MU gets $2 million from Enterprise for sustainability research

By Karyn Spory

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A $2 million donation to the University of Missouri will provide an endowment for sustainability research.

The gift came from Enterprise Holdings Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the world's largest car-rental company, Enterprise Holdings. Enterprise is based in St. Louis and owns and operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands.

Although the $2 million gift was unrestricted, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton announced this morning that "based on mutual interest, ... we will be using this gift to create an endowment to support the work of our sustainable energy initiative," a core component of the Mizzou Advantage effort to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Deaton said it was a "great day and green day" for MU.

"We are truly looking toward this fundamental aspect of sustainability globally in all that we are doing," Deaton said.

The endowment would help build on the university's "unique and powerful resources," he said, including the MU Research Reactor, biomass power plant and research related to biofuels, biomass and energy efficiency.

Deaton said that because Enterprise is a family company that "cares deeply" about the next generation, the nature of the gift is symbolic.

Enterprise Holdings was founded in 1957 by Jack Taylor, a St. Louis native who named his company after the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier, which Taylor served on during World War II.

The company has annual revenue of $15.4 billion and more than 74,000 employees, and more than 600 of those employees — including several of the company's senior executives — are MU alumni.
"I compliment the Kindle/Taylor family for having the good sense to hire a lot of Mizzou graduates," MU Vice Chancellor Tom Hiles said, referring to the family members running the company.

Patrick Farrell, chief marketing and communications officer for Enterprise Holdings and a 1977 graduate of MU's School of Journalism, said the Taylors often talk about supporting initiatives and institutions that are meaningful to the St. Louis area. With MU as the state's flagship campus and an account holder, he said, it was a perfect partnership.

"When I was given the assignment as matchmaker, I happily took it," Farrell said.

Carolyn Kindle, executive director of Enterprise Holdings Foundations, said as the company has grown, so has its ability to provide support to the institutions and efforts that matter most.

Kindle said the university's history of providing "exceptional teaching and research" helps to shape the "future of every person and business it touches," and Enterprise Holdings is one of those beneficiaries.

"We hope our gift ... will truly make a difference," Kindle said.

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Posted in Local on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 2:00 pm.
Enterprise Holdings gives $2 million to Mizzou

The Enterprise Holdings Foundation, the philanthropic arm of car rental giant Enterprise Holdings, gave the University of Missouri in Columbia an unrestricted gift of $2 million.

Brady Deaton, chancellor of the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus, said the gift will be used to create an endowment for sustainability to support research, education and applications that sustain health, culture, economic vitality and quality of life.

Enterprise Holdings, which owns and operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands, has several ties to the university. Enterprise Holdings currently employs more than 600 MU alumni, including President and COO Pam Nicholson, Executive Vice President and CFO William Snyder and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Patrick Farrell.

“Mizzou provides our company with more employees than any other institution of higher education in the world,” Carolyn Kindle, vice president and executive director of the Enterprise Holdings Foundation, said in a statement. “We view our participation in this development campaign as an investment that will benefit not only the students and the university, but every person, institution and company like ours that is touched by Mizzou.”

Clayton-based Enterprise Holdings in the largest privately-held company in St. Louis with $15.4 billion in revenue.
The University of Missouri-Columbia on Tuesday announced it has received a $2 million gift from St. Louis-based Enterprise Holdings.

The school said it will use the money to create an endowment to support sustainability research and education. The school's research touches a variety of sustainability areas, including biofuels, nuclear energy, biomass and energy efficiency. The sustainability initiative also delves into energy policy, business models and environmental impacts.

“We’re proud of our partnership with Enterprise and the investment they are making in the university, our students and our state,” said Mizzou Chancellor Brady Deaton.

Also, the University of Missouri Library recently received a large donation of rare Chinese books, significantly expanding its Asian literary collection.

The donation of 1,000 rare and modern books was made by the Office of the Vice Provost for International Programs and the Confucius Institute at the University of Missouri.
$2 million gift to MU will go toward sustainability research

By Lauren Hill
April 23, 2013 | 2:10 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The Great Room in the Reynolds Alumni Center was packed with people — many of whom were dressed in black and gold representing MU. MU Chancellor Brady Deaton proclaimed today as a "green day" for the university.

MU received an unrestricted gift of $2 million from Enterprise Holdings, the world’s largest car rental company, and its philanthropic arm, the Enterprise Holdings Foundation, at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

With the gift, Deaton will create an endowment for sustainability that will go toward research, education, faculty support and areas that support the goal of a greener world.

"This gift shows how Enterprise recognizes what Mizzou can do — that’s the fundamental core of the Mizzou Advantage," Deaton said. "We are bringing interdisciplinary work together to look at world problems in ways no one else can, due to our unique assets."

No specific plans have yet been made as to where the money will go, but Deaton said that the money will support Mizzou Advantage, a program that has staff, faculty, outside partners and students collaborate to solve problems within the realms of food production, media, animal and human medicine and sustainable energy.

Mizzou Advantage addresses energy issues through various means, including the MU Research Reactor, biomass power plant, innovative research in biofuels, biomass and energy efficiency, the College of Engineering, and education programs in nuclear and other kinds of energy.

Based in St. Louis, Enterprise Holdings owns the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands. The company operates a fleet of vehicles through a global network of more than 8,200 airports and locations, making it the largest fleet in the world.
Owned by the Taylor family since 1922, Enterprise Holdings strives to work for the next generation. The company does this through its efforts in sustainability.

The company has joined with the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, the largest plant research center in the world. Together they created the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Institute for Renewable Fuels, which works to create the next generation of alternative fuel technology from environmentally sound plant and algal sources.

Enterprise has also joined with the Arbor Day Foundation and the United States Forest Service to plant 1 million trees throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. This has already resulted in nearly 8 million trees planted in areas suffering damage from wildfires and other natural disasters, according to Enterprise’s website.

MU has made its mark at Enterprise. The company employs more than 600 MU alumni. Some alums include the company’s senior executives including President and Chief Officer Pam Nicholson, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer William Snyder, and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer Patrick Farrell.

Carolyn Kindle, vice president and executive director of the Enterprise Holdings Foundation, said MU provides the company with more employees than any other higher education institution in the world. The company recognizes that this gift will affect more people than just those at MU.

"We view our participation in this development campaign as an investment that will benefit not only the students and the university, but every person, institution and company like ours that is touched by Mizzou," Kindle said.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
MU offers post-school money management tips

COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - University of Missouri students in Columbia are flocking to new money management counseling sessions.

The university says about 500 students have scheduled individual sessions in the program's first two weeks. The sessions are provided through the school's Student Financial Aid office and its Office for Financial Success.

Financial aid director Nicholas Prewett says the program is a response to student requests for in-person exit counseling rather than the online sessions previously provided under federal financial aid requirements.

The average student loan borrower at MU can expect to pay about $222 a month after graduation.
MU library arson suspect goes on trial

Federal case involves fire at Stephens, too.

By Brennan David

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A Columbia man who faces federal arson charges in connection with fires at Ellis Library and Stephens College in 2011 says he has been wrongly accused by a former girlfriend and that video surveillance that places him at the scene does not tell the full story.

Jurors in the U.S. Western District of Missouri this week will decide whether Christopher C. Kelley, 27, is guilty of setting fires at the Audrey Webb Child Study Center at Stephens and Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus as charged in a 2012 federal indictment. Police have linked Kelley to both arson scenes by allegedly finding him in possession of children's center property and present on Ellis Library video surveillance that shows him in the library at the time of the fire.

Testimony in the two- to three-day trial began yesterday afternoon, and Kelley's defense attorney, Troy Stabenow, argued prosecutors have no proof Kelley set the fires.

"There is no doubt you will conclude that he was there," Stabenow said. "But did he maliciously set fires disrupting interstate commerce" as charged?

Columbia firefighters on May 18, 2011, responded to an early-morning fire at the Stephens children's center. An inventory taken after the fire indicated a computer, monitor, keyboard and mouse were missing. The fire was later determined to have been intentionally set.

Stabenow noted that security staff found a door to the children's center to be unlocked the night before the fire. No inventory was done at that point, which means it is not known when the computer was stolen, he said. No arrest was made at the time.

Columbia Assistant Fire Marshal Debbie Sorrell testified that on the desk where the computer had been sitting, there was soot outlining the area where it should have been, indicating it was still on the desk at the time of the fire.
Firefighters responded to another fire Sept. 10, 2011, this time at Ellis Library. Police and firefighters found broken windows, glass doors, cameras and computer equipment, as well as human feces, with several fires set in different areas of the building, said Christopher Brayer, an officer with the University of Missouri Police Department. There were seven fires on the first floor, all of which fire officials determined were intentionally set.

U.S. Assistant Attorney Jim Lynn and Stabenow told the jury during opening statements that Kelley can be seen in the library on video surveillance between 2:12 a.m. and 3:24 a.m. holding a metal rod that was once part of a "keep quiet" sign. Lynn said he believes Kelley used the rod to break computers and glass doors in the library.

Cameras in the library at the time, however, did not record every inch of the building, including high-traffic areas such as stairway landings and elevator doors. Although Stabenow never argued yesterday that anyone besides Kelley was in the library, he speculated at times.

The government's "evidence is going to say the only way in and out of the library was on video" and because Kelley was there, he must be guilty. "But that's not so," Stabenow said.

The Ellis fire resulted in as much as $1 million in damage. Kelley turned himself in to police later that day wearing the same clothing seen worn by the suspect in the video, but he denied involvement in the fire, Lynn said. The Missouri State Highway Patrol's crime lab found glass fragments on his clothing.

Charges were filed in state court but were dropped in exchange for federal charges filed in February 2012, when police found a computer in Kelley's rental house that linked him to the Stephens fire, connecting the formerly separate cases.

During a search of his property, Columbia police and federal agents found a computer hidden in attic insulation. The computer's serial number matched that of the missing Stephens computer, according to court testimony.

Police based the search warrant on information from Kelley's former girlfriend, who told police Kelley confessed to her that he accidentally set the children's center on fire when he pulled on the wires of the computer while stealing it, Lynn said.

Kelley's former girlfriend, however, has told police varying stories that have made him look worse in each interview, Stabenow said.

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This article was published in the Tuesday, April 23, 2013 edition of The Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Ellis arson suspect goes on trial: Federal case involves fire at Stephens, too."

Posted in Local on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 2:00 pm.
MU doctor training in Joplin resumes

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri School of Medicine Rural Track Pipeline Program in Joplin is back up and running two years after a deadly tornado ripped through the city.

The tornado, which hit in May 2011, destroyed housing for MU medical students who were training with physicians in southwest Missouri.

The housing for the medical students has been rebuilt, and today leaders from Mercy Hospital Joplin and the MU School of Medicine celebrated the reopening of the training site for future physicians.

"Without this new housing, we wouldn't be able to reopen Joplin as a training site for our students," Kathleen Quinn, director of the MU medical school's Rural Track Program, said in a prepared statement.

Joplin has been a training site for third-year medical students since 2005, when a Missouri Foundation for Health grant was awarded to the MU School of Medicine to establish training sites in southeast and southwest Missouri.

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Posted in Local on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 2:00 pm.
With ducks in tow and the sound of quacking and cheering rising from the Bass Pro Shops lake, the crew set sail to defeat the SS Food Bank.

Four employees of the University of Missouri’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources made up one of many groups participating in Saturday’s Float Your Boat for the Food Bank event. Participation in the cardboard-boat race doubled in its second year, and the money raised for The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri almost tripled. The event brought in $17,133.

Participants built boats using cardboard and some fastening materials, hoping their designs would keep them dry. Not everyone was successful, as several boats sank before making it to the finish line. But the CAFNR team’s captain, Dusty Walter, said the team learned from last year’s competition.

“Last year’s boat tipped over,” he said. “So we were looking to design something that was a bit more stable.”

Their plan worked. Although the team didn’t place in the final results, it did defeat the food bank’s boat.

But winning is not the ultimate goal, Walter said. “You have to be in it for the fun,” he said. “It’s a fun day to raise money for the food bank.”

Walter said he and fellow boat maker Drew Backues decided on a “Duck Dynasty” theme, modeled after the TV show. The crew donned fake beards and duck calls, making them a popular photo opportunity for spectators.
The fun for Walter and his team isn’t over yet: He said their boat might have at least one voyage left in it.

“We may take it out for a little local fishing trip and see just how long it holds up,” he said. “It’s good information for next year’s design.”
City studies bike-sharing program

By Jacob Barker

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Interest in a local bike-sharing program is shifting to a higher gear, bringing Columbia closer to a public transit option that a growing number of cities are adopting.

The city and other community groups have been gathering feedback in a survey to determine the program's feasibility, and whether it moves forward might depend on how University of Missouri students respond.

"I think that's going to be a real critical component of its success here in Columbia," said Lelande Rehard, who works in the city manager's office and is coordinating the bike-share effort.

MU students could represent a large population that lacks bikes but would use them to run errands or get around town. Columbia has no shortage of bike enthusiasts, but a bike-share program depends more on the bikeless.

Although it has been implemented different ways in different places, generally users pay a small fee to rent bikes from stations around a city. They can return bikes to a station near their destination or to the original station.

The idea was sparked during a TEDxCoMo event during the winter, when discussion turned to a bike-sharing program to help students get to campus without increasing traffic. City Manager Mike Matthes liked the idea, and he put Rehard on it.

"They're really starting to grow across the nation and slowly seeping their way into smaller cities," Rehard said.

The idea has been tried in Columbia before. In the mid-1990s, Columbia had a program called Columbia Community Bicycle Project. But that program relied on the integrity of users. Unlike bike-share programs now, it didn't require a bike to be returned and locked in a kiosk. Instead, yellow bicycles were left around town for anyone to use, and the lack of reliability and prevalence of theft and damage to the bikes doomed the effort.
The biggest barrier now is determining whether enough people would use the service. "I ride bikes all the time, and I love bikes, but I may not use a bike-share program because I have a bike already," said Carrie Gartner, director of the Downtown Community Improvement District, which is interested in participating in the program if enough people want it.

Bike-share programs have found success in larger cities. The Washington, D.C., area's Capital Bikeshare is cited as an example of a thriving program. Denver launched one in 2010, and Kansas City began its own last year.

On the MU campus, students launched their own last year. Funded with student fees, Mizzou Bike Share allows students to check out a bike for as long as 24 hours. The service is free. From August to January, students checked out about 1,500 bikes, said Ben Datema, an environmental leadership adviser to students at MU.

"I know there's a pretty heavy usage by international students, which makes sense because they're here and typically don't have a car with them," he said.

There are plenty of bike shops in town where people can rent a bike for a day. Typically, there's only about five to 10 rented a week, said Teresa Baines, manager of Cyclextreme Bicycle Warehouse. That is, unless the weather's perfect. "On a nice Saturday, we can have them almost all rented out by like 1 in the afternoon," she said.

In addition to MU, the city has talked to Columbia Public Schools, the CID, PedNet, and Columbia and Stephens colleges about the plan. How it would be administered and funded depends on the results of the survey and resident feedback, Rehard said.

"Whenever we figure out the way forward, there will be a much harder timeline," he said.

SECOND THOUGHTS:

This page has been revised to reflect the following correction:

A Tuesday story about the possibility of a bike-sharing program in Columbia gave the incorrect name for a mid-1990s bike-sharing program in the city. It was called the Columbia Community Bicycle Project.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner to speak at MU

By Miguel Sola
April 23, 2013 | 5:03 p.m. CDT

*CORRECTION: "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches" will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week and next week. A free reading of "Angels in America: Perestroika" is scheduled for Sunday. An earlier version of this story misstated the performance dates.

COLUMBIA — Tony Award-winning playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner will come to MU to participate at a conference on gays and lesbians in theater.

Kushner received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1993 for his play "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," which chronicles the early AIDS crisis of the 1980s in New York City. He also co-wrote the screenplay for the 2005 film "Munich" and wrote the screenplay for the 2012 film "Lincoln," which won two Oscars this year.

"Tony Kushner's plays are radical for the American theater in that they are openly political, controversial and at the same time utterly human, and amazingly funny and heartbreaking," MU theater professor David Crespy said. "His approach to playwriting simply changed the way we understand how plays can and should be written."

Crespy will host a free discussion with Kushner at 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Rhynsburger Theatre, 129 Fine Arts Building.

The interview will touch on many subjects, including what it was like to write "Angels in America," Kushner's experience of seeing the play done again 20 years later, his recent work on "Lincoln" and the politics of changing culture and social justice, Crespy said.

*The first part of Kushner's play, "Millennium Approaches" will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights this week and next week at the Rhynsburger Theatre.

Tickets can be purchased online, by phone or in person in the Rhynsburger Theatre lobby. The box office is open from 4 to 6 p.m. on weekdays, or from one hour prior to showtime.
A free reading of the second part of the play, "Perestroika," is scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

In addition to Kushner, the conference will feature Kim Marra, professor of American studies and theatre arts at the University of Iowa, and Robert Schanke, professor emeritus of theatre at Central College, Iowa.

Ticket information and additional details about the conference can be found on MU's Department of Theatre website.

*Supervising editor is Emilie Stigliani.*
Drive to collect unused medicine

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Residents are asked to dispose of expired, unused or unwanted medical prescriptions at locations throughout the county Friday and Saturday to coincide with the National Drug Take Back event sponsored by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with the Youth Community Coalition and local police departments, is hosting the event.

All medications will be turned over to the DEA for proper disposal. Prescription medications can be disposed of from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital, 800 Hospital Drive, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday at the MU Student Center on the University of Missouri campus.

Prescription medications can be disposed of from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at:

- Ashland High School, 14520 Crump Lane.
- Centralia Police Department lobby, 114 S. Rollins St.
- Hallsville Intermediate School Commons, 421 E. Highway 124.
- Hickman High School, 1104 N. Providence Road.
- Rock Bridge High School, 4303 S. Providence.
- Sturgeon High School, 24350 N. Fairgrounds Road.

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