Group sues U. of Missouri for course outlines

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER — Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A Washington-based education group sued the University of Missouri on Monday over its refusal to provide records related to teacher training at the university system's four campuses.

The National Council on Teacher Quality filed the civil complaint in Boone County Circuit Court. The research and advocacy group said the university system has refused to turn over course syllabi, which it claims are public records. The group wants the course material as part of its efforts to monitor what aspiring teachers learn at college. A joint study with U.S. News & World Report is expected to be released next year, rating schools with letter grades from A to F.

"Right now, on aggregate, teacher preparation programs are not helping teachers get better," said Arthur McKee, the council's managing director of teacher preparation studies. "We do have an agenda - of wanting teacher preparation to be excellent. We don't shy away from the fact that we have higher standards."

Officials in the College of Education at the Columbia campus as well as with the system administration did not respond to several requests for comment Monday. But like other schools that object to the records request - the council has filed similar lawsuits in Minnesota and Wisconsin - Missouri considers a course syllabus to be intellectual property. An associate education dean previously told the Columbia Missourian that the school "needed to make sure our faculty were protected."

Those who train teachers also criticize the council's research methods. In a Feb. 23, 2011, letter to the council, 14 university presidents from Missouri declined to participate in what they called "ill-conceived 'research'" conducted "in a coercive way from outside the profession."

The leaders of Westminster College, Lindenwood University, Missouri Southern State University and the University of Central Missouri were among those who shared their objections.
Such resistance has led the teacher quality council to seek course outlines in more roundabout ways, such as buying syllabi from former students contacted through classified ads in campus newspapers.

McKee said the council has settled another Cole County legal complaint against Lincoln University filed in June after the Jefferson City school initially provided limited course materials at what the group considered an excessive cost.
Mizzou Pharmacy now open at MU Student Center

By Taylor Weatherby
October 1, 2012 | 10:16 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — As of last week, MU students, faculty and staff have a new convenience in the MU Student Center: A pharmacy. Mizzou Pharmacy is MU Health Care's ninth retail pharmacy and is near the University Printing Services in the southeast corner of the first floor in the MU Student Center. Neil Schmidt, system pharmacy manager for MU Health Care, said the pharmacy is a replica of the other eight pharmacies and accepts the same insurance plans as the other locations.

All MU Health Care pharmacies can fill prescriptions for UM System faculty and staff under the myChoice Health Plan — including 90-day quantities — through Express Scripts, Schmidt said. Eventually, Mizzou Pharmacy will try to tailor its inventory to what students and staff need most.

"Management staff over at the Student Center told us that 17,000 students and staff walk through the facility Tuesday through Thursday," Schmidt said. "We wanted to take pharmacy service to where the majority of our student and staff population are." Schmidt said even before the pharmacy opened, there was real buzz about the new location with students and faculty asking about its hours and how to transfer prescriptions there. Rachel Johnson, a sophomore at MU, said she used to pick up her prescriptions from the pharmacy on the first floor of the University Physicians Medical Building. She was able to transfer the prescription to Mizzou Pharmacy on Friday.

"It increases the ease," Johnson, who lives off campus, said. "I commute from the Hearnes bus right outside (of the Student Center), so this location is a lot more convenient." Michelle Froese, spokeswoman for MU Student & Auxiliary Services, emphasized that offering convenient services is one thing Student & Auxiliary Services strives to do.

"It's helpful to any member of our campus community when you have centralized resources," Froese said. "To be able to take care of things on campus like dropping off laundry, checking out a laptop and now picking up a prescription, is great."
Foster kids can overcome extra financial obstacles

By Steve Rosen, Tribune Media Services Kids & Money

3:05 a.m. CDT, October 2, 2012

Eddye Vanderkwaak's life story is really two tales.

There's the girl who grew up in a dysfunctional home in Iowa until she was 14, living primarily with her father. It was a week-to-week existence, with her father borrowing from friends and family members to cover the bills.

Then there's the girl who rebounded in the foster care system and now at age 21 is about to earn an associate degree in liberal arts from a Des Moines community college. That success has inspired her to apply to law school with the hope of becoming a judge overseeing child welfare cases.

It's been a dramatic transformation -- one that Vanderkwaak admits might not have happened if not for Opportunity Passport, a financial education program developed by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative.

"I'd like to think I would have made it on my own," she said in an interview. "But it would have been very difficult."

Last week, Vanderkwaak attended a conference in Washington for the release of a report, "Enduring Assets: Findings From a Study on the Financial Lives of Young People Transitioning From Foster Care."

The study was prepared by researchers that included several from the University of Missouri in Columbia. Their research focused on how personal financial education can play a key role in helping youngsters move from the foster care system into college and independent living.

That's part of the mission of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, named in memory of the founder of United Parcel Service.

Founded 11 years ago, the St. Louis-based initiative provides financial support through Operation Passport's matched savings program of up to $1,000 a year to young people in foster care who are coming into adulthood.

The donor-supported program is currently organized in 15 states for young people ages 14 to 23 who
were in foster care after their 14th birthday.

More than 6,000 teens and young adults have collectively saved $5 million to be used for education, an apartment, a car or other assets, according to the youth organization.

Vanderkwaak is one of them.

At age 18, with four years in foster care and a high school diploma, Vanderkwaak joined Opportunity Passport.

But before receiving any financial help, she had to participate in an education training program to learn about budgeting, banking and other money matters. Gaining this knowledge opened her eyes to the possibility of attending college.

Handling money and even maintaining a checking account with a debit card can be a financial mind bender for many youths in foster care. Part of the problem is that foster kids frequently change addresses and hometowns, don't receive an allowance and don't make much money from part-time jobs.

Compared with a typical teenager, Vanderkwaak said, foster kids have "a bigger sense of urgency to find ourselves and get things right."

Given the difficulties many teens and young adults face in getting a grip on money issues, Vanderkwaak urges them to:

-- Keep a budget and track spending. It's important to know how much money you make, when and how often you get paid, and what fixed expenses you have each month.

-- Plan ahead -- especially for the unexpected. "A rule of thumb that I live by is to set aside all the money I know I need each month to pay my bills, and then set aside an extra percentage of my income to cover things that may not happen but that I'll need if the situation arises," Vanderkwaak said.

-- If you need to borrow, always repay your debts on time.

-- Do your research, and never be afraid to ask questions.

As Vanderkwaak learned, it's OK if you don't know all the answers. It's also OK to reach out for help.

Vanderkwaak found her lifeline in Opportunity Passport. Despite her rough start in life, she's ready to tackle new challenges and fulfill her hopes and dreams.

"I want to be self-sufficient in all aspects of my life," she said.

in the foster care system, that's called having a sense of permanency.
The Grid: Climate Groups Push Questions in Presidential Showdown

InsideClimateNews.org -- Aside from Mitt Romney's recent jab at Barack Obama's concern over global warming—and the president's tit-for-tat response —climate change has been largely under the radar in the campaign.

But several groups, backed by hundreds of thousands of petitions, are trying to change that, at least for one night.

Nine environmental organizations Friday delivered more than 160,000 petitions to Jim Lehrer urging him to ask a question about climate change during Wednesday's first presidential debate. The goal is to bring attention on a national stage to an issue that's been pushed aside in the election, said Mike Palamuso, a spokesman for the League of Conservation Voters, one of the groups involved in the petitions.

"They talk about key moments in the election. One is the VP pick. Another is the respective party conventions, and the third is the debates," said Palamuso. "Two of those have passed, so in some regards this is the last big event in the presidential election.

"It represents an opportunity where millions of voters are tuning in ... to have this front and center." The advocates' push follows a poll showing that global warming is one of the most important issues to 61 percent of undecided voters.

Wednesday's 90-minute televised debate at the University of Denver—the first of three this month—will focus on domestic issues. A list of topics released by Lehrer showed a focus on the economy, governing style and health care.

The petitions are just one of several attempts to get climate change added to that list. 350.org, a climate advocacy organization founded by author and activist Bill McKibben will put up a billboard in Denver this week asking for more climate talk. Friends of the Earth Action and Forecast the Facts teamed up for a social media campaign called "Climate Silence" to urge more talk on the trail, and beyond.

The goal, said 350.org media campaigner Daniel Kessler, is to create so much discussion around the topic that "Lehrer just can't ignore it."
"It's less up to him, but it's on us to create enough noise about this," Kessler said. "Climate change touches on so many issues, including agriculture and jobs and the economy, so there's always a chance to work it in. But we're still not at that point."

Although Obama talks about clean energy as a way to improve the economy, he has made scant mention of climate change. That's a sharp departure from the last presidential election, when both he and Republican candidate John McCain bolstered the consensus that global warming is real, man-made and pressing.

But skepticism about climate science has become part of the GOP's core message, and political urgency in Washington to curb emissions has faded. Romney—who once supported carbon regulations—had his biggest climate moment of the campaign in the form of mockery.

"President Obama promised to begin to slow the rise of the oceans and heal the planet," Romney said in his convention speech. He paused as laughter erupted, adding, "My promise is to help you and your family."

That merited a response from Obama during the Democratic convention the following week. "My plan will continue to reduce the carbon pollution that is heating our planet, because climate change is not a hoax."

But that was the extent of the discussion.

And so the debates—particularly the first debate, which is traditionally the most watched—offer a chance to discuss the issue in front of tens of millions of voters from both sides of the aisle.

Generally, environmental issues haven't been voting priorities for most Americans, said Marjorie Hershey, a professor of political science at Indiana University, who specializes in campaigns and elections. "To increase citizens' understanding and concern, these issues need to make it onto the political agenda. One way to do that is to include it in the presidential debates, where the audience for politics is much higher."

In fact, University of Missouri communications professor Mitchell McKinney said that merely mentioning an issue during a debate can help elevate it in voters' minds. McKinney has tracked presidential debates for more than two decades, including viewers' responses. He has found that voters' "issue agendas" tend to change before and after debates.

"An issue, especially one like climate change, may not register on people's issue agendas, but if it gets mentioned during a debate we find it creeps up there," McKinney said. For example, he said that transportation infrastructure didn't rank highly in voters' minds until it was brought up during a 1992 debate.

Climate advocates sense an opportunity with the first debate, which is why they are doing so much outreach over the next few days. The New York Times reported that 50 million people are expected to tune in on Wednesday.
In contrast to scripted campaign events, debates force candidates to speak directly and more candidly to a massive, captive audience, 350.org's Kessler said.

"Obviously [the president] talks about clean jobs when he travels to Iowa or Colorado and he's making a point to draw a difference between himself and Romney," Kessler said. "But the debates are so much more important."

Robert Watson, an American studies professor at Lynn University, said that all of the attention being paid on Wednesday's event may be somewhat misguided. The second debate—a town hall format—could feature a climate question, but Watson said the real discussion may come at the third debate, held at his university in Florida two weeks before the election.

"The third debate is all about foreign policy ... and it seems to me one topic should be, and could be, climate change," Watson said. "It offers a perfect example to contrast Obama and Romney on global policy, their views on science and their view on the world."

Whatever happens in the debates and in November, advocates have made it clear their efforts to build pressure for climate policies will continue.

The Presidential Climate Action Project, a climate and energy security think tank, released a report on Monday outlining a menu of climate and energy policies the president can take without approval from Congress. The study, which includes recommendations like pricing carbon, follows previous PCAP reports timed to administration transitions.

The Climate Silence campaign is similarly looking beyond the 2012 elections, setting up a social media effort to stop the "slow, collective descent toward mute acceptance of global calamity" and compel politicians to bring up the issue.

And 350.org, among other actions, has organized a national speaking tour led by McKibben that launches the day after the election, called "Do the Math."

The post-election campaign builds on an article by McKibben, published in Rolling Stone, that uses math to explain why the world must now transition to green energy. The crux of his argument is that countries can only burn 565 more gigatons of carbon by mid-century to keep global warming limited to a rise of 2 degrees Celsius.

McKibben says energy companies now have five times that amount in their reserves.

The goal, said Kessler, is to spark a new and more substantive conversation after the noise of the campaign subsides. "It's ... hard to break through during this crazy time around the election."

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Candidates have differing goals in Wednesday's presidential debate

WASHINGTON • Polls showing Mitt Romney lagging in swing states have increased pressure on the GOP presidential candidate to achieve a breakout moment when he meets President Barack Obama on Wednesday evening in the first of three presidential debates.

For the president, coming away as "no-drama Obama" with an error-free 90 minutes could be an ideal script, analysts say.

The kickoff debate will begin at 8 p.m. St. Louis time at the University of Denver and will focus on the economy. The first half of the debate will deal solely with economic issues, with the second half taking up health care, the role of government and a segment identified simply as "governing."

Obama and Romney will be wooing an unusually small number of undecided voters for this point in a presidential election. For instance, in Iowa — which is among this year's swing states — a Des Moines Register poll last weekend found a minuscule 2 percent of undecided voters. Ten percent said they could yet change their minds, half of them independents.

And while national polls suggest that Obama and Romney are running neck-and-neck, a flurry of recent surveys show Obama leading in the battleground states key to winning 270 electoral votes. A Washington Post-ABC News poll on Monday showed that even though the presidential contest was nearly even nationally, Obama had opened up a double-digit lead across swing states.

For Romney, that deficit suggests the need for a shining performance if he is to ward off pessimism about his candidacy and continue raising money.

That type of evening is within Romney's grasp given the skill he displayed over 23 debates during the primary season when, usually as GOP front-runner, he was the target of others on the stage, said Mitchell McKinney, a debate expert and communications professor at the University of Missouri.

"He started out somewhat shaky, but as it went on he handled himself well. He was well-scripted and he stayed on message," said McKinney, who has been an adviser to the Commission on Presidential Debates.
Just once, McKinney recalled, did Romney commit a memorable blunder — when he challenged Texas Gov. Rick Perry to a $10,000 bet during a debate in Iowa. Calling attention to his financial wherewithal is not something Romney's advisers want him to do.

Dennis Goldford, a Drake University professor of politics, had the occasion to watch Romney debate on several occasions since 2008. Goldford says that the onus is on Romney "to change the narrative of this election; to make people start looking at him in a different way. People aren't exactly writing postmortems for his campaign, but that could be coming soon."

He added: "The best thing for Obama would be for people to say that nobody won."

Debate experts say that Obama's goals should be avoiding the long-winded answers for which he is known and keeping his cool amid an expected drumbeat of attacks on his record. He also needs to spell out steps he's been taking to repair the troublesome economy, they said.

"This isn't his hope and change campaign, but he still has to provide a narrative that conveys that there's hope for people," McKinney said.

Persuading voters is an increasingly difficult task in swing states, where residents are bombarded with television ads and harsh messages, said Susan MacManus, a political scientist and Florida television commentator.

In Florida, a main target of presidential campaigns these days, "the saturation level is stratospheric," MacManus said.

"People are telling me that they are not going to listen to another hour-and-a-half of negatives. If one candidate is bashing the other, I think it will be terrible for turnout," added MacManus, a government professor at the University of South Florida.

Romney could be well-served, MacManus predicted, by invoking patriotic themes and trying to connect with people who are concerned about America's image.

Obama's challenge, she added, is developing a chemistry with viewers as a president — contrasting with four years ago when he appealed to voters as a candidate.

"This may end up being a statistical debate," she said, noting the likelihood of candidates presenting an array of competing figures about the economy.

STORY CONTINUES...
MU geographer Shannon White has spearheaded an effort to bring geographic information systems to Missouri students.

K-12 students in Missouri now have access to free geographic information system software that allows users to overlay information onto maps.

From homeschool programs to Boy Scouts to schools, almost any youth organization can apply for the GIS for free online at gis.missouri.org. GIS contains software ranging from 3D maps to applications for personal GPS handheld devices.

According to the website, the project aims to promote geospatial technologies for students in Missouri.
“GIS is not like Google Earth,” Missouri Geographic Alliance coordinator Shannon White said. “What GIS gives to education is the ability to look at more than just a pretty map.”

White said GIS allows users to overlay maps with information in order to answer questions. White said some students might use it to answer questions like comparing population sizes of ethnic groups.

“In a science class, for example, you have this immediate connection with this data and the visual map,” White said. “With Google Earth, you could never ask where is the population of one ethnic group larger than another ethnic group. You could take guesses about it. But that’s not on Google Earth.”

White said the information isn’t just for schools or organizations with huge technology budgets.

“We’re giving the world to children in all regions of Missouri,” White said in a news release. “Schools with limited resources stand to benefit greatly from this program. If Internet access is limited and computers are scarce, the GIS can be used from a single computer, and teachers can use projectors so the whole class can see. If GPS units are unavailable, students can use their smartphones to mark data points. There’s an app for that.”

White spearheaded the project over three years and collaborated with several organizations on the GIS system, including Esri, a leader in the field of GIS. She said she was one of the first people to start fully investigating how to integrate GIS systems in the classroom when she was at North Carolina State University.

Missouri is now the 17th state in the U.S. with a fully functioning GIS system.

“It is pretty user friendly once you get used to it,” White said. “(But) the teacher is going to have some sort of professional help.”

On Saturday, the Missouri Geographic Alliance is hosting a conference to help train people to use the program. So far, 65 people are signed up for the conference. White said the people who are interested in the program are from all over the state, and word of the conference and GIS has spread mainly through word of mouth.

White said the feedback has been pretty positive so far. One of the first schools to use the GIS program was the Columbia Area Career Center, which taught a course in GIS. White said the technology greatly benefitted the students.

“(It was used) for students to be able to go into college and study GIS as part of their college courses,” White said.

White said she couldn’t talk about how much the GIS project cost, but she said $140,000 worth of work and volunteerism is being devoted to spreading the GIS program throughout Missouri.
MU researchers are working to create an iPhone app that they hope could save the lives of women in abusive relationships.

Tina Bloom, who teaches in MU’s Sinclair School of Nursing, is working alongside students and faculty to create the app, which will help users determine if they are in an abusive relationship and if so, suggest a safety plan specific to their level of risk.

As part of the app, the researchers have developed a Danger Assessment quiz that is available for use now. Bloom expects a demonstration model of the full app to be tested in the spring. It will be subjected to a series of tests by a participant group.

The app is funded by the One Love Foundation, created after the Yeardley Love tragedy in 2010, combining the victim’s name with her lacrosse jersey number. Love was killed by her boyfriend during her senior year at the University of Virginia.

Research shows that 33 percent of female homicide victims die at the hands of an intimate partner. One-third of women in the United States between the ages of 18 and 24 have experienced violence from an intimate partner, making college-age women at highest risk for being in an abusive relationship.

In 2011, the National Domestic Violence Crisis hotline, received more than 265,000 calls for help, said Angela Hale, a hotline spokesperson.

Hale says that 57 percent of dating college-age women who have reported violence find it difficult to identify signs of abuse.

"You only know what you've been exposed to," Hale said. "It takes somebody to step up and break the cycle."
Bloom agrees that some kinds of abuse are harder to identify than others. "Power, control, sexual coercion are much harder to understand as abuse," she said.

The app addresses that challenge by helping college-age women recognize that abuse comes in many forms and that all of them can be a threat to their safety. It also connects them to lifesaving resources on and off campus without sacrificing their privacy. Bloom's team is discussing how to disguise the app from violent partners.

Because the majority of abused victims are women, a version has not yet been created for men, despite the increase in domestic violence arrests of women.

Here's how the app works:

- First, the user is prompted to answer general questions about her relationship, such as the sex of her partner, which then leads to a set of preliminary questions to determine if her relationship is unhealthy.
- The user then completes a danger assessment, which uses a specific set of research-based, weighted questions to determine how dangerous her relationship is.

"We know what predicts serious injury and death," Bloom said. For example, if a woman answers "yes" to "Does your partner own a gun?," the danger score is boosted significantly. Bloom said a woman is more than four times more likely to be killed if her partner owns a gun.

- Guided by additional prompts, the user will assess her priorities, then be given advice for how to handle situations specific to her lifestyle and be connected to resources for nearby shelters, legal representation, counseling and hotline services.

Friends and family of abused survivors — who in many cases do not know what to do to help someone in an abusive relationship — can also use the app. They will complete a similar set of questions and learn what resources are available on campus and locally, such as Columbia's women's shelter, True North, which received 1,280 calls in 2011, according executive director Barbara Hodges.

Bloom is working with Nancy Glass from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Karen Eden at Oregon Health and Science University, Nancy Perrin at Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland, Ore., and Jill Messing at Arizona State University. Her team is working with 27 participants in the four states where the app developers are based to determine the functionality of the app.
The participants include college staff and students, both men and women, who have either survived abusive relationships or who know someone in an abusive relationship. Bloom said she couldn't say yet if there will be a charge for the app.

Danica Wolf, the coordinator of MU's Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center (RSVP), said she sees value in the app.

"I think (it) has the potential to be a great, effective tool for folks who are looking for answers and/or a private way to figure out what could be going on in their relationship," Wolf said in an email.

While Bloom's team is working on how to market the app, Wolf thinks one of the best strategies will be to focus on bystander intervention.

"Having someone download the app in case a friend needs your help and support can be one of the best ways to ensure that no matter what, it is on the radar of someone who is being abused or someone around them," Wolf said.

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.
The Tribune’s View

Nuclear waste

Still an issue?

By Henry J. Waters III

Recently, when discussing the future of nuclear power, we’ve been preoccupied with hopes Westinghouse and Ameren can snag a big federal grant to develop and build a new generation of smaller generators thought to be a perfect fit for this area.

We don't hear much about the issue of long-term radioactive waste storage, which for years dominated the argument about the future of nuclear power.

I think we are gradually deciding nuclear generation is and will be a preferred method of production in the volume necessary with the most benign effect on the atmosphere.

Engineers have for years contended the argument over storage is political, not scientific. One of the most persuasive of these proponents is University of Missouri nuclear engineering Professor Bill Miller.

In a recent column in these pages, Miller told us about "consent-based" storage in a huge salt bed a half-mile below the desert near Carlsbad, N.M., where "a deep-geologic repository" keeps long-lived waste from nuclear weapons production.

Miller explained that many people in the area, including the mayor and business leaders, are enthusiastic about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and want to host another repository for all of the commercial and defense high-level waste in the United States, which was to have been stored at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada that was abandoned after it became mired in political squabbling.

The New Mexico Environmental Evaluation Committee was formed to examine safety issues before a decision was made. In this atmosphere of local control, exhaustive research was conducted and people became convinced WIPP would be safe.

Since the site opened in 1999, Miller says, there have been more than 10,000 shipments using trucks and trains to carry steel drums filled with waste and contaminated items from nuclear installations and national laboratories from as far as 1,000 miles away. About 200,000 tons of waste has been stored, and the process will continue for 25 to 35 years. Within 75 years, salt
surrounding the repository "will have filled in any cracks or fissures, sealing in the repository for thousands of years."

The project has created thousands of jobs. Federal highway grants have come to the area, and the city has the lowest unemployment in the state: 3 percent.

The ability to store nuclear waste is an economic blessing, not a nightmare. Development of WIPP in New Mexico can ease the way forward for proper development and use of nuclear power around the nation.

HJW III
Celebrate Ability Week showcases abilities of students with disabilities

By Beatriz Costa-Lima

Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 12

Events will include a presentation from TLC’s Matt Roloff.

With one hand on a wheel and the other on the ball, MU Wheelchair Basketball player Ben Mayforth demonstrated how to dribble in wheelchair basketball at the sport’s open house Monday.

After passing the ball to a student trying the sport for the first time, he added one last tip.

"Just have fun with it." Mayforth said. "But if you fall, keep your chin to your chest."

Along with an adaptive golf demonstration, the MU Wheelchair Basketball open house kicked off Celebrate Ability Week, which will feature on-campus events through Friday.

Opening day events also included a free screening at Ragtag Cinema of “Lives Worth Living,” a film that traces the development of disability rights, according to Ragtag Cinema’s website.

"What Celebrate Ability Week is all about is just showing what the abilities of persons with disabilities are," MU Wheelchair Basketball coach Ron Lykins said. "Too often people think, 'You can't do this, you can't do that.' This is to show what people can do."

This will mark Celebrate Ability Week’s third year. Student involvement has grown since the tradition began in 2010, said Jerry Hitzhusen, an associate professor in the parks, recreation and tourism department. Hitzhusen teaches a leisure and disability class and helped with the adaptive golf demonstration.

The demonstration allowed students to experience how people with disabilities can play golf independently, golf instructor and consultant Dany Baker said. Using adaptive equipment, coaches or golf carts, people with disabilities don’t have to give up their love of the sport, Baker said.

"It provides awareness first of all and helping educate these young students so when they go back to their hometowns to let people know that stuff like this exists for people with challenges
(or) certain types of disabilities," Baker said. "We all in some way have some kind of physical challenge in one way or another."

Baker instructed students how to hit, chip and putt from a wheelchair.

"I like to golf, so it's nice to come here and learn how people with disabilities can golf, like what they have to do to get around the course and how they have to hit it," senior Ryan Howerton said. "It gives you perspectives on (how) disabled people have to operate."

After Baker finished adaptive golf demonstrations, Lykins joined the court with several MU wheelchair basketball players to teach students how to play wheelchair basketball. Students sat in wheelchairs as players gave them pointers about shooting and simultaneously dribbling and moving.

"I really like the open house and Celebrate Ability Week because it shows people without disabilities that wheelchair basketball and other disabled sports are actual sports," Mayforth said. "It shows that we actually put a lot of time into it, and it takes a lot of athletic ability to just be able to do it. We're just regular people just trying to play some ball."

Allowing students to experience wheelchair basketball firsthand at the open house can inspire some to watch games, Lykins said.

Celebrate Ability Week will continue with other events throughout the week including a presentation and book signing by Matt Roloff from TLC's "Little People Big World" on Tuesday and a wheelchair obstacle course Friday.

"These events are really cool because students get to try other sports," MU Wheelchair Basketball player Dustin Casey said. "It shows people that we can still go out and be active, and recreation is just as important to us as it is to anybody else. People are surprised when they come watch. It's very physical."
Tiger Pantry opens its doors

By Jill Deutsch

Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 12

The new service will provide clients with a bag of food every month.

As the month of October began, so did Tiger Pantry, the Missouri Students Association’s newest auxiliary that will provide students, staff and faculty at MU with food assistance.

“(Tiger Pantry) created a bridge between those who can help and those who need help,” said Peggy Kirkpatrick, executive director of the Central Missouri Food Bank, at the opening.

The pantry opened its doors Oct. 1 at 1400 Rock Quarry Road and will begin distributing food Oct. 2.

Tiger Pantry will operate from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday.

The new service will assist any student, staff and faculty member who needs the food assistance. There is no test to assess a client’s need.

“(We want) to keep our doors open to everyone who needs help,” Tiger Pantry marketing coordinator Rafa Nizam said.

In order to access the services, one must fill out a request form online or at the Tiger Pantry center. Afterward, clients will receive an ID card and can pick up their food once a month.

Though volunteers at Tiger Pantry are unsure how many will utilize the services, there is a great need for food assistance at MU, said Nick Droege, Tiger Pantry founder and MSA director of student services.

At the opening, Droege said 15,000 students receive need-based aid, 6,000 students receive Pell Grants and 1,000 students receive less than $1,000 in family assistance.

“The statistics tell us with certainty that there is in fact a need (for Tiger Pantry’s services), and we expect people to respond to this opportunity to receive food,” Tiger Pantry director Anne Deaton said.
Droege learned the statistics after he discovered the University of Arkansas’ Full Circle Food Pantry, according to a previous Maneater article.

“(The first step) was getting enough support because at first, we didn’t think enough people would rally behind this idea,” Tiger Pantry co-fundraising coordinator Tim Lewis said.

Now that Tiger Pantry is open, the next step is to maintain operations and meet the needs of clients, Nizam said.

“We want to make sure we have all of the food that we need to meet the needs of the various families and students and that we have the right food,” Deaton said.

Tiger Pantry will try to maintain donations through private donations and food drives hosted by other organizations, Lewis said.

“It’s really about fostering support with other organizations and departments on campus so if they host the food drive one year, it won’t just be a one-time thing,” he said. “(Also,) we’ll be going to the community (for donations) because every little thing helps.”

Promoting the services will also solidify Tiger Pantry’s permanence in the future, Deaton said.

“I think (the most important things are) keeping donations of the food that is needed in and getting the word out — those two things together will ensure the sustainability of the food pantry,” she said.

Droege said he is already planning for the future of Tiger Pantry.

“Next semester, we’re looking into providing fresh produce and offering more resources,” Droege said. “We want to be part of the solution, not just be a temporary fix.”

Droege said he and other volunteers want to ensure Tiger Pantry is here to help members of the MU community.

“I just think this is so exemplary of the Mizzou student body and what they mean when they say ‘One Mizzou’ and how they’re willing to live One Mizzou,” Deaton said.
Access to Alcohol Action Team works to promote responsible drinking

By Elissa Chudwin

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Bar owners, police and student conduct officials contribute to the team.

The Access to Alcohol Action Team is actively working with community members to increase student safety and decrease irresponsible alcohol use.

Wellness Resource Center director Kim Dude represents higher education on the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission and is the chairwoman of the Access to Alcohol Team, which meets during Substance Abuse Advisory Commission meetings.

"We meet every month, look at data, discuss the issues and come up with ways to make our campus and students safer," Dude said.

The Access to Alcohol Action Team is a campus community coalition separate from the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission. Though the commission members have to be appointed by City Council, anyone can attend the Access to Alcohol Team update.

A variety of community members — including bar owners, campus police, city police and MU Office of Student Conduct representatives — typically attend the meetings, Dude said.

Members of the MU Police Department attend these meetings to learn what other departments and groups are doing about alcohol-related issues, as well as try to identify key issues all the groups are facing to ensure a collaborative effort, MUPD spokesman Brian Weimer said.

Both the Access to Alcohol Team update and Substance Abuse Advisory Commission are about creating a positive, safe environment in the community, Dude said.

“It’s very difficult to get students to make good choices if the environment that they live in and socialize in encourages them to not make good choices,” Dude said.

The Access to Alcohol Action Team's recent updates have involved monitoring fan behavior at football games and educating new students about the change in Greek Life policy. Those who attended the meeting expressed concern about the number of incoming freshmen who are living off campus and how they would be accounted for.
"The community needs to take alcohol issues seriously and start making better choices when it comes to alcohol use," Weimer said in an email. "Examples are not drinking and driving, no binge drinking, etc."

The proposed server training ordinance is something the advisory commission is currently focusing on, Dude said. The proposed ordinance would require servers in Columbia to undergo educational training to learn how to detect fake IDs and avoid serving overly intoxicated patrons.

"The part of this I'm most interested in is the part about not serving already intoxicated people," Dude said. "We need help to make sure our students who drink do so in a safe way. A bar or liquor store who is already serving people who are intoxicated makes our job really difficult. We could use the partnership, frankly."

Teamwork is the cornerstone of the Access to Alcohol Action Team, Dude said.

"We work with members of the community to have laws and policies and practices to encourage good decision-making," Dude said. "We place a high priority on working with community members."