

SEP 09 2011



UM System gets reprieve on funding cut

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — The penalty Gov. Jay Nixon imposed on **the University of Missouri for raising tuition** too much will be a one-year reduction and not a permanent decrease in funding.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education today recommended funding levels for all state colleges and universities for the budget year that begins July 1, 2012. With a tight fiscal picture expected to continue, Nixon's Office of Budget and Planning issued instructions to all state departments to ask for no more than they will receive this year, including withholdings.

But while Nixon cut 7 percent from the budgets of most state colleges and universities this year, he imposed an 8.1 percent cut on the UM System and an 8.2 percent cut on Missouri Western State University. When the cuts were announced, the extra slice from UM and Missouri Western were attributed to tuition and fee increases of more than 5 percent.

New instructions issued for higher education direct that UM and Missouri Western be treated as though they only received a 7 percent cut this year, which will mean an extra \$4.5 million for the UM System. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education today followed that recommendation.

"I am very grateful to the governor," said Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, who said he has been lobbying Nixon to make the extra cut a one-year penalty. "What it means for next year is that the University of Missouri will be \$4.5 million better off."

For the current year, Nixon originally proposed giving the university \$398 million, down from \$428.1 million in the current year. The 7 percent cut was part of Nixon's plan to balance the state budget and followed two years in which Nixon made limited cuts to colleges and universities in exchange for promises not to raise tuition.

During work on the budget, lawmakers added \$5.6 million to Nixon's spending proposal for UM as they increased the appropriation for all colleges and universities to reduce the cut to 5.4 percent. Nixon, however, withheld the extra money to keep the cut at 7 percent for all higher education except UM and Missouri Western.

In the current year, UM will receive \$393.5 million from the state.

While state revenue has begun to grow again after two years of decline, the state will have a \$460 million gap to fill in fiscal 2013, Budget Director Linda Luebbering wrote to state

department officials in July. The gap between revenue and spending remains because this year — and for the past two years — the state has relied on heavy federal subsidies to balance its budget. That money is now gone.

All the amounts withheld by Nixon to balance this year's budget will be permanent cuts in the fiscal 2013 budget, Luebbering said in the instructions.

State revenue is in line with projections, but Nixon withheld extra amounts from many programs, justifying the move to help finance disaster recovery for the tornado that hit Joplin and for flooding in other parts of the state. So far, Luebbering said, the state has spent \$11 million on disaster relief, but \$150 million has been set aside if needed.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Gov. Nixon limits additional budget cuts for UM System to one year

By James Ayello, Zach Murdock

September 8, 2011 | 7:12 p.m. CDT

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Jay Nixon decided Tuesday that additional budget **restrictions for the University of Missouri System and Missouri Western State University will only last one year.**

Effective July 1, most Missouri public colleges and universities had their budgets cut by 7 percent because of tightened state spending. But the UM System's budget was cut 8.1 percent, and Missouri Western's budget was cut by 8.2 percent.

Nixon proposed the penalties after both institutions chose to raise tuition for the 2011-12 school year "well beyond the increase in cost of living allowed by the statute," The Associated Press reported. The UM System decided in April to increase tuition by an average of 5.5 percent, while Missouri Western approved a 9.5 percent increase.

Nixon informed the Coordinating Board for Higher Education earlier this week of his decision to limit the penalties to one year, though the issue was slated to be discussed at the board's meeting Thursday, said Paul Wagner, Missouri Department of Higher Education deputy commissioner.

The cuts are part of Nixon's attempt to balance the state's budget, as well as to continue to provide more disaster relief funding.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1935

Editorial: Gov. Nixon's higher education proposals strike out

Published Sept. 9, 2011

We think it's safe to say Gov. Jay Nixon is playing a really rough baseball game with the UM System, as well as other state colleges and universities.

Beginning of the game? Tuition increases. Though college students across the state appreciated Nixon's tuition freeze for a couple years, the large tuition increase last year didn't make it worth it. Strike one.

Then we got to be surprised by Nixon's new proposal to funding higher education. He wants to make it based on performance, where colleges and universities will receive funding based on whether they meet goals they have set for themselves. In other words, let's recreate the failed No Child Left Behind law for universities. Strike two.

And now, automatic college scholarships awarded to Missouri high school students from the state are as low as they can be by state law. Strike three.

Three strikes and higher education's out.

But higher education isn't the only state "program" this has happened to and students recognize that. Nixon is not doing anything to higher education that he isn't doing to every other state program, especially the 45 he has been sued by for unconstitutionally withholding funds from to pay for disaster relief. Higher education just happened to take all its hits over a very short course of time, resulting in a baseball game where universities were dealt a hand almost as bad as the Chicago Cubs and the World Series.

The fact is, funding for state programs and higher education isn't coming anytime soon, and cutting scholarships and pressing to make higher education funding based on performance are not the answers to solve this. Nixon definitely shouldn't rely on more tuition increases (though we're sure he will) to make up the difference, when he relies on college students in Missouri repeatedly to lower the drop-out rate and become good additions to society. (By the way, a large reason for students dropping out of college is lack of financial aid and struggling to pay for that degree. Ironic, huh?)

The real problem that neither the state governments nor the federal government has the answer to is the economy. The funding cuts and predicted cuts are all based on slower economic growth

across the country. Let's be frank: This is a double-dip recession and we have no idea how to handle it.

In the meantime, higher education will be in the dugout, along with other state programs waiting for government to step up to the plate because someone really needs to figure out how to hit a grand slam. Lack of funding isn't going away anytime soon.

Technology expo helps researchers get ideas to market

Even though he has been out of the U.S. Senate for nearly eight months now, former Sen. Kit Bond still took an opportunity this morning to talk about jobs.

Getting research out of the laboratory and into homes and businesses is the purpose of the Missouri Technology Expo, Bond told the audience of investors and inventors who gathered in the Bond Life Sciences Center on the University of Missouri campus.

In its second year, the event aims to match up researchers from universities in the state with investors willing to put their dollars on the line to help commercialize the discoveries.

That's more important than ever, Bond said in remarks to kick off the event, both because of a stagnant economy in need of jobs and global problems such as feeding an exploding population.

"What's exciting to me about this conference is many of you here today are already working on those solutions," Bond said. "You're part of those solutions."

The daylong conference gives researchers in life sciences, biomedical sciences and engineering the chance to make five-minute pitches to the audience.

This morning, biomedical researchers had the chance to try to quickly explain both the science that makes their inventions novel as well as their commercial feasibility.

Ideas including a new way to administer back-pain medication and a new dental brush were explained by their inventors. Even a new system for newspapers to disseminate classified advertisements using social media made its way to the pitch platform.

Karl Kochendorfer, a primary care physician and an assistant professor at the MU School of Medicine, was at the conference to look for capital for his invention, MedSocket, a Web-search tool that aggregates medical information and allows physicians to search for it while seeing their patients.

He has been working on it for 11 years, he said, and he's ready to move it to the next step. "Show me the money," Kochendorfer said with a chuckle.

Thomas Sharpe came to the event all the way from Boston to spend the day seeing what researchers at MU have been working on. His firm, Allied Minds, creates startups from university research and helps the inventors build companies around their intellectual property.

The most frequent issue with university research is that a viable business model hasn't been developed by scientists who are more interested in the science, he said.

"Our firm isn't afraid of really early" research, "but there has to be a business case," Sharpe said.

Rob Duncan, MU vice chancellor for research, said the conference already has achieved results. For example, last year, an MU scientist and a venture capitalist from California paired up and began commercializing technology, he said.

"The good news is we have very concrete data that it's working," Duncan said of the conference.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Flags at MU, Columbia College commemorate 9/11

By Raymond Howze

September 8, 2011 | 4:31 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **Members of the University of Missouri College Republicans will place nearly 3,000 American flags on the Mel Carnahan Quadrangle beginning at 10:30 Thursday evening.** The flags will represent each victim in the 9/11 attacks.

The 2,977 flags will remain on MU's south quadrangle until Monday afternoon.

The event is one of many around Columbia to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11, including a similar flag placement at Columbia College.

Craig Arnzen, president of MU's College Republicans, sees the event as an opportunity to come together and commemorate the anniversary.

"We're a Republican group, but it's not about that," Arnzen said. "It's about remembering the things that happened and how we got here."

Arnzen also wants the younger generations to understand the impact of the attack.

"I was in sixth grade when it happened," Arnzen said. "I remember where I was, we all do, but as we have younger students come through, I think it's important we don't forget."



MISSOURIAN

9/11 flag tour to end in Joplin

Banner repaired by survivors is bound for NYC museum.

Written by Jim Salter The Associated Press

MU mention page 2

ST. LOUIS -- A flag left in tatters after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center will get its final stitches of repair on Sunday, the 10th anniversary of the attacks, at the site of another tragedy: tornado-ravaged Joplin.

The flag now known as the National 9/11 Flag was flying from a building near the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, and was later found shredded in the debris of ground zero.

Seven years later, survivors of a devastating 2007 tornado in Greensburg, Kan., used remnants of flags from their community to begin repairing the 9/11 flag. They started a tradition continued by others touched by disaster and tragedy, including soldiers and schoolchildren who survived the shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas; World War II veterans who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor; and relatives of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Even a piece of the flag Abraham Lincoln was placed on after he was shot was added.

The final stitches will be sewn Sunday at Missouri Southern State University as part of a day-long series of events to commemorate both the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks and the May 22 tornado that killed 160 people and destroyed about two-fifths of Joplin.

University spokesman Stephen Smith said people in Joplin feel a kinship with those who survived the attacks.

"Our area feels we have gone through our similar trauma and tragedy and the greatest thing about it is how the professionals -- police, firefighters, EMTs -- responded, and how the community responded," Smith said. "It harkens back to the time after 9/11 when the nation grew together as one."

The flag is overseen by the New York Says Thank You Foundation. Founder Jeff Parness said having the flag in Joplin "will be making a powerful statement that New Yorkers will never forget what people from small towns and big cities all across America did for us in our time of need."

The flag has been on tour across America but will soon become part of the permanent collection of the National 9/11 Memorial Museum planned at the World Trade Center site.

Events in Joplin will begin Sunday with a silent tribute from 8:58 a.m. to 9:28 a.m. at Cunningham Park, a small park near the hospital destroyed in the tornado. The starting and ending times correspond with the moments when the two towers of the World Trade Center collapsed.

A fire truck will take the flag to Missouri Southern for a 10:30 a.m. service. Afterward, community members will be invited to help place the final stitches in the flag using material from some of the many American flags that survived the tornado. Stitching will continue until 5 p.m.

The commemoration in Joplin is among many around Missouri on Sunday.

Organizers of "America's Heartland Remembers" in St. Louis say 2,996 flags will fly atop 10-foot poles in Forest Park, each carrying a bracelet with the name of a victim of the 9/11 attacks. The flags will remain up for a week and later be sold, with proceeds going to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

Other services, like Joplin's, will feature physical reminders of the tragedy. A ceremony Sunday night outside of Lee's Summit City Hall in suburban Kansas City will include prayers, candle lighting, and the display of an I-beam from the World Trade Center.

Some events will honor first responders. A wreath-laying ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Sunday at the Kansas City Firefighters' Memorial. Also, several firefighters from the Kansas City area will climb stairs at Town Pavilion downtown as part of a nationwide fundraiser in honor of the 343 New York firefighters who lost their lives. Proceeds will go to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Survivors Fund.

Several interfaith events are planned around the state. In Columbia, people from Christian, Muslim, Judaic, Buddhist, Hindu and Baha'i communities will meet at the Islamic Center of Central Missouri for a procession to the Boone County Courthouse for a commemoration program.

Also in Columbia, the bells of the University of Missouri's Memorial Union, Switzler Hall and Reynolds Alumni Center will toll at 7:46 a.m., the moment the first hijacked plane crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center; at 8:03 a.m., when the south tower was struck; at 8:37 a.m., when a plane struck the Pentagon; and at 9:03 a.m., when Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers overtook hijackers.

Van Matre's nomination is delayed

JEFFERSON CITY — Gov. Jay Nixon withdrew all his appointments from consideration for Senate confirmation, including University of Missouri Curator Craig Van Matre, after Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer balked at taking the nominations up during the special session.



Craig Van Matre:
UM curator appointment on hold

Appointees will continue to serve on an interim basis pending confirmation in the next regular session of the legislature.

The withdrawal of Van Matre's name is the second time his nomination to the Board of Curators has been withdrawn. Mayer refused to hold a hearing on Van Matre during the regular session this year as he tried to leverage an appointment for someone he favored for the Board of Probation and Parole.

Mayer said he doesn't think there is time to review the nominations. "We have some other issues we need to take care of," he said. "It just wasn't a priority for me and apparently not for the governor."

Nixon withdrew 23 nominees. Along with Van Matre, appointees from Columbia include Linda Duffy, a Republican appointed to the Missouri Community Service Commission; Le Greta Hudson, a Democrat appointed to the State Committee of Dietitians; Shirley Patterson as a member of the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood; and Kelly Schultz as the Missouri child advocate in the Office of Child Advocate for Children's Protection and Services.

Benefit helps students afford business attire

As a University of Missouri freshman, Vince Jones isn't sure when he will start interviewing for jobs or professional organizations — but he's ready to dress the part.

Jones snagged a suit for \$30 yesterday at a sale hosted by MU's Trulaske College of Business. The event offers secondhand business attire to students at discounted prices.

Some 300 students snatched up bargains, spending \$6,296. The money will be donated to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri for its Buddy Pack program, which fills tote bags with snacks for elementary school children who don't get enough to eat at home. The proceeds well surpassed the \$3,712 made and donated from the inaugural suit sale last year.

In addition to being a fundraiser, the sale also helps college students afford outfits they'll need for certain events and interviews on campus.

Amanda Wooden, a career specialist at the College of Business, came up with the idea of the sale after talking to parents at summer orientation.

"A lot of parents would come up and ask if their student needs a suit their freshman year," she said. "I encourage that because they attend different professional events and organizations. It's always a good idea to have a suit."

But parents were nervous about the extra costs. New suits can cost hundreds of dollars — and that's without the shirts and ties.

Wooden organized the first suit sale last spring. She contacted companies that recruit MU interns and graduates asking for donations.

"We had overwhelming response," Wooden said. "It was a huge hit."

This year, students had roughly 400 suits to choose from, in addition to an array of ties, shirts and blouses, with more than 70 companies sponsoring the event. Robinson's Cleaners pitched in and donated dry cleaning for all of the items, and a Hallsville company, Celtic Wyndes Shoppe, donated coupons for 20 percent off alterations.

Sophomore Joey Greenstein already owned a couple of suits, but this year he's involved in more organizations that require him to dress up. He bought a Ralph Lauren suit for \$30. "It's a little better than Goodwill, and you're still giving to charity," he said.

Greenstein also picked out a handful of bold, colorful ties, hoping they'll eventually catch an employer's eye. "The few I have are bland," he said. "To get noticed, you have to wear something that stands out."

Another student, Melissa Willett, found exactly what she needed — a pair of khaki pants to wear for a business-casual event Friday. It was cheaper and handier to buy them there than trying to find a pair at the mall, she said.

Freshman Jasmine Cooper admitted she really doesn't need business clothes right now, but the self-described bargain hunter couldn't pass up the sale. "I just have a shopping addiction," she said.

Cooper wasn't disappointed. She bought three blouses, two pairs of slacks, a jacket and a few ties for a friend — all for \$32.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Ticket site advertises unconfirmed concert at MU

By Alison Matas

September 8, 2011 | 8:52 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The concert has an Oct. 2 date, a list of notable performers and a website with the black and gold MU logo that appears to be taking credit card information for tickets.

The website, wantickets.com, on Thursday listed MU as the venue for a concert on the "I-70 Tour," featuring artists Mike Posner, Fabolous and Mac Miller. It provided two locations: the corner of College Avenue and Stadium Boulevard and a Google map that showed the site as the intersection of Stadium Boulevard and College Park Drive.

But there are no venues at either of those locations, and John Murray, assistant director of business services at MU, has not been contacted to reserve a space for a concert.

"I can with fair certainty say it's not been approved to be on campus," he said.

Murray asked the MU Police Department to investigate whether the concert was a fraud. On Thursday afternoon, Capt. Brian Weimer said MU police had no information about the concert.

Late Thursday afternoon, the MU News Bureau issued a news release warning that the concert could be a scam.

Murray discussed the concert during Columbia's Thursday morning meeting of the city's Special Event Committee, and those in attendance, including city police, had not heard about the event, Murray said.

According to wantickets.com, Strength in Numbers Entertainment, which operates out of Leawood, Kan., was sponsoring the concert. The entertainment company's phone

number is unlisted, but there was a phone number posted on the company's Facebook page. The person who answered at that number said he was with a client and would return the Missourian's call. There was no answer on subsequent calls.

Wantickets.com listed two other concert dates for the I-70 Tour — Sept. 30 at Chaifetz Arena at Saint Louis University, and Oct. 1 at Capitol Federal Park at Sandstone in Bonner Springs, Kan.

Cody Dunn, assistant box office manager at Chaifetz Arena, said the concert isn't on the arena's schedule. Capitol Federal Park could not be reached for comment.

On wantickets.com, a person can purchase \$20, \$30 or \$40 tickets for the "I-70 Tour" concerts. There is also a listing for the concert on zvents.com, but an attempt to purchase a ticket directs the user to wantickets.com.

According to ticketmaster.com, Posner is scheduled to be in Reno, Nev., on Oct. 2 and has no concerts scheduled Sept. 30 or Oct. 1. Fabolous has one concert scheduled for Sept. 18 in Las Vegas, according to ticketmaster.com. And on Oct. 1, Mac Miller is scheduled to be in Sayreville, N.J., with no concerts scheduled for Sept. 30 or Oct. 2.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1933

Faculty Council discusses diversity requirement, performance funding

Harry Tyrer is the new chairman of Faculty Council.

By Caitlin Swieca Published Sept. 9, 2011

Faculty Council reopened its discussion on a proposed diversity course requirement and talked about the possibility of performance funding in Missouri in its first meeting of the year.

The Sept. 8 meeting was the faculty's first under new chairman Harry Tyrer.

Tyrer said he and former chairwoman Leona Rubin had met with various student groups and administrators regarding diversity enhancement at MU. He said he felt students were in support of a diversity requirement but did not want to have to navigate additional graduation requirement.

"My takeaway from the meeting is that students are interested in having some diversity experience as a part of their education," he said. "They are not so much fixed on the course as they are on the experience."

Rubin presented information on performance funding given by Gov. Jay Nixon. Although the state has no plans to reduce base funding to MU, it might begin to allocate additional funding on the basis of metrics such as graduation rates and the number of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Similar changes to higher education funding have been controversial after being implemented in states such as Texas and Massachusetts.

A number of faculty members raised concerns about the process.

"We don't mind accountability, but we just see so many issues with it," Rubin said. "One of the major concerns with performance funding is grade inflation."

The council also discussed the possibility that the new funding system would reduce the emphasis on research at MU.

"The experience of having an undergraduate work on your scholarship is important for their education," Rubin said. "There's nothing that motivates a kid more than having one-on-one time with faculty members."

Faculty members suggested the possibility of creating an undergraduate research credit to ensure the university continued to offer such opportunities to students.

Rubin said both the provost and Missouri legislators were opposed to the implementation of performance funding.

Diversity Enhancement committee chairwoman Candace Galen reported on the council's ongoing efforts to add domestic partnership benefits.

Galen said the deans of both MU and UM-Kansas City sent letters to the UM System Board of Curators voicing their support for adding these benefits.

The council plans to establish personal contacts with members of the board that it sees as allies in the fight for these benefits.

"Basically, tell them that we are losing good people because we don't have these benefits," Tyrer said.

Faculty Affairs Committee Chairman Clyde Bentley announced he had formed a task force to re-examine faculty tenure rules. The council also questioned why MU loses 35 percent of faculty members before they reach the point in their careers where they receive tenure.

"When you look at the figures for tenure, you have to throw in the quality of your hiring process," Bentley said. "If you hire right, you should have 100 percent staying."

Faculty Council's next meeting will be held Sept. 22.

Big 12

Or Big Nothing

By Henry J. Waters III

In his column on Sunday, Tribune Sports Editor Joe Walljasper put it about as plainly as anyone has. Commenting on news the University of Oklahoma will shop around for a new league, Walljasper's headline read "The Big 12 receives its last rites." Texas A&M already had announced it definitely plans to leave next year.

Read in Boone County language, that means the conference is "daid, daid, daid."

It's easy to grasp Walljasper's logic. OU has the No. 1 football team in the nation, and A&M is ranked ninth. OU in particular is bound to draw strong fan support, meaning audience-based revenue and serious interest from another sports league. To compound the matter — perhaps to identify the main factor — the Big 12 has emerged as the most dysfunctional among the major college athletic conferences, unable to enforce equitable distribution of revenues among its member schools and leaving Texas with a vast advantage and the also-rans with a sour taste.

OU President David Boren calls the league "unstable." Who can argue? Nebraska and Colorado already have taken a powder, and Missouri would be on the road as well if its desire to join the Big Ten could have been reached.

After the disappearance of Nebraska and Colorado, the league shrank to 10 teams, a size many of us thought was an improvement. No more need to split the league into two divisions, North and South. Every team could play every other team during the regular season. The future seemed secure. Now the future promises an eight-team cohort. Back to the old Big Eight, an arrangement many of us ancients remember fondly but not one geared to compete in today's environment.

The remaining Big 12 leaders, an increasingly lonely band headed by University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton, say they are committed to the league's future and will look for expansion. Deaton is chairman of the Big 12 board of directors.

Schools like Missouri and the others still in the conference have hard choices. Shall they put their money and effort in trying to save the league, or shall they work hard to individually relocate?

If the Big Ten decides to become a super league with 12 or 16 members, Missouri would have a good chance to join and should jump at the chance.

In this column beginning years ago, I urged our beloved U to join the Big Ten. MU would be a better fit than recent addition Nebraska in every way except sports prowess, and even in sports our flagship has sailed into the front ranks. We can't claim an unbroken chain of huge sellouts for football like Nebraska, but otherwise we can make a good case.

The happiest element of continuing turmoil in the Big 12 is the chance Missouri might have a shot at the Big 10, a more "stable" league. If Oklahoma and A&M go south or west, we can move north and east.

Meanwhile, the line from current Big 12 leaders such as Deaton will have to be for the future of the Big 12, but observers like Walljasper will be hard pressed to find great prospects for expanding and strengthening the league. Instead schools like SMU will want to join. Nothing against SMU, but trading OU and A&M for the likes of the Dallas private school is not a formula for making the Big 12 into an SEC, a PAC-12 or a Big Ten.

I would love to see Missouri as part of the Big Ten, whatever its new name might be once it becomes 16 or so strong. The Big Ten is the most powerful consortium of sports and academic prowess. How nice it would be to join that company.

HJW III

Is the world worse off than ever, or is today's news coverage better?

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1963

Anatomy professor presents research on early human development at Corps of Discovery lecture

Professor Carol Ward lectured on her studies of Lucy, an early ancestor with several human characteristics.

By Caitlin Holland

Published Sept. 7, 2011

During her presentation at Tuesday's eighth annual 21st Century Corps Discovery Lecture, anatomy professor Carol Ward quoted geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky to stress the importance of understanding human ancestry.

"Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution."

Ward lectured about her research on human evolution and its meaning in relation to life today, focusing on Lucy, an ancestor that walked the earth 5 to 8 million years ago with human resemblances.

In her presentation, Ward said Lucy's existence alters the accepted evolutionary timeline used by scientists. Lucy's humanistic arched feet, curved spine and barrel-shaped ribcage, Ward said, contrast with her small skull indicating a less-developed brain. She said this indicates human ancestors could stand upright and walk before their brains developed to a more advanced level, compared to the previously accepted idea that increased brain function led to walking later on.

"When we see Lucy, one of the oldest ancestors on the family tree, we wonder how really ape-like she was," she said. "If she had bones in the middle of her foot, Lucy would have walked that way. It's not something recent, our ancestors walked the way we did."

Ward said characteristics change and develop over time to help the species adapt to environmental changes and exposures.

"The bones of our foot are arched," Ward said. "An arched foot gives you shock absorption, which you need when you're bearing all your weight on two feet."

Ward, who will travel to Kanapoi, Kenya in January to conduct further research, said the ancestral timeline is important because it explains how humans are able to function the way they do today. She said the human ability to communicate sets us apart from other species.

"Being social takes work," she said. "You've got to figure out other individuals. Being social is the fundamental feature of human life. We spend a lot of time thinking about social things. It defines who we are."

The presentation highlighted the importance of understanding ancestry in trying to improve the human condition today. Ward said the condition Spondylolysis, which develops from extending the spine repeatedly, can be traced back to Lucy as well.

"Just like all science, you never know when you're going to gain insight that can affect life today," she said.

Freshman Meg Renault-Varian, an anthropology student, said the lecture presented ideas she was previously unfamiliar with.

"It was really fascinating," she said. "It was interesting how she could draw in findings from the past."

Chancellor Brady Deaton, who introduced Ward at the lecture, said she represents innovation in her field that benefits the university as a whole.

"This is a mark or a brand of the University of Missouri that we feel very proud of," he said. "The 21st Century for Discovery Annual Lecture features one of the most distinguished daily faculty who can commemorate the exploration of the Louis and Clark expedition that really lead to and inspired this university as the first public university west of the Mississippi River."

Ward said she looks forward to continuing her studies on Lucy and human ancestry to build on what has been established so far.

"It's all about going back to the fossil record," she said. "That's the starting point. For my next phase of discovery, that's where I want to go. I don't know where this trip of discovery will take us. I don't know what we'll find."

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Project United created as MU diversity initiative

The new organization will promote conversation through Hump Day Holla.

By Katie Yaeger Published Sept. 9, 2011

What began as a summer semester project has grown into a campus-wide movement designed to bring MU's entire student body closer together.

Project United co-founders Charlie Parker, Ted Paletta and Robert Steeples created the group's diversity initiative in co-adviser Ryan Montague's Business and Professional Communication class. They wanted to provide a more representative student voice for diversity programs on campus.

"This is something everyone can get involved in," secretary Morgan Jefferson said.

After receiving positive feedback from MU administrators, Montague wrote an official proposal and the three students, with Jefferson, established an independent study course where they work with Montague and co-adviser Astrid Villamilon on Project United.

The organization will specifically focus on strengthening communication within the student body. Beginning Feb. 1, Hump Day Holla will provide students with a friendly environment to participate in learning conversations, which are enlightening discussions, with others from different social and cultural backgrounds each Wednesday.

"It's a way to just have a conversation with someone else and banish ignorance," Jefferson said.

As a weekly event, Hump Day Holla stands apart from other events promoting diversity, most of which occur every other week, once a month, once a semester or once a year.

"We're approaching it weekly to develop the habit and mindset that (conversation) is encouraged and expected," Montague said. "We want to create something that's sustainable, where students can get involved in conversation and see the direct implications of how meaningful it is to get to know someone on a deeper level, whether they are friends, acquaintances or students they have never met before."

Project United will create Holla Hangouts, designated spots around MU where students can gather and engage in discussions. Student volunteers will help initiate conversations and provide their fellow students with a convenient outlet for participation.

To encourage conversations everywhere, students can wear Project United Hump Day Holla T-shirts on Wednesdays to advertise their support and willingness to participate in conversation. The T-shirt comes with a social contract in which its wearers agree to participate in learning conversations with anyone who might approach them throughout the day, Montague said.

“It’s more than just buying a T-shirt at the bookstore that anyone can wear at any time,” Montague said.

Project United is not affiliated with One Mizzou, the diversity initiative founded after a student wrote a racially derogatory expression on a statue outside Hatch Hall in February.

“We think (One Mizzou is) doing a great job and they have a great mindset, but we want to be a student voice and want more people to get involved,” Jefferson said.

Although Project United is its own diversity initiative, it hopes to participate in Homecoming and other MU events with One Mizzou and other student organizations. In order to create an effective student body voice, it needs to encompass a lot of different organizations and people, Parker said.

The organization also hopes to reach out to the Columbia community.

“We want to have picnics and volunteer opportunities,” Jefferson said. “We want to go to Rock Bridge and Hickman and talk about diversity. We want to spread out all over Columbia.”

Parker encourages all interested students to participate.

“There are no barriers to get involved,” he said. “We invite anyone and everyone out. If you’re black and gold, we want you there.”

Project United will have a table at Fall Fest on Sept. 14 on Carnahan Quad. The group meets 4:30 p.m. Monday and noon Fridays in 111 Switzler Hall.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1995

Letter to the Editor:

MU fans left high and dry

By Bethany Welcher, senior — brw437@mail.missouri.edu

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As a senior, I have never missed a home football game and this past Saturday I was surely not going to let a little heat ruin my record. Like many others I stayed till the end of the game so I could sing our school song. However, on the way out of the stadium I started feeling sick. I almost threw up before a nice tailgater gave me a bottle of water and a cold wet towel to put on my neck. During the game I bought the \$4, 20-ounce bottle of water, though I am sure we all sweated more than 20 ounces before the game even began. I found out after the game that the entire stadium ran out of water and Gatorade during the game. In a stadium with 58,000+ and a few hard-to-find water fountains, what is the stadium doing to keep its supporters safe?

During the second quarter of the game, a girl near me passed out. My friend's grandmother, who is 88, got dehydrated and was barely able to make it up to the first aid station during half time. At the first aid station, she and her daughter saw people everywhere lying on the floor. They were told they could only stay for 15 minutes because there were too many people. The attendant also told them that it was the calmest the first aid station had been all day. After the water and Gatorade ran out, they tried to charge my friend \$4 for a cup of ice. In the past ice has always been free, and to take advantage of the dangerous heat and try to make a profit off of it shows a lack of integrity for those in charge of the concession stands.

Hopefully the health and safety of the fans in attendance will be reconsidered and made a main priority at future games. There should be coolers with water in them set up at every hot dog station. The small price of filling coolers with hose water and setting out cheap cups would be worth it for the safety of the fans. Even theme parks, which charge outrageous prices for their waters, give out free water on hot days. We all want to go to the game and support our team and we hope that in the future they will learn from their mistakes and be more prepared.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Patients can now find out more about their doctors

BY JEREMY KOHLER jkohler@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8337 AND BLYTHE BERNHARD bbernhard@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8129 | Posted: Friday, September 9, 2011 12:05 am

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Want to know where your doctors earned their degrees? Or how about which physicians are — or aren't — certified by specialty boards for a medical expertise?

In Missouri that information has been, literally, a state secret. But a law that took effect last week puts it in the public domain.

That information, and more, is available from the agency that regulates doctors, the state Board of Professional Registration for the Healing Arts. (*The Post-Dispatch is also making the information accessible through its information portal, STL Info.*)

Because of the data release, Missouri patients are empowered to make more informed decisions about their health care, said Suzanne Henry, policy analyst at Consumers Union.

"By requiring the state to put this stuff up, it gives the patient a much better idea than if you just know this doctor is licensed," Henry said.

John M. Huff, director of the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration, called the law "a significant step toward better transparency for patients in Missouri."

The law also requires regulators to post when a doctor has been disciplined by another Missouri agency or by regulators in other states, or has had a judge place limits on his or her ability to practice.

Greater transparency is one benefit of the new law, which was inspired by the 2010 Post-Dispatch series "Who Protects the Patients," an investigation into the state's lax and secretive system of doctor discipline.

The healing arts board will have greater authority to suspend the licenses of incompetent and impaired doctors by making it easier to prove that patients are at risk.

Missouri law already allows the board to immediately suspend dangerous doctors, but the Post-Dispatch investigation found it had not done so in at least 25 years.

The new law will allow the board to conduct a hearing if it believes a doctor is a threat to patients because of incompetency, mental illness or substance abuse.

The board could then order competency tests and discipline any doctor who fails to meet minimum standards.

Under the old law, the cases had to first be heard by the state administrative hearing commission, a process that could take several years.

While the new law provides patients with more information about doctors, Missouri still does not provide as much information about physicians as some other states.

For example, it does not give patients information about doctors' malpractice histories.

DOCTORS' EDUCATION

The data release allows for the first time an analysis of where Missouri doctors went to medical school.

Perhaps not surprisingly, more Missouri doctors trained at the University of Missouri-Columbia than any other medical school, the data show.

Next to the University of Missouri-Columbia, the state's medical doctors most often graduated from St. Louis University, University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Kansas and Washington University medical schools.

The state's osteopathic physicians most often graduated from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and from A.T. Still University in Kirksville, named after the doctor who founded the alternative branch of medicine there in 1874.

About 12 percent, or 1,548 of 13,078 medical doctors who practice in Missouri received their medical school diplomas in Columbia. The school graduates about 100 doctors each year and estimates that 45 percent will hang their shingles in Missouri.

"One of our missions is to train physicians for the state of Missouri," said Weldon Webb, associate dean for rural health.

Most of the students admitted to Missouri's medical school are state residents, which is a top factor in deciding where to set up practice, Webb said.

"If you recruit people from the areas you want to put workforce back into, there's a better likelihood they'll go back to that area," he said.

Washington University is the top-ranked medical school in the state and is widely considered one of the top five nationwide. Among the 120 graduating medical students each year, about one-third are assigned to residency programs in Missouri hospitals, said Kathryn Diemer, assistant dean of career counseling.

Nearly 700 doctors practicing in Missouri graduated from medical school at Washington University.

"I don't think that is an absolute goal of Washington University, (but) we certainly are happy to keep them here," Diemer said.

About 74 percent of Missouri's doctors report earning board certification in a specialty field, according to the Post-Dispatch's analysis of the newly released data. Nationally, 85 percent of the country's doctors are board-certified, according to the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Specialty certification indicates the doctor has completed advanced training and testing in a certain field beyond what is required for a medical license.

The most popular specialties in Missouri are internal medicine, family practice and pediatrics.

To search for information about a doctor, go to pr.mo.gov and click on licensee search, or call 573-751-0098. The Post-Dispatch is also making the data available at www.stltoday.com/news/local/stl-info/.