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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

University of Missouri to keep academic press open

September 02, 2012 12:28 pm

The University of Missouri is working restore the reputation of and financial support for its academic press, after the school reversed its decision close the 54-year-old publishing house to emphasize digital distribution.

University System President Tim Wolfe said in May that he wanted to close the University of Missouri Press and use its \$400,000 subsidy for other expenses. That prompted outrage across the university system and the country, with some authors demanding their publishing rights be returned or taking their projects elsewhere.

The decision was reversed Tuesday, when the university announced the press would continue to produce books and digital publications. Control of the press will be shifted from the four-campus university system to the Columbia campus.

The press was started in 1958 and became known for work on presidential politics, regional history and western expansion from the 19th century. It has 2,000 publications, including more than 20 volumes on Missouri writer Mark Twain and the collected works of Missouri native Langston Hughes.

Former Missouri chancellor Richard Wallace is leading a team to help with the transition to Columbia, which will require administrators to determine how to fund the operation, acquire manuscripts with a staff shortage and persuade authors to stay with the press, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (<http://bit.ly/OzcPcG>).

Wallace said he is aware that rebuilding relationships with authors is a top priority.

"There's no magic wand that's going to suddenly erase the past," Wallace said. "Fences need to be mended. We're going to work hard to do that, with authors being up there very, very high. The message would be we are going to have a high-quality academic university press."

The press currently is producing its fall list. Rather than working on future catalogs, employees spent much of the summer preparing to close the press. Many authors who were on the spring 2013 list have taken their manuscripts elsewhere and nothing has been acquired for a fall 2013 catalog.

The press also has only one editor, after Acquisitions Editor John Brenner accepted another job and Editor-in-Chief Clair Willcox was laid off.

All of those factors mean the press will not generate its normal revenue and is likely to need more than its previous subsidy. Financial details are being worked out, university spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

"We need to pay the bills, whatever they're going to be," Wallace said.

In addition, if authors do get rights to their books back, that would decrease the roughly \$700,000 in revenue generated from the backlist. Ned Stuckey-French, a Florida State University faculty member and co-organizer of a Save the UM Press Coalition, said he has heard from about a dozen authors who plan to continue to pursue their book rights unless Willcox is reinstated.

Bruce Joshua Miller, a Chicago-based book representative and co-organizer of the opposition, said Willcox might be the only person who could successfully repair the press' reputation.

However, Willcox said he doubts he would be welcomed back, especially because he was highly critical of the plans to close the press.



MU names recipients of research funding

By Janese Silvey

Research that would improve care for cancer patients, burn victims and others took a step closer to becoming real-life medical solutions today.

University of Missouri administrators announced the first round of recipients of a \$5 million partnership launched last year with the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation.

That funding is aimed to provide bridge money to help scientists get their discoveries closer to the market.

"The desire is to help research become attractive for investors and ultimately commercialization so it can benefit patients and reach society," Jake Halliday, director of MU's Coulter program, said during a reception honoring the recipients today at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

A year ago, the Coulter Foundation tapped MU to be one of 15 academic partners, a prestigious honor that puts MU in a category with Johns Hopkins University, Stanford and Duke. "It's a significant distinction for MU," Chancellor Brady Deaton told attendees at the reception.

The inaugural recipients of MU's Coulter Foundation funding are:

- Li-Qun Gu from the College of Engineering's biological engineering department and Michael Wang from the department of pathology and anatomical sciences at MU's School of Medicine, who are working on a way to develop a cost-effective, noninvasive clinical screening test to monitor lung cancer therapy.
- Raghuraman Kannan in biological engineering and Gerald Arthur from pathology and anatomical sciences, who are using nanotechnology to develop a way to detect colorectal tumors by identifying biomarkers in tissue samples.
- Sheila Grant, also in biological engineering, and Richard White in the department of orthopaedic surgery, who are using tissue engineering in hopes of creating a better, more long-lasting replacement for injured anterior cruciate ligaments, or ACLs, in the knee.
- John Viator from the department of biological engineering, who is teaming up with Stephen Barnes in the department of surgery to develop a noninvasive method to determine the depth of burn wounds to perform more precise surgery.

- Gang Yao in biological engineering and Judith Miles in the department of child health, who are trying to develop an economical tool to identify neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism, in toddlers in hopes of providing therapy at more crucial stages of a child's development.

Jinglu Tan is the principal investigator of MU's Coulter Transitional Partnership Program. He's also chairman of the department of biological engineering but said it's coincidence that all engineering recipients are in his department.

A committee made up of investment fund managers, researchers and entrepreneurs, he said, went through a rigorous process of reviewing the applications for funding.

The partnership with the Coulter Foundation provides MU with \$666,667 a year, with participating MU departments pitching in the \$333,333 in matching funds. Future projects will be selected over the next four years.

MU's physicians and engineers receive \$5 million from Wallace H. Coulter partnership

By Alyssa Schueneman

August 31, 2012 | 7:03 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **A partnership with the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation will help fund five biomedical engineering research projects at MU's School of Medicine and College of Engineering.** The Coulter Translational Partnership Award in Biomedical Engineering will award \$5 million over the next five years to the five projects as well as several more rounds of selected projects, said Laura Gerding, a School of Medicine spokeswoman.

"The awards are designed to help research become attractive for investment and ultimately commercialization so that it can benefit patients and society," program director Jake Halliday said during a celebration of the partnership on Friday.

MU is one of 15 universities nationally to receive the award; others include Johns Hopkins, Stanford and Duke universities. MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said it is significant and distinctive to achieve this status, and it will expand on MU's existing resources.

"We are one of few universities in the nation with schools and colleges of medicine, engineering, nursing, health professions, veterinary medicine, agriculture and business, as well as a nuclear research center and comprehensive academic medical center all on the same campus," Deaton said at the event at Reynolds Alumni Center.

Wallace H. Coulter was an engineer and founder of a medical diagnostics company in Miami and was a founding father in laboratory hematology, the science and study of blood. According to the foundation's website, his deepest passion was to improve health care and make those improvements available and affordable for everyone.

"These researchers share a passion for exploration, innovation, and collaboration with Coulter," said Robert Tzou, interim associate dean at MU's College of Engineering. "They are some of our most promising engineers and physicians."

The teams are working on transitional research projects, which take results out of the lab and into the community. The five winning projects are led by an engineer and a physician. The projects presented Friday were:

- Li-Qun Gu and Michael Wang are working on a way to better diagnose and monitor lung cancer therapy. They're investigating the use of a protein as an early diagnostic tool that can be used as a cost-effective and non-invasive screening test to monitor lung cancer therapies.
- Raghuraman Kannan and Gerald Arthur with help from biological engineering student Chuck Caldwell are working on a kit that will help with personalized diagnosis of a cancer patient's potential response to a particular chemotherapy drug, Kannan said. The team has developed an antibody that attaches to a protein on cancerous cells to help determine the type of tumor and, consequently, the course of treatment.
- Sheila Grant and Richard White are developing technology that will produce tissue grafts to help with anterior crucial ligament (ACL) injuries. Their developments will provide a tissue network that will integrate with the surrounding joints better, will last longer and will have better functionality than current grafts.
- John Viator and Stephen Barnes are developing a laser that will help create an image of burn wounds, which will result in more effective treatment of burn victims. The laser will be able to probe the burn and determine the depth of the wound. Depending on whether the skin is dead, with brown, dried blood or healthy with red blood, the laser will react differently and can then create a depth profile to provide objective information that the surgeon can use to determine course of action.
- Gang Yao and Judith Miles are working on parameters for a light reflex test that will help identify neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism, in infants and toddlers. The test is called pupillary light reflex (PLR) and measures pupil size changes in response to a short light flash. Documenting changes in a child's PLR over time can help monitor a child's neurodevelopmental progress.

These five projects were selected because they had scientific merit and met clinical needs, according to a release from the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science at MU. Over the next four years, more projects at MU will be chosen for funding.

"I look forward to watching the research develop into products that will help patients here and around the world," Tzou said.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Sexual assault in Virginia Avenue Garage reported early Sunday

By Becky Neems

September 2, 2012 | 7:26 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday, **MU police received a report that a woman was sexually assaulted around 10 p.m. Saturday in the Virginia Avenue Garage at MU.**

According to the news release, the suspect assaulted the victim in a light-colored Chevrolet Impala parked in the garage.

Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.

Mizzou A.D. Alden grateful for extension

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

COLUMBIA -- Mike Alden has maintained that he considers his position as Missouri's athletic director to be a destination job.

On Friday, Alden reiterated that point while also expressing gratitude and delight about his recently announced two-year contract extension that will keep him at Missouri through 2019.

Alden said Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton first approached him about the extension "several" months ago.

"It was something about 'Hey, we want to make sure you're going to be here for a long time,'" said Alden, Missouri's athletic director since 1998. "My point to him was, 'Unless you tell me something different boss, I don't plan on going anywhere. This is where I want to be.'"

Alden said the talks evolved from there, adding that the length of the extension was also proposed by Deaton.

"It's an indication of the great job our coaches and staff are doing," Alden said. "I'm a recipient of that. For me to get the extension, I'm very appreciative of it."

Over the past year, Alden has not only helped guide Missouri from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference, he's also overseen the start of a \$200 million plan to upgrade to the school's athletic facilities. Alden expects the plan to be completed in 8-10 years, but added Friday that he was happy the extension puts him in position to see it through.

"I'm just looking forward to seeing all these things come together," Alden said. "It gives me an opportunity to be able to do that."

Alden also addressed several other topics Friday:

- Missouri is still looking into finishing the renovation of the east side of Memorial Stadium a year early. The renovation calls for the construction of an upper bowl that will add more than 5,000 general admission and 1,000 premium seats, plus restrooms, concessions and lounge spaces.

"We know we'll have that completed by 2015 and it could be done sooner," Alden said. "I want to make sure we don't overpromise and under deliver."

Alden said it will ultimately come down to how long the design phase lasts. He added that other factors, such as weather, could also keep it from being built a year early.

“Are we prepared to come out and say ‘Hey, that thing will be done by 2014? I don’t know if we can say that yet,” Alden said. “But I know that it’s moving in that direction ... if we could, it would be awesome.”

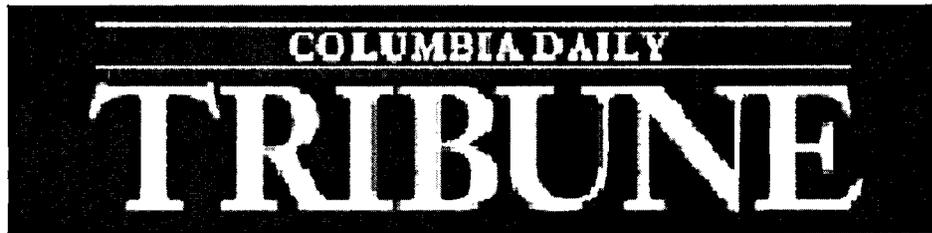
- Alden was excited to see Missouri surpass its goal of selling a school-record 45,000 season football tickets this year. In comparison, Alden said Missouri sold a little over 39,000 last season.

“That’s pretty special,” Alden said. “It’s never happened here before, so we’re pretty excited. We’re just looking forward to it happening on an annual basis.”

- Alden had no new information to share on the NCAA’s ongoing investigation at the University of Miami, where current Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith used to coach.

Alden did, however, express some frustration about the process, pointing out that it has been more than a year since Yahoo! Sports reported the claims of former booster and convicted Ponzi schemer Nevin Shapiro, who accused Haith of having knowledge of NCAA rule-breaking at Miami.

“It’s frustrating because ... now we’re at one year and two weeks (since it came out),” Alden said. “I wish I had some more updates for you but I don’t.”



Mike Alden discusses contract extension

By [Joe Walljasper](#)

The day after the University of Missouri announced a two-year contract extension for Mike Alden, the athletic director met with a small group of reporters to discuss the new deal, which runs through 2019.

Alden is beginning his 15th year at MU. He said before he signed the extension, he thought about whether it meant this was the place he would end his career.

"When you do this, does it say, 'This is your last stop?' The answer to that is, 'Yeah,' " Alden said. "And I feel good about that. Mizzou is who we are. Mizzou is what we love. Love our institution. Love the state of Missouri."

It was suggested that former basketball Coach Mike Anderson made a similar statement right before bolting to Arkansas in 2011.

"Different guy," Alden said with a laugh.

Only two men — Don Faurot and Chester Brewer — have held Alden's position longer at Missouri. When he took over in 1998, Missouri had a budget of \$13.7 million. It is now \$65 million. He was a key figure, along with MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, in the decision to move from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference, a move that was greeted enthusiastically by the majority of MU fans.

There have been some trying times, too, most notably the botched dismissal of basketball Coach Quin Snyder in 2006 that nearly cost him his job. Alden survived that and went on to be named director of the year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics in 2008.

Among the numerous facilities built under Alden's watch are Mizzou Arena and a dramatically upgraded Mizzou Athletics Training Complex that houses the football offices. Plans are moving forward with \$200 million worth of new facility upgrades, including expansion at Memorial Stadium.

Here are excerpts from yesterday's Q&A.

Q: There's been a lot of peaks and valleys in your time here, obviously a lot of highs and lows. Do you ever think about where you came from, from those valleys, to where you are now?

A: I've talked about that before. I think the biggest opportunities for growth are those where you're challenged the most. When you face the greatest adversity is when you learn servant leadership. I think it's a humbling experience that really teaches you humility, and it provides you the best learning opportunity you could ever have. Certainly we've had some of those opportunities here at Mizzou, and I'm very appreciative of those learning opportunities. Hopefully, it's made us better at what we do.

Q: What was the timeline on the extension?

A: It was first approached from Dr. Deaton probably several months ago. It was something about, "Hey, we want to make sure you're going to be here for a long time." My point to him was, "Unless you tell me something different, boss, I don't plan on going anywhere. This is where I want to be."

Q: Way back in the past there were times when your name would come up when other jobs opened. Does this extension say this is probably the last stop for you?

A: I thought about that on my way over here. I'm going to give you my answer in a minute. But usually a lot of guys in our position would say, "Well, I don't know." But I've got to tell you, I thought about that on my way over, and I'd say yes. The answer to your question is, "Yeah." When we first came to Mizzou in '98, we said this is a destination place for Rockie, Jake and I. We love it here.

Q: What would you consider your greatest accomplishment?

A: I don't know if you could measure that. I'd have a hard time responding to that one. There's been so many great things that our kids have done. People might say, "Well, it's facility improvements." They may say it's how well our kids are doing academically. They may say it's the entrance into the SEC. It might be hiring coaches — Gary (Pinkel) or Ehren Earleywine or Frank Haith or even Mike Anderson, just various people. It's for others to make that judgment, but for me it's a combination of lots of things.

Q: Any updates on the upcoming facility projects? I know at one point there was some thought that you could get the east-side stadium addition done a year early if everything broke right.

A: We know we'll have that completed by 2015, and it could be done sooner. What we don't want to do is I want to make sure we don't over-promise and under-deliver. Can we get that done earlier than 2015? I think we can, but are we prepared to come out and say that will be done by 2014? I don't think we can say that yet. But I know it's moving in that direction. So I know we'll have it done by 2015, and it could be 2014. The dependence of that is the design phase. How quickly can we get it designed, weather factors, other things are in play there. But if we could, it would be awesome to get it done by 2014.

Q: It's been more than a year that you've been waiting on this NCAA business with Miami. Is there any sort of update at all you can give us on that, or even any discussions you've had with the NCAA about what Frank Haith's role down there was? Can you assure the fans of anything?

A: No, and I wish there was some things I could talk to you about. It's frustrating, because I recall it was Aug. 17, 2011, if I'm not mistaken (when news of possible NCAA violations at Miami broke). Now, we're at one year and two weeks. I wish I had some more updates for you, but I don't.

Q: Season-ticket sales, or ticket sales in general, how did that match up to what you had hoped or projected?

A: It's interesting, we were in a staff meeting, oh, I don't know, six months ago, eight months ago, and we had sold 39,000-and-change season tickets last year, and we said, "What's our goal going to be for next year?" I'm telling you guys, there wasn't a lot of data that went along with it, but we just said, "Let's shoot for 45,000." You could see everybody in the room was just, "Whoa." That's a huge jump. We've never seen that kind of increase before. Then we determined how many could we actually sell knowing it was a little shy of 47,000 seats and that would be it, that's all you could sell out. So to take a look at 39,000 several months ago to setting a goal without a lot of data to support it and all of a sudden passing that goal and selling them all out, that's pretty special. It never happened here before, so we're pretty excited.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

First MU African-American graduate student speaks to inspired audience

By Keith Reid-Cleveland

August 31, 2012 | 4:53 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Gus T. Ridgel carries history with him, and not just because he is 86 years old. Ridgel **was the first African-American to graduate from MU with a master's degree.**

"This is entirely a new university than the one that I knew and I am pleased with the progress it has made," Ridgel said.

About 20 people, including students and others traveled through the rain Friday morning to hear him speak at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. It is part of two days of events at MU honoring Ridgel, including recognition at Saturday's Tiger football game.

Amina Simmons, a first-year graduate student studying counseling psychology, was brought to tears when speaking on the significance of Ridgel's appearance.

"I think as a black student, as a first-generation college student, and now that I'm in graduate school, it is always encouraging to continue to see black academics," Simmons said.

"Especially when I think about people who are the first. It's just" — she paused to regain her composure — "it's just one of those things that not only gives me hope, but it also gives me that extra push to keep going."

After he filed a lawsuit in 1950, MU was forced to admit Ridgel as its first African-American graduate student. He said the NAACP contributed to his education because money from his GI Bill had run out.

Ridgel, who completed his undergraduate degree magna cum laude at Lincoln University, said he never experienced overt racism in the classroom, but he dealt with it elsewhere in Columbia. He recalled being denied service at local restaurants and coffee shops.

"There was segregation off-campus," Ridgel said. "There was no place I could eat."

Ridgel lived alone in a two-person dorm room because no one was willing to live with him. The university originally tried to make him pay the full price but eventually only charged him the price of a single.

According to Ridgel, the president of the student government association offered to live with him but retracted his offer after students threatened to run his father out of business if he did.

Ridgel didn't have much time to enjoy a social life, although he did view a couple of football and basketball games. He managed to complete the coursework of a two-year master's program within one academic school year, in part because of finances.

Ridgel graduated in June of 1951 with a master's degree in economics.

Andrew Grabau, the development director for graduate education at MU, is responsible for having Ridgel spend the weekend at MU.

"I think it's important to honor his accomplishments," Grabau said. "He faced a lot in his hard times, and I also think a lot of our students can be inspired."

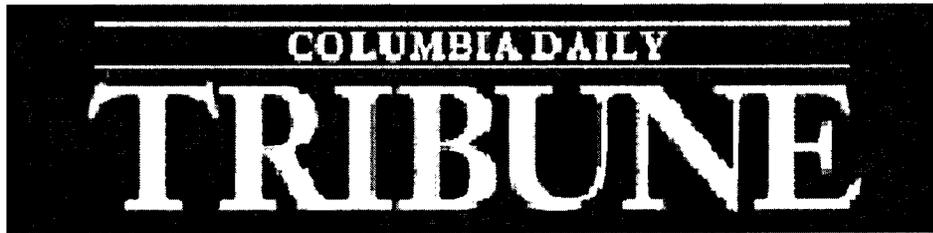
Ridgel is scheduled to have lunch Friday with about 40 graduate students who have received the Gus T. Ridgel Fellowship. The fellowship, established in 1987, supports education for underrepresented minority graduate students.

"I think the university, in setting fellowships up, is one of the greatest things the University of Missouri has ever done," Ridgel said. On Saturday, Ridgel will be the honorary coach of Missouri's opening football game against Southeastern Louisiana. He joked that as long as he won't have to call any plays, he has no problem being the coach.

When it comes to African-American students today, Ridgel said he thinks they have opportunities far beyond what he had. But the main advice he can provide is that it is their responsibility to be prepared. After graduating from MU, he went on to the job market and to pursue more education. He studied at the University of Wisconsin and studied for a year in India. He later returned to work in higher education administration at Kentucky State University, from which he retired.

"I promise you that I will be back again, before I decide to depart this earth," Ridgel said.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.



MU gets report on student bus needs

By Andrew Denney

Students want better bus service and passenger communication technology, and most would pay a little extra in school fees to get it, according to a report issued last week by a consultant hired to study University of Missouri students' mass transit use.

The 15-page report was submitted to MU by Solstice Transportation Group Inc., an Atlanta-based firm that began assessing student transit needs in January. The report recommends later hours for bus service, a student shuttle route to shopping areas and GPS bus tracking.

The recommendations were based on feedback from focus groups and student leaders, as well as observations and survey responses.

Karlan Seville, a spokeswoman for MU Campus Facilities, said the report had been expected to be completed by the beginning of the summer. However, the consultant needed more time because about 9,000 of the 44,000 surveys distributed to students, faculty and staff members were returned — a higher volume than Solstice typically sees.

"Since January, we've just been trying to learn what the students want out of transit," Seville said. "I think we've got that."

Since 1985, MU students have paid a \$16.85-per-semester fee to fund Tiger Line, a campus shuttle to large parking areas on its periphery that provides late-night service. Seville said preliminary findings from Solstice before the final report indicated that Tiger Line — particularly its late-night service, which runs until 1:30 a.m. — was not widely known to students. Since the semester began, she said, the university has worked to get the word out on Tiger Line through social media and communicating with student groups.

Last year, city leaders proposed improving bus service with the help of a new student activity fee, a model used to support successful bus systems in other Midwestern college towns. But student leaders weren't sold on the idea, and a task force that included students from the city's three colleges halted its work.

According to the Solstice report, almost 25 percent of students surveyed said they would not want to pay more to get improved service, but about 48 percent said they would pay between \$1 and \$25 more for better transit.

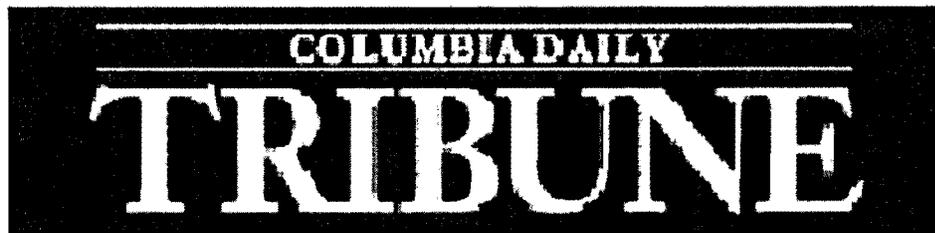
Missouri Students Association President Xavier Billingsley said that although some students said they would pay more, they did not show broad support for paying fees in the \$60 to \$80 range. That's typically what is charged to students in Midwestern university towns where transit is supported by student activity fees.

"They feel they've already paid enough," Billingsley said. He said proposals for increased student fees for bus service should come from students, rather than from the top down.

The consultant's report also found that students would like to see GPS tracking for buses that would allow riders to find out arrival and departure times through their computers or smartphones. Columbia Transit already is working to get a GPS system operating for its student-centric FastCAT Express route and eventually its entire fleet.

Public Works spokesman Steve Sapp said city staff will discuss a response to the report after Public Works Director John Glascock returns next week from a conference.

Solstice President Mitch Skyer said MU requested that he forward questions about the report to the university. The firm was paid \$65,000.



MU law dean starts at challenging time for industry

By Janese Silvey

Gary Myers knows he's taking the helm of the University of Missouri School of Law at a shaky time for the industry, but he's also confident MU will continue to buck the trends.

"It's a tough year across the board nationwide for law school graduates," said Myers, who became dean of the school Aug. 15. But MU, he said, "is having excellent success despite the challenges in the economy. I credit it to the educational experiences our students get and the career service office."

Reports released this summer show MU is faring better than the national average when it comes to law graduates getting jobs in the field. Within nine months of their spring 2011 graduation, 88.5 percent of MU School of Law graduates had employment and 83.7 percent found jobs requiring them to pass the bar exam.

Across the country, overall employment for law school students graduating in spring 2011 was 85.6 percent, of which 65.4 percent required passage of the bar, according to the National Association for Law Placement. That's the lowest employment rate in 16 years.

Myers blames the tough economy for taking a toll on the industry. Would-be individual clients are changing the way they seek legal counsel to avoid hefty hourly rates, and businesses have cut back on use of corporate attorneys.

MU began responding to the shifting demographics under the helm of Larry Dessem, who stepped down as dean this fall. Last year, the school strategically reduced the number of new students admitted to the school from 150 to 135.

"We hope we will have a better outcome in terms of finding jobs for graduates if we have fewer students to place," said Lisa Key, assistant dean of admissions, career development and student services.

The law school also boosted the number of opportunities students have through externships — which allow students to work in government or not-for-profit offices — and courses that focus on real-world skills.

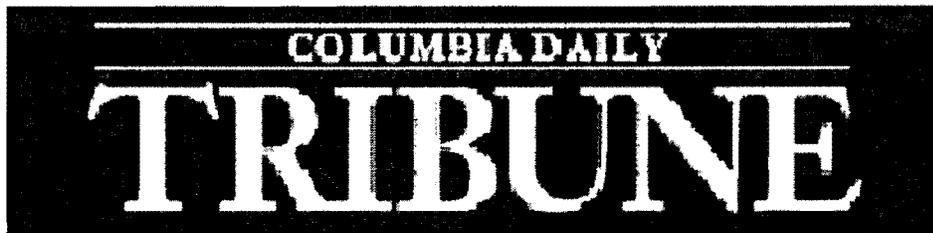
"Those types of intensive skills-related courses are hard to teach with a large number of students," Key said. "That's one of the benefits of cutting back the class size."

Myers hopes to expand those courses and training opportunities. One of his first goals is to raise money for the programs and school, both by piggybacking on a campus-wide fundraising campaign and through efforts specifically related to the school.

Myers comes to MU after spending his academic career at the University of Mississippi, where he most recently served as associate dean for research and professor of law. Before that, he worked as an associate at a firm in Atlanta and served as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Jacksonville, Fla.

He, his wife and two daughters are settling in, and Myers said he's happy to retain some ties to Mississippi through MU's move to the Southeastern Conference.

"We're really enjoying Columbia so far," he said. "It's a great city. There's so much going on."



MU gets \$250K for Hinkson Creek project

By Jacob Barker

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources announced yesterday it had awarded the University of Missouri \$253,800 to study how best to prevent water pollution in Hinkson Creek.

The grant, which is being matched by a \$169,267 contribution from MU for a total of nearly \$425,000, occurs as the university, the city of Columbia and Boone County look for ways to clean up the Hinkson in response to an order from the Environmental Protection Agency. In March, the three parties, which hold a joint permit to discharge stormwater into local streams, reached an agreement with the EPA and DNR to begin incrementally reducing runoff into the creek.

That agreement was hailed as a victory by the local entities because the EPA originally wanted them to reduce stormwater runoff by 39 percent to remove the Hinkson from the state's list of impaired waterways violating the Clean Water Act. Now, the local entities can incrementally implement improvements to the creek while scientists study it to see whether it's getting cleaner.

The DNR grant announced yesterday will specifically be used to study what's known in the field as best management practices, or BMPs. Those include stormwater control devices such as rain gardens and underground retention cells.

MU staff will monitor the effectiveness of various BMPs and educate engineers and students on the best design and maintenance.

The project is expected to be complete in March 2014. Part of the money comes from EPA funding used for Clean Water Act projects.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Tech can help or seriously damage co-parenting after divorce

BY AISHA SULTAN > Home and Family Editor • asultan@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8300

The smartphone may be the latest weapon in the War of the Roses.

Lawrence Ganong, a professor of human development and family studies at the University of Missouri, found that ex-partners who were cooperative with one another used emails and texting to facilitate effective co-parenting, while couples who did not get along used communication technology to avoid confrontations and control their former partners' access to their children, according to a release about the study.

Cooperative parents saw emails and texting as an effective tool to coordinate exchanges of their children, and some used online calendars to share information about their children's activities. But, separated parents who had hostile relationships used the same technology to manipulate their ex-spouses and limit communication, according to his report. For example, some parents in the study pretended they never received emails from their former partners.

Nearly all of the divorced parents interviewed reported using communication technology to maintain household boundaries and establish records of decisions. When divorces end with some hostility between the parents, Ganong suggests that divorce counselors focus on teaching the couples effective ways to use this technology.

Ganong and his colleagues interviewed 49 divorced parents individually about the quality of their relationships with their ex-partners.



Chinese credit use studied

By Janese Silvey

The number of Chinese households using credit cards has spiked in recent years, a University of Missouri researcher has found.

Today, at least 30 percent of urban households in China have at least one card. That means the growth rate of credit card adoption has averaged 40 percent a year between 2004 and 2009.

"With more and more people taking advantage of credit in China, it certainly increases potential consumer buying power," said Rui Yao, an assistant professor of personal finance planning in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. "However, we found that more than 90 percent of non-credit card users were unaware of safety issues inherent in credit card use, and more than 60 percent had little knowledge of the consequences of credit card default."

Yao studied data from the 2008 Survey of Chinese Consumer Finance and Investor Education conducted by Tsinghua University in China and found that most new credit card holders are younger than 35. That's because the concepts of credit and debt are contrary to the principles of Confucianism, Yao said.

Seventy percent of Chinese credit card holders said the card contributed to overspending. Most, 72 percent, were never late on their payments, while 55 percent were able to pay the full balance.

Yao said China could benefit from more financial education to encourage individuals to take advantage of debt in a responsible way.

The study was published in the Journal of Family and Economic Issues.



SEC enthusiasm runs high for fans

Businesses, school predict big gains.

By Rudi Keller

Burrel Boley was ready yesterday afternoon to discard his old Tiger polo shirt, faded from gold to a dull yellow from long use, for a new one in time for the 6 p.m. football game with Southeastern Louisiana University.

The shirt had lived out its purpose, much like MU's decades-old relationship with the conference known today as the Big 12. The new season launches the University of Missouri as a member of the Southeastern Conference, forcing the school to give up traditional rivalries in search of a higher national profile.

Boley, who with wife Linda has been attending Missouri games since 1966, said the time was right for the change. They live in Kansas City and will especially miss the annual football game with Kansas, played in recent years at Arrowhead Stadium.

"I like the traditions we had, but I don't think we had a choice," Boley said. "I think we had to go."

No MU athletic team has yet played an SEC team in a conference matchup. The first will come Saturday, when the Georgia Bulldogs visit Memorial Stadium. But Michelle Dillard, owner of Tiger Spirit on Ninth Street — where Boley and his wife were selecting shirts — said she's already seen strong sales of SEC-branded merchandise.

Sales are always good before a new season, and the conference switch has added to the rush, she said.

"I'm excited about having seven home games," she said. "I think that's pretty great for Columbia."

That brisk traffic was part of the allure of changing conferences, and the financial gains aren't limited to businesses selling shirts and other Tiger trinkets. MU athletics expects to see strong revenue gains as well, and business owners throughout the area anticipate more sales of meals, fuel and other goods.

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David Baker, assistant dean of MU's Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension, said he sees more than just a financial value in the new relationship. Baker has been a season ticket holder for most years since he arrived on campus in 1975, and yesterday he was celebrating his birthday with two friends, Robin Walker and Betty Curtis.

Between bites of a Tiger tail — a bratwurst with cheese made on campus — Baker said he fully supports the conference move. There are valid academic reasons why MU is a better fit with SEC schools than with the Big 12, Baker said. There are more land-grant universities in the SEC than the Big 12, he said, providing opportunities for joint research and student exchanges.

"MU has changed over the time I've been here, and this is just the next step in that," he said.

Fan excitement about the change was evident in the strong season ticket sales for this year's games. Those sales need competitive teams, and finding talent means recruitment. Hundreds of high school athletes and their families got a glimpse of what it might be like to play for MU during an "unofficial" game day lunch at the Dan Devine Pavilion. They ate, toured practice facilities and attended the game.

Head Coach Gary Pinkel told the high schoolers that although some might be part of Missouri's future — "We are continuously trying to build Mizzou and compete for a national championship," he said — many who won't fit MU's needs can still build their futures through football.

He told them to keep up with their studies, because there are many scholarship opportunities in football that can get them a college education. "There are many levels of college football," he said. "This might not be your level."

The SEC has dominant teams, and Missouri is a newcomer, which means it has something to prove, former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond said while tailgating yesterday just steps from Gate 2W. "It is a tough challenge Mizzou is gearing up for," he said.