Missouri journalism center receives $30M gift

A University of Missouri journalism think tank has received a $30.1 million endowment, one of the largest gifts in school history, to continue its research into the digital future of news, university leaders announced Thursday.

The donation to the Reynolds Journalism Institute trails only the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation's 2004 contribution of $31 million to create the digital research center.

For an industry that's seen its traditional economic model collapse, the gift was a cause for celebration at the Missouri journalism school, the nation's oldest.

"We believe in journalism," foundation president Steven Anderson said. "It's a changing industry. The journalism institute is in exactly the right place to be out front of innovations and changes in the industry. This is an investment to help shape its future."

The new donation establishes a permanent endowment to cover the institute's ongoing operating expenses and follows a $15 million gift to Reynolds Journalism Institute in 2009 for operating expenses. The Reynolds moniker also graces the MU campus alumni center thanks to a $9.5 million donation from the late media mogul's fortune two decades ago.

That gift has made the Reynolds name a common one on campuses across the country, including the University of Arkansas' football stadium, the journalism school at the University of Nevada in Reno and several performing arts centers at schools in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Donald Worthington Reynolds was a 1927 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism whose early newspaper purchases grew into the Donrey Media Group. The company's properties included the Las Vegas Review-Journal in the city where the Reynolds Foundation is now based. Reynolds died in 1993.
Randy Picht, executive director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute, said the contribution will allow the institute to further extend its reach beyond academia into industry partnerships.

The American Society of News Editors recently relocated to Columbia from Washington, D.C., in hopes of working more closely with the research center, Picht said. And in April, Microsoft opened a development lab on campus in hopes of creating new apps for its tablet-friendly Windows 8 operating system.

"It solidifies for perpetuity what we can do," he said.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said he expects the journalism center to benefit not just the news industry but also the people of Missouri, noting the center's work with students and experts in business, computer science and other disciplines.

"The impact goes far beyond this building," he said. "The ultimate beneficiaries are citizens. And those citizens will be served by the new journalism approaches invented here at RJI."
MU receives $30.1 million gift for journalism institute

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

The University of Missouri on Thursday announced that it has received a gift of $30.1 million to provide permanent funding for the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute.

MU said the money, provided by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, is the largest endowed gift to any public college or university in the state. With an endowed gift, the recipient invests the money and maintains the principal, drawing from the income that is generated.

In 2004, the Reynolds Foundation provided $31 million to build the institute’s 50,000 square feet of physical facilities. In 2009, the foundation gave $15 million to operate the institute through June 2015.

Thursday’s gift should keep the center turning out journalists long into the future.

“This endowment ensures that the Reynolds Institute will benefit future generations of citizens with its groundbreaking work on new methods and models of journalism,” MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement. “We will forever be in debt to the Reynolds Foundation for enabling the university to launch and now make permanent this world-class center of research and service.”

Reynolds, a 1927 graduate of the MU School of Journalism, founded the Donrey Media Group, which operated more than 100 businesses, including newspapers, radio and television stations, and cable TV and billboard companies.

The Reynolds Foundation, in Las Vegas, was founded in 1954 by Reynolds, who died in 1993. The foundation has committed more than $145 million nationwide.

Reynolds has buildings named for him at more than a dozen colleges and universities.

“I know if he was here today he would be proud to have his name associated with the Reynolds Journalism Institute,” said foundation Chairman Fred W. Smith. “This grant will help preserve that relationship into perpetuity.”

Randy Smith, a former Kansas City Star editor and now journalism business professor at MU, said the endowment is good news for journalism and students of journalism.
“The Reynolds Journalism Institute is still quite young, but it’s fast becoming a place where the industry is coming to explore new content and revenue streams,” Smith said. “The institute is a place of hope for all who believe that democracy must be supported by a free and vibrant press.”

Through experiments and research programs aimed at strengthening journalism, the institute looks to find solutions to challenges in media industries, said Randy Picht, the institute’s executive director. An institute fellowship program brings up to six scholars and professionals to campus each year to generate ideas and strategies for the industry.

The foundation’s endowed gift, Picht said, “will mean more partnerships, more solutions and, most importantly, stronger journalism. There is a lot going on in journalism and a lot yet to unfold.”

The largest gift to a public university in the state was $32 million from the Henry W. Bloch Foundation to construct the Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation that is being built at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
MU gets $30.1 million for journalism institute

By Janese Silvey

Published November 8, 2012 at 10:47 a.m.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has given the University of Missouri $30.1 million to continue funding operations at the journalism institute named in Reynolds' honor.

The endowment is the largest MU has received and the foundation has given, and it guarantees funding for the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

"This gift of endowment ensures the university has the resources to pursue a powerful idea into perpetuity," Dean Mills, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, said this morning during a gift announcement.

RJI opened in 2008 with a $31 million gift from the foundation. In 2009, the foundation gave $15 million to provide operating expenses through June 2015.

The state-of-the-art institute has 23 researchers, technicians and support personnel to study new ways to deliver media content while helping students craft their skills.

The new money is not allocated for any specific purpose other than to continue existing journalism research to benefit those in the industry.

"When you make an endowment gift, you're always concerned whether the program merits long-term funding," said Steve Anderson, president of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

But, he said, foundation leaders saw that RJI was pioneering ways of doing journalism early on "so we know RJI will continue because its mission will change."

Just as typesetting is a thing of the past, blogs and smartphones will be as well someday, he said.

The funding announced today is a "vote of confidence" by the Reynolds foundation, Chancellor Brady Deaton said, adding that the journalism school's "reputation has been solidified."
The additional funding "is great news for the news business," RJI Director Randy Picht said in a statement. "It will mean more partnerships, more solutions and, most importantly, stronger journalism."

Donald Reynolds, who died in 1993, graduated from MU's journalism school in 1927. He went on to launch the Donrey Media Group.

His foundation has given more than $86 million to MU, including a $9.5 million gift that built the Reynolds Alumni Center.

It was the latest of several large announcements involving RJI this year. In April, the American Society of News Editors announced it would move its headquarters from Reston, Va., to RJI. This fall, the institute partnered with Microsoft to open an application lab.
$30.1 million endowment allows Reynolds Journalism Institute innovation to continue

COLUMBIA — The $30.1 million endowment given to the Reynolds Journalism Institute will allow students at the Missouri School of Journalism to continue to benefit from the research and innovation housed there.

And that's probably exactly what Donald W. Reynolds, an MU alumnus, journalist and philanthropist, would have wanted.

MU announced the endowment given by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation on Thursday morning. It is the largest endowment of any given to a public university in Missouri, an MU spokesman said, and it is the largest endowment and second-largest gift MU has ever received.

The foundation has donated almost $87 million to the university through gifts and scholarships, according to the MU News Bureau. This includes $15 million that MU received in 2009 to provide operating expenses for the institute through June 2015.

The endowment is just shy of the $31 million gift the foundation gave in 2004 to create the Reynolds Journalism Institute — the largest gift in MU's history. The institute opened in 2008. More than 150 people and several MU and institute administrators were present for the announcement, including Chancellor Brady Deaton, School of Journalism Dean Dean Mills, institute Executive Director Randy Picht, foundation President Steven Anderson and UM System President Tim Wolfe. Deaton mentioned that many in attendance were also present in 2005 when ground was broken to begin building the institute, located on the northeast end of Francis Quadrangle.

Endowments vs. gifts

Put simply, all endowments are gifts, but not all gifts are endowments. Gifts are typically one-time donations. What makes an endowment special is that it has a principal, or initial amount, that usually does not get spent. The funds that are used are accrued through earnings on that initial amount. Colin Kilpatrick, executive director of advancement for the School of Journalism, said the $30.1 million will not be touched. Rather, it will be invested by
the university, and 4.5 percent of the earnings of that investment will be put into a fund that the institute can then use for day-to-day operations such as salaries, hiring researchers and conducting experiments.

Catey Terry, director of development communications for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, said the university does have several other endowments that were funded with large, single gifts. After the Reynolds endowment, she said, the next closest ones were at or below $10 million. According to its website, the Reynolds Foundation will stop making grants by 2022. It was founded in 1954 to help meet the needs in areas Reynolds thought were important.

Although Reynolds left no instructions for how he wanted the funds to be used, those close to him, including the chairman of the foundation, Fred W. Smith, used their judgment to decide how to divide the funds, said Roger Gafke, director of program development for the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

"I think it's great news for the news business because it means we're going to be able to help journalism thrive and be around for a long time," Picht, the institute executive director, said. "And that's very exciting for us, and I hope it's exciting for everyone who appreciates journalism."

So far, the foundation has made gifts to support communities in Arkansas, Nevada and Oklahoma by improving facilities for their nonprofit organizations. It has also donated to further research on fighting atherosclerosis and atherosclerotic heart disease, improve training of geriatric doctors and enhance journalistic training through use of innovation and business journalism, according to the website.

The man behind the foundation

Reynolds was born in Texas, raised in Oklahoma and schooled in Missouri, according to a previous Missourian report. He graduated from the School of Journalism in 1927. He paid for his education by working summers at a meatpacking plant in Oklahoma. Once he graduated, he bought and sold his first newspaper, the profits of which allowed him to launch Donrey Media Group, the foundation's website said.

After serving in World War II, Reynolds expanded Donrey Media Group, "ultimately owning more than 100 enterprises in the newspaper, radio, television, cable television and outdoor advertising industries," the website said.
Reynolds' business was sold when he died in 1993, and the resulting funds from his estate went on to establish the foundation. The nonprofit charitable corporation is based in Las Vegas and is one of the largest of its kind in the nation, according to a previous Missourian report. At the announcement Thursday, Anderson, the foundation president, recalled that at the 1992 ribbon-cutting for the Reynolds Alumni Center, he saw Reynolds shed a tear while singing MU's alma mater, "Old Missouri."

Anderson said the institute's performance, programs and impact all came to bear in the decision to keep funding it.

"It's based upon the performance of Dean Mills and his staff and faculty that we were able to make this final endowment," Anderson said.

**Funding the institute**

Kilpatrick said he wasn't sure how much money it would take to fully endow the institute, but he said the endowments that it currently has give it a solid base to operate into the future. Funding in any given year depends on what projects and programs are taken on, which fluctuate year to year.

"The money from Donald W. Reynolds will provide the necessary money for us to sustain us to make sure we can run the institute," Picht said. "... This is wonderful for us, but we will still be working on some of the other funding sources so that we can keep doing more and more projects."

Aside from the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute Permanent Endowment, the institute is funded by three other endowments, Kilpatrick said. The Dale R. Spencer Free Press Studies Endowment was given in memory of Spencer, a faculty member who taught communications law for many years, Kilpatrick said.

The Edward C. Lambert Innovation Endowment was given by Lambert's family, friends and former students in memory of the broadcast journalist's contributions to the school by bringing NBC affiliate KOMU/NBC on air in the 1950s. Kilpatrick said the third endowment was made by Gale Arnold, a Washington, D.C., resident whose parents, Walter Sr. and Betty Hussman, met at the Journalism School. The endowment was made in the memory of Arnold's grandparents, C.E. and Bettie Palmer, who founded the Palmer newspapers in Arkansas.
Walter Hussman Sr., who went on to run the newspaper company under the name WEHCO Media, and Reynolds were roommates in college and lifelong friends.

**Innovating into the future**

At the institute, endowment money is used to fund the projects, research and experiments that research fellows and students take on to help move the industry further along. Picht said he thinks how the institute measures research is what distinguishes it from other journalism institutes and think tanks.

"Research is an important part of what we do because we want to do new things, but we also want to measure the impact they have," Picht said. "Because simply doing new things is fun, but does it move the needle? Does it make a difference for the organization?"

Picht said that this year, some fellows are doing research on new revenue models in journalism. Others are researching how people use tablets to get news and how they engage with a news organization’s Twitter accounts.

One class is combining journalism and computer science students to build mobile applications to help news organizations give news and exchange information with people in their communities, Picht said.

"I've been here for six months, and one of the things that I'm trying to do is make sure that what we're working on is what the industry is working on," said Picht, formerly a journalist with the Associated Press. "When the industry identifies something as a problem, I want to know about it so we can work on it."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
The University of Missouri announced Thursday that it received the largest endowment gift in the school’s history, which is also the second largest single financial gift the university has ever received.

A $30.1 million endowment gift from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation will establish permanent funding for the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute on campus, the university reports.

The Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute opened in 2007, thanks to the same foundation's $31 million gift, and is part of Mizzou’s Journalism School. The institute is designed to foster collaboration, develop innovations and explore the best practices and uses for journalism. Each year the institute picks a class of fellows to research and develop these innovations.

The institute employs 25 researchers, technicians and support personnel, the university reports.

To date, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has gifted the university with $89 million, the university reports.
MU Faculty Council supports voting rights for non-tenure-track professors

COLUMBIA — The MU Faculty Council approved a proposal Thursday that brings non-tenure-track faculty a step closer to voting in campus decisions.

The next step is to hold a full faculty vote of all tenured and tenure-track faculty. If it passes, the proposal will go to the UM System Board of Curators for final approval.

Also at the meeting, the Faculty Council was presented with the first draft of MU's strategy statement. The short statement, required by the University of Missouri System, must describe how MU will define itself within the system and achieve national prominence in particular areas during the next five years.

UM System President Tim Wolfe has said he plans to withhold 5 to 10 percent of state funds from the campuses and redistribute the money based on the institutions' successes in meeting their goals.

Vote on non-tenure-track faculty voting rights

The council passed the non-tenure-track proposal with a vote of 15-3. The decision affects about 36 percent of assistant, associate and full professors at MU who cannot vote in university policy decisions because they are designated non-tenure-track, or NTT, faculty.

NTT faculty members are hired under one- and three-year contracts and do not have the potential to receive tenure.

At the end of 2011, MU had 1,949 full-time faculty members; 708 were non-tenure-track, according to MU Institutional Research.

The proposal would change the language in the University of Missouri System Collected Rules and Regulations to define "faculty" as all full-time assistant, associate and full professors.

This change would also allow a revision in the Faculty Council's Rules of Order, allowing the NTT faculty representatives to vote in council matters, except on matters relating to promotion or tenure.
Right now, there are four NIT representatives serving the five designations for non-tenure-track faculty: research, teaching, extension, professional practice and clinical. But they cannot vote.

Associate teaching professor Nicole Monnier, an NIT representative, said she has received positive feedback from her NIT colleagues since voting rights were discussed at a Faculty Council meeting two weeks ago.

Monnier said NIT faculty are integrated into all structures of the university. She listed NIT faculty who are directors of theses, chairs and co-chairs of departments, and one — Lynda Kraxberger of the Journalism School — who is an associate dean.

"I like to call the NIT faculty 'the Canadians," Monnier said, "We walk about you, and you don't know the difference."

Much of the discussion about the proposal on Thursday centered on the role of NIT faculty compared with tenure-track faculty.

Vitor Trindade, an associate professor, was against the proposal. He said tenured-track faculty came to the university with a "broad mission," one that included teaching, research and service. He said he didn't think NIT faculty focused on all three of these aspects in their fields.

Trindade's point highlighted a broader issue. Several faculty members said they sensed a misunderstanding about the contributions of NIT faculty in one department compared with another.

Faculty Council Chairman Harry Tyrer said the council's task is to inform the general faculty on how much influence NIT faculty has in curriculum, in research programs and with students.

"It's an educational issue," Tyrer said. "Our colleagues need to understand that indeed NIT faculty have an impact on campus."

Before the proposal sees a full faculty vote, the council will host a faculty forum to discuss concerns faculty might have.

Tyrer said this forum has yet to be scheduled.

**Strategy Statement**
Also during Thursday’s meeting, MU professors Pat Okker and Tom Phillips, co-chairs of the UM System Strategic Planning Committee, introduced the strategy statement draft for comment from the council.

MU’s proposed goals in the draft are: Grow the student body, add tenure-stream collaborative faculty, increase revenue, increase sponsored research and offer more competitive faculty and staff compensation.

Council members tangled with the statement’s language and offered suggestions to the planning committee.

Several council members said they disliked the phrasing that MU’s "world-class interdisciplinary teaching and research," is "epitomized by Mizzou Advantage."

"Mizzou Advantage really only touches a small portion of campus," A. Cooper Drury, an associate professor, said.

Ratifying a strategy statement is the first step in Wolfe’s strategic planning process, introduced in September.

Each UM institution is required to present a strategic statement to Wolfe by June 2013. The short statement should describe how MU will distinguish itself from other UM System campuses in the next five years.

"The statement should be one that not every university can use," Phillips said. "One that stands out from its peers."

Based on the statement’s targets, Wolfe will redistribute up to $40 million of withheld state funds to the most successful institutions.

Tyrer said the redistributed funds at stake create competition among and within campuses. It also puts importance on crafting a successful statement.

"The statement should encapsulate our mission," Tyrer said. "We still have a lot of people to talk to and a lot of work to do."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • A 47-year-old man has been charged in a rape in 1999 in a campus dorm, the University of Missouri Police Department said Thursday.

A statement from the police said the arrest of Marvin Leslie Jones came after "a significant lead was provided by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab."

Jones faces one charge of forcible rape, two charges of forcible sodomy and one charge of burglary in the incident from Oct. 16, 1999, at Gillett Hall. All are felony charges.
MU police make arrest in 1999 rape case

Thursday, November 8, 2012

The University of Missouri Police Department has arrested a 47-year-old man in connection with a 1999 rape that took place in a dormitory on the MU campus.

Marvin Leslie Jones has been arrested on suspicion of felony forcible rape, felony burglary and two counts of felony forcible sodomy, said MU police Capt. Scott Richardson.

The crime was reported to MU police on Oct. 16, 1999. It happened between 5 and 5:30 a.m. when the attacker entered an unlocked dormitory room in Gillett Hall on the MU campus, according to a previous story.

Five days after the incident, MU police provided suspect information. The attacker was described as a 25- to 35-year-old black man about 5 feet 10 inches tall with a thin, muscular build, short hair and a clean-shaven face. Jones was 34 at the time.

MU police sent physical evidence to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab, according to a Tribune story from the time. That evidence apparently led to Jones' apprehension.

Richardson said MU police received a significant lead from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab and after further investigation arrested Jones. Richardson said he could not discuss the evidence involved in the case because of the ongoing investigation.

Department of Corrections records show Jones was on probation for a sexual misconduct conviction.

Jones is being held at the Boone County Jail with total bond set at $300,000, cash only.
Social Media Avatars Could Help People Lose Weight, Fight Prejudice: Study

Somewhere among the thousands of people you meet on Facebook and Twitter, University of Missouri researcher Elizabeth Behm-Morawitz says you may discover a slimmer, more tolerant version of yourself.

Her theory, based on a survey of 279 users of a virtual reality community called Second Life, asserts that when an individual strongly identifies with the cyber representation of themselves (AKA, their avatar) the image can influence that person's health and appearance.

"The creation of an avatar allows an individual to try on a new appearance and persona, with little risk or effort," said Elizabeth Behm-Morawitz in a release. "For example, people seeking to lose weight could create fitter avatars to help visualize themselves as slimmer and healthier," she added.

Through questionnaires, users were asked about their engagement with their avatar and relationships they developed online, as well as their offline health, appearance and emotional well-being. The more people viewed their avatars as an extension of themselves (an experience the researchers refer to as "self-presence") the greater they felt about themselves offline. Self-presence also correlated to greater satisfaction with online relationships, the study showed.

Though more research needs to be done, Behm-Morawitz says her theory may work similarly to increase empathy and decrease prejudice among users of social media. "This may occur through the process of identification with an avatar that is different from oneself, or through a virtual simulation that allows individuals to experience discrimination as a member of a non-dominant group might experience it," she said.

Ongoing research, including a 2011 report by the Pew Research Center, has shown that African Americans and Latinos make up a significant percentage of social media users -- 25 percent of African-Americans and 19 percent of Hispanics use Twitter, compared with 9 percent of Non-Hispanic Whites, Pew reports.

In an analysis as to why, BuzzFeed contributor Greg Battle points to "the pervasive number of urban themed hashtag memes" and the marketing of mobile media to minority groups.
And while Pew looked at how frequently African Americans use social sites, researchers at Georgetown looked at what they're using that media for, noting that compared with white users, Hispanic and African Americans are more likely to use social media to learn about and become involved in social issues.

But like Behm-Morawitz, researchers agree that there's a healthful use for social sites as well. In September, a study of dieters participating in a worksite weight-loss program found that those who joined a restricted, members-only Facebook page for additional weight-loss support lost more weight than those who didn't go the social media route.

Similarly, in a series of five experiments, Professors Keith Wilcox of Columbia University and Andrew T. Stephen of the University of Pittsburgh found that people who had strong ties, or close friends and family they interact with online, tend to have a higher level of self-confidence after browsing Facebook. "We argue that, because people care about the image they present to close friends on social networks, social network use enhances self-esteem in users who are focused on close friends (i.e., strong ties) while browsing their social network," the researchers wrote in their report.
Can a Fit Video Game Avatar Make You Healthier?

Time to reconsider the stereotype of doughy, fast food-guzzling online role players in dark basements. Strongly identifying with your avatar in virtual video game worlds like "Second Life" could actually help make you healthier in the real world, research from the University of Missouri shows.

Elizabeth Behm-Morawitz surveyed 249 "Second Life" users to study how avatars — their customized virtual characters in games — affect real-world existence. She found that the amount of self presence, or identifying with a virtual representation, predicted the amount of influence an avatar had on a person's life in the physical world. A strong sense of self-presence improved how they felt about themselves and promoted better health and well-being.

In the study, published in the journal "Computers in Human Behavior," Behm-Morawitz wrote, "The avatar links the virtual to the physical body, and, through this interplay of one's online and offline identities, the virtual may become meaningful to the physical body and self."

For example, for people looking to lose weight, creating a fitter avatar helped them visualize being in better shape.

Curiously, the participants weren't specifically using "Second Life" as a fitness tool, as they might with, say, a Wii Fit game. "Second Life' is a social virtual world, where play is open-ended and not specifically designed to be used as a motivational health tool," Behm-Morawitz told TechNewsDaily in an email. "However, the findings ... suggest that a person who is motivated to participate in a virtual world for social reasons is more likely to experience effects of the avatar."

In other words, if you are into the game enough to care about how you come across online, that will motivate you to make a better impression offline, too.

Behm-Morawitz says the results should not be limited to "Second Life" — other virtual worlds could show the same kinds of benefits. However, virtual worlds that offer the most control over avatar design and interaction will best foster self-presence and prompt healthy behavior change.
Avatars are useful for trying on a new appearance, Behm-Morawitz said, since they pose little risk to the creator.

Though it may seem like a throwback to the early 2000s, "Second Life" remains one of the most popular online games. In July 2012, Nielsen rated it among the top 10 PC games.

Other studies support the new research. In an Indiana University study published in September, more people adopted healthy habits when they went through weight-loss programs delivered in a 3D virtual world than those who pursued a program in a traditional health club.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

HIV researcher at MU discovers new mutation in virus

COLUMBIA – With a disease as cunning and aggressive as AIDS, researcher Stefan Sarafianos always has to worry about the next development. HIV, which causes AIDS, constantly changes, which means the disease must be monitored by a doctor all the time. If the virus mutates, drugs administered to a patient might no longer be effective.

Understanding the mutations, how drug resistant they are and which drugs are most effective are all questions that need to be answered for optimal treatment.

"Even when you treat the disease, it's still there, hiding. How do you kill something that's hiding?" asked Sarafianos, 49, associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at MU, as well as joint associate professor of biochemistry.

Sarafianos has devoted his career primarily to HIV research and is leading a medical crusade to improve the lives of those affected. He and his team recently made a discovery that has the potential to treat some patients more effectively. They found a mutation of HIV – 172K – that is less resistant to certain types of drugs. The information will go into the database doctors use to treat patients. This development represents one small piece of the HIV puzzle and could benefit the 3 percent of HIV-positive patients who have the mutation.

HIV has entered its fourth decade. The virus began to assert itself in the 1980s, sparking a new era for medical research. The first AIDS cases were reported in 1981, and the CDC established the term acquired immune deficiency syndrome one year later. It is now the sixth-leading cause of death among those ages 25 to 44 in the United States; in 1995, it was ranked the No. 1 cause of death in that age group, according to an article in the A.D.A.M. medical encyclopedia.

A new era in AIDS research

In the last 30 years, medications and developments in AIDS research have transformed the disease into a manageable one.
"We are doing much better than the first days of HIV with patients waking up in the middle of the night to take horse pills, up to 16 pills a day," Sarafianos said. Although AIDS still has no cure, a number of treatments have been developed to increase and improve the lives of patients.

Highly active antiretroviral therapy has been very effective over the past 12 years using combinations of antiretroviral drugs, according to A.D.A.M., an online health information source. Side effects remain, though they are considerably less severe than decades ago. Lipodystrophy (fat redistribution), kidney problems and nerve problems can be common for those being treated with antiretroviral medication.

**A man devoted**

HIV and AIDS are still relatively new to the world. Sarafianos first heard about the AIDS epidemic when he came to the United States from Greece in 1985 to earn his doctorate at Georgetown University.

"I wasn't cut out for medical school because I'm squeamish with blood, but I loved biomedical studies," he said. "I jumped right into HIV work."

When a lab opportunity came his way six years ago, his wife, Mary, and four children, all under the age of 17, packed up from New Jersey and headed to Columbia. What awaited him was a position as the chief investigator of his own lab at MU's Bond Life Sciences Center. Sarafianos and his team investigate HIV, hepatitis B and C and SARS, among other pathogens.

"A lot of the studies we do in the lab can be applied to not only HIV but different viruses," said Karen Kirby, a post-doctoral fellow at MU working at Sarafianos' lab. She mentioned a coronavirus that recently emerged in the Middle East. "It's in the same family as the SARS virus, so we hope that a lot of the groundwork we have done can be translated to this virus," she said.

**AZT to 172K**

For the most recent discovery, Sarafianos worked with his lab of over 20 people, as well as Japanese researchers. He has previously worked with Dr. Hiroaki Mitsuya, chief of experimental retrovirology at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland.
Mitsuya is a leader in HIV research. He was one of the creators of AZT, or azidothymidine, the first antiretroviral government-approved drug for the treatment of HIV. It was approved by the FDA in 1987 as the first government-approved treatment for HIV, prescribed under the names Retrovir and Retrovis, and in 1990 for treatment in the early stages of HIV.

"We developed first three antiviral drugs in the 1980s. I believed it would be feasible to elongate the life of HIV-1 infected people, and now these people are living longer than those with Type 1 diabetes," Mitsuya said. He said because of the nature of the virus, it will be very difficult, perhaps impossible, to get rid of the gene altogether from living cells, but the current treatments have increased the duration and quality of life for patients.

"HIV is just so cunning to mutate itself every day, so it's very difficult to develop an effective vaccine, but we have great drug treatments," he said. After resistance to AZT developed, Sarafianos said researchers were back to square one.

"There was so much hope, and it was a terrible disappointment when the resistance happened so so fast," he said.

**The next generation**

According to AIDS.gov, over 1 million people in the U.S. live with HIV, and one in five are unaware of their infection. Sarafianos said awareness is not as much the problem in the U.S. today but rather a sort of complacency.

"I think in this country there is a considerable amount of awareness. But what is bad is that younger people tend to take more chances lately throughout the community," he said.

"Since there are great drugs now, HIV doesn't have the popularity and ironic glamor it used to in past decades," said Cale Mitchell, executive director of Rain-Central Missouri, which provides resources for those affected by HIV and STDs in 37 Missouri counties. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 39% of HIV infections in the U.S. in 2009 were from young people aged 13 to 29. People aged 15 to 29 made up 21% of the U.S. population in 2010.

"In mid-Missouri, we are not the epicenter for the disease. We still have 400 people we deal with in case management, but that doesn't include the hundreds of others out there whose disease is still evolving and aren't seeking treatment," Mitchell said.
In Missouri, 18,404 people have been diagnosed with HIV since 1982. Of those, 61 percent are still living. Sarafianos hopes to keep awareness up and looks positively at future progress globally, possibly with a microbicide that could be applied by women looking to protect themselves in areas such as Africa.

This might be a lofty goal now, but Sarafianos said prevention needs much more progress considering the great amount of treatment options. The approval of an at-home HIV test might be an effective tool for prevention and awareness.

Community support

Local organizations such as Trail to a Cure fundraise and hold events for HIV research, as well as assist those living with HIV and AIDS.

"I think any kind of HIV breakthroughs are met with both enthusiasm and caution because the idea is incredible, but we also don't want anyone to think this is a cure," said Kevin Clohessy, member of the board of directors of Trail to a Cure.

Trail to a Cure organizes local events such as an annual walk, ride and run on the Katy Trail every May. Clohessy said the events bring together many people that are invested in HIV research, as well as some who are avid marathon runners or riders. Clohessy said his organization took cues from Rain-Central Missouri, and the members of the two organizations often support each other's events.

"These are people we are dealing with, not just dollars, and they need help navigating their way through this disease," Mitchell said. Utility and housing assistance, as well as specialized care, are provided based on need through federal funding. Some patients travel from Columbia to appointments, so help with transportation is available. Still, Sarafianos expressed concern with insufficient funding for research.

"It is worrisome that, financially, some struggle with finding resources for this disease," he said. "I am fortunate to have a well-funded program." A single drug goes through several rounds of research and clearance before clinical trials are conducted where costs are extremely high, he said.

"We have to treat with our best weapon, or else we're helping resistance. We are going to go after this disease with full force," Sarafianos said.

Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.
Tech distractions can impede growth, professor says

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, November 8, 2012

University of Missouri junior Arleigh Atkinson knows it's bad form to text or tweet on a dinner date.

But sometimes, she said, that's a really good way to distract yourself from an awkward moment.

Teens — and a growing number of multitasking adults — are relying more heavily on digital distractions than ever, Stanford University Professor Clifford Nass told MU students this week.

During a group discussion and at a separate lecture, he warned students that turning to gadgets when emotions get tough isn't helping them learn how to deal with real life.

Nass is director of the Communication Between Humans and Interactive Media Lab at Stanford. He is in early stages of researching how a decrease in face-to-face interactions is affecting young adults. It's a relatively new field of study. The problem is people have run out of time, so they think relying on media devices is a more efficient way to communicate.

In the past, when a new technology emerged, it simply took time away from a different technology. When television came out, for instance, people turned off their radios to tune in.

At some point, people ran out of time and began to enjoy parallel activities, such as listening to the radio while using their computers. Media devices today are built with the idea that people will be using them simultaneously with something else.

Texts and instant-messaging, though, have stolen time from interacting face to face, Nass said, and he thinks that's leading to a spike in depression rates.

"Negative emotions are hard to deal with," he told a group of assistant teaching Professor Ines Segert's students. "It's hard to deal with sad people and your own sadness."

And it gets worse when people distract themselves instead of dealing with their sadness.
"There are higher rates of depression because when someone is a little sad, they have no idea what to do with it," he said.

Facebook — which Nass said "replaced Disneyland as 'the happiest place on Earth'" — isn't helping.

That's because more and more people are posting only positive messages about their lives.

"Facebook is sending a message that everyone else is happy, and that makes a person think they're sadder than the average person," he said.

Nass also has studied shorter-term impacts of people who try to use multiple gadgets at once — chronic multitaskers, as he calls them.

Although one might think practice would make multitasking easier, Nass has found that people who do it often have a tougher time completing simple tasks.

After hearing Nass' talk, sophomore Matt Ingram was ready to log off Facebook for good. He knows it gives him a distraction from homework and an excuse to procrastinate.

"It's frustrating because I know it's happening," he said.

And Atkinson thinks multitasking is having a negative impact on her ability to remember things.

That said, she's not ready to deactivate just yet.

"When you're at a party and you don't know anyone, it's awkward, so you pull out your phone," she said. "That's perfectly normal and acceptable."
Woman arrested after hit-and-run

Thursday, November 8, 2012

An 86-year-old woman turned herself in to Columbia police yesterday in connection with a Monday hit-and-run accident.

Elizabeth Chang, a University of Missouri English associate professor and the wife of Columbia Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Peter Stiepleman, was hit by a vehicle traveling north on Garth Avenue while she was standing next to her minivan around 5:20 p.m.

Chang was picking her three children up from a friend's house and was hit after she secured her 4-year-old in his car seat. She was taken to the hospital and had a fractured pelvis and six fractured ribs, Stiepleman said. She underwent surgery yesterday and was resting comfortably afterward, he said.

The driver, Marian M. Ohman, 86, told police she was going to see her daughter at the time of the accident, Stroer said. "She knew she hit something, but she didn't think it was a person, and when she looked back, she didn't see anything," she said.

Ohman, who turned herself in around 1:30 p.m. yesterday, was arrested on suspicion of felony leaving the scene of an accident and released on a summons. Leaving the scene is a Class D felony charge when the accident results in an injury to another person.
'Cultural Bricolage' conference will highlight Cuban literature and art

COLUMBIA — Ediciones Vigía is a publishing company in Matanzas, Cuba, known for its handmade books containing water-colored illustrations painted on a wrinkled canvas, skilfully woven together to create a literary art piece.

Some of these artistic books can be found at MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology and Ellis Library.

Saturday through Wednesday, the "Cultural Bricolage: Artist's Books of Ediciones Vigía," a conference highlighting Cuban literature, will take place across campus. Mizzou Advantage is sponsoring the event.

MU Spanish professor and filmmaker Juanamaria Cordones-Cook came up with the idea for the conference after being introduced to the books 17 years ago through poet and friend Nancy Morejón. Fascinated by the merging of literature and art, Cordones-Cook returned to MU with 32 books.

"I thought that these books were so unique, how they were based on creativity, ingenuity and a lack of resources," Cordones-Cook said. "I felt it needed to be known around the world."

Fast-forward 15 years, and the museum's collection has grown to more than 115 books, all produced by Ediciones Vigía, Cordones-Cook said. She said she thinks that due to the collection's rarity and uniqueness, MU has been willing to support her agenda to buy more books.

Cordones-Cook began to devise a plan to expose more people to the literary works of Ediciones Vigía. With the help of other faculty members, the Cultural Bricolage Conference began to form.

Cordones-Cook, along with the rest of the Mizzou Advantage Committee, began planning a conference featuring the books of Ediciones Vigía two years ago. The conference was pitched to MU's Office of the Provost and was approved Feb. 15.
"Planning this conference has been the best experience I've had at the University of Missouri in 23 years thanks to the collaboration of 60 scholars," Cordones-Cook said. "This conference has become more than we could have ever envisioned."

The conference will include live music, documentary films by Cordones-Cook, a Cuban-themed dinner at Bleu Restaurant and Wine Bar, exhibits of the books, and a chance to meet with Cuban poet Nancy Morejón and Cuban poet and publisher Rolando Estévez Jordán.

"This conference represents an extraordinary constellation of scholars, documentary film, and Cuban artwork, artists, poets, handmade one-of-a-kind books and entrepreneurship — all of which is embodied in the transdisciplinary goals of the Mizzou Advantage," said Berkley Hudson, communications chairman of the conference and an associate professor of magazine journalism in the School of Journalism.

As the conference approaches, Cordones-Cook is looking forward to meeting other people who share her interest in Cuban literature.

"I'm eager to visit all of the exhibits myself," Cordones-Cook said. "I'm also excited for everyone to see these works; it should be an inspiration to experience the beauty that can be created with recycled material."

The three-day conference is open and free to the public. Those interested in attending the Cuban-themed dinner at Bleu Restaurant and Wine Bar will need to purchase a ticket through the conference's website.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
MU’s Army ROTC to add to hall of fame

Thursday, November 8, 2012

The University of Missouri’s Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps tomorrow will induct nine veterans into its Hall of Fame.

The ceremony starts at 2 p.m. at Jesse Wrench Auditorium in Memorial Union South. Those being inducted include:

- Brig. Gen. John Seward, a 1980 graduate who has served several tours, including in Iraq.
- Col. Arthur Simons, a 1941 graduate who led special operations during World War II and Vietnam.
- Col. Timothy Karcher, a 1989 graduate who serves as director of the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program.
- Col. Claude Barton, who served as MU professor of military science after 31 years in the service.
- 1st Lt. William Edens, a 2003 graduate who was killed in action by a roadside bomb in Iraq in 2005.
- Brett Allison, a supporter of Mizzou ROTC.