Ken and Barbara Levy, center, deliver Thanksgiving dinner to students and staff Thursday at the College of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital at the University of Missouri as vet student Nathan Feyerabend and vet technician Morgan Keys move the food on a gurney into the vet school.

By Janese Silvey

Barbara Levy made her famous homemade wild-rice stuffing and sweet potato pudding to go with the pies, veggie trays and other store bought foods she spent lunchtime Thursday serving at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital.
She has bought and delivered Thanksgiving meals for the students and staff who work the holiday for 16 years. They're taking care of pet emergencies and animals in intensive care, and she says the least she can do is make sure the workers get a decent meal.

Levy has given more than a "thanks" to MU's veterinary program, which has treated several of her pets. She and her husband, Kenneth, have pumped money into other veterinary, as well as nursing, programs and have pledged an estate gift to the Sinclair School of Nursing.

Levy doesn't delve into amounts, with one exception. Once, they gave $500 to set up a fund at the animal hospital to help low-income people afford care for their pets. That led to establishing a larger endowment to which others have since contributed.

"It was the best $10,000 I ever spent in my life to get that endowed," Levy said. It was also "the one that makes me feel the best. That, and the Thanksgiving dinner."

Levy is among a silent majority of donors who pledge estate gifts and donate life savings to MU in hopes of making a lasting difference. Many get recognized with awards and plaques; few get widespread notice.

It takes a $1 million gift to spark any kind of public nod from the chancellor. Now, administrators are looking for those who will give at least five times that.

In the first year of what is expected to be a multiyear effort to raise more than $1 billion, MU officials are quietly forging financial friendships with companies and millionaires willing and able to shell out hefty contributions. The silent phase of the campaign is expected to last until at least 2014, at which time MU hopes to have raised a significant amount of the yet-to-be-determined goal.

The quiet phase is the most challenging, said Tom Hiles, who started this summer as vice chancellor of development and alumni relations.

Administrators are "trying to focus on principal gifts of $5 million or more to build the campaign infrastructure," he said. "We're meeting with the top 100 to 200 gift prospects."

Calling it a "silent" phase is a little misleading. There have been several glitzy ceremonies this year recognizing high-dollar donations. At a UM Board of Curators meeting this summer, administrators announced a $30 million gift from a group of Kansas City sports enthusiasts to pay for stadium upgrades. This fall, the Reynolds Journalism Institute packed a room with industry professionals to celebrate a $30.1 million gift from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

The parties are important because they entice others.

"When we're building momentum on campus, gift announcements are the most important thing we can do for prospects," Hiles said.
The official campaign started in January, less than four years after MU ended its "For All We Call Mizzou" campaign that met a $1 billion goal. About half of that money went into buildings and capital projects, but the funds also created 90 new professorships and established 1,500 new scholarships.

The next campaign focuses on people and aims to raise more money for endowed chairs and professors. There's a capital component, too. With a new state law that offers up to 50 percent of state funding to match campus building projects, administrators also are looking for private donors to contribute to a new fine arts building or a new or improved engineering building.

The last campaign was MU's first comprehensive campaign, according to Tribune archives. Before it began in 1998, about 44 people were working part or full time to raise money for the university. Today, the development office has a staff of 165, with 78 fundraisers. Those numbers do not include deans, alumni volunteers and other university cheerleaders who spend part of their time courting donors.

The development budget is $14.5 million, according to the MU News Bureau, although Hiles said actual spending is closer to $12 million. One percent of each donation goes into paying for development operations. MU spends about 12 cents to earn a donated dollar, better than industry standards, Hiles said.

Fundraising is about relationship-building, said Hiles, who has led two campaigns elsewhere, most recently at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

These days, he is meeting with about 20 would-be donors every month, trying to figure out what they're interested in and how that passion could mesh with MU's research, academic and service missions.

With 250,000 alumni in the database, MU's development officers are constantly scouting for other prospects who might be willing to give more than a "thanks" for the memories. Every other week, top officials meet and discuss eight to 10 names of people who might be willing to open their pocketbooks.

Sometimes, donors find their passions at MU without any coaxing.

Ellen and Guy Brown were living in Arkansas and had no ties to MU when they first sought care at University Hospital and developed a relationship that would later make them significant contributors.

Guy, retired from the Air Force, and Ellen, a retired nurse, were traveling in Egypt six years ago when he suffered a brain aneurysm. They're not sure what happened: Ellen turned to see her husband on the ground. They still don't know whether the fall caused the aneurysm or the aneurysm caused the fall.
After receiving emergency treatment there, Guy was flown back to Arkansas and spent weeks in a coma. Doctors in Fayetteville told him he would never drive again.

A friend urged the Browns to check out health care facilities in Columbia. Doctors and nurses at University Hospital treated Guy and ultimately fitted him with a pair of glasses that allows him to drive again.

"We were so impressed with them, we said, 'How can we give back to this wonderful hospital that put my husband back in the driver's seat?" " Ellen said.

They started with a $25,000 donation to endow a scholarship for medical students.

"Then one thing led to another," Ellen said.

The Browns relocated to Columbia three years ago, and Ellen, a former oncology nurse, has since toured Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. That prompted another $25,000 endowment to create a fund to purchase wigs for low-income patients going through chemotherapy. Another $25,000 gift will be commemorated with a bench in Ellis Fischel healing gardens in honor of Guy's mother.

The Levys aren't alumni, either, nor did they have ties to MU before bringing their Cavalier King Charles spaniel to the animal hospital in the 1990s. They were living in St. Louis, and Lady Jane, the dog, was having eye problems. Kenneth was getting his own eye treatment there.

"They did such a stellar job on her little eye," Barbara said, quipping that the only problem "was the dog was getting better service here" than her husband in St. Louis.

The couple first contributed to eye-related research at the veterinary school, a gift that prompted a thank-you note from a faculty member whose wife was suffering from macular degeneration. The funding for animal research, he wrote, would ultimately have human implications.

And just like with the Browns, MU administrators found a way to keep the donations coming.

Barbara was introduced to Rebecca Johnson, an associate professor who has appointments in the veterinary and nursing schools, an introduction that led to a close friendship. That's when Barbara, a former health care consultant, became instrumental in the creation of Tiger Place, a residential facility that lets elderly age in place.

"My dream was always to have some place where you could age in place appropriately, so when they said they were going to build Tiger Place, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," Barbara recalled. "Finally, somebody else had this notion."

The Levys' final gift will come in the form of their estate and will be used to purchase equipment for a clinical simulation lab to be named in their honor.
Donations spelled out in wills and trusts are the most common planned gifts to MU, but there are other ways to contribute before and after death. Development officers often double as retirement and estate planners, showing donors how they can avoid estate taxes or how setting up trusts or annuities would guarantee them revenue during their lifetimes while redirecting the money to MU once they’re deceased.

"There are creative ways we work with donors that enhances their interest in giving," Hiles said. He often jokes that pledging money in one's will, though, no doubt guarantees a longer lifespan.

Once the UM/MU United Way fundraising effort is over at the end of this year, development officers will start to talk to university employees about ways they can give, too.

Don’t let the big numbers throw you: MU might be sweeping some large-scale gifts into the coffers, but it is behind some peers when it comes to the size of its endowment.

With its roughly $600 million endowment, MU is sixth from the bottom of the 14 schools in the Southeastern Conference. At the top is Texas A&M, which had a $6.3 billion endowment in fiscal year 2011. Back in the Big 12, the University of Kansas touted a $1.2 billion endowment.

When asking for money, Hiles knows messages can seem conflicting. People might see a new building being constructed without realizing money for it might have been earmarked by a donor and pledged years ago.

And when MU administrators bemoan lost state funding, they're not crying wolf: MU doesn't ask donors to pick up the tab for the everyday operations the state is supposed to be paying for, he said.

"Most donors do not want their gift to be a replacement," Hiles said. "They want it to be a value-added investment."

Administrators are willing to listen to new ideas about where investments should be made. This fall, Archer Daniels Midland, an Illinois-based agriculture processor, gave $1 million to create a new campus center where students studying agriculture and engineering can have more hands-on experiences. There's no other center on campus that provides that type of student space.

"Donors will give big gifts for big ideas," Hiles said.

But anyone can get the ball rolling, Barbara Levy said.

"People should recognize that you don't have to have millions of dollars to give. You just don't," she said. "You can start things and get them going because other people might have money but they don't have the ability to conceive what to do with it. ... I just feel like it's something everybody should do."
ALLAHABAD: Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences, Formerly Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Deemed-to-be-University on Wednesday organised its 8th Convocation. Prof Brady J. Deaton, Chancellor & CEO, University of Missouri, Columbia, USA was the chief guest while SHIATS Chancellor Dr J A Oliver presided over the function. Programme commenced with reading from scriptures and prayer following which Dr Oliver declared the opening of 8th convocation proceedings. Registrar Prof (Dr) AKA Lawrence welcomed the chief guest.

Prof (Dr) Sarita Sheikh dean Ethelind School of Home Science presented the vice-chancellor's report followed by the memento presentation to the chief guest and his wife by SHIATS vice-chancellor Prof (Dr) Rajendra B Lal. Presidential address was delivered by Dr Oliver, who said SHIATS was an expression of God's love to people to increase food production and cattle rearing to element hunger and poverty, adding, "We must explore talent and skills in our profession to generate sustainable agricultural prosperity of our country." Addressing the convocational address, the chief guest expressed his gratitude for historical relationship between SHIATS and University of Missouri to promote green technology around the world and he also emphasised to attend educational excellency for contributing towards our countries prosperity with global reorganisation.
MU hospitality students serve turkey on Navy ship

(AP) -- COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) -- Some University of Missouri students spent Thanksgiving serving turkey on a U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship in the Pacific Ocean.

Six students from the school's hospitality management program are preparing holiday meals on the U.S.S. Boxer in San Diego this week as part of the Adopt-A-Ship program. The effort links Navy chefs with their civilian counterparts through the American Culinary Foundation.

Mizzou has participated in the program five times previously, but this is the first effort since 2008.
Mizzou's Dixon says he's 'done nothing wrong'

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas -- Since Frank Haith announced senior guard Michael Dixon Jr.'s indefinite suspension for an undisclosed violation of team rules a few weeks ago, the Missouri men's basketball coach has maintained that he will be the one who decides when Dixon will return.

But after weeks of rumors and speculation about the true nature of Dixon's suspension — and despite Haith's initial insistence that it is not legal in nature or NCAA related — a series of late-night Twitter messages from former Missouri guard Kim English hinted that Dixon's status may not be in Haith's hands, after all.

Shortly after Missouri's 84-61 loss to No. 2 Louisville on Friday, English — who now plays for the NBA's Detroit Pistons — sent the following message from his Twitter account, @Englishscope24, in defense of his former teammate:

"The Univ of Missouri 'student board' is a joke. Acting and making a decision without having actual facts. University should be ashamed!"

Then, a few minutes later:

"Thank God we have an AMAZING chancellor who I trust will make the right decision soon. And do what's right by reinstating Michael Dixon Jr."

And finally, this:

"Michael has handled this situation w/ nothing but poise, class and professionalism. Would be awesome if his University would do the same."

It appears English was referring to the University of Missouri's Student Conduct Committee, which is made up of faculty members and decides cases in accordance with the school's standards of conduct in student disciplinary matters.

In such cases, a student who is expelled, dismissed or suspended from the university by the committee can file an appeal, which is sent directly to the chancellor (MU's Brady Deaton, in this case), who has the authority to overturn the decision. While the appeal is being considered, the chancellor may then allow the student to continue in school.
Still, what remains murky is what—if anything—Dixon possibly did to go before the council. Haith allowed Dixon to travel with the team to the Bahamas for the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament, but he has not provided a timeline for when he could be reinstated.

It’s worth noting that English’s comments on Friday night and early this morning came after Dixon sent a since-deleted message from his Twitter account, @M1keD1xonJR, immediately following the game:

“Our team fought hard. I wish I could be out there helping them. I’VE DONE NOTHING WRONG! Nobody is going to feel sorry for us tomorrow. #VCU.”

Haith was not asked about Dixon’s status after the game, though he did tell ESPN’s Jason King on Thursday that he sees the situation as a teaching moment.

“It’s all about teaching,” Haith said. “If I leave him back home, what does that do? I want him to feel (the pain of not playing).”
When it was all over — when the wishbone was snapped and the turkey unstuffed — we groaned under the massive quantities of food we managed to consume at the Thanksgiving table.

But today — “Leftover Friday” — we’ll dig in to the remains of our dinner, tucking into plastic-wrapped bowls of mashed potatoes, treating pie as a breakfast food or crafting turkey sandwiches with the rest of the bird. Then tomorrow we’ll convince ourselves that those leftovers are starting to get a little mangy, because, let’s face it: We’re really over Thanksgiving food.

And then we’ll throw it away.

Americans toss about $165 billion worth of food a year — almost 40 percent of our calories, according to the National Institutes of Health — and our wasteful ways are particularly acute around the holidays.

Take the turkey: The National Turkey Federation said Americans were projected to buy about 736 million pounds of turkey this Thanksgiving, and, by one calculation, 204 million pounds will end up in the trash.

“It’s the ultimate irony, really,” says Dana Gunders, a scientist with the National Resources Defense Council, the New York-based environmental group that calculated the figure. “We feast to celebrate that our ancestors had enough food to survive their first winter, acknowledging that once upon a time food was something to be grateful for. Then the next day, we throw half of it away.”

Food waste — or food loss — has gotten particularly egregious in recent decades. Gunders, who recently authored a report on the subject, says food waste has grown 50 percent, per person, over the last 40 years.

The issue is not just an American one. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations released a report this year saying roughly one-third of the food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally. The blame goes largely to industrialized nations, the
report says: In North America and Europe, consumers wasted between 200 and 250 pounds of food per person a year, while in Sub-Saharan African and South and Southeast Asia, the figure was between 13 and 24 pounds.

VARIOUS REASONS FOR WASTE

Research on the subject is limited, and causes, ranging from spoilage at the farm all the way through the supply chain, are difficult to track. Gathering data is so difficult, in fact, that a project in the European Union has committed to spending 4 million euros — about $5 million — to better understand the sources and causes of the waste.

“The data is very rough,” Gunders said, “but it does point to restaurants and consumers as contributing the biggest portion.”

Consumers, the thinking goes, have become so accustomed to abundance that they don’t plan well or value their food. A person on a low-carb diet, for example, will throw the burger bun away. A well-intentioned shopper might buy groceries for a week of meals, only to come home at the end of a workday and order take-out, then throw their store-bought food out later in the week.

“There’s a disconnect between what we buy and what we’re eating,” Gunders said.

Stores, too, are part of the problem. With increasing competition in the grocery industry, stores are offering more options — which often leaves those options in the Dumpster at the end of the day.

Restaurants, in the race for customers, are also serving up jumbo portions, giving consumers perceived value. While growing waistlines suggest people are eating more of those portions, the data also suggest we’re throwing more food away.

In Europe, researchers are taking a close look at “sell by” and “best by” labels, which are inconsistent and often misleading, suggesting to shoppers that a product is on the edge of its shelf life when it might actually be good for weeks.

“Use-by, best-by, enjoy-by — those are all meant to tell consumers peak quality. Those aren’t safety dates,” Gunders said. “So people are throwing stuff away prematurely.”

Environmental groups are becoming more vocal on the issue of food waste because the production of food — from the farm, to distribution, to packaging — is a drain on resources. Protein is particularly resource-consuming. According to calculations by the Environmental Working Group, growing feed to raise livestock requires 146 million acres of cropland and 167 million pounds of pesticides a year.

Take turkeys again. The production of 4 ounces of turkey emits greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to driving a car three miles. At the same time, the birds fare especially badly, waste-wise, because they’re usually consumed at celebratory times of the year when there’s so much
other food around. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates we throw away only 15 percent of the chicken we buy, compared with 35 percent of the turkey.

“We waste about 14 million turkeys a year,” explained Dawn Undurraga, a nutritionist with the Washington-based Environmental Working Group. “When you think about the water used to produce those turkeys, the pesticides used, it’s kind of astounding.”

**OPERATION RECOVERY**

To address the issue, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched a program in late 2011 called the “Food Recovery Challenge.” The idea, the agency said, is to encourage food-service facilities and grocery stores to reduce food waste through better purchasing, donating and composting. Missouri participants in the challenge include the St. Louis Cardinals and the University of Missouri.

“It’s the right thing to do,” said Ron Watermon, a Cardinals spokesman. “But it also makes good business sense.”

The food service provider at Busch Stadium, Delaware North, now diverts roughly 30 percent of the food waste at the stadium, donating $159,000 worth of food last year.

**At the University of Missouri, several programs are under way to reduce food waste.** Dining halls no longer provide trays so students will be less tempted to load up. The university also composts much of its food waste — about 100 tons last year — while roughly 1,000 gallons of food oil was made into biodiesel.

Supermarkets also are becoming more waste-conscious. Some Schnucks and Whole Foods stores now compost, for example, and most chains donate food to pantries. The stores also constantly track what consumers want and when.

“It boils down to a myriad of buying or production decisions that take into account a product’s shelf life, past sales, performance for that product, store sales projections, ad theme, ad placement and retail price,” said Todd Vasel, a Dierbergs spokesman. “Maybe even weather.”

Still, even the most fine-tuned ordering won’t prevent some losses.

“A perfect estimate is just not going to happen in our business,” said Lori Willis, a Schnucks spokeswoman. “We’re doing everything we can to be more efficient in our stores and cut back on waste, but there’s still plenty to go to food banks.”

Operation Food Search formed for that very reason.

“That’s how we originally started, back in 1981,” said Sunny Shaefer, the group’s executive director. “Some community leaders saw that food was being thrown away on Produce Row, and they asked if they could have it for the hungry.”
But in the last three decades, Shaefer said, donations have gone up as stores compete for consumer dollars.

“I think as long as consumers go into the grocery store and expect 20 types of lettuce and 15 types of apples,” she said, “stores are going to have things that don’t sell.”

Ultimately, researchers say, it’s a problem of abundance — one that only consumers can control.

“They’re using all of their persuasive techniques to sell us food, and you can’t blame them for that,” Gunders said, referring to food companies and stores. “But if consumers demonstrate that this is important, they’ll respond.”
There's research. There's teaching. There's grading. There's lecturing. And for some, there's "prevention educating."

Most campus prevention efforts -- on sexual assault, alcohol and drug use, hazing and what have you -- are facilitated by student affairs or college health centers, and directed exclusively at students. But as an increasing number of prevention experts push for more comprehensive approaches, some campuses are turning to a traditionally underused group: faculty.

Bringing faculty into the conversation was a major topic of discussion last month at the annual conference of SCOPE: School and College Organization of Prevention Educators, said Michelle N. Issadore, the group's executive director.

"I think a lot of people are at a loss of where to begin," Issadore said, calling working with faculty the daunting "holy grail" for staff and administrators because of the gravitas they hold with students. "It reinforces the notion that prevention is important."

Not only does involving faculty make them more aware of student issues and better-equipped to identify at-risk individuals, experts say, it often inspires them to get more involved in campus prevention and even makes them more attuned to similar substance abuse or harassment problems that might be going on between professors or other campus employees.

"They're two sides of the same coin," Issadore said. "It's eye-opening for faculty."

One of the major issues with the prevention field is not one that's unique in higher education: it operates in silos. But that compartmentalization often means messages that should really be directed toward all students are only given to certain populations: fraternity and sorority members hear about hazing, dorm residents are told not to do drugs, and first-year students get the one-shot don't-binge-drink lecture at orientation.

"It never gets quite to the core because they rarely involve faculty unless it's a major issue where it's sort of shaken the core of the institution, and then all of a sudden the barriers break down and..."
then you get faculty, staff and students all on the same page," said Daniel C. Swinton, vice president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management. "What we tend to prevent is negative publicity from negative incidents, instead of preventing from the front end."

But the hope is that when something bad does happen, something better comes from it -- and the colleges involving everyone in the response are doing it right, Swinton said.

Take the University of Montana, which reacted in part to allegations of multiple sexual assaults on campus -- and a systemic problem in how the institution dealt with them -- by bringing faculty and administrators together to create an online tutorial. All students are now required to view a series of slides and then complete a short quiz on things like the definition of rape and what constitutes consent.

And at Yale University, which in June resolved a complaint with the U.S. Education Department in which more than a dozen students alleged that the institution allowed a sexually hostile environment to flourish, looked to faculty in its response as well, having a professor chair a new universitywide committee on sexual misconduct and gathering feedback from students (one of whom is a member of the committee).

And at other colleges, the faculty members themselves take the initiative -- with a little encouragement from wellness staff.

The "Don't Cancel That Class" program, through which faculty who either know in advance or find out at the last minute that they can't make a class they're scheduled to teach, can call for a staff member or peer educator to come in and give a prevention lecture instead.

At the University of Missouri at Columbia, Wellness Resource Center Director Kim Dude fills that role, and she's found that far more often than not faculty have her simply as a guest lecturer, not a last-minute replacement (though that still happens a handful of times each year). And those present for the lecture usually ask Dude to come back each semester, she said, and come out with a better understanding of warning signs of at-risk students (missing deadlines, a drop in attendance or grades, etc.).

Faculty usually have students write a reflection paper, or plug in a few questions from the presentation on the next quiz, to make sure students are paying attention. Dude presents in classes covering subjects from health sciences to journalism to geology, for a total of 50 or so lectures a year reaching a broad swath of students.

"[Faculty] really do have an immense amount of power, and I try to help them better understand that so they can be part of the solution," Dude said. "The reason I really like it is because I am in no way preaching to the choir when I go in there. Those students did not go in there to hear me, but they might very well be the students that most need to hear me."

Illinois State University also has staff guest lecture for faculty and supplies data for professors who want to do their own lectures on health issues. But it also involves faculty in a variety of other ways: on its university wellness council, on its alcohol task force, in data dissemination
that professors are then encouraged to discuss with their students, and in prevention efforts with registered student organizations.

As a result, faculty often reach out to wellness staff proactively, looking for data or advice on social norms that they then pass on in their classes, said Nikki Brauer, director of health promotion and wellness at Illinois State.

"We've seen a shift in how open our campus faculty and administrators have been in having the conversation about alcohol," Brauer said. "This is a win for us."

A now-defunct (or, rather, shifted in focus) initiative at Northeastern Illinois University dating back to the 1980s actually taught faculty how to weave prevention themes into their own courses, in the sciences and liberal arts. Once resources started dwindling, though, the Network for Dissemination of Curriculum Infusion (NDCI) zeroed in on education professors in the Chicago area, helping them train future teachers to do this in K-12 schools.

So, for example, an algebra teacher might incorporate local crime data into class assignments. Or a social studies teacher could explore the role of bullying in international warfare, then bring it down to the community level.

"It makes the teachers much more aware of the types of things students are bringing in every day that sometimes impede their education if they're not addressed," said Bruce Joleaud, coordinator of the NDCI, adding that faculty really like the program as well. "It makes the teaching more relevant by teaching to significant problems that students are actually facing, that they're interested in learning about. It puts some flesh around the bones of whatever they're teaching, and students find this really interesting and engaging and it really enhances classroom learning."

While this movement to involve faculty is slow-going and, in many places, simply static (it helps to have buy-in from top-level administrators, Swinton said, because prevention educators often lack a strong voice on campus), there are clearly reasons to be encouraged.

"I think faculty can really make a lot of things happen a lot of times that others can't," Swinton said. If they say this is an important issue, he said, "I don't know many provosts and presidents that won't give that time and attention."

The Star's editorial | Keeping KC relevant in medical research

The decision by pharmaceutical giant Hoechst Marion Roussel to pull its North American headquarters and 900 jobs out of Kansas City in 2000 raised worries of a scientific brain drain and decline of the region’s longtime presence in the development of medical drugs and devices.

Thankfully, that has not come to pass. Much of the talent stayed put and created a vibrant cluster of smaller research firms and companies dedicated to moving medical advances from the lab to the market.

A recent analysis by Tufts University’s Center for the Study of Drug Development listed Kansas City as one of 15 regions in the United States with the highest concentrations of contract research and development service companies.

That distinction means Kansas City benefits from a critical mass of science and research oriented firms, paying good salaries and attracting smart people. With health care projected to be the fastest-growing job sector for some time to come, prospects for further growth are excellent.

Buoyed by the Tufts research, area companies in the contract sector recently founded BioResearch Central, a collaboration involving more than 90 firms. In total, they account for about 9,000 jobs.

What’s taking place in Kansas City reflects global changes in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Whereas major drug manufacturers once employed the resources to take a product from the lab to the market, they increasingly are contracting out functions such as formulation (preparing the drugs in a consumable form), toxicology (assessing adverse reactions to chemicals) and clinical trials.

The growth of BioResearch Central has been aided by a strong support structure. The Kansas Bioscience Authority, which uses taxes from bioscience companies to assist the industry, has been essential. Missouri still needs to come up with a workable model to promote biosciences.

A knowledgeable workforce is crucial. Fortunately, the University of Kansas, University of Missouri, University of Missouri-Kansas City and other schools in the region have been strengthening science and medical programs. Political leaders need to support those efforts.
BioResearch Central and its members have quietly emerged as a major and welcome economic development force — an opportunity to be nourished.
Freebies from lobbyists becoming harder to track in Missouri

JEFFERSON CITY • Many state legislators hate it when their names show up on lobbyists’ monthly expense reports. Getting free food or ballgame tickets may not sit well with constituents.

So some legislators work to avoid it. Not the free food and entertainment — the disclosure.

Legislators can void expenditures reflected in online reports by reimbursing lobbyists who paid the tab. On the surface, that sounds fine.

But some legislators use campaign funds to pay back the lobbyists. That practice has raised questions in the capital, because state law says campaign contributions “shall not be converted to any personal use.”

Take a disappearing expenditure involving House Speaker Tim Jones, R-Eureka. He and his wife, Suzanne, received free tickets to watch the NCAA men’s basketball regionals on March 25 from AT&T’s suite at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

AT&T lobbyist John Sondag initially reported the tickets as unspecified “entertainment” costing $100 for Jones and $100 for the legislator’s wife. But on July 3, Jones’ campaign committee, Citizens for Timothy W. Jones, paid $200 to AT&T, calling it a campaign “fundraising expense.”

Sondag then amended his lobbying report to show that Jones had reimbursed AT&T. Thus, the expense was no longer included in the total that lobbyists spent in March on the speaker, who was majority floor leader at the time.

Jones and other legislators who defend using campaign funds to reimburse lobbyists say attending dinners and ballgames is part of the job. Legislation is discussed at halftime. The conversation weaves back and forth between basketball and politics.

Jones said in a statement that he holds himself “to the highest ethical standards and I am not influenced by lobbyist spending. To avoid the potential for someone to think otherwise, I reimburse lobbyists for any expenditures…. Transparency remains and always will be, my number one goal.”
Critics say the practice of spending campaign contributions on private outings with lobbyists skirts the edge of what the law allows. Also, when it comes to meals during the 4½-month legislative session, each legislator already receives a $104 daily expense allowance from taxpayers to cover food and lodging.

In any event, the fund switch has one clear drawback for constituents: It makes it harder for them to track the money spent on their legislator.

**MURKY CAMPAIGN LAW**

At the heart of the issue is a murky campaign finance law, a problem that was highlighted by the Post-Dispatch last year when the newspaper reported that Sen. Robin Wright-Jones, D-St. Louis, spent thousands of dollars from her campaign fund on clothing and groceries.

Though money from donors can’t be converted to personal use, it can be spent on “ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of a holder of elective office.”

Also permitted are “expenses associated with the duties of candidacy or of elective office pertaining to the entertaining of or providing social courtesies to constituents, professional associations, or other holders of elective office.”

Speaker Jones said that often, when he attends social events, “I discuss many issues with a wide variety of local business owners and community leaders, and I visit with other legislators — all activities which involve my campaign or legislative duties.”

He obtained a legal opinion that backs up his interpretation of the law.

Attorney James C. Thomas III of Kansas City wrote: “The question of whether or not it is appropriate for a lobbyist to receive reimbursements from an elected official’s campaign fund really depends on whether the reimbursement is for a ‘personal expense’ or for an expense related to campaigning or the official duties of the office.”

Drawing that line is the “tricky issue,” Thomas wrote in the opinion, which Jones’ campaign provided to the newspaper.

For example, a resort weekend for a legislator and his family, where no official or campaign activities are conducted, “sure looks like a purely personal expense,” he wrote. But a dinner with the local chamber of commerce could fall under the umbrella of a campaign event, according to Thomas.

Julie Allen, the Missouri Ethics Commission’s executive director, said she could not judge specific situations. But speaking generally on what qualifies as a campaign expenditure, she said: “The law’s fairly broad in that area.”
Even so, Mike Reid, a former ethics compliance director who now lobbies for the lobbyists, recommends that lobbyists turn down reimbursement checks if they come from legislators' campaign accounts.

"I would return it," said Reid, who represents the Society of Governmental Consultants, as well as the Missouri School Boards Association and other clients.

"If you saw that it was really from the campaign account, you could be helping that person convert campaign funds to personal use," said Reid, who sent his advice in a letter to the consulting group's members this summer.

Jones countered that many officials use campaign funds to pay for social or athletic events.

Attorney General Chris Koster bills his campaign directly for tickets while Gov. Jay Nixon uses a "luxury box" at Mizzou Arena that has been paid for by the Missouri Democratic Party, Jones noted. Koster and Nixon are Democrats.

POLITICALLY STICKY ISSUE

The practice of reimbursing lobbyists with campaign money has been growing over the last few years since former Speaker Steve Tilley, R-Perryville, announced that he would decline or pay back any freebies.

Legislators say they don't want to end up like state Sen. Jim Lembke, R-Lemay, who was defeated Nov. 6, in part because of a scathing campaign portraying him as being wined and dined by lobbyists.

Lembke's opponent, Democratic Rep. Scott Sifton of the Affton area, used the issue in ads. And a website funded largely by plaintiffs' attorneys attacked Lembke by asserting that he had taken "more gifts than any state senator — $28,000."

Lembke said the information was taken out of context, because the $28,000 was spread over his 10 years in Jefferson City.

He said he didn't try to hide his lobbyist-paid meals, which he said were often the only chance for groups to get "face time" with him during a busy day of hearings. Unlike some legislators, he said he doesn't believe it's appropriate to use campaign funds to wipe out lobbyist expenses.

"When I go out and raise money for my campaign account, I believe that the people who are contributing to me have an idea what that might be used for, and that's to get me re-elected," not reimburse lobbyists, Lembke said.

Lembke and other legislators — both Democrats and Republicans — say their votes are not bought for the price of a burger or nice meal.
Having a lobbyist pick up the dinner tab is “honestly a matter of convenience,” said Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia.

“You have a meeting with a group of people and there’s two lobbyists and four legislators there. Instead of splitting up the check, one person just gets it all,” said Webber, who said he sometimes picks up lobbyists’ tabs.

But the perception the reports leave can be damaging, so some legislators watch carefully to see if their name pops up on a lobbyist expense report and quickly reimburse the lobbyist.

Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal, D-University City, said she checks each month where she ranks in terms of receiving lobbyist gifts and pays some back, either from campaign or personal funds.

“I don’t want a high amount, period. I don’t want a high ranking,” she said.

For instance, Chappelle-Nadal used campaign money to repay lobbyists Scott Penman and David Winton for $61.68 worth of gifts the lobbyists gave the senator’s staff at the end of the legislative session.

Rep. Caleb Jones, R-California, tapped his campaign account to repay the University of Missouri for 10 free tickets he received for three Mizzou basketball games. The tab: $380.

“It seems like more and more of them want to pay, compared to 10 years ago,” said Steve Knorr, who lobbies for the University of Missouri and fields frequent requests for tickets.

Whether the reimbursement comes from the lawmaker personally or a campaign account doesn’t matter to MU, he said.

“To me, that’s kind of between them and their donors,” Knorr said. “As long as we’re getting reimbursed, from our standpoint, cash is cash.”

Not all officials used campaign money to pay back lobbyists. Rep. Jeanne Kirkton, D-Webster Groves, writes a personal check whenever she sees that a lobbyist reported an expenditure for her or her staff.

“People give me campaign money to succeed in my campaign in running for office,” not hobnob with lobbyists, Kirkton said.

MOVES HARD TO TRACK

How many lobbyist-paid outings disappear from the books is impossible to say.

Speaker Jones reimbursed lobbyists for at least $2,215 they spent on him, his family and his staff from January through April.

STORY CONTINUES...
Bernie: Has Pinkel gone stale?

November 23, 2012 12:55 am • BY BERNIE MIKLASZ, Post-Dispatch Sports Columnist

**Mizzou wouldn't be in the SEC without Gary Pinkel. His dogged turnaround of the dismal MU football program rates among the best coaching jobs we've seen in the last 25 years.**

It’s easy to forget the sorry state of Missouri football from 1985 through 2000. Coaches Woody Widenhofer, Bob Stull and Larry Smith combined to lose 115 of 179 games, and posted only two winning seasons (both by Smith) in 16 years.

It took the methodical Pinkel a while to get things moving in the right direction. He arrived from Toledo in 2001 and went 22-25 in his first four seasons, but clicked off seven consecutive winning seasons (and bowl trips) from 2005 through 2011.

The Tigers were ranked No. 1 in the nation for a week late in the 2007 season, and that didn’t seem possible. I don’t take those things for granted. Like many of you, I remember too many horrific Saturday afternoons in Columbia before Pinkel resuscitated MU football.

In those bad old days, it was incomprehensible to envision Mizzou having a program worthy of being recruited by the SEC. Pinkel pulled off a remarkable transformation, and his legacy at Missouri is secure.

As Pinkel winds down his 12th season as Mizzou’s coach, the program has stalled. The Tigers are 5-6 as they head to Texas A&M for what likely will be a season-ending loss. One of their wins came against Southeastern Louisiana. Two other wins were bagged against Kentucky and Tennessee, which soon fired their head coaches.

You can blame Missouri’s miseries on the injuries to starting quarterback James Franklin and the wreckage of the team’s offensive line. But that doesn’t change the reality: Missouri’s momentum has slowed, and the excuses don’t really hold up when viewed from a broader perspective.

The Tigers went 5-4 in their final season (2011) in the Big 12, and they’re 2-5 in their first expedition through the SEC. Over the last three seasons, the Tigers have a conference record of 13-11, and 11 of the victories came against teams with losing records.

Not counting two wins over blood-donor opponents Western Illinois and Southeastern Louisiana, the Tigers are 11-11 since the beginning of the 2011 season. A loss to the Aggies would make it 11-12. And MU completed its home schedule by blowing a lead and losing to Syracuse, falling to 3-4 at Faurot Field this season.
This isn’t exactly what the MU administration had in mind when aggressively maneuvering the football program into a place in the SEC. After all of the hype and buildup, after an ambitious fundraising drive that included an increase in ticket prices, the SEC launch was a dud.

When Missouri jumped to the SEC, the standards were raised. Mizzou made an obvious statement: we’ve arrived. We are good enough to take on the best. We belong in the most elite conference in college football. We can win in the SEC. We’re not the same old Mizzou.

I love that attitude. Mizzou should aspire to greatness, instead of settling for simply being decent, or good. But when you take on that challenge, it creates pressure and expectations and there’s an obligation to play to a higher standard.

A sequence of .500 seasons won’t cut it. If Mizzou didn’t want fans and media grumbling over lackluster results, then the university should have kept the expectations at a lower level. But when you decide to take on the big boys, the coach automatically faces more scrutiny, and feels more heat.

College football is a business. That’s why Pinkel is being paid more than $2 million per year. This is the game. And Pinkel is in the game. The game can make you rich, and the game can tear you apart. If you can’t stand the game, then walk away.

Unless Pinkel chooses to retire from the job — which wouldn’t shock me — he’ll likely get the benefit of the doubt. This was a transition year. I don’t think anyone believed it would be easy to walk into the SEC and start piling up the wins.

Pinkel deserves a chance to make this right, and to get Mizzou back on track in 2013. But we have questions:

• Has Pinkel been affected by the turmoil in his personal life? He’s had a difficult 12 months. There was the messy arrest (and subsequent guilty plea) for driving while intoxicated last November, followed by the end of his 39-year marriage. It’s easy to say that Pinkel’s personal life is just that: his business and no one else’s. Well, it’s not that simple. If a coach is distracted by havoc in his private life, then it’s an issue. If the off-field turbulence reduces Pinkel’s effectiveness as a coach and a leader, it’s a problem.

• Has Pinkel gone stale? Pinkel is a good coach, but he’s 60 years old, and he’s been in this job for 12 years. We’ve seen plenty of good coaches stagnate if they stay in one place for too long. It’s hardly unusual in coaching.

• Does Pinkel still have the full support of director of athletics Mike Alden and the Missouri administration? That became an open-ended question after Alden came down hard on Pinkel in the aftermath of the DUI arrest. Pinkel was suspended for a game. He had to donate one week’s pay to the MU Wellness Center. Pinkel had his salary frozen for a year, and Alden took away the coach’s bonus (around $300,000) for getting the Tigers to a bowl game. Pinkel was ordered to write a letter of apology to MU fans and perform 50 hours of community service.
I'm not suggesting that Alden was out of line. But I also believe that when Alden brought the hammer down on Pinkel, the balance of power shifted. Until then, Alden had done nothing but lavish Pinkel with unreserved praise and multiple pay raises.

Pinkel’s annual salary of $2.35 million makes him one of the highest-paid coaches in the industry. But the DUI prompted Alden to truly confront Pinkel for the first time, and Alden hit him hard. When the AD publicly flogged the coach, I have to believe that something changed.

• Can Pinkel’s spread offense work in the SEC? Or will it continue to sputter against the faster, stronger SEC defenses? That’s been a topic of frequent discussion and debate. Mizzou installed the offense before the 2005 season and averaged 31.1 points per game against Big 12 opponents. That ranked fifth in the Big 12 over the seven-year stretch, and the Tigers never averaged fewer than 25 points per game in conference action during a season. This year, Mizzou is ranked 11th among the 14 SEC teams with an average of 20.9 points per game in conference play.

• Will Alden demand a shakeup of Pinkel’s staff? Only three of Pinkel’s assistant coaches have left during his 12 seasons at Mizzou. Is it time to freshen the staff by bringing in some fresh blood, and new ideas? If Alden decides to push for changes, will Pinkel comply or push back? Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Pinkel said there would be no staff changes before 2013. We’ll see about that.

• Can Pinkel and staff recruit better athletes that will make Missouri more capable of competing at a higher level in the SEC? I’m not talking about the occasional blue-chip prospect, like wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham. The Tigers require more across-the-board athleticism.

• At this stage of his career, what is Pinkel’s upside? Here’s why I ask: even during the best of times, MU struggled to beat ranked teams. In his 12 seasons Mizzou is 80-29 vs. unranked opponents, and 10-31 against teams ranked in the Top 25.

Now, let’s boil this down a bit to concentrate on recent seasons. Since 2005, Pinkel is 9-20 vs. Top 25 teams and 59-15 against unranked opponents. The Tigers are 6-17 since 2005 when pitted against a ranked conference opponent. I suppose all of this can change for the better, but I don’t see a genuine basis for optimism.

Pinkel’s body of work warrants another chance. It would be callous to abruptly run him off after a couple of mediocre seasons. But for the first time since Pinkel took over the Tigers, there are reasons to take a hard look at the state of the program.

When Mizzou made the move to the SEC, Pinkel called on the Mizzou administration to deliver with more funding, and called on the fans to deliver more support. That’s fine. It was appropriate to issue that challenge, because everyone involved with Mizzou had to raise their game.

There’s only one problem with that: Pinkel didn’t deliver on his end. The Tigers didn’t raise their game to the SEC level. A dozen years into the job, the coach has to prove himself all over again.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

For Marching Mizzou drum major with visual disability, one last game

By Marian McPherson
November 23, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Last week, 330 members of Marching Mizzou gathered on the practice field to rehearse for the final football game of the season.

They quickly assembled their instruments and headed to their places on the field. Paul Heddings, in a red sweater and his trademark black-and-gold Mizzou sunglasses, was waiting.

The practice was special for Heddings, the 22-year-old senior who has been the band's drum major for two years, Saturday's game against Texas A&M in College Station will be his last.

For Heddings, who has led the band during two seasons of halftime shows, it will be a bittersweet mix of sadness and pride. He lost most of his vision when he was 17.

Losing vision suddenly as a teen

A series of retinal detachments cost Heddings the majority of his eyesight when he was a junior in high school. He eventually would become legally blind.

"Sept. 7, 2007, was an infamous day for me," he said. "I woke up and my vision was a little blurry."

"So, I went to the optometrist thinking I needed new contacts. I ended up having the first of several invasive surgeries to save my vision."

That night, Heddings and his family drove from their home in Carrollton to a hospital in Kansas City that could repair his retinas and prevent further damage.
"I can remember the doctor just looking at me and telling me my retinas had detached," Heddings said. "I wasn’t sure how much vision I’d have at the end, or how they’d be able to repair my retinas. It hit me like a ton of bricks."

After the surgery, he spent five days at home recovering and struggling to accept a new reality.

"Retinal detachments usually happen after a traumatic accident, but it just kind of happened to me," he said. "I wasn’t sure how to cope with everything."

Throughout his junior year, Heddings went through additional laser procedures and medical visits, while working to maintain a normal school and personal life, sharing very little about what happened.

"It was a U-curve of how much I wanted to share. At first, I wanted lay it out on the line, hoping that someone could help me," he said. "And then sometimes I didn’t say anything because I didn’t want it to be an issue. I was in denial."

At school, he would try to blend in with other students, despite the fact he couldn't play on his high school baseball team, participate in physical education classes or even read a textbook in class.

"For a long time, Paul would try to hide his problem," his mother, Traci, said. "It was hard getting him to acknowledge that what was gone, was gone. He didn't want to accept that."

Creating a new dream

Throughout the initial months, family and friends encouraged Heddings. They pushed him to go to school and use his disability as a motivation, not a crutch.

"I had tried to feel sorry for myself, I tried to get upset and I cried about it," he said. "But I realized it wasn’t going to change it."

With a newfound attitude, Heddings focused on something he could do — play the drums.

"I began playing music in fifth grade," he said. "I couldn't play sports anymore, but I could play music. It's where I found solace."

During his senior year in high school, he was accepted at MU and decided to try out for the marching band.
"I knew Marching Mizzou was going to be hard, not only because of my disability, but because I started playing drums late," he said. "But it wasn't going to hold me back."

The summer before his freshman year at Mizzou, Heddings attended rehabilitation classes at Alphapointe Association for the Blind in Kansas City to help him read textbooks and music with magnifiers and perform other daily functions, such as cooking and cleaning.

"Alphapointe helped prepare him to go to college," his mother said. "It was amazing watching him become independent and comfortable with himself."

**Trying out for Marching Mizzou**

That fall, Heddings auditioned for Marching Mizzou and joined the band.

"There were days I sounded really bad," he said with a laugh. "There were days I didn't know what was going on because I couldn't see the music."

For two years, he kept his disability secret, learning how to memorize the arrangements quickly so he wouldn't have to depend on the music sheet.

"I wanted people to know me before my disability," he said. But, when Heddings decided to try out for a coveted drum major position, he faced the possibility of sharing his disability with the band.

"I was honestly afraid it would affect if I got on the line or not," he said. "I didn't want them to feel like they had to a bunch of extra work for me, like I couldn't do what everyone else was doing."

He made it through the initial rounds of auditions to the final group interview, where bandmates and judges were allowed to ask questions.

"One of my friends asked me about my vision because she knew it would be my platform to explain everything," he said. "I didn't want anyone to have any preconceived notions."

As Heddings shared his story, he was amazed by the looks on his fellow bandmates and instructors.

"They thought I was joking," he said. "But I thought it was kind of cool they didn't know."
After the interview, Brad Snow, the band director, pulled Heddings aside to ask a few more questions. During their conversation, Heddings explained that he used magnifiers to read music and learned to use his peripheral vision, heightened hearing and tactile skills to maneuver with the band.

"I was surprised," Snow said. "I wanted to know how he did what he did because marching bands are so visual. I think everyone respects his abilities much more now."

**Living in the spotlight**

Later that year, Heddings began to receive phone calls from local media outlets for interview requests. Eventually, CNN caught wind of the story and featured him in Dr. Sanjay Gupta's "The Human Factor." The series "profiles survivors who have overcome the odds."

"It's weird having all this attention," Heddings said. "For me, it's just life; I didn't think it was inspiring. Everyone has barriers. I just have a couple more."

Nonetheless, he has accepted the spotlight as an opportunity to bring awareness to disability policies and inspire others in his situation.

"I come from a small town where the nearest Walmart is 30 miles away," he said. "There aren't a lot of resources out in rural areas for people with disabilities. For a year, I struggled because I didn't know what was available."

Last summer, Heddings met President Barack Obama to discuss disability issues in rural areas, as well as arranging to speak at local schools.

"I just think about all the kids with disabilities in rural areas that have resigned themselves to never achieving anything because everyone tells them they can't," he said. "They could be anything, even a future president. I want them to know they can overcome."

With his last performance fast approaching, Heddings has set his sights on a new goal — law school.

"It's a little scary, it's daunting, but I know I can do it," he said. "Before, if you told me that I would have become head drum major for Marching Mizzou with my disability, I would have laughed. But I've learned to make every day a challenge to do the impossible."

*Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.*