UM campuses pool resources

By Jacob Barker

Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 2:00 am Updated: 11:47 pm, Sat Jan 12, 2013.

The University of Missouri System last week announced a research funding mechanism that aims to incentivize collaboration among researchers across its four campuses.

The Interdisciplinary Intercampus Research Program has an initial pot of money worth $1 million that can be tapped by faculty members with "high-reward" research ideas that will eventually lead to outside funding, the system announced last week. To qualify, proposals must involve faculty members from at least two different UM campuses and involve two different academic disciplines.

"We think this is a way in which to optimize expertise we have in the system," said Mike Nichols, UM System Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

The fund pools money from each of the four campuses, which contributed $125,000 each, and a $500,000 match from the UM system. Each faculty member can request up to $25,000 for a research project, but funding awards will not exceed $100,000, Nichols said. Proposals for the first round of funding are due by March 1, according to the program website. Awards will be announced May 1.

"By continuing to invest in these funding programs, we are advancing Missouri's technologies and their potential to continue along the research and commercialization pipeline and make them more attractive to external funders or potential licensees," University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe said in a statement.

The idea has been in the works for about six months, and it is similar to mechanisms that some other universities use to encourage intercampus research projects. A research project involving faculty from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla and the University of Missouri at Kansas City to develop a material that catalyzes wound healing got officials thinking about ways to encourage other collaborative projects, he said.

The hope is to leverage intercampus and cross-disciplinary research into even more funding. More and more federal agencies see intercampus and interdisciplinary research projects as a plus when they decide how to award grants, Nichols said.
The program created an internal website that encourages faculty to post abstracts for their research projects and seek out other faculty expertise that they think will be valuable for their research.

"They can submit an abstract or an idea that's ready for collaboration, connect with other faculty across other campuses and other disciplines," Nichols said. "We hope it's a site that researchers will gravitate towards."

Right now, the fund is only temporary.

"It's just kind of a one-time fund thing to see how it will work," he said. "Hopefully we're gonna get a lot of success and we can build a case to work it into our budget."

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DEAR READER: Finding the story behind an MU job candidate with ties to Abu Ghraib

By Tom Warhover
January 11, 2013 | 12:00 p.m. CST

Dear Reader,

On Wednesday, John Farmer de la Torre reported that a finalist for a high-ranking job at MU’s College of Education had worked as a psychologist at two of the most notorious American prisons since 9/11.

In doing so, he brought to our hometown many of the issues that have taken our attention on the national and international news pages.

Iraqi men were sexually humiliated and beaten at Abu Ghraib. The graphic photos that leaked out in 2004 created an international scandal and a debate at home over what constitutes torture. Eventually, nine American servicemen were convicted.

Closer to home, the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2004 alleged that psychological and physical interrogation techniques by the keepers of Guantanamo Bay detainees were “tantamount to torture,” according to reports at the time by The New York Times and others.

The controversy continues to play out. The AP reported this week that a defense contractor has settled a lawsuit by 71 former inmates at Abu Ghraib and other prisons for $5.28 million. It marks, the report said, the “first successful effort ... to collect money from a U.S. defense contractor in lawsuits alleging torture.” Expect a trial against another contractor this summer.

Which brings us back to our small connection.

Last week, the Missourian received an email from Peggy Placier, a retired MU professor, who said she was speaking on behalf of faculty who were apparently afraid of repercussions for
speaking. Her request: Check out this guy who is a finalist for the College of Education executive director’s job. So de la Torre did.

Larry James’ CV is 32 pages long. It includes academic papers and accomplishments, military honors – including the Bronze Star – and other work in national policy and in management. I don’t know what the search committee is looking for, but there’s a boatload of stuff to choose from. (You can see the CV here.) Under “Recent Military Deployments/Assignments,” there’s this:

- Director, Behavioral Science Division, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, June 2007 to May 2008.
- Deputy Director Behavioral Science Division, Joint Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, January 2003 to 05 May 2003.

A quick Google search determined that James has been in the middle of the controversy over prisoner treatment for a long time.

De la Torre’s task was simple – there was little question whether a story should be done – and complicated, as he found out while trying to sift through reams of allegations and old clips while conducting interviews. De la Torre said supporting documents for a complaint to the Ohio Board of Psychology ran for a thousand pages. (James won.)

There are, or should be, questions about his role in the prisoners’ treatment. James likens himself to a consultant; his detractors say he was a guy in charge. A Harvard Law School lecturer says he violated his medical oath to do no harm; James says he was trying to clean things up. His fitness for the job will depend on the answers.

I was impressed by the frankness of professor Michael Pullis, head of the search committee. He didn’t duck the questions posed by de la Torre. But Pullis and the rest of the committee determined that James’ credentials and his response to the committee’s questions of his activities was enough to make him a finalist.

I told de la Torre on Thursday that this isn’t one of those big one-and-done stories. The first article begs questions that will be answered in the second; the second will produce comments and questions that will produce a third. The original email made the whole process public. As it should. Good deeds are rarely done in the dark.

Tom
A Law-School Lesson, Learned the Hard Way

By Ben Trachtenberg, Associate Professor of Law, University of Missouri

As 2012 drew to a close, the movement to hold law schools accountable for misleading marketing suffered another setback. The Appellate Division of New York's Supreme Court upheld a trial court's decision dismissing a lawsuit against New York Law School. Graduates of the law school had accused it of issuing alumni-employment statistics that painted an unreasonably optimistic picture of their job prospects after graduation.

Judge Melvin Schweitzer had dismissed the case in March, holding that even if the statistics published by the law school were bunk, "plaintiffs could not have reasonably relied on NYLS's alleged misrepresentations ... because they had ample information from additional sources and thus the opportunity to discover the then-existing employment prospects ... through the exercise of reasonable due diligence." In other words, no reasonable person would have relied on the school's statistics, and so unhappy law graduates cannot win satisfaction under consumer-protection laws.

The Appellate Division did agree with the plaintiffs that "there is no question that the type of employment information published by [NYLS and other law schools] during the relevant period likely left some consumers with an incomplete, if not false, impression of the schools' job placement success."

The court noted that the marketing materials allowed unwary consumers to believe that "employed" recent graduates held full-time positions, while in reality the advertised number of "employed" graduates included not only those doing part-time legal work, but also those not working as lawyers at all—waiters and babysitters, for example. It criticized the law school's "statistical gamesmanship," observing that the American Bar Association had recently "repudiated" such trickery, which for years has been common practice in legal academe.

Nonetheless, despite being "troubled by the unquestionably less than candid and incomplete nature" of New York Law School's advertisements, the Appellate Division upheld the dismissal,
saying the misleading marketing was not the sort of deceptive practice that violates the state's General Business Law or the common-law prohibition on fraud.

In short, two courts found that New York Law School had published marketing materials that sensible prospective law students should not trust, and concluded that graduates who had been misled have no legal remedy. Similar cases against law schools have been dismissed in Illinois and Michigan. Others are pending.

My own research has revealed comparable misleading marketing by law schools nationwide, with schools obscuring who counts as "employed" as well as how many employed graduates are in jobs paid for by law schools themselves. Schools also publish salary data based on skewed samples of highly paid graduates. Other researchers have documented cases in which law schools issued misleading scholarship offers, concealing the lesser likelihood of students' continuing to qualify for their awards beyond the first year.

For example, when collecting data for the National Association for Law Placement—which produces the best-known salary statistics for recent graduates—law schools exclude those in part-time jobs. In addition, the survey sample is not random; the association acknowledges that higher-paid graduates are more likely to respond. The problem is then exacerbated because the association encourages law schools to use public information (such as social media and law-firm Web sites) to determine the salaries of nonresponding graduates, and salary data are more commonly public at the largest law firms, which tend to pay the top salaries.

Despite those flaws, which make attending law school look more financially attractive than it otherwise might, law schools commonly report the "average" salaries of their graduates without any useful disclaimers concerning the upward skew.

Law schools may protest that their salary numbers are collected according to industry standards. But so what if they are? If a school knows that the salary numbers reported by the National Association for Law Placement skew upward, it misleads prospective students by presenting an "average" or "median" or "75th percentile" salary absent an explanation of why the number should not be trusted.

As for scholarships, law schools have awarded merit aid contingent on academic performance—not itself necessarily objectionable—without explaining how forced grading curves may make it impossible for many students to retain awards. An admitted student might be told something like, "You need a first-year GPA of x to keep your scholarship," without being told that (1) only 30 percent of the class can attain such a GPA; and (2) more than half of her classmates have the same deal.

So where do we go from here? In addition to rules recently enacted by the American Bar Association to curb the sharp practices described above, there is, perhaps, one hint of a silver lining for reform advocates in the Appellate Division's opinion. Despite letting a law school get away with bad behavior, the court asserted that "the practice of law is a noble profession that takes pride in its high ethical standards," and that "to join and continue to enjoy the privilege of
being an active member of the legal profession, every prospective and active member of the
profession is called upon to demonstrate candor and honesty."

The rules of legal ethics prohibit lawyers from engaging in misrepresentation, dishonesty, and
decie, and the prohibition extends beyond the practice of law. Indeed, lawyers have been
disciplined for filing false police reports, forging law-school transcripts and recommendation
letters, and committing academic plagiarism. It is high time for state bar officials to safeguard
prospective students from dishonest pitches by law schools.

I have not found any disciplinary cases related to misleading law-school marketing. But that
could change overnight if a single state bar took action—perhaps prompted by complaints from
former students, who know all about the marketing tactics. Case law concerning other forms of
deceit by lawyers makes clear that at least some law-school administrators have exposed
themselves to discipline.

In addition, bar organizations can issue advisory opinions on ethical issues. A notice that certain
"business as usual" marketing techniques are considered dishonest by the state bar would prompt
quick corrective action by law schools, which commonly include licensed lawyers among their
leadership.

The appeals court's opinion stated that law schools "have at least an ethical obligation of absolute
candor to their prospective students."

If law schools cannot clean up their act, disciplinary authorities may begin proceedings against
their administrators. Misleading marketing has no place in legal academe, and there is no excuse
for further delays.
Downtown Columbia has seen a boom in student housing, and the city is grappling with the issues surrounding the development.

By Jacob Barker

Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 2:00 am Updated: 2:00 pm, Sun Jan 13, 2013.

In Fayetteville, Ark., home of the University of Arkansas, there is a boom in student housing construction. About 2,700 new beds are under construction right now, “with more to come,” said Jeremy Pate, the city’s development services director.

Many of them are around the university campus, near the city’s downtown, where it has traditionally tried to encourage residential development. Like Columbia, the new developments are changing the character of the areas where they’re being built. One proposed near an established neighborhood even drew a lawsuit from neighbors that led to the project relocating.
Although many in the city think more residents downtown and near campus will lead to a more vital commercial core, Pate admits that the full impact of the student housing boom will only be known when the residents move in.

"I don’t think we’ve reached that tipping point," Pate said. "I think our concern is ... at what point do you have too much of the same demographic?"

That’s the same question Columbia is wrestling with right now. Nearly 1,200 beds catering to students have gone in or are under construction in downtown Columbia, and more developers are looking for sites. The latest to become public is a proposal from Collegiate Housing Partners, a St. Louis firm interested in buying the Niedermeyer building, a portion of which dates back to 1837. It wants to build a structure as high as 12 stories on the property.

That prompted the Columbia City Council last month to propose a six-month moratorium on the approval of demolition permits downtown. Although the prospect of losing a piece of the city’s history was the spark, public opposition has been building against downtown student housing as a crush of cars and undergrads move to the area. Downtown’s permissive zoning, some say, is the issue, and development should be put on hold while the city puts more restrictive rules in place to regulate downtown development.

"This is not just about the Niedermeyer proposal," Sixth Ward Councilwoman Barbara Hoppe, who proposed the moratorium, said at Monday’s council meeting. "This is about downtown in general."

Other college communities seeing a flood of investment in the booming student housing market are dealing with similar issues. In Fort Collins, Colo., home to Colorado State University, about 3,500 student-oriented beds are in development, the Fort Collins Coloradoan reported. The city council there adopted guidelines requiring public hearings for large student housing developments and larger setbacks from property lines, the newspaper reported. Discussions are under way for regulations specifically affecting four-bedroom units, thought to cater to students, which would require more parking and recreation space.

In recent years, Lexington, Ky., has seen about 7,000 private beds proposed and built that cater to students. Many of the developments are in the same area near campus.

"How do these ever get reconverted?" asked the city’s planning commissioner, Derek Paulsen. "There is a concern probably similar to what you guys are experiencing: How much is too much?"

The boom has been a good and a bad thing. The dense student apartments could take some pressure off of single-family neighborhoods that fret when houses there are converted into rental units. But Paulsen wonders what will happen when all the student apartment complexes start to decline and whether they can be converted to market-rate apartments for nonstudents.
Many of the dense student apartment buildings have been built around the city’s Red Mile horse track, part of an area the city created a special plan for envisioning mixed-use development.

“There were no plans, at least out front, for it to be student apartments,” Paulsen said. “But now it’s tough when you’re being surrounded by student apartment complexes to not cater to students, and will that area plan change because of that?”

Madison, Wis., too has seen a boom in student housing concentrated in commercial areas near the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Although there have been a few cases where established neighborhoods objected to dense housing near their boundaries, overall, the development in the city’s commercial core has been viewed as a positive.

“We have seen that in select places where there has been a crunch, but the dominant undergraduate population has been more within the city core, and 40,000 students is a huge economic driver for the downtown,” said Madison City Alderwoman Bridget Maniaci.

Whether more students downtown is a good thing is under debate in Columbia. For years, downtown boosters coveted the thought of more residents living in the area. Now, some worry that all the students will keep other types of residents away.

“If we’re going to have a healthy downtown, it needs to develop in such a way that attracts people of several demographics and age groups,” said John Ott, a downtown property owner who has converted historic buildings into residential and commercial space. “If we just saturate the downtown with 18- to 22-year-olds, then I think it will lose much of its appeal that it has today for young professionals and retirees. What we’re lacking right now is the housing for those folks because most of the housing going up is for students.”

Outgoing Downtown Community Improvement District board member Skip Walther, though, thinks denying downtown more residents will only hurt it.

“If you get residents in downtown Columbia, despite the fact that a fair amount of people in this town don’t like students for some reason, the retail is gonna follow,” Walther said at a CID board meeting this week.

Rosie Gerding, a member of the Downtown Leadership Council, agreed, though she didn’t share Walther’s enthusiasm. “If it’s all students, yes, the businesses will follow them, but what type will it be?”

Planning staff is waiting on direction from the Columbia City Council, which tabled the proposed moratorium Monday in light of threatened lawsuits from the owner and potential buyer of the Niedermeyer. If the moratorium is passed Jan. 22, the council’s next meeting, staff will have to move quickly to both identify what residents want and propose changes to the zoning code.
"Is the fact that we have students here the driving issue, or is the lack of parking the driving issue, or is it a combination of both?" Columbia Development Services Manager Pat Zenner said. "Until we know what the root issue is of the problem, we can fish around for everything but never land the big fish."

Columbia planning staff already had planned to hire a consultant in the coming months to help rewrite the zoning code, and it has been discussing possible tweaks internally. Community Development Director Tim Teddy has looked at a new zoning classification for the edge of downtown to transition denser commercial development into peripheral neighborhoods. He also is looking at increased parking requirements for downtown residential developments. "That's probably something we need in this area," he said.

Some people say the moratorium is necessary to write new regulations before more developments begin. Deb Sheals, the chairwoman of the CID and a historic preservation consultant, supports the moratorium, and she wants to see code changes that encourage residential development that isn't four-bedroom units — a turnoff for many nonstudents.

"My concern is we'll overbuild for one demographic and then have large buildings that can't be used," Sheals said. "I spend my professional career looking at that."

But with the threat of lawsuits if it moves forward with the moratorium, the city might be hesitant to pick a fight. Either way, community divisions over the issue have already formed.

"I get the feeling that there's other people who don't own property downtown who want to control it," CID board member Alan Moore said.

The building boom looks set to continue, in downtown Columbia and elsewhere. But by the time the city gets around to writing regulations, the market for new units could cool itself off.

Land prices have gone above what Jon Odle, one of the developers of downtown's Brookside brand student housing, said his family is willing to pay, and it already has built what it considers enough apartments in one area. He said there are still deals pending downtown, but his family might be done looking for new projects there.

"They're more speculative," Odle said of the pending projects. "You're relying on enrollment growth and upward pressure on rents instead of identifying a void and filling a void in the market, which I think we've done a good job of the last three years."
A fight over the future of one of Columbia's oldest buildings

COLUMBIA, MO. • They gathered in one of the city’s newest buildings (built 2010) to talk about the fate of one of its oldest (built 1837).

A crowd filled the spacious, sparkling City Council chambers. Many were residents. Others had driven in from St. Louis. At least one person was moved to attend her first council meeting. All because of the Niedermeyer.

The Niedermeyer is an apartment building of about 30 units downtown. It has ties to this city’s earliest days and a colorful past as schoolhouse and hotel. Mark Twain once had dinner there. But today the white-washed brick and green shingles look exhausted. The dim hallways carry ancient smells. The walls and windows ripple with age.

Until last month, no one in this college town seemed to give much thought to the apartments still in use at 10th and Cherry streets, close to the University of Missouri campus (founded 1839), across the street from Harpo’s bar (est. 1971), just down the block from the original Shakespeare’s Pizza (opened 1973).

Then Clayton-based Collegiate Housing Partners announced plans to demolish the Niedermeyer this summer and replace it with something very new — a modern tower of student housing, which could stretch 15 stories on a tight plot, making it the city’s tallest building.

Now, the Niedermeyer stands at the front of a fight between preservation and progress. Columbia, which has seen a surge in development and the loss of other buildings in recent years, finds itself struggling to balance respect for the old with desire for the new — its town and gown relations written in real estate.

And even though what could be done to save the Neidermeyer was not clear, people turned to city officials for help on this recent night.

“Is this on the Neidermeyer building?” a man with long white hair called out shortly after the council meeting began.

No, he was told. Not yet.
An hour later, the man was back on his feet.

"This is not about the Neidermeyer house?"

"No," the mayor replied, smiling out at a crowd that seemed to share the man's impatience. "But it's next."

Watching anxiously from the back was Robert Tucker, a member of the city's historic preservation commission. He has led the charge to stop the wrecking ball. Tucker was pushing for a moratorium on all demolitions downtown for six months. The council was to vote on it this night. The freeze would give city leaders time to review zoning ordinances for future projects. But Tucker was clear he hoped to see the Neidermeyer deal scuttled, too.

"We like the idea of growth," Tucker said before the meeting, "just in a different location."

He thinks the Neidermeyer could be transformed into an upscale bed and breakfast, using historic tax credits. The asking price for the building and land has remained a secret. County tax rolls show an appraised value of $235,700. But Tucker estimated the property could fetch $1 million to $1.5 million.

Earlier that day, Tucker toured the Neidermeyer, walked its halls and peeked into an apartment.

He was joined by two visitors from St. Louis, both descendants of Gen. Richard Gentry, one of Columbia's founding fathers and the namesake of Gentry County. The general helped build the one-story brick schoolhouse that, with additions over the years, grew to become the Neidermeyer building. (Gentry himself died fighting Indian tribes in Florida in 1837, the same year the building was completed.)

Elizabeth Gentry Sayad is the general's great-great-granddaughter. She is an amateur historian, a winner of state awards for her work in the arts and the humanities. Her papers have been collected by the state historical society. She is an expert on the Gentry family.

"I've written many articles and given many lectures," said Sayad.

But she had never been in the Neidermeyer before. The brief tour left her convinced the building needed to be saved.

"I'm not thinking of it selfishly," she said.

To her, this was about cultural heritage.

Deb Sheals agreed. She is a historic preservation consultant with an office down the street from the Neidermeyer. She jokingly called herself "a building hugger."

The Neidermeyer has frequently been described in news reports as Columbia's oldest building. But that title actually belongs to the Greenwood Heights house at the edge of town. And while it
is still standing, its plight illustrates the tensions. The 1836 house sits on a hill directly above a Walmart.

Sheals said she and others like the idea of increasing density in the city’s core, but they want a diversity of development, not just more student housing.

Entire city blocks have been filled with a flood of new student apartments. Just out the Neidermeyer’s doors sits the new Brookside Downtown, with room for hundreds of students. More units are being built on the next block. Sunny Patel can see the construction from his Hitt Street Market. He has been approached by developers of student housing. And he has heard his customers grumble about the influx of new complexes.

“A lot of people don’t want it,” Patel said, stocking shampoo.

Nationally, student apartments have been one of the housing sector’s few bright spots in recent years. Some real estate investment trusts focus on just this one type of development. And the fledgling Collegiate Housing Partners is looking to make its mark in the by-the-bed housing market.

The developers didn’t attend this night’s council meeting. They did not respond to calls for comment. But they had their attorney present. Collegiate Housing Partners doesn’t own the Neidermeyer just yet. It has a contract with the local owner, Fred Hinshaw, which hinges on city officials signing off on the project. Hinshaw had an attorney at the meeting, too.

Mayor Bob McDavid knew the attorneys were in the audience. When he finally reached the Neidermeyer on the council agenda, he held up letters the city received from attorneys on both sides. The letters hinted at lawsuits if the city did anything that killed the deal.

“This is the elephant in the room,” McDavid said. Another council member suggested tabling the demolition moratorium for two weeks — until Jan. 21 — for more study. The rest of the council quickly agreed. The meeting would end with the fate of the Neidermeyer unchanged.

But the mayor still wanted to hear from the public about the Neidermeyer.

A man in a wheelchair rolled to the microphone to support the new project. He said he liked the idea of building up, instead of out. Sayad spoke next, delivering a history lesson on her family’s contributions to the state. She urged the council to preserve the Neidermeyer.

Daniel Karlov, the impatient man with long white hair, turned out to be architect. He extolled the building’s humanistic qualities. “It’s something that money just can’t buy,” he said.

More speakers followed, including the woman at her first council meeting who wanted city officials to know she considered the Neidermeyer “a grace note” in Columbia’s downtown.

But the person who perhaps knew the most about the Neidermeyer was silent.
Sabra Tull Meyer sat quietly in a red wool coat watching the others. Her family had owned the Neidermeyer for decades. Ever since she was a little girl, she had visited the building. But in 1989, she and other family members sold it. She still lives in Columbia, where she is a renowned bronze sculptor.

She struggled to imagine that the Neidermeyer, having survived for so long, having outlasted nearly every other building in town, could so quickly disappear.

"I think that’s why I work in bronze," Meyer said. "It’s quite permanent."
Barbecue, parade among events planned for Monday's inauguration

January 13, 2013 12:00 am • By Elizabeth Crisp ecrisp@post-dispatch.com 573-635-6178

JEFFERSON CITY • Thousands of Missourians are expected to attend events Monday marking Gov. Jay Nixon's second inauguration. Festivities will include a barbecue showcase, a parade and a ball — all open to the public.

Nixon, a moderate Democrat who handily defeated Republican challenger Dave Spence in November, will take the oath of office during a ceremony on the Capitol's south steps around noon and then give an inaugural speech.

The other statewide officials who won in November — Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, Treasurer Clint Zweifel, Attorney General Chris Koster and Secretary of State-elect Jason Kander — will be sworn in before Nixon.

Events were planned to mimic the down-home image Nixon crafted during his 2009 inauguration. The marching band from his alma mater, De Soto High School, will be in the parade, and state officials will be riding in pickups.

Four years ago, Nixon wanted to have a “potluck” dinner after his swearing in, but the idea was eventually nixed by health officials who said supporters could only bring store-bought cookies.

This year, Nixon has planned a new event dubbed the Missouri Barbecue Showcase, which will feature food from eateries across the state, including St. Louis-based Pappy's Smokehouse.

Nixon’s spokesman Scott Holste said most of the inaugural costs will come from Nixon’s campaign fund. The total won’t be known until after the event, Holste said.

The Missouri National Guard, which is overseeing the day’s events, confirmed that Nixon has arranged for elected officials to ride in Ford F-150 pickups in the morning’s inaugural parade.

Ford Motor Co. received Nixon’s Business Project of the Year award last year for its Kansas City Assembly Plant, which produces F-150s. Ford also gave $10,000 to Nixon’s campaign committee this month.
Other recent campaign contributions, which will likely go toward inauguration costs, include $25,000 from St. Louis-based Civic Service Inc., $10,000 from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas City's political action committee and $10,000 from the Washington-based American Petroleum Institute.

More than 250 people are serving on Nixon’s inaugural host committee, including Kansas City Power and Light vice president Chuck Caisley, St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley and former state Sen. Victor Callahan, an Democrat from Independence who Nixon recently appointed to the State Tax Commission. The group will have a private dinner and cocktail party in Jefferson City on Sunday night.

Monday’s inauguration activities will conclude in the Capitol with the Grand March and inaugural ball featuring the Jerry Ford Orchestra and Mizzou sports announcer Mike Kelly as the emcee.

A morning worship service will be held at First Baptist Church — just a few blocks away from the Governor’s Mansion — because of construction at Nixon’s home church, First United Methodist. The service will feature the Rev. Doyle Sager and the Rev. Daniel Hilty of First United Methodist, as well as the Rev. Justin Monaghan of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Joplin. Nixon’s swearing-in ceremony will include Lt. Col. Regina Kilmer of the Missouri National Guard singing the National Anthem and an invocation by Rabbi Amy Feder of Temple Israel in St. Louis.

Several high school marching bands, mascots and elected officials from across the state will be in the inaugural parade, including the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales, Fredbird and Marching Mizzou — the University of Missouri’s marching band — as well as the Eureka fire and police departments and Hazelwood West High School and St. Charles West High School marching bands.

Monday’s weather in Jefferson City is expected to be sunny, with light winds and temperatures around 30 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.