Do you trust your neighbors?

A study by Eileen Bjornstrom, an assistant professor of sociology in the Missouri University College of Arts and Science shows that people who trust their neighbors report having better health.

Do you trust your neighbors? Do you know them? Do you interact with them? Would you prefer to have nothing to do with them? Do you remember your neighbors from where you grew up? Did they influence you, for better or worse?

Guess who distrusts their neighbors more, people at the financial top or the financial bottom of a specific neighborhood?

Dr. Bjornstrom's study showed that people toward the top of the financial level of a neighborhood were less likely to respond that “their neighbors can be trusted.” If one is near the top, trust goes down. Is it that if your relative position is higher than your neighbors you fear theft? Is it that people who have more than their neighbors are more aloof and independent by nature?

The study also showed a correlation between rating low on “neighbors can be trusted” and reporting good health. In this study, it seems that harboring distrust wears on an individual’s sense of well-being.

Do you intuitively agree with this or not?

Those of you who thought that poorer people in a neighborhood would trust less were wrong. For most people, it is easy to remember times when lack of money led to feeling lousy – emotionally and physically. So it is easy to guess that the poorer people in a given neighborhood would trust less and think they were less healthy. But, the study shows the opposite. The poorer people in neighborhoods thought themselves more secure and healthier. Seems that the notion of “keeping up with the Joneses” is less stressful than generally believed. Are the findings of this study consistent with Janis Joplin's Bob Dylan's lyric from Like a Rolling Stone: “When you got nothing, you’ve got nothing to lose”?

Bjornstrom examined the 2001 Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey. She looked at where individuals fell economically, compared to their neighbors. Then she matched that information with participant’s responses about whether they trust their neighbors and their self-reporting on their own health. Bjornstrom’s study, “The Neighborhood Context of Relative Position, Trust and Self-Rated Health,” appears in the journal Social Science & Medicine.
How much do you think that having good neighbors benefits your sense of trust and your overall sense of well-being? How much do you think that your economic position in your neighborhood affects your attitude toward your neighbors and about your own health?
Drinkers remain aware of mistakes but care less about them, study suggests

By Becky Schlikerman, Tribune reporter

September 2, 2011

You may have known that 4 a.m. burrito was a bad idea, but after a few drinks, you just didn't care. So says a new study that might hit home with hung over people desperately trying to rationalize what they did the night before.

"They know they're making mistakes, they just don't care as much," said Bruce Bartholow, associate professor of psychology at the University of Missouri.

Bartholow and his research team tested the ability of 67 young people as they worked on a fast-paced, challenging computer task, he said. The researchers also measured the participants' mood, their accuracy and their perception of their accuracy. About one-third of the participants drank alcohol, while the others drank nonalcoholic drinks or placebo drinks they thought contained alcohol.

Researchers found that despite what the participants were drinking, all the participants, including those who were drinking alcohol, recognized when they had made an error.

What does that mean in real life?

"Going home with that person might be a bad idea, taking a swing at that guy might not be a good idea, getting in my car and driving home right now is probably not a good idea. People know these things are wrong, but they just don't feel as bothered by the implications," Bartholow said.
Not just a uniform: It's a message to Missouri fans, opponents

COLUMBIA — After a game, the Missouri football team gathers to watch film to see how they looked on the field. Last week, far from the Mizzou Athletic Training Facility, in the middle of campus, just a few long strides west of Memorial Union, another presentation occurs, also analyzing how the Tigers look on the field.

"I don’t like the gold pants."

Those are the first words out of the mouth of Kerri McBee-Black, an adjunct professor in MU’s Department of Textile and Apparel Management, when she is shown a picture of a Missouri player in game action from last season. He is wearing a black jersey and gold pants.

"The gold pants don’t do it for me in terms of visual and aesthetics," she said.

She should know. The Department of Textile and Apparel Management — referred to as TAM — has earned awards and national recognition. The department offers tracks in either product development or marketing and merchandising.
McBee-Black also has a professional background, having developed children’s clothing and apparel for shooting enthusiasts. Her opinions on the Tigers’ uniforms, as well as those of their Big 12 counterparts, are based on experience in the field.

She explained that, like most consumer products, athletic clothing is developed with function in mind.

“You’re going to have to think about performance and end-use in that product,” McBee-Black said. “They’re going to be wearing that out on the field. They’re going to be wearing it in a variety of different climates. They’re going to be wearing it in hot weather and cold weather. And they’re going to be rough and tumble, so they’re going to be hit, pushed, dragged down, skid across the floor or grass — real grass, turf, whatever it may be.”

She did like Missouri’s black home jersey, specifically the white lines that she said highlight the chest and shoulders, making them look bigger. McBee-Black said there was a “strategic thought process” behind those lines.

Jordan Leinan, a textile student and president of the university’s Textile and Apparel Management Association, also praised the white lines.

“That probably accentuates the shoulder pads,” Leinan said. “It makes them look larger, more fierce.”

Once a new picture popped up on the uniform slideshow McBee-Black was watching, teaming the black helmet and jersey with black pants, her opinion of Missouri’s uniforms improved. She said there was something to an all-black uniform.

“It’s like people who like black cars,” she said. “All black cars with black interior. It’s a sleek look. It’s a sophisticated look. It evokes a higher level of sophistication. Tacking that on to the brand of MU and the logo that is MU and what that feeling evokes, it definitely does that. ..."

“This is kind of creating that feeling of ‘We are Mizzou, and this is who we are, and we’re dominating, and you fear us. You really don’t want to face us on our home field.’”

McBee-Black said there are restrictions on uniform design, including user expectations and color scheme.

“You can’t put pink polka dots on the Mizzou jersey,” she said. “If the designer thinks that’s a great idea, it’s not going to go over because that’s not what fits into a football jersey.”

Still, McBee-Black said, there are schools who have recently stepped away from the norm on purpose and used it as a marketing tool.

Brianna Brandon is a textile student who interned this summer with Under Armour, a major athletic apparel company that has headquarters in Baltimore. Under Armour makes the uniforms for several college football teams, including Texas Tech of the Big 12 and defending national champion Auburn.
She said schools that push the envelope produce the best uniforms, citing the relationship between Nike and the University of Oregon as a prime example.

“I really commend Nike for doing the whole highlighter color (on Oregon’s jerseys from the 2011 National Championship Game),” Brandon said. “I think it was awesome, and it brought a lot of attention and really got minds turning for upcoming seasons for other schools and stuff like that. It’s always about pushing people’s thought processes of fashion a little bit beyond their scope but still making sure they’re comfortable with everything because otherwise you’re going to be irrelevant if they don’t like what direction you’re going in.”

Despite their preference for new styles, students and faculty from TAM said they enjoyed the tradition and spirit behind Missouri’s black and gold color combination.

McBee-Black also talked about the meanings of the Tigers’ primary colors.

“Black and gold have a lot of combinations that kind of tie back to history,” she said. “That’s a good combination in terms of its placement on the color wheel. ... So black can be seen as this dominating color. It can be seen as a dark, overbearing, battle-ready type of color. There could have very well been that strategic thought process into, ‘we’re going to put those strong color combinations together for a sports team because that’s going to evoke that feeling while we’re wearing that.’

“You know Gold Rush, when they’re telling us to wear all gold in the stadium, it evokes a different feeling than if you’re team wears light purple, lavender or pink whatever. So there’s a whole different connotation behind it.”

But do sports fans care about the colors and designs a school selects for its uniforms?

The truth is, there are a ton of people who care. On the Internet there are message boards and chat rooms where people have posted not only their opinions on every facet of any team’s uniform but also their own renderings of uniforms for every team in a given league.

Some might say they have too much time on their hands, but Paul Lukas, an athletic clothing designer and the founder of the UniWatch blog, says it’s a matter of perspective.

“Some people get it and some people don’t, and that’s fine,” Lukas said. “That’s always been true of a lot of my work, not just Uni Watch. Some people are into the detail thing. Some people kind of scratch their heads. They don’t understand what all the fuss is about.

“Most Uni Watch readers, I’ve found, were the kind of people, that when they were in elementary school, were doodling uniforms or team logos in their notebooks when they should have been paying attention to the teacher, and that was me, too. You’re just doodling. You don’t think of it as meaning anything, but looking back, my passion for sports design was manifesting itself at a young age.”

In 1999, after focusing on design details in areas such as corporate branding, Lukas started a Uni Watch column — “The Obsessive Study of Athletics Aesthetics.” It was picked up as a column on ESPN.com in
2004. A blog was started in 2006 to serve those who couldn’t wait 10 days between Lukas’ ESPN posts. He said the site has turned into a "crowd-sourced project," with an "army of research volunteers" that every day email him things they’ve noticed.

"I wouldn’t have come up with the idea, proposed it, shopped it around in 1999, if I didn’t think there was some audience for it," Lukas said. "I will say the audience has proven to be bigger and more passionate and more devoted than I expected."

So what does Lukas think about the Missouri uniforms?

"I’m never big on nicknames on uniforms," Lukas said. "So I’ve never liked the whole ‘Mizzou’ thing. It seems a little undignified. You’re the University of Missouri. Can’t you put ‘Missouri’? It’s something about the nickname that strikes me as a little too casual."

Lukas did have positive things to say also, citing the helmet as a particularly likeable aspect. He summed up the design as “solid, but unspectacular.”

What does the future hold for the Tigers’ look? Missouri equipment director Don Barnes said the university and Nike are working on a redesign for next season across all of the school’s teams. He stressed that the new football uniforms will need to accomplish many goals.

“We want absolutely the most technologically advanced uniform out there,” Barnes said. “If there’s any way we can give our guys an edge with the uniform or equipment — that’s my job to figure that out and to do that and still maintain a classy look, a traditional look, something that respects the university and what we’ve done, the state of Missouri, we want to represent that well on the field. ..."

“We’re not into shock value like maybe an Oregon or a Miami. We’re going to stay true to what we are, and design it around that.”

There are a few templates out there. Two teams Missouri will play this season, Arizona State and Oklahoma State, have redesigned their uniforms for this season. Barnes praised the look of the new uniforms and said he is watching Arizona State closely because of their new matte-black helmets. Missouri wore matte-black helmets in a game against Kansas two seasons ago, and Barnes is interested to see the durability.

"We did that for the ‘Beast Mode’ game," Barnes said. "We did an anthracite gray, but it was a one game deal."

Lukas said the two schools are following a trend of using multiple helmets. Oklahoma State has jumped from one white helmet to white, gray and black. He suggested it could pose a problem for quarterbacks, who could be throwing to receivers wearing one color helmet one week and avoiding defensive backs with the same color helmet the next.

It’s not clear using many different color combinations will catch on. Brandon praised schools such as Oregon for “pushing the boundaries.” Barnes said he was OK with players wanting to use “every color of
the rainbow” but said uniforms still had to look good. The Tigers dabbled in the trend three years ago against Kansas, when they wore gold jerseys — instead of traditional home black — in a 40-37 loss.

The look became another victim of superstition.

“In our tradition and our history, gold is a strong color, and it’s gone all the way back to Don Faurot’s Golden Tigers,” Barnes said. “We made a uniform that I think looked pretty good. It was the same silhouette we used for the rest of our uniforms, just put our traditional gold into that uniform. And unfortunately, the results of the game don’t bode well for that look coming out again. I can’t tell you if you’ll ever see that again. You may, you may not.”

Gold jerseys. Matte-black helmets. Some of the variations that the people from TAM praised for their change of pace have appeared on Missouri players in the past few seasons.

Whatever type of uniform, whatever type of look the fans at Memorial Stadium see next season, there's sure to be a "strategic thought process involved" that could produce new levels of both technology and fashion.
Preparations in full gear for the Missouri football home opener

Thursday, September 1, 2011 | 8:54 p.m. CDT; updated 2:00 a.m. CDT, Friday, September 2, 2011

In preparation for Saturday's game against the Miami Redhawks, Marching Mizzou rehearses "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the practice lot behind Hearnes Center on Thursday. The band has been preparing for the game since Aug. 14.

NICK MICHAEL

BY AMBER MEATTE, CAITLIN SOLE, KATE EVERSON

COLUMBIA — One state. One spirit. One Mizzou.

The mantra echoed from Memorial Stadium's speakers as students walked to Mizzou Arena in the blazing heat.

Saturday's game
Miami (Ohio) 10-4, 7-1 MAC in 2010
at Missouri 10-3, 6-2 Big 12 in 2010

WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Memorial Stadium
RADIO: KTGR/1580 AM, 100.5 FM, KCMQ/96.7 FM
TV: Fox Sports
NOTE: Missouri coach Gary Pinkel went 3-3-1 in seven appearances against the Redhawks during his 10-year tenure as head coach at Toledo (1991-2000)

Inside the arena, students and other fans stood in a line 60 deep to pick up their football tickets.

Robert Little of Columbia stood in line with his children, Connor, 5, and Meghan, 4. Little said he’d be happy with a 9-3 season.

“I’m excited for the future of Missouri athletics,” he said. “We’ve come a long way in the last 15 years.”

Derek Besant, an MU junior, wasn’t as optimistic.

“I don’t see anyone beating Oklahoma,” he said. “We’re going to be second or third in the conference. But every year’s different.”

Lizzie Nester, an MU freshman, was excited either way.

“All my siblings went here, so I’ve been here since I was five,” she said. “I’m excited to finally get to sit in the student section.”

Meanwhile, Marching Mizzou practiced behind the Hearnes Center. Because of the excessive heat radiating off the blacktop, the musicians stripped down to shorts and tank tops.

“Please rehearse with purpose,” Marching Mizzou director Brad Snow called out while the band assumed halftime positions.

“We do what we have to if we want to be good,” said Erin Chucovich, an MU junior and alto saxophonist in Marching Mizzou.

Spirit stores’ staff were also preparing for Saturday’s game.

At Tiger Spirit on Ninth Street, black and gold T-shirts were unloaded from boxes and put on display to round out an inventory of black and gold apparel.

Co-owner Michelle Dillard said home football games are important to specialized clothing stores like hers.

“The six home games are our six busiest days,” she said.
The projected attendance for Saturday’s game is between 55,000 and 60,000 fans, Chad Moller, a spokesman for the Hearnes Center, said.

Ashley Pritchett, a sales associate at the Tiger Team Store in Memorial Stadium, said the store is usually packed shoulder to shoulder on game days.

The MU Bookstore will remain open until 9 p.m. Friday because of the expected onslaught of shoppers. Employees will sell merchandise in tents outside, as well.

Student season tickets are sold out, but general admission tickets are still available for $23. Fans can purchase tickets starting at 8 a.m. Friday at the arena and at 7 a.m. Saturday at the arena and Faurot Field.
Done with the past, One Mizzou looks to the future

Four Front chairman Sean Nahlik said One Mizzou will be fine-tuned this semester.

By Daniel Shapiro Published Sept. 2, 2011

Last year, after racially charged graffiti appeared outside of Hatch Hall, some of MU’s student organizations decided they needed to act.

Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods met with other student leaders from groups such as the Legion of Black Collegians, Four Front, the Residence Halls Association and the Graduate Professionals Council to form One Mizzou.

One Mizzou began with a large launch event and had consistent weekly meetings, but Woods said that membership reduced after the initial diversity campaign began, but the campaign has not disappeared.

“One Mizzou still exists, and I would hesitate to call it an organization because we are still in the process of putting together something, structurally and conceptually, that we feel will last,” Woods said. “We want to make this a movement that continues to be present on campus, make an impact, make a statement about campus culture. We are still trying to figure out the best way to do that.”

Woods said that One Mizzou membership has been reduced. The diversity campaign now consists of Woods, former RHA president Lauren Thomas, current RHA president Chris Rucker, LBC president Whitney Williams, LBC vice president Kristen Andrews, GPC president Kristofferson Culmer and Four Front chairman Sean Nahlik.

Although not representing the entirety of the group, these members make up the main part of its body, with LBC and Four Front acting as umbrella groups representing small organizations.

“(One Mizzou) is not a huge public thing, because we decided that last semester was great for drawing attention to it, for making it known that we’re working on things,” Woods said. “This semester is when we have to withdraw and figure out how to make it stick. We still meet every week, in smaller groups.”

Despite the smaller group size, One Mizzou still has large plans for the future.
"Big plans for this year are to hash out what we want One Mizzou to be and what we want it to be in the future," Williams said. "We’re trying to build a foundation so it’ll be around for 10, 15 years and is more than a T-shirt or brand and a logo. So, now we’re building foundations and next semester we may do an event, but we just want to do the events that are already happening on campus that are already culturally diverse that would be good for students to go to that they might not be aware of."

Nahlik said that the foundation of One Mizzou has been reevaluated to create a new mission, long-term and short-term goals as well as an overall vision for the diversity campaign.

"By solidifying what One Mizzou means, we are preparing to go forward and take One Mizzou back to the student body with a unified message through presentations and a soon-to-be-updated website," Nahlik said.

Woods said that he wants the future plans for One Mizzou to be solidified by the end of the fall semester.

"I’ll be graduating in December and I chaired all those early meetings and pulled everyone together," Woods said. "A lot of other people working on it now are leaving and have been there since the beginning and want to leave something to pass on."
MU faculty turnover a relatively rare occurrence

The faculty turnover rate at MU has been just 7 percent for three years.

By Caitlin Swieca

Published Sept. 2, 2011

With three years between the most recent merit raise and now, MU might be susceptible to having its faculty members lured away by offers from other schools.

During the 2010-11 school year, MU faculty had the ninth highest salary in the Big 12 Conference. Deputy Provost Ken Dean said salary is the most important factor in choosing a job for most professors.

"When you go for a long period of time without raises, it begins to affect morale," Dean said. "It also makes people more susceptible to inquiries from other universities that do have the funds and the interest to hire them away, and we have seen some of that."

Faculty members might be lured to other schools because of the lack of salary raise opportunities at MU. Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said professors only have two opportunities to receive merit raises, after which their salaries plateau.

"Each time you change jobs you get a salary increase," Rubin said. "Faculty have two salary increases. Other than that, they have no other advancement opportunities. The only way they can get more increases in salary is to get another job offer."

Professor Virginia Huxley, who serves as the director of the National Center for Gender Physiology, said professors often seek offers from other schools in order to draw a bigger salary from MU. Faculty members who conduct research may be frustrated at the lack of resources given to improve future projects. Although MU often offers support for research projects, faculty members are responsible for finding outside resources such as grants.

"The University of Missouri has been generous in coming up with packages to bring people here," she said. "If you started off here and have been successful, the university doesn’t turn around and say, ‘You’ve been really helpful, here are funds we’ve raised.’"

Professor Joe Parcell said the process of seeking raises elsewhere was a simple matter of economics.
"I'm an economist, so I see everything from an opportunity cost standpoint," he said. "I don't want to call it a game, but if you want to be successful at your home institution financially, sometimes you have to go out and interview other places and find out what MU's willing to pay for you to stay."

Huxley said professors who seek salary increases through counteroffers have to take other universities seriously.

"If you're going to interview someplace, it's only fair to the place that you look at your offer seriously," Huxley said. "Otherwise, it's a waste of everybody's time, money and resources, and you can only do that so many times in your career."

While MU has been hit by state budget cuts, universities in other states have also been affected, but to varying degrees. Dean said each department varies in its ability to compete with other schools.

"Some of our disciplines have more competitive salaries," he said. "In other disciplines, we're not as competitive and it's very difficult to recruit. It's just getting harder and harder because of not having enough funds to continue to be competitive."

Dean said different schools within MU use different strategies to save money and provide flexibility in hiring and retaining faculty members.

In addition, the prestige of different schools within MU affects their ability to hire quality faculty. For example, the School of Journalism and the College of Veterinary Medicine are both notable in their respective fields, but MU was ranked No. 94 overall in U.S. News and World Report's most recent rankings.

In the 2010 University of Missouri Employee Pay and Benefits Preference Survey, 54 percent of respondents indicated it would take them a lot to leave MU, with 45 percent saying they hardly ever thought about leaving to work somewhere else.

MU offers faculty members medical and life insurance as well as disability and retirement plans. Betsy Rodriguez, vice president for human resources of the UM System, said MU's benefits package is competitive.

Although budget cuts will not affect the benefits package, steeply rising health care costs will lead to a price increase on the medical plan. In addition, the Board of Curators, the governing board of the UM System, voted during the summer to revise the retirement plan for new hires beginning in October 2012.

The new retirement plan will be more flexible, which some professors see as a positive thing.

"I'm very happy that they're looking at an alternative retirement plan, only because I feel like that makes everybody more flexible," Parcell said. "In the long run, that will be a win-win for faculty, staff and MU."
In a 2010 poll, 34 percent of faculty in the UM System agreed that domestic partner benefits should become a high priority if resources become available. Rubin said MU is one of five schools in the American Association of Universities that does not offer domestic partnership benefits.

“I know deans and chairs have been pushing with the issue,” Rubin said. “They’re having a hard time competing. Not only are salaries low, but that’s a benefit they don’t offer.”

Rodriguez said the UM System is not in a position to expand benefits.

“The faculty are extremely interested in adding domestic partner benefits,” she said. “We’re interested in it as well, but the problem is the cost. Given the budget situation we’re in, it’s been a difficult conversation. It’s definitely being considered.”

Professor Carol Ward said MU should focus on diversifying its faculty and hiring spouses of current employees when possible to encourage families to stay in Columbia.

“The university needs to work on increasing the diversity of the faculty in terms of underrepresented groups,” she said. “There are good efforts that are beginning to be made, but that’s an area they should focus on.”

Huxley said she felt MU could encourage faculty to be more productive by rewarding professors for research and other outside endeavors.

“I wish that there could acknowledgement of the people who are here, because there would be a higher emphasis on those kinds of scholarly activities,” she said. “It wouldn’t take much of an investment to actually improve the demeanor of the faculty that are here.”

Although MU might have a difficult time competing with private institutions, Rubin noted that their missions are not the same.

“I think most state land grant schools have a mission to educate students of the state,” she said. “Few of them are the Harvard’s or the Wash. U’s. There are some departments and colleges here that are competitive with the very best in the country, but as a whole I think we have a mission to educate the students of the state of Missouri, and that’s OK. We don’t mind doing that.”

Despite the drawbacks of staying at MU, many professors stay because of other aspects of the university.

“For an individual person, it might be wanting to live in a smaller town as opposed to a big city or being closer to family,” Dean said.

Rubin said that professors want to work in an inviting, productive atmosphere.
“I don’t think salary is always the single most important thing,” she said. “I do think it’s important that they have an opportunity within the discipline to collaborate and work with other people that have similar interests to theirs. It’s hard to be successful as an island.”

Ward said an emphasis on research and collaborations between disciplines make MU an appealing place to work.

“One thing that MU does have and really promotes is a really well-developed emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty that extends to students,” she said.

Parcell said MU’s size and range of programs gives it an advantage.

“You won’t find many campuses with an agricultural school, law school and med school, along with business, arts and science and humanities in terms of collaborations that can occur,” Parcell said.

Huxley said the community of academics is the primary reason for professors staying at MU, followed by the community of Columbia, which she felt was very accepting of professors.

“The thing I really like about the Midwest is that the motivation of most faculty and students is not to win the Nobel Prize or a presidential award,” Huxley said. “It’s really based on the betterment of the community and some of the old-fashioned values. It’s made it a really nice place to live and work.”

Despite budget cuts, faculty turnover rate at MU held steady at 7 percent for the past three years, well below the national average for educational institutions, 13.5 percent.
Clinic competes to treat injured athletes

By Janese Silvey
Columbia Daily Tribune Thursday, September 1, 2011

The Missouri Orthopaedic Institute last week launched a late-night clinic for high school athletes injured during Friday-night football games and other sporting events — a service competing Columbia Orthopaedic Group has been providing for years.

Missouri Orthopaedic Institute’s version began last week and will continue until football season ends Nov. 18.

The idea behind “Friday Night Lights” clinic is to give athletes a place to go for sprains and strains the night they happen, said Jeff Hoelscher, a spokesman for the institute’s umbrella, University of Missouri Health Care.

The private Columbia Orthopaedic Group sends volunteer orthopedic surgeons to all home and away football games for Hickman, Rock Bridge and other Boone County high schools, spokesman Beau Baehman said.

“We’ve been on the sidelines for years, going way back to the founders of Columbia Orthopaedic Group,” he said, noting that one of the company’s three founding partners, Glenn McElroy, started the tradition at Hickman. “If something happens — either home or away — we have somebody right there.”

Rock Bridge High School also has a full-time athletic trainer who can treat students or refer them if they need additional care, Athletic Director Jennifer Mast said.

And Columbia Orthopaedic Group also offers a free Saturday clinic for athletes who experience problems the day after a game.

“Our athletes get pretty good treatment if there’s an injury or anything like that,” said Doug Mirts, vice principal and athletic director at Hickman.

Hoelscher said he was not aware of Columbia Orthopaedic Group’s services. He said the new clinic treated two students on Friday, one for a football incident and one for a soccer-related injury. He also stressed that it’s open to any high school athlete, not just football players.

“The idea is the clinic is open so that anyone that sustained an injury on a Friday night can access a comprehensive care center that night,” he said. “The clinic is designed for that.”

It has been nearly a year since MU’s Orthopaedic Institute and Columbia Orthopaedic Group entered into an agreement to treat MU athletes. Animosity between the two groups began in 2007 when Columbia
Orthopaedic Group was awarded a contract to provide care for the MU Tigers rather than the university's own physicians.

The agreement set aside a core group of sports medicine specialists from both groups to treat athletes.
Special Olympics plans Columbia training center

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Published September 1, 2011 at 11 a.m.

Updated September 1, 2011 at 1:21 p.m.

With a $1 million gift in hand, Special Olympics Missouri has launched a fundraising campaign to build a one-of-a-kind training facility in Columbia.

Centene Corp., a health plan company headquartered in St. Louis, contributed the lead gift of $1 million for the proposed 44,000-square-foot building on 11.2 acres on Bonne Femme Church Road, near Highway 63 in south Columbia.

Special Olympics Missouri is hoping for more donations to complete the first phase of the $7.5 million facility, which will also be the new home of the Special Olympics Missouri headquarters, currently based in Jefferson City.

“The facility will be a great contribution to the state and will help young people and adults,” said Centene CEO Michael Neidorff. “It’s an opportunity here they might not otherwise have.”

Neidorff joined University of Missouri head football Coach Gary Pinkel, honorary chairman for Special Olympics, to announce the plans this morning at MU’s Athletic Training Complex. Both will serve as honorary chairmen for the Training for Life Campus campaign.

Organizers expect construction to begin by 2013 on the site, which will be known as the Centene Charitable Foundation Training for Life Campus. The building is expected to be open year-round and house basketball and volleyball courts, a health and fitness center and fields to support 21 sports, including soccer, baseball, flag football, track and golf. The multipurpose facility also is expected to be available for other community groups. Additionally, the Training for Life Campus will offer athletic programs for Special Olympians and a wellness program that will provide on-site dental, vision and hearing screenings.

Because the campaign is under the umbrella of the nationally recognized Special Olympics and because it is a statewide effort, Jim Ritter said he expects the campaign to succeed despite a rough economy. Ritter is on the Special Olympics Foundation board, the fundraising arm of the organization.

“Special Olympics is a name people recognize and appreciate and support,” he said. “They have an understanding of the benefits.”

Still, Ritter said raising the money in this economy will require funds from corporations and foundations, as well as gifts from individuals.
The $1 million donation is Special Olympics Missouri’s largest gift ever and the contribution that kick-starts the campaign. Organizers said they have had other contributions and pledges from other companies, including World Wide Technology of St. Louis. WWT was founded by David Steward, who serves on the UM System’s Board of Curators.

Special Olympics gives youths and adults with special needs a chance to compete in sports, but the benefits span beyond the physical, said Wendy Dyer, a consultant with the organization. Athletes get a chance to meet other people and learn skills that help them become better citizens and more prepared for the workforce, she said.

About 15,000 Missourians compete in Special Olympics Missouri, said Mark Bussen, who is chairman of the organization’s endowment fund and will oversee the campaign.
COLUMBIA — Special Olympics Missouri received $1 million from the Centene Charitable Foundation, marking the first step toward a $7.5 million training center in Columbia.

A capital campaign for the center was announced Thursday morning. The initiative is a result of a partnership between MU football coach Gary Pinkel and CEO and President of Centene Corporation Michael Neidorff, both of whom serve as honorary co-chairmen for Special Olympics Missouri.

The 44,000-foot Training for Life Campus will serve people with intellectual disabilities. In Columbia, this makes up about 1.5 percent of the population, said Laurie Shadoan, Special Olympics Missouri endowment fund vice president of development.

The center will offer courts and fields for training for 21 sports, including flag football to baseball, as well as provide a place to hold camps, wellness screenings, coach training and a young athletes program.

Construction for the campus is expected to begin in 2013 on 11.2 acres of land off of Bonne Femme Church Road, Shadoan said.

The center is intended to give athletes increased opportunities to succeed.

In announcing the campaign, Shadoan said, Pinkel talked about how new facilities have benefited the MU football team and Shadoan expects this facility to do the same for Special Olympics.

"Special Olympics athletes have never had a place to call their home," Shadoan said. "This, it would bring that whole feeling of self-worth, self-esteem."

Pinkel has a personal connection to Special Olympics. Both his sister and brother were diagnosed with a rare, hereditary neurological disease when they were teenagers. Both use wheelchairs as adults.

"I know I've heard him say that they never complained a day about their situation," Chad Moller, University of Missouri associate athletic director of media relations, said. "He just drew a lot of strength from that and from them."