

Neurosciences Center unveiled at University Hospital

A new neurosciences center is opening tomorrow on the seventh floor of University Hospital that will allow neurologists and neurosurgeons to collaborate more closely using the latest technology.

The Missouri Neurosciences Center is an addition five years in the making that brings together on one floor the doctors and nurses who have the expertise to treat and operate on those with brain-related conditions. Before the new space, those teams had been on separate floors even though their work overlapped.

Even without a center, though, the team of neuroscientists at University of Missouri Health Care is award-winning for its expertise in stroke treatment and nationally recognized for its epilepsy program.

"Now we have the facility to go with the ability to give the best care to our patients," said Pradeep Sahota, chairman of the MU School of Medicine's Department of Neurology.

He and Scott Litofsky, chief of the division of neurosurgery, gave the Tribune a tour of the center before a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning.

The center has four rooms specifically set up for patients suffering from epilepsy. The rooms are connected to a system that allows health care providers to monitor patients 24 hours a day to watch for signs of seizures. Although some outwardly signs, such as shaking, are obvious, others carry more subtle eye or mouth movements, Sahota said.

The patient or family members also have an alert button they can push if they see signs of a seizure coming on that might not be captured on the video monitors.

By recording patients, doctors can treat seizures immediately and then go back and review the footage to match physical signs with corresponding brain waves. The idea is to zoom in on the area of the brain causing problems and, if possible, have a neurosurgeon remove it.

The epilepsy area is separated by the nursing station from the other 24 patient rooms. All of them are private and come with technologically advanced equipment such as machines that automatically track heart rates and other vital signs, storing the information on electronic medical records.

The rooms are family-friendly, too. They have spacious seating areas, a desktop space and flat-screen televisions that double as computer monitors where patients can check email or surf the Web. Cabinets in the rooms are accessible by hospital staff from the hallway, which means nurses and aides can restock linens or supplies without having to go into a patient's room.

Similar "smart" rooms have been installed on the sixth floor of University Hospital and are expected to be standard in the new patient tower under construction at the hospital.

During public remarks today, Litofsky said the team is excited about the possibilities of the new center, where health care providers will work with patients with multiple sclerosis, those with brain or spine tumors, stroke victims and patients with other brain-related issues. "What was once a vision," an emotional Litofsky said, "has now become a reality."



MU fills site of former 'Tiger Spot' mosaic with bricks

By Janese Silvey

It's as though "Tiger Spot" never existed: The giant tiger's head made of thousands of tiny tiles has been replaced with traditional bricks that match the rest of Lowry Mall on the University of Missouri campus.

After MU and artist Paul Jackson reached a settlement that allowed administrators to remove his 11-year-old public mosaic in May, a committee of various campus representatives decided to restore the space to the way it was before the creation of "Tiger Spot," spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

Mainly, the committee thought the mall could use the extra space, she said.

"It helps with student traffic, and when we have events on the mall, such as 'welcome back' student events, this will give them a little more room," Banken said.

Jackson unveiled "Tiger Spot" in 2001 after raising more than \$192,000 over two years for its creation. Bricks bearing the names of donors had surrounded the artwork, but they also were removed.

The university has not decided what to do with the donor bricks. One option is to place them around the tiger statue on Carnahan Quad, Banken said.

MU paid Jackson \$125,000 earlier this year to relinquish his rights to the public artwork, allowing the university to remove it and settling legal issues.

Jackson sued the university last year, alleging administrators "distorted" and "mutilated" his work, a violation of the Visual Artists Rights Act. He blamed the university for failing to protect the mosaic from rain at a critical point of its creation and for allowing people to walk on it before a top layer had adequate time to settle.

Administrators have said the mosaic simply didn't hold up to weather over the six years it was uncovered. A tarp was placed over the artwork in 2007.

Jackson did not respond to a Tribune message requesting comment.

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MISSOURIAN

Alden provides updates on transition to SEC

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BY Sarah Bricker

COLUMBIA — **The Missouri Tigers' transition to the Southeastern Conference continues to bring benefits to MU.**

Mike Alden, MU athletics director, released a list of updates for the upcoming athletic season in an online news release Monday.

In November, after the initial announcement that MU would join the SEC, Alden said MU needs to "step up to an even higher level as we entered the strongest conference in all of college athletics."

In Monday's release, Alden said MU has done just that for the transition. Athletics facilities will be improved, ticket sales are on track to reach a record sale point, donations to the scholarship fund are tracking 18 percent ahead of the same time last year, and new uniforms were revealed in the spring.

The updates

- Facility improvements: The athletics department unveiled a \$200 million master plan for facility improvements in and around the Sports Park. The plan was jumpstarted by a \$30 million donation from the Kansas City Sports Trust.
- Ticket sales: MU is close to reaching its goal of selling more than 45,000 season tickets. "We will sell more season football tickets for the inaugural SEC football season than we ever have in the history of Tiger Football," Alden said.
- Tiger Scholarship Fund: The fund is tracking 18 percent ahead compared to this time last year. The goal for the fund is 10,000 donors and \$10 million annually.
- Uniforms: Brand new Nike uniforms for football, soccer and volleyball will emphasize "Mizzou." Alden said the hope is that the new uniforms will be a "great advertising vehicle for the entire University and the State of Missouri."
- Pass outs: There will be no entering the stadium for start of game, exiting and then re-entering. "That will not be possible for the 2012 season and going forward, per SEC rules," Alden said.
- Marching Mizzou is being relocated to sections CC and DD on the east side of stands, which places the band with the students.
- Men's basketball benches: The Missouri men's basketball bench will now be in front of section 116 and the visiting team in front of 114, as "the SEC requires the visiting team to be located away from the home students and bands."

- Smoking: While smoking is already prohibited in and around the athletic facilities, by July 1, 2014, the entire university will be smoke free.

MISSOURIAN

No MU mention

Columbia fourth best small city to age in, study says

COLUMBIA — A new study ranked Columbia the fourth best place for successful aging out of 259 small metropolitan areas studied in the United States.

The Milken Institute published the comprehensive research on the best cities to age in within the United States. The study distinguished large metropolitan areas from small metropolitan areas — Columbia fitting into the latter category.

Cities that beat Columbia were Sioux Falls, S.D., Iowa City, Iowa, and Bismarck, N.D. Falling into the top 10 behind Columbia were Rochester, Minn., Gainesville, Fla., Ann Arbor, Mich., Missoula, Mont., Durham, N.C., and Rapid City, S.D.

Top large metropolitan areas include Provo, Utah; Madison, Wis.; and Omaha, Neb. [A full list of the rankings](#) can be found on Milkin's [Best Cities For Successful Aging interactive website](#).

The study was funded by AARP and Humana, two companies with significant financial interests in the elderly demographic. The goal of the study was to "shape the future and spread successful aging across America" by publishing rankings to stimulate competition among cities, eventually leading to the implementation of life-enhancing programs for aging Americans.

How the rankings were made

The study was a comprehensive literature review, meaning no new research findings were presented. Instead, researchers performed in-depth analyses on publicly available empirical data for 359 cities. To account for the potential disparity of resources between large cities and smaller metropolitan areas, cities were split into two groups.

The 100 largest cities examined were ranked separately from the remaining 259 smaller metropolitan areas. Rankings were determined based on eight subcomponents — health care, wellness, living arrangements, transportation convenience, financial well-being, employment and education, community involvement and general indicators. Seventy-eight empirical factors were used within these eight sub-categories.

In an effort to acknowledge the differences in needs and desires between new retirees and older seniors, the "aging" population was split into two categories. Data was weighted differently for 65- to 79-year-olds and those older than 80.

Jessica Macy, executive director of the Boone County Council on Aging, explained why distinguishing between these two groups is highly relevant.

"Everyone's health tends to go downhill as they age," she said. With the onset of health issues and increasing barriers to independence, chances are an 80-year-old is going to need a lot more care than a 60-year-old, Macy said.

Aside from this difference, Macy also pointed to differences in generational ideologies.

"It's just a very different mindset," she said, referring to World War II-era elderly, who are now in their 80's, and baby boomers, who are just coming into retirement. "As they age, it is going to cause senior services to look very different in the future," she said.

Columbia's rankings

Three sets of rankings came from the eight factors analyzed – one for the 65 to 79 age range, one for the over 80 age range and one overall ranking.

Each city ranked has its own comprehensive page on the successful aging website. Columbia was ranked number four overall, number four for ages 65 to 79 and number five for ages 80 and up.

Columbia's highest-scored asset was healthcare – it was ranked third out of 259 cities. According to the study, "abundant doctors, nurses, orthopedic surgeons and hospital beds," contributed to the high ranking, as well as many hospitals being affiliated with medical schools. Among the small metropolitan areas, Columbia ranked first in geriatric services and continuing-care facilities.

Macy warns not to be fooled by these bright statistics, though.

"We still have seniors in need in our community," she said. The Boone County Council on Aging works specifically with low-income seniors; Macy said the most recent data places 10 percent of all Columbia seniors below the poverty line. The average income of their clients is below \$16,000 a year.

Although it is true that there are two great teaching hospitals in Columbia, Macy said that healthcare is still a major problem for seniors – even on Medicare or Medicaid.

"When you have to decide between copays to see a doctor and fairly high prescription expenses or paying rent and buying food, it becomes very hard to make everything come together and keep all the bills paid," she said.

That being said, Columbia's second-highest ranking area, just under healthcare, was finance. A large working-age population and a relatively low poverty rate among seniors contributed to the city's eighth place ranking in the category.

Alzheimer's Disease care lacking in Columbia

Although Columbia was highly praised for geriatric services, rehabilitation and continuing-care facilities, the study specifically addressed a need for more specialized care. Long-term hospitals and Alzheimer's-specific care facilities were lacking.

According to Mid-Missouri Alzheimer's Association Executive Director Linda Newkirk, the need for more specific care is evident.

"Facilities that are available are full," she said. "There is a great need in Columbia for good choices for families when they reach the decision that they can no longer care for their loved one at home."

Newkirk said these facilities should have an Alzheimer's-specific wing or unit for Alzheimer's and dementia patients, with fewer residents per staff member and staff specifically trained to help Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Insurance does not cover these specific-care facilities.

"The reason we don't have more of those is because the cost of placing someone in one of those is personal expense," Newkirk said. She said building Alzheimer's-specific facilities is very costly, and because of the expense, filling them is always a concern.

Newkirk said there usually comes a time when families cannot care for elderly family members alone anymore. "Families that don't have the level of resources to place someone in a really good care facility don't have that as an option available to them," she said.

Where do we fall short?

The areas Columbia needs improvement in are wellness and community engagement, according to the study. Of the eight attributes examined, Columbia's lowest score was in wellness — by far.

Columbia ranked number 209 out of 259 on the wellness scale. This was determined by a 13-point analysis of statistics on things like Medicare enrollment, the smoking rate, diabetes cases and Medicaid eligibility. Columbia received a low ranking in wellness due to a high obesity rate, high levels of soda consumption and a high ratio of fast food restaurants to people.

The study also determined that Columbia falls short compared to other cities in terms of museums, recreational facilities, parks and golf courses.

MISSOURIAN

No MU mention

Columbia-area House, Senate candidates present their priority issues

COLUMBIA — Candidates running for local state House and Senate seats have weighed in on a series of issues during their campaigns. Although every candidate has cited funding for education and job growth as issues high on their list of goals, each has additional priorities they hope to address if they make it to Jefferson City.

Next Tuesday, voters will go to the polls to select which candidates will represent their parties in the Nov. 6 general election. Here's what area candidates had to say about their individual priorities if elected.

Senate District 19

Incumbent Sen. Kurt Schaefer (R): Bond issues

Schaefer said he would like to see a bond issue to pay for capital improvement projects at public colleges and universities. He noted, as he did when calling for a bond issue to fund improvements to Interstate 70, that the state should take advantage of its AAA bond rating and borrow while it's relatively inexpensive to do so.

A bond issue for higher education funding almost passed the legislature in 2009. A \$700 million bond issue passed the House before fiscal conservatives in the Senate stalled the measure. Had the bill passed the Senate, it would have been sent to the voters for approval.

Rep. Mary Still (D): Women's rights

Still said one of her main issues is standing up for women's rights, including making sure women have access to birth control, child care and health care. She said she has "wide support among women" and "these are issues that I understand."

During the 2012 legislative session, Republican lawmakers introduced multiple pieces of legislation aimed at stopping implementation of the Affordable Care Act. While some of the bills dealt with blocking a health insurance exchange or other parts of the law, others

focused on prohibiting a requirement that employers or health insurance providers cover abortions, contraception or sterilization if it violated their religious beliefs.

The bill sparked extensive discussion in the House. Democrats said it would make it more difficult for women to acquire contraception; Republicans said it would protect religious freedom. The legislation passed the House and Senate, but Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed it.

House District 44

Ken Jacob (D): Change legislative rules

Jacob wants to change the rules of the Missouri House to "create a better atmosphere to work on the state's problems." He said that every member has the right to be heard on an issue and that changing the rules would "force compromise and create consensus."

House rules currently allow members to speak only when recognized by the speaker of the House or the presiding member. There have been numerous instances in which speakers from either party have failed to recognize members of the minority so that they could speak on certain issues. The majority party in the House also frequently moves to shut off debate, ending discussion on legislation.

Caleb Rowden (R): Help the farming community

Rowden said an immediate priority is to help Missouri farmers deal with the recent and persistent heat wave. While Rowden normally opposes government intervention, he said it might be a good idea to use state money to help farmers.

"The farming community is really in trouble ... I think they all pretty much need it."

The excessive heat has forced farmers to consider how to deal with their herds and crops, including selling some animals to reduce costs and preserve food supplies. Earlier this month Nixon declared a state of emergency, allowing state agencies to better respond to problems caused by the drought. Nixon added \$5 million on July 26 for an emergency water assistance program aimed at helping farmers deal with the heat.

Mike Becker (R): Affordable education

Becker said his top local priority is to create a system through which high schools can offer night classes for junior college credit.

Under Becker's plan, high schools would form partnerships with universities, whose professors could tape lectures for a course. Participating high schools could access the

course files through an Internet database. He said that would allow students to access college-level education without going into debt.

"They would get a college course for a tenth or hundredth of what it would actually cost to go to college," he said.

Chris Dwyer (R): Small government

Dwyer said one of his priorities is to make sure he is "fighting for the people's rights and freedoms." Whether it's farmers, the UM System Board of Curators or any Missouri resident, he said, local officials and residents tend to know how to take care of themselves and their community better than the state government does. Dwyer added that "our economy is a symptom of a lack of freedoms" and less regulation would help spur job growth.

Dennis Smith (R): Get back on track

Smith said all his issues are centered around education, transportation and economic development. Smith said the legislature has shifted its focus away from those priorities. "They have gotten way off the track on the importance of these key issues."

House District 45

Incumbent Rep. Chris Kelly (D): Corrections system reform

Kelly, a former Boone County associate circuit judge, said he wants to focus on making Missouri's corrections system more cost-effective. He said the current system is keeping offenders in prison longer and costing taxpayers more money, but it "doesn't provide any benefit."

Nixon recently signed a bill that allows nonviolent offenders to shorten their sentences through good behavior. The bill emerged during the past legislative session after a state working group issued a report detailing several policy suggestions aimed at cutting costs in Missouri's corrections system.

If used, the report estimated its suggestions would reduce the state's prison population and save between \$7.7 million and \$16 million by fiscal 2017. However, financial estimates provided with the signed legislation stated the savings would most likely be less than \$1 million over the next five years.

"We have a lot of work left to do on making our corrections system smarter," Kelly said.

House District 46

Incumbent Rep. Stephen Webber (D): Small modular nuclear reactor project

Webber said his priority would be to develop incentives to assist the development of the Ameren-Westinghouse small modular nuclear reactor project.

Webber said he would push for tax credits and tax rebates as well as coordinating with MU to help develop the project.

Recently, the state legislature has been paralyzed when trying to pass new tax incentives and to phase out existing programs. Webber thinks the climate has "changed substantially" and that new tax breaks are "certainly possible."

Fred Berry (R): Stand in the way of the federal government

Berry said one of his priorities is to "stand in the way of the federal government that puts mandates on states that can't afford it." He added that in order to create jobs and grow the economy, "the main thing is to protect taxpayers from unnecessary regulations" and laws.

"We need the state to be stronger, and that means we have to say no to the feds."

House District 47

Nancy Copenhaver (D): Make government better, fairer

While Copenhaver said a main priority is to make government better, adding that there are multiple ways to accomplish this goal. She said one of these is to reinstate Missouri's campaign contribution limits and work on ethics reform.

Missouri does not have limits on campaign contributions. Earlier this year the state Supreme Court struck down a 2010 ethics law that required candidates for legislative and statewide offices to report contributions of \$500 or more within 48 hours during the legislative session. Democrats quickly introduced legislation to counteract the ruling and reinforce state ethics laws, but the legislation never received chamber floor time.

John Wright (D): Early childhood education

Wright said one of his priorities is to raise awareness and boost funding for early childhood education. He said it "is a big opportunity to improve student awareness at minimal cost." He added that he would promote preschool programming geared to reading and math if elected to the General Assembly.

One of Missouri's most notable and popular early childhood programs has had a rough few years with budget cuts. The Parents as Teachers program received \$34million in state funding three years ago. This year, the program will receive \$14.8 million from the state.

Mitch Richards (R): Limit the impact of the federal government

Richards said one of his priorities is to limit the relationship between the federal and Missouri governments, especially in regard to the federal health care law. He said he would work to limit the impact of the law if Missouri participates in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Richards added that implementing parts of the law, such as an expansion of Missouri's Medicaid program, would "bankrupt the state."

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act after declaring the proposed insurance mandate constitutional under the taxing authority of Congress. While the high court upheld most of the law, it struck down a section that required states to expand their Medicaid rolls, allowing states instead to choose whether to do so. Missouri has yet to decide if it will opt-in to an expansion of its Medicaid program. Richards also said lawmakers "must do all we can to support the higher education budget." Higher education institutions have received budget cuts over the past three years. The most recent cut was announced in June when the governor said he would withhold \$8.8 million from all public universities.