

MAY 12 2011

MU prepares for graduation crowds

By Janese Silvey

Columbia will be crowded this weekend as family members and friends of more than 5,000 University of Missouri graduates come to town to celebrate commencement.

Law enforcement officials said locals should give themselves plenty of time and practice a little patience when out and about.

“There are going to be visitors to campus who clearly don’t know where to go,” MU police Capt. Brian Weimer said. “It would be helpful just to be patient.”

MU is awarding a total of 5,868 degrees this weekend, including 4,322 bachelor’s degrees in addition to master’s, doctoral and professional degrees.

While MU police officers will be assigned to the various commencement events, Columbia police also are stepping up downtown patrol efforts, spokeswoman Sgt. Jill Wieneke said.

She urged residents to plan in advance.

“It’s a busy month for a lot of people, so give yourself plenty of time in traffic,” she said.

The ceremonies begin at 1 p.m. Friday and run through Sunday afternoon.

Perhaps the most well-known graduation guest will be musician Sheryl Crow, who is receiving an honorary degree and will make a few remarks during the Honors Commencement at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Francis Quadrangle. If it’s raining, the ceremony will be moved to Mizzou Arena.

Crow’s presence could draw a larger-than-normal crowd, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

“We’re expecting some additional folks who will want to see her,” he said. “But we’ve got two potential venues for that ceremony that are rather large, so we believe we’re in pretty good shape.”

Ian Wilmut, the scientist who cloned the sheep Dolly, also will receive an honorary degree and make remarks at the Honors Commencement.

Other notable speakers this weekend include Marty Becker, veterinary correspondent for “Good Morning America,” who will address the College of Veterinary Medicine graduates at 1:30 p.m.

Friday at Jesse Auditorium; Gov. Jay Nixon, who will speak at the College of Arts and Science graduation at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Hearnes Center; and U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, who's speaking at the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources graduation at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Hearnes Center.

Those planning to be part of the festivities also should plan in advance, officers said. Columbia police are boosting alcohol enforcement efforts throughout the week, and Wieneke said a sobriety checkpoint could be part of those efforts.

"Choose one person to be a designated driver or responsible party to make sure no one gets themselves in any trouble," she said.

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UMSL agrees labor videos were misleading

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri-St. Louis, like its Kansas City counterpart, has found that videos from a labor studies course posted online last month were edited out of context.

The excerpts first posted on Andrew Breitbart's Big Government website that showed UM-St. Louis instructor Don Giljum apparently advocating violent tactics in the workplace were "definitely taken out of context, with their meaning highly distorted through splicing and editing from different times within a class period and across multiple class periods," a statement from UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George and Provost Glen Cope said.

UMKC Provost Gail Hackett sent a similar statement days after the videos surfaced, saying they were inaccurate and distorted.

Giljum and Judy Ancel, director of UMKC's Institute for Labor Studies, team taught a Labor in Society & Politics class this semester. Videos of the course were available to students online, and edited clips from those classes began circulating online late last month.

The edited videos seemed to show the instructors promoting industrial sabotage and advocating for violence.

In a personal statement she issued days later, Ancel said at no time did either of them advocate violence; rather, they were expressing ideas from other sources to spark class discussion, she said. Ancel said she did not have time to comment for this story because of end-of-semester tasks.

The UMKC statement had said Giljum resigned, but he later told various media outlets that he was forced out. Cope and George clarified in their statement that he completed the course and is eligible to teach at UM-St. Louis in the future. He's an adjunct professor, so his assignments are on a course-by-course basis.

Meanwhile, the videos are causing administrators to rethink security policies.

"We have learned more about video and Internet technologies that can be beneficial or detrimental to positive, civil discourse, and security issues related to the use of such media," George and Cope wrote. "We shall explore ways to improve security in the use of electronic media for instruction, research and other activities."

UM-St. Louis spokesman Bob Samples declined to elaborate about that review.

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said those types of reviews are common.

“We are constantly reviewing and, where appropriate, working to improve security of all the university’s information assets in all settings,” she said in an email.

The videos caused a flurry of emails and calls to the campuses and the UM System. At University Hall, administrators received about 30 emails from the public regarding concern about the content of the edited videos, as well as concerns about academic freedom, Hollingshead said.

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

Missouri instructor cleared in labor video controversy

By The Associated Press

May 11, 2011 | 7:58 a.m. CDT

ST. LOUIS — **Officials at the University of Missouri-St. Louis say** an instructor seen on a controversial video discussing union practices did nothing wrong and will be able to return to the classroom.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that the school sent a letter Monday to faculty and staff saying an investigation cleared instructor Don Giljum of any wrongdoing.

Video clips on conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart's website purported to show Giljum and Missouri-Kansas City professor Judy Ancel endorsing violence as a union tactic.

UMSL officials said the video took comments made by both instructors out of context and distorted their meaning through editing from different times and classes.

UMKC officials had already said they stood behind Ancel.

2 new takes on cancer screening: Mammography studies support testing in 40s

8:06 PM, May. 11, 2011

Written by Kathleen Doheny, HealthDay

Two recent studies could shake up the debate on whether or not American women should begin regular mammography screening in their 40s.

One study, presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons in Washington, D.C., found that screening women ages 40 to 49 with mammograms detected smaller breast cancers, with less chance of spread to the lymph nodes, than relying on clinical breast exams alone.

That finding runs counter to controversial recommendations issued late in 2009 by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, which advised that women at average risk for breast cancer do not have to begin regular mammography screening until 50.

The second study presented at the same meeting April 29 suggests that the task force guidelines would unfavorably impact minority women in their 40s.

Dr. Paul Dale, chief of surgical oncology at the University of Missouri-Columbia and lead author of the study looking at early detection, said his view on the issue is clear: "I think women in their 40s should get mammography."

In their study, Dale and his colleagues looked at the medical records of nearly 1,600 women treated at the university medical center for breast cancer over 10 years. The researchers focused on 311 women 40 to 49.

Of those, 47 percent were diagnosed via mammography, while 53 percent were diagnosed without mammography.

Those diagnosed by mammogram had smaller tumors — an average of 2 centimeters in diameter versus 3 centimeters, the team found. They also had less chance of the cancer having already moved into the lymph nodes, where it becomes more difficult to treat.

When the researchers focused on the five-year disease-free survival of women in their 40s, Dale found 94 percent of the mammogram-detected group had disease-free survival compared to 71 percent in the nonmammogram group.

In the second study, researchers analyzed a nearly 47,000 American women with breast cancer. Of that, 22.6 percent were 40 to 49, while 77.4 percent were 50 to 74.

About 66 percent of the patients were white, about 15 percent were Hispanic, about 13 percent were Asian or Pacific Islanders and about 6 percent were black.

“We looked at a population of women who only had early breast cancer, and compared the younger, 40 to 49 — not recommended (routinely) to have screening — with an older population,” explained Dr. Sharon Lum, associate professor of surgery at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Loma Linda, Calif.

“What we found was in the younger, 40 to 49, group there was a greater proportion of minority women (with early cancers) than in the older group (of the same ethnicities),” she said.

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MU Health Care receives award for work with high school

Posted to [On Campus](#) by [Celia Ampel](#) at 12:57 p.m., May 11, 2011

University of Missouri Health Care will receive an award Thursday for working with Hickman High School through the Partners in Education Program, according to a news release.

The program, which is run by the Columbia Public School District, pairs up public schools with local businesses to strengthen academic programs, improve student achievement and enhance community growth, the news release stated.

“We support Hickman High School as our partner in education by helping students prepare for their careers after graduation,” said Kay Steward, CAVS, manager of guest relations and volunteer services at University of Missouri Health Care. “We do this by assisting students hone their resumes and interview skills. We also offer volunteer opportunities for students at all of our hospitals.”

University of Missouri Health Care has worked with the high school for 25 years.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Ellis Fischel Cancer Center holds free screening

By The Associated Press

May 12, 2011 | 7:10 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A Columbia medical center is offering free screenings for oral, head and neck cancer next week.

Men and women 18 and older can be screened the afternoon of May 20 at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Advance reservations are required.

The screening consists of a 10-minute physical exam of a patient's mouth, face and neck.

Ellis Fischel officials are encouraging smokers to participate. An Ellis Fischel oncologist says that 85 percent of head and neck cancers are connected to tobacco use. Those types of cancer affect more than 40,000 Americans annually.

Reports indicate cicadas are beginning to emerge

By Laura Orosemane

May 11, 2011 | 5:58 p.m. CDT

As soil temperatures rise, the swarm will increase

COLUMBIA – Bruce Barrett has seen isolated reports online of cicadas beginning to emerge in the Columbia area, but he's yet to see any of the insects himself and has been unable to verify the reports.

Barrett, a MU professor of entomology, said he wouldn't be surprised if cicadas start emerging soon, considering recent warm weather and soil temperatures.

Magcicada.org, a website created by the University of Connecticut's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, cites reports of cicadas emerging in east Columbia. The website allows people to indicate when they see the insects and to view of a map of emergences in several states. The Great Southern Brood, also known as Brood 19, has begun to show up in Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina, according to the map. The brood emerges every 13 years.

Usually, cicadas emerge from the ground when the soil reaches about 65 degrees.

At MU's Sanborn Field, bare soil temperatures four inches below the surface on Tuesday ranged from a low of 66.5 degrees to a high of 78.6 degrees. By 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, the 4-inch soil temperature had reached 85.2 degrees; at two inches below, the temperature was 90.4 degrees.

Rob Lawrence, a forest entomology professor at MU, said that once cicadas are seen on trees, it might be two weeks before they become extremely noisy. It will take time, he said, for a large population to emerge.

"As long as it stays warm we are gonna start hearing them, but if it gets cooler we won't hear much of them," Barrett said.

The singing will intensify as the temperature rises and peak in the early afternoons, when temperatures are warmest.

Gene Kristky, editor-in-chief of American Entomologist in Ohio, has also seen the reports. He said it's possible that two or three individual cicadas have already emerged in different areas.

"Columbia will have the cicadas before the beginning of June," Kritsky said. "But it is not gonna happen in one day."



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The Washington Post

Elephant therapy program for Thai autistic kids

Elephant therapy program for Thai autistic kids

(AP) LAMPANG, Thailand (AP) — Kuk-kik, a 14-year-old boy, punctuates his few, slurred words with yelps. Kong screams and bites his fingers when he can't figure out how much to pay for bananas. Other children freeze mid-motion, fix their gazes on minute objects and withdraw.

Enter Nua Un and Prathida — two gentle, lively and clever female elephants — and the mood among the autistic teenagers in Thailand changes as they begin their therapy, the world's first using these charismatic animals.

They scrub and soap their bristly hides, play ball games with the well-trained pachyderms and ride them bareback, smiling.

"Chang, chang (Elephant, elephant). Children, have you ever seen an elephant?" the group sings, clapping hands to the traditional Thai nursery tune and hugging the elephants' trunks. Disco-like, Nua Un bobs her head and sways.

Everyone cheers in a rousing climax to another day in this program in the forests of northern Thailand, which seeks to help autistic children through interaction with elephants.

Animal therapy for people with developmental disabilities — notably using dolphins, dogs and horses — is not new, and has provoked skepticism — especially in connection with expensive swimming-with-dolphins programs. But some anecdotal evidence and studies have shown

positive results.

Wittaya Khem-nguad, the elephant project's founder, says parents "see improvements after the elephant therapy and that gives them this hope."

A small preliminary observation found improvements among four boys after three weeks of elephant therapy, but more research with larger samples is needed, says Rebecca Johnson, who heads the Research Center for Human Animal Interaction at the University of Missouri. A presentation on the Thai program was recently made at the school's Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Autism is incurable but therapy and medication can improve speech, learning and social problems, and reduce behavior like tantrums.

Elephants have lost their traditional roles in Thailand as trucks, teak loggers, and battle tanks. Wittaya, who gave up a career in advertising to work with elephants, started the project as a way to help the endangered animals regain their usefulness. After reading about horse riding therapy, he approached Chiang Mai University, where Nuntanee Satiansukpong, head of its occupational therapy department, suggested elephants might help those with autism.

Elephants, she says, provide the rich, attention-grabbing "sensory menu" beneficial to the autistic, while the animals' intelligence and other traits allow for a wide range of interactions with humans. Additionally, elephants are woven into the fabric of Thai culture, familiar to children since birth.

Nuntanee worked out six key activities for the therapy sessions with her staff. Then they went to the government-run Thai Elephant Conservation Center near the northern city of Lampang, where the sessions take place in a forested clearing.

Each activity is designed to improve specific skills. The children learn to follow step-by-step instructions by drawing up shopping lists and buying food for the elephants — bananas, sugar cane, corn, sunflower seeds — at a mock store with real money. If the elephant rejects the food, they return to the store for an alternative, which teaches flexibility. Feeding the animals and brushing 7-year-old Nua Un when she obligingly lies on her side for a bath can help the kids overcome an aversion to sticky and rough textures.

Playing games, with the elephants kicking and offering balls with their trunks, fosters group activities. Riding, besides sheer fun, requires specific sequences of mounting and commanding while addressing poor balance and posture. And elephant-themed art activities — painting and making mobiles, paper lanterns and mosaics — spark the imagination.

"The elephant is such a big stimulus it can keep the attention of an individual longer, and since it is such a wonderful animal bonding can occur," says Nuntanee. "If we can drag the children out of their own world they will be better," she says.

But throughout the day, some of the participants regress. Kuk-kik Kraisi refuses to take part in

a game, abruptly squatting down to bang two stones together and poke the earth with a stick. Kong Jatjeeng erupts in screams after a stray brush stroke. A third teen tears his paper lantern to shreds because he cannot puncture holes for stringing it up, then sobs.

The parents, who accompany their children to the elephant center, have asked for the free therapy to be continuous, but Nuntanee says that with limited funding, only eight-day sessions are offered.

Kuk-kik's mother Saithong says her son doesn't usually "join activities with other people. He would be by himself. This is the first time he is not."

Kong's mother Keesorn said the therapy helps make her son more patient, gentler and willing to share. But she added: "His mood changes every day. He lives in his own world. We will have to take care of him for the rest of our lives."