Patient tower set to open

'Smart rooms' go higher-tech.

By Karyn Spory

The doors to a $190 million, eight-story patient care tower at University Hospital will open soon.

On Wednesday, the inpatient and progressive care floors for the relocated $50 million Ellis Fischel Cancer Center will open; the cancer center’s clinics, radiology and infusion area will open next Monday.

Also next Monday, operating rooms and pre- and post-operating areas will open, with the first surgery taking place in the new tower. The last two areas, an orthopedic unit and neurosciences intensive care unit, will open April 15.

The tower on the northeast side of the hospital totals more than 310,500 square feet and includes 90 private patient rooms, all equipped with "smart room" technology. Project manager Scott Skinner said the hospital had been introducing new technology in different areas throughout the hospital, but the tower is the first area where the entire "smart room" setup is bundled together.

Within the patient rooms are interactive TVs that will feature — besides cable and on-demand movies — systems with logistical information about the hospital and educational videos for patients. The intensive care units also are equipped with iAware, developed by Cerner and the Tiger Institute at MU Health Care, which gives an at-a-glance overview of the patient’s vital signs for the past 30 hours.

"We now have a new tower that symbolizes the innovations in care that are the hallmark of an academic medical center," Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a prepared statement.

The tower also includes 25 pre-procedure rooms, 18 post-procedure rooms and six new operating rooms. Deborah Pasch, executive director of University Hospital, said nine of the current operating rooms will be kept open, giving the hospital 15 operating rooms. The expansion also adds 97 jobs.
The new tower was built with "green" in mind. "There are rooftops that have what appear to be grass," Pasch said.

She said the green rooftops create less runoff water and serve as insulation, plus it is aesthetically pleasing for the patients.

The expansion also features a 7,000-square-foot inpatient pharmacy, with a robot that retrieves medications.

System Pharmacy Manager Neil Schmidt said pharmacy robots have been around for 20 years but usually ran on a linear track. The new McKesson Robot Rx is octagonal and can rotate 360 degrees. It selects the medication, which has been verified by the pharmacist, by barcode scanning and then places it in an envelope for delivery to the patient.

Schmidt said robot's accuracy should improve patient care and make the pharmacy "a safer environment by not having a lot of hands involved."

The hospital will host public tours of the tower from 4 to 6 p.m. tomorrow.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Ellis Fischel Cancer Center commits to high-tech innovation

By Miguel Sola
March 18, 2013 | 7:46 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Robots and high-tech tracking monitors have replaced old school health tools in the new home of the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

The $50 million center, which will replace the old Ellis Fischel on Business Loop 70, will occupy the first two floors of University Hospital's new tower. It features some of the leading health technology in the nation to meet today's cancer treatment needs, officials said.

“Missouri’s oldest cancer center is now its newest,” Paul Dale, interim medical director of Ellis Fischel, said.

Patients now will stay in “smart rooms” surrounded by electric devices and monitors that allow doctors to get a “snapshot” of patients’ vital information. The smart rooms are the most advanced in the state of Missouri, MU Health Care spokesman Colin Planalp said.

“Technology improves the work flow of our nurses,” system administrator Benjamin Long said.

The technology also will extend to the center's pharmacy, where a robot will handle up to 25,000 drugs and is expected to package and distribute 3,000 doses per day.

“When there are less humans involved, our work is more accurate,” pharmacy manager Neil Schmidt said.

The robot works inside an octagonal cage, where it picks the drugs through a bar code system and puts them inside an envelope. It is the only pharmacy in central Missouri that has this kind of technology.
The Robotic Medication Dispensing system automates 90 percent or more of a hospital’s daily medication volume and is used by one-third of medium and large North American hospitals, according to the website of McKesson Distribution Solutions, which designed the system.

Schmidt said the robot is 99.9 percent accurate.

The new tower also is designed to foster a bright, healthy and clean environment. Large windows allow natural light to flood the building, and designers tried to reduce the impact of the structure on the natural environment. Chairs are arranged to face the window panels.

Mitch Wasden, chief executive officer and chief operating officer of the MU Health Center, said there have been efforts to blend the past with the future by pulling in features of the old building, such as its artwork.

There are still no decided plans for the old Ellis Fischel at Business Loop 70 and Garth Avenue.

The Ellis Fischel relocation is part of a larger $190 million expansion of University Hospital, which will double the size of the original hospital built in 1956. The new tower includes 90 private patient rooms, six new operating rooms and shelled space for six more to be built.

Money for the project comes mainly from revenue bonds but also from philanthropic donations and fundraisers such as the Ellis Fischel Gala.

Tim Wolfe, president of the University of Missouri System, emphasized the economic boost the new hospital tower will bring to the region. He said it will create 97 jobs, 44 of them for nurses.

"At a time when many hospitals are cutting staff, deferring capital improvements and even closing, MU Health Care is creating new jobs, caring for a growing number of patients, managing its financial resources wisely and positioning itself to provide world-class care to Missourians," Wolfe said.

Inpatients will move from the old center to the new one beginning Wednesday. Outpatient services will begin at the new center March 25.
Georgia chooses MU's Charles Davis as journalism dean

Monday, March 18, 2013 at 2:25 pm

A University of Missouri journalism professor has been selected as the next dean of the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Charles Davis will begin work at the Georgia school July 1, according to a University of Georgia announcement Monday. He has been on the Missouri journalism faculty since 1999.

Davis has a master's degree in journalism from UGA, according to his Missouri School of Journalism biography.

He is the facilitator for MU's Media of the Future Initiative, part of the interdisciplinary Mizzou Advantage program. His academic research has focused on access to government information and media law, and he has served as executive director of the MU Freedom of Information Center and the National Freedom of Information Coalition.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: MU's Charles Davis named University of Georgia journalism school's dean

By Katie Yaeger
March 18, 2013 | 2:02 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — With an office containing a concrete statue of Uga, the University of Georgia's bulldog mascot, and a framed picture of Georgia's Sanford Stadium circa 1929, it's not hard to tell Charles Davis is a "Dawgs" fan.

"I'm a Georgia boy through and through and through and through," said Davis, an MU journalism professor and facilitator of Mizzou Advantage's Media of the Future initiative.

Davis, 49, will return to Athens, Ga., to become the dean of the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Jere Morehead, Georgia senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, announced Monday. He will begin the position July 1.

Davis grew up about five miles from Georgia's campus and graduated from Clarke Central High School in 1982. After receiving a bachelor's degree in criminology from North Georgia College and State University, he returned to Athens, where he worked for the Athens Banner-Herald and received his master's degree in journalism from Georgia in 1992.

As dean, Davis first plans to look at external development and affairs and create more partnerships with local news media and other journalism and mass communications entities, he said. He will also begin planning Grady's centennial, which will occur in 2015.

"(The centennial)'s happy news, but it's something we've got to get right and capitalize upon," he said.

Davis said he thinks journalism and mass communication schools need to balance emerging technology with solid foundations in areas including writing, verifying facts and making sure
the right message is being sent to the right audience. He thinks students in these schools should learn to be agile.

"What students are acquiring in (journalism) school are tangible skill sets that plug into workplaces: to think, move and write fast and maintain professional standards and do well," he said.

Davis, his wife, Julie, and their two children — 14-year-old Mamie and MU freshman Charlie — will be reunited with family in Athens. Davis' mother, father and older sister live there, and his younger sister might be moving back soon, he said.

"I'll get to have my 50th (birthday) in Athens and have a lot of my friends and family there," he said.

The family moved to Columbia 14 years ago. "This is home, and Athens is home, and they always will be," Davis said.

Davis' family is active in the Missouri United Methodist Church. Davis also works with Columbia Second Chance and has coached his children's sports teams.

At MU, Davis has been a mentor and leader in his work with undergraduate students and the Society of Professional Journalists, associate professor of journalism Earnest Perry said.

Davis also is the former executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, which is housed in the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

"He's going to be missed," Perry said. "He's going to be an outstanding dean. He's going to bring vision and a new sense of what the program can be."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
UGA names new journalism school dean

Charles N. Davis is the new dean of the University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Davis, a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and facilitator for its Media of the Future Initiative, officially starts to work at UGA on July 1, reports the Athens Banner-Herald.

Davis joined the Missouri school’s faculty in 1999 and served as chair of the editorial department from 2003-05. In 2010, Davis became the facilitator for the Media of the Future initiative, part of the interdisciplinary and campus-wide Mizzou Advantage program administered through the Office of the Provost, the Banner-Herald reports.

The paper adds: Davis earned his doctorate in mass communication with an emphasis in media law from the University of Florida. He earned his master’s degree in journalism from UGA and his bachelor’s degree in criminology from North Georgia College.
Vote for MU nontenure-track faculty voting rights to begin Tuesday

By Katie Yaeger
March 18, 2013 | 4:20 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Tuesday morning marks the start of the voting period to expand MU's definition of faculty, which would give nontenure-track faculty members voting rights on campus issues.

Tenured and tenure-track faculty members will be able to vote online until 11:59 p.m. April 2. Each faculty member will receive an email with a link to the website with the ballot. The vote will be administered through the Division of Information Technology.

On April 3, division staff members and the ballot oversight committee, formed by the MU Faculty Council, will view the results, and Faculty Council Chairman Harry Tyrer will announce them.

If the motion passes, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators will act on the proposed changes at a future meeting.

The exact ballot language, frequently asked questions, published news articles and a timeline for the voting process can be found on the Faculty Council website.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
MU School of Journalism dean inducted into Iowa School of Journalism Hall of Fame

By Emily Brehe

Dean Mills, dean of the MU School of Journalism, will become the third from MU inducted into the University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication Hall of Fame.

Iowa journalism faculty selected Mills and Alan Waxenberg, former publisher and vice president of Good Housekeeping magazine, as the 2013 inductees. Members of the Hall of Fame are chosen for their professional and academic contributions to the journalism industry. Mills was selected for his work as a professor and as dean of the MU School of Journalism.

“The award is meant to honor those who have a great reputation, achievements, high ethics and integrity, the development of visionary spirit and have contributed to improving teaching and research in the practice of professional journalism and mass communication,” UISJMC director David Perlmutter said.

Mills has a strong background in the journalism field and in academia, according to the MU School of Journalism website.

He served as Moscow bureau chief for the Baltimore Sun and was the paper’s Washington, D.C. correspondent during the early 1970s. Mills then received his doctoral degree in communications from the University of Illinois in 1981 and went on to serve as director of the Pennsylvania State journalism department and graduate study coordinator at California State University- Fullerton.

Mills said he was “surprised and delighted” to learn that he will join former journalism school deans Frank Luther Mott and Earl F. English, as well as 65 other prominent journalists and professors, in UISJMC’s Hall of Fame.

“I am both touched and amazed that Iowa, to which I already owe so much, has chosen to add to the debt this very special award,” Mills said in a news release.

Esther Thorson, associate dean of Journalism Graduate Studies, has worked alongside Mills for 20 of his 24 years as dean.

Thorson said that since becoming dean in 1989, Mills has devoted his time to help aid the growth of the Missouri School of Journalism. He helped fundraise and oversee the construction of Lee Hills Hall and the Reynolds Journalism Institute and watched the school grow from 35 faculty members to more than 80. He helped the school become a center for innovation by overseeing the creation of Newsy and the RJI Futures Lab.

Mills has shown many positive qualities as the longest-serving dean on campus, Thorson said.
“Dean Mills is first and foremost an ethical individual,” Thorson said in an email. “Truth, trust, transparency and integrity are strongly developed in him. He is fair and judicial in his handling of our faculty. He is generous with praise and the sharing of credit for accomplishments. He has one of the loudest laughs in central Missouri, and he doesn’t hesitate to use it.”

A photo of Mills will be on display on Iowa’s campus and Mills will have the opportunity to speak with University of Iowa journalism students at the ceremonial Fourth Estate Banquet on April 19.
ASHLAND — Richard Guyette, an MU forestry professor, crunches through the snow as he leads students to collect sap from tapped maple trees in the woods.

Guyette has harvested sap and made maple syrup with Kevin Hosman, a senior research specialist at MU and manager of the Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center, for about 15 years.

In 2012, the pair began working with the MU Forestry Department, the School of Natural Resources and the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources to get students involved in making maple syrup in Missouri. They tap trees and collect the sap, which is then boiled to make maple syrup, on the Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center in Ashland.

Sap is collected according to the Vermont guidelines, Guyette said. This means in order to tap a tree, the tree must be at least 10 inches in diameter. If the tree is larger, they may put more than one tap in it. The amount of taps can increase to as many as four on one tree if it is large with a lot of leaf area and branches that are alive and healthy.

A 7/16th-inch hole is drilled into each tree, the taps — also called spiles — are inserted and buckets are hung on the taps. The tap is hammered into the sapwood of the tree, which allows the sap to flow from the tree into the bucket due to the freeze-thaw cycle. The cycle occurs in mid-to-late January and initiates the sap flow from the maple trees, according to Hosman.

With 170 gallons of sap, they are able to go from sap to syrup in a 24-hour period, Hosman said. The 24-hour process includes collecting the sap from the trees and boiling the sap in an evaporator. Guyette said the evaporator they use removes about 20 gallons of water per hour, and it takes about two hours to make a gallon of syrup.
“There is some social aspect to it, you know, when you are sitting around watching the sap boil a lot of conversation goes on, but it’s the final product that we are really striving for,” Hosman said.

There was a good freeze-thaw cycle this season. The cycle produced enough sap that the team could harvest and boil it to syrup about once a week. The recent snow delayed the process because the team could not access the buckets. Also, the buckets filled up with water, diluting the sap. Now that the weather is warming up, the freeze-thaw cycle is not as consistent. Because of this, Guyette and Hosman will not collect sap during the spring season.

“I like having the syrup to give away to people, but being a diabetic myself, I have to limit my chugging of syrup,” Guyette said.
MU English Department hosts symposium in honor of renowned poet

The soothing, saxophonic melody of pianist Thelonius Monk’s “Round Midnight” and the spoken, heartfelt poetry of world-renowned poet Michael S. Harper reverberated off the walls of the Missouri United Methodist Church on Friday.

About 70 people trickled in and out of the jazz poetry concert, part of a three-day symposium sponsored by the MU Department of English and Cave Canem, a national organization whose mission is to cultivate and celebrate African-American poetry.

Harper, a professor of English at Brown University since 1970, has published 16 books of original poetry and received awards for a number of his works. His books “Dear John, Dear Coltrane,” and “Images of Kin: New and Selected Poems” were nominated for the National Book Award.

The Dennis Winslett Quartet, a combo based in Kansas City, provided Friday night’s music. They opened the evening by playing half an hour of music by saxophonist John Coltrane, a former acquaintance of Harper.

The combo continued to play as Harper, poets Herman Beavers and Kate Rushin, and Missouri poets Glenn North and Natasha Ria El-Scari took turns reading poetry that corresponded to the music.

Harper read “Dear John, Dear Coltrane,” one of his most famous works, as the last poem of the evening. During a call-and-response portion of the poem, everyone in the audience repeatedly sang the words “love supreme.”

“(Harper is) one of the great American poets...just an extraordinary poet,” said Thadious Davis, a colleague and good friend of Harper.

The symposium was held this week in celebration of Harper’s birthday on Monday. After the concert, coordinators brought a birthday cake into the chapel and the audience sang to an unsuspecting Harper.

Other events throughout the symposium included panels with Harper’s friends and colleagues, a luncheon and public readings of his work.

MU English professors Cornelius Eady and Aliki Barnstone both met Harper while studying poetry in their early careers.

Barnstone studied with Harper at Brown and Eady first met Harper at a summer poetry workshop at the University of Rochester. Brown and Eady began planning the symposium last spring after discussing Harper’s influence as a poet, teacher and activist.
“Professor Harper is indeed a great poet,” Eady said. “We… wanted the Mizzou family to be aware that he is one of those artists whose work has affected the way we look at the art.”

The audience was filled with Harper’s colleagues and admirers who traveled from all over the country to discuss his work and the impact he has had on their lives.

Michael Antonucci, associate professor at Keane State College, attributed part of his success in life to Harper’s influence. A former student of Harper, Antonucci spoke as a panelist in an earlier event in the symposium.

“I studied with (Harper) from my sophomore year through my senior year, but the course never ends,” Antonucci said.

After Antonucci graduated, Harper kept in contact with him via postcards and emails. Harper continues talking to thousands of students after their time at Brown, Antonucci said.

Harper had such a great impact on the professors’ lives that they wanted to show him their appreciation through this symposium, graduate student Monica Hand said. Hand, a research assistant working for Eady, helped organize the symposium as the primary assignment for her research-assistant position.

“I am so happy that some of us were able to give back to Michael S. Harper, a little bit of what he has given to us,” Hand said.