

APR 11 2011



MU celebrates new Confucius Institute

By **JANESE SILVEY**

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) —

The Chinese government and **University of Missouri administrators** yesterday celebrated the opening of a new center on campus aimed to teach the Chinese language and culture to Columbia students and educators and strengthen economic ties between the Midwest and Shanghai.

MU's new Confucius Institute is the 83rd to be established in the United States. A delegation of Chinese dignitaries spent the day touring campus before an afternoon celebration.

The program was elaborate: Young Chinese women dressed in Asian-influenced dresses accompanied the mostly male delegation to the head table, which was decked out in yellow and red, China's national colors. In the backdrop, a Chinese flag hung level with the American flag. Students from Shanghai Normal University performed traditional music with instruments that date back centuries.

After a symbolic ribbon cutting, a plaque marking the institute was unveiled, followed by a gift exchange. Shanghai President Jin Li was given a plaque, and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton received a small statue of Confucius and two elaborate Chinese paintings.

Although in its early stage, the institute is envisioned by Deaton and others as a place that not only will provide Chinese language programs but also classes in areas such as martial arts and music. Programs will be offered to Columbia teachers and students to "promote language instruction in the system of K-12 education and a thorough understanding of the laws and culture of China," said Kun Lu, China's deputy consul general.

"To master the Chinese language has already been considered one of the importantest skills for young people in the 21st century," he said.

Through a translator, Jin Li, president of Shanghai Normal University, ticked off a list of suggestions for MU's new Confucius Institute. First, he said, use the center as a platform for cultural activities that promote understanding and collaboration. The institute also can foster more economic development links between China and Missouri, he said. Li promised to encourage his instructors to travel to MU to train others here to teach Chinese and suggested that China could provide grant money for programs and donate books to Ellis Library.

Additionally, Li suggested that the center provide opportunities for other Missouri citizens to become better acquainted with Chinese culture.

The center will be housed in the office of Handy Williamson, vice provost for international programs, who was instrumental in making the Confucius Institute a reality on the MU campus.

Confucius Institutes have been opening since 2004, and there are more than 300 worldwide. Some view the centers as part of a soft-power effort, the nation's attempt to win international respect through subtle influences. But there also are critics who consider the rapid spread of Confucius Institutes as an aggressive propaganda campaign, mainly because the operations are backed by the Communist Party of China.

In his office before the ceremony, Deaton shrugged off that concern, saying MU has a long history of ties with China and other non-democratic governments. He also vowed that Mizzou's commitment to academic freedom won't be compromised — the contract with China involves no restrictions on teaching. Additionally, Deaton said, MU leaders contacted other universities with Confucius Institutes to discover a strong track record.

Through understanding and friendship, "rather than fear and antagonism," he said, "we can find harmony."

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

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Colorful opening ceremony welcomes Confucius Institute to MU

By [Anne Christnovich](#), [Christina Honan](#)

April 8, 2011 | 5:17 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – American and Chinese flags hung side by side in Jesse Hall on Friday for a ceremony welcoming a Confucius Institute to MU. The institute aims be a bridge of cultural understanding and business expansion between Missouri and China.

The ceremony brought MU officials and Chinese dignitaries together after a year-long application process, said Handy Williamson, vice provost for international programs and strategic initiatives at MU.

"This step reflects our commitment to global opportunity and interaction," Chancellor Brady Deaton said in his opening address.

Chinese musicians played traditional Chinese instruments throughout the ceremony, highlighting the cultural exchange that will be fostered by the institute.

The ceremony conveyed an atmosphere of celebration, with Chinese representatives at a table adorned with flowers on one side of the stage and U.S. leaders at an identically adorned table on the right. Behind them, a large-scale screen flanked by the flags displayed examples of traditional Chinese dance and celebration.

Earlier Friday, the Chinese musicians joined MU music students in a performance for schoolchildren, also at Jesse.

MU has about 560 Chinese students, making theirs the largest student group from any one foreign country. The new addition to MU's campus will be the 83rd Confucius Institute in America and the 323rd in the world.

The institute, partnering with Shanghai Normal University in China, will be directly linked to existing Chinese language courses and cultural programs at MU. The need for a stronger

program grew as existing cultural education programs matured and interest in China grew, Deaton said in an interview before the ceremony.

"The Confucius Institute will allow us to make our language offering stronger," Williamson said in an interview Thursday. "The university is under-invested in Asian languages."

At the ceremony, Deaton expanded on that goal: "It will expand and deepen cultural and educational exchange between China and the university, the larger community of Columbia and the state of Missouri."

Deaton emphasized that the Confucius Institute will bring Chinese language education to students of all ages and provide consultative services to those who wish to develop business relationships between Missouri and China.

The institute will be located in the Office of the Vice Provost of International Programs in Jesse Hall. It is funded by the Ministry of Education in China, which will pay a minimum of \$150,000 a year to keep at least two instructors at MU, Williamson said. The institute may receive more money if it brings speakers or artists from China.

Controversy has surrounded the openings of several Confucius Institutes. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, educators have feared that dependence on funding could make programs susceptible to pressure from the Chinese government to stifle free speech. The article cites one such occurrence, in Israel.

MU will not accept any constraints on educational topics or programs, Deaton said in the interview, and the university would not have considered a program that was anything other than an expansion of current programs and opportunities.

Deaton said because of positive reviews from chancellors at the University of Kentucky and the University of Nebraska, he finds it difficult to take such concerns seriously.

"There's been an overwhelming enthusiasm and curiosity from almost every aspect of the community," Williamson said. He does not anticipate any problems with the program.

Deaton, who recently visited Shanghai, said inclusion of the Confucius Institute is meant to lay the foundation for decades down the road. "This is an opportunity," he said, "to broaden the horizons of the students of the University of Missouri and the community."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Deborah Hanuscin awarded Kemper Fellowship

By Michael Davis

April 8, 2011 | 12:13 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – Deborah Hanuscin had to tell her students to turn over their quizzes when she saw MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton come into her classroom Friday morning.

Middleton awarded Hanuscin the last of five William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence.

The awards are given out annually to five outstanding teachers at MU and include a \$10,000 award. The fellowships are funded by a \$500,000 gift from the family of William Kemper, an MU graduate and Kansas City civic leader. The four other fellowships were given out earlier this week.

Upon receiving the award, Hanuscin praised her students, saying that she would not be the teacher she is without them.

"Thank you guys for making me love my job so much," she said to her class.

Hanuscin, an associate professor of science education in the MU College of Education and associate professor of physics since 2004, began her career as an elementary school teacher, later attending Indiana University to earn master's and doctoral degrees.

"She is indeed an outstanding educator in a field where there is a great need for outstanding teachers," said Daniel Clay, dean of the College of Education, in a news release.

"Without a doubt, the youth of the future will benefit greatly from the impact she is having on our future educators," he said.



Complaint process wins MU Faculty Council's OK

By **JANESE SILVEY**

The **University of Missouri's Faculty Council** yesterday gave a stamp of approval to the grievance process now being used on campus.

The council vote is symbolic: Ultimately, it's up to the faculty at large, who will vote later this month on whether to make the process permanent. At issue is the system that is used when faculty members lodge complaints against their superiors. The current process has been in place for two years as a pilot and has been used on three of the UM System's four campuses. UM administrators have said they want a universal process.

The pilot works like this: When a faculty member files a complaint against a superior, a panel reviews it to make sure it fits certain criteria. If a case is accepted, the panel then collects evidence and interviews those involved before making a decision. Under the previous process, an independent grievance officer would spend months collecting evidence before turning it over to the panel for a decision.

The makeup of that panel also changed from five faculty members to a three-member group that includes an administrator. Critics say having an administrator on the panel makes the process too top-heavy. The chancellor has the power to veto a panel decision. Supporters, though, say that administrator gives the panel some teeth and can help two sides come to agreement.

Four faculty members voted against the pilot process with 21 in favor. Opponent Eddie Adelstein pitched the idea of doing away with it altogether and instead setting up a legal fund to help faculty members fight administrators in court.

But the process used now is a significant improvement over previous grievance systems used at MU, which basically involved two people "yelling at each other," said Bill Wiebold, a plant sciences professor. "At least now there's some process built in that allows people to come to agreement before it gets ugly. ... Maybe things aren't better, but I think they are because it couldn't have gotten any worse."

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Data: MU men cited more than women for alcohol violations

By Michelle Markelz

April 7, 2011 | 8:04 p.m. CDT

Experts say men are more vulnerable to arrest when intoxicated

COLUMBIA — This is one battle of the sexes that neither men nor women want to win. It's the battle over which sex is being cited more often for drug and alcohol violations at MU. And the winners are men.

MU's Department of Residential Life and the MU Police Department document alcohol and drug violations committed by MU students. From 2007 to 2009, men were caught breaking drug and alcohol rules in residence halls about twice as often as women. They were arrested just more than 3.5 times as often as women.

These counts were drawn from Clery Reports, which document annual campus crime, and from records provided by MU Police and by Kristen Temple, associate director of Residential Academic Programs. They include all B8 violations from 2007 to 2009.

The MU conduct handbook defines B8 violations as the "manufacture, use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages or any controlled substance without proper prescription or required license or as expressly permitted by law or University regulations, including operating a vehicle on University property, or on streets or roadways adjacent to and abutting a campus, under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance as prohibited by law of the state of Missouri."

B8 violations can include being a minor in possession of alcohol. A 21-year-old, however, can receive a referral for bringing beer or liquor on campus, despite legally possessing it. The latter would not be documented in the Clery Report, which only includes criminal offenses.

From 2007 to 2009, MU Police logged 1,189 student arrests for drugs and alcohol. Residential Life reported more than 1,900 referrals. About 5 percent of the referrals from Residential Life were handled by the Office of Student Conduct, which deals with students who do not live in university housing.

An additional 669 referrals not counted in the Clery Reports are attributed to MU Police in Temple's records. Temple said the difference involves situations in which students documented on police reports, but not arrested, received referrals from the Office of Student Conduct for violating MU conduct codes.

Across MU's 23 coed residential buildings, men racked up more overall violations than women from 2007 to 2009. Sixteen buildings recorded double the number of violations by men than by women. Jones, Lathrop and Johnston halls, the three buildings that house only female students, were the only ones to report more violations by women than by men.

Temple estimated that 10 percent to 15 percent of those violations would not be reported as drug or alcohol offenses in the Clery Report. This is because not all conduct violations are illegal, though acts associated with them, such as vandalism, can be. These are counted as other offenses in the report.

In arrests or referrals recorded at street locations, men were cited about 2.6 times more often than women, according to Temple's records.

"If the question is, 'Do men drink more than women?' then the answer is yes," said Kim Dude, assistant director of MU's Wellness Resource Center. "It's true not just on our campus but nationwide." Dude said the same principle applies for drug use.

Reports point to national trend

National crime reporting supports Dude's assertions and suggests the ratio of men to women represented in campus crime is in line with national trends.

Municipal crime reports from 2007 to 2009 voluntarily submitted to the FBI show that men were arrested for drug and alcohol violations about 3.8 times more often than women in 40 cities similar in size to Columbia. Among those same cities, the average ratio of male to female arrests for drugs and alcohol is about 4 to 1.

Columbia did not submit reports for 2007, but in 2008 and 2009, men were arrested for drugs and alcohol about three times as often as women, and the average male-to-female ratio for these crimes over these years was 3 to 1.

Those numbers, however, run counter to survey data that suggest a smaller disparity in the numbers of college-age men and women who drink and use illicit drugs.

Reports from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration show that on average, about 8.4 percent fewer women than men surveyed in 2007, 2008 and 2009 admitted using drugs. The Missouri College Health Behavior Study conducted similar studies in the same year and found much smaller differences, except in the use of marijuana. An average of about 21 percent of men and 10 percent of women reported using marijuana.

Similar reports by the MU Wellness Center and the Centers for Disease Control from 2007 to 2009 show the average difference in drinking rates between college-age men and women was 3.1 and 8.3 percent, respectively.

Difference could be related to gender behavior, roles

MU Police have declined to comment on the gender disparity in both their reports and in Clery numbers.

MU Police Capt. Scott Richardson said arrests always start with an officer establishing probable cause to stop or search a person.

Capt. Brian Weimer said he wouldn't speculate whether men more often engage in behavior that would warrant a stop or search, but he recalled reading literature suggesting men are more prone to come in contact with officers while driving.

Dude and Temple speculated that men might attract police attention more often because they tend to be louder and sometimes physically rougher than women when they drink. Dude, however, said she could not speculate about behavior under the influence of drugs because different drugs can alter behavior in different ways.

"Police will tell you they look for behavior that draws a lot of attention to itself, like yelling, stumbling around," Dude said. Other conduct that tends to make men more vulnerable to arrest includes fighting, vandalizing property or urinating in public.

"We, as women, are socialized to follow the rules for the most part," Temple said. "Even when we don't follow the rules, we're socialized to be sneaky about it."

Researchers at MU, Arizona State University and the University of Kentucky have explored these behavioral trends.

MU psychology professor David Geary said his findings support the idea that men are more vulnerable to arrests or bad conduct while drinking.

“People have known about the gap for a long time,” Geary said. “I’ve argued ... that it has a biological contribution to it, testosterone in particular, but also increased tendencies to take risks has to do with establishing yourself in the group.”

Risks, as Geary refers to them, include drinking heavily, driving while intoxicated, fighting or showing off.

Geary, who in 2009 wrote the book "Male, Female: The Evolution of Human Sex Differences," explained the difference mainly in terms of evolutionary traits specific to men and women. Drinking rates might be similar, he said, but men and women behave differently when drunk.

The difference in drug usage between genders could be related to the way men and women assess costs and benefits, Geary said. Men tend to consider the benefits, such as the positive way a drug might make them feel, while women tend to consider the costs, such as health effects or being arrested.

Julie and Craig Nagoshi of Arizona State University, who both study substance use among men and women, said the difference in arrests has a lot to do with gender roles.

“It is considered much more acceptable for boys ... to use illicit drugs without social consequences,” said Julie Nagoshi, who has studied gender differences in adolescent drug use. “Using drugs for women is incompatible with their gender role.”

She said men and boys generally are more likely to engage in bad behavior, and drugs are an extension of that.

Craig Nagoshi, who teaches a course about addiction, said when women use substances, they tend to be at home self-medicating and are less likely to do things that would get them noticed by police.

“In general, men use substances for externalizing reasons such as sensation-seeking or for thrills,” he said.

“Using drugs is like bungee jumping off the side of a cliff,” Julie Nagoshi said. “Alcohol and drugs are all part of those thrill-seeking behaviors.”

She echoed Geary, saying testosterone plays a physiological role in male risk-taking as well.

Alcohol connected to aggression, inappropriate behavior

Drinking appeared to be a significant factor in two highly-publicized episodes of race-related vandalism at MU over the past two years.

Sean Fitzgerald, one of the students charged in the 2010 cotton ball incident, had been drinking, his attorney said in a previous *Missourian* article. Benjamin Elliott, the student charged with second-degree property damage in connection with racist graffiti sprayed at Hatch Hall, told police he was drunk when he acted. Although contempt for the alcohol "excuse" was evident in community discussion of those incidents, research suggests a significant correlation between alcohol and illegal activity.

Peter Giancola, a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Kentucky, has conducted multiple studies on alcohol's effects on aggression.

"Research shows that women are going to be less severe in the type of aggression they show," Giancola said. "It might be a slap in the face, a soft punch in the arm, a shove. At worst it might be throwing something light at somebody. Whereas with a man, it might be a very hard punch in the face that might draw blood or knock out a tooth."

People who are drinking are more easily provoked to violence, and alcohol exaggerates the response, especially in men, Giancola said.

"If you're sober and I'm provoking you, you can hold it together pretty well. If you're drunk and I'm provoking you at the same level, you're pretty likely to react violently," he said.

Giancola said alcohol limits a person's perspective in confrontational situations. The principle is called alcohol myopia, which suggests that alcohol causes a person to focus on behavior that is most "attention-grabbing."

"If someone under the influence of alcohol is being provoked, he or she can't pay attention to the bouncer at the door or remember that they're on parole," he said.

Geary agreed, saying such tunnel vision can amplify responses, especially among those already prone to violence. "(People who drink) are less inhibited, so whatever tendencies there are when (they're) not drinking will show themselves more intensely."

"We can extend all of this to everything else," Giancola said of the findings. "That includes increased likelihood of risky sex, drunk driving and all of what we call disinhibited behaviors."

Giancola said the strongest factor in alcohol-induced aggression, however, is personality. If a person is naturally empathetic or aggressive, those traits will be more influential than almost any level of provocation.

The Nagoshis agreed, saying personality is also one of the most important determinants of illicit drug use and the illegal acts one might commit while under the influence.

“The drug does have an effect on behavior; you can’t deny that,” Craig Nagoshi said. “Some drugs are more powerful than others at disinhibiting. Personality is another factor, and they all interact.”

Other research focuses on the ways men and women metabolize alcohol. Martin Mumenthaler of Stanford University, who has studied the interaction of drugs with the body, wrote in a 1999 report about the effects of alcohol that women eliminate alcohol faster than men.

“You could hypothesize that men are more likely to be arrested in a drunken state,” he said. “And because women are not drunk for as long, you could hypothesize that they are less likely to be arrested.”

Messages influence behavior even while intoxicated

Some research shows that alcohol actually can make people behave more appropriately in some situations. Giancola conducted a study this year in which drunk and sober participants were placed in rooms with different imagery meant to convey a message. Some were shown pictures of baby animals or sobering photographs of human suffering, images that were considered aggression-inhibiting, while others were shown photographs designed to promote violence.

“We found that (drunk) people in the room with the aggression-inhibiting imagery were so nonaggressive, they were even less aggressive than sober people.”

A similar study done in 2000 by Tara MacDonald, an associate professor of psychology at Queen’s University in Canada, examined how messages might influence whether a person engages in risky sex. Male and female participants’ hands were stamped with one of three messages: a smiley face, the words “safe sex” or “AIDS kills.”

Each participant was asked whether he or she went home and “hooked up” with someone. Those who were intoxicated and had “AIDS kills” stamped on their hand were least likely to

have done so. Giancola said alcohol myopia caused those people to focus on the AIDS message.

In the cases cited by MU Police and Residential Life, it might not be that students are receiving messages that encourage bad behavior, but the lack of strong cautionary messages reduces the chance that alcohol will improve behavior.

In a spectrum of illegal behavior, Giancola said, sober people are always in the middle. The people most likely to break the law are the ones with nothing telling them to stop.

"The most prudent people are the ones who are drunk but bombarded with messages telling them that there will be consequences for those illegal behaviors," he said.

The Sunshine request for this story was funded by [Spot.U.s](#), a nonprofit news organization that supports independent journalism.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

DEAR READER: Leaves were falling when the MU substance violations story began

By Tom Warhover

April 8, 2011 | 1:11 p.m. CDT

Dear Reader,

Six months and reams of data can leave a reporter tired, frustrated and generally dazed.

In October, Michelle Markelz began pursuing a story on alcohol and drug violations at MU.

She finished Thursday.

Markelz approached me midafternoon, armed with a sly smile and the need for tintinnabulations.

I told her to grab any noisemaker at hand.

She chose the brass cowbell, launched into the newsroom, and pumped her arm.

“It’s over,” she cried. “It’s finally over.”

I’m not sure if it was euphoria or just plain relief.

Here’s why:

It took three months to get the records. From October to December a series of e-mails passed between Markelz and Kathy Miller, custodian of records for the University of Missouri system.

(I wrote to you earlier about those negotiations. The folks at [Spot.Us](#) helped the Missourian raise \$100 overnight to pay for the data, and the university reduced the actual cost to \$50 – so there’s money in the bank for the next records request.)

Markelz received the data in late January. This student-journalist's reporting class had ended in December. She wouldn't let go of the story though.

It took a month to decipher the records. Data sets from four agencies. Three thousand PDF pages from the FBI alone. More than 5,000 cases from MU's Department of Residential Life.

Markelz and assistant city editor Pat Sweet needed to make sense of it all. They had to figure out the "dirty data," such as cases that were counted twice.

Think of a ball of fishing line, all knotted up at the end of your rod.

Along the way, the premise of her story changed.

Markelz began by wondering why substance violations doubled at MU between 2008 and 2009.

In the end, the data couldn't provide an answer. Officials at Residential Life didn't know. MU police couldn't posit causality. There had been no extraordinary training from one year to the next on sniffing out liquor or pot.

This was an important moment. It's hard to let go of an unanswered question, especially when a reporter puts in so much time. But she had to let go.

Another curious trend emerged in the data. Men were nearly twice as likely as women to be cited for drug and alcohol violations in residence halls. They were 3 1/2 times more likely to be arrested.

It would be a long journey between those facts and the story that ran Friday. But Markelz was well on her way.

Persistence paid off.

Good journalism often takes a bit of a stubborn streak and a considerable amount of time and sweat.

A cowbell doesn't hurt, either.

Tom

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

The★Star.
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

AP Associated Press

Nominees for Missouri curators still haven't been confirmed

COLUMBIA | A pair of prospective University of Missouri curators continue to await lawmaker approval of their nominations nearly three months after Gov. Jay Nixon first submitted their names for consideration.

Columbia attorney Craig Van Matre was nominated in late January to fill a vacancy on the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

The vacancy was created in November by board member Bo Fraser's resignation.

Cassville attorney Don Cupps also is waiting for confirmation.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported that the two curator hopefuls are among eight appointees to state boards and commissions whose nominations have yet to be scheduled for confirmation hearings.

An additional five nominees face legislative hearings in the next two weeks.

Two more nominees have been approved by a Senate committee but are in limbo because of objections by senators.



Nominees held up with no timetable

Curator spots are still unfilled.

By **RUDI KELLER**

It has been more than 10 weeks since Columbia attorney Craig Van Matre was nominated to fill the only vacant seat on the **University of Missouri Board of Curators**.

Van Matre, a Columbia Democrat, and attorney Donald Cupps of Cassville, also a Democrat, were picked for the nine-member board the day after David Steward, a Republican, was nominated by Gov. Jay Nixon. Steward was confirmed last week by the Republican-dominated Missouri Senate, but hearings have not been scheduled for either Van Matre or Cupps. Nominees must have a hearing with the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee, chaired by Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, before a Senate floor vote for confirmation.

Van Matre said Friday that he's uncertain why his nomination has not been brought before the committee. His nomination is supported by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who must sponsor his appointment.

"I have made lots of inquiries," Van Matre said. "I am anxious to get started because there are a bunch of key issues, and I can't make a contribution without confirmation."

The board has been one member short since Bo Fraser of Columbia resigned in November. Since then, UM President Gary Forsee resigned, an interim president has been chosen, a search firm has been hired to find a replacement and the curators have approved a contract for a new men's basketball coach.

There is one curator for each congressional district, and the district that includes Columbia, home of the flagship campus, has been without representation on all those decisions.

They are among eight of Nixon's appointees, some originally nominated last year, who were nominated before lawmakers went on spring break in March but who have not had a confirmation hearing scheduled. Four others, all nominated since Van Matre and Cupps were announced, are scheduled for hearings Wednesday.

Every year, a handful of nominees run into trouble because of politics or personality conflicts. This year, the Republican caucus is questioning whether attorney Thomas Strong of Springfield, nominated to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, is truly an independent. Strong was chosen by Nixon as the state's attorney in the massive tobacco lawsuit in the 1990s when Nixon was attorney general.

And John J. Hickey, a Democrat nominated to the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission, is being blocked by Sen. Tim Green, a St. Louis Democrat.

Van Matre said he has contacted Mayer's office to find out when his confirmation hearing will take place but wasn't given a date. "I was told there are other issues and it will happen in due course."

After Steward's hearing Wednesday, Mayer said nominations can be "a big leverage we can use to get the governor to sit down and talk on issues," in part because the governor generally does not reveal how he stands on individual items on the GOP legislative agenda.

But on Friday Mayer said no specific concessions are being sought from Nixon in order to clear Van Matre and Cupps — or any other nominees — for confirmation.

"I am not aware of any problems at this point" with Van Matre or Cupps, Mayer said. "All in all, we have confirmed almost all appointees."

More than 110 nominees, including 46 made before lawmakers started meeting, have been confirmed. Nominations made between legislative sessions must be confirmed within 30 days of the beginning of a session. Nixon withdrew 43 names and renominated them to avoid the deadline. If a nominee is rejected, they are barred by the Missouri Constitution from being given the same post in the future.

There are more than 30 nominees, including several made in the last week, that still are to be confirmed.

In a response to questions about the nominations, Nixon spokesman Scott Holste said timely confirmations make the work of boards go more smoothly.

"The boards and commissions have vital work to do, and having a full board is extremely important," he said in an email. "That is particularly true of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, which faces critical decisions in the coming months."



EXCLAMATION POINTS

Minimize allergies to enjoy the outdoors

By **CAROLINE DOHACK-MCCRARY**

Spring probably is one of the best times of the year. Each day, things get a little more beautiful, but for many of us, the burgeoning green also can mean allergy symptoms

"We want our environment to grow; we want the flowers to pollinate and the trees to grow. On the other hand, it's going to increase the number of allergens and pollens," said **Shawna Strickland, director of the respiratory therapy program at the University of Missouri's School of Health Professions.**

Although Strickland is hesitant to recommend annual allergy-testing, she does recommend letting your general care practitioner know of any changes in allergy symptoms. If new symptoms occur, or if medications that once worked no longer are effective, your doctor might refer you to an allergist for testing, Strickland said.

"The important thing is that you are evaluated by your doctor just to make sure that the allergy medication you're using is appropriate," Strickland said.

Even if you're not using prescription drugs, Strickland said to be careful with over-the-counter medications.

"Some of those drugs will interact with prescription drugs you're taking. You need to be careful and read the labels or ask the pharmacist," Strickland said.

In addition to finding the right medication, Strickland said good housekeeping also can minimize the effects of allergens. Strickland recommends:

- Changing your sheets once a week and washing them in hot water instead of cold.
- Checking the Weather Channel or local weather service to see whether pollen counts are high. If so, limit outdoor activities and keep the windows closed.
- Using your air conditioner, which not only cools the air but filters it. Be sure to change the filters on a regular basis.
- Showering before bed if you've been outside during the day.
- Keeping pets out of the bedroom. Barring that, Strickland recommends regular brushing to get rid of extra hair and dander.
- Keeping an eye on your kids' stuffed animals, which can become a hotbed for allergens and dust mites. Rather than throwing them in the washing machine, which can result in lumpy, misshapen critters, Strickland suggests stuffing them in a Ziploc bag and putting them in the freezer for 24 hours.

"The whole point of controlling your allergies is to make sure you can live your life without barriers," Strickland said.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Senate gets its shot at Missouri budget

BY REBECCA BERG | rberg@post-dispatch.com > 573-635-6178 | Posted: Monday, April 11, 2011 12:15 am

MU mention page 2

JEFFERSON CITY • While disputes over spending federal money have captured headlines, the Missouri Legislature has so far faced little difficulty in drafting the state's spending plan.

But that could change this week when a Senate panel decides on its changes to the budget, clearing way for debate by the full chamber. On the table will be funding for K-12 and higher education, school transportation and the arts, among other items.

The House already has passed its version of the budget with relative ease and bipartisan approval.

That fiscal 2012 spending plan of more than \$23 billion would cut funding to colleges and universities by 7 percent, while devoting less money to school transportation and providing no increases for elementary and secondary schools. In addition, it would reduce the state lottery's advertising budget, cut funds for statewide officials and limit the public money that can be used for the governor's travel.

Ultimately, those cuts do not vary drastically from those proposed by the governor earlier this year for the budget that will take effect July 1.

The Legislature each year must determine how much of the general revenue, the state's largest pot of money, should be spent. The House version of the budget would cut general revenue spending by more than \$6 million from the governor's proposal.

Rep. Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City, who led the House budget negotiations, touted the proposal as the best possible with the state's limited money.

"This was the first budget that wasn't built substantially on imagined money," he said last week.

Overall, House Democrats were receptive to the spending plan. Rep. Sara Lampe, D-Springfield, worked closely with Silvey on the House Budget Committee, and even made unannounced visits with him to state departments earlier this year while researching where to make cuts.

Though Lampe regretted some of the cuts, she said the budget was "the best we could do under the circumstances." At the conclusion of the final budget vote, Lampe and Silvey met in the middle, literally, to shake hands at the rear of the House chamber.

The result of such bipartisan cooperation was a budget proposal that flew through the House with scarcely a hiccup, though it could still face some hurdles in the Senate.

HIGHER EDUCATION

College and university leaders had anticipated funding cuts with a sense of mounting dread. That budget line could be a point of contention in the Senate. The appropriations chair, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, represents a district that includes the University of Missouri.

As colleges and universities grapple with those cuts, students will be facing reductions to some of the state's largest scholarship programs. Funding for the Access Missouri Scholarship program, which is distributed based on financial need, would decrease by \$18 million next year under the House plan, but that number pales in comparison with the \$48 million cut initially floated by the governor.

Meanwhile, the A+ Scholarship program would receive \$7 million more next year under the House plan, which would still cut the governor's proposed expansion of the program by \$1 million.

Transportation to K-12 schools would be cut drastically from its funding levels this year under the proposed House budget plan. Instead of allocating more than \$152 million for buses and other transportation to elementary and secondary schools statewide, the state would spend just under \$100 million.

Silvey said that reduction is the budget decision that would be the "most painful across the state." The issue could draw debate in the Senate, and some of the school transportation funding could be restored.

The House kept the overall funding level for elementary and secondary schools at about \$3 billion. That amount is more than \$250 million below the number recommended by the Foundation Formula, a recipe set in 2005 to ensure that students receive the minimum amount deemed necessary for an adequate education. That amount is set by the formula at \$6,116 per student per year.

Public funding for arts programs, public television and the humanities are also on the chopping block under the House budget plan. Nixon recommended money for all three areas, including an extra \$1.2 million for the Missouri Arts Council; the House, however, opted to zero out each of those budget lines.

Meanwhile, the state lottery will receive less money for advertising than ever before if the House gets its way. The lottery's advertising budget is slated to be cut by \$8.3 million to just \$1 million. The lottery sent about \$259 million back to Missouri schools last year.

SOME DEBATE

One of the biggest expenses in the budget — health care for the poor — drew little attention this year as the House proposed spending more than \$8.5 billion on Medicaid, including more than \$1.7 billion in general revenue funds. The governor proposed about \$8.4 billion for Medicaid, also with about \$1.7 billion from general revenue. Under both proposals, the spending would mark an increase of more than \$500 million over last year's budget.

Meanwhile, a few relatively minor budget lines garnered considerably more debate.

Notably, House members of both parties used the budget process to criticize Nixon's travel billing practices. Records revealed earlier this year that Nixon has charged nearly \$400,000 in air travel expenses to state departments since taking office.

First, legislators decided to restrict the governor from billing his future trips to departments, with the exception of the Department of Public Safety. The House added \$500,000 to the governor's travel budget to compensate, but Rep. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, sponsored a measure to remove that money.

The current plan would restrict the governor — and all other statewide officials — to public money from either his reduced office budget or from the Department of Public Safety for traveling.

Nixon wouldn't be the only statewide official facing a budget crunch under the House plan: All statewide officials would see their funding decrease next year by 5 percent.

But for all of the House's work, the spending proposal could already be in jeopardy. A handful of senators have threatened to filibuster a bill to accept \$189 million in federal funds for education. If the money is not approved, it will require that additional money be cut from the budget to fill the gap.

Nixon urged the Senate to take action on the issue. House Speaker Steve Tilley, R-Perryville, said the Senate would be responsible for reworking the budget if legislators continued to block the federal education funds.

"We don't control what happens on the other side of the building," Tilley said, "but I believe that if they don't pass it, it'll be their problem to fix it."



Event aims to draw girls to sciences field

Demonstrations provide insight.

By **CATHERINE MARTIN**

Females make up only 13 percent of the 2,663 students enrolled in the University of Missouri's engineering program, but yesterday many of those students gathered in hopes of increasing female enrollment in the future.

Mother and Daughter Engineering Day invited young girls, grades 6-9, from across the state to come to spend the day learning about the field of engineering from current female engineering students and participate in hands-on experiments.

Recruitment coordinator Tina Balser said it's important to let girls know early that engineering is a potential career choice. "This is the age when girls are saying, 'I want to be a doctor, I want to be a teacher, I want to be a dentist,' but we want them to say, 'I want to be an engineer, too.'" she said.

Involving mothers is a major factor in getting girls to consider choosing a career path in engineering, student enrichment director Jill Ford said, noting it's important for parents to know there are engineering careers for girls and women.

Carolyn Reddin, who attended the event with her 13-year-old daughter, Lauren, said she will encourage Lauren to go into whatever career she chooses, but the event served as a perfect opportunity to introduce her to a new field.

"I want to do all I can to help her ... and let her know what is out there and available," Reddin said.

Lauren, who attends Columbia Catholic School, said she has some interest in math and science, but she noted English and reading as her favorite subjects.

A few students who attended the event already have an interest in engineering, such as Destiny Davis, a freshmen from Hazelwood Central High School in Florissant. Destiny said a school counselor who knew of her passion for science and math recommended she attend.

As she and her mom had fun and bonded while making gak, which combines glue and borax, they learned a little bit about what it's like to be an engineer.

"This is something engineers do every day — mix different things together to see what works," chemical engineering student Chelsea Pepmiller explained.

Pepmiller, a freshman, said she only recently decided that she wanted to go into engineering. "I want to help other people learn about engineering. I think if more people knew what it was they'd be interested in wanting to be engineers," she said.

Another goal of the event was to show girls there is more to engineering than the technical aspects, Ford said.

"With an engineering degree there are so many other facets. ... You can make a difference in the world, and so many females want to do something where they can make a difference," she said.

Ford said the engineering school plans to continue to hold the event annually, or semi-annually, based on the positive response to the first event.

Feng "Tom" Zhang, a mechanical engineering student who sat working in a lab during yesterday's event, seemed pleased that the engineering school is trying to engage more female students.

"I'm sick of looking at dudes," he said.

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COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

Gary Filbert, basketball coach and pioneer of the Show-Me State Games, dies at age 81



Tribune file photo

Gary Filbert, shown here in 2002, was respected around the state as an athlete, coach and administrator. Among his notable achievements was transforming the struggling Show-Me State Games into a huge success. Filbert died yesterday at age 81.

By JOE WALLJASPER

Correction appended

Brian Filbert is an FBI agent, and for a short time he was stationed in Mid-Missouri. One day, he got a call about a bank robbery in Mexico, Mo., in which a bomb was allegedly planted in the bank.

Filbert pulled into the parking lot, full of adrenaline, and hustled up to the highway patrolman and police officer at the scene.

"I introduce myself," he said, "and I got about halfway into it, and the police officer said, 'Are you Gary Filbert's son?'"

"I said, 'Well, yeah, I am, but there's a bomb in the bank.'"

That story sums up the impact and influence of Gary Filbert. His life always involved sports, but his real gift was connecting with people. In almost every nook and cranny of Missouri, there was someone — and usually several — who knew and liked and would happily do a favor for the man. He had a knack for seeing the potential in people and putting that talent to good use.

Filbert died yesterday morning in his Columbia home at age 81. The cause of death was complications from brain cancer.

Filbert is best known as the man who guided the Show-Me State Games from its awkward beginning — when the event was jokingly called the "No-Show Games" — into the biggest state sports festival in the nation. That was just part of his legacy, though. He was a star high school athlete in St. Joseph, a basketball player at Missouri, a successful head basketball coach at Mexico High School and Missouri Western State College and an assistant coach under Norm Stewart at MU.

He started the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association, which is so vibrant today that it draws 1,000 coaches to its annual clinic. He helped get the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame off the ground, was inducted into the Hall and had an award named his honor.

"When you look back on his life, he had the ability to organize things and execute them and then continually improve them, which takes a person who can analyze," Stewart said. "A lot of people can organize, a lot of people can execute, but a lot of people can't analyze. Gary could do all three things.

"The other thing he could do is he had a great ability to pick the right people for the right job who could get it done. And he would let them do it. I always introduced him as the second Mark Twain in Missouri. He never painted a stroke, but the damn fence got painted all the time."

Stewart noticed Filbert's people skills right away. Filbert's basketball career at Missouri was interrupted by a four-year stint in the Marines. When Filbert returned to school in 1952, Stewart and the other younger players called him "Pop" and were often on the receiving end of advice. He was a three-year letterman from 1953-55. After college, Filbert spent 14 years coaching at Mexico, where the court was named in his honor last season. He led Missouri Western State for 13 seasons and was an assistant coach at MU from 1982-85.

In 1985, an event called the Show-Me State Games was introduced. The first year, 600 athletes participated. The second year wasn't much better. In 1987, Filbert was named the executive director.

"When I explain Gary, I say one of his greatest gifts was to allow people to fail," said Ken Ash, who succeeded Filbert as executive director in 2002. "If you don't allow people to fail, you also don't allow them to succeed. I thought Gary put them in position where, if you failed or didn't get it right the first time, he'd pick you up, dust you off and shoot you right back in there."

Filbert used his vast network of contacts to round up corporate sponsors, commissioners, officials and volunteers. The number of sports offered grew. The participation level exploded to more than 30,000 annually. In keeping with Filbert's shoot-for-the-stars philosophy, the featured speaker at the 1992 opening ceremonies was President George H.W. Bush.

"What he did was remarkable," Ash said. "He took a real struggling program and made it the biggest program in the country, surpassing states that would seem to be impossible to pass, like New York."

An offshoot of the Show-Me State Games was the Missouri State Senior Games, which Filbert competed in until the last year of his life. Although Filbert wasn't known as much of a scorer while playing for the Tigers — Stewart said there weren't many shots to go around after he took his share — his two-handed set shot made no concessions to age.

Filbert played with fellow retirees Dean Baxter and Bob Bryant in weekly 5-on-5 games in St. Louis well into his 70s. The trio met almost every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at Columbia College's Southwell Complex to compete in shooting contests with rules they made up on the spot.

"The one we always started with was called 'Five-Point Free Throws,'" Bryant said. "You got points based on whether you made it; whether it swished — I mean a real, honest-to-goodness swish; and if you could retrieve it before it left the lane without leaving the free-throw half-circle; also if it came right back to you so you didn't have to move, that was a point; and if it went through your legs without you moving, it was a point; and if you missed it, it was a negative point."

In July, Baxter served as the commissioner of the Senior Games' basketball skills contest and witnessed a remarkable performance. Filbert sank 24 of 25 free throws and 13 of 15 3-pointers. Three days later, he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

"We hadn't really noticed anything in his demeanor," Baxter said, "but looking back on it, he wasn't quite himself."

After surgery, Filbert tried to return to his favorite game.

"He just couldn't get the ball to the rim," Bryant said. "We tried to have him move in a little bit, enough to where we thought he could hit the rim. He'd move in but still couldn't get it to the rim. I think that exasperated him at first. He just knew it wasn't going to happen again. I think he tried it a couple of times, and then once or twice he just came over to be there, but that was about the end of it."

After Filbert's diagnosis, the awards and honors poured in. Among them was the National Basketball Coaches Association's Guardian of the Game award for growing the sport of basketball. Although the tumor was sapping his strength, he made an appearance at the Sprint Center in Kansas City during Missouri's game against Georgetown on Nov. 30.

"The thing I think about with my father is he was one of the few people I ever knew who got to live the life he wanted to live, from when he was in high school until he died," said Gary's eldest son, Preston Filbert. "He wanted to be involved in sports. He played various sports — his favorite was basketball — and he was able to stick with that his entire life. Very few people get to do the things they love their whole life."

Filbert is survived by his wife, Glenda Jo; daughters Laura Zacher, Lisa Filbert and Lydia Craft; sons Preston Filbert, Brian Filbert and Brent Filbert; and stepson Chris Boettcher.

A visitation will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at Missouri United Methodist Church at 204 S. Ninth St. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the same location.

This page has been revised to reflect the following correction:

CORRECTION:

Because of a scheduling conflict, the time of Gary Filbert's visitation has been changed. It will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday at Missouri United Methodist Church at 204 S. Ninth St. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at the same location.

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Former cop picked to lead training institute

Worden's focus on cooperation.

By **BRENNAN DAVID**

John Worden has left the Columbia Police Department to take over as director of the **University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute**.

Worden began his duties April 1, replacing Gary Maddox, who led the University of Missouri Extension institute for 17 years. Maddox was fired in May after an anonymous letter expressed concern about jokes, references to God and other remarks at an April 2010 LETI commencement.

Worden left behind a 21-year career with the Columbia Police Department, where his retirement will become official April 15. He was the department's training and recruitment sergeant. A graduate of the institute in 1990, Worden said he will continue toward his education doctorate at MU while leading LETI.

"It's one of those jobs where I can use my expertise in education and my experience in law enforcement and training," Worden said.

His efforts in the coming months will be to reconnect with law enforcement agencies in the area and across the state. Budgets are tight everywhere, he said, and the institute will be improving efforts to provide the training and resources departments need.

Class sizes remain healthy with 24 students enrolled in its academy and 31 students signed up for the summer academy. Worden said 35 students per class is a realistic goal. "I want us to become more visible in the university community," he said. "My guess is that only a few students realize there is a law enforcement academy on campus."

Reaching out to specific programs and publishing more research is two of several ways to improve the academy's visibility, he said.

Filling Worden's position at Columbia police is Sgt. Mike Hestir, who plans to focus on tactical communication training over the next year.

"What it means is how officers speak to the public," Hestir said. "It sounds easy, except that we are told some things that no other profession encounters. We want to help our officers learn a language that is palatable and professional. It's quite a task."

Hestir, who is transferring from patrol, said the training is about creating a balance between being an authority figure and a command presence. Review of defense tactics and other policies are mandated by policy, but communication is not. Small improvements could increase customer satisfaction and reduce complaints.

As the Columbia police training and recruitment director, Hestir will be working with academy directors such as Worden to recruit the best possible candidates. Columbia police currently has nine patrol openings.

Although communication training will be stressed in the coming months, Hestir said, he welcomes the challenge of preparing officers for anything.

"We have a shooting simulator here. There will be shootouts in Columbia" amongst residents, he said.

"It's only a matter of time until one of our guys stumbles into the middle of that. One or two officers in the next three years will be involved in a shooting. We want to get that right."

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Analysis: Nixon, Kinder now share travel trouble

By DAVID A. LIEB | Associated Press | Posted: Monday, April 11, 2011 12:15 am

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. -- Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder suddenly has a lot more in common with Gov. Jay Nixon - and that could make Kinder's likely challenge of Nixon a bit more complicated in the 2012 elections.

What Missouri's top two executives share is some heavy baggage when it comes to their travel at taxpayers' expense.

Nixon, a Democrat, has come under criticism for billing the cost of his frequent airplane flights to state agencies instead of his own office - essentially passing the buck to other parts of government at the very time he has been telling government to cut costs.

That could have made for a compelling commercial by a political opponent.

But Kinder, a Republican, now also has come under criticism for charging taxpayers for his frequent hotel stays, many of them at posh places in the St. Louis area, albeit at a discounted government rate.

As a result, that potential political ad attacking Nixon's travel would almost assuredly be rebutted with an ad criticizing Kinder's travel. And that may mean neither ad ever runs.

"Both candidates sort of are tarred with this," said Marvin Overby, a political science professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "They're going to want to talk about other things, and they are going to be in the position of having to pass on a potential weakness in the other candidate because they have that weakness too."

The travel saga may be the most politically costly to Kinder - not because his action is any worse, but because it muddies the challenger's ability to criticize the incumbent.

The Associated Press first reported in 2009 that Nixon was billing other agencies for his airplane flights, a practice which he has continued and defended as an appropriate cost allocation. In January and February alone, Nixon's office racked up \$30,263 of flight costs that were charged to various state agencies, according to the Office of Administration.

Former Missouri Auditor Susan Montee, who now is chairwoman of the state Democratic Party, said in a January audit that it appeared inappropriate for state agencies to bear the costs of gubernatorial travel that at times bore no clear benefit to the agencies. Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike also have taken issue with Nixon's flight billing. The proposed 2012 budget recently passed by the House would prohibit most state agencies from paying for the travel costs of statewide executive officials.

But Nixon's problem also became Kinder's when the St. Post-Dispatch reported last week that Kinder had received state reimbursements totaling \$35,050 for at least 329 nights at hotels in St. Louis and St. Louis County since 2006. Those included 236 nights at the Chase Park Plaza, where Kinder typically was billed at the discounted government rate of about \$119 with tax included. Some of those hotel stays coincided with Kinder's attendance at sporting events, society galas and a tea party rally.

Kinder defended the hotel costs and said all of the trips related to official state business, even if he also attended some political events after business hours. Yet Kinder announced last week that his campaign committee would pay the state \$35,050 to make sure there was no "taint or suspicion" about his activities.

The payment resembled Nixon's response to a prior travel saga in October 2007, when Nixon was attorney general and running for governor. Nixon's campaign committee paid the state about \$47,000 after it was revealed that Nixon used his state vehicle and attorney general's staff for political travel. Although Missouri law prohibits state vehicles from being used for private purposes, Nixon had justified the practice by claiming he was always on duty as attorney general - even while campaigning - and said the staff was necessary for security.

Nixon's campaign pledged in 2007 to instead lease a vehicle for his travels and explained that it made the payment so he could focus on more important issues. Kinder likewise said last week that his campaign would lease a condominium in St. Louis for future travel and explained that he made the state payment so the focus could return to more important issues.

Kinder, however, sought to distinguish the controversy over his travel from that surrounding Nixon's current travel patterns.

"My travel is transparent and fully out of my own office budget - his is neither," Kinder said.

Nixon has not publicly commented by Kinder's travel. But Nixon has defended his own flight billing as transparent to the public.

Whether the potential gubernatorial rivals will attempt to make a bigger issue out of the other's travel may depend on several factors.

"People are going to be doing constant polling and focus groups and talking to individuals to see what they remember, what sticks and what can be used in a campaign ad," said Dave Robertson, a political science professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As of now, "we don't know the answer of what is going to die off and what is going to be used to bludgeon opponents in next year's elections."