Clinical campus gets boost

$10 million is set aside in budget.

By Karyn Spory

Friday, April 19, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri School of Medicine has new support for a goal of creating a clinical campus in southwest Missouri, with $10 million added into the state budget for its expansion.

The expansion would include an additional 32 students per year to the MU School of Medicine and the development of a clinical campus in Springfield, where a third of students would spend their third and fourth years. The cost to build the campus is estimated at $35 million.

Weldon Webb, the medical school’s associate dean for rural health, said the $10 million—recently allocated by the Senate Appropriations Committee from general revenue funds—would be a recurring budget item that would cover annual operating costs for the medical school expansion and clinical campus.

Les Hall, interim dean of the medical school, said he knew the Senate budget panel had been discussing the funding, and he was “very pleased this positive step forward” had been taken.

“We’ve still got a lot of work to do to finalize the plans and make it occur, but” this is a “very positive thing for the people of Missouri,” Hall said.

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, chairman of the appropriations committee, said he and fellow legislators had heard concerns from constituents about a lack of physicians in southwest Missouri.

“The other concern is on top of an already substantial shortage of health care providers, we’re seeing an accelerated rate of retirement. … Hopefully, we can offset that by doing this program,” he said.

Funding would still need to be identified for the $35 million in infrastructure costs. Hall said the school will seek philanthropic support for facilities in Columbia and Springfield as well as funding from the university and government and was optimistic about the support. “I think the hurdle we’ve just gotten over was the more difficult of the two,” Hall said of the appropriation.
The MU School of Medicine and Springfield hospitals Sisters of Mercy Health and CoxHealth began discussing the prospect of developing a clinical campus several years ago.

"The clinical facility, where they would learn and take care of patients," is in Springfield, Webb said. Conference rooms, student call rooms, office and learning space would need to be created.

Steve Edwards, CEO of CoxHealth, said MU is known for producing high-caliber medical professionals — many of whom stay in the state — but needs more space for educating those students. "Expanding that program and having that expansion in southwest Missouri helps us fund future physician needs," he said.

The Senate Appropriations Committee finished its work on the budget Wednesday, and the plan moves to the Senate floor with debate expected next week. Lawmakers have until May 10 to send spending bills to Gov. Jay Nixon.

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Posted in Education, Local on Friday, April 19, 2013 2:00 pm.
Woman reports sexual assault near campus

Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 2:00 am

Columbia police are investigating a report of a sexual assault early yesterday near the University of Missouri campus.

Around 3:30 a.m., officers responded to a hospital in reference to a sexual assault report, Officer Latisha Stroer said. A 20-year-old woman said the assault had occurred about two hours earlier near College Avenue and Anthony Street. The woman told police she was walking alone when an unknown man approached and assaulted her.

Stroer said other details about the incident were not available, and an investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact police or CrimeStoppers at 875-8477.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Woman reports sexual assault on College Avenue early Friday

NO MU Mention

By Samantha Sunne
April 19, 2013 | 6:02 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The Columbia Police Department is investigating a sexual assault that occurred early Friday morning.

A 20-year-old woman reported being sexually assaulted near College Avenue and Anthony Street at about 1:30 a.m. Friday.

The woman was walking alone when an unknown man assaulted her, according to a news release from the Columbia Police Department.

Columbia Police spokeswoman Latisha Stroere declined to give further details of the incident on Friday afternoon. Sexual assault, which is defined as sexual intercourse without consent, is a class C felony under Missouri law.

Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.
Students honored at annual Tap Day

Contributions are recognized.

By Karyn Spory

Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 2:00 am

As the group of hooded figures marched into Jesse Auditorium yesterday, spectators in the audience looked at their shoes, trying to find the friend or loved one about to be inducted into one of six secret societies at the University of Missouri.

The 86th annual Tap Day recognizes a tradition of leadership and recognizes students who have made significant contributions to the university academically and through service to the community.

The secret societies are QEBH, Mystical Seven, LSV, Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa and Rollins Society. They are known for providing service and leadership without asking for recognition.

Cathy Scroggs, MU vice chancellor for student affairs, said students are selected "for their commitment to the ideals and principles MU stands for."

Although friends and family were there to support the inductees, Scroggs asked the hooded individuals to "stand up for those who can't see you but have looked at your shoes to see where you are."

Nick Droege, MU student body president, applauded the friends and family of the inductees for their continued support and encouragement. "It's a very special day. This day embodies what Mizzou family means," Droege said.

Droege was pulling double duty as he also presented the Mortar Board Class of 2013. "When you pull from areas all over campus and you pull the best there is, it's always an incredible group," Droege said of the 20 new members.

Droege added that Tap Day and the societies involved "wouldn't be relevant ... without the rest of the student body and the amazing things they do everyday."
Anne Torretta, a graduate physical therapy student and Rollins Society inductee, said she was shocked and a little confused when she was invited to join the secret society.

"I didn't go here for" my undergraduate "so I'd never heard of Tap Day or Rollins," Torretta said. However, after calling on a friend to explain the event, she said she felt honored.

Rollins Society was the last of the secret societies to be formed and was established to recognize graduate and professional students.

Joey Greenstein, a junior business administration major, was double tapped for QEBH and Mortar Board for his "love of getting people together and making things happen." This includes organizing Mizzou for Boston on Tuesday, a collection drive to send clothing, stuffed animals and monetary donations to those affected by the bombings in Boston.

"A lot of the work I do I don't like to be recognized for, but in the end it was a pretty cool feeling," Greenstein said.

Kate Gallagher, a senior business administration major, said she was honored when she found out she was going to be inducted into Mortar Board and shocked when she was tapped by the Mystical Seven.

"Words can't even describe it, I'm completely blessed," Gallagher said. She added that standing beside her peers and hearing about all of their accomplishments it inspires her to do more. "I'm in some amazing company," Gallagher said.

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Posted in Education on Saturday, April 20, 2013 2:00 am.
Cash-strapped colleges dangle ever more naming rights to draw donors

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

So you want to give your alma mater a hefty donation, thousands of dollars perhaps, and you think it'd be nice if that contribution came with your name emblazoned somewhere on campus.

How about on a bench, a tree or a brick? How about a restroom?

Colleges and universities campaigning for as many donations as possible are recognizing donors by putting their name on a lot more than buildings these days. It all depends on the level of giving.

This month, as campuses within the University of Missouri system promote major fundraising campaigns, UM curators are contemplating changing the systemwide naming policy to allow a benefactor's name on more than one building on a campus. Campus fundraising officials want to encourage big donors to keep giving and thank them with a second naming opportunity.

At the same time, on the Columbia and Kansas City campuses, officials are planning to increase the amount a donor must give for the right to name an endowed professorship or department chair. They're also reviewing the list of naming opportunities, looking for more options.

"Universities are certainly looking to widen the net when it comes to getting donations," said Jeremy Simon, spokesman for the University of Colorado-Boulder, where a few years ago Boulder venture capitalist Brad Feld paid $25,000 to get his name on a restroom in a science building.

That universities find themselves perpetually in some phase of fundraising, and looking for more ways to encourage donors to give, has much to do with stagnant or shrinking state support.

"Every university wants to do better than what's allowed with the basic level of state support," said Murray Blackwelder, president of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Foundation.

Raising tuition is not enough. So universities rely more heavily on private donations to compete for talented professors and support capital improvements, said Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for university advancement at the University of Missouri.
At the University of Kansas, the naming tradition began more than 120 years ago when New Yorker J.J. McCook gave the university the money to buy the land for McCook Field, KU’s first football stadium. Memorial Stadium stands there now.

At UMKC, the largest lump-sum donation, $32 million, came from Henry W. Bloch. The Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is scheduled to open this fall.

New opportunities at UMKC are available now for four rooms being renovated in the school’s Miller Nichols Library. Naming rights could run a donor $40,000 to $100,000.

Want to name a professorship at UMKC? That will be $750,000. Naming an endowed chair will run you $1.5 million.

It looks good when a big-name donor supports a school’s program — UMKC’s Bloch School of Business is a prime example. And, Hiles said, when a donor makes a big gift and his or her name goes on the door, other potential donors see that, “and it encourages other people to give too.”

Of course, naming rights can also hold risks for a school. Don’t be surprised if university advancement officials do a little vetting before they cast your name in bronze, no matter how much you give.

University foundation officials admittedly are cautious when naming buildings after living benefactors or their living family members. There’s always the risk that the benefactor may fall into misfortune, casting a shadow on the campus.

Consider Penn State University, which last summer removed a statue of Joe Paterno because of the Jerry Sandusky child molestation case. The Penn State sports museum and the library, though, still bear the Paterno name.

The University of Missouri learned the risks in naming facilities for the living in 2004, when its new $75 million basketball arena was named Paige Sports Arena after Paige Laurie, then 22. Her parents, Nancy and Bill Laurie of Columbia, had donated $25 million toward the project. Eight months after the March naming, a roommate of Paige Laurie accused her of cheating in college. The next week the school renamed the facility Mizzou Arena.

In rare cases, naming-rights arrangements can also be dangerous for donors.

The Kansas City Art Institute is now in the midst of a court battle to collect millions pledged in 2005 by Californians Larry and Kristina Dodge. The couple, who say they’ve lost much of their fortune, had promised $5 million in installments toward a $7 million building, named for the couple after the school received a $1 million donation.

The risks associated with naming are partly why UM curators are cautious about allowing donors multiple building naming rights, said Wayne Goode, board chairman. The board also wants to maintain the honor it associates with granting naming rights for a building.

Beyond matters of honor, there’s humor.

At Kansas State University, visitors in the newest wing of the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art can use restrooms bearing the names of Perry and Virginia Peine. The family name also graces one of the university’s main gates. The restrooms? They were just having fun, a university representative said.
One place you won't find donor names at UMKC is on the new six-level parking structure that opened last fall, Blackwelder said.

"It's tough to get donors involved in garages."
Young composers

By August Kryger

Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 2:00 am

Savannah Slater, left, and McKenzie Blakey practice their song “It’s a Snow Day” during the eighth-annual Creating Original Music Project, or COMP, festival on the University of Missouri campus yesterday. The event featured pieces written and performed by 21 elementary, middle school and high school students from across Missouri. The project is a joint venture of the University of Missouri School of Music and the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation, which provides an annual gift of $60,000 to sponsor the competition. The program was created in 2005 to encourage K-12 students in Missouri to write original musical works and to encourage performances of those works.

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Posted in Local on Sunday, April 21, 2013 2:00 am.
MU students surpass goal for Boston marathon bake sale

By Hilary Weaver
April 19, 2013 | 7:32 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU student Ally Troiano, 21, stood in line Friday afternoon at the U.S. Bank in the Student Center and watched the bank teller count the seven $100 bills that she and several other women raised for Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

For Troiano, a Boston-area native, the event became even more personal while she waited in anticipation for a phone call from her best friend, who was running in Monday's Boston Marathon. After her friend confirmed that she'd escaped with only a few scrapes, Troiano decided she needed to take action for her city. After enlisting the help of several of her friends, the group decided they wanted to organize a bake sale to contribute to the nationwide relief efforts for the bombing's victims. They raised a total of $700.44 Friday afternoon in Speakers Circle, and Troiano exceeded her goal of $500. She said she was surprised at the support she's received from other students.

“I've cried twice,” Troiano said. “I'm so overwhelmed that people at Mizzou care about another part of the country. As a Massachusetts citizen, you have some pride coming from Boston. I don't know if was an adrenaline rush but I just feel like I needed to do something, anything.”

Troiano's roommate, Kelsey George, said she knew how important the cause was to Troiano and to Boston.

“I said, 'If we're gonna do this, we're gonna do it big.' George said. After soliciting the help of others on campus through Facebook and Twitter, Troiano and her friends bought everything in bulk at Sam's club to contribute such treats as cupcakes, cookies, rice krispie treats and chocolate covered strawberries to the table. In addition, Troiano said the UM System's chief of staff, Robert Schwartz, will add to the donation on behalf of the system on Monday.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU's Ellis Library receives collection of volumes from Confucius Institute

By Claire Cole
April 19, 2013 | 5:21 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU's Ellis Library welcomed about 2,000 new items to its Asian collection on Friday morning.

The Confucius Institute, a non-profit organization based in Beijing, presented the library with the materials to add to MU's Asian collection.

The various volumes and resources cover a wide range of education levels, including materials to teach local elementary school kids Chinese and scholarly texts more suitable for college students.

The collection includes teaching aides, posters and musical instruments in addition to books. Now all of these resources will be available to the entire community, not just MU faculty and students.

"We will be making them available to anyone that wants them," James Cogswell, the director of Ellis Library, said.

Universities around the world work with Beijing's Confucius Institute to set up institutes on their own campuses. The institutes then help campuses gain a greater awareness and understanding of Chinese culture and language.

MU, as well as the entire city of Columbia, have been involved with China for many years. Numerous departments on campus have visited and worked with the country.

"The engagement has been geographically extensive," said Handy Williamson, MU's vice provost for International Programs. "China is a big country, MU's ambitions have been big and our relationships are also big."
Local interest in Chinese culture will continue this summer and fall. Four teachers with the Columbia Public Schools District will be learning Mandarin and traveling to China this summer in order to begin teaching the language next school year.

Erica Borcherding, a language arts teacher at Lange Middle School, is excited for the opportunity to learn the language and experience the culture.

"It's on my bucket list to learn Mandarin," Borcherding said.

Next year will be the first time Columbia Public Schools will offer sections of beginning Chinese classes, said Chris Belcher, superintendent of Columbia Public Schools.

*Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.*
UM president in Boston amid hunt

Friday, April 19, 2013 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe was with his family in the Boston area on Friday as the manhunt for a bombing suspect was conducted, but they were not in one of the neighborhoods under police lockdown, the UM System office confirmed.

Wolfe posted on Twitter this morning: “Here in Boston with my family and watching the updates on the manhunt — unbelievable! City of Boston & Police united — prayers for everyone.”

When Wolfe began work last year as UM president, his family stayed in the Boston area so his children could finish high school there. He was in Westwood today, southwest of the city, and planned to fly out this afternoon.

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Posted in Local, Education on Friday, April 19, 2013 2:00 pm.
Scientists from multiple disciplines converge for Life Sciences Week

By Katherine Knott

Tags: Life Sciences Center Missouri Life Sciences Week

The annual event featured a record number of research projects.

Students and faculty from 11 MU schools, colleges and groups descended on the Life Sciences Center for a weeklong event of project presentations and speakers.

"MU doesn't have many events like this," said Danny Stark, a doctoral student studying molecular biology.

The 29th annual Missouri Life Sciences week, which features experts from around the country and the University of Nottingham in England, began as one of MU's early efforts to build a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration. It brings scientists from many disciplines together to share their work, said Ginny Booker, manager of marketing and communications for the Life Sciences Center.

The centerpiece of the week, a research poster competition with 340 participants, presented research projects in several different fields of science, from animal science to psychology. Every researcher must stand by their poster and present their work, and can enter a competition judged by other scientists. The awards will be presented 3 p.m. Friday in the center.

"(The poster session) is especially important for scientists to be able to communicate their work without a lot of discipline-specific jargon," Booker said in an email. "The poster session provides a great training experience that will benefit students later on as they have opportunities to make presentations at professional conferences or in future jobs."

Stark has presented research at the Life Sciences Week for the past three years, but this year was the first time he revealed his findings from his two years researching muscle regeneration.

"You get a lot out of (Life Sciences Week)," Stark said. "Professionally, it's wonderful and priceless as far as the training goes."

To present research, students and faculty usually have to travel to conferences. Life Sciences Week involves less pressure than a conference, Stark said.
He opted for the poster competition because it guarantees he can practice his presentation for the two judges who have to review his work. Many other judges also viewed Stark’s work, which tells him he did a good job, he said.

The poster session also provides the opportunity for students and faculty from different fields to connect.

Stark really likes to discuss scientific developments with other grad students, he said. At last year’s Life Sciences Week, he ran into an issue in the laboratory with subcloning, a technique in molecular biology that removes a particular gene from bacterial DNA. Talking to other students about his research helped him to find a solution.

Animal Science Professor Duane Keisler, one of the poster judges, enjoys seeing all the posters and learning new things, he said. Keisler has judged the research competition for more than least three years.

“Compared to when I was in grad school, (the research projects) are outstanding,” Keisler said. “It’s impressive. No other word to describe how pleased I am with the data presented and the professionalism.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Cardboard, duct tape made seaworthy for Food Bank fundraiser

By Nick Agro
April 20, 2013 | 8:07 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — On the banks of a lake behind Bass Pro Shops, vessels made from cardboard and duct tape zig-zagged across the water in hopes of reaching the finish line without sinking.

More than 50 cardboard boats took to the water Saturday morning for "Float Your Boat," a fundraising event for the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. Hosted by the Food Bank and the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, the event raised more than $15,500 before factoring in concession stand profits.

The goal for most boat builders was to take ordinary cardboard and craft it into something seaworthy. Spectators saw boats shaped like a school bus, a hot air balloon and a crayfish.

Some boats capsized immediately, while others sank slowly while approaching the finish line. Audience and crew members laughed and cheered the soggy boats.

"The boats go from solid engineering to wild and crazy," said Randy Mertens, coordinator of media relations for the College of Agriculture.

Some builders weren't concerned with hiding the true materials of their boats: boxes and tape.

A team representing MU's Agricultural Education Society took a simple approach, captaining a plain rectangular boat striped with duct tape to cover the seams of the collapsed boxes.

"We didn’t want to get too caught up in the design," said Lane Howard, an MU sophomore and Agricultural Education Society member. "We focused on the structure."

Fellow crew member Billy Granneman admitted that the team started with no plan. "But eight rolls of duct tape later, here we are."
While boat teams competed for the fastest time, they also sought other awards, including most spectacular sinking, best use of theme and ugliest boat.

Spectators voted for their favorite designs by dropping donations for the Food Bank into cans in front of each boat. The winner would receive the "People's Choice Award."

The event began last year, when it raised about $2,460 for the Food Bank.

"Every dollar raised by the boat teams equals 11 meals or 15 pounds of food on tables in the 32 counties served by the Food Bank," said Chris Sisk, special events coordinator for the Food Bank, in a news release.

Supervising editor is Richard Webner.