Arvarh Strickland, MU professor, remembered at funeral for leadership, compassion

By Alissa Fisher
May 4, 2013 | 4:59 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Dr. Arvarh Strickland was more than an academic figure. He was a groundbreaker, a mentor, a coach and a friend.

About 200 of Dr. Strickland’s colleagues, friends, family and acquaintances gathered Saturday morning at Missouri United Methodist Church to honor the legacy of MU’s first African-American professor. Dr. Strickland died Tuesday at the age of 82.

Rev. Amy L. Gearhart, senior pastor at Missouri United Methodist Church, officiated the service and spoke of Dr. Strickland's values of love, hope, education, racial dignity and responsibility to young people.

Among those in attendance were brothers of many generations of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, who surrounded Dr. Strickland’s casket and bid him farewell with the fraternity's somber hymn.

In a letter from the Alumni Association of Tougaloo College, read by Robert E. Weems, Dr. Strickland was remembered as a “giant who paved the way for those to follow behind.”

“This should inspire us to do even more to promote the causes he challenged,” Weems read.

Russell Zguta, chair of the MU History Department and longtime colleague and friend of Dr. Strickland’s, also spoke during the service. Zguta said Dr. Strickland’s handling of the “sometimes raucous” history department illuminated the importance of common sense and common decency in leadership.
"In my first few years at the university, Strickland was one of the few people who continuously asked me how things were going," Zguta said. "In a way, he became my informal mentor."

Wilma King of the MU Black Studies Program credited Dr. Strickland as the prime mover in the creation of the program, informing the congregation that it will soon become its own department.

In addition to Dr. Strickland's legacy as a figure of MU academia, he also co-founded the Minority Men's Network with colleague Eliot Battle.

Steve Calloway, who spoke on behalf of Minority Men's Network, said the current members of the organization are standing on the shoulders of Dr. Strickland's hard work.

"His life stands as an example of what it means to serve our community," Calloway said. "Because of him we stand taller, we walk proudly, and we speak boldly."

Those who knew Dr. Strickland saw his home with his wife, Willie, as a place of refuge, where one could enjoy delicious food and warm fellowship.

Charles Sampson, who is also part of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, described Dr. Strickland as a big brother who familiarized Sampson with Columbia when they first met, more than 25 years ago.

The last one to speak was Rev. Otto Steinhaus, member of the Columbia chapter of Kiwanis International, a civic club that expands over 80 nations. Dr. Strickland served as president of Columbia Kiwanis from 1987 to 1988, and Steinhaus said his spirit of inclusiveness of all people was evident in all that Dr. Strickland did.

The proceeding was called to a close by the congregation's strong voices singing the hymn, "It is Well With My Soul."

*Supervising editor is Simina Mistreanu.*
Dear Reader,

The newsroom learned of Arvarh Strickland's death sometime after 10 p.m. Tuesday. By midnight, there was a short article about this giant in the history of MU and Columbia, and by midday Wednesday a well-rounded piece was published.

I was glad that the print edition crew recognized his importance to the community and tore up the front page to lead with the story on Wednesday. I wish it could have been bigger but understand print's great enemy: time. The normal deadline for the news section is midnight; it was stretched to 12:30 to make the front-page changes.

When I came back to Columbia in 2001, Strickland was one of the first on a list of people to meet. The word gentleman comes to mind: polite, soft-spoken and generous with his insights. The family's obituary, published online on Thursday, noted “his stellar efforts to educate the MU community inside and outside of the classroom.” As a source, he gave of his time to generations of Missourian reporters and editors.

Though his name is associated with a first – the first African-American professor at MU – his consistent voice for change is probably what most on campus will remember about him. The most uninspired name brick and mortar has ever known – General Classroom Building – was changed to honor him, and at least some students who walk into classes there now stop to ask: What is the story behind Strickland Hall?

So the Missourian did pretty well in its coverage, and the obituary supplied by the family helped fill out the picture. Your newspaper might not have been able to do more in the time given, but could it have done more before Strickland died?
Early in my career, I was in charge of updating more than 300 stories that had been lying around for years. They were called advanced obits, and you knew you were worth something if the newspaper thought enough to have your obit ready before the need arose.

My chore wasn’t a reward for great service, mind you; it’s what you get when you are “the kid” on an editing desk. I couldn’t have asked for a better lesson on the community.

Gathered in one place were stories of the most prominent people in Tidewater, Va. Past mayors of five cities. Entrepreneurs and real estate moguls. Prominent clergy and noted artists and outstanding athletes. Navy brass and one particular Navy spy. It was a compendium of the famous and infamous and together made a kind of history of the area.

I wasn’t well liked that spring as I sent advanced obits to reporters for updating. Some people’s resumes read pretty much the same, while other advanced obits needed complete rewrites. Life happens, and any story only records one moment in time. But it was a thankless task. Reporters write stories to be read. They are impatient creatures, as a group, and squirm at the thought of holding on to a finished story for more than a couple of days.

The exercise, though, was useful for those times like Tuesday night, when there are only a few hours or minutes to pull together the biggest events of a person’s life.

The Missourian’s higher education editor, Liz Brixey, had actually assigned a reporter three years ago to pull together biographical information and interview colleagues and friends. It was an advanced obit of a sort. She sent the file around for use Wednesday morning.

Columbia is a transient community. People, and not just students, come and go all the time. As a newcomer, wouldn’t it be neat to learn more about the institutions and characters that make up Our Fair City?

I asked editors this week to concentrate on expanding the number of entries in the CoMo You Know section of columbiamissourian.com. The section contains lots of detail about some of the most well known institutions here, from Columbia Cemetery to MU’s Memorial Stadium.

It’s short in the people category, with only a baker’s dozen of names listed. The CoMo You Know could fill that need to publish that pulses through journalists’ veins while gathering thread for obits of saints and sinners here.

The scholar James Carey once described journalism as “the collective arrest of experience.” By that he meant that it is a journalist’s job to remember.
"Journalism," he said, "converts valued experience into memory and record so it will not perish."

That's too high a charge for this most imperfect of crafts. But, with voices from many other places, the memory of Dr. Arvarh Strickland — historian, administrator, writer, advocate, Army veteran, community leader, husband, father and first African-American professor — won't die any time soon.
COLUMBIA— When Guy Horton told his wife, Linda Horton, that he wanted to work in public relations instead of teach journalism, she was confused.

"Why PR?" she said.

"I wouldn't sell soap, but I'd sell the University of Missouri," she recalled her husband saying.

Guy M. Horton, a retired University of Missouri System employee of 25 years, died Tuesday, April 30, 2013. He was 80.

Dr. Horton was born April 11, 1933, in Blackjack, Texas, to Hyter and Nelia (Harrison) Horton.

The youngest of 12 kids, he worked on the family farm in the fields and gardening. Dr. Horton decided as a teenager he wanted to explore life outside the farm and pursue his interest in education at college.

He graduated from East Texas State Teachers College (now Texas A&M University-Commerce) with a bachelor's degree and later a master's degree, in 1957. He was drafted into the Army during the Korean War.

He graduated from MU in 1969 with a doctorate in journalism while working part-time in the university's public relations office.

"He fell in love with public relations," daughter Ellen Shriner said. "He decided he wanted to make a career out of it at the University of Missouri."

Dr. Horton eventually became director of university relations and later executive assistant to then-president James Olson.
"He was efficient, effective and had extreme integrity," said Mel George, vice president for academic affairs at the time and a longtime friend of Dr. Horton's. "He was the conscience for our relationship with the press."

The six staff members who worked with the president maintained a close friendship even after Olson retired. Since 1987, the staff and Olson, along with their families, have gotten together for a weekend each year to catch up.

Dr. Horton retired in 1992 after serving five system presidents.

"He was a kind, considerate and gracious human being who went out of his way to solve problems and pave the way for both individuals and the university to move ahead," Chancellor Emeritus Richard Wallace said in an email.

Dr. Horton moved back to his hometown of Blackjack and focused on family, volunteer work — including in the food pantry — and the outdoors.

"His passions were gardening and farming," Shriner said. "It was kind of like coming full circle from his childhood."

Dr. Horton is survived by his wife, Linda, of Blackjack, Texas; two daughters, Ellen (Ken) Shriner, of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Amy (Robert) Hayhurst, of Houston, and one grandchild, Nathan Hayhurst.

There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. Monday at First United Methodist Church, 225 Lovers Lane, Athens, Texas, following burial at the community cemetery in Blackjack, Texas.

Memorial contributions can be made to First United Method Church, P.O. Box 911, Athens, Texas, 75751 or the Henderson County Food Pantry, P.O. Box 2062, Athens, Texas, 75751.

Condolences can be posted at www.carroll-lehr.com.
College Advising Corps aims to demystify college for at-risk youth

NOTE: The Missouri College Advising Corps is directed by staff at the University of Missouri.

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS/The Kansas City Star
May 4, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

College adviser Gerald McLemore, center, talks with Eddie Quinton, 18, left, and Tre’Vell Robinson, 18, both seniors, about scholarship opportunities in the College Center at Central High School in Kansas City. Robinson plans to attend Pittsburgh State University, and Quinton is heading to Missouri Western State University. McLemore, a University of Missouri graduate, is a member of the Missouri College Advising Corps. | Tammy Ljungblad/KANSAS CITY STAR

KANSAS CITY — Corrie Mills doesn’t usually run through the halls of Central High School, waving a piece of paper over her head. But this wasn’t a usual day.

"I got a scholarship!" she blurted, out of breath, to her college adviser. It didn’t matter that the letter was from a university the 19-year-old senior isn’t planning to attend. Just knowing that a college wanted to help pay her way was reason enough for elation, and for a race to the Missouri College Advising Corps office.

A year ago Mills, like plenty of other students in urban and rural high schools across the state, didn’t have a clue about college. She didn’t know a thing about applying for admission, much
less for scholarships. She found the whole process intimidating. She pushed the idea out of her mind. **Then she met Gerald McLemore, a graduate of Westport High School and MU who for almost two years has worked with the Missouri College Advising Corps.**

His office at Central High occupies a room that previously was the school's candy store, and Mills had heard students praising him for helping seniors bag sweet college deals.

"Central was my rival school back in high school," said McLemore, 24. "I see my work here as giving back to my school district."

The Missouri College Advising Corps was launched in 2008 with a $1 million grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

The advisers are recent college graduates who get training and set up shop in high schools with large percentages of low-income students. The advisers connect with students who have the potential to succeed in college and help them take the steps to get there.

The corps' goal: close the college-going gap between students from low-income households and those from middle- and upper-income homes.

The National College Advising Corps now has 18 corps in 14 states. This school year, the national corps counted advisers serving 368 high schools.

Missouri's corps has 25 advisers serving 26 high schools in Kansas City, St. Louis and rural south-central Missouri. Last year, advisers helped graduates win $16 million in scholarships.

The program, which spends $45,000 a year for each adviser, gets support from about a dozen private foundations, including the H&R Block, William T. Kemper, Kauffman, Sprint and Greater Kansas City Community foundations.

In Kansas City, the corps has advisers in 11 high schools in the Kansas City, Grandview, Raytown, North Kansas City, Hickman Mills and Independence districts.

"This truly is a solution to the challenge of helping our young people attain an education that will lead to personal success, economic development and innovation," said Beth Tankersley-Bankhead, director of the Missouri corps.
That challenge gained urgency in 2010 when Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, following President Barack Obama’s lead, called on state education leaders to increase the percentage of adults with some college from 37 percent to 60 percent by 2025.

The National Bureau of Economic Research last month released a report that found "the vast majority of very high-achieving students who are low income do not apply to any selective college or university."

The report said that if those students did apply, the selective schools would most often pay their cost through scholarships.

"Moreover, high-achieving, low-income students who do apply to selective institutions are admitted and graduate at high rates," the report said. No one in Adrianna Reyes' Kansas City home could tell her what it’s like to go to college — or how to pay the bills. "I didn't know I needed so much money to pay for college," she said. McLemore did. He helped Reyes apply for an all-tuition-paid ticket to Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kan.

"For a lot of students, you have to hold their hand through the process because the college-going experience is so new to them," he said. "They are not having the conversation at home. If the parent doesn't know, how can they inform the student?"

The impact on the students guided by corps advisers has been dramatic. The average college-going rate in the last three years from all Missouri high schools has increased less than 1 percent. From schools with Missouri corps advisers: up more than 10 percent. Since the fall, when Mills first poked her head into McLemore's office, she has stopped by seeking his help with college plans nearly every day.

"Before I met Mr. McLemore, I really wasn't thinking about college," Mills said. "I think it did change the course of my life."

She is pretty set on attending the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, one of four schools that have accepted her. Since McLemore opened his office at Central High, its students' college-going rate has increased by more than 6 percentage points. He has covered the cafeteria wall outside his office with college acceptance letters that his 2013 seniors have received.

"Every student passes through here every day," McLemore said. "I want them all to see that our seniors are going off to college and they can, too. That's what developing a college-going culture is about."
The University of Missouri Board of Curators will have a special meeting Monday to discuss faculty and staff retirement plans and benefits packages.

The UM System announced six strategic areas of focus last year, and one of those is attracting and retaining the "best people." In a letter to colleagues, UM President Tim Wolfe said he and the board believe it is essential for the university to continue to provide a "Total Rewards" compensation, benefit, wellness and retirement program.

During the meeting, the curators will discuss the rising costs of the package. The item is deemed as information-only, and the board will not take action on it.

The teleconference meeting will originate at 9 a.m. in Ellis Library on MU campus, with another location at University Hall, Room 121.
Finally, an SEC win for Tigers, even if it's not on the field

By JOE WALLJASPER

The highlight of the year for the Missouri athletic department happened Thursday. It involved three masters of the sporting universe in dark suits giving vague answers to questions about the new SEC Network while 32 coaches shipped to Atlanta for the occasion stoically nodded their approval.

That the best moment was a press conference is telling in two ways: Missouri's teams haven't made much of a first impression in the Southeastern Conference, and the SEC Network could be the source of revenue and exposure that makes future success more attainable.

Competitively, Missouri's first year in the league has been a dud. The Tigers' introduction to "old-man football" was a deflating home defeat to Georgia that set the template for an injury-filled losing season. If it's any consolation, they would have struggled in the Big 12, too. There was an opening for Missouri to challenge for an SEC men's basketball title in a rare down year for Kentucky, but the Tigers fell out of contention with a series of frustrating road losses.

MU hasn't come close to winning an SEC championship in any of the nonrevenue sports, with the softball team offering the last realistic chance of doing so. So far, the signature athletic achievement of this school year is the Mid-American Conference title won by the wrestling team — the SEC doesn't sponsor that sport.

Without immediate signs that Missouri made the right decision by leaving the Big 12 for the SEC, MU got a reminder Thursday that there will be long-term benefits for the short-term pain. Watching other people make money — especially if it comes at the expense of your own cable bill — isn't really a spectator sport, but the SEC and ESPN did their best. After the procession of coaches, who played the role of human ice sculptures, SEC Commissioner Mike Slive and ESPN executives John Skipper and Justin Connolly announced the launch of the SEC Network.

The value of the 20-year deal remained hidden behind the tight-lipped smile of Slive, but given the corporate muscle of the SEC and ESPN, it figures to be the richest TV contract in college sports, perhaps by a wide margin. In January, USA Today estimated a new TV contract including the SEC
Network could be worth $34 million annually to the conference schools. That would be about $14 million more than they made this year.

In a meeting with local reporters Friday, Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden said the TV deal's value is contingent on how successful ESPN is at getting the network distributed to cable and satellite providers. The intention is to make the SEC Network available on the same tier as ESPN within the 11-state SEC footprint and on the same tier as ESPNU in the rest of the country. The Big Ten and Pac-12 networks haven't managed that.

Affiliation with ESPN doesn't assure the SEC Network's success — The Longhorn Network has yet to gain a foothold even in Texas — but it is the best TV partner possible.

Alden said Missouri is "very conservatively" projecting an additional $2 million in TV revenue in 2015. The excitement in his voice when discussing "as big an announcement in college sport for a partnership and exposure that's been made yet, in my opinion" indicated he's given some thought to less conservative projections.

Alden, as athletic directors do, said the move to the SEC has lifted Missouri's "brand awareness" to new heights and that the network would help even more. I have never sat at a bar and discussed whether the alma mater's brand awareness was approaching maximum market penetration, though.

"The tough thing is, we're all living in the moment, and we all want immediate results," Alden said. "And that's absolutely understandable. So, knowing though when you do something like this — the move to the SEC and starting up the network and knowing it's going to be great exposure for Mizzou — that's a long-term play. It's going to take time to see the results, the dividends paid from the investment and the stock. It's going to take time.

"So while all of us want to invest in the stock market and have those results right away — and if we don't have the results right away, we're saying, 'What did we get ourselves into?' — most people would tell you you've got to be able to invest in the stock and watch it mature over the course of time. Then you can look at it five or 10 years from now, look back and be able to see that growth.

"That's the thing that we have to all recognize. ...The short-term pain for making those kind of moves, when you move to the strongest conference in America ... the long-term gains will far outweigh those."

The SEC Network is a bigger deal for an athletic director than a fan, who won't see ticket prices decrease or donation requests cease, because, as Alden reminded, Missouri won't be gaining ground on its SEC competitors. But financial security offers one very big advantage: Price is no longer an object in acquiring and retaining good coaches and dumping bad coaches early in their
contracts. Money doesn't guarantee success — even filthy rich Texas has struggled in football and basketball in recent years — but, just like in Major League Baseball, winning is easier for the wealthy.

In the previous decade, the Big 12 had a chance to start its own network but didn't. Once Texas and ESPN collaborated on the Longhorn Network, a Big 12 network was no longer an option. That was one of the long-term limitations of staying in the Big 12 — financially falling behind comparable schools in other leagues — although Missouri's biggest concern when it decided to leave was that there soon would be no Big 12. It was not a frivolous worry.

Conference realignment has raged on, but the Big 12 survived. With the announcement last month that ACC schools agreed to a grant of media rights to the league, the shifting could abate.

All things being equal, I would rather Missouri still played Kansas and its other old Big Eight rivals. For Missouri fans, a victory over the Jayhawks had a way of making even a drab football season feel better in the way a win over Tennessee cannot. Tradition is a big part of college athletics.

But college athletics is also a business, and its leaders make business decisions. Missouri moving to the SEC was smart for both parties.

Missouri delivered a state of 6 million people, and the SEC delivered a network that will make MU richer. In business, it's called a win-win. If only that concept could apply to the playing field.
TV cash could raise MU's national standing

A rising tide is about to sweep through the Southeastern Conference in the form of the league's new TV network, but Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden isn't resting idly aboard the Tigers' boat. Back from yesterday's trip to Atlanta, where SEC and ESPN announced plans for the 2014 launch of the SEC Network, Alden described "the uphill battle" Missouri still faces in its new conference.

"The two most valuable brands in all of college athletics are the SEC, No. 1 ... and ESPN is No. 2," Alden said today during a meeting with reporters at Mizzou Arena. "You put those two together, that's a pretty significant deal."

SEC and ESPN officials declined to put a dollar figure on their new 20-year partnership, but for more than a year MU has budgeted for a boost in revenue expected for 2015, once the SEC Network begins to pay off for the conference's 14 members. Alden conservatively projected "a couple million dollars" more in league revenue starting in 2015.

Industry experts are expecting a much bigger payday.

Last year, the SEC distributed a record $241.5 million to 12 members — newcomers Missouri and Texas A&M weren't on the payroll yet — for an average payout of $20.1 million per school. A USA Today report in January estimated that by 2015, the SEC could increase its annual distributions to $14 million more per member with the creation of the SEC Network, pushing each school's annual take close to $34 million.

In 2010-11, Missouri's final year collecting revenue from the Big 12, Missouri earned $19 million in league revenue. This year, MU has budgeted for a $20.7 million payout from the SEC.

"All boats in the SEC will be raised," Alden said. "If we're trying to gain on North Carolina State, trying to gain on Illinois and Texas Tech and Kansas State, absolutely, we are" gaining "nationally. This will make a pretty big effort for us with what we're trying to do nationally with peer institutions. But in our league, it does not change you at all. If you're 11th, 12th or 13th in the SEC relative to revenues, just by this, you're still going to be 11th, 12th or 13th."

In 2011-12, Missouri had an athletic budget of $61.2 million, which, according to the U.S. Department of Education's figures, would have ranked 11th in the 14-team SEC — ahead of
Mississippi, Mississippi State and Vanderbilt. The financial gains from the SEC Network will clearly boost Missouri's national ranking for revenue, but the school's peers in the SEC will experience similar growth.

"You have to make sure you know this" network revenue "isn't supplanting the need for us to keep generating more support for the Tiger Scholarship Fund, more season ticket sales, more corporate sponsors," Alden said. "In order for us to gain on South Carolina, on Arkansas, on Tennessee, on Kentucky — those schools that are at that next tier — we've got to sell more tickets, raise more money in our capital gifts, our corporate partnerships and on and on."

Still, the new network's impact on SEC bank accounts will be undeniable.

According to a recent report by Forbes, the SEC's TV revenue for 2012-13 — $205 million — is expected to rank fourth among the major conferences, behind the Big Ten ($250 million), Pac-12 ($250 million) and Atlantic Coast Conference ($240 million) and ahead of the Big 12 ($200 million). While the other conferences have enhanced their revenue with newer TV contracts — and in the case of the Big Ten and Pac-12, their own TV networks — the SEC has worked under the same deals with ESPN and CBS since 2008.

That all changes with yesterday's announcement.

One potential snag looms for the SEC Network. The Big Ten Network and the Pac-12 Network, which launched in 2007 and 2012, respectively, both initially struggled to reach agreements with cable and satellite providers. The Big Ten Network is now widely available and has flourished, but the Pac-12 Network is at an impasse with DirecTV, the country's No. 1 satellite TV provider.

ESPN President John Skipper said the SEC Network would have no such problems attracting major carriers. AT&T U-verse already has agreed to offer the SEC Network to its 4 million subscribers.

"This is not a regional network," Skipper said. "This is a national network."

The SEC Network will broadcast three SEC games each Saturday for 13 weeks during the season, SEC Commissioner Mike Slive said, featuring one game in each of the early, afternoon and evening windows. Each weekend, CBS will continue to have first selection of SEC games for its national broadcast, while a content board will decide where the other league games will land among the ESPN family of networks, as well as the SEC Network.
After Niedermeyer, developer shifts focus to west campus

It spurred a proposal to halt demolitions, calls for an overhaul of the city's zoning code and debates among local candidates in April's election.

**But all the noise didn't scare away Collegiate Housing Partners, the St. Louis firm that prompted the local debate with its December proposal to tear down the historic Niedermeyer building in downtown Columbia and build high-rise student apartments. Now, the company has found a new site for its project: a block filled with houses used as student rentals abutting the University of Missouri campus.**

"We feel that the west campus area is an extremely underutilized location with great proximity to the university," said Brandt Stiles, Collegiate Housing Partners' director of development.

Plans the firm submitted to the city this week propose a six-story student housing complex with 106 units, most of which would have four bedrooms. The plans indicate the complex would house up to 351 students on 1.2 acres on the south side of Conley Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets.

At the site, located across the street from MU's Mark Twain Hall, Collegiate Housing Partners would buy six houses primarily used as student rentals and demolish them to make way for the firm's first student housing project. The houses are owned by the Kifton Altis Trust, Nancy and Aubrey Galloway and Lowell and Dassel Schoengarth.

Stiles said if the Columbia City Council approves the needed rezoning, construction would start in summer 2014, after leases expire, and be complete by August 2015.

"It's probably the most intense, or dense, project I've seen in the 4½ years I've been here," said Pat Zenner, the city's development services manager.

Lavish apartment complexes filled with mostly four-bedroom units began popping up in 2010, and the pace hasn't slowed. By the end of the year, there will be more than 1,000 beds available downtown, and projects underway would add another 250 or so to downtown's luxury student-housing stock. That's in addition to the more than 3,000 beds under construction or planned outside of downtown.
The construction comes as some in the industry say it’s getting more difficult to fully lease student properties. Even so, Zenner said another downtown project, in addition to Collegiate Housing Partners’ proposal, might materialize soon.

"The spigot has not been shut off," he said. "And I am somewhat in, I wouldn't say in shock, but I would say surprised, that we are still having the volume" of student housing construction.

Collegiate Housing Partners also is asking for a variance to the city's parking rules. Its proposal includes space for 120 cars, while the city code requires 300 for a development of its scale.

Whether that is allowed is up to the city council. Zenner said Collegiate Housing Partners has argued that its development addresses the root cause of traffic congestion rather than continuing to make it easy for people to use and park cars. As an alternative, the firm would make other means of transportation available.

"They are very aware that the parking issue is one that will need to be adequately addressed," Zenner said.

Stiles said the company is looking at options including a bike-share hub. The university operates a bike-sharing program, which allows students to rent bikes from a station outside the MU Student Center, and the city is looking at establishing its own.

The company also might look at getting an on-site Zipcar station, which allows customers to rent cars for short periods. Collegiate Housing Partners also would likely contribute to the FastCAT downtown bus route, Stiles said.

"I think we encourage more of the smart growth, encourage more walkability, encourage more of a sustainable lifestyle," Stiles said. "And, due to our proximity to the university and the classrooms, students don't need to use cars."

The firm’s new proposed site is only a five-minute walk from the heart of campus. But more important, the houses it is looking at replacing don't have the historical significance of the Niedermeyer, which contains remnants from the original 1837 structure.

When the firm initially proposed demolishing the Niedermeyer, many residents and city leaders sprang into action to try to save it. Also, the project’s potential size — as many as 15 stories — worried others who said it wouldn’t fit downtown's character. Ultimately, the company backed off and sold the Niedermeyer to a local landlord in March, opting to find a different location. "I think we've taken into consideration a lot of comments we received while we were working through the Niedermeyer," Stiles said.
'Tiger Town' brand has company

A Columbia businessman is still working to trademark "Tiger Town USA" as a brand to promote the city, but he has found that a Major League Baseball team has been using that name for its spring training location for decades.

Tom Atkins, chairman of Atkins Investments and a former UM System curator, proposed the branding last year with the hope that it could be used to promote the city and help fund a not-for-profit to support local educational institutions. As the University of Missouri begins its second year as a member of the Southeastern Conference, he is continuing that effort.

But since the 1950s, the name "Tiger Town" and similar variations have been used to identify a baseball training facility in Lakeland, Fla., where the Detroit Tigers have long held spring training. Last month, Detroit Tigers Inc. filed a request with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for more time to oppose Atkins' application, listing itself as a "potential opposer."

Seth Shaifer, a New York attorney who filed the request on behalf of Detroit Tigers Inc., declined to comment on the case, referring questions to the baseball team. Messages left with a media representative for the Detroit Tigers were not returned.

Bill Kircher, a Kansas City attorney who is representing Atkins as he tries to obtain the rights to use the logo, said he is confident the two sides will be able to find a resolution and that Columbia could still call itself Tiger Town USA.

"I'm hopeful that it's going to be favorably resolved and our folks can use it," Kircher said.

Trademarks, Kircher said, are "territorial in nature." The Detroit Tigers would have little or no use for their Tiger Town brand in Columbia, and likewise Atkins would not have much use for his brand in Florida.

"There can be exclusive uses of trademarks in different territories," Kircher said.

He also said talks with Shaifer — whom he described as a "reasonable guy" — about the issue have gone well and said he thinks the issue might be resolved in the coming weeks.
A website for the Lakeland Flying Tigers — a farm league team of the Detroit Tigers that plays its games at Joker Marchant Stadium, which was built in 1966 in Lakeland’s Tiger Town — features a colorful logo bearing the words “Tiger Town U.S.A.”

The website for the city of Lakeland, which maintains the site, calls it "Tigertown Complex." The Detroit Tigers website, as well as newspapers in Detroit and Lakeland, Fla., usually call it "Tiger Town."
MU history professor wins Jefferson award

On Wednesday, University of Missouri history Professor Steven Watts reluctantly headed to Room 304 in Read Hall for a staff meeting. Instead of the meeting he expected, though, Watts found the room packed with his colleagues and a representative of the UM System president's office to notify him he'd received the Thomas Jefferson Award.

"They set me up pretty well. I was really surprised," Watts said. "It's a terrific honor."

The Thomas Jefferson Award, awarded by the UM System, recognizes faculty members who are found to show excellence and distinction in teaching, research, writing, creative activities and service to the university and society. The award comes with a $10,000 check.

Watts had previously been chairman for the award selection committee, so he knows what kind of caliber of professor generally receives the award.

"I saw firsthand how many really good candidates are put forward in all of the disciplines from the various campuses," he said.

Watts was nominated by Russell Zguta, chairman of the history department, a man who's not only his colleague but also his former professor.

"When I came here as a freshman, many, many years ago, he taught the very first history class I took at MU," Watts said.

In his nomination letter, Zguta also referenced that encounter in 1971. "I have seen Professor Watts grow and mature, from being a fine undergraduate student to being an outstanding scholar and teacher," Zguta wrote.

Zguta said that as Thomas Jefferson was a Renaissance man — with interests including science, architecture, music, agriculture and political theory — so is Watts.

"He is a performing musician, a gentleman farmer, and an athlete. But above all, he is a scholar and teacher," Zguta wrote in his nomination.

"It's sort of a feeling of humility," Watts said of the comparison to Jefferson. "It's a great mark of distinction to even be mentioned in the same breath as someone like Thomas Jefferson."
Watts is known for his biographies of Walt Disney, Henry Ford and Hugh Hefner, which appear in print and are on documentaries on PBS and the History Channel.

The award will be presented to Watts during the June 13 UM Board of Curators meeting.
Medical errors leave devastating impact on families, professionals

May 05, 2013 12:15 am • By Blythe Bernhard bbernhard@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8129

Surgeries and hospital stays are designed to improve a patient’s health. When patients are harmed by a preventable medical error, they can feel robbed of that natural expectation of help and healing.

The recent operation on the wrong side of a St. Ann woman’s brain at SSM St. Clare Health Center has renewed the sense of betrayal and disbelief among other victims of medical errors.

“These errors really cast a very, very long shadow,” said Martha Deed, whose daughter, Millie Niss, 36, died in 2009 after contracting several infections during a stay at a hospital in Buffalo, N.Y. “What was supposed to be a safe place turned out to be a very dangerous place.”

An autopsy report showed Niss had a spinal infection that doctors told Deed was treatable. The New York state health department cited the hospital for two violations of infection control policies.

“Three months into dealing with losing my daughter I suddenly discovered I needn’t have lost her,” Deed said. “It is so catastrophic that you basically can’t get your head around it.”

Investigations of medical mistakes nearly always point to a breakdown in communication among hospital staff. The potential for mistakes is highest when routines are delayed or changed. Operating rooms are turned over quickly, nurses change shifts in the middle of a procedure and doctors fail to lead pre-surgery checklists.

In a rare public admission, Dr. David Ring of Massachusetts General Hospital wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2010 about a wrong surgery he performed on the hand of a woman, 65. Stress ran high in the hospital that day because several surgeons were behind schedule. The woman’s surgery was moved to another operating room. Marks on her hand were inadvertently washed off with an alcohol solution. Without finishing the required pre-surgery time-out, Ring performed a carpal-tunnel instead of a trigger-finger release. He realized the mistake 15 minutes later while writing the post-operative report, apologized to the patient and performed the correct surgery the same day.

“I hope that none of you ever have to go through what my patient and I went through,” Ring wrote in a presentation to hospital staff. “I no longer see these protocols as a burden. That is the lesson.”
Health care workers say they are traumatized by preventable errors in what’s known as the “second victim” phenomenon. Doctors or nurses who struggle after a medical error, death of a child or other unexpected event can lose confidence, have flashbacks and feel like abandoning their careers.

A nurse from Seattle committed suicide in 2011, six months after accidentally giving a fatal overdose of calcium chloride to an infant. After an investigation into the child’s death, the nurse, Kimberly Hiatt, 50, was fired from Seattle Children’s hospital after a 27-year nursing career. Her family members said Hiatt could not find another job in the career she loved and never recovered from heartbreak over the error.

A University of Missouri Health System survey of staff members in 2007 found that one in seven had experienced anxiety or depression after a patient safety event. All of the respondents said the events were life-altering. The health system started one of the country’s first support programs for second victims. The program includes a volunteer team of doctors, nurses, social workers and chaplains who are trained in stress management. A 24-hour hotline is available for medical staff who need immediate support after a traumatic event.

“Every day, well-meaning health care providers working in clinically complex environments face the harsh reality of unanticipated and sometimes tragic patient outcomes in their chosen profession,” wrote Susan Scott, patient safety coordinator at MU, in a 2010 medical journal. “As a result, we believe a large portion of the health care workforce has been suffering in relative silence unsupported during career-related anxiety, stress, and sometimes even shame or guilt.”

Families who have been wronged by the medical system also need support and counseling, Sue Stratman says.

Stratman’s son, Daniel, 28, suffered severe brain damage from an anesthesia error during a hernia surgery at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in 1996 and now requires around-the-clock care.

“People make mistakes, but don’t you dare walk out of the room when my loved one is under anesthesia,” Sue Stratman said. “That’s not a mistake, that’s not an accident. That’s not caring, not taking this seriously enough. If I knew then what I know now I would have never let them take my son through those double doors.”

Stratman felt guilt, anger and despair after learning her son would never recover. The family has since found strength in their faith and by sharing their story.

“If you can help others avoid going through what you’ve been through, there’s some comfort in that,” Stratman said.

Dr. Julia Hallisy founded the Empowered Patient Coalition after her daughter Kate, 10, died while fighting cancer and an infection she contracted during a biopsy in a hospital in San Francisco.

“Even as a highly educated health care provider myself, I was struggling at the bedside to understand what was going on, to know the right questions to ask,” said Hallisy, a practicing dentist. “It really became clear to me that when the time was right in my life, I needed to work on helping patients and their families evaluate what they’re seeing to know if they’re seeing a glitch in safety.”
Patients and caregivers have told Hallisy they are intimidated by doctors and nurses and feel too scared to speak up or ask questions. The coalition provides worksheets and checklists for patients and families to use during their medical care.

“When you’re communicating with doctors and it’s respectful, concise and organized, they're going to appreciate that,” Hallisy said. “Health care providers absolutely know that you need to turn a bed-ridden patient every two hours. They know they need to wash their hands. I tell people all the time, you are not asking for something unreasonable, something every health care provider would not want for their own family.”

“Three months into dealing with losing my daughter I suddenly discovered I needn’t have lost her. It is so catastrophic that you basically can’t get your head around it.” Martha Deed

**Tips for pre-surgery preparation:**

1. Is the surgery necessary? What are the success rates and what are the potential risks? What is involved in the recovery process?

2. Who will perform the surgery? Check out the surgeon’s credentials and experience. Is the surgeon board-certified?

3. Where will the surgery take place? Compare hospitals at www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov. Does the hospital have an intensive care unit in case of emergency?

4. Try to schedule the surgery early in the day and early in the week. Avoid holidays, nights or weekends.

5. Will medical assistants or residents participate in the surgery? Will the surgeon be there before, during and in the days after the surgery?

6. Will anesthesia be administered by a board-certified anesthesiologist or a certified nurse anesthetist? Who will assist them?

7. Do not shave the surgical site for two to three days before surgery to prevent small cuts in skin that are susceptible to bacteria. Don't eat or drink for six to eight hours before surgery.

8. Confirm all information on the patient identification band. Make sure all pre-operative medications including antibiotics have been prescribed and taken. Ask the surgeon to mark and sign the surgical site before the patient is sedated.

9. After the surgery, have an advocate present to discuss details and ask about any complications with the surgeon. Keep the patient warm and ask about medication to prevent blood clots.

10. Watch for signs of overdose (shallow breathing, lethargy and small pupils) if the patient is using a pain medication pump.

Source: The Empowered Patient Coalition
Arey earns tryout for US Paralympic team


Athletes at Carter Arey's level can throw around all of those flowery conceits in describing what brought them to this point, but not even he foresaw this twist.

Like a lot of kids growing up playing sports in Columbia, Arey imagined one day taking the court or field for Missouri.

"I was one of those crazy 8-year-olds all over Faurot" during MU football games, Arey said.

And when he was playing or watching basketball, "all I wanted was to be Brian Grawer."

Even before that, Arey was almost quite literally born with "Missouri" emblazoned across his chest — "It was on the first bib I wore."

As his mother recently reminded him, Arey had other passions.

"She told me I was obsessed with" the U.S. Olympic basketball team "when I was little," he said. "All I wanted to do was play for Team USA."

As Arey grew older, the realization at some point set in. With a lower right leg that was amputated at the age of 4 because of a disorder known as proximal femoral focal deficiency, he likely wouldn't be suiting up for the Tigers. Although he played basketball and baseball competitively while wearing a prosthesis — participating on the hardwood in high school at Rock Bridge until he broke his back before his senior year in an ATV accident — an athletic career at a major college wasn't on the horizon.

Only it was. And because of it, earlier this week, the 23-year-old Arey found his name on a select list of competitors getting the opportunity to try out for, yes, Team USA.

It all turned three years ago, when Arey sneaked into the MU rec center, using a friend's ID, to play a little pickup basketball. On the court, showing an impressive array of basic basketball skills, he almost immediately caught Ron Lykins' eye. The coach of Missouri's wheelchair basketball team, Lykins saw in Arey — at the time taking classes at Moberly Area Community College — a prime recruiting target. 
"I saw this big, athletic kid, tall and in shape, someone who could really play able-bodied basketball," Lykins said. "It was like a dream come true for a guy in my position."

When Lykins asked Arey to consider giving the game he loved a whirl in a wheelchair, something he had never before attempted, "he was lukewarm, but he didn't close his mind to it."

A couple of days later, Arey said, "I came back — this time legally — and decided to give it a try."

Lykins got him in a chair and started Arey off close to the hoop.

"He immediately started draining shots," Lykins said. "I moved him out to 8 feet" away, "the free-throw line, he started nailing 3s. I've put a lot of guys in chairs for the first time, and this was by far the best first shooting workout I ever saw anybody have. It took him almost no time at all to figure out how to adjust to sitting down and getting off his shot. It was pretty remarkable."

As Arey also readily admits, "His chair skills — they were horrible," Lykins said. "He could shoot, dribble, pass, had all the fundamentals down, but with the chair, he couldn't maneuver. He had nothing."

Just three short seasons playing for MU's team in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Intercollegiate Division, though, and Arey's among the 28 players who have been invited to the national team tryouts beginning May 28 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

That group was chosen by a committee that includes Lykins, who — as the Tribune chronicled in a story in February — will coach the U.S. Paralympic team through the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"Now, it's his all-around game that made him stand out during the selection process," said Lykins, who added that he attempted to be as hands-off as possible in evaluating Arey and that other members of the committee deemed him worthy of the invite. "What he's picked up in what is still less than three years, again, it's kind of amazing."

The list features some of the sport's biggest stars — for those who follow wheelchair basketball, household names such as Matt Scott, Joe Chambers, Steve Serio, Nate Hinze — and also a former MU player, Mexico, Mo.'s John Gilbert. It will be whittled down to 18 and then 12 for August's Americas Cup in Bogota, Colombia, which serves as a qualifier for the 2014 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation World Championship in Goyang, South Korea.

Eventually, Lykins will also lead Team USA into the 2015 Parapan Am Games in Toronto, with the goal of moving on to Rio and building on the bronze-medal finish last year at the London Paralympics.
As one of the least disabled and highest functioning athletes at the tryout, Arey carries a 4.5 classification, the highest on an international wheelchair basketball scale that begins with the most disabled at 1. With the sum of the five players on the court not allowed to surpass 14, Lykins and his staff will have to put together the best combination of athletes from all the designations for a workable Team USA.

That makes advancing in the process even more difficult for Arey, who faces some stiff competition with the 4s and other 4.5s at the tryout.

But even if he doesn't accompany his coach to Colombia, Rio is still sitting there as a target for Arey, who also has two of his five years of eligibility remaining at MU.

"Regardless of what happens, my name's now in the mix" of players on the radar of U.S. organizers, Arey said. "This is really all I've ever wanted, in, yeah, a crazy sort of way. Representing Mizzou and Team USA, getting to wear the uniforms — those are the top two for me. .... Hard to believe."
Letter to the editor:

More state funding for higher education is good business

May 04, 2013 12:00 am

Tim Logan reported that the St. Louis business community is attempting “a broad push to increase the educational level of the region” (“Getting smarter is goal for area,” May 2).

Antithetically, our Legislature has different priorities. Higher education cannot be offered to increased numbers because of the relative cost. The full-time annual tuition in the University of Missouri system comes to about $16,500. Comparatively, today’s equivalent annual tuition by the New York City (I graduated from Brooklyn and Baruch College) University amounts to about $4,600. We should bear in mind that the cost of living is substantially higher in New York.

On April 3, I participated with an alumni association of MU and visited our legislators in Jefferson City. My goal was to visit with senators and convince them that it is smart to provide funding for higher education. My simple rationale was that Missourians with higher education will be bound to have more earnings, thus more contribution to state coffers through taxes. Also, they would be less likely to be unemployed and in better health.

My mission was met with failure. Why? Most of the legislators were occupied behind closed doors in meetings. Waiting outside their offices were well-dressed businessmen in black. One of them extended his hand and told me he was a lobbyist. Wow! I was shocked. I had never met a lobbyist. I then noticed that most of them had a black briefcase with them. I could not determine the content, but I was fused with melancholy.

It is time that Missouri legislators copy a page out of New York City’s higher education playbook and fund the University of Missouri system more generously. Better yet, they can try to match the European system. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue. It is smart business.

Gus Miliotis Miles • Florissant