So much has been written and said about the contribution of the University of Missouri's first black full professor that my small contribution hardly is needed, except that the man had a notable career here and my small association with him can be described only by me.

I would bump into the history professor from time to time as we both grew up in our shared hometown. Then one day I joined the board of trustees of the State Historical Society of Missouri, where Arvarh had been a stalwart for years, and I got to know him a little better.

Most observers mention his classy, restrained demeanor. On the society board, he was usually quiet but always respected. He could share a joke, but he never was the most raucous character in the room.

Arvarh was part of history as well as its chronicler and teacher. As the first person of his race to join the faculty, he bore an unusual responsibility. The treacherous experiment could have gone bad if he had not performed well. He held his end of the bargain through the years, helping transform the culture of the campus.

Now, of course, it's common for Arvarh's ethnic brothers and sisters to hold important positions in the university family. At the moment of his passing, they are prompted to think about how it used to be, but his real legacy is that nobody need dwell on the issue anymore.

It isn't enough to ask intelligent questions; you have to listen intelligently to the answers.
A University of Missouri assistant teaching professor was arrested early Wednesday on suspicion of burglary and sexual misconduct.

Columbia police say Tyler D. Hack, 29, a parks, recreation and tourism assistant teaching professor, is suspected to have entered a Lake Broadway Townhomes residence around 3:40 a.m. and sexually assaulted a man asleep on a couch, Officer Latisha Stroer said. Hack did not have permission to enter the residence at 1103 W. Broadway, she said, and the man told police he did not know Hack but had seen him in the townhome complex before.

Hack is a resident of the complex, according to police reports. He was arrested on suspicion of first-degree burglary and first-degree sexual assault and remained in the Boone County Jail on Wednesday on a $25,000 bond.

A MU spokesperson declined to comment on Hack’s status with the university, citing the incident as a personnel matter. The Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department is part of the university’s School of Natural Resources in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.
MU assistant professor accused of breaking into neighbor's house and molesting him

By Dani Kass
May 8, 2013 | 3:02 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — An MU assistant professor was arrested early Wednesday morning after a neighbor reported that the man broke into his house and molested him.

Tyler David Hack, 29, an assistant professor in the MU Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, was being held in the Boone County Jail, facing a first-degree burglary charge with a bail that had yet to be set and a first-degree sexual misconduct charge with a $500 bail.

The man who reported the incident told Columbia police that he was asleep on his couch when he woke up to find a man fondling him through his boxer shorts, said Columbia Police Public Information Officer Latisha Stroer. The man said he recognized the assailant as a neighbor.

Stroer said the suspect entered the house through an unlocked back door.

*Supervising editor is Richard Webner.*
COLUMBIA — An MU employee was arrested Tuesday in Centralia after police say she attacked an officer with a gold bowling pin and her neighbor with a plant holder.

Angel Anderson, an administrative associate in the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at MU, is accused of trespassing, assault, armed criminal action, assaulting a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest and possession of a synthetic cannabis.

The incident began when a neighbor called police with a noise complaint and the officer walked into a violent scene at 205 Sunset Lane, according to the probable cause statement written by the officer.

While Anderson was on her neighbor’s property, she attempted to attack him with a solid-iron plant holder, according to the statement. The plant holder was described as half an inch thick with two large hooks, and the officer wrote that it was capable of causing serious injury or death.

Anderson threw the plant holder at her neighbor “in the manner as a person would throw a spear with the intent of impaling someone,” according to the statement. The plant holder struck the neighbor in the leg, but he avoided severe injury. She was also yelling obscenities and death threats, according to the statement.

Anderson, 41, appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, Centralia Police Chief Larry Dudgeon said.

When Anderson went back into her house, the officer tried to talk to her, and she refused. According to the statement, she yelled that she didn’t care if he was the police, she would shoot him through the door if he didn’t get off the porch.
The officer then drew his weapon, ordering Anderson to put down hers and open her door, according to the statement. He threatened to kick down the door and enter the home, and she burst through the door “wildly,” holding a bowling pin over her head. The officer ordered her to put down the pin, but she came closer. According to the statement, he Holstered his weapon and backed away, then she lunged forward and swung the bowling pin, barely missing his head.

“I was very aware of a breeze as the bowling pin passed by my face,” he wrote.

The officer then tackled her to the ground and wrestled her into custody for two minutes, according to the statement.

Anderson was arrested and brought to Boone County Jail but was released after posting a $125,000 bond.

After she posted bond, an officer searched her cell and found a small black cylinder filled with a synthetic cannabis, according to the statement.

*Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.*
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Hydraulic fluid leak causes evacuation at MU building

By Jessica Thomas
May 8, 2013 | 10:13 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Eight units from the Columbia Fire Department were dispatched to Middlebush Hall at MU around 5 p.m. Wednesday, fire department Battalion Chief James Weaver said.

The units were responding to a 911 call from a person who had seen fluid leaking from a mechanical room in Middlebush. The liquid was hydraulic fluid from an elevator, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Middlebush Hall was evacuated around 5:15 p.m. MU students Rachel Fisher, Christine Sturms and Kimi Nolte were in their Public Health capstone class when they heard fire trucks. Ten minutes later, alarms in Middlebush Hall began sounding and the building was evacuated.

There were no injuries reported, Basi said, and the cause of the leak had not been determined as of 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Basi said the fire department sent several units and members of the hazardous materials team because they did not know how severe or dangerous the leak would be. Middlebush Hall does not typically house dangerous chemicals, he said.

Units were clearing out of the area near University Avenue and Ninth Street by 6 p.m. Wednesday, and members of the MU Environmental Health and Safety Team were on the scene to clean up the spill.

Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.
MU professor's smartphone app could prevent injury, death from tractor rollover accidents

By Meghan Eldridge
May 8, 2013 | 7:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU assistant professor Bulent Koc witnessed a tractor rollover for the first time when he was 8 years old in a village in Turkey, where he lived at the time.

A female operator was driving a tractor down a hill when the machine became unstable and rolled. Years later, a former colleague of Koc’s rescued his daughter from a pond near their home after her riding lawnmower tipped and left her pinned beneath the machine.

Rollover accidents like these never left Koc’s mind over the course of his career as an assistant professor of agriculture systems management, and safety education has remained important to him.

For the past year and a half, he researched and developed an app for smartphones to prevent accidents and alert emergency responders to the scene of a rollover before victims suffer any serious injuries or death. The application, called Vehicle Rollover Prevention Education Training Emergency Reporting System, uses GPS signals and sensors within a smartphone to alert emergency responders and family members of a rollover.

The app does two things: It provides a warning to machine operators about potential risk of rollover or instability of the machine and it automatic alerts emergency contacts if a rollover does occur.

Tractor rollovers accounted for 2,165 fatalities between 1992 and 2001 and remain the single greatest cause of death for farmers annually, according to figures from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.
“The goal of this app is ultimately to save lives,” Koc said. “Tractors are the main source of power for agricultural production and they are often used on uneven terrains with varying slopes and ground conditions.”

To lessen the potential for false alarms, app users can input a family member’s contact information, including name and phone number or email address and can either choose to have the application alert emergency responders or family first. In the case of a rollover accident, users of the app will not have to perform any task to send the alert; it will be detected and done automatically. The alert will include GPS coordinates and a map of the scene of the accident.

The application can also be used on machines like snowmobiles, riding lawnmowers and military and construction vehicles, Koc said.

The system can be set up in two ways, either by utilizing the smartphone’s sensors or by mounting external sensors to the machine. Though the app requires Internet access to allow email message alerts to be sent, GPS location services will continue to work in rural areas without Internet and send messages by phone if there is cellphone coverage.

“The key thing here is detecting the accident and transmitting emergency messages via email and phone,” Koc said.

The app was initially designed to help students in Koc’s Agriculture Equipment and Machinery classes understand tractor stability and rollover possibilities. Last year, Koc and his colleagues began discussing the potential to use the application for purposes outside the classroom.

Koc began testing the app on a remote-controlled, small-sized tractor last spring. Further testing on a full-size John Deere 2040 tractor model will take place this month at the Bradford Research Center near Columbia, Koc said. Once testing has been completed, Koc hopes to find an industry partner to help market the app to the public.

Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.
MU animal-cruelty investigations program wins grant
Karyn Spory | Posted: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Extension Law Enforcement Training Institute is hoping to serve more students after receiving a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The ASPCA is giving a $50,000 grant to the institute to provide scholarships to those interested in attending the university's National Animal Cruelty Investigations School. The program licenses students as certified humane investigators.

The grant will enable the university to offer nearly 170 partial scholarships. Last year, the ASPCA gave 50 partial scholarships for students to attend the school.

Justine Dang, director of the ASPCA anti-cruelty group operations, said she was pleased the organization could provide a grant to such an "amazing program."

"They provide the needed skills and knowledge for any professionals in the animal welfare industry," Dang said. Dang said the ASPCA decided to give the grant because they wanted to expand the reach of the school. "We wanted to make sure it would be offered to employees of agencies associated with animal welfare in underserved communities," she said.

John Worden, the director of the Law Enforcement Training Institute, said the grant will allow the institute to reach more students who might not have been able to take the program because of a lack of department training budgets. He said the program has a wide customer range, including those looking to get into the animal control profession as well as sheriff's deputies, veterinarians and prosecutors looking to expand their knowledge base. Classes are held through MU Extension and reach students in 13 states.

Worden said the four-week program is a mix of traditional law enforcement and veterinary medicine topics. After completing the program, the licensed professionals will be able to investigate animal-cruelty cases such as animal fighting, puppy mills and animal hoarding.

"It is important to professionally investigate crimes against those animals just as we would for crimes against a person," Worden said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Hospital charge data reveal variations in procedure prices

By Mackenzie Bruce
May 8, 2013 | 8:01 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Data released by the federal government on Wednesday show that Boone County residents generally pay less than the national average for the 100 most common inpatient procedures.

It was the first time the data disclosing the list prices hospitals charge — compared to what Medicare covers — has been made available to the public.

Regionally and nationally, the numbers revealed two things. First, there are wide variations in cost for the same procedure among hospitals in the same region, with no apparent pattern or reason. Second, there is a large gap between the actual covered charges from the hospitals' "chargemasters" and actual total payments from Medicare.

For example, Boone Hospital Center had a list price of $16,031 and a $5,157 payment from Medicare for pancreatic disorder treatments, while University Hospital's list price was $30,830 with a $9,549 payment from Medicare for the same procedures.

The chargemaster, according to healthaffairs.org, is a file system that all hospitals maintain. These files contain billable procedure codes with descriptions and the hospital's list prices.

The chargemaster was part of the focus of Steven Brill's widely discussed Time magazine expose, "Bitter Pill: Why Medical Bills Are Killing Us," which examined the way hospitals bill.

Before the release of the data on Wednesday by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the price of medical care has not been easily accessible to the public. The disclosure of costs is a part of the Obama administration's work to make health care more affordable and transparent for consumers.

Bob Hughes, president and chief executive of the Missouri Foundation for Health, said transparency is a symbolic step toward helping people understand the current health care situation.
But much of the report might be less applicable to people with health insurance whose companies negotiate lower charges for them, Hughes said.

“It’s much more important for people without insurance because when they go to the hospital to get care, they get the list bill price and don’t know they can negotiate it,” he said.

Hughes said he hopes the data can help people who are underinsured or uninsured better understand medical costs.

“It will be interesting to see how organizations and people can use this information and to see if it generates interest and demand for more (information),” Hughes said. “I’m hopeful that will happen.”

*Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.*