U. of Missouri Will Reduce Degree Offerings by 16

December 23, 2010, 7:43 pm

After conducting a state-mandated review of programs that attract small numbers of students, the University of Missouri at Columbia will reduce the number of degrees it offers by 16, the university announced Thursday. According to the Columbia Daily Tribune, the university will combine some programs—French and Spanish, for instance, will be merged into a Romance Languages department, and three agriculture-department programs will be rolled into one—while eliminating a handful of others, such as a doctorate in communication sciences and disorders. The university’s plan will require approval by the state’s Department of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.
MU plans to merge degree programs

By Janese Silvev

The University of Missouri is set to reduce its degree offerings by 16 in the coming years, the result of a state-mandated review of programs that graduate only handfuls of students every year.

Some of that reduction will be the result of discontinuing programs, but most comes from potential mergers of programs that will essentially create new degrees, Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a letter yesterday to Higher Education Commissioner David Russell.

The proposed mergers will have to be approved by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The department in October required all public universities to review programs that award, on average, fewer than 10 bachelor’s, five master’s and three doctoral degrees a year.

The coordinating board is expected to review those reports at its February meeting.

Here’s what MU is proposing:

- Bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Spanish and French should be combined to create new Romance languages bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Spanish was not considered a low-producing degree, but the department agreed to take in the French program.
- Three master’s programs within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources should be rolled into one catch-all degree covering forestry, parks, recreation, tourism, and soil, environmental and atmospheric sciences.
- On the doctoral level, two programs — forestry and soil, environmental and atmospheric science — should become one Ph.D.
- In the School of Medicine, pharmacology and physiology medicine master’s and doctoral programs should be combined into one degree.
- Exercise physiology and nutritional area master’s programs in the School of Human Environmental Sciences should also be rolled into one degree.

MU is proposing to eliminate the following programs:

- Education specialist and doctoral degrees in career and technical education, and a specialist degree in special education.
- Communication sciences and disorders doctorate and a clinical laboratory sciences bachelor’s program within the School of Health Professions.
In one case, eliminating a degree will require nothing more than a name change. The environmental geology bachelor of arts and geological sciences bachelor of science in the College of Arts and Science are essentially the same program, but the B.A. and B.S. had different names, Deputy Provost Ken Dean said. Dean said changing degrees, in some cases, will take years because the university will not implement anything that would have a negative impact on current or enrolled students.

“Some of these degrees are not going to go away for a while because there are people in the pipeline,” he said.

Dean said he believes MU went above and beyond the state’s call to review degrees.

He also stressed, though, that the campus is constantly reviewing its academic offerings and that MU has eliminated as many degrees as it has created over the past decade.

“As you know, MU produces 25 percent of all bachelor and master’s degrees granted by public four-year institutions and over 60 percent of all PhDs,” Deaton said in his letter to Russell. “We have always taken seriously the responsibility to continually review our degree offerings, seeking to respond to student and market demands, as well as to meet the needs of the state and the nation.”

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU proposes new adjustments to degree programs

By MISSOURIAN STAFF - December 23, 2010 | 6:34 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — In response to a state push to lower degree inventory, MU administrators have proposed merging or discontinuing 23 degree programs for a net loss of 16.

Chancellor Brady Deaton sent a letter to the state Department of Higher Education on Thursday outlining a plan to close seven programs and merge or realign the remainder.

"With the active engagement of our faculty and academic leadership, there will be a net reduction of 16 in the degree inventory," Deaton said in the letter. "Some of this reduction will come from degrees that will be discontinued and some come from merging both 'low-producing' and 'high-producing' degree programs to create a stronger new program."

He noted that programs tagged for a merger would be discontinued only if the new combinations are approved.

In addition, students would be allowed to complete degrees in existing programs.

"No student currently in those programs will be adversely affected by our actions," Deaton said.

The letter also included an attachment with justification to continue 40 other programs.

University officials had expected to decrease the degree inventory by 12 programs, which has now been adjusted to the 16 now proposed.

**DISCONTINUED**

- Graduate program in natural resources (MNR)
- Education specialist in career and technical education
- Doctoral programs (2) in career and technical education
- Education specialist in special education
- Doctoral program in communication sciences and disorders
- Undergraduate program in clinical laboratory sciences (BILS)
MERGED

- Spanish and French bachelor's programs
- Spanish and French master's programs
- Forestry and parks/recreation/tourism and soil/environmental/atmospheric science master's programs
- Forestry and soil/environmental/atmospheric science doctoral programs
- Exercise physiology and nutritional area master’s programs
- Pharmacology and physiology master’s programs
- Pharmacology and physiology doctoral programs

OTHER ACTION

- Undergraduate degree in environmental geology will be changed to a degree in geological sciences

Anthony Barbis said a decision was made to cancel the education specialist in career and technical education because of overlap and insufficient interest.

"It is similar to a second master's degree, and there is not enough interest in that area from students," said Barbis, who is with the department of learning, teaching and curriculum in the College of Education.

“We decided to cancel the education doctorate because we don’t have enough doctoral faculty to support the students,” he said.

Among the suggested mergers is master’s degree programs in forestry, parks/recreation and tourism, and soil, environmental and atmospheric science.

Rose-Marie Muzika, director of graduate studies in forestry, said everything is preliminary.

“It is still in discussion,” Muzika said. “I don’t know the time frame.”

*Eve Edelheit contributed to this report.*
Loss of Bond earmarks could cost MU

Christmas is over for the University of Missouri, perhaps in more ways than one. Santa — aka U.S. Sen. Kit Bond — is retiring.

For years, the university has enjoyed a steady stream of federal dollars for research and facilities thanks to the earmarks the senior senator was able to secure. As Bond leaves office and a new generation of congressional leaders vows to ban earmarks, MU administrators are bracing for a substantial loss of resources.

“The impact” of an earmark ban “will be significant,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said. He consulted with Tim Rooney, MU budget director, and Tom Payne, vice chancellor and dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, to provide information to the Tribune.

In many cases, earmarks have supported one-time expenses such as paying for buildings on campus. The Life Sciences Center named after Bond received the most significant chunk, $31 million.

But in some cases, earmarks are supporting ongoing expenses, such as salaries and research. In fiscal year 2010, MU received roughly $16 million in congressional earmarks. The agriculture school received $11.2 million of that, representing 12.5 percent of the college’s budget, Basi said. Currently 144 CAFNR positions — 17 faculty members, 78 staff members and 49 graduate students — are funded with earmark dollars.

“There is an effort to try and identify funding that may help bridge, temporarily, expenses,” Basi said. “However, without an identifiable source of continuing funds, those programs will probably not be sustained at their current levels.”

Earmark dollars make up just shy of 40 percent of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute’s roughly $2 million budget, co-director Pat Westhoff said. “The prospect of potentially not having those is a big deal,” he said.

FAPRI works with other institutions in the Midwest to develop long-term agricultural predictions. Every year, the institute puts together baseline projections for the farming economy that take into consideration, for instance, how legislative or trade changes would affect crop and beef prices.
Westhoff said administrators are considering various funding scenarios but haven’t developed any specific plan. “Some options are less attractive than others,” he said. “We’ll deal with things as they develop.”

There are other ways MU receives federal support. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, and U.S. Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, a Republican from St. Elizabeth, support allocating federal dollars through competitive grant processes rather than earmarks, their respective spokespeople said.

“It’s not the projects I take issue with; it’s the process,” McCaskill, a vocal opponent of the earmark system, said in a statement. “Taxpayer dollars should be awarded based on merit and need, not political influence. ... I am confident that the amazing research that is being done at MU will be able to compete for and win grant funding that is available from the federal government.”

Although U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt — the Springfield Republican elected to replace Bond — doesn’t support a permanent ban on earmarks, he has agreed to a one-year moratorium. Blunt “will fight for Missouri dollars, but he’s also sensitive to his colleagues’ position on earmarks,” spokesman Dan Wadlington said. “The congressman has had discussions with University of Missouri folks. He’s very sensitive to the situation, and he will help where he can.”

Bond has argued support for an earmark ban is nothing more than political rhetoric. In a Dec. 5 Tribune column, he wrote earmarks account for less than 1 percent of all federal discretionary spending. That means a ban would allow President Barack Obama’s administration to direct 100 percent of spending, rather than 99 percent, he wrote. Bond also argued the earmark process lets local communities spend at least some of their tax dollars on their own priorities.

Bond’s support for science and research has had a significant impact on the quality of life in Missouri, Payne said in a statement.

“The loss of Kit Bond” in the Senate “is the loss of someone who truly understands the importance of higher education and research to improving the lives of Missourians and its economic development,” Payne said. “His use of the congressional provision for targeting support to highly justifiable projects was one means by which he was able to help provide for Missourians.”

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Student rep gives UM curators different view

By Janese Silvey

She might not have a vote, but she has a voice. And in the coming year, Laura Confer plans to use it a little more.

Confer, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology, is the student representative on the University of Missouri System’s Board of Curators. Student curators participate in all meetings, including closed board meetings, but they are not allowed to vote.

Next year — when four new curators are expected to be appointed — Confer, appointed in 2009, will be one of the most experienced members on the board.

“My biggest opportunity with four new members is to really have a strong student presence,” Confer said. “I just think having new curators, we’re going to set a precedent for them to listen to students and not have the option not to.”

New curators go through an orientation process that includes campus tours and workshops. Confer said it takes students less time to get up to speed because they’re already familiar with the inner workings of the university.

For instance, when curators questioned why housing costs were going up on campus, Confer said students were able to explain the rates reflected improved residential halls.

“We live it day to day,” she said.

The three curators whose terms expire Jan. 1 are expected to continue to serve on the board until Gov. Jay Nixon appoints replacements, UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

That means David Wasinger, Doug Russell and John Carnahan will likely be at the January meeting on the MU campus. Curator Bo Fraser of Columbia has resigned, leaving his seat vacant.

Nixon’s representatives won’t speculate as to when the appointments might be made.

“Gov. Nixon fully understands the importance of appointing highly qualified individuals to serve on the Board of Curators, and we will announce those appointments once the governor has
Nixon spokesman Sam Murphey said in an e-mail.

Confer is also leading a push to get more students to attend the board meetings, which typically span two days. She said students often don’t realize they are allowed to sit in on the public meetings.

For the past couple of meetings, more students have shown up, representing all four campuses. Earlier this month, the students invited curators to a lunchtime discussion where they filled them in on campus happenings and expressed their opposition to using student fees to renovate academic buildings.

Confer said she expects more students to continue to attend curator meetings, and she hopes their presence reminds curators that every decision they make affects students.

Even a decision on university staff and faculty benefits directly affects them, she said.

“If they pick the wrong plan and the wrong benefits, we’re going to lose quality faculty members, and obviously we don’t want that,” she said.

The Missouri Constitution establishes the nine-member Board of Curators. A state statute says no more than one curator shall represent any one congressional district. That won’t work in 2013, when Missouri drops from nine congressional districts to eight. Confer, along with Columbia Reps. Chris Kelly and Mary Still, says she would support changing the law to allow the ninth board member to be a voting student representative.

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Letter: Costs run amok

December 25, 2010 - 3:43pm

If you think that the cost of college has gotten out of control, you’re not alone. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni recently released a report on Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and the rest of the Big 12 Conference, and the findings are nothing short of troubling.

Between 2004 and 2010, tuition at KU rose by 52 percent, even after inflation is accounted for. Tuition at K-State is comparatively speaking, a bargain — it rose by “only” 30 percent. As a result, the average Kansas family has to spend 15 percent of its annual income simply to pay for one child’s tuition at K-State or 18 percent at KU. Add to that the soaring debt level of college students, and you have hardship that continues for years to come.

Administrative bloat is one reason for the soaring costs. Both institutions have increased their administrative spending at a much faster rate than instructional expenses. They’ve spent an extra $1.50 for every extra dollar dedicated to instruction.

Cutting administrative expenses isn’t just a nice thing to do, it is possible. Iowa State, Texas A&M and the University of Missouri actually reduced their administrative expenses. It should be no surprise that they had smaller tuition increases than every other university in the conference, save Texas Tech.

Rising tuition rates impose a hidden cost: college dropouts. For every five students who start a bachelor’s program at KU or K-State, two fail to finish it, even six years later. Many students, then, come away with little to show for their increased debt, and taxpayers end up subsidizing an incomplete education.

ACTA also warns that even students who do finish their degrees may not be adequately prepared for the future, either as workers or as citizens.

The first law of economics is that we have limitless wants but limited means to pay for them — even for something as valuable and cherished as college education. Everyone from lawmakers to university presidents to incoming college students has acted as if money for college is unlimited. It isn’t, which means that we all need to be more creative about solving the state’s budget problems — and financing higher education.

JOHN R. LAFLANTE, educational policy fellow,

Kansas Policy Institute, Wichita
It's a few days before Arizona's trio of college-bowl matchups kick off, and an Iowa football official is teeing off at a Valley golf course.

In Phoenix, a University of Missouri football official is hiking with his wife.

On Tuesday, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes will face the Missouri Tigers in the Insight Bowl in Tempe. But until game day, the Midwest teams are enjoying the warm desert weather.

"We're out here in T-shirts and shorts. Back home with the wind chill, it's near minus 15 (degrees). What's not to like?" University of Iowa Sports Information Director Phil Haddy said after a round of golf Thursday.

Haddy says the sun is appealing to college-football fans looking to couple support for their team with a respite from the cold.

But even the best weather can't explain the Insight Bowl's swift rise in the face of growing bowl competition and a bad economy.

John Junker and his Fiesta Bowl team are credited with building Arizona's reputation as a premier host for college bowls, says professor Michael Mokwa, chairman of the marketing department at the W.P. Carey School of Business.

Mokwa studied the economic impact of Fiesta's first unprecedented hosting of three bowls in 11 days, beginning with the Insight Bowl in late December 2006 and ending with the BCS National Championship Game on Jan 8, 2007.

The W.P. Carey School of Business estimated that the Fiesta and Insight bowls and BCS championship game generated $401.7 million for the state, 3,576 jobs and $10.1 million in state and local taxes.

Football fans pumped record amounts of cash into the Valley economy, spending on lodging, dining, entertainment and other services.

This year, coinciding with the return of the bowl-game trio, Fiesta Bowl officials signed television and college-bowl contracts that put Insight on par with first-tier faceoffs.

Despite the down economy, Fiesta Bowl officials expect this year's bowls to exceed the economic impact of the 2006-07 bowls. The Fiesta Bowl has had a tough year amid allegations its employees made illegal campaign contributions.

But college teams and sports analysts still consider Fiesta officials adept at guiding a bowl's success.

Junker is known for the hospitality he extends to Arizona's visiting football organizations, Mokwa said.
Haddy has worked for the Hawkeye organization's Sports Information Office for 40 years. The Fiesta Bowl is also celebrating its 40th anniversary.

In that span of time, Haddy watched the Fiesta Bowl catapult from a bowl created by a handful of community leaders hoping to boost Arizona State University's bowl play to a major bowl with nationally ranked teams.

"People forget the Fiesta Bowl was not among the elite bowls 30 years ago. Now it's one people are standing in line to play. That's a testament to John Junker and his team," Haddy said.

Insight is following in Fiesta's footsteps, Haddy says.

When Fiesta opted to move the game to University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale in 2007, Fiesta officials saw an opportunity to grow both of the bowls and negotiated a deal to move Insight from what was then Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix to Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe. Junker promised that an investment in Insight would benefit Tempe and the state.

Tempe spent $6.9 million on an eight-year deal for Insight. In return, the city's name was placed on the Insight logo and at least one Insight team had to stay at a Tempe hotel.

The first year (2006) that Tempe hosted Insight, attendance grew by nearly 5,000. Insight attendance at Sun Devil Stadium lags below the crowds seen when Tempe hosted the Fiesta Bowl, and Glendale has not broken Tempe's Fiesta Bowl attendance records. But this year, Fiesta officials secured a television deal with ESPN that will give Insight a broad national audience on Tuesday. A record 50,000 people are expected to attend Insight.

"There's almost 100 million households with ESPN - it definitely raises (Insight's) profile," said Fiesta spokesman Andy Bagnato.

Fiesta officials promoted Tempe's history as a college-football town and the city's success with the Fiesta Bowl to help secure the ESPN deal, Bagnato said.

In the spring, Insight provided the nation's biggest hike in bowl payouts for this contract cycle, increasing to a $6.65 million total payout from $2.6 million, Bagnato said. The four-year contract signed this year gives Insight the third selection from the Big 12 Conference and the third or fourth pick from the Big Ten Conference, after BCS selections. The Insight Bowl previously had the sixth selection from each conference.

Under Fiesta's new deal, Insight scored better selections from the Big 12 than San Diego's Holiday Bowl and will showcase Tuesday what many sports enthusiasts consider a more-competitive match than the Fiesta Bowl game between Connecticut and Oklahoma.

In Tempe, the Hawkeyes battle the Tigers for the first time in more than a century.

Although Tempe took a major economic hit when it lost the lucrative Fiesta Bowl, Insight's burgeoning success is a relief for the city's hotels, restaurants and retail stores, said Michael Martin, vice president of Tempe Convention and Visitors Bureau. Studies on spending are only available for the three 2006-07 bowls, during which non-local fans spent an average of $363.70 per day in the Phoenix area for the BCS National Championship Game, $297.80 per day for the Fiesta Bowl and $272.50 per day for the Insight Bowl. The average person spent
about four nights in the Valley.

The financial impact of this year's bowls is expected to increase to $420 million.

"It's pretty exciting for any community to have one bowl game, so for us to have two prestigious bowls in the Valley every year is amazing," Martin said.
2010: A look back

By The Tribune's Staff

For Columbia's conservative sect, 2010 was a pretty good year. Leadership in the city changed hands, and the economy started to budge with some new businesses opening their doors.

From left, ESPN "College GameDay" analyst Desmond Howard, host Chris Fowler and analysts Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit take a break Oct. 23 during a live broadcast of the college football preview show from the University of Missouri's Francis Quadrangle. ESPN estimated a record-breaking crowd of more than 18,000 was on hand.

The Tribune staff reviewed the headlines and whittled down the top stories of 2010. The following, in descending order, are the Tribune's Top 10.

10: A LEAVE — BUT NOT A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Late in 2010, University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee announced to the Board of Curators he was temporarily stepping down from his office. He'd just found out his wife, Sherry, was diagnosed with cancer and wanted to spend some personal time with the family.

Forsee called a last-minute curators' meeting Dec. 2 and informed the board behind closed doors that he selected UM General Counsel Steve Owens to take his place while he was gone. Although university spokespersons declined to provide any additional information at the time, spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead later clarified Forsee isn't taking an official leave of absence but rather just some personal time.

Owens told curators later in the month that he's still in constant contact with Forsee. There's no word on when he will return to the president's office.
9: A RACIST ACT OR A HARMLESS PRANK

Cotton. It’s the fabric of our lives, a staple crop in Missouri and the name of a prestigious college football bowl.

But in February, cotton became a sore spot on the MU campus when two pranksters lined cotton balls in front of the Gaines Oldham Black Culture Center. Zachary Tucker and Sean Fitzgerald later would describe the act as one of a string of pranks they conducted on campus, but the racist display — a reminder of the days of slaves picking cotton — riled the community.

Town hall forums were called, and students used the opportunity to lash out at administrators for not responding to the incident soon enough and for not requiring diversity courses. The prank made national news.

Tucker and Fitzgerald pleaded guilty to littering and voluntarily left the university. What became known as the “cotton ball incident” ultimately did not hurt minority enrollment at MU this fall.

8: NOT-SO-ROWDY RIDERS ROLL INTO TOWN

Less than a week after the annual Boone County Fair, the National Biker Roundup came roaring into Columbia and northern Boone County in early August, but fears of 35,000 rowdy bikers didn’t materialize.

The Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau had courted the national event the previous summer, when the group — made up mostly of black bikers — met in Atlanta. Local officials expected the rally to bring 35,000 and at least $6 million of economic activity to Columbia. Retailers and restaurants were warned to stock up for fear of running out of groceries, food and gasoline. Although some retailers and restaurants reported brisk business during the rally, others said they experienced no notable increase in sales.

The high-profile presence of law enforcement tempered tension when two outlaw motorcycle groups visited the event. A traffic and parking plan formulated over a period of several months kept Highway 63 and Interstate 70 mostly clear, although there was considerable traffic congestion on site and on outer roads.

In the end, the bikers came and went without much incident.

7: SUN CAME OUT FOR MU TIGERS
A Missouri football season that began clouded with controversy will end in sunny Tempe, Ariz., site of the Insight Bowl, where the Tigers (10-2) will face the Iowa Hawkeyes (7-5) Tuesday.

Back in August, members of Gary Pinkel's program took turns in the police blotter, including three DWI arrests and the stunning path of senior tailback Derrick Washington. Elected a co-captain by his teammates in August, Washington was kicked off the team after being charged with felony sexual assault a week before the season opener, followed by a domestic assault charge for a separate incident. Pinkel acted swiftly in parting ways with Washington, a starter since the beginning of the 2008 season, but the incident cast the program under an unfavorable light.

The Tigers, however, found a solution: Win.

The Tigers roared from the start, winning their first seven games, punctuated by a Homecoming victory over Oklahoma, the No. 1-ranked team in the season's initial Bowl Championship Series standings. ESPN's "College GameDay" show came to campus for the first time — an estimated record crowd of 18,000 fans showed up on Francis Quadrangle for the live broadcast — and the Tigers followed with their first win over the Sooners under Pinkel.

From there, Missouri hit a two-game losing skid at Nebraska and Texas Tech, but behind Pinkel's best defense, a group ravaged by injuries and suspensions all season, the Tigers swept Kansas State, Iowa State and Kansas to post double-digit wins for the third time in four seasons and secured a matchup with Iowa in Tempe.

— Dave Matter

6: MISSOURI THEATRE’S GLOW DIMS

A massive debt left over from a $10.2 million renovation, an expensive court ruling and fundraising challenges during a weak economy slammed the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

Doors are locked most of the time at 203 S. Ninth St. while volunteers clean bathrooms and open for the occasional concert rental.

In July, Missouri Symphony Society Board President Christina George announced the decision to temporarily close the theater Aug. 1.

That month, the theater was ordered to pay $386,000 in contested construction fees and other costs in a lawsuit involving Huebert Builders. That has been paid, but $3.5 million in debt continues to haunt board members. Casualties from the state of affairs included a cancellation of the Hot Summer Nights concert series and layoffs of staff members.
In July, CEO Eric Staley resigned after overseeing the donation of $500,000 during his 10-month tenure.

George said in an e-mail this week the board, now being restructured, awaits a final word on new management. For now, in a hopeful sign, the theater is booking events for 2011.

Another community museum closed for good this year. YouZeum, the interactive children’s museum that occupied the federal building on Cherry Street, had operated in the red since opening in 2008. It closed in October, and Columbia College plans to move its online program into the building next year.

— Lynn Israel

5: DEVELOPERS FLEX THEIR MUSCLES

Refusing to bow to the lousy economy, local economic development officials showed they had some hustle in their muscle when they attracted IBM to town, encouraged 3M to expand and welcomed the opening of Hy-Vee’s third Columbia store.

The year started positively when Columbia’s third Hy-Vee grocery store opened in April in the Broadway Marketplace near Highway 63 and Broadway. A month later, IBM and city officials announced the corporation had selected Columbia as the site of a technology delivery center that ultimately is expected to employ 800 people.

More good economic news came in mid-August when the Missouri Development Finance Board approved an incentives package that will allow Columbia’s 3M plant to move forward with plans to hire as many as 120 employees over the next three years.

Corporate retailers also showed their faith in Columbia’s economy this December when they opened a new Bed, Bath & Beyond in the former Linens ‘N Things location and a new Marshall’s department store in the old Circuit City spot.

Columbia’s relatively robust economy is reflected in the local unemployment numbers. The city’s 6 percent unemployment rate continued to out-perform the state’s 9.4 percent rate and the nation’s 9.6 percent rate, calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for October.

— Kris Hilgedick

4: SHOW GOES ON AFTER BARN BURNS

On April 5, a suspicious fire resulted in the loss of the 140-year-old Maplewood Barn Community Theatre in Nifong Park.

The not-for-profit acting company’s almost immediate reaction was to create “The Phoenix Season,” with efforts in conjunction with the city’s Parks and Recreation Department to replace the structure used by the company for 38 years. One day after the fire, theater board President
Michael Scott said the “show will go on.” And it did, thanks to a stage rehilt with donations of time and labor provided by many groups, including area parks officials, firefighters and even loaned trailers for changing costumes.

Discussions continue with officials from the city, Maplewood and the Columbia Historic Preservation Commission on what kind of structure would replace the barn, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Funding is the other piece of the puzzle. The city will have between $90,000 and $100,000 forthcoming from a future claimed insurance settlement from the fire. Maplewood officials are trying to raise at least $50,000 to help with reconstruction, and about $150,000 would come from Proposition 1, which extends a one-eighth-cent sales tax for park improvements for five years, approved by voters Nov. 2.

— Lynn Israel

3: MURDERS, CONVICTIONS DRAW NATIONAL ATTENTION

Local killings and murder trials captured not only local headlines but also the attention of the nation this year.

In late October, Holts Summit residents rejoiced when Joshua Maylee was captured after a 36-hour manhunt. Maylee allegedly went on a killing spree, murdering three people and severely injured a woman while “settling scores.” Residents who had had negative interactions with Maylee were instructed by law enforcement to seek safe shelter.

Tausha Fields this year was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole — even though she didn’t pull the trigger. In a dramatic trial that included testimony from six former lovers, jurors learned Fields manipulated her husband, Gregory Morton, to murder her ex-husband Mitchell Kemp in 2004. Morton pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and cut a deal with the state for 19 years in prison.

Columbia residents saw three murders this year. Crestful J. Williams was killed Labor Day at Lakewood Apartments near Stephens Lake Park, and Eric D. Jamison, 22, of St. Louis has been charged with second-degree murder in that case.

Eight suspects have been arrested and charged with second-degree murder and second-degree robbery in the MU Homecoming Day murder of Aaron Hobson. Also in October, Jerry Schneider, a homeless man, was found dead with a head wound near Range Line Street. No arrest has been made.

— Brennan David

2: CITY HALL SEES CHANGING OF THE GUARD
Elections in the spring and retirements in the fall meant big changes at city hall that won’t end with the year. In fact, they will pick up steam.

Helped by a business community seeking a more development-friendly council, Bob McDavid defeated incumbent Councilman Jerry Wade and four other candidates in April to replace Darwin Hindman, the city’s longest-serving mayor.

In the Third Ward, businessman Gary Kespolh defeated incumbent Third Ward Councilman Karl Skala in a rematch of their 2007 contest, and Daryl Dudley won a narrow victory to take over Wade’s Fourth Ward seat. The Columbia Chamber of Commerce endorsed all three. The trio led the way in trimming a city budget that relied on $2.9 million in general fund reserves. Although they didn’t significantly close that gap, they redirected funds to help hire two new firefighters, a new police officer and a new 911 dispatcher.

And as soon as that budget was finished, help-wanted signs started going up for top city jobs. City Manager Bill Watkins was the first to announce his pending departure, followed quickly by 73-year-old Fire Chief Bill Markgraf, Finance Director Lori Fleming and Office of Cultural Affairs Manager Marie Nau Hunter. All were longtime fixtures in city hall, either given their jobs or promoted to top positions by longtime City Manager Ray Beck.

Watkins has said he intends to fill all three posts before his retirement takes effect in March. By that time, the council will have selected Watkins’ replacement as well. With a nationwide search under way, the city could hire its first manager without lengthy experience in Columbia government since the early 1980s.

And in April, the council turnover will continue as First Ward Councilman Paul Sturtz steps aside after one term and Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser exits after two terms.

— Rudi Keller

I: ROUGH YEAR FOR CPD

A February SWAT raid in southwest Columbia marked the beginning of what would prove to be a challenging year for Columbia police.

On Feb. 11, investigators believed 26-year-old Jonathan E. Whitworth was in possession of, and planned to distribute, a large amount of marijuana. When SWAT entered the home with an eight-day-old search warrant and no prior surveillance of the property, though, they found only a grinder, a pipe and a small amount of pot.

The entire world witnessed the SWAT team, caught on video by a police helmet camera, shoot two allegedly aggressive dogs upon entering. A pit bull died, and a mixed-breed canine was wounded in the leg. The sound of the wounded pit bull crying was scrutinized by more than 1.5 million YouTube viewers and thousands more on the Tribune website. Readers and viewers from as far as New Zealand responded, some even sending death threats to Columbia officers.
The fallout prompted Chief Ken Burton to implement changes to policies concerning the use of SWAT tactics, narcotic investigations and the process of serving drug search warrants.

The Citizen’s Police Review Board also has turned into a headache for Burton and his administration. Although board meetings earlier in the year were productive in terms of updating policy and SWAT-related appeals, a more recent decision has resulted in a rift between officers and the board, with Burton questioning the board’s decision-making methods.

The police department also has enjoyed public support this year. In April, voters approved installing surveillance cameras downtown to assist officers with investigations. Last month, voters overwhelmingly shot down a ballot issue that would have taken Tasers out of police officers’ hands.

But any post-election celebration at the police station was short-lived. To close out the year, Burton learned former Deputy Chief Tom Dresner and Officer Jessie Haden were part of a public relations problem. Dresner ended his 26-year career earlier this month allegedly to work in the private sector, but the Tribune later learned Burton called for Dresner to resign after learning of his yearslong affair with Haden.

Haden, who is married to another Columbia police officer, has since been reassigned from CPD’s public information officer to a patrol shift.

— Brennan David
The Tribune's top 10 stories of 2010

Athletic Director Mike Alden speaks to reporters after it was revealed Missouri would remain in a 10-team Big 12 Conference.

1. It's the end of the Big 12 as we know it ...

2010 Timeline

The University of Missouri will end 2010 as it began, as a member of the Big 12 Conference. But for six intriguing and exasperating months, that outcome was very much in doubt, no matter how often university officials repeated their official public mantra: “We are a proud member of the Big 12 Conference.”
Conference realignment was the story that ate 2010 and nearly swallowed the Big 12 whole. It was a story of power and paranoia that built to a crescendo in June. In the span of a few days, Missouri’s dreams of bolting to the Big Ten were dashed — it was Nebraska alone that got an invitation — and it appeared the Tigers would have no place to call home, because Colorado and most of the Big 12 South were headed to the Pac-10. Then, at the last minute, a deal was struck to keep the Big 12 together as a 10-team league.

Although the only action was carried out behind closed doors, it was clearly the Tribune’s No. 1 sports story of 2010.

The story began on Dec. 15, 2009, when Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany announced in a news release that his league was going to spend the next 12 to 18 months considering expansion. He made no mention of potential targets, but Missouri was considered a good fit for reasons including the school’s membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities, the state’s geography and its 2.2 million households ready to subscribe to the Big Ten Network.

This announcement coincided with a low point in MU’s opinion of its own conference. A week earlier, the Missouri football team had been passed over by the Insight Bowl in favor of a lesser team, Iowa State. It was the third straight year the Tigers ended up in a bowl lower on the Big 12 pecking order than their record would dictate. Also, the Missouri soccer team had been left out of the 2009 NCAA Tournament despite winning the Big 12 regular-season title. MU Athletic Director Mike Alden believed the Big 12 wasn’t throwing its weight around on Missouri’s behalf with the bowls and selection committees.

He was also frustrated with the Big 12’s unequal television revenue-sharing formula and the league’s reluctance to start its own network when it had the chance — an opportunity the Big Ten jumped on — which led to a huge disparity in TV revenue between the Big 12 and Big Ten.

“As a league, we’ve got to continue to do everything we can to make our league stronger — not one or two or three schools. ... We’ve got to see some movement in those directions, and I’ve been here 12 years, and frankly, I haven’t seen a lot of movement,” Alden said in a December 2009 interview.

If not openly pining to be rescued by the Big Ten, Alden said it was in Missouri’s best interest to listen. So did MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and University of Missouri President Gary Forsee. Gov. Jay Nixon ruffled feathers when he said it would be nice to keep company with academic powerhouses such as Northwestern and Wisconsin as opposed to Oklahoma State and Texas Tech.

After saying their piece, Missouri’s contingent clammed up. No one else had even begun to talk.

Except the media. As the months passed, sources close to the situation kept speculating — usually inaccurately — on what was about to happen. One popular theory was that the Big
12 would be picked apart and four 16-team super conferences would emerge. A false report on a Kansas City radio station said Missouri, Nebraska and Rutgers had received initial invitations to Big Ten. Nebraska and the Big Ten immediately shot down the rumor, but Missouri didn't, giving the impression that someone at MU was leaking information.

Perhaps Missouri officials believed — or wanted to believe — an invitation was inevitable. When desperate Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe asked league members for a pledge of loyalty during meetings in Kansas City in early June, MU officials continued to make clear they were beholden to no one. Nebraska and Colorado did likewise.

Colorado was the first to defect, to the Pac-10, which also had its eyes on the biggest prize, Texas. Then the Big Ten announced it was taking Nebraska and no one else.

Missouri fans, who had come to believe the Big Ten was their destiny, were stunned and angry. Missouri officials were afraid that this was a worst-case scenario. If five of the remaining Big 12 South schools defected to the Pac-10, as many media outlets were speculating, there would be no home for Missouri, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State and Baylor.

But that didn't happen. The much-maligned Beebe worked with Texas and assured the Longhorns that a new television deal in a 10-team Big 12 would be as lucrative as what they would receive in the Pac-10. If Texas was willing to stay, so was Oklahoma. The rest fell in line.

Crisis averted.

Whether or not Missouri was a proud member of the Big 12 Conference, it was at least a member, and considering the alternative, it was happy about that.

2 Perfect storm creates sea of gold

Photo by Parker Eshelman

Missouri football fans spill onto Faurot Field after the Tigers beat BCS No. 1 Oklahoma 36-27 on Oct. 23.

If you could draw up the perfect day for the Missouri football team, it would go a little something like this:
ESPN’s “College GameDay” would arrive in Columbia for the first time ever and plop its set down on the Francis Quadrangle, drawing the largest crowd in the history of the show. Oklahoma, the team that denied the Tigers a national-championship berth in 2007, would be the opponent, and it would be the top-ranked team in the Bowl Championship Series standings. And Missouri would win, of course, setting off a tidal wave of gold-clad fans spilling onto Faurot Field and hauling the goal posts to Harpo’s.

All that happened on Oct. 23.

“It’s for the university, for the football program, all those people out there in gold, all Tiger fans,” said MU Coach Gary Pinkel, who beat the Sooners for the first time after six straight losses in the series. “If you want to notch up your program respect-wise, you have to win games like these.”

The Tigers struck quickly, with Gahn McGaffie returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown. Quarterback Blaine Gabbert played brilliantly, completing 30 of 42 passes for 308 yards and a touchdown, and the Missouri defense held Oklahoma scoreless on three trips inside the red zone in a 36-27 victory.

The feeling of good cheer extended into the next week, when authorities decided not to charge the 30 people who were arrested for trespassing after rushing the field.

3 Ducks call, Anderson listens

For the second March in a row, Mike Anderson led the Missouri basketball team into the NCAA Tournament. For the second April in a row, he kept Missouri fans in suspense when another school came calling offering more money than MU.

A year after flirting with Georgia, Anderson holed up in El Paso, Texas, and listened to Oregon’s pitch. Two days passed without comment from Anderson before he announced he wasn’t going anywhere.

“I guess when they did call, you listen,” Anderson said. “I think I owed it to my family. That’s something I wanted to do. ... It’s confirmation to me that this is a program that everyone wants.”

For good reason. After arriving in the messy aftermath of the Quin Snyder era in 2006, Anderson has compiled a 99-47 record and has the Tigers ranked in the top 10 this season.

4 Arrested developments for Tigers

In the weeks leading up to the Missouri football team’s season opener, Derrick Washington appeared primed for a stellar senior year. The running back had been chosen as a team captain and represented the Tigers at Big 12 media days in Dallas. He had dropped some weight from his junior season and looked great in preseason practices.
And then, the day of the final preseason scrimmage, Washington was suspended indefinitely. News soon broke that he had been arrested in June for allegedly sexually assaulting a woman. When it became apparent that Washington would be charged with a felony, MU Coach Gary Pinkel kicked Washington off the team. He finished his career as Missouri’s 10th-leading rusher with 2,085 yards.

On Sept. 12, he was arrested again, this time for hitting a different woman, and was charged with misdemeanor domestic assault.

Washington’s legal issues weren’t the only offseason problems for the Tigers. Offensive line coach Bruce Walker, linebacker Will Ebner and deep snapper Beau Brinkley were arrested on suspicion of DWI, defensive tackle Jimmy Burge was ticketed for drinking while driving and Jarrell Harrison was cited for shoplifting.

“We’ve done a good job of building a reputation for running a first-class program, a disciplined program,” Pinkel said. “I’m embarrassed.”

5 Stein’s era ends, and Pingeton’s begins

Cindy Stein had her share of good times in 12 years as the Missouri women’s basketball coach, with three trips to the NCAA Tournament, including a Sweet 16 appearance in 2001. But after her last NCAA appearance in 2006, the bottom dropped out.

For four straight years, the Tigers finished 10th or worse in the Big 12. With her team on its way to a last-place showing last season, Stein resigned under pressure. Her final game was a 64-59 loss to Texas in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament, which left MU with a 12-18 record. Her career mark at Missouri was 185-177.

“You’ve got to let somebody else have the team now,” Stein said after the game. “Obviously, that will be the hardest part.”

Missouri tabbed Robin Pingeton as Stein’s replacement. Pingeton came from Illinois State, where she led the Redbirds to three straight Missouri Valley Conference titles.

“It’s been our dream to coach at an institution where you could truly compete for a national championship,” Pingeton said, “and I think this is a place we can get it done.”

6 MU softball team comes up aces

When ace pitcher Chelsea Thomas was diagnosed with a stress fracture in her wrist in late March — an injury that would sideline her for the season — the third-ranked Missouri softball team’s national-championship dreams were dashed.

Or so it seemed.
After stumbling around a bit following the injury, the Tigers finished the season by winning 17 of their last 19 games, with Kristin Nottelmann filling in nicely for Thomas in the circle. MU hosted, and won, a regional and super regional to advance to the College World Series for the second straight year.

Although Missouri lost its first two games at the CWS, its 51-13 record set a school record for victories.

"I'll remember it as the year where we overachieved," Coach Ehren Earleywine said. "That's the truth of the matter. Nobody believed we were going to be there. Nobody did. And there was times where I didn't. When we won the super regional, I thought, 'Oh my goodness, this team ...'

7 Edwards' year of living dangerously

As he struggled through the first half of the Sprint Cup season, Carl Edwards was most notable for driving Brad Keselowski to distraction — and almost destruction.

In March at Atlanta, Edwards was 156 laps off the lead when he intentionally rammed Keselowski as payback for an incident earlier in the race. Keselowski's car spun around, went airborne and smacked into a retaining wall.

"To come back and intentionally wreck someone, that's not cool," said Keselowski, who escaped the crash unscathed. "You could have killed someone in the grandstands."

Edwards wasn't suspended but was placed on probation, and the feud simmered down until a Nationwide race in July in Madison, Ill. Angry about being bumped in Turn 1 on the final lap, Edwards again intentionally knocked Keselowski out of the way, leaving a 10-car pileup behind him as he cruised to victory.

"There on the last lap, I would have won the race if he hadn't bumped me in Turn 1 and he would have finished second. ... That was the only way I could see the race turning out fair," Edwards said.

Keselowski and his father, Bob, saw it differently, with Bob Keselowski accusing Edwards of trying to "kill my son."

Edwards was fined, docked points and put on Nationwide probation, but he wasn't suspended.

Back on the Sprint Cup side, Edwards qualified for the Chase despite not winning any races. At the end of the season, though, he was the hottest driver. Edwards won the last two races, at Phoenix and Homestead, to finish fourth in the point standings and carry a bundle of confidence into 2011.

"I wish the season was just starting," Edwards said. "That would be nice to start the season with those two wins, but we'll go for three in a row at Daytona."
8 Rock Bridge revival

On the south side of town, the key to the trophy case has been getting a workout. District titles were the rule and not the exception at Rock Bridge High School in 2010. Under the leadership of Athletic Director Jennifer Mast, the Bruins won their district in girls basketball, girls soccer, softball, boys golf, boys tennis, baseball, boys cross country, boys soccer, girls tennis, girls golf, girls tennis and volleyball.

Several of those teams placed at state, including boys golf and boys cross country (second) and girls soccer and girls golf (fourth).

The biggest winners, though, were the tennis teams of Coach Ben Loeb, who won state titles in eerily similar ways. In the spring, the Rock Bridge boys edged Rockhurst 5-4, with the doubles team of Ford Zitsch and Jimmy Hunter winning a three-set thriller to clinch the title. In the fall, the Rock Bridge girls beat Ladue 5-4, with the doubles team of Kelsey Kindercnacht and Maddy Kayser winning a three-set thriller to win the title.

“It was like déjà vu all over again,” Loeb said after the girls won their title.

9 McGuire retires ... sort of

For 27 years, Rick McGuire coached track at Missouri, and among his athletes were future U.S. Olympians Christian Cantwell, Derrick Peterson and Natasha Kaiser. But his impact was far greater than helping kids run fast, jump high and throw far.

“At the end of the day, he cared,” McGuire said, when asked to write his own coaching epitaph. “The kid was more important than the program. And it matters that we win, because it matters that we win the life of each kid. That’s the deal. You send your kids off to school, you want people to care and try to make a difference with them.”

McGuire announced his retirement in January and officially handed the reins to trusted longtime assistant Brett Haller over the summer. But he never really left the Missouri athletic department. McGuire, who runs USA Track and Field’s sports psychology program, started a new sports psych program for the MU athletic department.

Missouri football players raved about how McGuire’s powers of positive thinking helped them. Sounds like he’s still making a difference.

10 MU gymnasts make NCAA Championships

In previous bids for the postseason, the Missouri gymnastics team often felt star-crossed. In 2009, for instance, the Tigers were the 13th-best team in a sport in which the top 12 advance to the NCAA Championships.

In 2010, the stars aligned. The Tigers played host to an NCAA Regional on April 10, and with the home crowd behind them, won the event. Led by senior All-American Sarah Shire,
the most-decorated gymnast in school history, Missouri outscored five-time defending national champion Georgia and eighth-ranked Oregon State.

“Oh my gosh,” said Shire, who won the all-around title with a score of 39.625. “It’s amazing. I still haven’t wrapped my head around it.”

The top two teams from each of the six regionals advance to the NCAA Championships. In their first ever appearance in the event, the Tigers finished last in their six-team semifinal and didn’t advance to the Super Six. Shire earned All-America honors in three events, but a fall on the balance beam prevented her from contending for the national all-around title.

Still, it was a banner year for Rob Drass’ program, and the future looks bright, as well. In the fall, construction began on a new gymnastics facility south of Memorial Stadium.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Risk of food poisoning increases at parties, buffets

By Qi An  December 23, 2010 | 3:28 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Germs and bacteria don’t take a holiday.

The threat of food poisoning increases with the number of parties, presenting the possibility that someone will eat germ-contaminated dishes.

Dangers exist, especially on buffet tables, when food is out for a long period of time and people tend to put their hands on it, said Andrew Clarke, associate professor of food science at MU’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

According to reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 48 million incidents of food poisoning occur in the United States annually, with more than 128,000 hospitalizations.

Clarke listed the main causes of food poisoning and the solution:

- **Temperature abuse**: Hot food should be kept hot, and cold food should be kept cold. Once food sits out too long at room temperature, germs have a greater chance to grow. Food should not sit out longer than two hours before returning it to the refrigerator. To prolong serving time, hosts should put hot food on a burner and cold foods on ice. Newly warmed foods should not be added to serving bowls already on the line.

- **Germ transmission**: Double-dipping is a prime way that bacteria spreads. People dip food into a sauce, take a bite, then dip again. Instead, each serving dish should have individual utensils, which can limit the number of germs transferred to the food.

- **Cross contamination between raw food and cooked food**: Make sure food is fully cooked, especially meat, poultry and seafood. Before serving, meat should be thoroughly heated to ensure that bacteria has been eliminated.
Improper food storage: Leftovers should be refrigerated within two hours of serving and then fully reheated. Refrigerate leftovers no longer than four days. "If you anticipate that the food will be left for the next meal, freeze it," Clarke said. He said it is better to defrost food than to refrigerate it for several days and then freeze it.

Food containing moisture also is more likely to have the risk of being contaminated. Dry food such as candy, cookies and nuts are less dangerous because they do not have the moist environment that supports organisms.

"I am most worried about entree items, meat and some of the side dishes, which are potential hazards of food poisoning because these things have to be in better temperature control," Clarke said.

Properly dealing with food can prevent food poisoning, he said.

"It is not that hard to avoid food poisoning, but many people take unnecessary risks."

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services provided additional advice: Keep hands and surfaces clean, and separate raw meat, poultry and fish and their juices from other foods.

"The holiday should be remembered for the good time that everyone had, not for an illness that could have been prevented," said Margaret Donnelly, director of the department.

Symptoms of food poisoning include cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mild symptoms can be treated at home, but if a case is serious, seek medical attention, Clarke said.

"Do not overlook the seriousness of food poisoning," he said.

He also said that children are highly vulnerable and suggested that parents closely supervise what children eat.

"Observation and education are important for children in terms of holiday eating," he said.
Double-dippers at holiday parties definitely make the naughty list

BOOSTER SHOTS: Oddities, musings and news from the health world

December 24, 2010: By Mary Forgione, Los Angeles Times

Holiday party warning: Beware of eggnog and double-dippers. Either could be a good way for bacteria such as Salmonella and E. Coli to join the party.

This Give 'Em Health blog from the Hartford Courant shares tips from a University of Missouri food expert on how to avoid getting food poisoning at holiday gatherings. "Eggnog, with its raw eggs, is particularly dangerous. Make sure you know its refrigeration history before you imbibe."

And then there's this germy gem. "Double-dipping isn't just tacky, it's a good way to spread germs. So if you see someone dip, take a bite and dip again -- just keep walking."

Yuck. Potlucks carry their own fear factor of bacteria in homemade dishes, this Los Angeles Times story says.

Still, parties are meant to gather and celebrate -- not obsess on getting sick. So, with these tips in mind, dine carefully -- and have fun.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

St. Baldrick's awards grant to Children's Hospital

By Eve Edelheit  December 23, 2010 | 5:38 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — St. Baldrick's Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises money for childhood cancer research, has awarded a $25,848 grant to MU to fund research and treatment of childhood cancer through clinical trials.

Among other things, the grant will allow the MU Women's and Children's Hospital to increase and improve services for children with cancer, especially minority children, and provide educational opportunities for hospital staff.

"The MU Children's Hospital Division of Hematology and Oncology is proud and privileged to receive this infrastructure support grant from the St. Baldrick's Foundation," Thomas Loew, director of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, said in a press release.

"In total, this grant will provide a significant stepping stone for our program to continue its current expansion to better serve the needs of our patients and families," Loew said in the release.

MU is one of 25 institutions that have been awarded fall grants that total $1.3 million, according to the release. The foundation looks at several criteria when considering an institution for an infrastructure grant, said interim spokeswoman Traci Shirk.

"For our infrastructure grants, we want to fund the best research out there," Shirk said. "We also look at the need of the institution and their involvement in St. Baldrick's events throughout the year."

While the foundation holds a variety of events nationwide, it is best known for its shaving events. Participants known as "shavees" shave their heads to raise awareness and donations for children diagnosed with cancer and the foundation. The foundation had a record-breaking year in 2010 for participants, with a total of 38,000 shavees nationwide.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Deaton family gets quad to themselves for snowball fight

By Clint Alwahab  December 24, 2010

COLUMBIA – William Brady Deaton, 8, woke up at 6 a.m. Friday and was fully dressed for a snowball fight within minutes.

William, the grandson of MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, is in town for Christmas and had not seen snow this season. Until today.

He came for the holidays from Pennsylvania with his parents, Brady Deaton Jr. and Justine Richardson, and his 6-year-old sister, Anna Sophia. At their house, they have only had dustings of snow so far.

William finally stepped outside around 9:30 a.m. On the base of the MU Columns on Francis Quadrangle, he began scooping and shaping snowballs.

"I'm loading for the snowball fight!" he shouted to his mother, who was watching him from the sidewalk.

"Wow! Look at this snow!" she said. "The kids are convinced it snowed just for them."
William and his mom began arranging snowballs for a skirmish with Dad and Anna.

"You look amm0'd up," his father said walking up to the MU Columns with his daughter.

She climbed to the base of the MU Columns and began packing snowballs with her brother.

"You know, we've got years of snow fight experience," Deaton Jr. said. His children paid no attention, and the battle began.

"What's the worst they can do?" Richardson asked William as they set up a "full flank" of ammunition.

Snowballs began to fly, the adults picking up more speed than their children.

As William's stash ran out, the fight came to a close — but not before he crept up behind his father and smashed a snowball in his face.