Bond Life Science Center is ‘catalyst’ that brings scientists together

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, September 9, 2012

This is a story about a building.

The center at the corner of Rollins Street and College Avenue was built with cross-discipline work in mind. Parts of the building’s design, such as doorless laboratories, encourage researchers to talk to one another.

Researchers at the Bond Life Science Center must pledge to embrace collaboration across disciplines.

It's one of the University of Missouri's newest facilities, opening to fanfare in 2004. It's a swanky building, too. Glass walls lend a bright, airy feeling, and a giant double-helix sculpture hangs over the atrium, reflecting light and giving off a science-y vibe.

Researchers who work in the building say the niceties aren't the reason they are there. But they also know the facility brings them together in ways not possible elsewhere on campus.

The labs without doors, the shared lounges, the central staircase that forces people to pass each other, the social gatherings where attendance is highly encouraged — there's no way, really, to dodge interaction when you work at the Bond Life Sciences Center.

The center bears the name of former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, who helped shore up $30 million in federal money to help build it.

To tell the story of the building, you have to tell the tales of those who work there: the biologist who needed outside help with a Hail Mary pass to get grant funding, the plant scientist who had a protein he didn't know what to do with, the doctoral candidate who credits his work in the center with snagging a prestigious postdoctoral opportunity.

"The center is kind of a catalyst that brings people together doing such different things," said Mannie Liscum, a biological sciences professor and associate dean of MU's Graduate School.
D Cornelison — or Dr. D, as some students call her — studies stem cells in skeletal muscles and how they work quickly to repair injured muscles. The knowledge could help scientists better understand why that process slows as people age or could someday lead to new therapies for those with muscular disorders.

Last year, Cornelison applied for a National Institutes of Health grant to continue that work using a bit of crushed muscle extract. Grant reviewers denied her request but gave her the option of resubmitting it if she could purify her sample, separating certain proteins.

She had 10 days to reapply and none of the equipment or know-how to do the work.

"It would have taken me a very long time to learn," she said.

At the Bond Life Sciences Center, scientists aren't expected to know or learn everything, though, so Cornelison had no qualms asking for help. She turned to Stefan Sarafianos, an associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology who studies viruses on the fourth floor. One of his postdocs worked with one of her lab members to use his equipment to separate the sample.

The method worked, but the images she needed to include in the grant proposal weren't clear enough to be meaningful.

"So I thought of Scott Peck on the second floor," she said. "I called him at home one weekend because the data came in on a Saturday."

Peck, an associate professor of biochemistry who studies plant infections, came in that Sunday afternoon to show her how to get better images by using a silver staining gel.

The teamwork helped Cornelison snag the $275,000 two-year grant.

"Not only was I funded," she said, "but I got the best score possible."

That type of collaboration is happening all over the Bond Life Sciences Center. And while the building is the star, researchers play critical supporting roles by simply being open to new ideas and partnerships.

Liscum was part of two committees that studied the concept of the facility before it opened. The idea wasn't to let people move in just because they wanted to be in a new building or have more space: Liscum actually gave up extra space in his former home in Tucker Hall to be part of the center's community. And it wasn't about just finding the best and brightest researchers on campus but rather the ones who would embrace and thrive in the environment.

"We wanted an interactive culture, people who play well with others in the sandbox," Liscum said. "It was about being part of an idea. The building is really a shell of what the idea is, and we wanted people who would buy into the concept."
There were plenty to be found, thanks, in part, to MU's historic commitment to collaboration.

"LSC works because MU traditionally has been a very collaborative environment," Liscum said.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is becoming a trend in academia and research. When the LSC opened, it was unique, Director Jack Schultz said, but now other institutions are mimicking the concept. And MU has since launched a campuswide initiative, Mizzou Advantage, to encourage more researchers from different disciplines to work together.

"The science scene is changing," Schultz said. "It's impossible to answer the big questions by yourself."

No one is forced to work at the LSC, but those who do have to pledge a commitment to collaboration. Everyone is required to sign a memorandum of understanding saying they won't hide out in their offices or labs and that they're enthusiastic about collaboration. Those who don't follow the guidelines are traded back to their home departments.

To make sure the scientists are talking to each other, Schultz began organizing monthly social events at the center. During the so-called data blitzes, investigators have five minutes to explain their research to the audience.

That's where Heather Hunt, a College of Engineering faculty member who has worked in the LSC for about a year, made a connection with Gary Stacey, a plant scientist. Hunt's research focuses on improving the testing of water quality as new pollutants make their way into drinking water. Her lab equipment, though, is an elaborate testing platform using pricey lasers and microsphere biosensors that can be used to test all sorts of samples.

Hunt and Stacey are working on a project to use that equipment to determine how proteins and chitins — think insect exoskeletons — bind together. The idea is to determine how different types of immune responses in plants are triggered in hopes of better understanding their resistance to infections.

Liscum also studies how plants perceive cues in the environment to modify how they grow and develop — knowledge that could someday translate into crop improvement. For now, he's answering basic questions such as why plants grow toward light while their root systems grow away from it.

Years ago, Liscum identified a gene he suspected was associated with that process, but he didn't know how it functioned.

He mentioned the gene while lecturing in Mark Hannink's class, and Hannink, a biochemistry professor, recognized that a similar protein exists in animals. When the two moved into the LSC, they joined forces to figure out that the plant protein works the way it does in animals.

And that helped Liscum determine that the protein identified as NPH3 functions by piggybacking onto another protein, making that protein do something else.
"It was a breakthrough for us," Liscum said, adding that it took his research in a new direction.

Walter Gassmann, an associate professor of plant sciences, has similar tales.

In one case, a professor who studies the mammalian nervous system served on a panel to review a grant proposal Gassmann had drafted. Michael Garcia, an associate professor, didn't understand the jargon and asked Gassmann to better explain.

After hearing more about Gassmann's work, Garcia pointed out parallels in the plant and animal innate immune system, and the two decided to collaborate to work with a protein that helps plants identify what does or does not belong inside them and that animals share.

The two are now trying to determine whether plants and animals use this evolutionarily conserved protein for similar functions when developing their respective immune systems.

The examples of researchers from different disciplines working together at the LSC go on and on. Perhaps just as telling is Stephen Shannon's testimony.

Shannon is a graduate student who moved to Garcia's lab when his former boss in the health system left. At the LSC, he has worked in numerous labs, getting exposure to different sorts of sciences related to immunology and resistance. Although Garcia is his primary boss, he also has worked with Gassmann, Hannink, Liscum and Cornelison — interdisciplinary relationships he credits with helping him find a postdoctoral position. Shannon is getting ready to defend his dissertation in hopes of becoming Dr. Shannon, and he already has a position waiting for him at Rutgers University, where he'll study brain cancer.

"I think it's very essential to communicate different types of science," he said. "To have experience with different types of sciences was essential to helping me get that position."

Arming students with the ability to understand different disciplines should give them an edge in an industry where researchers have historically concentrated only on their research area, Hunt said.

"They're more well-rounded," she said. "I want my students not so focused on one skill set but to have breadth on top of depth. Really, we all speak English and we all speak science, but we're speaking very different science. Scientists need to be able to communicate with the public, but scientists also need to learn how to communicate with each other, as well."

Hunt said the LSC reminds her of being at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, where she earned her doctorate. Like at Caltech, she said, there's a "buzz and passion about science" at the Bond Life Sciences Center.

"LSC is our big shining example of doing something right," she said.
And, if the building itself isn't proof enough, Shannon said he is.

"The vision for this building," he said, "I can see it because I've actually lived it myself."
"I think that’s what people need to know, that this is a plan to grow. It’s not a surprise but intended all along, and we’ve grown exactly how we’ve wanted to grow with high-ability, diverse, successful students.” — Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management, University of Missouri
Following a well-laid plan to increase enrollment at the state's flagship university, MU leaders have watched the student population grow by 11,000 students in just 10 years.

BY MELANIE LYNCH

PHOTO BY TAYLOR ALLEN

THE SECRET BEHIND the University of Missouri's ever-growing student population is a plan. In 2002, Chancellor Richard Wallace and Provost Brady Deaton asked Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management, to devise an enrollment management plan. When the plan was put in place in 2002, the student population was around 24,000.

"Essentially the plan was that we would grow steadily and that we would increase our minority enrollment and increase our out-of-state enrollment and try to maintain and increase our high-ability students," Korschgen says. "Ever since that time, we have been working on achieving those goals, and we have." Now the MU population has increased to almost 35,000, a difference of nearly 11,000 students.

Korschgen gives three reasons why the university wanted more growth. "One is because larger universities have greater stature, typically, and greater impact," she says. Universities with a large student body have more of a national presence with sheer size and the number of alumni. The second reason is the number of Missouri high school graduates is dropping. "We knew that if we didn't do something about it, our enrollment would start to decline." Korschgen dedicated part of the plan to help deal with the shrinking number of grade school and high school students. Third, the university was not receiving as much state support as before, and increasing student enrollment was a way to increase revenue and keep it stable.
The enrollment management plan uses strategies to recruit all types of students: out-of-state, low-income, international, transfer, minority and high-ability students.

The enrollment management plan uses strategies to recruit all types of students: out-of-state, low-income, international, transfer, minority and high-ability students. One of these strategies is to use recruitment materials that are state of the art. In fact, these materials are award winning. In 2011, the publications received the CASE bronze award for Publications Program Improvement, and the viewbook received a Best of Show award from Higher Ed Marketing Report.

In addition, MU wants to make sure the students and their families have the best customer service from recruiters in their cities and from tour guides when they come to Columbia. The university receives good reviews when prospective students come to tour the campus. "So many, many families say that the visit to Missouri is the very best they've had in terms of all their campus visits," Korschgen says.

Demographic decline

In doing research for the enrollment management plan, the team assigned to the project discovered some startling information. "In terms of our demographic decline, between the years 2010 and 2014, there will be a drop of 9,000 high school graduates in the state of Missouri," Korschgen says. "And then by 2022, the number of high school graduates is significantly lower than it was in 2010." The university is already seeing the impact of the lack of high school graduates. In the past two years, the number of students from Missouri has declined some. As a result, the number of out-of-state students has increased significantly.

"We're doing all we can to recruit in Missouri, so we've never backed off in recruiting; it's just the numbers," Korschgen says. Other flagship universities in other states are experiencing the same phenomenon, so the competition for out-of-state students has become even greater.

"I don't think people were aware of how dramatic it would be, and once we started gathering the data and sharing with others, I think people were surprised at what's ahead," Korschgen says. "Some schools have not done a whole lot to prepare for it, but I would say we've maximized our opportunities to ensure that we would have a stable, if not growing, enrollment."

Diversity enrollment

When Korschgen began working for the university, people were concerned with the decline of African-American enrollment. To help with this problem, she met with the legislative black caucus as well as guidance counselors from the inner city in St. Louis. The solution was to bus in high school students to check out the campus. Since then the number of African-American students has increased, and the university has hired a diversity recruiter. Korschgen says the university is setting records for the number of Hispanic students enrolled, too.

This past fall, Korschgen realized there needed to be an international effort in addition to the other strategies. Thus, an international recruitment plan was enacted, and an assistant director of international recruitment was hired. "We're targeting international countries where we know there's a growing middle class where they have the financial wherewithal to send their children abroad and where the economy's stable," she says. "So we're looking at countries like Brazil and Turkey, Indonesia and so on as well as China and Korea." Already, the university is seeing an increase in the number of international students coming to MU.

Out-of-state students and transfer students

To attract more students outside of Missouri, the university sent recruiting materials to the Chicago area and went to college fairs. Once MU established a presence in Chicago, it enlisted the help of two full-time recruiters from the area in 2003. Now the university has recruiters in Dallas, Minneapolis and Denver, and as result, the number of nonresident students has increased by 77 percent since 2003. There are recruiters throughout Missouri as well, and because of this effort in Missouri, the in-state student population has increased by 19 percent since 2003.

In 2005, the university hired a full-time recruiter who goes to all the community colleges in Missouri. Korschgen says the recruiter has had many articulation agreements from community colleges to make the transfer process to MU easier. The previous year, Korschgen began hosting community college presidents on campus to speak with them about concerns they might have in transferring their students. This tradition is now in the hands of Terry Barnes, assistant provost for community college partnerships.

High-ability students and low-income students

The number of high-ability students has increased as well. Since 2002, the number of those with an ACT score of 33 or better or a combined critical reading and math SAT score of 1440 or higher has risen by 73 percent. One reason for this was the result of introducing a new scholarship for high-ability students called the Missouri Scholars Award, which is given to 10 students each year. The Mark Twain Award also had its criteria expanded and has helped growth.

In addition, MU has seen an increase in the number of low-income students due to the strategy plan. This year, those who are eligible to receive Pell Grants comprise 27 percent of students. The year before, it was lower at 23 percent. In just one year, the university has seen an increase of 5 percent of these students.

Korschgen says the university is giving a lot of financial aid to help students with their costs. "This year we're giving out in our own money, the institution money, $4 million in institutional funds for aid," she says. "That's a $5 million increase from last year, and that doesn't include endowed scholarships." Including endowed scholarships would give the total another $2.7 million.

MU's undergraduate students — 70 percent of them — will receive financial aid this year. "That's a lot of money coming into the Columbia area," Korschgen says because students from the university spend $1 million to $2 million a day, or about $700 million during the academic year, not including tuition.

As a result, Columbia's economy has a lot to do with the university and the number of students it brings in, especially when the number of students enrolled at MU has risen 34 percent in 10 years. "It's staggering when you really look at it," Korschgen says.

Korschgen says MU is the fastest-growing institution in the AEU, and it's all because of a plan. "I think that's what people need to know, that this is a plan to grow," she says. "It's not a surprise but intended all along, and we've grown exactly how we've wanted to grow with high-ability, diverse, successful students."
11 Questions
>> Get to know industry leaders

New Tiger Territory
University of Missouri Athletic Director Michael Alden

What has it been like watching Mizzou Athletics unfold and improve since you took over? It has been so fulfilling for all of us associated with Mizzou Athletics to see the overall improvements academically, socially and competitively over the past 14-plus years. We hope all of these improvements have added value to the overall Mizzou experience.

What is something that most people wouldn’t know about being an athletic director of a Division I school? Many people might think there’s a down time in Division I athletics; that’s certainly not the case at the BCS level or specifically at Mizzou. As we remind ourselves: You’re always on, and the logo never comes off.

A lot has happened with conference expansion lately. What has been the most frustrating part of it? There is no instructional booklet to assist in navigating conference expansion/changes. You have to be as proactive as you can in talking with the very few who have experienced this process.

Have you seen an influx in donations? We have seen a terrific increase in season ticket sales and members of the Tiger Scholarship Fund. It’s really exciting.

What is going on during the 30-month transition? Why is it important for fans to be patient? Every single day is a new experience when learning and teaching about the SEC. We believe it will take us two competitive seasonal cycles for our fans, alums, students, faculty, staff, etc. to feel integrated into the processes, challenges, enthusiasm and passion of the SEC.

What will you miss most about competing in the Big 12? The rivalries, the great communities of the Big 12, the traditions of competition. These are just a few of the things we’ll miss about the Big 12.

The university is investing $200 million for renovations and additions to Mizzou athletic complexes. Why is this important? Facility improvements are a constant need in college athletics. Although we have seen significant improvement in the sports park at Mizzou, we have to continue that momentum. This will further enhance our athletic facilities for many years.

How are the coaches and your staff feeling about Mizzou starting its first season in the SEC? Our coaches, staff and student athletes are excited about the challenges. We’re competitors, we want to measure ourselves every day against the best, and the SEC gives us that opportunity.

If you could change one thing about the culture of college athletics, what would it be? I would want to see improvements in sportsmanship and respect for opponents throughout all of sports, not just college athletics. This is an area of the culture of our industry that we must continually address.

If you could change one thing about the business of college athletics, what would it be? The financial model is one that I don’t believe is sustainable. How can we limit the scope of our industry, focus on the basic premise of our academic mission and provide increased understanding of the limits of our respective programs?

What has been the most exciting? The most exciting part has been the enthusiastic response from our students, the members of our university community, the communities throughout the state of Missouri, our alums, fans and friends. CBT

MICHAEL ALDEN: Has ties to the mid-Missouri region, based on his family farm in Williamsburg, Mo., about 35 miles east of Columbia.
Study looks at economic impact of MU athletics
Spending estimated to reach $185 million.

By JACOB BARKER

For anyone who didn't know, sports are big business in this town, and the University of Missouri's new spot in the Southeastern Conference is only expected to add to that.

A study by eight graduate students in MU's business school tried to gauge the impact that events at university sports facilities have on Columbia's economy, both when the Tigers are playing and when they're not. By their estimate, tickets, advertising, parking, restaurants, hotels and other spending generated about a $147 million impact from July 2010 through June 2011. And this season, the impact is projected to grow 25 percent to $185 million.

"We are a company town, and the company is doing great," Mayor Bob McDavid said. McDavid, along with MU Athletic Director Mike Alden and members of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, announced the study's findings at a news conference yesterday at Houlihan's restaurant. "The athletic department is the ambassador of that company."

The study was an update of one conducted a year earlier, also commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce and the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau. Last year's study estimated the direct and indirect economic impact to be about $118 million.

The study's authors used data from the athletic department to calculate direct costs — things such as parking, concessions and tickets. They then figured out how many fans were local versus how many came from out of town for various events by using ZIP codes on ticket sales data. Fan expenditures were based on a University of Nebraska study conducted in 2004 and adjusted for inflation. Only 20 percent of the revenue spent by fans already living in Columbia was calculated as new money.

"By far football is the largest driver, and by far what drives that is out-of-town fans," said Duncan Kincheloe, one of the study's authors.

The increase to $147 million in the 2010-11 season over the $118 million estimated in the previous year was based on some new survey data the students gathered at the state high school basketball championships this year. The researchers applied that spending to the football spending assumptions previously drawn from the Nebraska study, figuring the state championships actually drew in many visitors who stayed for more than one day.

As for the jump in spending expected this season, MU's first in the SEC, much of that can be attributed to the extra home game scheduled for this fall, said Thomas Schmidt, another study
author. They also assumed an increase in attendance of 6 percent, which Duncan said is below the athletic department's predictions of 10 percent. "It's probably going to be a rather conservative number," Schmidt said.

Alden called it "an honor" to be able to partner with the research and academic functions at MU. While football and basketball often receive the most attention, he said, the study is important because it highlights the benefit from other events, such as state tournaments and concerts, held at MU athletic facilities.

McDavid pointed to intangible benefits — "our sense of place, our sense of family our sense of team" — that MU athletics bring to Columbia. Those are especially evident on weekends such as this one, when many out-of-town visitors are coming in for Missouri's football game against Georgia, its first against an SEC opponent as a member of that conference.

"These things are part of the fabric of Columbia's history, always have been," McDavid said. "And history will be made tomorrow."
Dear Reader,

$185,000,000. That’s a lot of zeros.

Thursday afternoon, a trio of organizations announced the results of an economic impact study by MU College of Business graduate students. Not surprisingly, the study said that football and other MU athletics events should be very, very good for Our Fair City this year.

Is $185 million a lot? I couldn’t find out from the Missourian article, but the reporter was smart to put the original documents on columbiamissourian.com.

DocumentCloud allows readers like me to look at original material. In this case, the document was essentially the presentation. It gave the methodology of the study. It said that in 2010-11, the direct economic impact was estimated at $89 million. When you add indirect spending like “salaries, purchases from local business and student tuition,” the estimate goes up to $147 million.

Now I have something to compare. I’m still left with questions, but at least I have a baseline.

“Compared to what?” is too often missing from the work of seasoned, professional journalists these days.

I heard two national reports about the cancellation of the outdoor venue for President Obama’s acceptance speech in Charlotte, N.C. You might have read or heard something similar: Republicans alleging the event was canceled because the Democrats couldn’t fill the stadium, and Democrats saying balderdash, it’s a safety precaution because of the weather.
Neither of the reports compared the claims to the actual weather forecast. Wouldn’t that have given me some context — some facts — behind the arguments? For the record, city editor John Schneller, a weather geek, looked it up for me Thursday morning. There was a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms for the evening.

(Fact-checking, by the way, has become all the rage. Most major news outlets have some version of a fact-check column. The Washington Post even has a Pinocchio tracker, where the size of the nose equates to the level of fabrication. It’s all vaguely embarrassing, though, because it points out what’s been missing in those articles that run on front pages and home pages throughout the country.)

Numbers are particularly elastic. They can mean so many things, or nothing at all.

I couldn’t walk a block down Ninth Street Friday without running into someone wearing the red and black of the Georgia Bulldogs. I know MU’s move to the SEC is a Big Deal for Columbia, even for those who never watch a single down on the gridiron.

When describing the economic impact at Thursday’s announcement, athletics director Mike Alden said 100 private planes were expected to land at Columbia Regional Airport.

I’m willing to bet that 100 is a whole lot more than a normal Columbia weekend. I figure it would even be safe to guess that the figure is higher than any home game against Texas or Nebraska or any of the other Big 12 former opponents. (Remember that conference?)

But I’m not certain that I’d be right.
Rising fees: In attracting students, colleges can face a rec center 'arms race'

More on MU on page 4

College students, renowned for being strapped for funds, for some reason rarely say no when it comes to voting whether to pay more in fees.

In fact, an election where students vote on hiking a fee is like a Chicago vote involving a Daley. It’s pretty much a slam dunk.

The News-Leader contacted administrators and communications staff at Missouri State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Truman State University in Kirksville. After research, only one person could recall an instance where a student initiative to hike fees was rejected by the student body. It involved a vote at Mizzou in the early 1980s.

Since the fall of 2011, MSU students have paid $80 a semester for the new $30 million Bill R. Foster and Family Recreation Center, which opened Aug. 20. The fee is the largest student fee at MSU.

Earle Doman, MSU’s vice president of student affairs, said there’s a reason students are likely to OK higher fees. It’s because students initiate the projects and examine them closely before any matter is placed on a ballot for a campus-wide vote, although the MSU rec center vote was challenged years later because the ballot language called for the renovation of an existing building, not the construction of a new one.

“In all of the issues that have occurred on our campus there were all sorts of information sessions, forums and discussions before these votes could be put forward,” Doman said.

In addition, he said, MSU’s Student Government Association, which represents hundreds of student organizations, must give the OK before there’s a campus vote.

The downside to the fees is that, over time, incremental hikes add up — just like incremental hikes in tuition — and make college less affordable.

Although student fees can have sunset provisions, many don’t. The MSU rec center fee is in perpetuity. Students first started paying $30 a semester for the center in 2007, long before groundbreaking in 2010. They pay $80 today, as will generations of students to follow.

Over 20 years student fees have risen faster than tuition at MSU. In the fall of 1992 a student taking 15 credit hours paid $60 in fees and $1,020 in tuition. Today, the same student pays $389 in fees and $3,007 in tuition. 
in tuition. Using those numbers, student fees have jumped from 5.9 percent of the cost of tuition to 12.9 percent.

In recent years, public colleges and universities have faced a crisis in funding. State appropriations have been cut. In Missouri, state law makes it difficult to raise tuition.

As a result, it might be enticing for administrators to look at self-imposed student fees as a promising source of revenue. At MSU this fall, every $1 assessed as a student fee raises about $17,500 in revenue. The $80 rec center fee raise raises about $1.4 million in revenue.

Clif Smart, MSU’s interim president, said student fees must be student driven, not administration driven, even when the university would dearly love to have the money.

“You have to resist that temptation,” he said.

The fact that MSU does not have an athletics fee, which would greatly help fund the university’s sports teams, is proof, he said, that administrators don’t urge students to seek certain fees. MSU is one of only two schools in its conference without an athletics fee. Southern Illinois University, for example, used the fee to build a new football stadium.

“We, frankly, are at a disadvantage,” Smart said.

A different election

The vote for an MSU rec center was the week before homecoming in October 2006. It drew 5,762 students, which represented 30 percent of MSU’s enrollment, an outstanding turnout by student-vote standards: 2,717 voted yes (56.3 percent) and 2,104 voted no.

An additional 941 MSU students (16.3 percent of the total) pulled a ballot and did not bother to vote on the question. Perhaps they were interested in the other ballot measure: choosing a homecoming king and queen.

Four years later, in 2010, MSU student Zachary Becker stood before the Board of Governors and asked them to postpone construction of the center because the economy had faltered and a new center no longer seemed a wise investment with large cuts in state funding for higher education looming.

Becker also asked for a re-vote. He pointed out something that makes student elections different from when people vote, for example, on proposals to raise the property tax.

Students in 2006 did not approve a $30 million brand-new recreation center. The actual ballot language called for the “design, construction, and operation of a new, consolidated University Recreation Center (to be located in a renovated McDonald Arena).”

At the time, MSU administrators said it made more economic sense to renovate McDonald Arena than to build a new structure. The university estimated the cost at $23 million.

Circumstances changed, Doman explained, and university officials realized McDonald should not be renovated and, working closely with students, decided to build a new structure.
Steve Foucart, MSU's interim chief financial officer, said MSU lived up to one of the main provisions of the 2006 ballot language — the semester fee was, as promised, $80 at opening.

Becker, now 27, said this week that the students in student government he knew in 2010 clearly wanted to go ahead with a new structure and did not want a re-vote. They said they had worked hard for years and had been waiting for years.

Becker still believes the rec center was not a wise decision. He said one of the things he learned as an MBA student at MSU is that opportunity comes with a cost. He would have liked to have seen a ballot that asked students to weigh opportunities: A student fee to spend millions on a new rec center or a student fee to raise millions for student scholarships?

The response to the center generally has been positive. Smart spoke glowingly of it in his recent State of the University speech.

"It is a game-changing kind of facility," he said. "If you have not gone through it yet, I encourage you do so. I predict you will say one word over and over again — Wow!"

The 100,000-square-foot structure has a rock climbing wall, indoor pool and running track. It has maroon-tinted glass walls that change hue from dawn to dusk. It offers almost everything, other than a racquetball court, that MSU students had desired.

"It’s what the students wanted," said Paige Oxendine, the current Student Government Association president.

An arms race

But what if students want too much?

"I think all universities need to be careful with these things," said Troy Paino, president of Truman State. "I know here at Truman we are very reluctant to add new student especially when we look at the crisis of escalating student debt."

For that reason, he said, he does not expect to see a trend of more elections where students hike their own fees.

A rec center, Paino said, does not have to be extravagant, and a university must focus on its core mission of educating students.

Truman does not have a new rec center. Students approved one in 1994. Paino knows that colleges without a rec center resembling a private health club might find it hard these days to compete for incoming freshmen, who often visit campus as high school juniors.

"In some ways higher ed is not immune to the consumer culture," he said. "A 17-year-old might want a fancy, brand-new rec center with all the amenities. On the campus tour it is something that can grab a 17-year old’s eyes. Yes, there is a tension there.

"College leaders have recognized that it is a bit of an arms race," he said.
If there is an arms race in Missouri, Mizzou has won.

In 2001 Mizzou students, with a 69.5 percent yes vote, approved Option A, the one with all the amenities for a $50 million overhaul of an existing rec center without air conditioning. The tab added $75 per semester to the existing rec center fee.

Option A included three new swimming pools, including an indoor pool — the Tiger Grotto — with a lazy river. The outdoor pool — the Mizzou Beach Club — has a raised-hearth fireplace, a waterfall, a big-screen TV and a water temperature of 86 degrees.

When the facility opened in 2005, Sports Illustrated quickly dubbed it the “Best Rec Center” in the nation for colleges.

“We really worked hard to respond to what students told us they wanted,” said Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for student affairs at Mizzou.

The center was rebuilt with a vision that focused 30 years down the road, she said. All the flat-screen TVs might have seemed cutting edge in 2005, she said, but aren’t anymore.

Today, she said, there’s a new and different discussion about student fees at Mizzou.

Traditionally, students have hiked their own fees for projects that are non-academic in nature, like the rec center. But some students recently came to administrators to ask for longer library hours. The university is not sure it has the funds to do that.

“We have talked to our students about raising the fee to help the library,” Scroggs said.

She acknowledged that a proposal for extended library hours falls well within the school’s educational mission. Historically, she said, it would be paid for with tuition or state funds.

“It does raise an interesting question,” Scroggs said. “At some point the question is ‘How bad do you want it and whose responsibility is it?’”

MSU student fees

Student initiated fees at MSU paid each semester by all full-time students: Foster Rec Center $80 Student involvement $25 Student security $5 Wyrick capital projects $3 Centennial leaders $3 USA Today readership program $3 Sustainability fee $2 Student art gallery $1 Student government association $1 Total $123 Student fees at MSU that are not student initiatives: Computer usage $65.45 Taylor Health Center $56.50 Hammons Student Center $47.32 Transit system, shuttle $34.09 Plaster Student Union, operation $25.51 Plaster Student Union, improvements $23.76 Plaster Sports Complex $9.68 John Q. Hammons Arena $2.63 Juanita K. Hammons Hall $1.06 Total $266 Source: Missouri State University
Faculty seek to analyze press action
Panel would look at process gaps.

By JANISE SILVEY

University of Missouri faculty members want to examine the process administrators used to try to close the UM Press as an example of what not to do when making future decisions.

At a workshop with top campus administrators yesterday, the MU Faculty Council proposed the idea of creating the committee to dissect how the decision was made to phase out the press. Members didn't vote to officially create the group, but several agreed it would be a good idea to study the decision to see where communication broke down.

"The situation with the press exposed some missing links in our chain," said Craig Roberts, a plant sciences professor. "This is a case study in how not to do something."

The annual Faculty Council workshop is typically held to get new members up to speed on issues, but yesterday, Chairman Harry Tyrer used the event to lead a discussion about shared governance — a governing structure in higher education that gives faculty members power over decisions involving academics. Some are concerned that recent decisions, including the previously planned shutdown of the press, were made by administrators without faculty involvement.

On May 24, UM System President Tim Wolfe announced the press would be phased out starting July 1. He cited financial reasons, saying the system could no longer afford to prioritize the press' $400,000 subsidy.

Documents that surfaced later revealed an earlier discussion between a top UM System administrator and an MU English professor about the possibility of shutting down the scholarly press in exchange for a literary publishing operation on campus.

After a summer of protests and threats from authors wanting rights to their books back, Wolfe reversed the decision last month, saying the press would be transitioned as is to the MU campus.

Nicole Monnier, an assistant teaching professor of Russian, said she thinks the case study would be useful for professors and administrators. "A root-cause analysis would be very useful because we clearly have gotten so big that the usual ways of communicating don't work," she said. "Obviously, it was a nontransparent process that wasn't communicated, but I don't think many people in the room had the sense it was done deliberately. There were just informational gaps among the various players, and I would think we'd all be interested in trying to figure out where those gaps are and how we could shore them up."
A committee would need to have involvement from the UM System, said Mel George, a former UM administrator who served as interim president.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said he thought Wolfe would be open to the idea. "He's been clear that we made a mistake with that decision," he said.

UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said Wolfe had not received any official request to participate yet, "but we would be happy to work with Faculty Council in a root-cause analysis."
The Willcox factor
Dissidents push for reinstatement

By HENRY J. WATERS III

Having been successful getting University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe to retract his hasty decisions regarding the University of Missouri Press, dissidents now push for reinstatement of longtime editor Clair Willcox.

They say Willcox has a record of success and is the only person who can restore good relations with critics. One prominent author predicated a promised "five-figure" donation on Willcox's return.

I have no idea what I would decide about Willcox were I in a position to properly evaluate his fitness. Outsiders who worked with him have a better perspective, but those officially overseeing the operation presumably have the best view and will have the final say.

UM officials had become disenchanted with management of the press, largely because they thought Willcox & Co. failed to make administrative changes that would have saved operating money by paring publishing activities in unimportant areas. I have no direct opinion about this or whether other considerations led to Willcox's removal, which was shrouded in the larger decision to close the press altogether.

Maybe in the official view Willcox should have been sent packing anyway, and now that he has been shunted aside, the easy resolution is simply to move on without him. One must assume that is the case because it would have been relatively easy to keep him included all along.

Instead, UM and MU officials opted to install English Professor Speer Morgan in an interim status while a search for another editor is conducted. Morgan's involvement was an ill-fated move now properly undone, but no move seems imminent to cancel the search and rehire Willcox.

Willcox boosters have every right to storm the barricades, but they were on firmer ground when they chastised basic decisions about the operation than now, when they seek to force a personnel decision. If their main goal is to preserve and rebuild a good university press, they will be more supportive if they pledge to do so regardless of whom responsible officials hire as editor.

The point here is to mention the implacable truth of the matter: that university presidents, chancellors and provosts have the responsibility and authority to pick a new or rehired editor for reasons they may not discuss openly. This sort of personnel decision is bound to be privately counseled and can't be properly made in a public debate. Dissidents have every right to urge Willcox be returned as editor; but, that advice now given, if someone else is chosen, the only sensible reaction is to give the new person a proper chance. Perhaps in due time UM Press lovers
will be happier than ever. If not, that does not necessarily mean they should have rehired their former editor.

The big battle is won. The personnel decision is secondary and properly left to those officially in charge.

HJW III

Those of us who shout the loudest about Americanism in making character assassinations are all too frequently those who, by our own words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism: the right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest, the right of independent thought.

— FORMER U.S. SEN. MARGARET CHASE SMITH, R-MAINE, 1958
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Author sends ultimatum to UM Press regarding publishing rights

By Stephanie Ebbs
September 7, 2012 | 7:55 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — After what he calls as a lack of communication from administration, Don Spivey, a professor of history at the University of Miami, said he will pursue legal action if he does not receive the subsidiary rights to his book back from the University of Missouri Press by Oct. 8.

Spivey sent a letter dated Friday Sept. 7 to Deborah Noble-Triplett, assistant vice president for academic affairs in the University of Missouri System, who helped oversee the transition of press oversight from UM to MU. The letter, sent certified mail, was directed at other administrators including UM System President Tim Wolfe, Chancellor Brady Deaton and others.

In the letter, Spivey wrote: "The University of Missouri has failed to respond accordingly to all of my previous requests for the return of my publishing rights since the public announcement of the intent to close the University of Missouri Press. Hence, I have no choice but to pursue legal recourse."

Speaking from his home Friday, Spivey said his attorney, who specializes in intellectual property rights, is "absolutely positive that we will win" his case. Spivey seeks financial restitution for breach of contract, loss of revenue and the personal trouble the upheaval around the UM Press has caused him.

In May, Wolfe announced that the press would be closed. That met with strong negative reactions from academics and writers who worked with the press, among others. In July, the administration announced that the press would still be open but transition to a new model with digital printing. Before that, however, at least 40 authors requested their publication rights back. On Aug. 28, responsibility for the press shifted solely to MU.

Spivey said he had to cancel all publicity for his book, "If Only You Were White," a biography of baseball great Leroy "Satchel" Paige that the UM Press published this year. He said other
publishers have contacted him about printing his book, but until he has his subsidiary rights — the right to publish in a different form than the original — back he can't publish.

"I don't want to do this, I don't want to sue the University of Missouri," Spivey said. "Give me my rights back so I can get on with my work."

Spivey said everyone's reputation is hurt by a situation like this, particularly those in academic institutions who are up for tenure and need to be published.

Ned Stuckey-French, who is working with other authors to get their rights back, said he is one of several authors ready to move forward with other publishers. Stuckey-French, an English professor at Florida State University, published "The American Essay in the American Century" with the UM Press last year.

Forty authors have signed a less formal letter calling for former press editor-in-chief Clair Willcox, who was fired in July, to be re-hired and their publishing rights returned. These authors have begun work with an attorney in a joint case to get their copyrights and publishing rights back, said Stuckey-French, who has been appointed to work with the lawyer.

Stuckey-French said that when the press was closing, authors were given the option to have their rights back if their works had not yet been published. Both Stuckey-French and Spivey said the UM System administration has not sufficiently responded to their questions since the announcement that the press would not close.

"We're not going to wait," Stuckey-French said. "We want an answer."

MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said that requests to return rights would be considered on an individual basis and that as of Friday afternoon, Noble-Triplett and Richard Wallace have responded to each author who has contacted them. Wallace is a former MU chancellor who was appointed with Noble-Triplett to oversee the transition to a new press.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
University of Missouri researchers have created a more potent cancer treatment after adding a special structure to an existing cancer drug.

The secret is carboranes, or clusters of boron, carbon and hydrogen that aid in the ability of a drug to bind more tightly to its target. Although carboranes don't directly fight cancer, they do create a more potent mechanism for destroying cancer cells, said Mark Lee Jr., an assistant professor of chemistry in MU's College of Arts and Science.

In the study, Lee and his research team used carboranes to build drugs designed to shut off a cancer cell's energy production — a process cancer cells depend on more than healthy cells for survival. By increasing the binding strength of a drug, a smaller dose is required, minimizing side effects.

"Too often, after radiation or chemotherapy, cancer cells repair themselves and reinvade the body," Lee said in a statement. "This drug not only selectively shuts off the energy production for the cancer cells, but it also inhibits the processes that allow those cancer cells to repair themselves. When we tested our carborane-based drugs, we found that they were unimaginably potent. So far, we have tested this on breast, lung and colon cancer, all with exceptional results."

It will be several years before the new drug could become available on the market, but clinical trials could begin within the next two years.

And the discovery could lead to improvements to other types of drugs. "The end result is that these new drugs could be many thousands of times more potent than the drugs that are used in the clinics today," Lee said.

The study was published in the Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, a publication of the American Chemical Society.
MOUNT VERNON, Mo. -- Missouri agriculture officials are receiving reports of cattle dying after grazing on drought-stressed grass.

The University of Missouri Extension service says the problem is johnsongrass. During droughts like this year's, it can accumulate dangerous levels of nitrates and prussic acid.

Extension livestock specialist Eldon Cole said in a news release that grazing deaths have been reported in the past couple of months in southwest Missouri. Those cases largely involved dead cows or yearlings found near johnsongrass.

A couple of times, cattle fell ill after rushing through open gates as hay bales were being hauled into pastures. The cattle then ate johnsongrass growing along roadsides.
MU asks bank to stop giving out Tigers bracelets

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, September 8, 2012

The University of Missouri has asked a local bank to stop handing out Tiger-themed bracelets because of licensing and trademark concerns.

The Bank of Missouri had hoped to celebrate MU’s inaugural season in the Southeastern Conference by giving game day-themed wristbands to customers and bank visitors. The black-and-gold bracelets included the name of the Tigers and the names of specific SEC opponents, including Georgia, Alabama and Kentucky.

There were two reasons why MU asked the bank to "cease and desist giving out their free bracelets," MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said.

First, the bank is not an official sponsor with Mizzou Sports Properties, a sponsorship that ensures companies follow specific procedures when marketing and using MU-themed merchandise.

"We very much appreciate our local merchants and banks that get excited about our football season and about our joining the SEC," Banken said. "However, there are guidelines that Mizzou Sports Properties must abide by, and all sponsors are asked to follow the same policies. Unfortunately, The Bank of Missouri, maybe, was just unaware, and when we brought it to their attention, they complied with our request."

Another concern, Banken said, is that the bank did not have permission from the other schools to use their names.

Even solely using a state's name, such as Alabama, is protected under federal registrations, she said.

Mary Ropp, the bank's business development officer, said the bank used a similar promotion a year or so ago and followed the same guidelines this time.

"We did think we followed the standard rules," Ropp said, adding that she understands rules can change. "It was quite a surprise to a lot of people. It's fine, though."
The bank, with MU's approval, ended up distributing the remaining bracelets to high school students and not-for-profit organizations that serve children.

"It's a win-win," Ropp said. "There are so many smiling faces of students who are thrilled with having them and probably wouldn't have known about them had we not been able to take them to schools. I think it's a pretty nice situation."

Another bank, Boone County National Bank, also is giving away football-themed buttons, including one in honor of tonight's game that says: "Bulldogs Bark, Tigers Bite."

Boone County National Bank is an official sponsor of Mizzou Sports Properties, Banken said, and complied with all of the guidelines necessary to give away the pins.
This is just the start of the Tigers’ climb

By SAM MELLINGER

COLUMBIA -- The temptation around Kansas City will be to dance with schadenfreude, make jumbo-sized Gary Pinkel jokes about his stupid decision to run a fake punt and say that Missouri’s move to the Southeastern Conference is entering a race the football team isn’t fast enough for. But that’s the lazy view. That’s the short-term view, the one you see if you think only about the moment and never about context.

Mizzou isn’t nearly as good at football as No. 7 Georgia. That’s why the Tigers lost 41-20 on Saturday night in front of more than 70,000 fans at Memorial Stadium and millions more on television.

You don’t have to be a coach to see that. Georgia has 350-pound defensive tackles backing up 350-pound defensive tackles. Future NFL draft picks are on the second string. MU defensive lineman Sheldon Richardson is silly for saying Georgia plays “old-man football.” The Bulldogs play grown-man football. More of it is coming MU’s way, too.

In the coming weeks the Tigers will play more SEC teams with more enormous linemen and future millionaires, and they’ll end up embarrassed if they don’t play better. Not turning the ball over twice inside the 5 would be a good start.

But beware of anyone who makes this something it’s not. Beware of anyone who forgets MU is now 6-2 against SEC teams (including Texas A&M) since 2005 or who acts like Mizzou never got blown out in the Big 12 — like, well, three touchdowns at home against a top-10 Oklahoma State team last year.

Losing to Georgia isn’t any more of a statement about MU not belonging in the SEC as that loss to Oklahoma State was about MU not belonging in the Big 12.

Besides, at least this once, the final score isn’t the most important thing. What happened last night isn’t as important as what happens a year from now, or three years from now, or 10. Missouri is a lower-middle class SEC program, and now we will watch its attempt to climb.

This is the beginning, not the end. This is a standard to strive toward, not final proof that it won’t work. The Tigers have a lot to work with.
The first game of the rest of Missouri’s athletic life is so many fans on the hill that part of the big white “M” is covered with people wearing gold T-shirts and screaming as loud as they can. It is sacks by Brad Madison and touchdown passes by James Franklin and SEC commissioner Mike Slive smiling about seeing his league’s logo covering downtown here. The SEC is expanding its brand, and MU is the expansion.

The first wild night of Mizzou’s historical gamble into the SEC is a sellout crowd chanting loud enough to shake the bleachers in a statewide experiment to rebrand MU football as something much bigger than current students can remember.

Losing by three touchdowns is a cold-shower wakeup about how far it is from here to there, and the Tigers have at least two more games tougher than this. In two weeks, they play at No. 9 South Carolina and there is no home-field advantage in sports quite like SEC football. In five weeks, top-ranked Alabama comes to Columbia as the best team MU will have seen in years.

If you're looking for chances to point and laugh at MU losing an SEC game, you’ll probably have more chances. But when that’s all over, everyone can look around and see something much more important. Kansas State might be the area’s best team. Kansas is in a league much better than its football program deserves. The Big 12 is tighter and rich instead of weaker and dead.

This is a nasty divorce in which both sides are clear to live better lives.

The Big 12’s better life came together quicker than anyone could’ve imagined.

You’ll see Missouri’s soon enough. Thinking otherwise ignores both context and common sense.
Despite the whipping by Georgia, Missouri can stay in SEC

By Mike Lopresti, USA TODAY

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Relax, Missouri Tigers. You can stay.

The SEC is not going to change its mind, call your parents and tell them to come pick you up, even after that unfathomable fake punt on fourth-and-11 in the fourth quarter. Even after the mess you made of the second half in the 41-20 loss to the Georgia Bulldogs.

You pushed the Bulldogs much of the night. Of course, you weren't quite ready to beat an SEC team yet. It's not like you're Louisiana Monroe.

But this was the greatest game in the history of the Missouri-Georgia SEC rivalry. Which is 60 minutes. That's one important requisite in your new conference, by the way. Play 60 minutes. You play only 45, you make a few mistakes, and they need a whisk broom to pick you up. You probably know that better, now.

"I don't think you can understand that until you go against it," Georgia cornerback Malcolm Mitchell was saying. "You can look at it and judge it, but until you do it, it's just not the same."

Added Bulldog linebacker Jarvis Jones, "Things happen so quick in the SEC."

Until the fourth quarter, you looked like you belonged, even if you're not very south, or eastern. And wasn't that the whole idea?

"It's not like we just played a pushover SEC team," receiver L'Damian Washington said. "Of course everybody is going to come out to show us that we don't belong here. We've got to come back and show we do belong."

Sure, sometimes it was as ugly as your uniforms. It was 10-9 at halftime after a first half of 10 punts. Old-man football would be an accurate description - to borrow the immortal words of your defensive tackle, Sheldon Richardson. The one with his cleat in his mouth, after he put that tag on the Bulldogs.
By the way, did you hear the chant from the Georgia section when it was 41-20?

"Old man football!"

Say hello to your new cousins.

"We try not to focus on what's said, trash talk before the game, but it definitely did add a little incentive," Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray said. "We were just saying all week, 'Hey, we play grown man football. We're going to go out there and show it.'"

Same for Mitchell. "I'm 19, so calling me an old man ain't going to really do nothing to me."

Don't ever worry about being ugly. LSU and Alabama played a 9-6 game last season and they acted as if Rembrandt had signed it. If any other league plays a game like that, it's a sack of White Castles. If it's the SEC, people believe it's surf and turf. One of the perks of membership.

Everyone could tell you were eager Saturday night, hosting some of your new relatives for the first time. Even the parking lot attendants were wearing SEC on their shirts.

As conference commissioner Mike Slive said at halftime, "You can't walk downtown and go about five steps without finding an SEC logo. So we like that a lot."

Mike Slive. He's your godfather now. He toured the country this weekend like he was running for president, flying 2,300 miles to proudly watch his new inductees. He was at Texas A&M Friday night for the Midnight Yell -- "I'm not usually up at midnight" - and stayed for part of Florida's narrow win in the Aggies' SEC debut Saturday afternoon, then hopped a plane here.

A private plane. The SEC can afford it. Trust me on that one.

"I was able to flip the coin in both games, which was a real treat for me," he said. How SEC-lish. Come up with a television idea - the two new teams hosting marquee opponents as a day-night doubleheader. Slive's middle name might as well be Nielsen Ratings.

"We really wanted to make sure this would be a day that the A&M and Missouri fans would remember," he said. "It's an historic day.

"This is a day that won't come again in our lifetimes, I don't think."

Barring more expansion, of course.

This had the feel of a fraternity initiation. As if, whenever Georgia whacked you, your response was supposed to be, "Thank you sir, may I have another?"

It had the feel of a citizenship test. As if everyone coming into the stadium had to identify the three branches of SEC government - the commissioner, the university presidents and Nick Saban.
It had the feel of a final inspection. For instance, was the pre-game partying up to SEC standards? Was there sufficient wild-eyed zealotry?

I found some tailgaters who ought to know. A bunch of visitors in Georgia red.

"Too nice," Tom Easton decided.

"I don't think they know what they're getting into," Steve Molinari said.

"There's some general confusion," Jay O'Meara said. "Everybody's kind of feeling each other out. It's like a first date."

Molinari went on, "We were walking downtown last night and everyone's like, 'Welcome, welcome, welcome.' If you were walking in Gainesville, Tuscaloosa or Auburn, no would say that."

Make a note of that. Start being more sullen to visitors. The T-shirt calling Uga an "ugly mutt" was promising.

And about that sign in the parking lot pleading for relative sobriety: "75.1 percent of Mizzou tailgaters drink 4 or fewer drinks while tailgating."

I have to tell you, in Baton Rouge, they'd be aghast.

Still, it was plenty loud here.

"They did their part," receiver T.J. Moe said of the crowd, "and we kind of didn't do ours."

And it looked like a close game at halftime. "Welcome to the SEC," Slive said then.

Then you blinked and the roof caved in. Welcome to the SEC, indeed.
COLUMBIA • Mizzou fans have been anticipating Saturday for months.

The Tigers will face No. 7 Georgia in their much-awaited, sold-out Southeastern Conference football opener Saturday night. But the town has been buzzing about the SEC since news broke of the possible defection from the Big 12 last year.

“Everybody in Columbia has been excited about this,” said Jared Ater, general manager of Harpo’s sports bar. “We’re expecting it to be much like Homecoming was last year.”

Missouri sold all of its 46,500 season tickets that were offered this year — besting its record set in 2008 by some 5,000 tickets. Last season, Mizzou sold 39,879 season tickets.

Tickets for the sellout were advertised at online sites for as much as $350 this week.

The excitement has spread beyond campus to business owners and Columbia residents eager to see Mizzou face the well-traveled teams from the most competitive conference in college football.

Nearly every store in downtown Columbia — from the consignment shops to upscale eateries — has a black and gold SEC decal on display.

The Velvet Cupcake bakery has a three tiered, tiger print cake with the SEC logo on top in its front window.

“The whole town is pretty excited about this weekend, and we just wanted to show our support,” said cake maker Julie McDonnell.

Harpo’s has all of the SEC teams’ helmets on display, among its Mizzou memorabilia.

“We’re hoping for a good crowd,” Ater said. “The more the merrier.”

Minutes after the SEC released this year’s football schedule, the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia was booked for this weekend.
“The phones kind of went electric,” general manager Mike Kelly said.

Mizzou head coach Gary Pinkel said he thinks the stadium “is going to be wild” today.

“I think that it is going to go down in history,” he said. “They are always going to point at it and talk about it, look at it and how it came out, but then we are also playing a great football team. So we are not just playing this average team from the SEC, there is not many average teams anyway, so we understand that we are playing a great football team, a well-coached team, so I think a combination of all obviously makes it very, very big. Hopefully there are a lot of big games to come, and we will see how that sorts out.”

The RV lot for game attendees opened Friday night, but Georgia fans had already set up in nearby camp sites earlier in the week — eager for their first conference game of the season.

Kelly said he sees the conference move as a way to introduce Columbia — and Missouri — to the South.

“That exposure just helps overall with business,” he said.

Columbia’s small regional airport added an extra flight this weekend to help meet the demand.

“That’s exciting and really shows the interest from out-of-town visitors,” said Megan McConachie of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

To get ready for new visitors, McConachie said Columbia reached out to other SEC towns.

“I think a lot will be surprised by the gameday atmosphere that Columbia has to offer,” she said.

The excitement isn’t limited to Columbia. About a half hour away in Jefferson City, officials held an SEC pep rally on Friday.

“We knew with Missouri switching to the Southeastern Conference, we would seen an increase in fans traveling to the games,” said Ryan Winkler, spokeswoman for the Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Every hotel within a 50-mile radius of Columbia is sold out.”
Mizzou campus braces itself for onslaught of Georgia fans

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

The Kansas City Star

COLUMBIA -- They came by the bunches all week, red-and-black clad Georgia fans, scoping out enemy territory in preparation for their team’s 6:45 p.m. Saturday showdown against Missouri.

“We’ve had people stopping by to come and tour the basketball arena and football stadium and driving around all day with Georgia flags,” Missouri’s game operations associate Derek Doolittle said Friday. “I wouldn’t be surprised if there will be 10,000 Georgia fans here, if not more.”

But Missouri’s athletic department — which is anticipating a significant rise in the number of out-of-state recreational vehicles that descend upon Columbia this fall — is prepared.

The school moved its general public RV parking area from Lot X, which holds 20-30 RVs and is located on the corner of College and Stadium, to Lot R, which holds more than 100 RVs and is located a quarter-mile south of the stadium just off Providence.

For $150 a space, Doolittle says, opposing fans can eschew a hotel, park their RVs and enjoy all that Columbia has to offer from 6 p.m. Friday to noon Sunday. As of Friday, Doolittle was optimistic Georgia fans would snap up the few RV parking passes that remained for tonight’s game.

“It will be interesting, for sure; this is the first time we’ve ever parked RVs down in that lot,” Doolittle said. “It will be a nice logistical run through for the Alabama game.”

Doolittle said he wouldn’t be surprised if Missouri sold out of visiting RV parking passes for that game — scheduled for Oct. 13 — within the next couple of weeks. And just like Georgia fans, he expects them to start arriving several days before the game.

“Georgia fans have been coming in Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, spending their money downtown, walking around campus and engulfing themselves in the Mizzou brand, so it’s been great exposure for us,” Doolittle said. “The more people we bring into town, the merrier.”
Mizzou fans embrace Southern hospitality before SEC debut

By BLAIR KERKHOFF

Blair Kerkhoff
Missouri and SEC flags flew over a parking lot outside Memorial Stadium in Columbia on Saturday before the Tigers kicked off against Georgia.

COLUMBIA -- A sense of belonging swept over Columbia on Saturday.

Missouri students wore SEC shirts. Cars and RVs flew SEC flags outside Memorial Stadium. Brian Partlow of Kansas City bought his SEC flag from an online outfit in Tennessee and had to purchase a stronger pole to fly two, along with his black and gold flag.

"The guy was really nice," Partlow said. "He said, 'Welcome to the SEC.'"

Tailgating on Saturday before Missouri's inaugural Southeastern Conference game against Georgia was about more than dining. This felt social in a glad-to-be-here, happy-to-have-you way.

When the matchup was announced in February, Ben Halter of Atlanta got tickets for him and his dad, Steve, originally from St. Louis. They didn’t want to miss this occasion.
“I did not expect quite the tailgate scene here,” Ben Halter said. “I’ve been impressed by that. I don’t know if it’s standard or not.”

He has plenty of friends from other SEC schools. The ones whose teams are playing in Columbia this season, like Alabama, have Columbia on the can’t-miss list.

“Everybody wants to see what Columbia is like,” Ben Halter said. “In the SEC, that’s what fans do.”

But he saw something on Saturday hadn’t seen attending games in Athens, Ga. — fans wearing conference gear. Even parking attendants had SEC logos on their on their bright yellow shirts.

“You can't walk five steps downtown without finding an SEC logo,” said SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, who was part of pregame ceremonies at Texas A&M and Columbia in their league openers on Saturday.

Another unusual sight: Two hours before kickoff, a line of students waiting to get into the stadium backed up across the street to the Hearnes Center.

Also, the SEC requires home team to offer as many as 6,000 tickets to visiting teams, and Georgia snapped up every bit of that and then some to help fill all of Memorial Stadium’s 71,004 seats. Red-clad fans — they looked like Nebraska supporters — occupied the familiar southwest corner of the end zone and smaller portions on both north sides of the stadium next to the hill. Pockets of red shirts were visible throughout the stadium, including the hill.

Christopher Maher noticed the difference a month ago. He’s the general manager of the Wingate Inn in Columbia, and on the day the schedule was announced his phone rang off the hook.

“I'll sell out all the games in advance in any year,” Maher said. “But when the SEC schedule was announced, we were sold out that day for Georgia, Alabama and homecoming (Kentucky). That day.

“I love the SEC. I’m very happy to have them.”
Georgia fans help usher in new era

Nate McKiddy, 14, and his cousin, Griff Bonderer, 8, play football before the start of the Missouri game against Georgia Saturday. Many Georgia fans said Tigers fans were welcoming.

By Andrew Denney

Sunday, September 9, 2012

Georgia fans who traveled to Columbia to see the Bulldogs take on the Tigers said Missouri fans were mostly welcoming and hospitable, especially when compared with the fans of other SEC teams with whom Georgia has longer-standing rivalries.

"You're too nice," said Ryan Dobrin, an Alpharetta, Ga., resident who was tailgating yesterday afternoon.
Nashville, Tenn., resident Chris Looney, who was tailgating with Dobrin, said he hadn't heard many rude words from Tigers fans throughout the day, but he said he suspects with time that Tigers fans can develop the "chip-on-your-shoulder" attitude that fans develop as rivalries become more established.

When Missouri left the Big 12 Conference for the Southeastern Conference, it left behind age-old rivalries for a new set of opponents.

The last time Missouri played an SEC football team — except Texas A&M, which also recently joined the SEC — was in 2008, when it defeated Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl. Missouri had not played Georgia since 1960.

Michael Klump of Athens, Ga., the University of Georgia's home city, said he found the comparative lack of trash talk from Tigers fans to be refreshing, but, like Looney, he believes that the hospitality will erode when SEC fans become more of a regular presence in Columbia.

"As that happens, you will learn to hate Florida," Klump said.

Jerry Huellemeier, a Milledgeville, Ga., resident who was tailgating in a parking lot near Bengals Bar and Grill, said Tigers fans he encountered yesterday had shown him "Southern hospitality."

"Not anybody being obnoxious — yet," Huellemeier said, noting it was his first time in Columbia.

Some Georgia fans ventured north of Memorial Stadium and the tailgating areas to downtown Columbia.

Charles Guilbeau, a Georgia alumnus who recently moved to St. Louis and who was taking his first visit to Columbia, said the downtowns of Athens and Columbia have a similar feel, but Athens seems to have more of an abundance of bars and outdoor cafes.

Steve Weidler, an Athens resident who was walking along Broadway near Eighth Street, said downtown Columbia seemed sleepy for a game day when compared with Athens.

"Are we in the right town?" Weidler asked companions jokingly. "There's a football game today, isn't there?"

Huellemeier said in Athens, the Georgia campus and its football stadium are closer to the city's downtown area, so there is a larger concentration of fans in downtown Athens on game days.

Columbia police Officer Latisha Stroer, who was walking downtown near Broadway and Hitt Street, said foot traffic did not seem to be at a higher level than most Missouri game days.

At about 2 p.m. yesterday, popular game day watering holes were filling up. Customers waited in line for empty tables at CJ's and the Heidelberg.
Mike McClung, owner of Quinton's, said he was pleased with the amount of business he had received through the day, but he said the crowd for the Tigers' inaugural SEC matchup did not compare with the level of turnout he has seen in the past for games with old Big 12 rivals such as Nebraska and Oklahoma.

All 31 rooms at the Tiger Hotel on Eighth Street were occupied, and front desk attendant Celesta Halbert said guests were a good mix of fans of both teams, and she said the groups were congenial.

"Everybody's been really nice and friendly," Halbert said.
Deflating debut for Mizzou

September 09, 2012 12:25 am • BY VAHE GREGORIAN

COLUMBIA, Mo. • After more than a century competing in the Big 12 Conference and its predecessors, after months of breathless hype for the game that marked the change to the Southeastern Conference, perhaps the most-anticipated game in Mizzou football history lived up to the buildup for three quarters but ultimately was defined by dashed hopes.

"We were there," MU receiver T.J. Moe said.

But not after a series of gaffes.

In its first league game as a member of the SEC before a sellout crowd of 71,004, MU led No. 7 Georgia for most of the first three quarters, only to be outscored 24-0 in a deluge of fourth-quarter misplays on the way to a 41-20 defeat.

Leading just 24-20 early in the fourth quarter, Georgia went ahead by seven after MU's fake punt attempt on fourth and 11 at its own 35 went only 3 yards. Then the Bulldogs hushed the crowd for good when linebacker Jarvis Jones intercepted MU quarterback James Franklin and returned it 21 yards to the Mizzou 1 to set up a 1-yard TD run by Todd Gurley with 7 minutes, 33 seconds left.

That made it 34-20, with Jones promptly setting up another TD by sacking and stripping Franklin to give Georgia the ball at the MU 5.

By the end, Georgia fans were chanting "Old man football" in reference to MU defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson's remarks last week about its style of play.

"You can't make the kind of mistakes we made in a game like that and survive," MU coach Gary Pinkel said. "You're not going to win games like that against people like that if you make some of the mistakes we had."

As for the fake punt, Pinkel said, "A coach never calls something that he thinks will not work, OK? When they work they're good calls, and when they don't work they're bad calls. And I'll take responsibility."

The end eclipsed a game that had been tightly contested despite MU's offensive line being further scrambled by losing senior left tackle Elvis Fisher in the first half to a knee injury that Pinkel said he was concerned was major.
MU outgained Georgia 371-355 and seemed to have Georgia on its heels with Franklin's 69-yard touchdown pass to L'Damian Washington early in the third quarter that gave MU a 17-9 lead and a 13-play, 63-yard drive for a field goal that made it 20-17.

Georgia played tough defense, Franklin said, but he didn't notice a dramatic difference from the Big 12.

But the score indicated a dramatic difference between the teams by game's end.

"It hurts," Moe said. "It was set up to be something special for us."

Mizzou might well have fallen in a chasm early as center Mitch Morse struggled with his first few snaps and sent the third sailing over the head of Franklin for a 24-yard loss.

After a punt from the Tigers' 2-yard line, Georgia took over at the MU 37 with a chance to seize the lead and potentially crushing momentum.

But MU's Brad Madison sacked quarterback Aaron Murray for a loss of 8 to avert the threat.

Neither team mustered much more offense than that through a first quarter in which the biggest plays might have been Trey Barrow's punts of 60 and 45 yards.

After 15 minutes, Georgia had 35 yards on 13 plays, MU 26 on 17 plays.

Mizzou, though, had traction ending the quarter and moved to first and 10 at the Georgia 14 after a 14-yard run by Franklin on fourth and 3.

Two plays later, Franklin and Kendial Lawrence fumbled a handoff and Georgia recovered at the Georgia 28.

But MU got the ball back immediately on an interception by linebacker Donovan Bonner, who returned it 13 yards to the Georgia 25 to set up redshirt freshman Andrew Baggett's 37-yard field goal.

It was the first career attempt by Baggett. Georgia countered with a 53-yard field goal by freshman Marshall Morgan, making it 3-3.

Baggett then missed a 43-yarder wide left before a relative opening of the floodgates in the last minutes of the half.

MU suddenly went 63 yards on three plays to take a 10-3 lead with 131 to go on Marcus Lucas' 41-yard catch-and-run from Franklin.

Then Georgia zoomed back, going 71 yards on five plays to make it 10-9 with 30 seconds left in the half on Murray's 2-yard pass to Marlon Brown.
But 10-9 it stayed as Morgan missed the extra point.

MU had a chance to extend the lead on the last play of the half as Franklin threw from 41 yards out to Lucas, who vaulted free for the ball but couldn't reel it in.

Mizzou, though, struck next, anyway as Franklin found a flying Washington.

Georgia countered with Murray's 7-yard TD pass to Tavarress King and a 2-point conversion pass to Michael Bennett to tie it 17-17.

And after Baggett gave the Tigers a 20-17 lead with a 25-yard field goal, the Bulldogs shredded the Mizzou defense for 72 yards on five plays to take their first lead, 24-20, on Murray's 11-yard pass to Brown.

And then came MU's collapse.
Burwell: Tigers still have far to go

COLUMBIA, Mo. • This was another one of those rare football Saturday nights when the score wasn’t quite as memorable as the magnitude of the moment.

So what exactly was the magnitude of moment like at Mizzou in its grandiose Southeastern Conference coming-out party?

Light-headed and memorable. Gut-twisting and humbling. Saturday night at Faurot Field was the sort of gawdawful moment that epitomized the wildest dreams and most agonizing nightmares of Tiger lovers everywhere.

Good, but not good enough. Oh so close, but a gaping chasm away. A delirious beginning followed by a stabbing, cruel and bitter conclusion. By the end of No. 7 Georgia’s 41-20 victory, the loudest voices you could hear inside suddenly tame Faurot Field were from the modest scarlet-red pocket of Bulldogs fans who had taken over the far southwestern corner of the end zone with a rather snarky, but perfectly appropriate chant of "Old man football" to the absolute delight of all the Dawgs in the house.

Ouch. That hurt.

For most of the night, Georgia players and their fans had been fairly silent — quite nervous actually — as the Tigers controlled the game and held the lead deep into the third quarter of their nationally televised, prime-time debut in the mighty SEC. All night long, this endless sea of gold-clad Mizzou fans had been making the loudest noises in the sold-out house, chanting and cheering and reveling in the dizzy mood of what was starting to look like a wildly successful conference debut.

In the world where Mizzou football fans dwell, the ambitions are not as wide-eyed and lofty as they are in places like Athens, Baton Rouge and Gainesville. They have always been slightly more modest and a great deal more reasonable. All they ever wanted was a chance. A chance to be taken seriously. A chance to stand on equal ground with college football’s best and brightest. A chance to show the rest of the college football world that they can play big boy football with the best of them.

And for most of the night, Mizzou was accomplishing all of that and so much more.
Yet by game’s end, it turns out that life up on the narrow ledge where highly ranked SEC teams live wasn’t much different for Mizzou from its previous journeys onto a similar cliff with the best and brightest in the Big 12.

After leading 20-17 late in the third quarter, Mizzou was outscored 24-0 to close out the game, and Saturday’s long-awaited showdown turned out to be just another big tease, another frustrating near miss, another night of too many odd mishaps and maddening failures. It was a three-hour infomercial on just how far the Tigers have come in a decade-plus under Gary Pinkel, but just how much farther they still have to go before they can be considered the sort of legitimate and consistent program that seizes on big-game opportunities like this with regularity.

"You can’t make the kind of mistakes we made and survive against a team like that," said Pinkel. "You just can’t do that."

Killer turnovers and odd risk-taking turned this into a fourth-quarter disaster. The game was over in the blink of an eye because a curious call by Pinkel for a fake punt on fourth and 11 on the Mizzou 35 not only didn’t work and pretty much hand-delivered three points to the Dawgs, but made no sense considering the time and place in the game. Pinkel took responsibility for the call but offered no insight into why he called the play, which pretty much set the ball rolling down the hill the wrong way.

After the failed trick play led to a field goal to expand Georgia’s lead to 27-20 with more than 11 minutes remaining, there was still plenty of time for Mizzou to win, particularly considering how well the defense had played most of the game. However, all that happened after that were more hair-pulling mistakes that turned this from a dead-even battle against a team with genuine national championship aspirations into a what-the-heck-just-happened blur of a knockout.

A drive-killing false start forced Mizzou to punt on its next possession, then quarterback James Franklin committed two mistakes — a mind-boggling interception right into the hands of a Georgia defender and a fumble with his back to the goal line — and that was the ballgame. They can’t give away games like this, because there are a lot more teams just as good as Georgia and even better. There is heavy lifting to be done every week in this league.

Still, by the end of the night, I was convinced more than ever that Pinkel’s Tigers are fast enough, strong enough, talented enough to be among the best in the SEC. There’s a reason more than a dozen NFL scouts were in the press box, and it wasn’t only because they wanted to see Georgia. Clearly, the MU players are not swimming in waters too deep for their athletic abilities. This Mizzou defense is as fast and furious as any SEC defense you’ll see this year. Their offense has as many weapons as most of the better schools in the conference.

And ultimately when you consider the entire night, the completely wonderful environment, the incredible atmosphere that was building in this football-crazed college town all day long, you have to at least take a moment to acknowledge what was going on here.

Win, lose or draw, Mizzou football has turned a corner.
"It’s absolutely amazing," said former MU offensive tackle and current radio commentator Howard Richards. "Look at this scene. Feel all this energy in the stadium. Look at how competitive this football team is playing."

I can still remember in the early days of the Pinkel era just how angry and frustrated he would get with all the fans and reporters who were giving him "atta boys" when the Tigers lost back-to-back close games to Oklahoma and Nebraska in the 2002 season. The square-jawed young coach had arrived from Toledo only a year earlier, and he seethed slowly every time some alum came up to him after the game just to let him know how nice it is that the Tigers could lose to the big boys with dignity instead of getting beaten into submission by 30-point deficits.

He has beaten his share of the big boys since then, but not enough to put his program where he truly wants it to be.

He kept saying over and over again until somebody, anybody would listen, that he didn’t come to Mizzou to lose with class.

Pinkel has done so much since arriving here, but by his own standards, nights like this aren’t what he’s here for.

You have to win games like this. You just have to.
Georgia fans' impression of Missouri fans: 'Too nice'

By Mike Lopresti, USA TODAY
Updated 8h 40m ago

COLUMBIA, Mo. – This being the Missouri Tigers' first crack as hosts in their new family, even the parking lot attendants were wearing the Southeastern Conference logo on their shirts Saturday.

With the Georgia Bulldogs in town, Missouri was eager to show it belonged.

But never mind between lines – note the new SEC insignias on the 25 -- where the home team figured to have a chance at good news, what with the Bulldogs missing four suspended starters on defense.

Was the pregame partying up to SEC standards? Was there, for instance, sufficient wild-eyed zealotry? Here were some tailgaters who ought to know. A bunch of visitors in Georgia red.

"Too nice," Tom Easton decided of his new SEC cousins in gold shirts.

"I don't think they know what they're getting into," Steve Molinari said.

"There's some general confusion," Jay O'Meara said. "Everybody's kind of feeling each other out. It's like a first date."

Not far away, another Georgia fan beneath another red hat, drawing his first conclusions of Missouri.

"I think it'll take a year for them for it to sink in what they're in for," Kip Hicks said. "They don't hate us yet. They will soon."

They have all made the rounds of most other SEC schools, pronouncing LSU the favorite stop, for its frenzy. Missouri is different, they all said. So far.
"We were walking downtown last night and everyone's like, 'Welcome, welcome, welcome,'" Molinari said. "If you were walking in Gainesville, Tuscaloosa or Auburn, no would say that."

As for the caliber of Missouri tailgating, "a solid C," Molinari said.

"See all those empty parking spaces?" Easton asked. Never find that in Athens, three hours before kickoff, the group agreed.

In the parking lot was a sign pleading for relative sobriety: "75.1% of Mizzou tailgaters drink 4 or fewer drinks while tailgating."

In Baton Rouge, they'd be aghast.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Georgia fans impressed with Columbia but see room for improvement

By Kari Paul
September 9, 2012 | 3:53 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Around 8:30 a.m. Sunday, a crowd of more than 40 Georgia fans, decked out in celebratory red and black "dawg" gear, rolled their suitcases into Columbia Regional Airport for the 10 a.m. flight to Atlanta.

They are part of the exodus of thousands of Georgia fans leaving Columbia following Missouri's 41-20 loss to Georgia in the Tiger's Saturday night Southeastern Conference debut.

What were their final impressions of Columbia as they prepared to leave?

Many said they worry Missouri fans may be "too nice" for the SEC.

Allison and Craig Yeomans described themselves as a pair of the biggest Georgia fans around, and Allison Yeomans has generations of history to prove it. Her grandfather, James Wallace "Wally" Butts, was the head football coach at Georgia from 1939 to 1960. He led the team to victory against Missouri the last time the two teams faced each other in the 1960 Orange Bowl. Georgia beat Missouri that time, too, 14-0.

She said she enjoyed her time in Columbia but worries other teams won't reciprocate the hospitality Columbia residents offered this weekend.

"The team is definitely ready for SEC football, but the fans might be too sweet," she said. "I'm afraid, if you want to fit in, you're going to have to be a little meaner, but I don't want that."

Athens resident Dwain Blackston goes to every Georgia game, both in Athens and away, and said he felt at home in Columbia.

"People here were so nice, we thought they were Southerners," he said jokingly. "I say welcome to the SEC. It's a big, tough conference. All the schools have a big fan base, as you saw, so it's highly competitive."
Howard Wallace has been traveling to out-of-state games since 1956 and said Missouri fans are the nicest he’s ever met.

"I want to know if the people in Columbia had some sort of seminar training on how to be nice," he said. "It was unbelievable – people would stop us on the street to say, 'Welcome to Columbia and thanks for coming.'"

His wife, Micki Wallace, also has been traveling to games for more than 50 years and said she hopes other SEC schools will treat Missouri fans the way Columbia residents treated her.

"I hope people are nice when Missouri comes to Georgia," she said. "But if you think we’re bad, you oughta see Florida — they are so ugly."

Craig Yeomans, who attended Georgia for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees, said he noticed differences in tailgating.

"We didn’t see very many people with televisions," he said. "In Athens and all the other Southeastern Conference places, a lot of people have generators and TVs when they tailgate so they can watch other games."

Georgia alumni Ken McCosh said if Missouri really wants to fit in with the new conference, fans are going to have to start traveling more.

"Half the experience with Southeastern Conference football is about traveling," he said. "It's not about supporting your team at home. It's about supporting your team wherever they go."

McCosh said he thinks the Tigers will fit in well with the SEC but the fans' true test will come on the road.

The Tigers' play their first away SEC game in Columbia, S.C., against the Gamecocks on Sept. 22.

_Supervising editor is Zach Murdock._
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Georgia fans celebrate on Lowry Mall before game

By Elizabeth Scheltens
September 8, 2012 | 7:13 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Hundreds of Georgia fans gathered on Lowry Mall to celebrate before Saturday’s game, but early that morning, one bulldog stood alone.

"I woke up, looked outside to our front lawn and saw a bulldog stuffed animal with a noose around his neck and a bunch of "Go Mizzou" signs," Columbia resident and Georgia fan Marianne Beverstein said.

"The perpetrator struck between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m," her husband, Georgia alumnus John Beverstein, said with a smile.

The Beversteins live four miles outside of Columbia. "We're Bulldogs in Tigers Country," Beverstein said. The family, who was at the Lowry Mall event Saturday, has season tickets for both Missouri and Georgia football.

The Georgia Alumni Association sponsored a tailgate at MU's Lowry Mall on Saturday afternoon, which sold out last week, according to the association's website.

Frances Beusse, who is with the alumni association, said more than 800 people preregistered for the event, and the association printed 1,000 wristbands.

"When Georgia fans travel, they're excited. They travel readily and willingly," said Tom Landrum, Georgia Alumni Association senior vice president for external affairs.

And travel they did. For Saturday's game, they did so in large numbers, showing off their team's distinctive styles and traditions.

Brian Fuller, a '98 alumnus, surveyed the sea of red on Lowry Mall.

"This is small," Fuller said.
He said that 25,000 Georgia fans made a trip last football season to Arizona State University. On his flight to Columbia from Atlanta, he said, Georgia cheers were blaring from the loudspeakers. Delta added an additional flight each way from Atlanta to Columbia to accommodate Georgia fans.

Fuller wore khaki pants patterned with small patches with the Georgia "G" logo. He said the style is also popular with fans from Ole Miss, a group Fuller said Georgia fans compete with for the title of most fashion-forward.

"We argue over who's the best dressed, who has the prettiest girls. Auburn does OK too, they're pretty stylish," Fuller said.

Saturday's game day pants aren't the only pair Fuller owns, but if his team does well, they're the only ones he'll be wearing this season.

"I'll wear them every game," he said. "I'll change my outfit if we lose."

Mariellen Bateman, an alumna from the class of '62, showed off her handmade bracelet with custom Georgia charms. She picked up another bracelet, a thin, silver chain, at Bluemarket Missouri Crafts while shopping in downtown Columbia yesterday. She said people were helpful and friendly.

"I hope we can return some of the hospitality when Missouri fans come to Athens," Bateman said.

Georgia fans repeatedly said Saturday that they felt enthusiastically welcomed to Columbia.

Peggy Gales is a former member of the Georgia Alumni Association's board. She said when she traveled to South Carolina and Arkansas for both schools' inaugural SEC seasons, enthusiasm wasn't as high as it is in Columbia.

"Folks are a lot more excited here. It's very visible," Gales said. "Joining the SEC is clearly a big deal for Missouri fans.

"Conference pride really comes down to the South vs. the North. It's those damn Yankees!"

Gales looked sheepish. "Sorry," she said. "In Georgia, you really can't say the word 'Yankees' without 'damn' in front of it."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Downtown Columbia exhibits SEC fever

By Andrew Denney

Saturday, September 8, 2012

On the eve of the University of Missouri football team's first Southeastern Conference matchup, downtown was swarming with people as several events sought to showcase the city to University of Georgia fans in town for the game.

Local artists, musicians and art gallery owners worked to show the city's expressive side to visitors and draw foot traffic to the growing North Village Arts District with the North Village Arts District Pre-Game Art Huddle. On Ninth Street, The Blue Note hosted country-blues artist and Georgia native Corey Smith, who put on a free concert. And at the Missouri Theatre, the University of Georgia Alumni Association hosted a formal tailgating party.

Attendees of the Art Huddle perused galleries and were treated to food, drink and live music.

Organizers originally intended to close off Orr Street to automobile traffic and feature live music there, but heavy rains and hail led organizers to scrap that idea and move the event inside.

"Missouri weather is not to be stopped," North Village Arts District Chairwoman Jennifer Perlow said, while mingling with guests in the Perlow-Stevens Gallery, which she co-owns.

Perlow said because the Art Huddle is a new event, she didn't know what to expect in terms of turnout, but said she suspects the weather might have kept some potential attendees away.

The Art Huddle initially was intended to piggyback on Tiger Town, a proposed downtown pre-game party zone for Mizzou home games that would have drawn fans to a closed-off Eighth Street before matchups with Georgia and the University of Alabama, but Tiger Town organizers were unable to gather enough donations in time to hold the event.

Stacie Pottinger, an Art Huddle organizer and director of Orr Street Studios, said because organizers went to the trouble of planning the event — while Tiger Town was being discussed — and obtaining street closure permits for Friday and for Oct. 12, when Missouri faces Alabama, they decided to move forward with the event. The Art Huddle for the Alabama game is scheduled to run from 6 to 9 p.m.
As part of the Art Huddle, local painter David Speer was painting a mural of the downtown Columbia cityscape on the exterior wall of his studio with the help of three other painters. He said he started the mural yesterday morning.

Just west of the Art Huddle, Ninth Street was closed off for the free performance by Smith, who approached The Blue Note owner Richard King about putting on the show.

Brittany Robertson, a Georgia student who was sporting a red Bulldogs jersey and sitting outside of La Siesta, which was in the footprint of the free concert, said Smith is a prolific artist around Athens, Ga., the home of the university. She said he is known for being a rabid Bulldogs fan, even penning songs in devotion to the team.

Robertson, who is a Georgia native but lived briefly in Wentzville before returning for college, said Athens and Columbia have some things in common in terms of the feel of their respective central cities and the abundant amount of live music they feature.

"Our downtowns look different and our campuses look different, but they are so similar," Robertson said.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Changes to Missouri football team not good for fans

By Carol Bedigie
September 7, 2012 | 3:37 p.m. CDT

If you were "lucky" enough to sit on the east side at the Missouri game last Saturday then you weren't able hear the band either. That is now denied to those of us not rich and influential enough to sit on the west side of Memorial Stadium.

They have changed conferences, changed the helmet, changed the playing field (how about those ugly end zones, folks?) and changed the helmet car. What else are they going to change?

Will the rock "M" at the north end be removed? It's supposed to be lowered so more seating can be installed, at least. I feel it's on its way out.

Will the fight songs be changed? Maybe these and the "M" are not "classy" enough for the SEC.

I have been to every home opener since I was a freshman in 1963, and have missed just four home games in that time. I have also gone to several bowl games as well as the Border War games in Kansas City against Kansas. In 1974, I even drove all the way to Vicksburg, Miss., to see Missouri lose to Ole Miss.

I am seriously considering giving up my season tickets as the games just aren't that enjoyable any more. Part of the fun is listening to the band. I can barely hear the drums now. And I am not the only one who complained last Saturday night.

I love the Tigers and have sat in the same seats for 30-plus years. Through bad years as well as good years I have showed up to support them. I intended to do that for as long as I'm able. But who is going to sit in the new seats next year? Who's going to sit in their old seats in 2013?

Plus the Tigers probably will not be going to any bowl games, at least for awhile. Pinkel won't even start the quarterback that infused the offense with some energy. I like James Franklin;
he's a great kid. But the plays developed quicker when Berkstresser was playing. There was some zip on the ball when he threw, and the kid can run too.

Mike Alden and Gary Pinkel have ruined our beloved Mizzou traditions for the sake of the almighty dollar. They have little loyalty to MU past getting a paycheck. Maybe those checks should be taken away so they can go ruin some other school's athletic traditions. At least that's one thing they are very good at doing.

The SEC needs to be changed to SUC because being in the SEC SUCks.

Carol Bedigie is a Columbia resident. Questions? Contact Opinion editor Elizabeth Conner.
Tiger Tracks ice cream rolls out for Mizzou SEC debut

September 07, 2012 1:30 pm • BY EVAN S. BENN • Post-Dispatch Food Critic > ebenn@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8348

Jefferson City-based Central Dairy has shipped its Tiger Tracks ice cream to 20 St. Louis-area Schnucks stores. It's the first time the flavor is available in St. Louis.

The golden-color ice cream, studded with chocolate-covered cookies, chocolate truffles and stripes of fudge, is named in honor of the University of Missouri and features mascot Truman the Tiger on its packaging.

It makes its way to St. Louis store shelves just in time for Mizzou's SEC debut on Saturday in Columbia, Mo., against the University of Georgia. The retail price is $4.39 for a half-gallon container.

Central Dairy is owned by Prairie Farms, based in Carlinville, Ill.