International Flag Day ceremony

BY ERIN HENDRY  September 28, 2010

International students and volunteers carry more than 60 international flags from the Francis Quadrangle to Lowry Mall on Tuesday. The MU International Day Flag Ceremony was started three years ago in an attempt to create more awareness of the International students that attend MU. An international bazaar on Lowry Mall featuring international cuisine and cultural presentations followed the ceremony.

David Currey, director of International Student and Scholar Services, makes a speech during the MU International Day Flag Ceremony on Tuesday. "I think it's beautiful," he said about the display of the flags. He also said the day was a great way to help others learn how to get involved with international programs and students on campus.

RELATED STORIES: PHOTO GALLERY: International Day flag ceremony
Company Privacy Rights Get Review at U.S. High Court

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

MU mention page 2

Sept. 28 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to use a case involving AT&T Inc. to consider whether a corporation can challenge the release of government documents as an infringement of the company's privacy rights.

The justices today said they will hear the Obama administration's appeal of a ruling that said corporations can invoke a provision in a federal document-disclosure law that protects against invasions of "personal privacy."

The government says the U.S. appeals court ruling upset the decades-old understanding of the Freedom of Information Act, under which hundreds of thousands of requests are filed every year.

The ruling "likely also will result in the withholding of agency records to which the public should have access, including records documenting corporate malfeasance," the administration argued in a brief filed by then-Solicitor General Elena Kagan.

President Barack Obama has since appointed Kagan to the Supreme Court, and she didn't take part in the court's decision today agreeing to hear the case.

AT&T, the largest U.S. phone company, is trying to block disclosure of what it says are competitively sensitive documents connected to a 2004 Federal Communications Commission investigation into the company's billing practices under a government program aimed at improving telecommunications technology in schools. AT&T reached a $500,000 settlement with the FCC that year.

FOIA Request

CompTel, a trade association representing companies that compete with AT&T and Verizon Communications Inc., filed a freedom of information request in 2005, seeking access to the investigation file.
AT&T urged the Supreme Court not to hear the appeal, saying the Philadelphia-based appeals court reached the right conclusion.

"Corporations, like individuals, face the prospect of public embarrassment, harassment and stigma based on their involvement in such investigations," the company argued.

**AT&T's contentions, if adopted by the court, "would be a much more sweeping protection of company documents." said Charles Davis, a professor at the University of Missouri's journalism school. He called the case "huge."**

In interpreting the phrase "personal privacy," the appeals court pointed to the statute's definition of "person" as including corporations. The appeals court said that definition suggests that "personal" includes corporations as well.

**Only Individuals**

The government argues that the most natural meaning of "personal" covers only individuals and that AT&T's reasoning would also let government agencies assert a privacy interest.

The Supreme Court's ruling might affect a bid by Bloomberg LP to force the Federal Reserve Board to release documents identifying banks that might have failed without the U.S. government bailout, Davis said. A federal appeals court in New York has ordered the disclosure, and the Fed is weighing an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Bloomberg case centers on a separate FOIA provision that protects against the disclosure of company trade secrets. Even so, Davis said an AT&T victory in its case might give the banks a new line of argument to try to block disclosure of the Fed records.

Bloomberg LP is the parent company of Bloomberg News.

The case is Federal Communications Commission V. AT&T Inc., 09-1279.
MU to close part of Stewart Road for biomass boiler installation

By JANISE SILVEY

Published September 29, 2010 at 10:42 a.m.
Updated September 28, 2010 at 1:28 p.m.

Sections of Stewart Road on the University of Missouri campus will be closed for two years starting Monday as construction crews begin installing a new biomass boiler at the MU Power Plant.

Stewart between Providence Road and Fourth Street is expected to be closed for the duration of the construction project, and the road will be closed between Fourth and Fifth streets for most of the construction work. The university also is shutting down the campus parking lot on the southeast corner of Stewart and Providence but will create a pathway through the lot for pedestrians and bicyclists.

"Because so many students, faculty and staff walk or ride their bikes to campus from West Stewart Road, we wanted to make sure that we could reroute them along an alternate and safe path," Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor of facilities, said in a prepared statement.

Plans to replace one of the power plant's coal-fired boilers with a biomass-fueled boiler have been in the works for a year. The new boiler is designed to use mostly woody biomass, although blends of other biofuels such as agricultural residues, grasses or waste-paper pellets also might be used. Power plant staff is expected to work with campus researchers and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to test the feasibility of other biomass fuels.

When the boiler goes online in 2012, MU's total power composite will include 25 percent biomass, said Karlan Seville, spokeswoman for Campus Facilities.

The construction project also includes plans to create an enclosed fuel-handling storage system that will make the power plant more contained and "cleaner," Seville said. Additionally, a protective coating will be applied to the exterior of the north and south chimneys to repair cracks.

The $75 million project will be funded with revenue bonds the UM System curators approved last year. Part of the bonds will be repaid with future energy savings.

The project is expected to create 184 new construction jobs, Seville said.

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

Power plant construction to close portion of Stewart Road

By Danny Ramey  September 28, 2010

A pair of construction projects at the **MU Power Plant** will close portions of Stewart Road between Providence Road and Fourth Street for two years starting Monday.

The project will eventually require the closure of the portion of Stewart between Fourth and Fifth streets later this fall but no exact date is set, said Karlan Seville, communications manager for **Campus Facilities**.

The RC-16 parking lot will be closed as well during the project. That parking lot is reserved for power plant employees, and the closure will not affect student parking, Seville said.

Pedestrians and bicyclists will have access to a temporary path through RC-16 as a means of reaching campus.

“Because so many students, faculty and staff walk or ride their bikes to campus from west Stewart Road, we wanted to make sure that we could re-route them along an alternate path,” Gary Ward, MU associate vice chancellor of facilities, said in a news release from the MU News Bureau.

To access that area of campus, motorists will have the option of either entering campus on Turner Avenue to the south or Elm Street to the north.

“We are able to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists but not cars,” Seville said.

The work includes two separate projects. The first project consists of applying a protective coating to the exterior of the power plant’s north and south chimneys to prevent chunks of concrete from coming loose because of repeated freezing and thawing.

“It’s a preventative measure so nothing does happen,” Seville said.

The other project involves the installation of a 100 percent biomass boiler to replace a coal-fired boiler at the plant.
While the biomass boiler will operate mostly on woody biomass fuels, the staff at the plant plans to work with the boiler supplier, campus researchers and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to test the feasibility of other biomass fuels, according to the release.

The biomass boiler will lower the level of emissions from the power plant and is intended as a sustainability initiative, Seville said. The new boiler will not affect energy output.

Overall, the two projects will cost a combined $75 million, Seville said. Of those funds, $65 million will come from the sale of bonds, and the remainder will come from campus reserves for capital improvement.

The MU Board of Curators approved the sale of the bonds in June 2009.

The bonds will be repaid with future energy fees collected from each department on campus, Seville said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Business schools take their own branding advice

By Megan Cassidy   September 28, 2010

COLUMBIA — Two years ago, Joseph Stephens was vying for the position of director of graduate studies at MU's School of Business.

As he worked his way through the MBA faculty and students on interview day, Stephens asked all of the school’s stakeholders the same question: “Why are you here?”

He got too much information.

"Everyone had great things to say, but they were all different things," Stephens said. "We didn't necessarily know who we were, and we had to figure that out to know where to go."

Stephens' revelation helped win him the job, and he focused the next two years on giving the program a defined, unified voice to sell.

Earlier this month, the Crosby MBA program launched its new brand campaign, "Choose to Thrive." The logo is the result of two years of strategic planning with local ad agency Woodruff Sweitzer and interviewing around 70 students, faculty, recruiters and prospective students.

“When we looked at the current students' courses and sequences of courses, no two were alike,” Stephens said. “We looked at that fact, and along with the tone and feel of the program, created the new tagline.”

MU's Crosby is one of many MBA programs working to carve out its niche in a saturated market. There are 596 accredited business schools in the world, 478 of which are in the U.S. To maintain rankings, recruitment numbers and student selectivity, business
school administrators need to lay out what defines their program in a sea of homogeneity.

"If you start to look at the websites of the top 75 business schools, you’d begin to see a lot of similar phrases: diversity, leadership, real-world experience," said Maurice Harris, associate dean of graduate programs at Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management.

Syracuse's MBA program is tied with Crosby for No. 59 this year in the U.S. News and World Report ranking.

"Eventually, they all start to sound alike," Harris said. "As a customer, how do you wade through that?"

Carolyn C. Wise, senior education editor at Vault.com, a career intelligence website, said mid-tier MBA programs like MU's in particular need to define themselves in the marketplace.

"The top schools are top schools because they’re well known," Wise said. "When you get to schools on a smaller scale in terms of rankings, you need to help define what you’re good at."

Marketers at rebranded schools admit many students choose an MBA program based on more practical logistics such as cost, scholarships, ranking or proximity to family. But if schools like MU want to continue to attract students on a national and international scale, Stephens said they need carve out their niche.

"The University of Missouri's program is probably best known for its value," Stephens said. "We must deliver on expectations."
Personality tests assess MU Health applicants

By JANESE SILVEY
Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Nicole Simmons was looking forward to getting hired at the University of Missouri’s Women’s and Children’s Hospital after conducting clinicals there while completing MU’s accelerated nursing program.

She thought she was a shoo-in. After all, Simmons graduated with a 3.8 grade point average, had a slew of positive references from teachers and co-workers and seemed to have the support of a nurse manager.

Then she took a mandatory talent assessment.

“They told me they were no longer interested in me as an applicant,” said Simmons, now a registered nurse at St. Louis Children’s Hospital.

“I was excited about it, but I guess something about my personality, according to that test, said I didn’t fit there at all.”

Since July, University of Missouri Health Care has been requiring candidates applying for nursing, managerial and physician leadership positions to take a talent assessment. Nebraska-based Talent Plus, a private company, conducts the telephone interviews and asks a series of questions aimed to see if a candidate would be successful in a particular job. MU Health is paying the company about $20,000 this year and plans to expand the talent assessment to all employees, including physicians, within the next several years, said Sue Kopfle, human resources officer.

Kopfle praised the assessment as a way to make sure a job seeker will be happy and successful when working for university hospitals and clinics. The ultimate goal, she said, is to make sure patients are being cared for by the most qualified individuals.

After spending years to get the health care system on strong financial footing, Kopfle said, administrators are turning their attention to patients. “It’s all about people getting better,” she said.

The test also helps university administrators narrow candidates. Some 5,000 people apply for roughly 120 open positions within the health care system every month, Kopfle said. About 200 people have taken the assessment since July, 72 percent of whom were recommended for positions, she said.

Simmons — who’s still scratching her head as to how a university could educate a nurse only to deem that nurse to be unqualified for a job — said the test questions were obscure and not necessarily related to the health care profession.

Not knowing what types of questions are included is making Katie Werth, a registered nurse at Women’s and Children’s Hospital, rethink plans to advance her career.

She’d hoped to start graduate-level classes next semester and return to the hospital as a nurse practitioner, but now she’s not sure she wants to invest the time or money.
"I feel like a very good fit for my job, but who's to say?" she said. "What if I took it tomorrow? I don't know."

She is hearing similar concerns from co-workers who now fear their options of transferring to other positions in the system are limited.

"People feel pretty negatively about it," she said. "They're fearful of it and suspicious. We're not quite sure what they're trying to ascertain or what personality they're looking for."

Not everyone is leery of the test. Lori Mann, manager of a medical cardiology unit, was one of the first hired after taking the talent assessment.

"It was amazing how well they knew me in that amount of time," she said. "It was nice to have feedback. They look at what kind of person you are at the core."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
TODAY'S QUESTION: Do you plan on getting the flu vaccine this year?

By Catherine Meagher September 28, 2010

The flu vaccine is now available at the Columbia/Boone County Health Department and at the MU Student Health Center.

According to the city's website, a flu clinic will be available until 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Health Department building at 1005 Worley. After Tuesday, the vaccine will be at schools and then available at the Health Department on a walk-in basis, according to a previous Missourian report.

The flu vaccine costs $25 for those 19 and older through the Health Department and for those receiving it at the Student Health Center. The Health Department accepts Medicare and Medicaid but cannot bill private insurance.

Another Missourian article stated that compared to last year's H1N1 craze, this flu season should be a bit more typical. This year's vaccine will still include protection against the H1N1 strain, as well as two others.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, recommends that everyone ages six and over get the vaccine. Furthermore, the CDC highly recommends that those with a condition, such as pulmonary disease or women who are pregnant, that would complicate or worsen symptoms once they have the flu, get the vaccine.

Do you plan on getting the flu vaccine this year?
Survey finds Americans know little about religion

By Laura Kebede  September 28, 2010

COLUMBIA — What was Joseph Smith's religion?

Is the golden rule part of the Ten Commandments?

Maimonides is associated with what religion?

If you know the answers, here's the next question:

Are you atheist or agnostic?

The Pew Research Center released the findings of a religious knowledge survey Tuesday, showing atheists, agnostics, Jews and Mormons as the highest-scoring participants.

The 32-question telephone survey asked 3,412 adults about religion as referenced by the Constitution as well as the history, teachings and leaders of several major religions.

On average, participants answered only half of the questions correctly. Atheists and agnostics on average answered 20 out of 32 correctly, followed closely by Jews. Mormons and white evangelicals knew the most about Christianity, correctly answering an average of 7 out of the 12 questions about the Bible.

“It really is a phenomenon that we live in one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world but have significant levels of religious illiteracy,” said Dan Cohen, an professor of religious studies at MU.

Cohen referenced Stephen Prothero’s 2008 book “Religious Literacy,” which highlighted religious misunderstandings similar to those shown in the Pew survey.

When it came to the Constitution, only 23 percent of survey participants knew that public school teachers could read from the Bible as an example of literature.

Within the Columbia Public Schools, there is only one religion class. George Frissell, who teaches classical ideas and world religions to 70-90 juniors and seniors at Hickman
High School every year, discussed with his students how the survey confirmed Prothero's findings Tuesday.

“Even those who are not religious have a responsibility to have a knowledge base,” Frissell said. “You need to understand religion to understand culture and politics.”

**Director Debra Mason of the Center on Religion & the Professions at MU** said this apparent lack of knowledge about religion is not new.

In June, the center sponsored the World Religions in Missouri workshop for public school teachers. The event brought in curriculum experts, religious studies scholars and a panel of parents to train teachers on why understanding and teaching about various religions is important.

“Religion is no longer a significant part of the curriculum in elementary through high school,” Mason said. “Because of world conflicts, it is imperative for the next generation to expand their knowledge base of religion.”

Of the minority faiths that scored highly on the survey, Mason said people who live in a dominant culture learn a lot by exposure and make a point to research the majority religion.

Atheists, agnostics, Jews and Mormons together make up 7 percent of Americans, according to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

The hole in survey, Mason said, is the lack of Muslim representation, especially with the “increasing tension” in public opinion.

“If we don’t address this lack of knowledge and polarization, the impact will continue to get worse,” Mason said. “More knowledge, more education and more information can change attitudes about other religions.”

None of the survey participants identified as Muslim.

Cohen said religious understanding is essential to undo stereotypes and have intellectual dialogue.

“Religious tolerance is not enough in a religiously diverse nation,” Cohen said. “There needs to be genuine reaching out to understand each other.”

To see how you'd do, take the quiz online: [http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/index.php](http://features.pewforum.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge/index.php)
LGBTQ Center finds $10,000 surprise

By JANENE SILVEY

Administrators at the University of Missouri's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Resource Center recently received an unexpected gift—a forgotten scholarship fund created for the center five years ago.

Director Ryan Black said he was shuffling through files when a student noticed a folder labeled "Academic Scholarship."

Inside was a description of an endowment established in 2005. After some checking, Black discovered that a group of donors set up a $10,000 scholarship fund for the center but the money hadn't been touched.

"It's fantastic," he said.

What that means this year is that the center can dole out three $500 scholarships to students active in LGBTQ efforts. Scholarships will be awarded to students who have "given time and effort to the community supporting efforts here at Mizzou in the LGBTQA community," Black said. "It's more than just identifying as 'queer' or 'ally,' it's participating and investing in the community."

The deadline to apply for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Scholarship is Oct. 1.

Among application questions is a requirement to describe "why you feel you deserve the support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer community in pursuing your higher education."

The $10,000 endowment was forgotten about in part because the LGBTQ Resource Center had not had a scholarship program previously set up, said Catey Terry, spokeswoman for the development office. It's up to schools, colleges and offices to award scholarships when they receive gifts, and most on campuses have existing mechanisms to do so, she said.

Furthermore, the LGBTQ Resource Center has had several directors over the past five years. Black said he's only been there for a year and doesn't know the history of the scholarship fund.

"It wasn't like the $10,000 was lost; it's just up to the center to award it," Terry said, adding that donors get annual reports showing how donations are being used.

In most cases, it takes three years for an endowment to earn enough interest to award scholarships, she said.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Missouri falls short of CDC's breast-feeding goal

By Laura Kebede  September 28, 2010

Local Resources:
The University of Missouri Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative has opened private lactation rooms around campus for nursing mothers. Some rooms require reservations; others are first come, first served. See MU Equity's website for more information.

COLUMBIA — The words “I make milk. What’s your superpower?” wrinkled on Sarah Davis' shirt as she lifted it to breastfeed her 9-month-old son, Micah.

Davis is a member of La Leche League in Columbia, a local chapter of the international group where women meet, talk and share tips about breast-feeding. For Davis, breast-feeding is an important part of her relationship with her son.

“I feel very strongly that (baby) formula won’t be the same,” she said.

Davis is part of 38 percent of women in Missouri who breast-feed their children after six months, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Breastfeeding Report Card for 2010.

The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative from UNICEF and the World Health Organization said breast-feeding decreases risks for diarrhea and respiratory and ear infections. It also decreases hospital and pediatric visits, saving the health care system millions of dollars.

The World Health Organization recommends mothers breast-feed exclusively for six months and continue until their children are two years old.

Story continues......
Summer weather leads to a dull fall for Missouri

Local News
9/28/2010
12:57 pm

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (KMOX) – One of Missouri’s most abundant Autumn marvels will be less colorful this fall, due to disease and drought.

The White Oak tree’s gold foliage ranges from Springfield to St. Louis turned brown this summer from two different diseases and will remain so throughout the fall.

“The fungus itself is not alarming, it’s just a one-time deal, but it will affect the fall color for those particular trees,” said Conservation Department Forestry Director, Justine Gartner.

University of Missouri Forestry Professor, Hank Stelzer says the sunny days and cool, crisp nights would normally lead to bright colors, but this year’s late summer drought will prevent that.

Stelzer says, “It just didn’t allow for a lot of sugar production in the leaves or pigment production.”

Stelzer says the peak time for bright fall leaves will be during the end of September into mid-October, but “we really won’t see the colors change until we get a good frost, a good hard frost, something where temperatures get down into the mid, upper thirties.”

The Department of Conservation still encourages Missourians to get out and see the fall foliage and offers regional routes on its website.