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Former Football Players' Brains May Benefit From Healthy Lifestyle

Better diet, more exercise might delay cognitive decline linked to head trauma, study says

November 11, 2011 [RSS Feed](#) [Print](#)

FRIDAY, Nov. 11 (HealthDay News) -- A healthy lifestyle may help reduce football players' risk of cognitive problems later in life, a new study suggests.

Due to repeated head trauma, football players are more likely than athletes in non-contact sports and non-athletes to suffer cognitive problems as they age.

In this study, University of Missouri researchers assessed former college football players and found that those who ate high-fat foods had greater difficulty with recalling information, orientation and engaging and applying ideas, compared to those who ate less fat and had healthier diets overall.

The researchers also found that frequent, vigorous exercise was associated with higher physical and mental health ratings among former college football players.

"While the negative effects of repeated collisions can't be completely reversed, this study suggests that former athletes can alter their lifestyle behaviors to change the progression of cognitive decline," study author Pam Hinton, an associate professor of nutrition and exercise physiology, said in a university news release.

"Even years after they're done playing sports, athletes can improve their diet and exercise habits to improve their mental and physical health," she added.

The study appeared in a recent issue of the journal *Physician and Sportsmedicine*.

"Football will always be around, so it's impossible to eliminate head injuries; however, we can identify ways to reduce the detrimental health effects of repeated head trauma," Hinton said. "It's important to educate athletes and people who work with athletes about the benefits of low-fat and balanced diets to help players improve their health both while playing sports and later in life. It's a simple, but not an easy, thing to do."



Teachers Critical in Helping Abused Kids Succeed

Focusing on everyday life skills benefits academic performance, study shows

-- Mary Elizabeth Dallas

FRIDAY, Nov. 11 (HealthDay News) -- With their teachers' help, children who have been abused can return to school and excel academically, according to a new study.

Researchers from the University of Missouri found that among children with a history of abuse, the most successful kids were those who focused on everyday management skills, such as self-control.

"The first step, of course, is for teachers to watch for signs and stop the abuse to the child," said Stephen Whitney, associate professor in the department of educational, school and counseling psychology in the university's College of Education, in a university news release. "My colleagues and I worked with Child Protective Services to examine test scores to determine what factors indicate future achievement, and of those factors, what ones actually translate to the classroom. Teachers and counselors can help the student succeed by focusing on daily living skills."

In conducting the study, recently published in the journal *Child Abuse & Neglect*, researchers reviewed the math and reading test scores of about 700 maltreated children, ranging in age from 6 to 10 years. They found the type of abuse and how long it endured had the biggest impact on their school performance.

But the authors also found the abused children who had their teachers' help managing everyday skills -- controlling their emotions, paying attention to detail and finding the inspiration to stay motivated -- had the most success academically.

"The key to a successful response to an unprecedented life event is to control what you can. Children who can translate that skill into the classroom can have an advantage over others who cannot," said Whitney. "Teachers are the gatekeepers to reporting abuse, getting kids the help they need and then providing crucial support in helping those kids overcome their past."

MU professor wants to put turkeys on a cost-cutting diet

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS



Jeff Firman, a professor in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, has developed a feed for turkeys that costs 8 to 10 percent less than traditional turkey feed.

A University of Missouri professor has come up with a bargain diet for turkeys that could translate into consumers paying less to put the bird on the Thanksgiving table in the future.

The cost of turkey chow has escalated in recent years, making turkey more expensive at the grocery store. According to research at MU, “satisfying turkeys’ hunger accounts for 70 percent of the cost of producing turkey meat.”

Price increases of almost 8 percent since 2009 have resulted in more holiday hams and rotisserie chickens at Thanksgiving.

But that could change with the availability of a less expensive turkey feed developed by MU professor of agriculture Jeff Firman.

He said the new feed, called Missouri Ideal Turkey Diet, has the same nutritional qualities as the typical pellet feed. But Firman’s mixture costs \$13 to \$25 per ton less, nearly a 10 percent reduction. Such a reduction could save the turkey industry more than \$100 million, Firman said.

“High feed costs pose long-term problems to the industry and make it difficult to maintain a competitive edge against other sources of protein, such as pork and chicken,” Firman said in a release.

Feed is typically made with corn and soybeans, both of which have gone up a third or more in price recently, pushing up the cost of producing turkey meat and giblets. Eight hundred turkeys fed with Firman’s formula — containing the exact amount of amino acids needed to maximize growth and a reduced portion of corn and soybean — got the same ration as those gobbling down traditional feed. Firman’s amino-acid-fed turkeys met health targets and reached market weight in 18 to 21 weeks.

Firman’s feed could have significant impact in Missouri, the nation’s fourth-largest turkey producer. Its 21.5 million turkeys are about 10 percent of U.S. production.

Management problems, low academics causing Renaissance Academy to close

MU MENTION PAGE 2

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

More than 1,100 students must find a new school to attend next fall because Renaissance Academy for Math and Science will shutter its doors at the end of this school year.

The K-12 charter school, which opened in 2007 with two campuses, has been plagued with management problems and low student achievement from its start, said Deb Carr, who coordinates charter schools for the University of Missouri, the sponsor for Renaissance.

“The issue was performance,” said Dana Cutler, an attorney for the school. “Test scores were low and not improving. In some cases they had gone down.”

Cutler said that last year, the fourth year of a five-year charter agreement, board members saw that Renaissance hadn’t been able to improve student achievement and members didn’t see that it would get better within the year left on the charter.

It was then that members decided that after this year, the board would not seek to renew the charter.

“One of the things that is difficult for charter schools to swallow is if it is underperforming, recognize that and move out of the way,” Cutler said. “If the school continues to underperform, it hurts the entire charter school movement.”

Besides, she said, the board didn’t believe its sponsoring institution would continue to support it given its history of low performance.

“We are guided by our application for charter in which we said what we were going to do and how we were going to do it,” Cutler said. “But that didn’t happen. Because the ‘how’ did not occur, the ‘what’ did not occur.”

Renaissance was formed after Southwest Charter School closed in 2005. Because of Southwest's financial problems, poor student test scores and poor school governance, the University of Central Missouri declined to continue as its sponsor.

Imagine Schools operated it as a free private school for one year until the University of Missouri signed on to sponsor the school.

The school will invite the Kansas City School District and charter and private schools to student recruitment fairs in January and February. The school also plans several parent forums this month.



KC losing charter school

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas City math and science charter school is closing at the end of this school year.

Dana Cutler, a lawyer for Renaissance Academy for Math and Science, said test scores were low and were not improving.

The school's closure will leave more than 1,100 students looking for a new school to attend next fall.

The K-12 charter school opened in 2007 with two campuses. Deb Carr, who coordinates charter schools for the University of Missouri, the sponsor for Renaissance., told The Kansas City Star that the school has also had management problems and low student achievement.



Reports of dangerous binge drinking raise alert

By JANESE SILVEY

A Columbia doctor warned the University of Missouri's top administrator this fall that multiple students with excessive blood alcohol levels were coming into the emergency room.

In one night, University Hospital ER doctor John Yanos said, three students, all younger than 21, had blood alcohol content exceeding 0.32, with the highest at .358. That's more than four times the 0.08 limit legally considered intoxicated for adults.

"I find this very troubling and suggestive of a serious problem," Yanos wrote in an email to Chancellor Brady Deaton.

The Tribune obtained two emails from Yanos to Deaton through an open records request. Yanos declined an interview, saying he viewed the Tribune's access to the messages as a violation of his privacy.

Both emails were sent in September, but UM System administrators blacked out dates, citing health privacy laws. In another email that appears to have been sent later, Yanos said he saw four MU undergraduates with alcohol poisoning.

"I do not wish to be annoying or overly strident about this so I will not continue to attempt to bring this to your attention — I could send an e-mail with similar numbers several times a week," he wrote. "Please do not interpret the lack of pestering as the lack of a problem — exactly the opposite is true. There is a real problem here and seeing it first hand is frightening."

Deaton took the warning seriously and immediately convened a meeting with staff involved in preventing alcohol abuse, spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

Kim Dude, director of the MU Wellness Center, said any increase in students going to the ER could reflect an increase in friends being responsible, not necessarily an increase in students drinking heavily. The center began a bystander intervention program last year and has held dozens of presentations for student groups.

"We have been spending a lot of time and effort educating students about what to look for in a friend who might have alcohol poisoning and the importance of taking a friend to the emergency room," she said.

Dude said she believes most students on campus drink responsibly, and she said internal studies show at-risk drinking is decreasing.

Yanos, in his emails, expressed concerns about risks. Of the three underage students who came in one night, a male had facial trauma from an assault and two females showed "altered levels of consciousness" in the ambulance, he wrote.

On the latter night, four students were at risk of aspiration because of depressed mental states, he wrote. That condition is a lung inflammation but can be triggered by altered states of consciousness and excessive alcohol use.

"I would suggest that each of these individuals is at risk of serious injury, sexual assault or death," Yanos wrote. "While the risk per individual is low this situation is occurring frequently enough that it is inevitable that one of these students will eventually be injured or die. I think whatever actions the institution is taking to address this problem are inadequate and that a much more aggressive program is required."

MU Faculty Council solicit faculty to reform diversity course requirement

By Raymond Howze

November 12, 2011 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA – After being forced to take a step back last May, the MU Faculty Council is soliciting faculty feedback to reformulate the university's diversity course requirement proposal.

The proposal was approved by the council in March, but failed to pass a general faculty vote in May, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Harry Tyrer, council chairman and a professor of electrical and computer engineering, said it might make sense to look at other ways students could graduate from MU with diversity experience.

"Everybody who wrote me, they were all for diversity and a diversity experience," Tyrer said of the faculty. "They just didn't think the courses as proposed would work."

Tyrer explained that it could be difficult to find space for another required course within MU's already-full undergraduate requirements, but that it might be possible to come up with a different meaningful experience.

Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies, said other methods have been discussed but nothing associated with a specific group or agenda.

"Some of the things that have been discussed are a service learning component, international study abroad component, civic engagement or an educational experience that just helps students develop a broader perspective and appreciation," Spain said.

Nursing students, for example, have an internship where they are placed in a hospital and work with individuals of various cultures and backgrounds, Tyrer said.

The next step in a diversity proposal for MU is on hold until the council makes a decision. Tyrer was reluctant to put a date on when a possible reformed proposal would be completed.

"I can't put a date on it," Tyrer said. "We need to give council a chance to think through the issues that are involved."

Once the council drafts a proposal and it passes the required votes, other departments, such as Spain's, will work to implement the passed measures.

"We'll work with the faculty council as they explore other options that are focused on how we can best support efforts within the curriculum," Spain said. "Be it a formal course or other learning experiences and how those might align with MU being able to achieve its learning outcomes."

"We want to be sure there is a knowledge of diversity that all students share," Tyrer said.

Columbia Fire Department still investigating cause of Sinclair Farm fire

By Missourian Staff

November 12, 2011 | 4:02 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The Columbia Fire Department is still investigating the cause of a fire that destroyed a building on Sinclair Farm Thursday night, Battalion Chief Steven Sapp said Saturday afternoon.

The chief had no additional information about the fire, which engulfed a large L-shaped building on the farm on Sinclair Road. **Sinclair Farm is an MU research facility that was abandoned about 10 years ago.**

Sapp said he hopes to have a damage estimate by Monday.

Sapp said Thursday that the cause of the fire was suspicious because the buildings had no utilities.

There have been reports of squatters and vandalism in the area, and there were reports of cars leaving the scene Thursday night, he said.

The farm opened in the mid-60s. The 543-acre facility was used mainly as a research farm. Its work included looking at cancer in pigs and studying epileptic seizures in cattle.

MU closed the farm in September 1989, as a way to reallocate and save money, according to a Columbia Daily Tribune article from the time.



Fire destroys Sinclair farm building

By **BRENNAN DAVID**

Updated November 11, 2011 at 1:48 a.m.

The origin and cause of a large fire last night that destroyed a decommissioned University of Missouri research building will be difficult to confirm, fire officials say.

At 8:20 p.m., Columbia firefighters responded to the building on the Sinclair Research Farm property at 5735 S. Sinclair Road. They found heavy fire and smoke, with about half the building in flames, according to a fire department news release.

With no indication that anyone was in the building, Columbia Fire Department crews fought the fire from outside using ladder trucks. The Boone County Fire Protection District assisted at the scene. The firefighting operation continued for several hours, with the building's walls and roof collapsing around 10:30 p.m.

The building continued to smolder throughout the night.

A contractor has been hired to level the unstable building sometime today, Columbia fire Battalion Chief Steve Sapp said. Investigators continued their work at the scene this morning, but they believe the damage might be too great to allow for confirmation of the fire's origin and cause.

Reports indicated at least one vehicle was seen leaving the area shortly before the fire was reported.

Since 2006, MU police have responded to the property 14 times for narcotics, vandalism, larceny, burglary and liquor law violations, Capt. Scott Richardson said. Squatters also have been known to occupy the property.

No signs of foul play have been cited, and there were no injuries. A damage estimate could be announced later today, Sapp said.

The research farm was closed in the late 1980s in a cost-cutting effort and has been vacant for some time, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

The university had no plans for the site other than demolition before yesterday's fire.

There were no chemical or biological risks involved, and the building was already empty in preparation for demolition.

Anyone with information about the vehicle or vehicles seen in the area of the fire is asked to call the fire department or MU police.

Missourinet

Political blogs adding to polarization (AUDIO)

November 13, 2011 By [Allison Blood](#)

A University of Missouri Professor says he's done a study that shows a link between the blogging community and how polarized politics are becoming. Ben Warner has done studies looking at campaign blogs and how they affect political discourse.

He says it's up to the candidates to make sure the debate doesn't turn into a "good versus evil" conversation, but rather a conversation about the policies. He says that's becoming difficult, as he sees a possible link between online following and campaign fundraising. He says there's a "trickling up" effect, meaning the increased unwillingness to see the other side that bloggers and constituents are expressing, is effecting how politics are playing out in the House and Senate. That would mean politicians could be tempted to be less compromising in order to raise more money for their next campaign.

Wagner says he hasn't spent a lot of time in Washington, but knows there's not an aire of compromise there now. He says colleagues have said that it is as bad as it's ever been on Capitol Hill.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU honors veterans with memorial stone

By Chantel O'Neal

November 11, 2011 | 4:54 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA—At the first chime of MU's Memorial Union bells, the crowd of nearly 100 people fell silent. The color guard marched in carrying five flags that swayed in the wind.

The echo of the last bell's clang hung in the air as the crowd, softly at first, joined in singing the national anthem. Even students passing by on their way to and from classes stood still with their hands over their hearts.

After 24 years in storage, the American War Mothers' Memorial stone was rededicated at noon Friday at its new location east of Memorial Union.

It has been 81 years since a group of mothers gathered on Oct. 25, 1930, to dedicate the memorial stone and seven trees that represented the 117 MU students who died during World War I. As part of that first ceremony, soil from university campuses from all 48 states, as well as 11 countries, was spread beneath each tree.

The memorial, located on Rollins Street, was removed in 1987 as part of a street widening project. Until a suitable site could be found, the stone was placed in storage and remained there for nearly a quarter of a century.

During that time, the university had three different directors in landscape services, said Karlan Seville, manager of communications for Campus Facilities. But it was the current director, Pete Millier, who found the stone and suggested that it become part of the MU campus once again.

"We wanted to wait to find the right spot to put it in," Seville said.

The monument now rests between Gwynn and Stewart halls in the shadow of the Memorial Union tower, which was also built and dedicated in honor of the 117 World War I soldiers.

"We actually used some of the limestone stairs (from Memorial Union) in the design of the new memorial," Seville said, referring to when the building's steps were refinished.

The memorial was completed over the summer. "At first we thought we'd do an event on October 25th, the day it was first dedicated," Seville said. "But it was so close to Veterans Day, and we had the idea to combine it with the wreath-laying ceremony...it just became this much bigger event."

As part of the ceremony, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and Nelda Bleckler, outgoing national president of American War Mothers, removed the black and gold cloth that covered the stone.

"It was hallowed ground then, and it is hallowed ground today," Deaton said.

At the close of the dedication, the crowd followed the color guard to the Memorial Union archway for the annual wreath-laying ceremony. "Taps" played during a moment of silence as the red, white and blue wreath, dotted with tiger striped ribbons, was presented.

Following the ceremony, Columbia Postmaster Pamela Davis and Alex Waigandt, Purple Heart recipient and MU professor, unveiled the new U.S. Postal Service stamp that honors recipients of the Purple Heart.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The★Star
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Missouri rededicates memorial to WWI veterans

Associated Press | Posted: Friday, November 11, 2011 4:22 pm | [1 Comment](#)

For decades, University of Missouri students who walked through the Memorial Union arches tipped their hats as a show of respect to the school's war dead. In more recent years, that campus tradition was all but forgotten.

On Friday, school leaders took a step toward reconnecting Missouri's 30,000-plus students with their patriotic forbears, unveiling a restored memorial to World War I veterans during a campus Veterans Day ceremony that capped a week's worth of lectures and other events recognizing campus members who serve their country.

"It's truly a symbolic tribute to all who have served here at the University of Missouri," chancellor Brady Deaton told a crowd of nearly 200 students, campus employees and local veterans at the outdoor ceremony.

The American War Mothers' Memorial honors the 117 University of Missouri students killed during World War I, whose names are also inscribed in the archways of Memorial Union, a campus student center. The war mothers' memorial originally was dedicated in 1930 but removed in 1987 for a Rollins Street widening project.

"When the calls of their country came, they answered bravely, heroically," reads an inscription beside the new memorial attributed to a soldier's mother who spoke at the 1930 commemoration. "They died that we might live, and that their country preserve their ideals."

Deaton described how the original memorial was planted near Brewer Fieldhouse in soil taken from the campuses of 48 state universities and seven other countries. The relocated memorial stone is framed by seven red maple trees along a campus walkway just east of Memorial Union.

Dan Sewell, an Afghanistan war veteran and 2010 Missouri graduate now enrolled in the school's Trulaske College of Business, appealed to other student veterans to build upon their military service, on campus and beyond.

"We have a responsibility to continue to serve each other and our nation as school teachers, scientists, engineers, lawyers and doctors, business leaders and yes, even politicians," he said.

"This great country was built up on the backs of our returning veterans,' Sewell added. "And it will be built back up and turned around by us again."

The memorial unveiling was followed by a wreath laying ceremony beneath the Memorial Union tower, a Veterans Day tradition that had also flagged at the university until its return several years ago.



Chinese students bring money, work ethics, challenges, to MU

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Xiaoyu Guo came to the University of Missouri from China to study industrial engineering because of the College of Engineering's reputation and Columbia's low-cost living.

"I think here has a great environment and also economy," Guo, a graduate student, said. "Living costs here is not very expensive."

But Guo struggled when he got to campus. It was tough to keep up with his English-speaking professors. Sometimes, he said, he only understood half of a class lecture.

Three years later, Guo's English has improved — he now is a teaching assistant — and he has become more acclimated to American living.

But his early challenges aren't unique. And as more students from China come to MU, language issues are becoming common on campus.

It's not just a local trend. This month, the Chronicle of Higher Education and The New York Times teamed up to explore the phenomenal growth in Chinese students coming to the United States. According to that report, the number of Chinese undergraduates in the United States has tripled in three years to 40,000.

The article outlined problems that accompany this growth, but MU administrators said those aren't cropping up as much here because of different admissions processes.

Some public universities work with for-profit companies in China to recruit students by helping them with admissions exams and essays, but that presents problems because it doesn't always reveal a student's true English proficiency. MU keeps recruitment internal, said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management.

"We're not interested in working with agents," she said. "We need to be doing that work ourselves."

Even without outside help, MU has seen its Chinese population more than double in the past five school years. In 2007, 379 students were from China. This year, there are 896.

A FINANCIAL BOON

International enrollment, in general, has grown 32 percent over the past five years at MU, but China represents the largest growth in numbers. Brazil, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia and India also are areas MU has targeted for recruiting students.

The locations share a trend: Income levels are on the rise, giving families the ability to pay full nonresident tuition for the opportunities American universities provide.

"We are certainly interested in students from China, but we're also looking at other countries where there's a rising middle class and students are prepared," Korschgen said.

Tuition from foreign students provides a hefty chunk of funding for the university, critical at a time when state funding is dwindling and MU is facing an enrollment drop as demographic shifts lead to fewer Missouri high schoolers.

In the 2009-10 school year, international students paid \$36.5 million in tuition and fees to MU, according to an annual report from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. And the university isn't the only one benefiting. That same year, foreign students at MU pumped \$29.8 million into the community through living expenses. After accounting for U.S. support to foreign students, the total economic impact of MU's international population on Columbia is nearly \$41 million. The association is expected to release new numbers tomorrow showing the economic impact international students had on Columbia in 2010-11.

In addition to paying out-of-state tuition — undergraduates pay \$688.10 a credit hour — international students pay an extra \$160 a school year, or \$200 if they take classes during the summer semester. The fee helps fund the MU International Center, which helps them obtain visas, find the English language resources on campus, such as the Intensive English Program, and orient themselves in the community.

MU expects the uptick in international enrollment to continue. To better manage it, Korschgen's office this year created an international recruiting program. John Wilkerson has been hired to direct it, and so far this year, he's traveled to college fairs in Vietnam, Singapore, Bangkok and Malaysia — where he received a "rock star reception," Korschgen said.

Wilkerson uses his travels to meet with potential students to see for himself whether they would be a good fit for MU. That's a different approach from universities profiled in the Chronicle/Times article, which accepted admissions packages from students who paid companies high fees to write their essays and help them get accepted.

Wilkerson said he talks to students overseas who can converse with him without assistance.

"Generally, if I'm speaking through an interpreter, it's with parents," he said. "This provides opportunities to meet students face to face, assessing their language ability as well as what they really know about MU. They may know MU is a great school — and certainly we hope they do — but part of the role in recruitment is making sure that students find a school appropriate for them. We see our role as helping students identify institutions where they will be successful academically."

International students must take an exam, usually the Test of English as a Foreign Language, to gauge their ability to use and understand English.

At MU, score requirements vary by discipline. Students wanting to pursue journalism, for instance, are going to have to score higher than students coming to the College of Engineering.

But even though students here have passed that exam, the language barrier still proves to be a challenge on campus

Guo, who is an officer in the Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, said English is the steepest hurdle for most students coming from China. The problem is exacerbated by the fact instructors here expect students to speak up in class.

"In China, the instructor talks a lot, and students sit there and listen, but here, it is totally different," Guo said. "The instructor talks a little, and students talk much. In the beginning, it's really hard for students to speak up. When I started, I just listened."

Chinese students aren't eager to show off their broken English in front of American peers, he said. Guo credits one instructor for helping him push past that fear.

"She told me, 'You don't need to be afraid others will laugh at you because you're poor in English proficiency,'" he said. "I was shy, and I know my English is not well. After two years, it was much better. I can talk, and I can speak out directly when I have some ideas."

The International Center addresses that issue during a weeklong orientation before fall semester, said David Currey, assistant director.

"They have to break out of a cultural norm," he said. "In a lot of cultures, particularly in Asia, it isn't common to have class participation. A lot of it is rote learning. The faculty member does the lecturing, and you listen and don't ask questions."

MU faculty members, in general, are sensitive to this, he said. Currey also pointed out it's not a trend unique to foreign students; those from more rigid high schools also have to get over that fear.

ONUS ON INSTRUCTORS

It's up to instructors to go into their classrooms prepared to "help their students be successful learners," said Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies.

After a pause, he noted, "I didn't say where the students are from because it shouldn't matter. A student from Boston might not understand my Southern dialect. Or a student from St. Louis might not understand my teaching style. The expectation is I'm going to work to provide students with direction and assistance."

Spain is on the faculty in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and said he knows firsthand what it's like to have international students in large lecture classes. When they need help, faculty members have the responsibility of finding the resources they need to be successful, he said, noting there are now writing tutors stationed in Ellis Library to assist.

And Spain insists professors are expected to grade all students the same, regardless of their native language.

Polled anonymously, faculty members expressed an array of thoughts about their international students. Some said they do feel pressured to grade foreign students differently, in part because a department depends on them to work on externally funded research in the labs. Other professors, though, praised international students, especially those from China, for their work ethic. They said they did not relate to the problems outlined in the Chronicle/Times story.

One such problem is plagiarism. Confronting it tops the list of challenges the University of Delaware's Newark campus is facing with its Chinese population, the article said. The issues are handled in the classrooms there, so the university hasn't seen a spike in formal disciplinary actions.

The majority of plagiarism charges are handled internally and don't become public. Last year, though, three Asian students at MU came forward to talk openly about their charge against an electrical engineering professor.

Wanya Gu, Wenting Zhou and Yushan Chang launched a formal complaint accusing Greg Engel of discrimination after he gave them zeros on lab reports for allegedly plagiarizing. The accusation got Engel suspended from teaching duties.

In December, Gu told the Tribune the trio had worked together on the lab problem and came up with the same results, but she denied plagiarism. The students did not have the lab reports to show the Tribune, and the complaint against Engel is pending.

That case is complicated by the fact Engel has been in a lengthy tussle with administrators over a research grant. His attorney, George Smith, suggested at the time Engel's suspension was retaliation.

There are dozens of national reports that link plagiarism to Chinese populations. A study printed in the Language, Society and Culture Journal last year suggested plagiarism among students whose first language is not English cannot be viewed through the same lens that Western culture uses to interpret it as cheating.

In Chinese culture, researcher I-Chia Chou wrote, it's appropriate to quote other sources. Memorizing the words of famous philosophers is more highly valued than coming up with original ideas, she wrote.

Additionally, Chou said, international students imitate good models when they're trying to write in a new language. Copying reflects more of a survival tactic, she argued, than an intentional violation.

The Chronicle/Times article also pointed out that students coming from China have been influenced at home by not-so-positive views of the United States.

"If you've been raised on that for the first 18 years of your life, when it comes down to who they trust, they trust each other," Scott Stevens, director of an English institute on Delaware's Newark campus, is quoted as saying. "They don't particularly trust us."

Guo has more pragmatic reasons for not associating with American students.

"I didn't get involved too much in American students' lives because in our department, we don't have much native students here at the graduate level," he said.

The College of Engineering two years ago set up a mentorship program that gives international students a way to get to know American peers. The college matches a student from China with an American student who serves as a mentor, Spain said.

'COMFORT FOOD'

There are non-academic departments at MU also responding to the influx of Asian students. This year, Campus Dining Services opened Sabai, a Southeast Asian eatery in Johnston Hall.

Changing demographics influenced the decision to renovate what was once Eva J's into an Asian eatery, said Julaine Kiehn, director of Campus Dining Services. Originally, Sabai was expected to open in the newly renovated MU Student Center, but administrators scaled back the project, decreasing the space.



Sabai's menu is free of the deep-fried, thick-sauced chicken you find at American Chinese restaurants. Instead, there are noodle bowls, lettuce wraps and several variations of rice.

Executive Chef Eric Cartwright described the dishes as having "brighter flavors" using fresh herbs such as lemon grass and basil.

"There is meat in the dishes, but one of the things with that cuisine is traditionally in Asia, meat is used as a seasoning," he said. "It's less available in those cultures, so it's a treat. They cut it into small pieces. It's more about the vegetables, rice and noodles."

Kiehn called it "comfort food" for students from Asia and "an adventure" for Americans.

"Is it going to appeal to everybody? No," she said. "It's not designed for everybody. It's designed to give students another option, authentic Southeast Asian flavors."

Guo hasn't tried Sabai yet but admits he prefers dishes from home.

"Actually, American food is delicious," he said. "But for Chinese students, we more like the Chinese food better. We never ate a lot of the fat things, the fried things, in China."

Rather than compromising diets, Guo recommends students back home learn to cook before they come to the United States to study.

"Chinese students never cook at home," he said, adding that that job belongs to Mom. "Here, you have to do this by yourself if you don't want to pay for a meal plan."

'SMART GROWTH'

This year, the International Center launched a series of workshops aimed to help foreign students better adjust to their new surroundings.

The so-called reorientation sessions piggybacked off of the annual orientation. Programs have ranged from learning American dance to providing a forum to discuss cultural stereotypes.

The center also has begun taking groups on trips so they can get a better understanding of Missouri, including a trip to the St. Louis Arch and the state Capitol in Jefferson City.

"It's a combination of fun and cultural excursions," Currey said.

It aligns with the goal of making international students feel welcome when they get to campus and be successful through their educational careers.

The latter is key. Even though Currey suspects retention is high among foreign populations — there's no data to confirm it — there's also more at stake for those who travel to a new country for an education.

"They have so much more invested," he said. "Their parents are paying full-freight, nonresident fees, and every penny counts."

If MU enrollment administrators have their way, more parents will choose to spend those pennies at MU. But they won't compromise quality to do so, Wilkerson said.

"MU is committed to making sure growth within those areas is properly managed," he said. "We want to be considerate of the student experience both on campus and in the classroom. It's smart growth."



Transit plan may hit snags on MU campus

By **ANDREW DENNEY** Sunday, November 10, 2013

University of Missouri representatives to the city's newly formed Transit System Task Force have issued a warning to Mayor Bob McDavid that his proposal to expand the city's bus system through an increased student fee might be easier said than done.

McDavid has proposed that the city's bus system be subsidized through a fee increase for students at MU, Columbia College and Stephens College. McDavid appointed students and representatives from the three schools to the task force.

Columbia Transit, which is funded in part through a half-cent transportation sales tax that also provides funding for street and sidewalk maintenance and Columbia Regional Airport, finds itself in dire financial straights. McDavid has said if the system is not reconfigured to generate more revenue, the city could be forced to make \$800,000 worth of cuts to the system in the next fiscal year.

City leaders have focused on college students — currently the heaviest users of city buses — for extra revenue and for ideas to restructure the system to serve their needs. McDavid said this could translate to more buses in the city's fleet and extended service hours.

In Ames, Iowa — the home of Iowa State University — students are charged a \$62.60-per-semester fee and are able to board city buses at no cost by showing a student ID card.

Eric Woods, president of the Missouri Students Association, said an effort to impose a new student fee that is not generated from the student body would have difficulty finding success.

"It's definitely be going to be a hard sell," Woods said. He said MU representatives on the task force also were concerned about pedestrian traffic on the MU campus.

Buses pass through Rollins Street, and a section of the street in front of the MU Student Center is closed to most other types of vehicles for several hours on weekdays.

The area is crowded with pedestrians and buses during peak travel times, and more buses could "defeat the purpose" of having the pedestrian-friendly area on campus, Woods said.

Ken Koopmans, the city's transportation manager, said Friday that the task force's concerns had not yet been brought to his attention. But, he said, city buses help alleviate congestion on campus by lessening traffic from students who normally might use their own automobiles.

"If you didn't have the buses there, it would be worse," Koopmans said.

McDavid said at the next meeting of the task force, which is set for 4 p.m. Tuesday in conference room 2A of City Hall, City Manager Mike Matthes will make a presentation outlining the effect of potential cuts to the city's bus system, while John Glascock, director of the city's Public Works Department, will give a presentation to point out the benefits of a bus system that is tailored for college students.

"If we can come up with a collaboration, we'll be able to expand," McDavid said.

The New York Times

AP Associated Press

Missouri to SEC Ignites a War of Words

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS November 12, 2011

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The full-page advertisement in the state's largest newspaper was more a plea than impassive request: please Missouri, don't leave the Big 12 Conference.

Chancellor Brady Deaton did not heed the appeal in the open letter in The Kansas City Star. Instead, Missouri plans to leave the Big 12, ending more than a century of membership to head for the Southeastern Conference — home to fatter television contracts, college football's last five national champions and revenue sharing.

Among Jayhawks fans in Kansas City — a Missouri town, Show-Me State resident are quick to note — and Lawrence, Kan., the backlash was immediate.

"I don't really talk to fans, but the ones that have talked to me, they couldn't care less," said Bill Self, Kansas' men's basketball coach. "Our fans aren't going to determine what we do, but Missouri isn't going to determine anything we do, either.

"I'm happy with our league and wish they wanted to be a part of it, but I'm not going to cry because they're leaving."

Minutes after Missouri announced its long-expected move on Nov. 6, Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little responded: "We're sorry to see a century-old conference rivalry end. Missouri's decision may have implications for fans and for the Kansas City area, but it won't affect the long-term strength of the Big 12."

On Twitter, the university did not exactly take the high road.

"Missouri forfeits a century old rivalry," wrote @KUNews, the virtual counterpart of the school's public relations office. "We win."

The rancor is understandable. The rivalry predates college sports to a time when pro-slavery forces in Missouri battled free-state Kansans 150 years ago. Missouri fans have been known to invoke William Quantrill, a Confederate guerrilla leader whose Civil War assault on Lawrence in 1863 killed nearly 200 civilians and burned down most of the town. The series was officially known as the Border War before it was changed to Border Showdown several years ago when the country was fighting in two wars.

The teams first met in football in 1891, making the rivalry the sport's second oldest and the first west of the Mississippi River. Several years later, they met in basketball for the first time, with Missouri twice defeating the Jayhawks and Coach James Naismith — the sport's inventor.

The last four Missouri-Kansas football games have been played on Thanksgiving weekend on neutral ground, drawing packed houses at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. In 2007, No. 3 Missouri defeated the No. 2 Jayhawks, 36-28, and briefly ascended to the sport's top spot.

The universities' basketball battles have been even more heated. While Kansas has won 10 of the last 11 games, the legacy includes a bench-clearing brawl in 1961 and the longtime Missouri Coach Norm Stewart's refusal to buy gas, food or anything else on trips across the state line.

Missouri's move to the SEC could be complete by next fall, though the amount of exit fees it owes and uncertainty over other conference realignment moves (including West Virginia's shift to the Big 12 from the Big East) could delay that timetable.

In Kansas City, convention and tourism boosters worry that Missouri's departure could spell the end of the annual Big 12 men's and women's basketball tournaments, which have taken place there in 10 of the league's 15 years of existence. The downtown Sprint Center has a contract to host the men's tournament through 2014.

"For those living in Kansas City, there's a sense of loss," said Jim Haney, executive director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. "It's hard for Kansas and Kansas State, being left behind. Who's going to make sure Kansas City doesn't get lost in the shuffle?"

Appeals to Missouri's deep regional ties were also behind the full-page ad from the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Association and the Kansas City Sports Commission on Oct. 7, said Cindy Smith, the commission's national events director.

The open letter to Deaton reminded him of the school's "history, tradition and compatibility," as well as the "university's natural affinity for this region and the Big 12 Conference."

"We cannot imagine the University of Missouri's athletics tilting away from this region and the athletic history to which they have contributed so mightily," the letter read. "We want you to know that we believe this region collectively values University of Missouri athletics — has, does and will — to a degree that won't be replicated elsewhere."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

J. KARL MILLER: No applause for defecting to the SEC

By J. Karl Miller

November 11, 2011 | 6:08 p.m. CST

Call me sentimental, call me reactionary, call me maudlin, call me Ishmael, call me anything except late to dinner. **But don't look for me to cheer the University of Missouri's migration to the Southeastern Conference.**

An unreconstructed traditionalist, I was never convinced that expanding the Big 8 Conference to include four Texas universities (Texas, Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Baylor) was in our best interests.

I was perfectly satisfied with Mizzou as a charter member of the Big 7 through my graduation in 1957, but I welcomed the 1958 addition of Oklahoma State to balance an already established conference.

As an alumnus along with my mother, father and two brothers, my memories date back to the '40s when the members of my mother's clan (the Zero House Allens) would gather in Columbia on Thanksgiving Day.

Following the traditional repast, the men would adjourn to what is now Faurot Field to watch the Tigers put a whipping on the Jayhawks.

The advantages derived from membership in the Big 7/8 are readily apparent. The relatively short distances between the schools made travel to away games both easy and affordable, while the similarities of these "Plains states" schools were made to order for rivalries.

Of these rivalries, the most enduring and best known is that between Missouri and Kansas. Now branded the Border Showdown, the Missouri/Kansas football game is the second-oldest college rivalry in the United States and the oldest west of the Mississippi River.

First meeting on the playing field in 1891, the Tigers and Jayhawks have competed 118 times — the result being a virtual tie (KU has claimed victory in a disputed game, but you know how Jayhawkers lie).

Admittedly, for several years, gridiron competition in the conference was virtually nonexistent. I won't go into the details; however, the Big 7 was known derisively as "Oklahoma and the Little Six." The addition of Oklahoma State University to the mix drew an equally uncomplimentary comparison — "Oklahoma and the Seven Dwarfs."

Sadly, the quest for money, the proliferation of bowl games and the lure of television and the accompanying cash cow, have all but rendered the "student athlete" an endangered species and, for all practical purposes, removed Division I college sports from the amateur ranks. What was once a pleasant Saturday afternoon outing to cheer on the team of one's choice has fallen victim to TV ratings, BCS rankings and "musical chairs" conference affiliations.

I do understand, albeit grudgingly, the final decision to move to the SEC for a more stable atmosphere than that observed in the increasingly dysfunctional Big 12.

The 2010 bolting of Nebraska and Colorado to the Big 10 and Pac 10 respectively, along with Texas A&M's deserting an apparent sinking ship in 2011 to become a member of the SEC, were hardly a ringing endorsement of Big 12 leadership.

Nevertheless, in my humble opinion, the Big 12 could have survived. It is no secret that the University of Texas and its arrogant posture "I am traveling this road and you are expected to follow," posture is the proximate cause of the ensuing turmoil and resentment among the other schools.

Rather than cut and run, as did Nebraska, Colorado, Texas A&M and Missouri (on its second attempt), it would appear that strength in numbers favored the 11 other members in a showdown against the Longhorns of the Lone Star State.

Where was the leadership and resolution of moral strength to put Texas in its place? There is the highway, Bevo, fish or cut bait.

That said, I will continue to purchase season tickets to Missouri football and women's basketball games and attend the so-called lesser sports by supporting the Tiger Scholarship Fund at my current level. As a true son of Old Mizzou, I take seriously the obligation to support the Tigers.

Sadly though, I will no longer be able to travel to road games, and I will sorely miss the traditions of the Border Showdown games against Kansas and the familiar competition with Iowa State, Oklahoma and even Nebraska, and the other former Big 8 squads.

The additional revenue gained from competing in a bigger and more prestigious conference is undoubtedly a plus, but switching athletic venues does little for educational values – the resultant SEC membership is reminiscent of the tail wagging the dog.

J. Karl Miller retired as a colonel in the Marine Corps. He is a Columbia resident and can be reached via email at JKarlUSMC@aol.com.



MU senior wins coveted composition prize

By **AARIK DANIELSEN**

November 17

The Mizzou New Music Initiative and its ultimate reward, the Siquefield Composition Prize, are designed to draw dynamic new musical talents out from the wings and into the limelight, where their work can gain support and steam. Thanks to these efforts, another budding songsmith has been identified — Michael Anderson is the winner of the 2012 Siquefield Composition Prize, according to a recent news release from the University of Missouri School of Music.

An MU senior from Platte City, Anderson submitted the work "At the Mercy of the Forest" to a panel that included music Professors Warren Gooch (Truman State University), Martin Kennedy (Washington University) and Renee Waters (Southwest Baptist University). In keeping with stipulations of the contest, he will now create a commissioned piece for a major MU ensemble — in this case, the University Philharmonic — to be performed March 5 at the Chancellor's Concert, held at the Missouri Theatre Center for the Arts.

Previous Anderson compositions have been performed by the Rezound! Handbell Choir, Mizzou New Music Ensemble and MU Saxophone Ensemble.

He is the seventh winner of the prize named for benefactors Rex and Jeanne Siquefield, last year, the award went to current MU graduate student Patrick David Clark. Finalists for this year's prize also included Grant Fonda, Joe Hills and David Witter. For more on the Siquefield Composition Prize, visit mizzounewmusic.missouri.edu; look to Ovation in the coming weeks for more on Anderson and his music.