

COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

3-D lab helps MU architecture, interior design students

By **JANESE SILVEY**

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A new three-dimensional lab at the University of Missouri will allow students studying architecture and interior design to better visualize their ideas.



Bimal Balakrishnan

The Immersive Visualization Lab, or iLab, is in Stanley Hall and gives students a chance to see rooms and buildings they've designed in a life-size format. Wearing special glasses, viewers can take virtual tours of structures they've designed on three large glass screens illuminated by 3-D projectors.

The technology should help students who are first learning drafting and design to overcome a common obstacle — visualizing floor plans or miniature models in a real-life setting, said Bimal Balakrishnan, an assistant professor.

"The iLab will not only allow students to experience their designs from the inside, but they also will be able to view their designs in a much larger scale and experiment with different textures and styles in real time," he said.

Students create the floor plans using existing software, such as Google's SketchUp, then download furniture and other components using free 3-D warehouses online.

The three screens also allow users to put paper floor plans, sketches and pictures side by side for presentations.

The iLab cost about \$85,000 and was funded with an internal university grant.

Two years in the making, students first had a chance to use the lab last semester. They designed a hypothetical building on Ninth Street for the Missouri School of Journalism's strategic communications department. That building isn't scheduled for construction anytime soon, but faculty "thought it would be a great project for students to work on as a final project for their course," MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said.

Students presented their designs to strategic communications faculty last week and got feedback.

Balakrishnan also expects graduate students to use the lab for research purposes, such as studying the effects 3-D technology has on the design process.

And students aren't the only ones who could benefit from the iLab.

Balakrishnan envisions community groups using it, such as city planners who want to rethink the look and feel of Eighth Street from the courthouse to the Francis Quadrangle. And local police, he said, could create a virtual downtown setting to prepare for security at large-scale festivals.

"It has a lot of potential," he said.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Education digest

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA > School opens 3-D design laboratory • The University of Missouri architectural studies department has developed the Immersive Visualization Lab to help architecture and design students visualize their work more accurately. According to the university, the lab will be one of a few in the country to allow undergraduate students to get hands-on experience using immersive 3-D technology to complete and test their designs as part of their design studio curriculum.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM System Board of Curators Executive Committee will hold closed meeting Wednesday

By Jessica England

December 20, 2011 | 6:20 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The UM System Board of Curators Executive Committee plans to meet about confidential information Wednesday afternoon.

Warren K. Erdman, David R. Bradley and Don M. Downing will meet for the closed session.

University of Missouri System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said the meeting will be moved to a closed session and no information can be disclosed about confidential meetings. She would not verify the agenda.

Section 610.021 of the Missouri Revised Statutes authorizes a public governmental body to hold a closed meeting. According to a news release, the UM System Board of Curators Executive Committee meeting relates to:

- 610.021 (1) legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body;
- 610.021 (2) leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might negatively affect the legal consideration;
- and 610.021 (12) sealed bids, proposals and related documents.

The discussion will be Wednesday at 4 p.m. in a conference room at 321 University Hall.

Guests are welcome to attend until the session is closed. People can join the conference call 888-278-0296 with the participant code 4170078 when the session is open.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Why winter is getting a later start this year

BY HARRY JACKSON JR. • harry.jackson@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8234 | Posted: Wednesday, December 21, 2011 12:30 am

The first day of winter arrives late in some parts of the country this year, starting early Thursday instead of this evening. And it barely squeaks in tonight in St. Louis.

The late arrival is because of tiny tweaks that the world's timekeepers make to keep the seasons in place, says climatologist Anthony Lupo, head of the Department of Atmospheric Science in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"If we didn't adjust, winter, spring and summer would move along, and in 23,000 years, winter could begin in June," Lupo said.

The winter solstice is the arrival of winter. The solstice is the moment the tilt of the northern hemisphere of the Earth points farthest from the sun. Most of the world's calendar makers and timekeepers use Coordinated Universal Time, or UTC, to note the moment.

This year that's 5:30 a.m. UTC Thursday.

That's six hours ahead of our Central Standard Time. So winter will officially begin here at 11:30 p.m., which will be after midnight in the eastern part of the country.

Next year, the winter solstice will return to Dec. 21 all over the nation.

No matter when winter arrives, photographer Mike Rudolf embraces it.

"Winter? It's one of the four best seasons of the year," Rudolf laughed. He was standing in an urban wetland in Forest Park on a recent chilly Sunday evening, snapping shots of the multicolored sunset, his motorcycle parked on the road.

"I ride all year," Rudolf said. "I just wear ski clothes and keep the visor down."

This winter, outdoors lovers have a 70 percent chance of a winter that generally will look like last year, forecasters say. That's about the accuracy level of long-range forecasting, Lupo said.

Jayson Gosselin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Weldon Spring, says to expect some periods when the temperature reaches into the 40s and rarely dips below the 20s, even into late winter. But expect colder temperatures in outlying areas, he said. Lupo forecasts 25 to 30 inches of snow this winter for the region; last winter's total was 29.1 inches.

This region's mild winter will be dictated by La Niña, a stubborn patch of cool water sitting off the western coast of South America and Mexico.

La Niña, which sparks more extreme weather for most of the nation, accounts for last season's blizzards in the North and drought in the Southwest. It has been around longer than usual, Lupo said, but no one knows why.

The Weather Service said La Niña is poised to continue, possibly into March.

The good news for St. Louis is that La Niña is somewhat the guardian angel for much of Missouri and Southern Illinois, Lupo said.

"The south-central United States is basically in a battle zone between the colder air to the north and the warmer air to the south," Lupo said.

That's why Missouri and Illinois were spared the blizzard that hit the southwestern United States and Kansas earlier this week. The St. Louis area got rain instead.

Butch Dye of the National Weather Service said one inch of rain equals roughly 10 inches of snow, depending on how dry the air. Light, fluffy snow can be more; wet, heavy snow can be less, he said.

But, "I think St. Louis will stay on the rain side of things, as will (central Missouri)," Lupo said.

Judi Nicoletti shrugged off concerns about winter as she walked her Doberman pinscher in Willmore Park.

"I can't isolate the seasons when I have an energetic dog," said Nicoletti, who's on the board of the Southwest City Dog Park. "I'm out every day except for ice storms. Seems like the colder it gets, the spunkier the dogs are."

Missourinet

Independent Colleges and Universities of MO wants more public partners

December 21, 2011 By Allison Blood

No MU mention

The President of Missouri Independent Colleges and Universities says if the state wants to meet its goal of 65 percent of Missourians with a college degrees, there should be more partnerships between public and private Universities.

Marianne Inman says because of the successes those schools have had, the state should consider more partnerships between public and private universities. Inman gives the example of a partnership that's currently going on between the University of Missouri St. Louis, a public school and Washington University, a private school. She says students take some classes with UMSL and some with Washington University. Students pay UMSL tuition and get a UMSL degree, but get some instruction from Washington University professors.

She says independent schools account for half of all degrees given in education and health care, though only about 40 percent of Missouri's students go to private schools. She says nationally, 20 percent of all college students go to a private school.

Inman says part of the reason this is good for both sides is because it's inexpensive. She says no additional resources are needed; the classes will usually be taught on the public school's campus, but will lend the research and professors in specialized subjects that the public school may not have or not have enough of.