Missouri's move to SEC to bring estimated $185 million to Columbia

Thursday, September 6, 2012 | 9:55 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **One hundred private planes are scheduled to fly into Columbia Regional Airport on Saturday**, Mike Alden, Missouri’s athletics director, said Thursday.

This is one of the many impacts the community anticipates from Missouri’s move to the Southeastern Conference.

The study projects that MU’s athletics events will have a $185 million economic impact on Columbia in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, said graduate student Duncan Kincheloe, who worked on the study.

MU graduate students from the Trulaske College of Business Crosby MBA program conducted the study using data about ticket sales, television revenue, donor contributions and fan spending.

"We applied the same model as previous years, but combined the extra home game as well as increased attendance and increased ticket prices, and of course, a few extra fans," Kincheloe said.

Alden said the 2012-2013 estimate is right on target.

"I believe they’re quite conservative, which is a good thing," he said.

Kristi Ray, executive vice president for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, said Columbia will benefit significantly from opponent SEC football fans visiting the community.

"We had people from Georgia who were arriving last night at our airport. We've had them in our office this morning asking where to eat, what to do for the day, that sort of thing," she said at the news conference Thursday. "So the community benefits from the time they arrive in town until they leave on Sunday."

The study also revealed MU Athletics Department events accounted for more than $147 million of spending in Columbia over the 2011 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.
Mizzou's new era in SEC begins sign

Signage in the display window in Tiger Spirit advertises Mizzou's new era in the SEC Thursday, September 6, 2012, in Columbia. Photo by Laurie Skrivan, lskrivan@post-dispatch.com
The lunch crowd walks past the display window at Bluestem Missouri Crafts which is decorated to support the Mizzou's new era in the SEC Thursday, September 6, 2012, in Columbia. Similar to other business in the Columbia Bluestem Missouri Crafts is hoping and preparing for the influx of Georgia fans who are expected to be in town for the University of Columbia's debut in the SEC this weekend. Photo by Laurie Skrivan, lskrivan@post-dispatch.com
Gallery, museum crawl exposes visitors to MU cultural institutions

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COLUMBIA – It was the first time Jackie Flores, a first-year MU graduate student, visited the Enns Entomology Museum, although she passes the building several times during the week.

"I like that there are buildings you don't normally go into when you're walking through campus," she said.

Locations throughout campus were open Thursday for the seventh annual MU Campus Gallery and Museum Crawl. The crawl is intended to showcase art and institutions that may be overlooked by both students and residents.

MU’s Seventh Annual Gallery & Museum Crawl, Thursday night, offered visitors the opportunity to see objects ranging from ancient Greek jewelry at the Museum of Art and Archaeology to live Madagascar hissing cockroaches at the Enns Entomology Museum.

The itinerary included nine locations on campus where people were greeted with refreshments and live entertainment from the MU School of Music.

One stop along the crawl was the Museum of Anthropology, located in Pickard Hall. The museum houses artifacts from Missouri Native Americans, such as historical clothing, hunting tools and housing replicas.

Next door, in Swallow Hall, is the Museum of Art and Archaeology. The museum has roughly 15,000 objects, only 4 percent of which are on display because of the lack of space, said museum educator Cathy Callaway.

Across campus, an entomology doctoral student holding a live Madagascar hissing cockroach welcomed visitors to the Enns Entomology Museum in the Agriculture Building.

The museum is home to roughly 6 million insects, arachnids and fossils.

The Chancellor's Residence on Francis Quadrangle was also open to the public. The residence is the oldest building on a university campus west of the Mississippi River.

Another stop along the crawl was the State Historical Society of Missouri on the ground floor of Ellis Library. The society holds several million documents including Missouri’s application for statehood.
The fact that such an important document is kept at MU comes as a surprise to people, said Jeff Corrigan, the society's oral historian.

"The museum crawl really exposes students who walk by these buildings every day to places they may never have stepped into after four years of attending MU," Corrigan said.

The Craft Studio Gallery, George Caleb Bingham Gallery, Laws Observatory, Angus and Betty McDougall Center for Photojournalism Studies, Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection and the MU School of Music were also included in the crawl.
COLUMBIA, Mo. — All up and down the busy streets of this slightly crazed college football town, there's tangible evidence that a very big game is on the horizon. In the windows of all the elegant designer boutiques and more down-to-earth consignment shops, not to mention the upscale eateries and bustling student haunts all across the district, they are flying school colors, and splashing big black and gold SEC stickers in prominent locations for everyone to see.

**The dress shops are displaying the sort of exquisite outfits that fit with the rich tradition of good ol' Southern football, where every Saturday is just an excuse to be decked out like it's a fancy cocktail party. So for every well-dressed Mizzou lady, there is the simple black dress, the tiger-striped scarf, to-die-for gold lamé skirt or glamorous designer sunglasses that will make them look like a gorgeous gridiron debutante.**

And for the less fashionable, and slightly more traditional Mizzou loyalists, there are the "Gold Rush 2012" T-shirts on sale in any number of Tiger sports shops. In the Tiger Store on the north end of the stadium, they are selling these shirts that have the small "gold rush" logo on the front of the shirt, and a big, bold display on the back that commemorates the inaugural Southeastern Conference game for Mizzou, and it is the epitome of T-shirt trash talk.

With a graphic of Faurot Field's new artificial surface as the background, the official school-issued T-shirt proclaims "No Dawgs allowed on Our Turf."

So someone tell me why this is cool and clever and the official uniform for fans attending Saturday night's game, but when MU players have the gumption to give us a glimpse of their bold competitive confidence with a little trash talk, this is somehow viewed in some quarters as the start of a horrid slide into a deep, dark cultural abyss?

Get over it, people. College football is supposed to be fun. And in the SEC, where even the coaches on occasion have no problem flapping their gums (Mizzou fans, meet Steve Spurrier), bold behavior is not only expected, it is often greatly encouraged.

So here we are just a day before Georgia versus Mizzou, and it's starting to feel like Columbia has already made a seamless switch from a more sedate Big 12 town to the SEC's northernmost outpost.

"You feel the bigness all around town," gushed Max Copeland, the extremely expressive, hard-rocking Mizzou offensive lineman.
It's certainly not like the folks here are neophytes to big-game atmosphere any more than the players are. The Tigers have played their fair share of big games since Gary Pinkel arrived more than a decade ago, dead set on restoring the roar to this once-meaningful football program. But for all the reasons concerning the transition to the biggest, baddest conference in the land, there's a sense around Columbia that Saturday night's environment will even surpass the thrill of homecoming 2010 when the Tigers upset the BCS's then-No.1 ranked Oklahoma Sooners.

"There had to be more than 71,000 people in here for Oklahoma," said senior receiver T.J. Moe. "They said that for the fire marshals. There were folks all over the place, not an empty spot in the stands or on the grass. And I guarantee you that by the time they squeeze everyone in here on Saturday night, it will be a whole lot more than 71,000 for Georgia too. It will be a great atmosphere for football."

On Thursday afternoon, Jared Ater, general manager of Harpo's, was standing in the big back room of his famous establishment looking at the big color photo of the night of Oct. 23, 2010. It was an overhead color photo of the corner of 10th and Cherry streets, just outside this college town's most well-known drinking hole when it seemed like the entire stadium showed up at the front door. Less than an hour after Mizzou's big homecoming victory over OU, the streets flooded with a sea of gold-clad students who arrived in a euphoric (inebriated?) state with two goal posts floating on their shoulders.

That was the night when Ater remembered the advice the original owner of Harpo's passed on to him when it came to how to handle the student tradition of trying to bring the Faurot Field goal posts into the bar after a big game victory.

Never let them come through your doors with the goal posts.

"The way I remember it, the only thing that saved us was that the kids were out there with saws cutting it up into small pieces," Ater said laughing. "I think we paid off a few of the students and told them, 'Just give us a little piece and we'll bring that in.'"

And now the folks who like to bill Harpo's as the place where tradition lives are gearing up for the possibility of another delirious football Saturday night.

"I think it'll be pretty cool to see another set of goal posts coming down the streets on Saturday night," Ater said, chuckling over the sounds of a little Rolling Stones video blasting in the background.

One of the first thing everyone has to get used to is how SEC fans come to town earlier and stay later. Already there have been several Georgia fan sightings around town. Hotels report a steady stream of guests from Georgia began arriving Wednesday, and Delta Airlines announced it has put together a special one-time-only nonstop flight on Saturday morning from Atlanta to Columbia to accommodate the rabid Dawg lovers.

No word on if they bothered to add an extra return flight.
This is football SEC style, where every week is a big game, where every opponent believes their team is the most important thing in the universe.

And now it seems like Mizzou fans have embraced the feeling, becoming rather quick studies of the passionate (did someone say "obsessive"?) ways of their new rivals from the deep South.

But here's what I'm waiting to see. What happens after Georgia? Do the swelling sellouts shrink down, then swell up depending on the names and reputations on the scoreboard? Do they show up in large numbers for Georgia and Alabama, then dwindle to more modest numbers for the likes of Arizona State, Vandy and Kentucky?

We're not only about to find out something definitive about the MU football program this season.

In the SEC, they don't do this Big Game stuff once or twice a season.

Remember what they say: Football in the SEC isn't life and death. It's much more important than that.
Missouri basketball coach Haith speaks to business students about leadership

Thursday, September 6, 2012 | 9:46 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Aamer Trambu, a second-year MBA student at MU, entered Bush Auditorium in Cornell Hall like he does every week to listen to another guest speaker. He was eager to hear what Thursday's speaker, Missouri men's basketball coach Frank Haith had to say.

Trambu went up to the coach before the event started to shake his hand and thank him for speaking.

The Trulaske College of Business Speakers Series brought in Haith to speak about leadership in a talk titled “Uncaged Leadership: The Story of the 2011-2012 Mizzou Basketball Season.” There were only a few empty seats in the auditorium.

Haith spoke about when he was hired in April 2011 to replace well-liked coach Mike Anderson, who left the program to take over at his alma mater, the University of Arkansas.

“I wasn’t exactly the popular pick. There wasn’t a ‘Haith Train’ rolling through Columbia,” Haith said.

Haith had been a surprise choice and fans weren’t thrilled by the pick. But Haith was adamant in his talk that he couldn’t control what other people thought and had to start working immediately.

Haith also talked about recruiting, his players and other basketball matters during his presentation. But there was little boasting about the Tigers’ 30-5 run last season in his first year as coach.

“He seemed like a real down-to-earth guy, really genuine,” Trambu said. “I hope he stays that way.”

In the question and answer segment at the end of the session, Haith was asked how someone that has had success maintains it.

“Success is not owned, it is rented every day,” Haith said.

Haith went on about how Kim English and Marcus Denmon were the team leaders last year. He said Denmon led by his actions, staying humble and showing the guys how to behave — a trait Haith seems to possess himself.

Haith had one definitive word on leadership: consistency. His team was consistent in their preparations for every game. Haith said he needed to instill a routine to bring his new team together, and being consistent was his way of leading.

His message seemed to hit its mark.
Trambu said in the past he has tried to be a good leader by being flexible. But Trambu, who said he is not a basketball fan, found Haith's consistency model appealing.

"I want to try out being a consistent leader," he said.
Mars talk kicks off MU series

NASA scientist explains rover.

By Janese Sitwey

Curiosity — the rover that landed on Mars last month — is kind of a slowpoke: It moves 1.5 inches every second, or a tenth of a mile per hour. That's because it doesn't have a lot of energy to spend, a retired NASA scientist said.

You wouldn't, either, if you were packing around a chemistry lab, 17 cameras, heat and weather sensors, lasers and a mechanical arm with a 7-foot span.

"There are a lot of scientific instruments on this spacecraft," said Phil Knocke, who spent 15 years in NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, where he worked on the 2004 missions that sent two lighter-weight rovers, Opportunity and Spirit, to Mars.

Knocke — who now lives in Columbia, where his wife teaches at Rock Bridge High School — kicked off this school year's Cosmic Conversations series, a monthly event at the University of Missouri that features space-themed lectures.

Knocke spent about an hour describing the features of Curiosity and showing animations and videos about it. Already, the "Wall-E"-esque robot has drilled and collected samples within the planet's Gale Crater and is now headed to Glenelg, an intersection of three terrain types.

Curiosity was built to make its way up the foothills of Mount Sharp, which is in the middle of the crater, for one Mars year, or about 23 months in Earth terms. If it takes after its predecessors, though, the robot might be roving the planet for years. Opportunity is still roaming around Mars, having clocked about 20 miles in eight years, and Spirit got stuck in sand and died at age 7 — not bad considering both were designed to live three months.

Knocke also explained the science behind NASA's reverse launch technique to drop Curiosity on the planet without damaging it or stirring up a bunch of dust that might have interfered with the ability to capture images. Years ago when scientists began talking about a crane landing, he admitted, he thought it sounded far-fetched. But, he said, "it worked out so beautifully."

So did the first Cosmic Conversations event of the year, said Angela Speck, the astronomy professor who started the series five years ago. She couldn't make it last night because of an illness but was thrilled when she heard about the turnout. The talk attracted a standing-room
crowd in MU's Physics Building, where about 140 college students, parents with school-age children and community members crowded into a classroom designed for 91.

Speck is turning attention to next month's event, when Val Germann of the Central Missouri Astronomical Association will lead a program on the roof of the building.

"I'm concerned now because the roof is not that big of a space," she said. "But I'm not going to complain."

Future Cosmic Conversations might be moved to larger classrooms in the Physics Building or to Monsanto Auditorium in the nearby Bond Life Sciences Center if necessary, Speck said. That might be the case in December, when Speck expects her lecture will draw another large crowd.

The talk is on Dec. 5, two weeks before the Mayan calendar runs out. Despite History Channel predictions, though, Speck will make a case that Dec. 21 will not be the end of the world.

"I'm excited about that one," she said. "It will be fun."

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