New 'gateways' planned for downtown Columbia, MU

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 | 8:09 p.m. CDT
BY LAURIEN ROSE

No MU mention

COLUMBIA — Downtown Columbia is in the process of getting a makeover thanks to the Downtown Community Improvement District and private MU donors.

After reviewing proposals and resumes from eight companies, the improvement district has narrowed its search for a gateway project designer to three companies, Brent Gardner, chair of the Downtown Leadership Council, said at a meeting Tuesday night.

"There are three good choices and two exceptional choices," Gardner said.

One of the finalists is a local company, while the others are from St. Louis and Omaha, Neb.

The purpose of the gateway project is to remodel and embellish the entrances into downtown to promote visitor satisfaction. Funding for the project is provided by a half-cent sales tax on downtown purchases that voters approved in 2011. This will be one of the improvement district’s first beautification projects since the sales tax was approved.

Locations for the improvement district’s gateways have not been chosen.

"What the designer comes up with will determine where (the gateways) go," Gardner said.

Possible locations include the intersection of Broadway and Waugh Street, Broadway and Providence Road, Ninth Street near Shakespeare's Pizza or Tenth Street heading downtown from Columbia College.

"If you’re going to design gateways for downtown, they need to be located downtown," Downtown Leadership Council board member Randy Gray said.

Gardner said he is bothered by the continual use of the word 'district' in this project.

"I think there's probably 20 people that call downtown The District," Gardner said, with a laugh. "People that don't work or live in The District I don't think use that word, so if
the gateway ends up saying welcome to The District, I'm not sure that we have accomplished a lot."
The new gateways could be anything from columns with lights, to banners or fountains. Nothing specific has been proposed for the project, Gardner said, but the companies were given a chance to show off their creative side.

Improvement district board member Deb Sheals said the designers who have tailored community-specific projects in their past work were especially impressive.

The gateways "should be designed specifically for Columbia," Sheals said.

Gardner said costs for the gateway project have not been discussed.

MU entrances will also receive improvements after limestone signs are built and installed at two Stadium Boulevard intersections and the intersection of College and University avenues.

Donors of the new signs include Trittenbach Construction, the company that has built the Brookside Apartments buildings throughout downtown, as well as K&S Associates of St. Louis and River City Construction of Central Missouri. The new signs are expected to be complete in time for the beginning of the fall semester, according to a MU news release.
MISSOURI’S TOP STUDENTS HEAD TO KOREA TO TEACH ENGLISH

BY Elizabeth Bissell Miller, MA, MA | Posted: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 12:30 PM

Story contact: Elizabeth Bissell Miller, millereliz@missouri.edu, 573-882-3086

Columbia, Mo. – How do you get ready to teach in Korea? What do you pack? What are Korean students like? Meet Lesley Sapp of MU’s Asian Affairs Center. She is the experienced guru that has prepared numerous groups of dedicated University of Missouri (MU) students to teach for an intensive month in Korea. During her one-day orientation at MU (which is just the beginning of many planned cultural immersion experiences) Lesley, also known as Lesley Linguini during our fun introductory exercises, combines wit and wisdom with the realities of being away from home.

It becomes apparent that the minor hardships of volunteer teaching in an international summer camp in southern Korea represent just the challenge that these adventurous MU students have been looking for. With excitement, those that have traveled abroad talk about rock-climbing, canoeing, and all sorts of other sports attempted successfully while abroad. And, those that have participated before in MU’s renowned summer teaching program in Korea, recount with glee the many happy experiences they had from learning to take shoes off when entering rooms to standing out of respect for superiors entering in a room. Most importantly, they reflect on how much their eager 6th and 8th grade students changed them.

This year’s cohort of nearly twenty summer teachers represents the very best and brightest at MU. Through a rigorous interview and selection process, MU students and recent graduates are vetted for their interest in foreign cultures, love of teaching, desire to expand their understanding through service, and a host of other qualities that make MU's student teachers the very best that teach each summer from the four-school consortium to which MU belongs.

At the orientation, beginning with introductions, this soon-to-be group of friends swapped stories about their embarrassing experiences, strangest foods ever eaten, and found out what they had in common. Mostly, they learned that they have more similarities than differences – a lesson which will be critical when they join together to teach students in a few short weeks.

The summer camps are located in the southern part of Korea in a province that calls Missouri its sister state. Summer English language classes are critical for these students, since many of these children in southern Korea do not have access to Seoul’s prestigious English tutors and teachers. But, as a result of MU’s involvement and belief that international development makes Missouri strong, these children will have a better start in life. Our MU students, on the other hand, get a once in a lifetime chance to help build the confidence of rural children, help Korean children have fun with English language, and get a fully paid trip to Korea to experience Korean culture firsthand, sponsored by a Korean government scholarship. Clearly, this program is very beneficial for all involved.
No question about it – there will be tears when students and teachers part in August and all of the work that went into building this precious international summer community will be worth it. The food and cultural experiences will all be remembered, as will many of the funny mistakes that are inevitably made while living in another country. Ultimately, MU will be enriched by the experiences that these young scholars bring back to campus.

To learn more about our international Mizzou go to http://coas.missouri.edu/news/2011/korea.shtml
Raptor Rehabilitation Project: Birds of prey star in Arrow Rock presentation

Tuesday, June 25, 2013
By ERIC CRUMP/Editor

Denise Warzak of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine's Raptor Rehabilitation Project, holds Jacob, a red-tailed hawk, during "Raptors Rising," a presentation at Arrow Rock State Historic Site campground Saturday, June 22.
(Eric Crump/Democrat-News)

Why do hawks spread their wings while eating?

How much can turkey vultures eat?

Can a hawk fly away with its kill?

*These were just a few of the questions about birds of prey that were answered Saturday, June 22, by Amber Edwards and Denise Warzak of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine's Raptor Rehabilitation Project.*
They were at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site campground to present "Raptors Rising," a program that introduced campers to the birds the project cares for.

While Warzak walked slowly through the crowd with a red-tailed hawk perched on her arm, Edwards defined what birds of prey are and why they behave the way they do.

Hawks, for example, are diurnal birds, meaning they hunt during the day. When they are on the ground, eating, they are vulnerable to attack from other predators -- foxes, coyotes, other birds of prey, Edwards said.

They spread their wings, an action called "mantling," to shield their kill from the prying eyes of hungry competitors.

Could they just carry their prey into a tree to eat? Edwards said it might be possible -- hawks can carry about one-third of their own body weight -- but they tend not to. Their bodies are designed to soar, not to lift objects.

Edwards described a number of differences between various raptor species. Turkey vultures, for instance, can and sometimes do eat so much they become anchored to the ground by the weight of their food.

"Those guys do not know where their next meal is coming from, so they will gorge themselves so they can't fly," she said.

That would make them vulnerable to four-legged predators, but the birds have an effective, if somewhat gross, method of compensating: They can projectile vomit the highly acidic contents in their stomachs to repel attack and lose weight fast to take flight and escape.

Vulture vomit is so nasty "it will eat the paint off cars, so you don't want to hit one," Edwards added.

Edwards used the opportunity to not only educate the audience about the birds but to inform them about the Raptor Rehabilitation Project, which takes in injured birds and cares for them until they can return to the wild.

Edwards noted that volunteers take care to limit human interaction with the birds while they are under the project's care because they don't want the birds to see humans as a source of food.

"We don't want them to associate with us," she said. "The more they stay away from us, the better off they are."

Contact with humans -- or more often, with humans' vehicles -- is the most frequent cause of injury to raptors, she said.

Roadways and rights of way, where grass is kept short, are good hunting areas because the birds find it easier to spot prey, but the downside is the proximity to speeding cars and trucks, which the birds often don't notice.

"They kind of get focused on their food," Edwards said.

The birds Edwards and Warzak showed are individuals whose injuries could not heal sufficiently to allow them to return to the wild.
Ozarks Answers: Insect museum in Columbia will really bug you

Jun. 25, 2013 | 0 Comments

Q: Please find out about an insect collection around the Lake of the Ozarks or Jefferson City. When we were at the lake, we heard people talking about it, and my grandson would love that! Thank you so much.

A: The major insect museum in that area is Enns Entomology Museum at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The Enns Museum is recognized nationally and internationally as one of the most important collections of insects, arachnids, fossils and aquatic insects. More than 6 million specimens have been cataloged.

This museum was founded in 1874 and is part of MU’s College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. It’s open to the public, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Group tours should be arranged in advance. It’s also recommended that you call before you visit to make sure the collection is not reserved for research or a similar project.

Much of the collection is from the Ozark Plateau. Some people bring an insect they’ve found to help identify it.

Enns Entomology Museum is in Room 3-38 of MU’s Agricultural Building at the northeast corner of Hitt and Rollins streets. Metered parking is in the front of the building.

Click here, or call 573-882-2410 and talk to Collections Manager Kris Simpson about special tours.
Author Matheson dies in California
Sci-fi writer was 1949 MU grad.

By STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS
Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Richard Matheson, the prolific sci-fi and fantasy writer and University of Missouri graduate whose "I Am Legend" and "The Shrinking Man" were transformed into films, has died. He was 87.

A spokesman for the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films said Matheson, who graduated from MU in 1949, died Sunday in Los Angeles. No other details were provided.

With a career spanning more than 60 years, Matheson crafted stories that deftly transitioned from the page to the big and small screens. Several of his works were adapted into films.


Matheson also was responsible for writing several episodes of "The Twilight Zone," including "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," which featured William Shatner as an airplane passenger who spots a creature on a plane's wing, as well as "Steel," which inspired the 2011 film "Real Steel" starring Hugh Jackman.

Matheson influenced several generations of storytellers. Among them were Stephen King, who dedicated his 2006 novel "Cell" to Matheson, and Steven Spielberg, whose first feature-length film was the made-for-TV movie "Duel," based on the Matheson short story with the same title.

"Richard Matheson's ironic and iconic imagination created seminal science-fiction stories and gave me my first break when he wrote the short story and screenplay for 'Duel,'" said Spielberg in a statement.

In a 2007 interview with the Tribune writer Pete Bland, Matheson recalled his time as a student in Columbia.
"I remember the campus very well," he said. "My wife and I went back there a few months after I graduated, and it was really nice returning. And then we went back last year, I think, and it was so different that it depressed me. ... The columns were still there, though. That's about it."

He noted the writing classes he took at MU with Professor William Peden, who was "very, very generous with his advice and his praise."

Matheson is survived by his wife and four children.