

FEB 23 2012



Wolfe will urge decision on domestic-partner benefits

By JANESE SILVEY

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe wants the Board of Curators to decide by the end of this year whether the system should expand benefits to same-sex couples.

"I understand the merits of the proposal that has been put forward," he said. "And I also understand we owe our great employees and potential employees a decision."

The issue has been on the table for years. Faculty at three of the four UM campuses passed resolutions in 2010 that called for the system to provide benefits to lesbian and gay employees. Campus administrators, including MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and Athletic Director Mike Alden, also have written letters in support of domestic-partner benefits.

One roadblock right now is a bleak budget. The system faces a \$47 million funding shortfall this coming year.

Administrators have estimated expanding benefits to same-sex couples would cost between \$1 million and \$3 million.

Over the past week, Wolfe repeatedly has said the university's budget should reflect priorities.

"Our first priority is student success and the academic experience," he said. "We need to make sure everything we're thinking about maintains that and improves that."

Some have argued that not offering domestic-partner benefits affects academics because it hinders MU's ability to compete for top faculty. An Intercampus Faculty report on the issue cites seven instances of "lost hires" since 2007 based on anecdotal evidence.

The argument from a recruiting standpoint makes sense, Wolfe said.

"We always — be it recruiting for new students, be it recruiting for faculty, be it recruiting for staff — we always need to be representative of the population we want to serve," he said. "People have special

requirements and special needs, and we need to be appreciative of that and create an environment that attracts people to campus. Absolutely that should be included in our thinking about how we attract the best and brightest and keep the best and brightest here."

Novell, a software company where Wolfe served as president of the Americas, is listed as one of many Fortune 500 companies offering domestic-partner benefits. Wolfe said he wasn't aware of that and wasn't part of that decision.

Still, Candace Galen, a professor of biological sciences, sees it as a good sign. "It certainly can't hurt," she said.

But Galen, who has been with her partner for more than 15 years, also recognizes that leading a public university comes with different challenges, mainly concerns of backlash from conservative politicians. "We'd be lying to ourselves if we didn't think that is not going to be part of the landscape for him," she said.

Ultimately, the decision will be made by the nine-member Board of Curators, and political affiliations likely will matter. Right now, the bipartisan board has two empty Democratic seats.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



UM system president wants decision on domestic partner benefits

COLUMBIA, MO. • The new president of the University of Missouri system wants curators to soon decide whether to offer domestic partner benefits to campus workers.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that president Tim Wolfe says the Board of Curators should take up the issue before the end of the year. Some professors and other employees have long sought to expand health insurance coverage and other benefits to same-sex couples.

Wolfe told the newspaper, "We owe our great employees and potential employees a decision."

Supporters of such expanded benefits include Columbia campus Chancellor Brady Deaton and Missouri athletic director Mike Alden. They note that more than 300 colleges and universities already have such perks in place for faculty and staff. So do many of the nation's Fortune 500 companies. (AP)

Faculty Council to discuss next move in Engel tenure case

By [Celia Ampel](#)

February 22, 2012 | 7:19 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU's Faculty Council will make a recommendation Thursday to Chancellor Brady Deaton about a step in the tenure removal process that no MU professor has reached in 37 years — until now.

The case of Greg Engel, a suspended College of Engineering associate professor, brings up a critical question about tenure: At what cost does it protect academic freedom?

Different parties feel so strongly about their answers that Deaton, the council and Provost Brian Foster have spent weeks mulling over one detail: defining how strong evidence against a tenured faculty member must be to recommend the chancellor move the case for dismissal forward. Foster's request for a second hearing indicates that he thinks the standard at this point should be the lowest possible burden of proof.

Many council members said they think the bar should be, at a minimum, defined. Many think it should be the highest possible standard because careers could be on the line. Regardless of what happens, Engel's case has raised old ghosts about what it takes to remove a tenured professor, or a senior academic with a guarantee that the university will not fire him or her without just cause.

Trivial pursuit?

In December 2010, [College of Engineering faculty charged Engel with faculty irresponsibility](#), citing student complaints about discrimination and lack of respect. He was suspended from teaching duties.

An ad hoc faculty committee convened in such instances found there was not "clear and convincing" evidence to support the faculty irresponsibility charges.

Foster requested that Deaton send the case back to the committee to be heard again with a lower standard of evidence, on the grounds that the faculty bylaws never define the burden of

proof as "clear and convincing." At the MU Faculty Council's Feb. 9 meeting, voting members — who are all tenured or tenure-track — expressed discomfort that the burden of proof for the committee is not defined.

"I think that's our duty to actually determine that," council member Leona Rubin said at the meeting.

The faculty committee's decision is an early step on a long road toward dismissing a tenured professor. Its ruling serves simply to advise the chancellor on whether he has a case to present to a second committee, the Campus Faculty Committee on Tenure. That committee does have a defined burden of proof: It must be "convinced" the evidence presented warrants dismissal. There's the kicker. For Deaton to make an informed decision about whether the case against Engel would hold in the second committee, he needs to know whether it would stand a test of convincing evidence. The first committee has advised him it wouldn't. So Foster's request and the debate it has caused within Faculty Council are, for practical purposes, senseless, according to one expert.

"You can't have two different standards; that would make no sense," said University of Illinois law professor Matthew Finkin, author of "The Case for Tenure."

The standard Foster proposed, "preponderance of evidence," means the committee must find that it's more likely than not that charges are warranted. Finkin said that standard is probably too low for a case where a professional career is on the line.

"You want a higher level of certainty the more that's at stake," he said.

What about the students?

Faculty Council Vice Chairman Joe Parcell said he's struggling with what he thinks the burden of proof should be. He said he thinks it's possible a tenure removal process can be too complex, to the point where it's almost impossible to dismiss a tenured professor.

"I'm not naive to the fact that there could be instances that it could be appropriate to remove a faculty member," he said. Parcell said he does not want to make removing tenure so difficult that it's a disservice to students.

"We owe it to constituents and students to make sure that we're putting the best faculty in the world before them," he said.

Four female students accused Engel of race and gender discrimination in November 2010.

The charges came after he accused three of the students of plagiarism on a lab report and gave them each a "zero" grade.

The three students, who are Chinese, said they had been under the impression that working together on the report was allowed, and that Engel refused to communicate with them after he charged them with plagiarism.

A student grievance committee handling the discrimination accusations against Engel concluded the charges weren't justified but asked him to apologize to the students.

The faculty irresponsibility charges against Engel say that after he received tenure, his teaching "took a decided turn for the worse."

After the discrimination charges came out of a 17-student electrical engineering course, some students in that class said Engel's classes were often shorter than the 50 minutes allotted, according to the charges. Some of the students said class often lasted as little as five to 10 minutes.

The charges say the reported shorter class periods are evidence that Engel "has abdicated his responsibility to '(seek) above all to be an effective teacher and scholar.'"

Then again: What about the professors?

The behavior Engel is being accused of doesn't merit the removal of tenure, said MU math professor Stephen Montgomery-Smith, a member of the Faculty Council and vice president of the MU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

"I think that's a popularity contest," Montgomery-Smith said. "He's not popular in his department."

The charges of faculty irresponsibility might be "retribution" for Engel's objection to being removed as principal investigator of the research project, for which he earned a \$2 million grant, Montgomery-Smith said.

A professor has to have the right to give students the grades he believes they deserve without fear of them complaining and having him removed, Montgomery-Smith said.

Instances in which a professor misbehaves outrageously and can't be fired because it's so difficult to remove tenure are the exception, not the rule, he said.

Finkin said that if a professor's "fitness for office" is questioned and his or her behavior is truly out of line — offering higher grades in exchange for sex, for example — the professor will usually resign before the process reaches a hearing.

Engel is the first MU professor to have had a hearing with the faculty responsibility committee since the current faculty bylaws were written in 1974. In the 1970s, MU was blacklisted by the AAUP when it fired tenured professors for protesting the Vietnam War.

The censure was removed after MU came into compliance with the AAUP's standard tenure removal process, which is used by almost all four-year universities and liberal arts colleges, Finkin said.

In January, Engel filed a lawsuit against the University of Missouri System Board of Curators and three engineering professors for \$5 million in damages.

The professors created "a hostile and offensive work environment, harassment, retaliation, and deprivation of his constitutionally protected interests," according to the petition for damages.

What next?

MU's Faculty Council hopes its move Thursday will affect Deaton's decision on whether to move Engel forward on the long road toward dismissal, Parcell said. Deaton and new UM System President Tim Wolfe will attend the meeting. The chancellor can decide to accept the committee's decision to stop pursuing Engel's case. He can also modify the decision, reverse it or, as Foster has requested, send it back to the committee for re-hearing.

If Deaton moves the case forward to the Campus Faculty Committee on Tenure, that committee's decision will go through Deaton, Wolfe and the curators before dismissal can occur. Only the Board of Curators has the power to remove tenure. The council's suggestion on what the burden of proof should be does not change the faculty bylaws — to make the change officially, all MU faculty would have to take a vote.

"I suspect we may get to that point," Parcell said. In any case, he said he thinks it's good to have a discussion about the process to remove tenure in the interest of future generations of faculty.

"If we can make our bylaws stronger," Parcell said, "then I think we should."

High court tussles with false heroics: Free speech or felony?

By Jason Cato, PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Thursday, February 23, 2012

MU MENTION PAGE 2

Walter "Joe" Marm Jr. risked his life and suffered serious facial wounds in Vietnam to protect members of his company from enemy fighters in 1965.

Now Marm, the only living Medal of Honor recipient from Western Pennsylvania, wants the Supreme Court to protect the honor and dignity of those who earned top military awards by upholding the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 -- a law that made it a federal felony to lie about receiving awards such as the Medal of Honor and Purple Heart.

Justices on Wednesday heard arguments about whether the law violates constitutional free-speech rights.

"It should be a crime," said Marm, 70, a Washington County native who lives in Fremont, N.C. "It's a slap in the face of veterans who have paid the price and earned their medals."

First Amendment experts express divided opinions over how the court will rule. A decision is expected by late June. Legislation is pending in Congress to make it a crime to benefit from lying about a military record should the court overturn the law.

"Most of the justices seem to be looking for a way to (uphold) it but try not to give the government too much power," said Arthur Hellman, a law professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Although the Supreme Court recently rejected government attempts to regulate free speech on issues such as violent video games and animal cruelty videos, the Stolen Valor Act addresses such a narrow subject that Hellman said the justices might uphold it.

"If this was the only case Congress was allowed to do this. I don't see where this would be a big harm to free speech," Hellman said.

Those who attempted to ban the burning of the American flag, which the Supreme Court rejected in 1989, tried using the same narrow-scope argument, said Christina Wells, a law professor at the University of Missouri.

"I think the Supreme Court should overturn the Stolen Valor Act, and my sense is they probably will," Wells said. "It's not been a question of whether lying is wrong. People do all sort of things that aren't moral. But should it be criminalized?"

Wells raised the same point that several justices did: whether punishing people for lies about military medals could lead to laws prohibiting such things as lying about the Holocaust, an extramarital affair or a high school diploma.

"Where do you stop?" Chief Justice John Roberts asked the government's attorney.

Justice Anthony Kennedy appeared supportive of the law.

"Here it does seem to me that you can argue that this is something like a trademark, a medal in which the government and the armed forces have a particular interest, and we could carve out a narrow exception for that," Kennedy said. "I think we would have to do that."

The Supreme Court case involves a California man who became one of the first people prosecuted for violating the Stolen Valor Act, enacted in 2006. Pomona, Calif., water authority member Xavier Alvarez claimed at a public meeting that he was a wounded war veteran and a Medal of Honor recipient. Neither was true.

The federal appellate court in San Francisco struck down the Stolen Valor Act in Alvarez's case, although the federal appeals court in Denver upheld the law in another case concerning a defendant's false claim to military valor.

Pittsburgh attorney Sumner Parker, who served in the Marines, said such claims should be crimes.

"It is reprehensible," Parker said. "If you haven't earned it and you haven't done something to deserve it, there definitely should be some kind of penalty -- especially if you are doing it for some kind of personal gain."

Parker in 2006 represented one of two Western Pennsylvania men federal authorities prosecuted for wearing military medals, uniforms and insignia for honors and ranks they never achieved. Impersonating military officers and wearing unearned medals long has been a federal crime.

In establishing military medals for gallantry or meritorious conduct in 1782, George Washington noted that people who make false claims to such honors should be "severely punished."

"It's not intellectual. It's not political. It's not religious," said Thomas J. Cottone Jr., a former FBI agent who specialized in investigating false claims about military medals and ranks. "It's false, and it's fraudulent. And I hope the Supreme Court agrees."



MU to screen film on life of Eliot Battle

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

A documentary about the life of local educator Eliot Battle will be screened Saturday night on the University of Missouri campus.

The film, "Battle: Change from Within," starts at 7 p.m. in Bush Auditorium at Cornell Hall.

Through archived film and newspaper clippings and interviews with former students and colleagues, the 58-minute documentary will cover Battle's role in the desegregation of Columbia Public Schools, housing and the community.

Battle had been assistant principal at the all-black Douglass High School, then became the first black teacher at Hickman High School, facing resistance from a divided community.

The film was produced by a team of MU employees.



Trespassing suspect arrested at library

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

A homeless man attempting to hole up under a chairlift in Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus was arrested yesterday on suspicion of trespassing, MU police said.

Police found Earl Love, 38, in the space after a patron told library security that they could hear someone calling for help, Capt. Brian Weimer said.

He said the area had been lined with newspaper and that a book on how to make money was found in the space.

Shannon Cary, a spokeswoman for Ellis Library, said it was not known how long Love was trapped in the space, but it appeared he had been there a short time. She said security officers had noticed the smell of body odor in the area of the chairlift before Love was discovered.

Weimer said Love previously had been issued a trespassing warning for the MU campus and that a new warning was issued yesterday that requires anyone who sees him on campus to contact police.

Weimer said trespassing is not uncommon on campus. "Obviously having as many public buildings as we do, trespassing is something that we deal with," he said.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Is 'in vitro meat' moving closer to the menu?

Thursday, February 23, 2012

By Bob Batz Jr., Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

MU MENTION PAGE 3

VANCOUVER, British Columbia -- In a laboratory in the Netherlands, stem cells from cows are being grown into what researcher Mark J. Post says will be the first so-called "test-tube burger" -- comprising the tiny pieces of tissue-engineered, or "in vitro," meat -- that he and his colleagues aim to cook and taste as early as this October.

By this summer, California researcher Patrick O. Brown says, a company he's helped start will bring to market a revolutionary new plant-based substitute for a meat or dairy food -- he's not yet sharing specifics -- that "can't be distinguished from the animal product it replaces, even by hard-core foodies."

The scientists are on the leading edge of a movement to dramatically change how the world grows and consumes meat, something they say must happen, one way or another.

"Animal farming is by far the biggest ongoing global environmental catastrophe," Mr. Brown said Sunday at a news briefing for journalists from around the world at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, attended by some 5,000 delegates and 700 media people in Vancouver.

He and Mr. Post were part of a panel of four experts who later that day presented a symposium titled, "Meat without Animals: Test-tube Burgers and More." It was provocative enough that the Times of London broke a news embargo to publish something on it that morning, and bits of the story have been broadcast this week as far and wide as the local TV news in Pittsburgh.

The issue certainly is food for thought.

Mr. Brown, a biochemist at the Stanford University School of Medicine, wants to see a world without animal farming, because "in every conceivable way, it's inefficient and destructive."

Inefficient, in that it takes many pounds of grains, and many, many gallons of water, to make a typical quarter-pounder. Destructive, he said, citing sobering United Nations statistics, that show animal farming takes up about 30 percent of the Earth's land, accounts for more than 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, is the largest source of water pollution and the biggest threat to biodiversity.

Meanwhile, the world's appetite for meat is expected to double by 2050.

Mr. Brown called animal agriculture, mostly unchanged for centuries, as "a sitting duck for a disruptive technology."

That's why, with backing from a Silicone Valley venture capital firm, he's launched two startups to create and market alternative foods that, like him, are vegetarian.

Of course, the market already has plenty of meat substitutes and non-dairy "cheeses," but he says they're not very good and they're expensive, and they're marketed to people who've already chosen to be vegetarian or vegan for health or ethical reasons, not to the mainstream.

The products he plans will compete head-on with animal products by being "high-value, protein-rich, nutrient-dense human foods that appeal to consumers" -- stand-ins for everything from bacon to cheddar.

Professor Post of Maastricht University said that he hopes Mr. Brown and others are able to fix the problems of animal agriculture with plants. But because he believes many people want real meat, his research is about producing that in a more efficient, less environmentally degrading way.

Cows are only about 15 percent efficient at making meat from grains and other foods, he said. Making beef under more controlled conditions could feed a lot more people while using fewer resources, saving the grains for human consumption as food as well as biofuel. (Their aim is to grow meat with vegetable-based nutrients, perhaps involving algae.)

With backing of \$330,000 from a "reputable," non-food-industry funder he's not yet identifying, his team is working to grow enough muscle cells to show that "cultured meat" is possible.

Already, they've grown bovine stem cells into tiny strips about an inch long and 2/100ths of an inch thick.

They'll need thousands of these to make a burger (the golf-ball-sized goal sounds more like a slider, and an expensive one at that). But that's just one of many challenges.

Growing stem cells happens in labs all over the world, including Pittsburgh, where some researchers envision being able to make replacement organs for humans.

Bits for ground beef, the most popular meat in the U.S., look to be relatively easy. (Mr. Post got laughs when recounting how they started with pig cells, planning to make sausage, which can be "hardly recognizable as a meat product" anyway).

But muscle cells on an animal grow because of conditions that scientists have to figure out how to create in the petri dish. Mr. Post described using electric current to "exercise" the cow muscle cells, and treatments ranging from administering caffeine to withholding light to get them to make more myoglobin, which gives meat its red color.

"Right now, it's sort of a pinkish-yellowish," he told journalists. "The color is an interesting issue."

But, as he said later, it's also a scientifically controllable one. His part of the talk touched on possibilities including lowering the saturated fat and cholesterol of various meats, even creating custom combinations of meats.

His Powerpoint presentation illustrated the ultimate goal -- making "big slabs of meat" -- which were fancifully depicted as octagonal steaks, on round ceramic "bones."

Even if he does taste that burger this fall, cultured filet mignons are a long ways off. They will be expensive, as will all the research it'll take.

"But what's the cost of traditional meat production?" asked Nicholas Genovese, a visiting scholar at the University of Missouri-Columbia who organized the symposium. He includes in that the costs of dealing with outbreaks of food-borne illness and other human health woes associated with animal foods.

One of the issues he stresses is the ethical one of millions of animals being killed. His research, in fact, is funded by a grant from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which in 2008 offered a \$1 million reward for the first researchers to make in vitro chicken meat, indistinguishable from the "real" deal, and sell it to the public by June 30, 2012.

That offer stands and might be extended at a PETA meeting in Los Angeles in April. PETA President Ingrid Newkirk said in a phone interview from Washington, D.C., last week. "Originally, we thought we'd never have to pay out," she said. "Nobody had heard of [in vitro meat]. We wanted to boot it into the public consciousness."

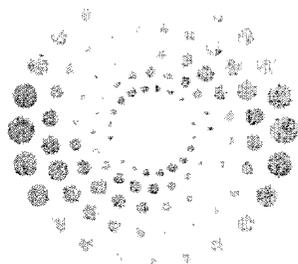
Now, she says, "We're feeling very good" about the research progress that's been made. "If this allows them to get rid of cruelty to animals, fabulous."

She's well aware that the idea of in vitro meat can stir strong reactions from everyone from Midwest farmers to home cooks, but says, "Everybody fears change," and points out that many foods such as soy milk were once little known.

The AAAS panelists included KeShun Liu, a U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher who talked about the next generation of extruded meat "analogs" that mimic the fibers of real chicken and turkey. (He said to look for products soon from Maryland's Savage River Farms).

The panelists agreed they're not advocating for legislation or subsidies; they're just working for alternatives for consumers.

Some acceptance of these new alternatives may be a matter of language. At the AAAS meeting, Mr. Genovese stressed, "In vitro meat will never be produced in the 'lab.' " As beer is made in a brewery, he has proposed calling meat production facilities of the future "carneries."



REUTERS

Court splits up age discrimination case against law schools

Feb 22 (Reuters) - A federal judge has split up a lawsuit accusing six law schools of age discrimination, sending claims against four of the law schools to courts in their home districts.

Nicholas Spaeth, the former state attorney general of North Dakota, filed the lawsuit last July. Spaeth alleged that six law schools and officers of those schools violated the Age Discrimination in Employment Act by not offering him a tenure-track teaching job when he applied.

U.S. District Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle on Friday granted four defendants' motions to sever their claims from the case and transfer them. Claims against Michigan State University College of Law will be sent to the Western District of Michigan; **claims against the University of Missouri School of Law to the Western District of Missouri**; claims against University of California Hastings College of the Law to the Northern District of California; and claims against the University of Iowa College of Law to the Southern District of Iowa.

"The Court concludes that the balance of convenience of the parties and witnesses are in favor of transferring" these claims to their home districts, the judge ruled.

Daniel Prywes, an attorney for the defendants, declined to comment.

Lynne Bernabei, an attorney for Spaeth, could not be reached for comment.

Huvelle did not rule on the merits of the case. She also did not rule on claims against two defendants: Georgetown University and the University of Maryland. Those claims remain before her court.

Spaeth, 63, served as North Dakota's attorney general from 1985 to 1993. He earned his J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1977 and previously taught law at University of Minnesota Law School and University of Missouri School of Law.

He is seeking a court order calling on each defendant law school to offer him a tenure-track teaching position, compensation for future lost wages and other damages.

The case is Spaeth v. Michigan State University College of Law, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, No. 11-1376 (ESH)

For the plaintiffs: Lynne Bernabei and Alan Robert Kabat, Bernabei & Wachtel.

For the defendants: John Simpson, Michelle Pardo and Rebecca Bazan of Fulbright & Jaworski; Daniel Prywes of Bryan Cave; William David Nussbaum of Hogan Lovells; Susanne Harris Carnell of Lorenger & Carnell; George Andrew Carroll of the State of Iowa; Sara Slaff of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

KU's Self ready to move on without Mizzou

BY VAHE GREGORIAN • vgregorian@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8199 | Posted: Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:35 am | (14) Comments

LAWRENCE, Kan. • **As personal as the Missouri-Kansas rivalry has become through its Civil War roots and century-plus of athletics clashes, Kansas' rationale for dousing MU's wish to extend it after Missouri deserts the Big 12 isn't personal at all.**

"Like, Frank Haith. Hey, unbelievable job. He's a good guy. I've known Frank a long time. We're not buddies, but certainly I talk to him every chance we get," Kansas coach Bill Self said in his office Monday. "This isn't anything about Frank. And it's certainly not anything to do about Kim English or Michael Dixon or Phil Pressey or Ricardo Ratliffe. Or Marcus Denmon.

"Hey, those guys have our respect. And to be honest with you, they seem to me like they're really good kids. ...

"But their administration, with the support of whoever, made the decision. And they knew when they made the decision that this was going to be something that could affect the future of the relationship."

Never mind, then, that Self values MU-Kansas and considered this season's first game between them Feb. 4 in Columbia 'special' even though Kansas lost 74-71. And never mind that Self has no quibble with the decision itself.

"Everybody deserves the right to do what is best for them. Everybody deserves that," Self said. "So if Missouri makes a decision that's best for them, hey, I don't have one problem with them making that decision that's best for the University of Missouri. Zero.

"But it does change the way it was. Bottom line, it changes the way it was."

Because Kansas considers the context and basis of the rivalry fundamentally changed, the school's bottom line means that the series will die after the third-ranked Tigers' game Saturday at No. 4 Kansas, the 267th between them in men's basketball.

Among schools in the six major conferences, only Kansas and Kansas State have been playing each other as often — since 1907.

Mizzou and Kansas could meet again in the Big 12 tournament, of course, as well as in the NCAA Tournament. And Self won't use the word "never" about what's to come.

But Kansas won't schedule Mizzou in the foreseeable future, a decision it casts as a practical response to MU's move to the Southeastern Conference.

"They're moving forward. That's their future. Their future is not looking back. Or hanging on to something that was," Self said. "Their future is going forward. And you know what? So is ours.

"It's nothing negative. It's just business."

Kansas' prime business, athletics director Sheahon Zenger said, has to be thrust its energies into preserving and enhancing the Big 12 after "actions by some schools ... endangered" the league.

"Kansas just needs some time to breathe," Zenger said.

As for the future?

"I would tell you right now just to take a step back and enjoy it for what it is in the moment," Zenger said. "History is made one chapter at a time, and this is one chapter. I'm very careful not to speak for those who went before us or those who will follow us. But we're living out our chapter as we speak."

Self has heard the arguments for playing on, particularly those framed in terms of what fans might want.

"People can get hung up on, 'Well, don't the fans deserve this or that?' You know what? Whose fans?" he said. "I haven't had one KU person, not one, send me an email or a letter or tell me we should play Missouri. Not one. And I've gotten numerous ones that said we should not."

While Self said he appreciated nice letters from Mizzou fans saying they hoped he'd reconsider, he added, "So I'm going to make a decision to try to make Mizzou fans happy? I mean, I'm not doing that. ... I don't see any reason to play anybody to help them. I think the reason you play somebody is to help us."

One reason he's resistant is because no scenario to play seems appropriate.

"We're going to go home-and-home every other year? We're going to play in Kansas City?" he said. "That ain't the same as it has been. It's not the same."

As the former coach at Illinois, Self is familiar with the possibilities of a neutral-court series with MU. He's heard Mizzou's points about other nonconference rivalries flourishing, such as Louisville-Kentucky and Clemson-South Carolina.

"To me, we've got to beat them to win the league. That game carries league significance. That's what makes that game so important. Playing them once a year? I personally don't feel the significance of it as much," he said. "The other thing is, Kentucky plays Louisville every year. Well, they've always played them every year (out of league). That's all they know."

"So if Wake Forest leaves the ACC, are (North) Carolina and Duke going to feel obligated to still play them? ... Texas and (Texas) A&M, I don't think they're going to play each other. And they're even in the same state.

"Even though we're huge rivals, we're only 2 1/2 hours apart, I mean, it's not like our state is divided. Our state is pro-KU, their state is pro-MU."

He added, "We're starting from scratch now."

But first ending with a bang, regardless of whether Kansas loses to MU at Allen Fieldhouse for the first time since 1999.

"Hey, (105) years or one year, we've had our fair share of success against Missouri," Self said, smiling.

Kansas leads the series 171-95, but this one may well be the most meaningful of all considering the finality and the teams being 1-2 in the Big 12 race.

"I would anticipate an atmosphere that would be second to none as far as Allen Fieldhouse's atmospheres over the past ... at least since I've been here," Self said. "But our players aren't going to think about this is the last time we're playing Missouri. ... It's 'Hey, we've got to beat Missouri — the 2012 version.'"

The last version that definitely will appear here.

"Hey, they're going on to their bigger and better things, but when they chose to do that, that means they're leaving behind Kansas," Self said. "And K-State. And Iowa State, or whoever else. I guarantee you they don't feel any different than I do."

Not that it's personal. At least not any more. Just one business responding to another.

"I would think Missouri should put all of (its) efforts into marketing their new rivals," he said. "I mean, seriously: I would think that Missouri's marketing plan would be to find a way to market their new rivals — as opposed to trying to hang on to an old one."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

At MU event, a look at George Washington Carver

By Karee Hackel

February 22, 2012 | 8:07 p.m. CST

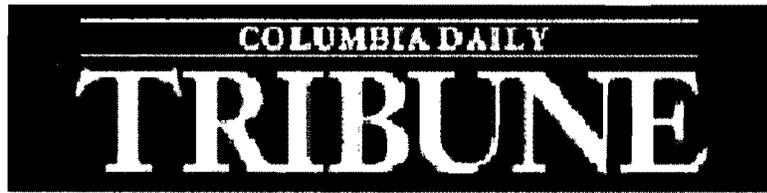
COLUMBIA — George Washington Carver, who was a Missouri resident, is well-known for his scientific studies of the peanut at Tuskegee Institute, but his efforts and accomplishments extend far beyond the realm of tasty seeds.

Director Gary Kremer and MU School of Natural Resources professor Charles Nilon will present a program at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the State Historical Society of Missouri's Columbia Research Center. The program is free and open to the public.

According to the historical society's news release, Kremer and Nilon plan to present Carver in a way that "moves past a simplistic understanding of Carver as the first African-American scientist who studied the peanut."

Nilon will discuss Carver's role as an esteemed scientist and focus on Carver's knowledge of conservation. Kremer, author of "George Washington Carver: A Biography," will delve into the understanding of Carver as an exceedingly profound man living in a very complicated society.

The release describes Carver as a true pioneer who "dedicated his life to science and technology to better the lives of ordinary people."



Poetry project honors notable black women

By CATHERINE MARTIN

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Correction appended

After learning the story of Madam C.J. Walker, known as the first self-made female American millionaire, fifth-grader Kyre' Roberts said he found an important lesson: Never give up.

When he wrote a poem from Walker's perspective, he wanted to tell others about her determination.

"Perseverance is my motto," Kyre' started the poem. "I started out poor. Coming from cotton fields. A woman of determination, energy and vision."

His poem was one of several written by West Boulevard Elementary School students from the perspective of notable black women. The project was inspired by a grant from the Missouri Arts Council in conjunction with the "Black Women in Art and the Stories They Tell" exhibit at the University of Missouri Museum of Art and Archaeology.

The students' poems and artwork now line the front hall of West Boulevard Elementary. The students also will present their work at a young storytellers' event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. tomorrow at the Museum of Art and Archaeology, Room 106.

The grant gave students the chance to learn from storyteller Gladys Coggsell, who helped them learn better oral communication skills. They also completed projects, including artwork that tells the story of Harriet Tubman's road to freedom with symbols such as a wanted sign, the North Star and the hands of freedom.

"They got to see that a little bit of work can come together to make a huge display," fifth-grade teacher Jonette Ford said.

Another project from the grant asked students to look at a piece of art, such as Elizabeth Catlett's "The Sharecropper," and write a poem about the piece. To take the idea further, Ford had some of her fifth-graders take the names of famous black women depicted in a painting called "The Sunflower Quilt" and write a poem from their perspectives.

"I think bringing together art and poetry and history lets them learn in a new way," Ford said. "I want to see that connectivity. In the real world, ... you have to use all the skills you have to get something done."

The finished product, Ford said, gave students something to be proud of. It also taught them about women who do extraordinary things, such as Mary McLeod Bethune, an educator and civil rights leader who opened a black school that eventually became Bethune-Cookman University.

"I like her story. I like that she didn't give up on her dream," said fifth-grader Desiree Bassett, who wrote a poem about Bethune.

This page has been revised to reflect the following correction:

SECOND THOUGHTS:

A story Wednesday about a poetry project at West Boulevard Elementary misspelled the last name of Gladys Coggsell.