COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - A suburban St. Louis couple's $5 million donation to the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine will go toward improving research for drugs used to fight cancer in both animals and people.

The university announced the estate gift from Cottrell and Kay Fox of Town and Country on Monday.

The university says the couple wanted to recognize their longtime family veterinarians, James Schuessler and Fred Bendick of St. Louis, who both graduated from the college.

The university says in a news release that the Foxes' gift will support an endowment in companion animal medicine. It also will fund research to develop treatments for people and animals with cancer and improve training for graduate students and veterinary oncology residents.

Cottrell Fox is a 1971 graduate of the university's journalism school.
MU vet school to get $5M gift

Funds will help cancer research.
By Jodie Jackson Jr.

An estate gift of more than $5 million to the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine is intended to boost a cancer research program that might lead to more effective methods of cancer diagnosis and treatment in animals and humans.

The couple who presented the estate gift this morning during an announcement at the Reynolds Alumni Center has firsthand experience with an MU-developed cancer drug, Samarium. It was used to treat their family dog and, later, the woman's father.

Cottrell and Kay Fox of Town and Country, a St. Louis suburb, said the gift also is intended to honor their family's veterinarians, James Schuessler and Fred Bendick, both alumni of the college.

"We don't have any kids, so this is real easy to do," Cottrell Fox said after this morning's announcement. He said the gift was "a chance to benefit pets as well as people."

The Foxes already have longstanding connections to MU's veterinary medicine program. In 1999, they established a chair in companion veterinary medicine.

"Our pets and our family have received great care and benefited a great deal from the important research being done at the university," Fox said. "Kay and I have been touched by cancer in many ways, through family and good friends, and our hope is that this gift will help stimulate more lifesaving research in the future."

The gift will primarily support an endowment in companion animal medicine in addition to funding studies in comparative oncology — research to develop therapies and cures for people and animals with naturally occurring cancer. It also will enhance training for graduate students and veterinary oncology residents.
Carolyn Henry, professor of veterinary oncology at MU, said cancer is among the many things the pets and their owners share. The Foxes have lost two dogs and both of Kay Fox’s parents to cancer.

“What we learn through our comparative oncology work can translate into improved options for cancer care in people,” she said.

The gift fits MU’s "one health" approach to medical and scientific research and discovery, said Henry, who also leads the university's One Health, One Medicine initiative. The goals of the initiative are to enhance MU’s research, instruction and other activities related to comparative medicine.

The Foxes also were credited with being instrumental in starting the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Perpetual Pet Care Program, which provides comfortable homes for pets whose owners are temporarily incapacitated or who have died.

Neil Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, said the Foxes have established a legacy that will allow the vet school to provide "the highest-quality care for our animal clients," but also in helping to ensure that research aims to find treatment and cures for people and animals with cancer.

Cottrell Fox, a 1971 graduate of the MU School of Journalism, said the couple’s English springer spaniel, Molokai, was treated with the MU-developed cancer drug in 2001. Six years later, Kay’s father, Bob Hebele, experienced a relapse of his bone cancer and received the same drug, which primarily manages bone cancer-related pain.

Cottrell Fox said today’s gift won’t be made until "after we both pass away."

"By the time it is all done, 100 percent of our estate will go to the College of Veterinary Medicine," he said.
Cottrell and Kay Fox, residents of Town and Country, have given an estate gift of more than $5 million to the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.

The donation will support an endowment in companion animal medicine in honor of their family's veterinarians, James Schuessler and Fred Bendick from St. Louis, both alumni of the college.

Cottrell Fox, a 1971 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, is executive vice president and principal with J.W. Terrill Inc., an independent commercial insurance brokerage based in Chesterfield.

The gift will also pay for studies in comparative oncology, research to develop therapies and cures for people and animals with naturally occurring cancer, as well as to enhance training for graduate students and veterinary oncology residents.

The Foxes' interest in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine first began when their family dog was treated for cancer at the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital years ago. MU veterinarians used a drug developed at MU called Samarium. Years later, Kay Fox’s father was treated for cancer using the same drug, which was only made available for use on human patients because of the years of research by MU scientists.

The donation will be used to develop more effective methods of cancer diagnosis and treatment in both animals and humans, Carolyn Henry, an MU professor of veterinary oncology, said in a statement.
COLUMBIA M MISSOURIAN

College of Veterinary Medicine receives
$5 million for cancer research, pet care

By GH Lindsey
February 11, 2013 | 2:02 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — A St. Louis-area couple is donating more than $5 million in an estate gift to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine to fund comparative cancer research and medical care for pets.

Cottrell and Kay Fox, of Town and Country, pledged the money in honor of their family veterinarians, Fred Bendick and James Schuessler, who are both graduates of the college.

“We hope this gift will help create great veterinarians and great teachers,” Cottrell Fox, who graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1971, said during the gift announcement Monday.

Comparative oncology research, which a portion of the gift will fund, seeks to develop ways to diagnose and treat cancer in animals and humans.

“We’re connected to our dogs by more than a leash,” said Carolyn Henry, an MU professor of veterinary oncology. “We share a lot of the same diseases and cancer is one of those.

"What we learn through our comparative oncology work can translate into improved options for cancer care in people.” The Foxes’ own dog was treated at the college’s Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for bone cancer. Samarium, the drug used to treat the dog, was cleared for use in humans because of research done at the college. Kay Fox’s father was later treated for cancer with the same drug.

The gift will be part of the Foxes’ estate and could be as high as $10 million. The exact amount will be determined when their estate is finalized. The endowment is the largest in recent years for the vet school. The college received $3.4 million to fund residencies in 2010 and $1 million for scholarships in 2009. Cottrell Fox is executive vice president of J.W. Terrill, a commercial insurance company based in Chesterfield.

“It’s my way of saying thank you to MU for the best five years of my life,” he said.
Fox family donates $5 million gift to MU College of Veterinary Medicine

By Brent Pearson

The MU College of Veterinary Medicine received a $5 million gift from donors Kay and Cottrell Fox on Monday.

The gift, announced by Chancellor Brady Deaton on Monday morning inside the Reynolds Alumni Center, will allow the college to conduct advanced comparative oncology research and companion animal medical care.

The Foxes, residents of Town and Country, Mo., honored friends and MU alumni James Schuessler and Fred Bendick with the gift. Both Schuessler and Bendick, long-time family veterinarians, practice at Kirkwood Animal Hospital in St. Louis.

“This is an area of huge potential for MU and for our society at large,” Deaton said. “We’re honored that the Foxes are choosing to invest in a program that is vital to MU’s contribution to cancer study and treatment, a true multidisciplinary effort of our university.”

The two-part gift will be used for an endowment in companion animal care and to fund studies in comparative oncology.

“We are a leader in research,” said Neil Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. “By funding an endowment for companion animal care, Kay and Cottrell are not only establishing a legacy of the highest quality care for our client’s beloved pets, but they are also helping to ensure that that level of care will be carried in veterinary clinics not only in Missouri, but also in the world.”

Cottrell graduated from the MU School of Journalism in 1971. After being wounded three times in serious combat in the Vietnam War, Cottrell returned to Columbia for an education.

“Mizzou allowed me reintegrate into civil society,” Cottrell said. “That reintegration led to a lot of other good things that have happened to me in my life.”

The Foxes’ history with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine began in 2001 when their family dog, 13-year-old English Springer Spaniel Molokai, was treated for bone cancer.

At the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, the veterinarians used a drug developed at the university called Samarium 153, which later became available for use on human patients after research conducted by the MU scientists. The drug was then used to treat Kay’s father Bob when his bone cancer came out of remission in 2007.
The Foxes reached an agreement with the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999 to ensure their pets would be taken care of throughout their lives. This helped prompt the idea of the new “Perpetual Pet Care Program,” which “provides comfortable homes for pets whose owners are temporarily incapacitated or who have passed away,” according to an MU News Bureau news release.

As time went along, the Foxes saw the advantages of the comparative medical program up close with their family members and pets at MU, and the Foxes wanted to be responsible for funding more research, Cottrell said. They devoted their entire estate to the two initiatives.

MU professor of veterinary oncology Carolyn Henry said one in four dogs develop cancer, and 50 percent of dogs that live beyond 10 years of age also develop cancer. She also said that cancer spreads more rapidly in animals.

Henry heads the “One Health, One Medicine” area of Mizzou Advantage. With this gift, MU will continue to facilitate the program, with the goal to continue to enhance research, instruction and other activities related to comparative medicine.

“We hope that this gift will help to produce more outstanding vets like Dr. Schuessler and Bendict, and teachers like Dr. Henry and help advance the university’s comparative medicine program,” Cottrell said. “It’s also a way to say thank you for the best five years of my life.”
MU wheelchair hoops coach to lead US team

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The University of Missouri's wheelchair basketball coach will lead the U.S. national team at the 2016 Paralympics Games in Brazil.

Ron Lykins previously coached the U.S. women's national team in three Paralympics. He led the team to gold medals in 2004 and 2008 and a fifth-place finish in 2000.

Lykins said he will continue to coach Missouri as well as the national team as it prepares to qualify for the Rio de Janeiro event.
Nixon restores $8 million to higher education

By Matthew Flores

Following a recent trend of expanding funding for education, Gov. Jay Nixon made more than $8 million available last week to higher education.

The money will go toward two- and four-year institutions in Missouri, according to a news release. The funding became available after the release of Missouri’s January 2013 state revenue report.

An improvement in general revenue collections attributed to the additional resources. According to the January report, revenue collections increased by 18.4 percent compared to January 2012.

**A total of $8,476,559 is now available to 23 state colleges and universities for the rest of fiscal year 2013, which runs until July. MU received the most funding, with $3,980,006.**

Nixon also made $100,000 available to the State Historical Society of Missouri, which is located in Ellis Library.

"As a result of our strong commitment to fiscal discipline, Missouri's perfect AAA credit rating is intact and our economy continues to gain momentum — adding more than 40,000 jobs last year," the news release stated. "Today's general revenue report reflects these positive trends and allows us to make this additional funding available for higher education institutions and other programs."

The announcement comes on the heels of Nixon earmarking an additional $150 million for education in his proposed fiscal year 2014 state budget. If approved by the General Assembly, the budget would appropriate more than $34 million for higher education funding, $100 million for K-12 funding and $17 million for early childhood education.

"By making sure government lives within its means, we will continue to prepare students for 21st century careers and keep our economy moving forward," Nixon said in the release.

Missouri State University received $793,429, the University of Central Missouri received $526,110 and Southeast Missouri State University received $428,861.

In addition to the funds allocated to higher education, Nixon also designated $480,000 to a trio of foster care programs. The foster care outdoor program received $200,000 while $180,000 was set aside for a health records system for children in foster care and an additional $100,000 will fund subsidies for the Hand Up Pilot Program.
From Guantanamo to Mizzou?

By Colleen Flaherty

Retired Col. Larry James, a former Army psychologist, went into both Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and the military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to address and correct known human rights violations – hence the name of his 2008 book, Fixing Hell: An Army Psychologist Confronts Abu Ghraib.

“This is very, very important conversation to have in a variety of venues, and it’s very important to understand what went wrong at these awful places,” said James – now dean of the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University – of why he wrote the memoir. “If we keep things in secret we’re destined to repeat it again.”

But some of the revelations in Fixing Hell are being levied against him as he tries to secure an administrative post at the University of Missouri at Columbia. An on-campus protest was held earlier this month as James’s name surfaced as one of two finalists for the position, division executive director in the College of Education. As such, he’d oversee 60 faculty and 29 staff members in three units, including the Department of Educational, School and Counseling Psychology.

Aamer Trambu, a business graduate student and member of the Muslim Student Organization, attended the protest, along with members of the St. Louis Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interfaith peace group. He also attended a Mizzou forum last week at which James answered questions for more than an hour. A petition against James’s candidacy with at least 60 names was turned over to university administrators. (The American-Islamic relations council chapter also launched an online petition. Leaders did not respond to requests for comment.)

Trambu said he protested James’s candidacy for a number of reasons, but “the most simple one is that of respect. I just think he didn’t express respect to the detainees [at the prisons].” Although there were many who were terrorists, many were eventually found to be innocent, he said. “There were a lot of wrongs that happened when [James] was there.”
Many of the protesters' objections were taken from the pages of Fixing Hell. James' memoir details his work assessing and correcting unethical procedures for interrogating suspected terrorists as director of behavioral science both at Guantanamo Bay, starting in 2003, and at Abu Ghraib in 2004. In addition to how his experiences affected him mentally and emotionally (James suffered from posttraumatic stress disorder), the book includes sometimes-graphic depictions of abuses he witnessed, and recommendations for how they could have been avoided.

But to some critics, witnessing what went on in those places while serving in the military -- even if he subsequently tried to change things -- is disqualifying for an academic position. One particular episode at Guantanamo, during which a detainee named Luther was forced to wear women's underwear and a wig during a night interrogation that James hoped to observe and critique, sparked questions at the forum last week.

"My critics are adamant to make it sound as though three days went by before I intervened," James told the crowd, according to a report in The Columbia Daily Tribune. "It was actually five minutes.... The challenge I faced was everything I saw there was legally approved."

Critics also pointed out that James contributed to a controversial 300-page document on protocol for dealing with detainees. James, however, said that he didn't add the controversial portion on isolation and sleep deprivation for new detainees and wrote only recommendations for "mundane, day-to-day issues," such as uniforms and work hours.

Trambu was disappointed with some of James's responses. "I was hoping that he would deny [wrongdoings], but in my opinion, he did not accept or deny any of the allegations," he said. "The justification he gave was, 'I saw it happen, but I didn’t have the legal authority to stop it.' "

Other members of the crowd took a different view. Michael Pullis, a faculty search committee member who serves as associate dean for administration and research and chair of the department of special education at Mizzou's College of Education, said he and committee colleagues were satisfied with James' "openness and willingness to answer questions. He didn’t receive any questions we had not anticipated. The search committee asked him many of those same questions in the initial interview."

Dan Clay, dean of the College of Education, said the university was dedicated to an open selection process and encouraged the community to come and vet James, who was thoroughly investigated by the university before becoming a finalist. "[James] has not been sanctioned for any professional or ethical misconduct by any state or appeals board court or any licensing board or accrediting body."

James retired from the military five years ago, after 22 years, and has worked at Wright State since. Steve Angle, senior vice president of Wright State, helped hire James and said similar concerns arose upon his initial candidacy there.

"We seriously considered the issues and made numerous reference calls," said Angle. "From everything we could determine, the allegations against [James] had no basis in fact.... He has fulfilled our expectations and is a valued member of our leadership team."
Clay is expected to announce a new executive director next month.

Some prominent psychologists have supported James's candidacy for the Mizzou post.

Philip Zimbardo, professor emeritus of psychology at Stanford University and architect of the infamous 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment, which had to be shut down after just six days due to inhumane treatment of student "inmates" by fellow Stanford student "guards" involved in the study on prison-inmate interactions, wrote the foreword to James's book after studying Abu Ghraib extensively.

"Abu Ghraib was a disaster," said Zimbardo. "But [James] had nothing to do with encouraging military police to abuse prisoners." Any "contention" surrounding James's involvement in drafting detainee procedures at Guantanamo Bay must be seen through the lens of the time, less than two years after Sept. 11, 2001, he added, when the American Psychological Association supported the use of some psychological principles in interrogating suspected terrorists.

"Not only did Col. James put into place a set of explicit operational procedures that are a model for all correctional facilities, but before leaving [Abu Ghraib] he ensured that staff learned and practiced them faithfully," earning a Bronze Star Medal, Zimbardo said in *Fixing Hell*.

To James, the controversy is old news; different entities have investigated his involvement at Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib eight separate times, he said, turning up no evidence of involvement in any wrongdoing. He said he left each place better than how he found it and remains proud of his work — despite the stigma that both prisons' names carry.

"I wore a military uniform for 22 years, and so the right of every American to express him or herself is near and dear to my heart, and I welcome open dialogue," he said. "But the data clearly shows this has been thoroughly investigated over and over and there hasn't been one thread of credible evidence to suggest I did anything wrong."

Comparing some of the Internet and on-campus backlash to his candidacy at Wright State and now Mizzou to a metaphorical "egg-throwing" that some veterans of the Vietnam War experienced, he said, "Why do these people keep bringing this stuff up if the data doesn't support it? That's a question I can't answer for you."
MU researchers present research on renewable energy at inaugural SEC Symposium

By Andrew Beasley

Two MU professors were chosen among experts from around the nation to speak at the inaugural Southeastern Conference Symposium on Monday in Athens, Ga.

Shibu Jose, director of the MU Center of Agroforestry, and Hank Stelzer, chair of the MU forestry department, spoke in the Monday opening of the two-day conference, entitled “Impact of the Southeast in the World’s Renewable Energy Future.” Faculty and administration from the 14 SEC member universities presented research conducted on the title subject.

Jose and Stelzer were chosen to represent MU to present findings from their individual biofuel projects. Jose gave a presentation dealing with a collaborative research project he leads that has the goal of creating sustainable biomass production systems to help push biofuels to be an alternative fuel source in the future.

"I am glad they chose the topic of renewable energy as it has got great relevance in our everyday life," Jose said. "Meeting the energy needs of a growing population is a challenge that we must face as a global community. The world population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. We need to increase food production by 70 percent and energy by 50 percent by then."

The process of selecting speakers like Jose for the two-day symposium has been in motion since 2011, said Torie Johnson, executive director of the SEC’s academic initiative SECU.

"We have been working with the lead institution (University of Georgia) local organizing committee for nearly 18 months," Johnson said in an email. "The topic was selected in May 2011, and we started developing the program shortly thereafter, which included securing speakers from all 14 SEC member universities. As we worked on the program, we also expanded our focus to the location and other logistical concerns."

Along with the scheduled presentation sessions, universities were given the chance to present more research on the topic at booths at the “Poster Exhibition,” according to the Symposium website. Student submissions were also accepted and awards will be given at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral level. An “excellence in student attendance” award will be given to the university with the largest number of registered undergraduates at the end of the symposium.

"With this being our first event, we did not know what to expect once we were underway," Johnson said. "However, we have strong attendance and we are receiving positive feedback from all of our constituents. So, I am pleased. There is always room to grow and improve, but I believe we have provided a tremendous forum for our faculty, administrators and students."
Jose said that the symposium is an excellent opportunity for the SEC to progress in the field of renewable energy.

"I believe the SEC is leading the way in organizing a major academic conference by leveraging their strength and success as an athletic conference," Jose said. "It has been a great opportunity for us, the administrators, faculty, staff and students from MU to represent our great university and showcase our strengths in renewable energy research and extension at this first SEC Research Symposium. We are the 'new kid on the block,' but the SEC family is treating us very well."

How often the symposium will be held has not been decided yet, but the intent is for it to become a recurring event, Johnson said.

"The SEC Symposium is intended to be a regular event of significance for the Southeastern Conference," she said. "The final decision on its frequency rests with our SEC Presidents and Chancellors, and that determination has not been made at this point."
Geyer Award given to three former MSA leaders

JEFFERSON CITY – A year ago, three Missouri Students Association leaders were in Jefferson City advocating for UM funding. Almost exactly a year later, the three were back, but this time, UM was recognizing them.

The three – Steven Dickherber, Ben Levin and Zach Toombs – were given the Mizzou Alumni Association’s Geyer Award, which recognizes the work of public officials and citizens who have made a positive impact on higher education at MU, according to the Mizzou Alumni Association’s website.

The three all held positions within MSA last year: Dickherber was the legislative advocacy officer, Toombs was the director of student communications and Levin was the academic affairs chairman. Dickherber and Toombs graduated in December 2012. Levin is an adviser to the current MSA executive cabinet.

Together they led the More for Less campaign against Gov. Jay Nixon’s proposed 12.5 percent budget decrease in higher education funding for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

“These three were the nuts and bolts of organizing the entire effort,” Mizzou Legislative Network Chair Wally Pfeffer said.

Their efforts included compiling 6,000 letters from students, rallying 150 students and convincing senators to speak on students’ behalf.

All of it was successful when the Missouri legislature revised the budget to level funding for the university – an achievement various Missouri senators credited the MSA leaders for helping with, Jim Gwinner, the president of the Mizzou Alumni Association, said.

The Sinclair School of Nursing nominated Dickherber, Levin and Toombs for the award, and they became the first students to be given the award.

“We appreciated the influence they had,” said Judith Miller, dean of the Sinclair School.

The night in Jefferson City was a time to thank the three for their success.

“I think it gave a student voice to the issue of higher education,” said Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor of student affairs. “It was an activism and an appropriate activism: They timed it perfectly when they needed to take it to the capital and they engaged the students and sent a strong message.”

Chancellor Brady Deaton said their work represented the university by providing a firsthand testimony to legislators.
“They are honored tonight for their dedication and success,” Deaton said. “Their work shows the importance of our students’ voice, and they understood the legislature and the needs of the university.”

The three expressed humility and gratitude to be award recipients.

“I stand here almost exactly a year later, and it’s a little hard to wrap my head around,” Levin said. “And at the time, it would’ve been equally hard to believe that higher education funding one year later would appear to be in such excellent shape.”

Their work, along with the help from the student body, dispels the stereotype that students are apathetic, Levin said.

“It’s no secret that there is a stigma against college students,” Levin said. “That despite our enthusiasm, we don’t hold weight off campus, that we get lost in our idealism and our optimism. And more often than not, that’s probably true, but at Mizzou our leaders realize that any student body in the nation can be enthusiastic. We expect more than enthusiasm. We expect to be effective.”

Toombs said he hopes More for Less will have a lasting impact.

“We hope our achievements will inspire other students to think big and be unconventional,” Toombs said.

Many others also said the three leaders’ work will set a precedent.

Pfeffer cited MSA’s creation of the Legislative Advocacy Officer position, who will advocate for students in the future.

“(Someday), we can look back and say we were here when this started,” Pfeffer said. “I have high hopes this is where our future will go.”