Mizzou will take over running Missouri Press

Operation will be restructured with smaller staff in Columbia.

BY TIM BARKER • tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 AND JANE HENDERSON • Post-Dispatch Book Editor > jhenderson@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8107 | Posted: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 12:05 am |(0) comments.

The University of Missouri Press and most of its functions will be kept alive in a plan revealed Monday by the University of Missouri-Columbia, which wants to start its own academic press.

The school intends to restructure its operations with a model that relies on student labor and faculty employees who also teach courses. The new University of Missouri Press will fall under Mizzou's College of Arts and Science.

"It's going to be doing most of the things it was doing before. Maybe all of the things," said Brian Foster, Mizzou's provost.

Currently the press operates as a unit of the four-campus University of Missouri System. But it has fallen under the budget ax wielded by new president Tim Wolfe, who says the system cannot afford the annual $400,000 subsidy. The 54-year-old press, which has 10 employees, is being phased out starting this month. Those employees are not guaranteed jobs with the new press.

In May, the university system said it would stop subsidizing the press. It promised to unveil a new model for the press, but its lack of a specific plan or funding led to national criticism.

Speer Morgan, a Mizzou English professor, novelist and longtime editor of the Missouri Review, a literary journal, was named director of the press Monday.

Morgan said he plans to take an "adventurous" approach to the job and hopes the press will continue publishing about 20 books a year, although some publications next year might be paperback reprints.

He said he will hire a new editor and two other full-time people to run the press. He also expects to use five interns, in addition to freelance editors, which he says is standard for university presses. He will have board members from different campuses help vet manuscripts.

"We're going to operate in some degree in a standard university press fashion," Morgan said.
The plan announced Monday, along with another that was under consideration, wasn't entirely well-received by groups trying to save the press.

"Whatever the merits of these plans, neither seems likely to inspire a renewed sense of intellectual vigor and grand purpose," said the Association of American University Presses in a statement.

Also critical was the Coalition to Save the University of Missouri Press, which has attracted more than 4,700 supporters on Facebook. "How does this new plan amount to anything more than a gutting and rebranding of the existing press?" said a statement issued by the coalition Monday.
Reorganization of Missouri press won't be easy

BY JANE HENDERSON > Post-Dispatch Book Editor • jhenderson@post-dispatch.com

Posted: Monday, July 16, 2012 5:27 pm | (1) comments.

Speer Morgan in a 2010 photo from the University of Missouri’s SyndicateMissouri.

Speer Morgan, who was named director of the University of Missouri Press Monday, was not really a surprise. Rumors had circulated for weeks that he, The Missouri Review and student interns may be involved in a new "model" for the university press.

Morgan, an English professor, published novelist and editor of the Review, said in an interview today that he knows reorganizing the press is going to be a lot of work, even calling it "daunting." He also said the Mizzou chancellor and provost were "brave" to take on the press, which like virtually all academic presses must be supported by university money or outside gifts.

The university system, which oversees all four Missouri campuses, ended its financing of the press starting July 1.

It only today offered any real information on what would happen to the press, saying it would be moved to the Columbia campus. Apparently the 10 current staffers are still losing their jobs, but they are, of course, allowed to apply for the three new positions.

Morgan clearly plans to bring in a new editor, however. He said he hopes to bring editor candidates to campus for interviews within the next four weeks. He expects to use freelance editors to do some of the book editing and Missouri faculty from all four campuses to do some vetting of scholarly work.
The press will probably take on about five student interns. (This is not really new for university presses: both Truman State University Press and Southeast Missouri State University use student interns. Southeast also offers a "minor" in publishing.)

Morgan was circumspect when commenting on what the future for the Missouri press holds, only saying that he hopes to continue publishing about 20 books a year, including some on state history. He says the new editor will have to keep in mind traditions of the press but also must "have the right to choose his or her own vision in terms of what would be new."

Some of the books the press publishes next year may be paperback reprints, he said.

In addition, the press’ new home is, to some extent, the same as its old one. It will have offices in McReynolds Hall, where the Missouri Review is located.

The press, which has published more than 2,000 books in its 54 years, actually started on the Columbia campus. It was founded in 1958 by English professor William Peden, whom Morgan called a “dear friend.” Peden, who is deceased, also was a founding editor (1978) of The Missouri Review.

The press “has a fine old history. It would be terrible if it was abandoned,” Morgan said.

For more on the "new" press, see Tuesday's Post-Dispatch.
The chorus of criticism directed at Tim Wolfe keeps getting louder. How much longer can he seemingly ignore it?

Wolfe is the new president of the University of Missouri system. One of his first moves was a quick karate chop to the 54-year-old university press, which has published more than 2,000 books. For background on this, go to some of the many sidebar stories.

This weekend, author William Least Heat-Moon wrote a long commentary for the Columbia Daily Tribune offering a "five-figure" sum for a press endowment. (It is coincidence that this weekend the Post-Dispatch published a review of "Blue Highways Revisited," a book of photography inspired by Heat-Moon's famous memoir.)

In his commentary, he calls Wolfe's move an "abrupt fiat" and says:

From the beginning, the decision came from people with corporate and bureaucratic backgrounds, nowhere among them anyone remotely considered to be knowledgeable about books and publishing. The proposal, then, is an expression of the worst in bottom-line thinking. These are people who seem to see a cultural entity as valuable only if it is profitable.

He goes on to poke holes in Wolfe's office's reasons for the closure, including the famous "$400,000" subsidy:

Missing from all the manipulated figures out of University Hall is the universally recognized fact that a university press exists to further learning, not to make money. Of the 130 members in the prestigious American Association of University Presses, more than 95 percent require a subsidy, and the few that do not, such as Harvard and Princeton, have fruitful endowments. University Hall seems to look at the press as a mere print shop. It is not. It is a highly professional publisher fostering the creation of books as well as their design, promotion and considerably more. Instead of pushing the press to inconsequence, Wolfe should be leading a strong endowment for it.
Heat-Moon's criticism also joins recent public letters criticizing the decision, including one by Crosby Kemper III, director of the Kansas City Public Library, and another signed by six department leaders at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Those letters are at the Save the University of Missouri Press Facebook page. Here's an excerpt from Kemper's scathing letter:

**Thirty to forty years ago, the University of Missouri–Columbia was the best State University in our region and surrounding states. That is almost certainly no longer true if one looks at the rankings, or national and international organizations, or indeed if one talks to people involved in higher education.**

The reason for this is the University's failure to concentrate on excellence. Though there are many individual highly ranked programs and individual scholars of distinction, the University has in recent decades been more focused on money and athletics than it has been on academic excellence in the liberal arts. ...

The administrative function at the university has been its biggest drawback over the last thirty years. There is a failure to understand excellence, which is the core problem at the university.

From UMSL:

The campuses in the UM-system have active research programs that contribute to our knowledge of these important issues, and we need to have a peer-reviewed press whose primary mission is to publish the results of this research. As a research university, if we can't make the case for a university press, how can we make the case for anything else that we do? Research and publication are inextricably linked.

We need, and the state needs, an academic press. A healthy state academic press is essential for a healthy state system of higher education. ...
University reveals plans for new press

A new University of Missouri Press will combine scholarly publishing with teaching and research on the MU campus.

That's one component administrators say will make the new press model more efficient than its 54-year-old predecessor.

"There's going to be teaching involved with all of the positions because part of the idea of this press is to integrate it with the campus and integrate it with the teaching function of the college," said Speer Morgan, an English professor who has been named director.

MU administrators this morning outlined details of a future press that will replace the current UM Press, a systemwide publishing house that operates on a $400,000 subsidy. UM President Tim Wolfe in May announced plans to phase out the press and lay off its 10 employees starting July 1.

Morgan, editor of the Missouri Review literary journal, was on a committee looking at ways to reinvigorate the current press and said he was not involved in the decision to close it.

One of the first steps to launch the new press, which will assume the University of Missouri Press name, is to hire an editor in chief, he said. The press also will have a professional managing editor and a marketing director.

"The editor is going to be directing the press in terms of all the important things, such as managing the book list," Morgan said. That will include the backlist of roughly 2,000 titles the UM Press has published.

A board of faculty, likely from all four UM campuses, will serve as the peer review for manuscripts. Editing will be done, in part, by graduate students, most of whom are in their 30s, Morgan said, with help also likely from interns from the creative writing and journalism programs.

Although some have argued that the current UM Press already offers electronic books, Morgan said he envisions the new press taking technology further.

"Part of the logic of this is to be more experimental and to be more forward-looking," he said. "People read books on their cellphones. This is a whole new market, and ... it's something that needs to be addressed."
Critics of the decision to close the traditional press have argued that a new model will not have the relationships the current editors have built with authors. They've collected more than 4,680 signatures on a petition asking Wolfe to save the current UM Press.

The dozens who have written asking Wolfe to reverse his decision include best-selling author William Least Heat-Moon, who wrote a commentary in yesterday's Tribune pledging a donation to keep the current press running. In response to the editorial, the American Association of University Presses released a statement saying its office has resources to help the press operate.

The AAUP "doesn't have the financial resources to contribute to a fundraising campaign for the Press, but we do have other resources, including a wealth of information and professional experience, that we would be more than happy to contribute," wrote Peter Givler, AAUP executive director.

MU Provost Brian Foster said he would like to see the new press, like its predecessor, belong to the AAUP.

The AAUP has specific requirements for membership, so Givler said he'll have to wait to see what type of organization is created. "We will do what we can to support them," he said.

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After outcry, University of Missouri presents new plan for press

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

After enduring two months of criticism over a decision to phase out the University of Missouri Press, university leaders said Monday that they will replace the press with a “re-imagined” digital publishing operation at MU.

“We knew we had to continue to publish scholarly work,” UM System president Tim Wolfe told The Kansas City Star during a meeting with news staff members.

University officials said the new press will have expanded digital publishing and more opportunities for faculty and student research. It will operate more like a publishing laboratory, with a senior editorial staff mentoring student interns.

“We believe the publication of scholarly work is important, and we are not blinking or moving away from that,” Wolfe said.

The university system announced May 24 that it would close the press and lay off or reassign its 10 employees, in part to save a $400,000 annual subsidy. The university expected some public disapproval but not the huge outcry the decision generated, Wolfe said.

In an online petition, nearly 5,500 people from across the country signed their names in support of saving the press. Some called the system’s decision shameful and shocking.

The idea presented Monday for a new University Press failed to mollify some who said they still see it as an execution of the 54-year-old book publishing operation.

“The assertion from University Hall that it is not killing the press but creating a new, more sustainable model is mere cover for the destruction,” author and MU alum William Least Heat-Moon wrote in a letter to the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Then, speaking on public radio station KBIA in Columbia, Least Heat-Moon said, “This decision has me concerned and angered.”

He said tossing out the existing press model to hire a new and smaller staff to do more digital work using student interns “implies that the current press staff is unable to execute such proposed changes.”
Wolfe said that the decision to redesign the university's book publishing operation was brought to him by chancellors of the university system's four campuses and that it had been discussed since 2008. Elimination of the press was considered as part of a downsizing when the university system expected the state to cut $30 million from the higher education budget. It ended up cutting $4.3 million.

Wolfe said the press has been limited in the number of books it could publish annually.

“Our university press had been used by seven MU faculty members in four years,” he said. “A lot of authors from MU were turned away.”

MU provost Brian Foster said precise details on what the new press will look like may not be available for a year. The press will move onto the Columbia campus from its location in an industrial area in southeast Columbia, he said.

Foster said the press would use MU’s Reynolds Journalism Institute to research innovative electronic ways to deliver scholarly books. He said books will continue to be published in print and digital formats using new publishing technologies, including audio, video, blogging and “maybe even interactive.”

Clair Willcox, the current editor in chief, said the press has been moving toward more digitization for several years.

“All of our books are already available on Kindle, Nook and Sony Readers. We were planning to add more digital formats the very day they announced the phasing out,” Willcox said. “And not only that, last semester we had 10 student interns here and this summer would have added seven more had it not been for the announcement.”

Under the university’s new plan, Willcox and the rest of his staff stand to lose their jobs.

The university said Speer Morgan, who now leads The Missouri Review, would direct the new press operation.

Morgan was involved in helping university leaders develop the plan for a new press. The press will begin an immediate national search for an editor in chief.

Foster said the 10 employees are encouraged to apply for the newly described positions.

“But they will be very different positions than what we have there now,” he said. “The new positions all will have a faculty component. We will hire the people who are best qualified for the position.”

Willcox said he’s not sure whether he will apply for the position.

The new model will digitize the current catalog of the press with the help of the MU Libraries. The press has published 2,000 scholarly books in half a century.

The press will honor publishing contracts that it had entered into with authors before the May announcement, Wolfe said.
Open Column

University should take cue from press

Editor, the Tribune: David Bradley, chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, ignored supporters of the UM Press at a meeting and then told the media he wanted to make press supporters "happy." Most folks, after looking at the facts that he denied the press an essential $400,000 subsidy and announced the closure of the press, might conclude he has a strange way of making press supporters "happy." But for the sake of argument, I'm taking him at his word.

If Bradley truly wants to make us "happy," the MU Campus Facilities Utility Reserves, which never contributed to purchasing the press's home or its upkeep, will make the same $500,000 allocation to the press that it extended to expansion of the football stadium. Contrary to popular opinion, the athletic department operated at a deficit from 2006-2011 and was bailed out by a subsidy of more than $2.6 million from general funds of the university. So much for the myth of a self-supporting athletic department.

I am not anti-sports; nor is the press. My book, "Before They Were Cardinals: Major League Baseball in Nineteenth-Century St. Louis," was published as part of its Sports and American Culture Series. There would be no outcry over the misplaced priorities of the university if it balanced sports and academics as effectively as the press.

Although sports should have a place in a well-rounded university, there should also be a place for an award-winning university press.

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MU announces the opening of new, digital University of Missouri Press

By Emma Kessinger, Fareeha Amir
July 16, 2012 | 6:42 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — More than seven weeks after announcing the closing of the University of Missouri Press, MU officials announced a plan Monday for a new press. This press will focus on innovative and online publishing and will be a part of MU's College of Arts and Science.

Discussions of a new press had been going on for roughly two years, as the university was looking into new approaches for publishing scholarly work, Dean of the Missouri School of Journalism Dean Mills said.

MU Provost Brian Foster would not say whether MU had been planning on implementing a new press when the old one was shut down, but did say that the new press would serve as a replacement for the old one.

"The world of media is changing rapidly — it's hard to know where it's going to go," Foster said. This new press will be adapting to the ever-changing media, he said. In May, the University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced the closure of the University of Missouri Press. This announcement gained national attention and sparked protest from press supporters, faculty, staff and Association of American University Presses members.

A meeting is planned for 11 a.m. July 24 in room 2501 of the MU Student Center to discuss the opposition to the closing of the previous University of Missouri Press, according to the Save The Missouri Press facebook page.

When the University of Missouri Press officially closes in fiscal year 2013, its 10 employees will lose their jobs, Foster said. However, those people will be welcome to apply for positions at the new press, granted they will have to accept the new teaching aspect of the job, he said.

The press will be funded by book sales, in addition to broader university revenues, he said.
The director of the new press will be Speer Morgan, editor of *The Missouri Review*. In that role, he worked to adapt literary journals for online publishing, which made him a prime candidate for directing the new press, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a news release.

Morgan said the new press will serve “an experimental, educational and teaching function, as well as function as a press.”

One of its first goals will be making more books available online, he said, which will require more effective marketing. A more long-term goal of the new model is to incorporate multimedia elements into more e-books, Morgan said. This will be a way to incorporate new technologies in the delivery of books.

The press will be run by an editorial staff, which Morgan is currently looking into hiring. There will be additional graduate students who will intern with the press. They plan to hire five grad students as interns, he said, and Morgan hopes to have completed staff hiring by the fall.

The first person Morgan needs to hire is an editor. Then, he will work on hiring a managing editor and a publicity director. Unlike its predecessor, which served the entire UM System, the new press will be located and operated by MU.

This will help get the campus involved with the press, instead of having the press as its own entity, Morgan said. It will also allow the press to incorporate student learning and teaching, which will further the education of students.

Morgan plans to keep his role as editor of *The Missouri Review*, in addition to serving as the new director of the press. The two publications will be separate entities, but both will report to Michael O’Brien, dean of the MU College of Arts and Science, Morgan said.

Both the School of Journalism and the College of Arts and Science are looking into courses in which undergraduate students will get practical experience, Mills said.

The press will allow students to work and learn from an experienced staff. It will also give MU faculty on the new press an opportunity to teach and research new innovative publishing methods, Mills said.

*Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.*
MU has changed its 'core mission'

Editor, the Tribune: It is telling that the University of Missouri is underlining its dedication to athletic excellence by beginning to compete in the tough Southeastern Conference while it closes its once-top-notch University of Missouri Press.

In his statement attending the announcement, UM President Tim Wolfe suggested that in considering the relationship of programs to the university's "core mission," the press had been re-evaluated and found wanting.

Rather, now the university appears wanting — in the dedication to first-rate scholarship that makes an institution like a university press possible. University presses "teach the teachers" by demanding rigor in useful research and writing, and by sharing those results with scholars and the public. Building a fine university press requires vision and discipline and brings great prestige to its academic sponsor. Before it was "downsized" a few years ago, the University of Missouri Press was one of the finest in the nation, and it has continued its devotion to excellence even with its reduced list of releases.

It is a shame that as MU demonstrates its commitment to become a "top-tier" player in athletics, the same devotion cannot be mustered to a cause as worthy as a university press that was once top-tier and was allowed to erode.

In this writer's opinion, few academic enterprises are so pertinent to a university's responsibility to educate human beings and citizens. Sadly, that responsibility seems not to be part of MU's "core mission."

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The University of Missouri Press will live -- in name, at least, although whether it's too early to know whether its form will live up to the name. The university on Monday unveiled some details about the operations of the reimagined press, nearly two months after it announced plans to phase out the press because of financial constraints, setting off complaints from many critics in academe. Missouri officials described the new iteration of the press as more focused on digital publishing and designed to provide more teaching and training to students. The news release does not say how it would do the latter, but an article in The Columbia Tribune said Missouri faculty members would be peer reviewers, and graduate students and interns from relevant campus programs would help edit its publications.

Speer Morgan, editor of The Missouri Review, a literary journal, and a professor of English, will direct the new press.
Combo of gold and tea may effectively treat cancer better than chemo

Gold may have more than just monetary value. It may be an effective tool against fighting deadly forms of cancer as well.

**Scientists from the University of Missouri have discovered a way to target prostate tumors by using radioactive gold nanoparticles in combination with a compound found in tea leaves. They say the treatment could be drastically less harmful than chemotherapy options.**

Currently, cancer patients require large doses of chemotherapy to help eradicate their cancer cells. However, while the chemicals help to shrink tumors, they also spread throughout other parts of the body, harming vital organs and causing various adverse health effects.

According to this most recent study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the new gold/tea treatment would require doses that are thousands of times smaller than typical chemotherapy. The compound also travels directly to the tumor's source without spreading throughout the rest of the body and causing harm to other areas.

“These types of chemicals in tea have the properties capable of converting gold salt into nanoparticles,” Kattesh Katti, senior research scientist at the MU Research Reactor as well as the study’s lead author, told FoxNews.com. “They are found in all teas - green tea, black tea, etc. These chemicals have an affinity to the chemicals that are in the prostate cancer cells. So they take these nanoparticles and keep them within the tumor for as long as it takes to eliminate the tumor.”

“We were able to reduce the tumor size by 70 to 80 percent,” Katti added.

In order to combat the tumor cells, the gold was initially given radiochemical properties, allowing it to emit beta rays which shrink the tumor.
“It’s actually a fairly simple process,” Cathy Cutler, research professor at the MU Research Reactor and co-author of the study, told FoxNews.com. “We take just natural gold, and we more or less eradicate it in the research reactor,” which according to Katti is one of the few places in the world able to produce therapeutic radioisotopes. “We then take that gold and react that with components from the tea and make nanoparticles.”

Since the gold’s radioactivity has a half-life of 2.7 days, the nanoparticles take close to three days to decay by half their amount, making them effective for up to three weeks. To test the particles’ efficiency, the team utilized the treatment in mice with human prostate cancer cells. When the nanoparticles were injected into the subjects along with the tea compound – known as Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) – the particles were both protected and then transported by the EGCG straight to the source of the tumor.

“I use a simple example,” Katti explained of the process. “Imagine a limousine – the EGCG is the limo and the nanoparticles of gold are the passengers. The passengers board the limo, the limo takes them to the tumor, they see the horror of the tumor and start to fight it.”

According to Cutler, current therapy for aggressive prostate cancer involves injecting hundreds of radioactive ‘seeds’ into the prostate – a method she said is ineffective due to the size of the seeds and their inability to deliver doses that are effective. The size of the gold nanoparticles, Cutler said, allows them to stay close to the tumor without spreading and damaging other parts of the body.

“There’s been a lot of interest in using gold for treating cancer because the nuclear properties are fairly ideal,” Cutler said. “However, it has a lot of redox chemistry, so the body either reduces its size or oxidizes it throughout the rest of the body. But when we transform them into these nanoparticles, they more or less stays where we’re targeting them to go.”

Katti and Cutler both agreed that their new treatment would not be a substitute for chemotherapy, but perhaps an aid to existing therapies.

“There’s a hope that eventually the therapies will work in combination,” Katti said. “Our therapy might work to control the primary therapy. The majority of these [chemotherapy] agents do not destroy the primary site of the tumor. So these patients are given agents again and again, but the tumor cells at the primary site keep spreading throughout body. Perhaps we can control the size of the tumor [with this new treatment], stop it from spitting out those tumor cells, and use chemotherapy to get rid of the rest of the tumor cells throughout the body.”

Overall, Katti noted the straightforwardness of their therapy, with hopes of testing it on larger animals such as dogs relatively soon. Katti also predicted that human clinical trials were not far off either – perhaps within the next five years.

“We look forward to eliminating pain and suffering through this approach,” Katti said. “And this is a very simple approach. The chemical we use has already been through the human food chain for thousands of year. Most populations in the world consume tea. It will make patients and non patients alike very comfortable.”
Green Tea and Gold to Treat Prostate Cancer?

A combination of gold and green tea compounds may be the future of prostate cancer treatments, according to a new mouse study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Researchers from the University of Missouri found that a combination of a compound found in green tea leaves radioactive gold nanoparticles were able to destroy the tumor cells. The tea compound, which was attracted to the cancerous cells, helped to deliver the gold nanoparticles, which killed the cancer cells.

Researchers said large doses of chemotherapy, which sometimes have toxic side effects, are currently used to treat a variety of cancers, but the new treatment would require doses that are "thousands of times" lower than that of chemotherapy. The particles are small enough to destroy the diseased cells, but leave the healthy surrounding tissue and cells intact.

"By combining a natural component in green tea that has an affinity for prostate tumor cells, we have formed gold nanoparticles that have a high uptake in tumor cells," said Dr. Cathy Cutler, research professor at the MU Research Reactor and co-author of the study. "This formulation of gold nanoparticles, which has shown such tumor cell death at such a low dose in a model of aggressive human prostate cancer indicates it could be effective for aggressive prostate cancer."

The green tea compound used in the study, known as epigallocatechin-gallate, or EGCg, is an antioxidant that has been shown in prior research to have cancer-fighting properties.

According to the Centers Disease Control and Prevention, more than 200,000 men in the United States were diagnosed with prostate cancer, and more than 28,000 died of the disease in 2008.

There is currently no treatment for aggressive prostate cancer, which is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men. In less aggressive forms of the disease, physicians inject hundreds of radioactive "seeds" into the prostate to treat the cancer, but the seeds have limited tissue penetration, so it is a treatment best used for early stages of the cancer that is contained in the prostate.
Dr. David Crawford, professor of surgery and radiation oncology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, said the use of nanoparticles for a number of areas in medicine to deliver therapy is “exciting,” and, while early in development, still promising.

But Dr. Derek Raghavan, president of Levine Cancer Institute at Carolinas HealthCare System, called the study “headline hunting” and noted the gap between data and clinical application is “vast.” He said there are years of research needed to ensure the safety and efficacy of the treatment.

“I wish people working in basic labs would stop making these types of promises at such an early stage,” Raghavan said. “They secure brief fame, but it is so disruptive to patients who are fighting for their lives. It also adds confusion when real progress is actually being made.”

Lab animal data only occasionally easily translates into clinical application, but many studies based in animals make lofty promises without much follow-up, Raghavan said.

Nevertheless, the University of Missouri scientists were optimistic in their findings, and said they plan on following up their research in dogs, which they said get a form of the disease very similar to the human form.
MU research yields breakthrough in cancer treatment

By Janese Silvey

University of Missouri researchers say they have discovered a simple solution with the power to drastically reduce cancerous tumors.

The wine-red color of the liquid indicates the presence of nanoparticles, Katti said. The solution would then be injected into a patient.

"We've struck a gold mine," said Kattesh Katti, a curators' professor of radiology and physics.

It's actually gold salt. Mixed with tea, the gold breaks down into nanoparticles. The research team discovered that an injection of radioactive gold nanoparticles coated with a chemical from tea shrinks fast-growing prostate tumors in mice by 70 percent to 80 percent. The results were replicated every time, said Katti, who is also a senior research scientist at the MU Research Reactor.

The findings are being published in the Proceedings of the Natural Academy of Sciences. The study comes three years after Katti first publicized his discovery that a compound in tea leaves could coat radioactive particles. Even before he tested the theory on live animals, the finding made headlines for its cancer-fighting potential.

For years, scientists have known radioactive gold nanoparticles have the power to kill cancer cells. The problem has been delivery: Simply injecting the nanoparticles into a body would kill healthy cells, too.

"Radiation comes out of nanoparticles and destroys everything in its way," Katti said. "There was a need for us to double up on technologies to make sure radioactive particles spend all their time interacting with cancer cells."

The compound in tea has a natural attraction to tumor cells in the prostate. When it coats the radioactive gold nanoparticles, it delivers it straight to the cancer. Katti compared it to a limousine ride, with the tea compound being the car and the nanoparticles the riders.

"The particles get on board, the limousine goes to the tumor, the passengers get out, see the horror of the tumor and start fighting," he said.
The gold has a half-life of 2.7 days, so the radioactivity from a dose would be gone in about three weeks.

Researchers envision the treatment being used to help doctors fight aggressive forms of prostate cancer that don't respond to radioactive treatments currently available, said Cathy Cutler, a professor at the MU Research Reactor.

"Most of the time, prostate cancers are slow-growing. The disease remains localized, and it is easily managed," she said. "We believe the gold nanoparticles could shrink the tumors, both those that are slow-growing and aggressive, or eliminate them completely."

Katti is especially excited about the results because the science behind it is so simple. Since publishing his initial findings in 2009, Katti said, high school students have replicated the experiment and created nanoparticles using commercially available gold salt and tea.

"The idea behind any new technology is that it has to reach everybody," Katti said.

The research team will now test the treatment on dogs — the only species other than humans that naturally gets prostate cancer — before seeking approval for a human trial. Katti is optimistic a human treatment might be available within as little as five years.

The study highlights the collaborative efforts between departments on campus, Katti said. In addition to him and Cutler, the team included Raghuraman Kannan and Charles Caldwell in radiology and Anandhi Upendran in physics. Postdoctoral scientists Ravi Shukla, Ajit Zambre, Nripen Chanda and Satish Nune also contributed, Katti said.

"When it comes to drug discovery, MU is fortunate because we have a combination of experts in cancer research, animal modeling, isotope production and nanomedicine," Katti said, "and state-of-the-art research infrastructure to take discoveries from 'the bench to the bedside' and never leave campus."

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"I believe this could really help advertisers and certain types of media groups target potential customers with particular ads on social media sites," Shoenberger said. "Identifying these individuals using the motivation activation measure can give advertisers an advantage over their competitors and bring some order to online advertising."

For example, she says companies that want to target consumers for a high-risk activity should try to determine who is active on Facebook and frequently posting pictures and updating their status.

The study was recently presented at the International Communication Association Conference in Phoenix.
Gene Therapy Treatment Extends Lives of Mice With Fatal Disease

A team of University of Missouri researchers has found that introducing a missing gene into the central nervous system could help extend the lives of patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) -- the leading genetic cause of infantile death in the world.

SMA is a rare genetic disease that is inherited by one in 6,000 children who often die young because there is no cure. Children who inherit SMA are missing a gene that produces a protein which directs nerves in the spine to give commands to muscles.

The MU team, led by Christian Lorson, professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology and the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, introduced the missing gene into mice born with SMA through two different methods: intravenously and directly into the mice's central nervous systems. While both methods were effective in extending the lives of the mice, Lorson found that introducing the missing gene directly into the central nervous system extended the lives of the mice longer.

"Typically, mice born with SMA only live five or six days, but by introducing the missing SMN gene into the mice's central nervous systems, we were able to extend their lives 10-25 days longer than SMA mice who go untreated," said Lorson, who works in the MU Bond Life Sciences Center and the College of Veterinary Medicine. "While this system is still not perfect, what our study did show is that the direct administration of the missing gene into the central nervous system provides some degree of rescue and a profound extension of survival."

There are several different types of SMA that appear in humans, depending on the age that symptoms begin to appear. Lorson believes that introducing the missing gene through the central nervous system is a way to potentially treat humans regardless of what SMA type they have.

"This is a treatment method that is very close to being a reality for human patients," Lorson said. "Clinical trials of SMA treatment using gene therapy are likely to begin in next 12-18 months, barring any unforeseen problems."

The study, "Direct central nervous system delivery provides enhanced protection following vector mediated gene replacement in a severe model of Spinal Muscular Atrophy," was published in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications. Co-authors of the study include Jacqueline Glascock and Monir Shababi from MU College of Veterinary Medicine.
Clog-free print nozzle mimics human eye

COLUMBIA, Mo., July 16 (UPI) -- U.S. researchers say they've looked to the human eye for inspiration in designing a clog-free ink jet printer cartridge.

University of Missouri engineers addressing the problem of clogged printer nozzles that waste time and money while reducing print quality have invented a new nozzle cover, a university release reported Monday.

"The nozzle cover we invented was inspired by the human eye," engineering Professor Jae Wan Kwon, said. "The eye and an ink jet nozzle have a common problem: they must not be allowed to dry while, simultaneously, they must open. We used biomimicry, the imitation of nature, to solve human problems."

Kwon's solution uses a droplet of silicone oil to cover the opening of the nozzle when not in use, similar to the film of oil that keeps a thin layer of tears from evaporating from the eye.

In the human eye, eyelids spread the film of oil over the layer of tears during blinking. However, at the tiny scale of the ink jet nozzle, mechanical shutters "blinking" like eyelids would not work, as they would be stuck in place by surface tension.

Instead, the droplet of oil for the nozzle is moved in and out of place by an electric field, the researchers said.

In most ink jet printers, a burst of fresh ink must break through the crust of dried ink that forms if the machine isn't used regularly. This cleaning operation can waste a large amount of expensive ink over time, a waste Kwon's invention eliminates, the release said.
Tiger Town set for Georgia, Alabama games

Organizers for Tiger Town — a planned downtown fan zone established for University of Missouri home football games — announced Monday that the events will be held before the Tigers' Sept. 8 match-up with Georgia and the Oct. 13 game against the reigning BCS champion Alabama.

"We are excited to make Tiger Town part of game day in Columbia as Mizzou hosts these two SEC football powerhouses," organizer Greg Steinhoff said in a news release.

Organizers got the idea to establish Tiger Town after seeing similar celebrations at colleges in the Southeastern Conference, which MU joined this year, and see it as a way of showcasing downtown Columbia to fans of MU’s new conference rivals. The event will be held on a closed-down Eighth Street between Broadway and Elm Street.

The Tigers' clash with Georgia will be the team's SEC debut, and the conference announced today that kick-off is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. According to a website for the event, Tiger Town will get started at least four hours before kick-off, and will include a parade leading from the event to Memorial Stadium, called the Tiger Trail walk. A shuttle will also be available to take fans to the stadium from downtown.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Tiger Town announces pre-football game event dates

By Lindsey Armentrout
July 16, 2012 | 6:57 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Tiger Town organizers announced two dates for the game day event.

The pre-football game event will only be hosted before two of the four home conference games, Tiger Town organizer Greg Steinhoff said.

The selected dates are:

- Sept. 8 for the home game against the University of Georgia
- Oct. 13 for the home game against the University of Alabama

The downtown event was originally planned to take place before every Southeastern Conference home game, according to previous Missourian reports.

However, Steinhoff said the event will be limited to two games because the organizers want to focus on making the first year of Tiger Town as successful as possible. The organizers chose the Alabama and Georgia games because the two teams have a fan base that travels well, Steinhoff said.

Vanderbilt University fans do not travel extensively, Steinhoff said. And because the game against the University of Kentucky is this year’s homecoming game, downtown will already be busy with the scheduled activities. **However, it’s very possible that in future years, Tiger Town will hold events before all the Southeastern Conference home football games or even before all MU home football games, Steinhoff said.**

“We are excited because these two games we chose will bring a lot of visitors, hype and national attention,” he said.

Tiger Town will be a pregame block-party event that will close Eighth Street from Broadway to Elm Street before kickoff for the two football games. The event will begin four hours before kickoff and last until the start of the game, according to previous Missourian reports.
Missouri officials use Facebook to share drought info

By The Associated Press
July 16, 2012 | 9:47 a.m. CDT

SPRINGFIELD — Missouri agriculture officials are using social media to share information about this summer's lack of rain, extreme heat and wildfires.

The University of Missouri Extension is encouraging people and groups to post on a Facebook page devoted to the drought. It's the latest effort to use Facebook to respond to disasters.

Facebook pages also were set up after last year's flooding and the tornados in Joplin and Branson.

Extension officials have a guide for using social media to respond to disasters. It's been downloaded and printed over 10,000 times, used at FEMA trainings and even distributed to county emergency management personnel in some states.
Guest commentary: Time for sales tax fairness

By Teresa Miller | Posted: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 12:00 am | (1) comments.

As the owner of Treats Unleashed, I've grown my small business from a single shopping mall kiosk into seven retail stores stretching from St. Louis to Kansas City and employing dozens of pet-loving workers. But there's an issue brewing in Washington, D.C., that is keeping my store and many others from growing further, and making it difficult for some small-business owners to keep their doors open.

Our stores' claim to fame is our baked-from-scratch, all-natural series of dog and cat treats you can't buy anywhere else. But we also sell collars, kitty toys, dog beds, food bowls and other supplies, and we compete for that business with every retailer from national chains to the local supermarket.

I don't mind competing with a store up the street. But what I do mind are out-of-state online sellers being given a competitive advantage to sell to my customers here in Missouri. The fact that they operate with the advantages of low overhead and high volume isn't so bad. That's just economics. But the fact that they are legally exempt from collecting sales tax on sales to Missouri residents unless they have a store or other physical presence here isn't fair. With sales tax as high as 9 percent in locations where we do business, that's a huge price advantage.

The lack of sales tax online is definitely hurting my business. I have customers every day saying they love shopping in our stores, but that they want us to match the prices they get online. Having to collect sales tax makes that impossible, and some walk out the door empty-handed as a result.

Treats Unleashed isn't the only Missouri store being affected. A University of Missouri study found the state has lost $468 million annually in sales tax revenue over the past decade because of untaxed online sales. With online sales rapidly growing, the study predicts the state will miss out on $1.4 trillion between now and 2014.

Fortunately, legislation pending in Congress co-sponsored by Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt and Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin would address this issue. The Marketplace Fairness Act effectively would overturn a 1992 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that created the sales tax loophole by saying it was too complicated to collect across state lines.

Under the bill, states that simplify their sales tax systems either by joining a compact known as the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement or adopting specified simplification steps on their
own would be given authority to require online sellers to collect the same as local stores. Both Missouri and Illinois have considered joining the two dozen states already in the compact. But while the compact allows limited voluntary sales tax collection, none of the states are allowed to require mandatory collection unless Congress passes the federal legislation.

The Marketplace Fairness Act has the backing of the National Retail Federation, which represents both bricks-and-mortar and online sellers. Even Amazon — the largest online seller — is supporting its passage.

There's a lot riding on being able to remain competitive. More than 40 employees depend on my business for their livelihoods. Many support families with the wages they earn at Treats Unleashed, and all pay local taxes, local rent or mortgages, and shop in local stores. Treats Unleashed also hosts in-store events with a variety of animal rescue groups, and each month highlights an organization making a positive impact on the lives of area animals. We donate more than $15,000 a year to area non-profit organizations.

With online sales growing four times as fast as brick-and-mortar sales, there are many local stores that can't compete much longer. And the issue goes beyond fairness among retailers. State and local governments are losing an estimated $24 billion a year in uncollected taxes. When those governments trim their budgets, it's hard-working Americans like police officers, firefighters and teachers who lose their jobs or see their salaries cut.

Small local retailers create local jobs, pay local taxes, and play major roles in our communities. We're not asking for someone else's taxes to be raised or ours to be lowered. We're just asking for Congress to level the playing field.

*Teresa Miller is the owner of Treats Unleashed, based in St. Louis. She recently lobbied in Washington, D.C., for an Internet sales tax as part of the Washington Leadership Conference.*
Rural practice becomes more attractive for law school graduates

Tough competition and limited slots in the big city push new lawyers toward little towns.

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

When Jeff Mason arrived in Goodland, Kan., 29 years ago, he was the 17th lawyer in town.

“We were stepping on top of each other,” Mason said, laughing.

But over the years, some lawyers moved away from the western Kansas town and others died. Today, just seven lawyers practice in Goodland, population 4,489.

Like many small towns across the Midwest, where some people drive 100 miles to sit down with an attorney, Goodland couldn’t get newly minted lawyers to even sniff at jobs there.

“Everybody wanted to go to the big firm in the big city,” Mason said.

But those city jobs are increasingly hard to come by. The National Association for Law Placement reports the number of jobs at large firms in the nation’s 20 biggest cities dropped to 4,851 in 2010, almost a 27 percent decline from 2009.

Many new lawyers are finding themselves out of work or underemployed and saddled with student loan debt that averages more than $100,000. As of February, the employment rate for 2011 law-school graduates was 86 percent, the lowest level since 1994.

Suddenly, those small-town jobs look more appealing. And more law schools are helping their graduates see that light.

“We are the state’s law school and we think we have an obligation to supply attorneys not just to the big urban and suburban areas but also to the rural areas,” said Arturo Thompson, assistant dean for Career Services at the University of Kansas Law School.

KU and Washburn law schools, with the Kansas Bar Association, are launching two programs aimed at getting law students interested in rural practice.
One, the rural and solo program, was set up to show students that a lawyer practicing in a rural area must master the same kinds of business management skills needed to establish a solo practice anywhere.

Another program arranges unpaid internships that match students with rural lawyers and judges. Students get a feel for working in small towns, and the lawyers get to meet potential hires. The internships also save money and time for small-town state judges who can’t pay legal assistants because of tight budgets.

Lane Frymire, who grew up a few miles from Dallas, graduated from Washburn’s law school in 2010 and for nearly two years has been practicing at a firm in Liberal, Kan. Since the market for attorneys was flooded, he decided to get a job in a smaller town, where there wasn’t as much competition.

“I couldn’t be happier,” he said.

He said he and other lawyers at small-town firms are not worried that big-city law school graduates will begin flocking to small towns and gobbling up all the jobs. It takes a person with certain expectations to enjoy country living.

“Small-town living is not glamorous, but it has its advantages,” Frymire said. “My house is four blocks from my office, and I see my clients throughout town on a regular basis.”

Jeremiah Platt, a 2006 Washburn graduate, originally wanted to take his degree to Denver to start his practice. He’d grown up in small towns across Kansas and wanted to go to the big city.

But the job he reluctantly took was in Manhattan, Kan. Turns out, Platt said, “I wouldn’t trade it.”

Today he’s partner in a two-person firm and among the 10 criminal defense attorneys in town. He never has to advertise; word of a good defense attorney travels over fences and across church pews, from one neighbor to another.

This summer, Platt’s firm hired a third attorney — a recent graduate who’s yet to take the Kansas Bar.

In the career development center at the University of Missouri Law School, no official programs steer students toward small towns. But students there and at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, working with the Missouri Bar, can go to networking sessions and conferences involving lawyers in solo practice or working in small-town firms.

Grant Shostak, director of MU’s law career development center, said these sessions present opportunities for students to learn about living and working in a rural community, and, down the road, to land a position at a small-town firm.

The news that small towns have jobs is catching on with graduates.

In Fulton, Mo., a town of 12,000 about 25 miles east of Columbia, Chris Wilson is Callaway County prosecutor. Wilson said that a few years ago when his office advertised openings for assistant prosecutor positions, it got three to five applications. Last year, a job opening brought in 60 applications. This year, about 70 people have applied for an opening.

“In interviewing applicants who are right out of law school, a lot of them are telling me they are having a difficult time finding jobs,” Wilson said. “They had to expand their boundaries even though home might
be Kansas City or St. Louis. And we are not just seeing applicants from central Missouri, either. We’ve had applicants from as far away as New York and Florida.”

But preparing to become a small-town lawyer requires a little more training than the average graduate might need.

Shawn Leisinger, director of the Centers for Excellence at the Washburn School of Law, said that law students looking to work in rural areas need to be a bit more versed in various types of law than other graduates. Because lawyers are scarce, those practicing in those rural areas may be called on for anything, including settling an estate and criminal defense.
The Tribune's View

Street closure

Bengals makes its own request

Hank Waters

The owners of Bengals Bar & Grill at the corner of Elm and Sixth streets have requested closure of several neighborhood blocks for an October concert they say might draw as many as 5,000 or 6,000 people.

The Downtown Community Improvement District board has voted to recommend the closure to the Columbia City Council, and the University of Missouri is considering a similar request. The university has jurisdiction over some of the street area.

This is the latest chapter in the ongoing saga of downtown street closure as public policy. The current debate more or less kicked off with a denied request for closing streets in the vicinity of Harpo's bar at Tenth and Cherry streets. Permitted closure of North Ninth Street near The Blue Note for a series of outdoor concerts rankled other downtown bar and restaurant owners, who complained of unfair advantage.

Bengals helped get signatures from 21 similar businesses on a petition urging that the Blue Note closure be limited. In response, Bengals was told it should stage its own concert instead of griping, so today Bengals justifies its own closure request partly on that premise.

All this chitchat has been a necessary preamble to lucid policy regarding downtown street closures, an issue suddenly focused with the MU move to the Southeastern Conference, whose visiting football teams promise to bring unprecedented hordes of fans to Columbia looking for a good time.

Closing downtown streets for any reason has a checkered past. For years downtown merchants fought any such effort, believing their economic well-being depended on a steady stream of car traffic driving through central-city streets and, willy-nilly, past their front doors. A latter-day vestige of that attitude persists but threatens to limit the potential of downtown and the whole city at times when communitywide entertainment is the stock in trade.

And for Columbia, Missouri, communitywide entertainment increasingly is an important stock in trade.
We are not destined to become New Orleans, but already with our enhanced college atmosphere we are developing our own reputation. To be known as the town where visitors must come to have fun is anything but a frivolous asset. People who come for fun will do serious shopping and investing. We locals can share the ambience as we choose, and we are bound to share the economic benefits.

So the emerging city policy should be to accommodate street closings as a matter of course, only saying no when clear detraction is evident, not just because streets are supposed to carry cars and trucks. In their highest and best use, public streets are supposed to carry pedestrians wandering and enriching the area, not just with their money but with the atmosphere they stimulate.

Rather than worry first about problems, let us look instead for ways to cope, so we can enjoy benefits otherwise impossible.

Close the streets for Bengals' bash, and let that be part of an ongoing policy. The more downtown real estate devoted to walking and shopping and having fun, the better. The least productive use is a glut of vehicles clogging the streets.

HJW III
Mizzou's SEC debut will be on ESPN2

STAFF REPORT | Posted: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 12:20 am | (0) comments.

The Missouri Tigers' Southeastern Conference debut against Georgia on Sept. 8 at Faurot Field will be a 6:45 p.m. game telecast on ESPN2.

Mizzou announced start times Monday for its first three games, with the Sept. 1 season opener against nonconference foe Southeastern Louisiana kicking off at 6 p.m. The game will be available only on pay-per-view.

The Arizona State game Sept. 15 also will start at 6 p.m. and again will be broadcast by ESPN2.

Start times were not announced for the other nine games on the schedule.

The entire schedule of 2012 SEC games will be broadcast by one of the conference's television partners: CBS, all of the ESPN channels, the SEC Network, CSS or Fox Sports South.