Embracing legacy tied to SEC

MU’s Deaton, a Kentucky grad devoted to academia, OK with athletics now being part of calling card.

Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton, who grew up in Kentucky and earned his undergrad degree at UK, will forever be remembered as the man who led MU to the SEC.

By Dave Matter

Saturday, October 27, 2012
Scattered among the framed degrees and photos, the countless leather-bound books and keepsakes from around the world, Brady Deaton's office in Jesse Hall houses a few reminders that the Missouri chancellor's job isn't all about academia.

On a massive bookshelf sits footballs and basketballs autographed by the Missouri coaches and players. A few rows down, a framed shot of Deaton and football Coach Gary Pinkel.

Driven by the experiences of his youth in rural Kentucky, Deaton has built a career in higher education half a century in the making. Now, perhaps more than ever, the leader of MU's campus is known for his place in that orbit just outside his academic world: athletics.

Years from now, Deaton will be remembered as the administrator who oversaw Missouri's move from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference, even though he never consciously framed his role in that light at the time.

"No, quite honestly, no. That was something in regard to athletics that I never thought, 'My legacy will be this or that,' " he said this week in an interview as Missouri approaches the one-year anniversary of announcing its move to the SEC last Nov. 6. "If we have to choose things to be our legacy, we'd always choose those things of the highest academic quality. That's what we really want to achieve."

Nevertheless, Missouri's athletic program has seen tremendous growth since he became chancellor in 2004, and with Deaton's steady navigation through the turbulent Big 12 departure, MU enters an uncharted but lucrative future in the SEC. The conference change, which became official July 1, has already surpassed his expectations for its impact on the campus.

"It's been more of a positive process than I would have envisioned," he said.

This weekend, Missouri celebrates its 101st homecoming with Pinkel's Tigers (3-4, 0-4 SEC) playing host to Kentucky, the school where Deaton earned his undergraduate degree and the place where his passions for learning took shape.

Deaton, 70, grew up the second of nine children on a family farm in Pine Grove, Ky., nestled in Appalachia but barely an hour from the UK campus in Lexington. Surrounded by poverty in a region known for coal mining, Deaton's interest in agriculture and economics took root.

"We knew we didn't have a big enough farm to make a living," Deaton said. "I had to do something else."

A longtime member of 4-H, Deaton enrolled at Kentucky and planned to study dairy genetics — but not without exploring another option. He considered trying out for the freshman football team, but ... 

"I concluded very wisely that was not for me," he said, laughing.
Deaton left that adventure to childhood friend Rodger Bird, who became an All-American running back for the Wildcats.

Instead, Deaton had other ambitions. He held several jobs on campus to pay for tuition. He graded papers for statistics classes. He worked in the student financial aid office. For two years, he milked cows in the dairy barn. Later, he'd spend two years in Thailand with the Peace Corps. After earning his degree in agricultural economics, Deaton led YMCA work camp projects in Colombia and Ecuador, which is where he met his wife, Anne, who was a UK undergrad at the time.

Deaton's career took them to Tennessee and Virginia Tech, where he served on the faculty at both schools. In 1989, they came to MU, where Deaton climbed from chair of the agricultural economics department to the chancellor's chief of staff to provost to chancellor in 2004.

Little did he figure back then he'd become the central figure in Missouri's monumental shift from one conference to another. In his world of academics, Deaton always viewed universities from a regional perspective, not so much through the prism of athletic conferences. Having spent time at two SEC schools — at Kentucky as a student and Tennessee as a professor — Deaton said his kinship with the South made the decision to guide Missouri out of the Big 12 and into the SEC "more comfortable."

Still, it was Missouri's athletic leaders, Athletic Director Mike Alden and Pinkel, who were thought to be leading MU's push to the SEC, while Deaton was perceived as the voice of reluctance, if not opposition. Deaton was also serving as chair of the Big 12 directors.

"We were always working very closely. Mike and I were like this," he said, pushing his index fingers together as one. "At every step, we were always very close in all considerations regarding conference affiliation. We worked very systematically with appropriate due diligence. ... From the public standpoint, it was like, 'My god, everyone else is saying all these things. Why aren't you saying anything?' Well, you don't do that. It's very lockstep."

The turning point came, Deaton said, when Oklahoma President David Boren said on Sept. 2 that OU would explore other conferences, leading to reports that OU, Oklahoma State, Texas and Texas Tech were negotiating with the Pac-12.

"Up until that point," Deaton said, "we were working ourselves to death to make sure the Big 12 thrived."

Missouri's point of no return seemed to occur Sept. 22, when Deaton and Boren held dueling press conferences on their respective campuses, both offering different versions of a conference call the Big 12 leaders had earlier that day. Deaton said he and Boren have since shared laughs over that night's chaos.

"Frankly," Deaton said, "that imprecision of things was something we're very happy not to be dealing with now."
Instead, Missouri is basking in the SEC experience, albeit with a struggling football team that's expected to play in front of a fourth sellout home crowd today. Outside of athletics, Deaton cites the SEC for sparking new ideas around campus, including the Tiger Pantry, MU's newly launched food bank. The Missouri Students Association got the idea from attending an SEC student government event at Arkansas.

"I think this is a function of change," Deaton said. "In the Big 12, students are working in a certain way, and they're in a pattern. You go to a new environment, and it's like they're looking at different things."

With more exposure to states in the Southeast, Deaton believes MU can also expand its reach and prestige in its other academic and economic ventures. In February, MU will be part of the inaugural SEC Symposium, where campus leaders will meet in Atlanta to discuss the Southeast's impact on renewable energy.

New conference, new football, new ideas.

A new legacy for Deaton? That much, he acknowledges.

"I don't want to shy away from that at all," he said. "That was a very important decision for Missouri. Had we stayed in the Big 12, that would have been an important decision for the university as well. ... We were assessing the future very carefully then and as thoroughly as one can under the circumstances. This is the step we chose to make."
Archer Daniels Midland’s $1 million gift to boost hands-on learning

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, October 27, 2012

Archer Daniels Midland Co., an Illinois-based agricultural processor, has given the University of Missouri $1 million to establish a new campus center where students studying agriculture, engineering and other fields can have more hands-on experiences.

The ADM Center for Agricultural Development will be renovated lab space within the Agricultural Engineering building. It's expected to open in spring 2014, Chancellor Brady Deaton said during the gift announcement yesterday.

Administrators touted the funding and future center as a way to enhance educational experiences.

"We hear from employers over and over again how important experiential learning is for job performance," said Jinglu Tan, chair of biological engineering. "But we're short of space for it. This gift is making it possible."

ADM has a long-standing relationship with MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources that began when the company realized many of its workers were coming from MU, Dean Tom Payne said.

Mike D'Ambrose, senior vice president of human resources for ADM, said the gift reflects "a deep commitment to developing a new generation of agricultural leaders."
He pointed to a growing population that's predicted to require twice the food and energy production needed today.

"As the global population continues to grow, the world is looking toward agriculture to create viable, sustainable solutions to some of the world's most pressing needs, like an abundant food supply and advanced renewable fuels," he said.

And ADM, he said, "is ensuring our talent pipeline will be stocked with the people we need to grow our company."

Tan envisions the new center being used for senior capstone projects and by student organizations, including Torq-N-Tigers, a club that designs and builds quarter-scale competitive tractors.

The "next big product" likely will come out of the ADM center, Tan said.

Hunter Nash, a senior from Florida who chose MU based on CAFNR's reputation, said students are excited about having more opportunities to do real-world tasks that will make them more competitive in the workforce.

"I can tell you," he told a couple dozen audience members, "agricultural systems management students are definitely looking forward to using the new ADM Center for Agricultural Development."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Archer Daniels Midland donates $1M to MU College of Agriculture

By Olivia Hancock
October 26, 2012 | 6:09 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources received a $1 million gift on Friday.

Archer Daniels Midland Company donated the money to the college for the creation of the Archer Daniels Midland Center for Agricultural Development.

The center, which will include laboratories, will be housed in a renovated space at MU’s Agricultural Engineering building. Renovations will begin this fall and the center is scheduled to open spring 2014.

Archer Daniels Midland, commonly known as ADM, converts corn, oilseeds, wheat and cocoa into food products, animal feed and products for energy and industrial uses. Its headquarters are in Decatur, Ill.

Tom Payne, vice chancellor and dean of the college, said the company’s donation was inspired by the company’s many employees who graduated from MU.

Michael D’Ambrose, the company’s senior vice president of human resources, said their commitment to MU was a natural outgrowth for the business.

“That’s why we believe this $1 million gift will provide great returns,” D’Ambrose said.

The center will give students hands-on experience practicing skills like welding, carpentry and electrical wiring. The labs will simulate a workplace environment and will give students the opportunity to try their hand at techniques otherwise just taught through classroom instruction.

"It will loosen up the safety net a little bit," said Hunter Nash, a senior majoring in agricultural systems management and agricultural economics.
Jinglu Tan, chair of MU’s Biological Engineering department, said the skills students will learn with the expanded space and improved technology in the new laboratories will help them find jobs.

"We hear from employers all the time how important experiential learning is," Tan said.

The center will also provide space for student capstone design projects and other student clubs like Torq-N-Tigers. The club designs and builds a quarter-scale tractor and competes in an international design and tractor-pull contest.

Tan said he thinks the new center will give students and faculty more opportunities to collaborate on projects like Torq-N-Tigers.

*Supervising editor is Emilie Stigliani.*
University salary report shows some big increases

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, October 28, 2012

Most University of Missouri employees have seen their paychecks increase this past year, and for some, raises have been hefty.

Speer Morgan's salary is up 24 percent over this time last year, according to annual salary data released by the university. Morgan, the MU English professor who at one point was tapped to lead the creation of a new university press, is now making $124,904.

Noah Manring, who saw a $10,000 pay decrease last year when he stepped down as chairman of electrical engineering, saw a 25 percent bump this year when he took the position back on an interim basis. His salary as of Sept. 1 was $211,160.

And Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, saw an 18 percent increase, bringing his salary to $247,561. O'Brien's search for a new job became public in March when he was named a finalist for the provost post at Louisiana State University.

Each year, the UM System is required to make public a salary spreadsheet showing what faculty, staff and administrators were making as of Sept. 1. In some cases, administrators wait until after that report becomes public to bestow raises, which is apparently what happened in Morgan's case.

Administrators wouldn't discuss specific employees, but Deputy Provost Ken Dean warned not to assume Morgan's 24 percent raise was part of the merit raises doled out this fall. Last year was the first time in two years that employees as a whole saw pay raises, and most got a 2 percent increase. This year, percentages varied, but on average, merit raises ranged between 3.9 percent and 4.4 percent, Dean said.

The salary reports also reflect any raises given to professors who were promoted or granted tenure over the past year. Between Oct. 1, 2011, and this year, that would account for promotions among 75 tenured or tenure-track professors and about the same number among nontenured professors, Dean said.
Several Trulaske College of Business professors and administrators saw their pay increase by double digit percentages over the past year. On average, most received a roughly 2 percent increase, but Dean Joan Gabel said there were 10 employees who got more.

"All of the outliers who got significantly more than 2 percent were either promoted into new positions, retained in response to a counteroffer or given an equity increase in recognition of superlative work and market conditions," she said.

That some raises exceeded 3 percent shows a commitment to improving the campus salary situation, said Tim Rooney, MU budget director. That's because the university increased salary pools by 3 percent — meaning anything on top of that would have come from department budgets.

"Salaries are our No. 1 commitment," Rooney said, adding that MU remains behind peer American Association of Universities institutions.

Some professors received no raise again this year, most notably Greg Engel, who hasn't had a pay increase in years. Engel is the engineering associate professor who publicly challenged administrators, including Manring, when they took control of grant money he'd secured. Engel also is suing the university after a failed attempt to remove his tenure.

Dean scoffed when asked how administrators prevent deans or chairs from using the merit-based process to improperly reward or deny raises.

"We reward people for performance," he said. "That's what's supposed to be done, and I think that's what we're doing."

At the UM System, most vice presidents saw a 3 percent or 4 percent raise, but two top administrators got less. Vice President of Research and Economic Development Mike Nichol's salary remained flat at $200,813. Steve Graham, associate vice president of academic affairs got less than a 1 percent raise, going from $192,417 to $194,341.

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said merit increases at the system level are based on three factors: Performance, market comparisons and a person's potential and value.
UM spokeswoman gets salary boost from restructuring

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, October 28, 2012

A restructuring of the University of Missouri System's strategic communications office boosted one employee's pay by some 40 percent over the past year.

Jennifer Hollingshead, 37, makes $125,000, according to salary data released last week. That's up from her 2011 salary of $89,000.

Hollingshead went from being the system's communications director to the chief communications officer when Cindy Pollard stepped down as vice president of strategic communications.

That vice president post was not filled, leaving Hollingshead in charge of the office. Wolfe, however, did create a new position in the office, hiring Melanie Barger to serve as manager of constituency communications for a salary of $46,000.

In addition to overseeing the website, speeches, marketing and digital communications, Hollingshead said she also works closely with the system's vice presidents. That includes putting together annual research reports, legislative newsletters and other marketing pieces.

Hollingshead said her pay is comparable to others in similar roles on the four campuses.

"When we were looking at my salary increase this year, we benchmarked it against the communications officers on the other campuses ... Chris Koukola, Anne Spenner, Ron Gossen, Andy Careaga," Hollingshead said in an email. "If you take a look at those salaries, you'll see mine is on the low side."

Spenner is vice chancellor of marketing at UM-Kansas City and makes $170,000, and Gossen is in the same role at UM-St. Louis making $142,800. Koukola makes $165,572 as an assistant to the chancellor who oversees MU's communications office. Careaga, the director of communications at Missouri University of Science & Technology, makes $91,760.
Editorial: Proposition B is good tax policy; good for schools

October 27, 2012 12:15 am • By the Editorial Board

The best reason for Missouri voters to support Proposition B, which raises Missouri's lowest-in-the-nation tobacco tax from 17 cents to 90 cents, has little to do with tobacco or the schools, colleges and universities that will benefit from the increased revenue.

"We have to win this," said Kansas City Republican businessman Warren Erdman, who is traveling the state stumping for Proposition B.

Why?

Because Missouri's politicians need to hear the message that the Show-Me State's race to the bottom in tax policy and education spending has gone far enough.

"If we can pass this we can demonstrate that tax increases are not radioactive," said Mr. Erdman.

Keep in mind, this is not some liberal hippie talking.

Mr. Erdman is a vice president with Kansas City Southern, a rail transportation company. He was appointed to the University of Missouri Board of Curators by former Gov. Matt Blunt, a Republican. He's a former chief of staff for Sen. Christopher S. "Kit" Bond, also a Republican.

In short, his conservative credentials are impeccable

He's tired of seeing his beloved state fall blindly into a no-new-taxes hole while school-children, and roads, and poor people suffer. He's seen the numbers indicating that Missouri ranks close to last among the 50 states in support for education. Part of the reason for that it is that Missouri also is a very low tax state.

Businesses need good schools, both for their employees' families, and to provide a pool of qualified future employees. Missouri is failing in this regard.

Proposition B is just a first step to righting that ship.

“We have to win this,” Mr. Erdman said. It's worth repeating.
Three times in the past decade, Missourians have said no to a tobacco tax increase. Those three proposals had their flaws, and so does this one. But Proposition B is better than its predecessors. We strongly urge Missouri voters to say Yes on B.

The initiative will raise somewhere between $300 million and $400 million. Half the money will go to local school districts, which have been shorted by the Legislature's unwillingness to fully fund the school foundation formula. Thirty percent of the money will go to the state's colleges and universities, with some of that money specifically dedicated to helping train future health-care workers. The rest of the money will be spent on tobacco cessation, which will contribute to reducing health-care costs for all of us, even as we pick up higher Medicaid bills for treating smokers.

Finally, the proposition changes a loophole in Missouri law that has made it the dumping ground for cheap cigarettes. It makes all tobacco companies play by the same rules.

Prop B is no panacea. Voters would be right to be wary, based on recent history, that lawmakers might try to meddle with it once Proposition B is law. In recent years, lawmakers have shown little regard for the will of the people expressed at the ballot box.

But the bottom line is that our schools need more funding. Our lawmakers need know that voters realize that revenue must be part of Missouri's solution. Voters have been saying yes to local school districts, in conservative and liberal communities, for years. It's time to say yes as a state.

Warren Erdman is right: We have to win this.
Students will benefit from tax increase

Students will benefit from tax increase.

By TIM WOLFE AND CHRIS BELCHER

Sunday, October 28, 2012

MU MENTION P. 3

As leaders of two of Missouri's largest public education systems, more than 90,000 students and their parents place their trust in us. At first blush, our jobs are pretty straightforward: to grow and shape young, eager minds to become tomorrow's leaders.

The reality, though, is much different — and much more complex.

As education leaders, our job is to cultivate the student as a whole, to help each one grow and thrive personally, and to care for their health and safety so one day their contributions can benefit all of society. The problem is education doesn't exist in a vacuum, and it doesn't easily overcome sometimes-negative outside influences.

Case in point: More than 30 percent of Columbia Public Schools students admit to smoking all or part of a cigarette — and more than 17 percent of those students smoke at least half a pack a day, according to a 2010 Columbia Public Schools survey. About 6,000 students on University of Missouri System campuses smoke cigarettes every day.

These numbers are really microcosms of Missouri as a whole. Our state has the 11th-highest smoking rate and the 39th-lowest life expectancy in the country. Nearly 9,000 Missouri kids start smoking each year.

Why? Probably lots of reasons, but at the top of our list is the low cost of cigarettes, attributable in large part to low taxes. In fact, Missouri has the lowest tobacco tax in the nation at 17 cents a pack. The national average is $1.49. This puts the price of cigarettes and tobacco products easily within reach of most teens' purchasing power.

A new approach will soon be before voters.

Proposition B would help address Missouri's health, smoking and school funding problems through a 73-cent tax increase on cigarettes and other tobacco products.
Increasing the price of cigarettes and tobacco products is a proven way to decrease smoking rates, especially in children. National data indicate that for every 10 percent increase in cigarette taxes, cigarette consumption among the general population declines 4 percent. And studies show youths are three times more sensitive to price than adults — and because 90 percent of smokers start smoking in their teen years, higher taxes can sharply reduce smoking rates in the long run.

In short, experts estimate this proposed tax increase would prevent 40,100 kids from becoming addicted adult smokers and cause 33,000 adult smokers to quit.

What's the big deal with smoking, some might wonder. The health implications should be obvious, but for the record, smoking leads to five times higher mortality rates in the United States as well as higher rates of heart and lung disease, stroke and cancer. And a new study published in the Archives of General Psychiatry also indicates smoking is associated with cognitive declines starting in midlife that are similar to 10 years of aging.

Plus, the health care costs associated with smoking are astronomical. Missouri spends $2.13 billion on health care costs directly related to smoking each year. More than half of this money could be saved from declines in youth and adult smoking if Proposition B passes.

Educators do their best to persuade kids not to smoke. On our University of Missouri System campuses, we have Wellness Centers that offer free smoking cessation programs and products. In our elementary, middle and high schools, we hold assemblies about the health effects of smoking, equip our guidance counselors with information they can use to influence students not to smoke and even teach the dangers of smoking in our health and science classes.

We're seeing success through these efforts, but more is needed. When 25 percent of K-12 students indicate they feel it is not wrong at all — or only slightly wrong — to smoke, we face an uphill battle.

We already know the counterargument: Missouri is averse to new taxes. But it also is important to know the facts in this particular case. Proposition B would bring the new tax total for cigarettes and tobacco products to 90 cents — still well below the national average of $1.49 per pack and keeping Missouri in the bottom half of state tobacco taxes. Illinois just raised its cigarette tax by $1 more than is being proposed in Missouri.

It's also worth noting that, in addition to stemming the number of youths who smoke, proceeds from the increased cigarette tax would be used for smoking prevention and cessation programs statewide, and would be allocated for elementary and secondary education classrooms to help prevent staff reductions and increased classroom size. Missouri colleges and universities also would benefit from funds used to support education opportunities for students and future caregivers.

It has been a tough lesson for us to learn, but education alone is not eliminating smoking among our students. We in the education business know something more needs to be done. When heading to the polls in November, we ask that you, too, think about the health and well-being of our students.
Tim Wolfe is president of the University of Missouri System, and Chris Belcher is superintendent of Columbia Public Schools.
MU student groups work to educate voters

By JANESS SILVEY

Syed Ejaz of Columbia was in elementary school when his dad tuned into the Democratic National Convention on television and then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama gave a speech about a unified America.

"I was a fifth-grader, I was detached from politics," Ejaz, now a University of Missouri freshman, recalled last week. "But that got me fired up as a kid. That was the beginning."

This year, Ejaz is as fired up as ever. It's the first time he'll be able to vote in a presidential election, and he's spent the past several months campaigning locally for the president. On Thursday, he joined the campaign of Democratic U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill to stump for her on the MU campus.

Hundreds of MU students have taken to the streets to rally peers for the Nov. 6 election.

On the MU campus alone, the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, a system-wide student lobbying organization, registered 6,000 new voters, said Patricia Poe, assistant legislative director for the group known as ASUM.

ASUM and the Graduate Professional Council also teamed up to make sure students know who they're voting for when they go to the polls. They just completed an in-depth, non-partisan assessment detailing where federal and state candidates stand on issues involving higher education. Candidates were sent letters requesting information, and the groups relied on campaign websites to fill in gaps when candidates didn't respond, said Jesse Kremenak, a legislative coordinator for the graduate student group.

Reagan Nielsen is mostly relying on social media to help her spread the word and encourage people to vote for pro-life candidates. She's the president of Mizzou Students for Life, which uses a Facebook site to educate visitors about where the candidates stand.

"I vote pro-life first," she said, parroting the name of a national campaign. "Mizzou Students for Life are getting involved in that."

Contrary to beliefs that college students lean left, Poe said her group has talked to people with a wide range of political views.

"There definitely has been a variety," she said. "A lot of students do have clear-cut positions in terms of the presidential election, both left and right. When it comes to the other candidates, we noticed some confusion, and they didn't know enough about them."

The ASUM/GPC assessment aims to provide that information without steering anyone to a particular candidate, she said.
The group gave A's and B's to state senators and representatives based on their support for student-pushed legislation, not which party they belong to.

In the 19th Senate District race, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, and opponent Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, received A's for supporting student curator legislation. Still also got a shout out for her work on trying to increase cigarette taxes, and Schaefer was praised for increasing higher education funding as appropriations chairman.

Rep. Chris Kelly, who is running unopposed as a Democrat, got an A, as well as Rep. Stephen Webber. Webber's opponent, Fred Berry, along with other local candidates who do not currently hold a political position, was not assessed.

Kremenak said he believes students can make a difference. He pointed out that the number of new MU voters almost doubles the 3,500 votes that decided John McCain's Missouri win in the 2008 presidential election.

"We don't have much money for lobbying efforts, but I think the strength we have is in numbers," he said. "And a lot of our population is concentrated, so we're able to spread messages a lot easier among this age group than it is through other age groups."
Two decades ago, a University of Missouri research team conducted a fusion experiment that emitted a burst of millions of neutrons.

But Mark Prelas, now a professor in the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute, was forced to stop the work when his then-supervisor cut off his funding. By 1991, when Prelas made the observation, Utah researchers Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons' claims of cold fusion had been dismissed as junk science. Prelas moved on to other things.

This year, he was able to resurrect his neutron-producing experiment thanks to the new Sidney Kimmel Institute for Nuclear Renaissance, or SKINR, at MU.

The institute was created with a $5.5 million gift from Kimmel, an apparel tycoon who founded The Jones Group. Prelas's team is one of six research groups now working on energy-related studies through SKINR, said Rob Duncan, MU's vice chancellor of research.

Prelas has picked up where he left off in 1991. In both experiments, he and fellow researchers exposed deuterium-saturated metal to a rapid rise in temperature, making it undergo a phase change in which deuterium atoms transitioned from hydride to deuterium gas. That gas then became trapped in a crystal lattice and subjected to instantaneous compression, resulting in the neutron burst. If that sounds too complex, think of a car engine compressing gasoline and air, causing gas to flood spaces and produce high pressures, Prelas said.

In the original experiment, the team created a device to record emitted neutrons with the expectation of counting about 10 neutrons a second. The card's storage was used up in less than one hundredth of a second.

They then used a counter with the capacity to track up to 1 million neutrons and timed it again with a stopwatch. That time, they reached a million neutrons in a second.

"This was incredible to us," Prelas said in an email. "The neutron production went on for five minutes and then I decided to put the device back into liquid nitrogen to shut the reaction down. We thermal shocked the device two more times and each time we produced large neutron bursts."

Before he could buy supplies to continue the work, his research account had been frozen.

With SKINR funding, he's re-created the experiment this year. Modern-day equipment has allowed for a better counting system, and in one run, his research team saw neutron emissions at similar levels to the 1991 observation.
Prefas — who presented his findings at the 17th International Conference on Cold Fusion in Korea in August — has theories but doesn't know yet exactly what's causing the presence of the neutrons. He's now testing various types of titanium to identify the metallurgical properties in which this neutron production phenomenon occurs.

"I'm really excited by it," Duncan said of the early results.

He stressed that researchers will continue to follow the scientific method and disprove assumptions until "what they're left with has a good chance of being reality."

A success will "lead to engineering better systems that will benefit humans, but first things first," Duncan said. "We've got to understand what this is. ... The focus clearly has to be on an opportunity to discover new physics and to understand new science. That really is our aim here at SKINR."
Institute of Medicine inductee promotes innovations in senior care

After her husband pointed out a nursing home job in the classifieds, Marilyn Rantz said she knew she wanted to serve seniors for the rest of her career.

Rantz has been a nurse for more than 40 years, has worked with older adults for 30 years and currently is a professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing. Through projects like Age In Place and TigerPlace, a type of senior housing that replaces the common nursing home, Rantz has offered an alternative to the way senior citizens age.

"Marilyn Rantz has been a virtual 'force' in terms of improving care and quality outcomes for older adults," School of Nursing dean Judith Fitzgerald said in a news release.

Rantz was recently inducted into the Institute of Medicine, a national honor society and advisory board.

"I've gotten a lot of experience working with older adults in the community as well as in long term care settings," Rantz said. "I hope to represent their concerns for being independent for as long as possible and see that their health care concerns are addressed nationally."

Rantz said she is also interested in expanding the use of technology to improve chronic issue management and independent living.

With the involvement of engineers at MU, Rantz said School of Nursing was hoping to develop new solutions to some of the old problems Rantz had seen among older people for years.

A main technology Rantz researched and developed is environmentally embedded sensors.

"At TigerPlace, we developed a network of motion sensors in the environment that are nonintrusive and that can monitor the activities of a person," Rantz said.

These sensors come in several different forms. A sensor can be placed underneath a mattress and monitor heart rate, respiration and bed restlessness.

"Bed restlessness and the way we sleep tells a lot about our health," Rantz said.

Rantz and her colleagues have transformed the Xbox Kinect, a game system peripheral normally used to play motion-based video games, into a potentially life-saving device. The Kinect monitors a shadow image of the gait of an individual and predicts health-threatening falls.
"Falls are one of the major causes of death and disability in older people," Rantz said. "If we can measure an increasing risk of falls, we can help people stay healthier by intervening and helping them gain lower extremity strength and balance and help them avoid a fall."

These systems send email alerts to a care coordinator, social worker and the research team after detection of changes in heart rate, respiration or gait, Rantz said. These health care professionals can then click and see images of the warning signs the automated system identified. Alerts usually come 10 days to two weeks ahead of a health problem, Rantz said.

"So this gives clinicians a heads up that something could be brewing, so they could take a closer look and hopefully find that problem earlier than when that person would have typically complained about it," she said.

Rantz said the purpose of the technology is to help early illness recognition and detection so problems can be managed with some assistance from primary care physicians, seniors can avoid repeat hospitalizations and avoid reliance on nursing home services.

"Most seniors say they don't give a damn about being safe, they want to be independent," Rantz said. "I'm hopeful that we can bring voice to those concerns and those important issues."
Top Drawer

Highlighting the new and noteworthy

Saturday, October 27, 2012

Marilyn Rantz, professor at the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing, has been admitted to the Institute of Medicine. Rantz, a Curators' Professor, University Hospitals and Clinics Professor of Nursing and Helen E. Nahm Chair, has spent the past 30 years working with the aging population and conducting research to improve seniors' quality of life. Election to the institute is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.
Women have tougher time getting Pulitzers

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, October 27, 2012

Women reporters have a tougher time snagging the coveted Pulitzer Prize in journalism than their male counterparts, a University of Missouri researcher has found.

Yong Volz, an assistant professor of journalism, teamed up with a researcher in Hong Kong to study biographical data from all 814 past winners of the prize from 1917 to 2010.

Of the 113 women recipients, most had access to greater resources than the average male winner.

"Beyond talent and hard work, majoring in journalism, earning a graduate degree, a metropolitan upbringing and employment with an elite publication such as The New York Times were among the things females needed to achieve this highest professional recognition," Volz said in a statement.

"Male winners have not necessarily had to possess such high qualifications in order to win."

Volz divided the winners into three historical periods. From 1917 to 1951, there were two female winners. Between 1951 and 1990, there was an increase in female recipients, but those winners were more likely to have higher credentials compared to male winners.

Although that credential gap has shrunk, Volz found that only 27 percent of all Pulitzer winners in journalism have been female since 1991 — lower than the 33 percent of newsroom workers who are women.

"Being a woman is not only a disadvantage when entering the field but also when it comes to gaining professional recognition within the field," she said.

Volz's study is expected to be published in Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MizzouDiversity Summit will host workshops, guest speaker at MU

By Jessica Puckett
October 26, 2012 | 5:21 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri will host its third MizzouDiversity Summit on Monday and Tuesday.

First held in 2008, and every two years since, the summit analyzes issues facing MU minority groups such as veterans, the disabled, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual and queer community and racial minorities. The mission of the Summit is to "help strengthen the MU identity as an environment or culture that values diversity in its many ways and forms," according to the MizzouDiversity website.

The Summit also offers a chance to analyze the MizzouDiversity's campus progress report, which is also published every two years. The progress report looks at diversity statistics for both MU's student body and faculty.

Twenty-nine workshops will be offered during the summit, including "Civility and Diversity in Present Day Athletics," "Managing Conflict in the Workplace," and "LGBTQ Coming Out Issues."

There will also be a keynote address from David Livingstone Smith, the co-founder and director of the New England Institute for Cognitive Science and Evolutionary Studies and author of the book "Less Than Human: Why We Demean, Enslave and Exterminate Others."

The workshops and keynote address will take place at Memorial Student Union at MU; both are free and open to the public.

Supervising editor is Emilie Stigliani.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Suspect of two assaults on MU campus arrested

By Allison Prang
October 26, 2012 | 10:12 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A suspect in two reports of assault, one described as a "bear hug," has been arrested and identified as Timothy W. Anderson.

Anderson, 19, was arrested on two counts of third-degree assault at about 11:50 p.m. Thursday, according to a release from the MU Police Department. Bond was set at $10,000.

According to the probable cause statement, Anderson is not to be on the premises of any school, college or university. He is to be considered a threat to public safety, according to the document.

MU Police received the two reports Wednesday and Thursday.

According to department news releases:

The first incident occurred on the sidewalk along Ninth Street near Speakers Circle at 9:35 a.m. Wednesday.

The victim told police an unknown man came up behind her, wrapped his arms around her and put her in a "bear hug." She was released when the man said, "Oh, I thought you were someone else" and ran away. The second incident was reported at 4:56 p.m. Thursday when a woman told police she had been approached in the Hitt Street garage.

She said a man followed her, got close and said, "Don't I know you?" but did not touch her. She said, "No, I don't know you," and he walked away.

Both women described a similar suspect with dark hair, dark eyes, a slight build and braces on his teeth.

Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.
Editorial: MUPD trivializes assault with recent Clery release

The MU Police Department sends Clery releases to alert students of serious, ongoing threats on campus. The emails every student receives are meant to caution them and encourage them to contact the police with any information they might have on the situation.

The Clery release sent out Thursday morning didn’t alert students to a threat, nor did it mobilize anyone to help with MUPD’s investigation. It did nothing but make a joke out of an assault and subject victims to demonization from their peers.

If MUPD decides an incident warrants a Clery release, it needs to treat it as such. The police should realize a release with language like “bear hug” in it will be taken as a joke by most students — no matter how serious the incident was for the victim.

By choosing to write Thursday’s releases in ways that delegitimized the victims’ experiences, MUPD not only made a joke of its own investigation but also sent a message to assault victims that their reports won’t be taken seriously by the department.

People report assaults because they feel like they have been attacked. To go to the police and have them characterize your attack as a “hug” — even though your experience involved being grabbed from behind and unable to free yourself — is degrading and misrepresentative.

MUPD spokesman Brian Weimer said the term “bear hug” was used because it was the phrasing the victim used, but that’s no reason to use it in a Clery release. None of the releases this year have included quotes from victims, and in this situation, professional language was necessary. MUPD failed to provide it. Without putting the proper thought into this release, it turned the victim into a joke.

Without context, the Clery release and the victim’s experience were almost immediately scrutinized and made fun of by the student body. Facebook posts, tweets and memes sprung up, usually telling the victim to calm down or coming to the attacker’s defense.

Does anyone else see a problem with that?

No one knows enough about this situation to make any judgments, especially ones blaming the victim. The woman who was attacked felt uncomfortable enough to call the police, and she has every right to call. Students who have no knowledge of the assault, aside from MUPD’s poorly written release, have no place passing judgment, ridiculing the victim and siding with her attacker.

It should worry students that the overwhelming response to this Clery release was to start victim-blaming. No matter how poorly worded the release was, students should realize an attack is an
attack. Taking the side of the attacker is never the right choice, no matter how ridiculous MUPD made it sound.

MU students need to stand with each other. The reaction to this Clery release could deter others from reporting future attacks out of fear of the same ridicule this victim is going through. On a campus with several facilities dedicated to educating students on women's rights, violence against women and rape culture, there's no excuse for this reaction.

MUPD needs to pay attention to how this is unfolding. Virtually every MU student reads Clery releases, and the way they're presented can obviously have an effect on how the student body reacts to assault. Releases need to present serious situations as such. They shouldn't include information that elicits sympathy for the attacker. They shouldn't include information that undercuts the release itself, making it seem like a trivial event.

MUPD never should have sent out a Clery release worded the way Thursday's was. It should realize the effect it has and how much power the language within releases can have.

But when MUPD does send something like this out, the student body should realize it's wrong. Students should see the bias against the victim in the text, and then go against it, not follow along.
Letter to the Editor: Stop invalidating victims’ reactions to unwanted contact

The MU Police Department emailed a Clery release to students about a woman who was assaulted Wednesday morning.

The woman was walking to Ellis Library when a stranger “came up behind her” and “wrapped his arms around her.” She “tried to free herself but was unable to get free.” Another person approached them and the man said, “Oh, I thought you were someone else,” and ran away.

This may tickle your funny bone. “Poor kid,” you might think. “Thought he was playing a joke on his friend and ended up embarrassing himself by hugging a stranger.”

But let’s look at it from another perspective.

I’m walking down the street on my way to class. I’m thinking about the test that’s coming up, the paper I need to start or my plans for Homecoming. All of a sudden, there is a strange man with his arms around me. I struggle to free myself, but he won’t let go. I am terrified.

If I was grabbed and couldn’t free myself, I believe it would be reasonable for me to call the police. If I gave this guy the benefit of the doubt – if I assumed he really did mistake me for a friend – then he might try the same thing with another woman. If it really was a mistake, then the police will figure that out. The dominant attitude around campus seems to be that this young woman overreacted. That she was being silly, and it’s funny that this is considered assault. And that the poor kid is the victim here.

Jokes on Twitter make fun of the woman and give sympathy to the suspect.

“Not an assault, he thought she was his friend,” tweeted @dinell2k12_. “Calm down girl! I bet she’s the kinda girl that yells ‘RAPE!’ when a [expletive deleted] says hi lol #Clery.” Many other tweets expressed similar sentiments.

It’s OK to laugh at the absurdity of the situation. And it’s OK to think that the guy probably didn’t mean any harm. But it is NEVER OK to invalidate another person’s feelings.

You don’t know this girl. She may be a survivor of power-based interpersonal violence, and this man grabbing her was a trigger.

You don’t know this guy. He may not be a nice person, and the attack may have been intentional. Another Clery release Thursday indicated that he may be responsible for another assault on campus.
I guess what I’m saying is, if you don’t know what you’re talking about, then why are you talking?

–Kylee Mattoon, www.kindoflady.com km4zc@mail.missouri.edu
Two MU students are arrested for possession and sale of marijuana

By Allison Prang
October 26, 2012 | 4:23 p.m. CDT

Both are being held on bond at the Boone County Jail.

MU students Brandon Federighi and Giorgio Nicholas Gregoris were both arrested in connection with possession of drug paraphernalia and suspicion of distributing a controlled substance near the university campus.

Federighi, 18, was arrested Wednesday on the top level of Parking Structure No. 7 between Hospital and Monk drives, said MU Police Department Chief Jack Watring. He was in possession of 143 grams of marijuana, Watring said.

In the Boone County Sheriff’s Department report, Federighi’s address is listed as 1100 E. Rollins St., the location for Johnston Hall.

Federighi told authorities Gregoris, 22, was selling drugs out of his apartment, Watring said. MU police issued a search warrant for Gregoris and arrested him Thursday in Apartment A, 1515 Bouchelle Ave.

Gregoris had less than 35 grams of marijuana at his residence, but authorities found drug paraphernalia, including scales and other products for bagging and selling marijuana, Watring said. Police also found a large amount of money assumed to be related to drug dealing, he said.

Both Federighi and Gregoris have since posted bond at the Boone County Jail. Bail was set at $10,000 for Federighi and $7,500 for Gregoris.

Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.
COLUMBIA -- Missouri coach Frank Haith announced Friday that senior guard Michael Dixon Jr. and freshman guard Dominique Bull have been suspended indefinitely for a violation of team rules.

Haith refused to place a timeline on how long both players will be out, but he did confirm that both will miss MU’s exhibition opener at 7 p.m. Monday against Northwest Missouri State.

“The time frame will also depend on the player and their response to adversity,” said Haith, who added that the suspensions are not related to a NCAA or legal matter. “It’s more about the everyday choices we make and the cumulative impact it has on the ability to be good stewards on the Mizzou brand.”

Haith added that Dixon, a projected starter, has not been participating in practice recently in order to work on academics. Haith said his decision to suspend both has been in the works for “a couple weeks.”

“It also creates a real opportunity for personal growth,” Haith said. “Mike has had some time off to work on some academic stuff, and he has done a nice job, he’s made some strides in that area. I’m really proud of how well he’s done so far, and that’s why we’re going to have him back at practice starting next week.”

While Bull, a shooting guard, is a possible redshirt candidate, Dixon is expected to team up with star junior point guard Phil Pressey to form one of the best backcourts in the Southeastern Conference. Dixon, a graduate of Lee’s Summit West, averaged 15.3 points per game last season, when he was chosen Big 12 sixth man of the year. He was also selected to the preseason all-SEC second team this week.

“I know when you suspend guys, that’s going to make major headlines,” Haith said. “But within our team, in terms of our guys working, it hasn’t been negative. Our guards are getting a lot of reps. It’s been good for those guys to get the reps they need to get, and we do have some reps.”
In Dixon’s absence, senior Keion Bell, a transfer from Pepperdine, and defensive-minded freshman Negus Webster-Chan stand to earn additional minutes. Dixon was also expected to back up Pressey at point guard, but it appears Bell will handle the job in his absence.

“Most of the time in practice ... Keion is more off the ball,” senior forward Laurence Bowers said. “But there are times when coach puts Keion on the ball and he does a great job.”

Bowers was one of several teammates to voice support for Dixon, who Haith said has handled the suspension well.

“He knows that, I’ve told him that,” Haith said. “This is a learning experience for him.”