure. Their research found that the Maryland moniker had no historical value on campus.

Members instead wanted a name that invoked school spirit, especially since the street links Memorial Stadium, the Reynolds Alumni Center and Jesse Hall.

Columbia already has a Tiger Lane, but city officials don't expect the two Tiger thoroughfares to cause confusion.
Suspended MU tailback Derrick Washington arrested for domestic assault

By Missourian Staff
September 12, 2010 | 10:24 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Columbia Police arrested suspended MU tailback Derrick Washington on suspicion of third-degree domestic assault, a misdemeanor, early Sunday morning.

**The police were called to the Grindstone Canyon apartment complex at 1:22 a.m. Police then arrested Washington at his home on La Mesa Drive in Columbia at 3 a.m., according to police reports.**

Police were unable to say what kind of relationship Washington has with the victim, and public police reports did not list the victim's name or information.

The police report was titled "Assault-Hands/Fist/Feet."

Washington was released Sunday morning after posting $1,000 bail.

As of 10 a.m., Washington and his attorney Christopher Slusher have not returned phone calls seeking comment.

A person commits third-degree domestic assault when he or she does any of the following:

- Recklessly physically injures someone, or attempts to do so.
- Uses a deadly weapon or instrument to injure the other person with criminal negligence.
- Purposely places the other person in "apprehension of immediate physical injury by any means."
- Acts recklessly and creates a "grave risk of death or serious physical injury."
• Makes contact while knowing the other person would find that contact offensive.
• Knowingly attempts to isolate the other person by limiting access to other people, "telecommunication devices or transportation."

The arrest comes less than two weeks before the former starting tailback is to be arraigned for felony charges of deviate sexual assault.

His arraignment is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 22.


MU athletics department policy states that a player cannot play with his/her team while facing felony charges. The permanent suspension does allow Washington to keep his athletic scholarship, though.

Check back with ColumbiaMissourian.com throughout the day for updates.

*Missourian reporter Dieter Kurtenbach contributed to this report.*
UPDATE: Tailgater hit by car on College Ave. while crossing street

By Esten Hurtle
September 11, 2010 | 5:32 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A man was struck by a car at the intersection of College Avenue and Ashland Road.

The man had been tailgating in the CG-1 parking lot and was crossing the road to find a bathroom, MU student Lindsay Straus said.

"There were cars going both ways, and this kid was on the hood of the car, then on the ground, then jumped up and ran away," Columbia resident Tammy Byington said.

Straus said the man's nose was bleeding after the crash.

The man was taken to University Hospital with moderate injuries after the crash, said MU Police Department Captain Brian Weimer.

"I feel sorry for the kid," Byington said. "It's a really hard intersection."

The car had a shattered windshield and the roof was dented in from the crash. It was towed from the scene of the accident.

Byington said he was not the only person at the intersection.

"There was a whole blob of kids," Byington said.

Police at the scene would not release the man's name nor give a statement.

Missourian reporter Ben Frentzel contributed to this report.
Nine engineering students from across the University of Missouri System spent six weeks this summer helping companies and communities across the state find ways to save money and reduce waste.

The students — who participated in the Pollution Prevention Intern Program — presented their work during a program at Ketchum Auditorium in Lafferre Hall yesterday.

The internship program, funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency, began in 2008 as a way to give students real-world experience and to highlight the cost savings that come with efficiencies, said Marie Steinwachs, director of the Missouri Environmental Assistance Center on campus.

The program is highly selective: About 45 students applied for the internships that ultimately went to nine students from MU and the system's Rolla and Kansas City campuses. Interns are selected based on grade point average, writing samples, references and interviews. Students then complete an intensive course known as a "pollution boot camp."

Participating companies and municipalities pay the interns $15 an hour and, in exchange, can expect to receive practical advice on how to cut costs.

Gonzalo Saenz, an MU senior, spent his internship working with a defense contracting company in West Plains, where he identified disposal of hazardous liquid wastes among the most expensive and least efficient practices on site.

The company refurbishes equipment and uses large amounts of paint and cleaning solvents. The company was having its liquid wastes hauled off to incinerators — an expensive process, Saenz said.

He and another intern devised a way to boil and reuse a universal cleaning solvent. The process is expected to save the company $150,000 annually, Saenz said, adding that managers should begin seeing a return on investments in less than a year.

"It was very fulfilling in terms of being able to do a project over the summer that saves a company that much money," he said.

Gilad Kaufman, who graduated in May, spent his internship working in three water treatment plants across the state. At one Pacific, Mo., groundwater treatment plant, Kaufman discovered 20 percent of water being treated was not being accounted for. While the internship didn't provide enough time for him to identify where that water is going, he came up with a list of scenarios for plant employees to study, such as the possibility of broken water meters or leaks in the system.
At a different water plant, Kaufman pointed out the facility could cut its electric bill by performing certain operations at off-peak times.

In addition, students this year also helped companies evaluate and apply for stimulus funds through the Department of Natural Resources. Those awards have not yet been made but could boost the financial impact to participants, Steinwachs said.

Ultimately, though, she hopes the internships show the next generation of engineers the importance and benefits of solving efficiency issues.

“\textquote{A lot of companies now are going toward sustainable, lean, green — there are a whole lot of names for it, but these companies are moving toward more efficient operations,}” she said. “\textquote{These engineering students, when they get out of college, they’ve got that experience. They already know where inefficiencies can be found.}”

\textit{Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.}