MU Pres: tax cut won’t trigger business growth

The President of the University of Missouri system says the theory behind the tax cut bill facing a veto override vote in the legislature is misguided.

President Tim Wolfe calls the legislature “schizophrenic” for proposing a tax cut of hundreds of millions of dollars—a figure one business group says is grossly overstated by opponents—at the same time it is studying borrowing more than a billion dollars to pay for capital improvements it has not funded for several years.

Backers of the tax cut bill say the cuts in business taxes will encourage business development which will generate more taxes that will pay for improvement to state services. But Wolfe, who has spent thirty years in private business before becoming a university president, says, “In the year and a half that I have been here I have yet to have a conversation with a business owner that is considering relocating to Missouri say, ‘Boy, I’d come here if your business tax rate was lower…” He calls the Associated Industries study that says the tax cuts would be about one-sixteenth what Governor Nixon claims they will be. Wolfe says the tax cuts will benefit the wealthy while hurting the people who see education as a key to a better life. He says an override of the veto would force the University to increase tuition again, by eight to sixteen percent.

Wolfe says that quality of education was one of the factors his companies considered when considering locating in Missouri; low taxes in a low-tax state were not.
The Tribune's View

Student housing bubble

By Henry J. Waters III

Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (6)

The rush to build new student apartment housing has earned a name among skeptics. They worry about an impending "student housing bubble."

They recall the worst element of the recent "Great Recession," in which overbuilding of residential housing was the hallmark. Their trepidation is heightened with predictions from University of Missouri officials that freshman enrollment will level off and drop in coming years. They expected as much, they say.

Still, this year the number of new students will be about the same as recent record classes. "Incoming classes have far exceeded the size of our graduating classes, and thus we have had and will have for a while a continuing increase in total enrollment," said Ann Korschgen, MU vice provost for enrollment management.

If you are a student housing developer, the prospects look good. Enrollment is up by thousands, and you figure a few hundred new tenants will support your new building. You notice today's student tenants are willing to pay hitherto-unknown prices. They want amenities and central-city locations not found in older apartments. Even if the gusher of new students slows, you figure your highfalutin digs will fill up first, leaving older peripheral places suffering.

As a community, we should let these events proceed without too much hand-wringing. The one thing we know is today's building spate is good news. The thing we don't know is how it will play out tomorrow. Let us build a town-and-gown environment that encourages new residents and pleases the old. High quality of life will attract high-quality population growth. Ensuing challenges will be welcome and manageable.

HJW III
No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it.

— ANDREW CARNEGIE, AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIST

© 2013 Columbia Daily Tribune. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in The Tribunes View on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 2:00 pm.
MU welcomes its second largest class

MU students find themselves among the most diverse and one of the largest student bodies the school has seen.

The number of in-state students enrolled at MU dropped, while the number of out-of-state students rose, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

While the total enrollment of 34,111 students does not quite match last year’s 34,748, Basi said these numbers are still tentative. An official census will be taken somewhere around twenty days after the beginning of the school year, which will include a breakdown of majors and students enrolled in specific schools, Basi said.

“Usually those numbers change,” Basi said. “We’ll have folks who say, ‘Oh, I want to go to school,’ two to three weeks after the first day. Last year, enrollment rose by 400 people just from the first day to the official number count.”

This increase in out-of-state students is due to benefits offered by MU, said Ann Korschgen, vice provost of enrollment management.

“Mizzou offers a lot to non-resident students; great academic programs, a beautiful campus and a supportive faculty,” she said. “In addition, we have made great recruiting efforts in the last several years to inform out-of-state students about Mizzou and what a treasure it is.”

Korschgen also said the rise is due to extensive recruiting, especially in Illinois, Texas, Minnesota and Colorado.

“More than 10 years ago, we began building recognition for the University of Missouri,” Korschgen said. “After doing so, our enrollment numbers from these locations climbed dramatically.”

Basi said total out-of-state enrollment increased by 6.7 percent while out-of-state freshmen remained largely the same as last year, with a one-student difference.

Korschgen said the drop of in-state enrollment was expected and nothing to be worried about.

“It appears we will (have) the second largest enrollment in our history, given the overall increase in non-resident students,” Korschgen said. “So our total numbers are only slightly — very slightly — lower than those of last year, so I can’t see that it will have any significant impact at all.”
Basi said the drop in in-state enrollment could be due to the decrease of Missouri high school graduates, which is currently 81 to 90 percent, according to a study by SmartBlogs.

Korschgen said there was another reason the in-state enrollment might have dropped.

“There are two main factors,” Korschgen said. “There are several thousand fewer high school graduates in Missouri than in 2012; plus, more major flagship universities are competing for students which includes recruiting Missouri students.”

Racial diversity on campus rose by 3.4 percent compared to last year, and the minority population rose by 3.6 percent, according to a news release.

“It is hard to know at this point (what made MU’s diversity increase), but it could be related to increased retention rates,” Korschgen said. “We will be able to make a better judgment on that after census.”

MU’s graduation rate is also the highest it has ever been.

“We’re very pleased (the graduation rate) is the highest in our history,” Korschgen said. “When I was a student at MU, it was only 50 percent, compared to the 70.8 percent now. The rate today says that students are being successful in their academic experiences at MU.”

Korschgen said all the benefits of MU and the school’s effort will continue to try and draw in the brightest students.

“We want to continue to attract the best possible students to MU, so on an ongoing basis we examine our scholarship policy and our recruiting efforts to ensure we remain as effective in our efforts as possible,” Korschgen said.

Korschgen said she looks forward to next year’s incoming students.

“We hope (next year’s class will be) a lot like this class,” she said. “Smart, diverse, and eager to learn.”
New emergency beacons installed around campus

MU students can sleep a little sounder come fall 2013, thanks to recent updates in campus safety.

Since July, the university has installed new emergency beacons in lecture halls, classrooms and hallways, as well as administration buildings.

The beacons include sirens, lights, visible display screens with scrolling typed messages and a speaker to broadcast the alert. In an emergency event, the beacons’ lights will flash and the message will be announced.

The system that connects the beacons to the mass notification system, Alertus, also causes computer screens in labs and offices around campus to display emergency messages.

“Currently we have 225 locations that we’re installing them in, and they’re primarily in areas where large groups of people would be congregating,” Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said.

The beacons are just another way to keep students, faculty and staff safe, she said.

“It’s just one more way to alert students and others on campus that there is a campus emergency, whether it’s weather or a critical emergency of some kind,” Seville said. “These beacons are to make people visually aware.”

Once the beacons are in place, MU will also connect them to the current emergency mass notification system, said Terry Robb, Division of IT marketing and strategic planning director.

“If there was a tornado warning, for example, it would automatically send to the beacons,” Robb said. “Otherwise somebody would have to log onto the beacon system and send it.”

The current notification system includes Facebook posts, Tweets, mass emails and mass texts to students, parents and faculty who sign up for the MU Alert system.

The notification system is also undergoing its own revamping.

In addition to Alertus, Seville said that the university recently purchased a new system called Blackboard Connect, which will control all mass notifications except email, which is through Outlook.
“Professors and students use the technology program called Blackboard, an educational technology, in classrooms,” Seville said. “Blackboard Connect is a part of the BlackBoard company, and it allows us to send all the different messages all from one system.”

MU tested the new emergency notification system a few weeks ago during the summer session.

The annual subscription cost for the notification system is $76,812 for all four UM System campuses combined.

The beacon installation, which is being funded by Campus Facilities, is estimated at $90,000, with the beacons themselves totaling $200,000.

Seville said that upgrading the system is worth the expenses.

“It is important to provide information about campus emergencies in as many ways as possible and in as many areas as possible,” she said. “This device … is meant to be installed in heavily populated areas where people might not have access to a text, email, a computer monitor message, social media or other media at that moment.”

MU Spokesman Christian Basi agreed and encouraged students, if they haven’t, to sign up for the mass notification system at mualert.missouri.edu.

“Safety on this campus is the number one priority,” Basi said. “We will continue to assess the situation as quickly as we can and then determine which tools we should use in the event of any kind of situation where we feel the campus needs to be notified.”
University of Missouri sociologists recently documented the influence of racial division and economic inequality on the size of a city’s police force.

Guðmundur Oddsson, PhD candidate in sociology in MU’s College of Arts and Science, and his colleagues examined data from 64 American cities with populations of more than 250,000. They found evidence that cities tend to increase the size of their police force when high levels of poverty exist along with greater economic inequality between racial groups.

“Municipal governments can use our research to inform policies that reduce inequalities in cities, which may subsequently reduce the expense of increasing the size of their police forces,” said Oddsson, co-lead author.

“Our study suggests that race and class inequality intertwine to influence police force size,” said co-lead author Andrew Fisher, sociology doctoral student in MU’s College of Arts and Science.

“Importantly, our study grants support to the theory that the police mainly protect the interests of dominant groups, that is, whites and the affluent.”

*The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* published Fisher and Oddsson’s study, “Policing class and race in urban America.” Study co-author Takeshi Wada worked with Fisher and Oddsson while Wada was a sociology faculty member at the University of Missouri.
The University of Missouri in Columbia’s Sinclair School of Nursing will award $10,000 scholarships to ten students admitted to the 2014-2015 accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The school is looking for traditionally underrepresented persons in the field of nursing. Qualified scholarship applicants include racial/ethnic minorities, men and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The program is for students who have previously earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited college or university in non-nursing fields.

The 15-month accelerated BSN program begins in May and ends in July the following year. Scholarship recipients also receive leadership and mentorship opportunities through its funder, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program, including a pre-entry immersion program.

Deadline for the Accelerated BSN application is October 11, 2013 and the deadline for the NCIN scholarship application is December 13, 2013.

The NCIN program enables schools of nursing to expand student capacity in accelerated programs and build a more diverse workforce ready to serve the needs of the changing patient population.
New dorm breaks bathroom norm

In fall 2015, Virginia Avenue South residence hall will be home to gender-neutral bathrooms.

The gender-neutral bathrooms will include three communal sinks and five areas with a shower and toilet behind a door.

“It is conceivable that men and women can occupy the same bathrooms while still having the complete privacy when taking a shower or going to the bathroom,” Minor said.

The building will be home to 331 residents in a community-style living arrangement.

“Virginia Avenue is a project that’s been approved and is currently in design,” said Frankie Minor, director of the Department of Residential Life. “It just went out for bid this summer, and the construction will begin very shortly.”

Virginia Hall’s bathrooms were designed to accommodate an acceptable level of privacy by separating the showers and toilets from the community-style area that includes sinks and mirrors.

“One of the things we had to take into consideration was students tend to have demand on bathroom facilities in chunks of time,” Minor said. “Everyone’s getting ready for class in the morning or getting ready to do something in the evening, so we wanted to make sure we didn’t tie up all of the fixtures included in the new bathrooms.”

The restroom facilities in Virginia Hall will all be gender flexible. It is both more convenient and cost efficient for the ResLife to have the same design throughout one residence hall.

One main purpose of the new bathroom design is to give students more options, Minor said.

“How students choose to use those facilities and how they are used to create a sense of community are something we will discuss when students come forward,” Minor said. “We just want to give students the option that if they wanted to do something that allowed more flexibility, the facility can accommodate that.”

ResLife hasn’t decided whether or not it will install gender-neutral bathrooms in other dorms.

“At this point, we don’t know what direction we are taking because of how early in the design process we are in,” Minor said. “Students are now back, so we have the opportunity to talk with them about their interests regarding the bathroom setup.”

Freshman Amanda Nero has an optimistic outlook on how the situation will play out.
“As a school that has so many different demographics, there will be some sort of negative response,” Nero said. “But as a population of young, open-minded individuals, I feel the overall reaction will be positive.”

Minor said the bathrooms are important for the comfort of MU’s entire campus.

“We know our transgender and gender-nonconforming students are a small minority of our population, but they are still part of our population,” he said. “We want to make sure they have bathrooms facilities that can accommodate their needs.”
Music program envisions expansion

School of Music students will be delighted to hear that the College of Arts and Science has plans to build what Dean Michael O’Brien called a much-needed new building for the school.

The project, led by O’Brien and School of Music Director Robert Shay, aims to construct a new 100,000 square foot facility for the School of Music on the northeast corner of Hitt Street and University Avenue.

The new building will also centralize MU’s music program, which is largely dispersed throughout the campus, according to the College of Arts and Science’s website.

The School of Music currently occupies 31,000 square feet spread over five different buildings. More than half of that space is located in the Fine Arts Building, which is shared by the theatre and art departments. Due to increasing enrollment and more faculty, the School of Music has suffered from less-than-sufficient and overcrowded facilities, O’Brien said.

 ―The Fine Arts Building is totally inadequate and structurally needs a lot of work,‖ O’Brien said. “I can’t imagine anyone is learning there. This is the worst facility in the Midwest.”

In its current state, the school’s performance halls are too small and have poor soundproofing which allows sound to carry across the halls, O’Brien said. He stressed the importance of the project to students.

“Given the terrible facilities we have, we have the best students in the world. That’s why it’s tragic. That’s why I am so committed to doing something about it,” he said.

Shay said the new facility will satisfy student and faculty needs.

“The school has outgrown itself, and many faculty members believe current facilities to be substandard,” Shay said. “I believe the new building will make everyone much happier, students and faculty alike.”

O’Brien said the new building will benefit students and faculty by having a 410-seat recital hall and a 100-seat lecture hall that can double as a recital hall. The building will also contain 50 practice rooms, 41 faculty studios, 30 graduate-student spaces, 17 faculty and staff offices, five classrooms, five rehearsal rooms, a recording studio, piano lab and composition lab, as outlined in the project’s executive summary.

The facility may also help draw in more students to the school, O’Brien said.
“I think it’ll be a big draw,” he said. “If I came here as a student and saw what we’ll have, I would be very impressed.”

In addition to the new facility, the Fine Arts Building is planned for renovation that will allow theater and arts students to occupy the whole Fine Arts Building.

One of the biggest challenges the school will need to tackle is funding the project.

The construction of the building alone is projected to cost $37,331,487, according to the summary. Currently, the project has acquired about $3 million in donations. In addition to private donations, the project will be making a proposal to the state government for funding in the future.

The construction project has been in talks for almost two decades, with little momentum.

“I just decided it’s time for us to get off our rear ends and get it done,” O’Brien said. “We live for our departments; that is what we’re here to do. We’re like an umbrella that takes care of all of the departments. And we want kids to have great experiences in music, theatre and art.”
Maneater shifts to once-a-week print publication

By Hanna Jacunski
August 21, 2013 | 9:45 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — For the first time in 43 years, MU's independent campus newspaper, The Maneater, is going to start publishing a little differently. The newspaper will now publish once a week on Wednesdays, rather than twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays as it has since 1969. The newspaper will keep its continual online presence.

"We were spending time chasing our tails," Ted Noelker, editor-in-chief, said. "We wanted to be timely, but we would still be a day or two behind when we actually published. There was a lot of effort and resources being wasted."

The Maneater is being printed on the same size paper as previous volumes, but the look of the publication has changed. According to a news release, the new model has "greater visuals and content variation."

The first issue of the publication's 80th volume, published Wednesday, boasts a three-part infographic on crime patterns in Columbia along with feature-sized photos.

Noelker first presented the idea in his platform to run for editor-in-chief during the 2013 spring semester.

Noelker said he made the decision with both editorial and financial factors in mind. He said publishing once a week will give writers more time to delve into issues, allowing them to use resources more efficiently.

He said the financial success of the paper, though not the sole purpose of Noelker's vision, was a major consideration in the decision-making process.
"Print revenue couldn't keep up," Noelker said. "If we didn't decline, we definitely stagnated. We started looking at a way to get more revenue."

Print ads generate more revenue, but a printed newspaper, with all of its physical pages, is more expensive to produce, Noelker said. Online content is cheaper to maintain but struggles to catch up with the revenue gap of advertisements.

Noelker said last year's online and print readership of The Maneater were similar.

The newspaper sells advertising space in the form of both print and online advertisements. Noelker said he sees it as a new challenge for the advertising team to work on sponsored content and online ads.

"Most of our ads are combination print and online," The Maneater's publications coordinator Becky Diehl said. "We have both banner ads and cubed ads, which rotate. Our online page has more hits, more traffic. It will lead to more revenue."

The Maneater is still a campus-centric, student-focused paper, and local Columbia businesses that target students will be on the radar for advertising.

"The future is bright," Diehl said. "Advertisers are excited. Staff is ready for a change, and it's just part of moving with the times."

Noelker previously served as the online development editor, a position now held by Tim Tai.

Tai said he wants to help bring the newspaper's online presence even further forward by focusing on special Web features and packages, which would be available both exclusively online and in conjunction with print packages.

"Our goal is to provide more quality content in print as well as online," Tai said. "A risk would be not getting enough revenue to sustain ourselves as a paper. The success would be in finding this is a sustainable model."

Noelker said for better or for worse, The Maneater keeps changing.

"It's a little bit of a leap of faith," Noelker said. "We want to jump with a bit of a safety net — to get ahead of the curve."
Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.
Rolla engineers design glass implant that can grow new bone

7 hours ago • By Michele Munz mmunz@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8263

Mohamed N. Rahaman, Professor, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Director, Center for Bone and Tissue Repair and Regeneration Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla), Adjunct Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Missouri-Columbia

Sometimes medical advances don’t come from the medical field at all.

Engineers at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla have designed a super-strong glass implant with a scaffolding-like structure that is able to grow new bone.

“We have good material and engineering skills,” said lead researcher Len Rahaman, “and when you put those two together, it’s allowed us to use our skills to produce a bioactive glass that is strong enough to repair large structural bone defects.”

Bioactive means the material reacts with body fluids and converts into living bone, so it does not need to be removed.

In previous work, the engineers proved the glass implant they developed using robocasting – a computer-controlled technique to ensure a uniform structure – could withstand the weight and pressure experienced by long bones in the body like those in the arms and legs.
Their latest research using the skulls of rats, showed that the porous scaffolding design quickly bonded to the bone and promoted a significant amount of new bone growth within six weeks. The research was published last month in the journal Acta Biomaterialia.

“You can have the strongest material in the world, but it also must encourage bone growth in a reasonable amount of time,” Rahaman said.

The material could someday be used to repair large bone defects that are the result of cancer, war or auto crashes.

Current treatments to structural bone repair involve either porous metal, which can heal poorly and become infected; or a bone transplant from a cadaver, which carries risk of disease. Bone also can be taken from one part of the body to other, but the amount is limited, and the result can be pain and poor healing at the donor site.

The materials for the glass implant are inexpensive and easy to obtain, Rahaman said. “If it turns out to be a viable solution, we could actually reduce health care costs.”

Next, the researchers are testing the glass implant in the large leg bones of rats, which bear more weight. “Now that we know the bone will grow into the scaffold, we are testing it under more realistic conditions,” Rahaman said.

The next steps would be studying the implant in larger animals and winning approval to test the design in humans.

Problems may arise, but the engineering team is ready with solutions: Adding small amounts of silver to the glass implant could prevent infection, and doping it with copper should promote the growth of blood vessels if needed to keep the bone healthy.

Rahaman said he’s working with an orthopedic surgeon and a bone biologist, but the research “requires use of our engineering skills.”
Editorial: GOP's moment of truth on Obamacare has arrived, in Wentzville of all places

16 hours ago • By the Editorial Board

MU MENTION P. 2

The moment the Republican obfuscators of Obamacare feared has come to pass.

On Tuesday, the Post-Dispatch’s Tim Logan reported that a Virginia-based company is bringing to Wentzville one of three national call centers to handle health insurance applications under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, dubbed derisively by the GOP as Obamacare.

Serco Inc., a private company that contracts with the federal government, is bringing 600 jobs to a legislative and congressional district that is redder than red.

That’s 600 jobs, with benefits, to the 3rd Congressional District of Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-St. Elizabeth, who brags on his website that he’s voted to defund Obamacare 37 times.

Those are now 37 votes against 600 real jobs in his district.

Thirty-seven votes to say to local businesses, sorry, no 600 new paying customers for you.

Thirty-seven votes to say to the callers to the new Wentzville center in the old U.S. Fidelis building: “You want health insurance? Too bad.”

Thirty-seven votes against the local economy, against that one holier-than-holy word that has dominated each of the last several election cycles: J.O.B.S. Jobs, jobs, jobs.

Those 600 jobs are also in the hometown and state Senate district of Republican Scott Rupp, who proudly brags of his co-sponsorship of two statewide referendums in which Missourians expressed their dissatisfaction with President Barack Obama’s plan to increase the number of Americans who have insurance and pump billions of dollars into the nation’s health care economy.

Six hundred jobs, Mr. Rupp.

So tell us. How will you vote when the Missouri Legislature returns in January and a statewide coalition of health care, education and business professionals once again pushes for the state to expand Medicaid coverage as called for in the very federal act that is now pumping millions of dollars into your local economy?
Remember when the University of Missouri released a study last year saying that the billions of federal dollars that would come with Medicaid expansion would create thousands of jobs in the Show-Me State, and Republicans shoved it aside as so much hooey?

Six hundred real jobs in Wentzville say it’s not an academic exercise anymore.

Of course, one call center in St. Charles County is but the start of what Obamacare will mean to the area economy.

The now hyphen-free folks over at FleishmanHillard public relations firm in downtown St. Louis won a $35 million contract to help promote the health exchanges that the state of Illinois set up. Illinois did not default to the federal government, which is what Missouri Republicans decided to do, thus turning away both federal money and, yes, more jobs.

And don’t forget 1,500 jobs being added by Express Scripts in north St. Louis County, many of which are surely tied to the fact that millions more Americans will have health insurance that will pay for their prescription drugs.

At least the locals get it.

Here’s Tony Matthews, president of the Western St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce, talking about the 600 new jobs in his community:

“That’s people shopping and dining in our community. The economic impact will just be fantastic.”

Obamacare = Fantastic.

Obamacare = Jobs.

This is the day Republicans feared.

Obamacare is producing real benefits in their districts, offering tangible hope to people wanting a taste of the economic recovery, and the national GOP is still debating whether to shut down the entire government just because they refuse to accept the fact that they lost.
Quirks opens for business

Quirks Consignment Store is holding its grand opening Wednesday.

Located next to US Bank in the Student Center, Quirks is part of the Missouri Student Union Entrepreneurial Program and will sell student-made items such as dorm accessories, art and small furniture. Quirks will also have shelf space for its items in The Mizzou Store.

The store is going to offer a broad range of products, CEO Zach Beattie said.

“We had a pretty big breadth of items when we started, from student-made mugs to student-made music,” Beattie said. “As long as it’s made by the person, we can find a place for it.”

The masterminds behind Quirks are seniors Beattie, Natalie Cheng, Kate Gallagher and Devin Kelsey. The idea of a student-stocked and run store on campus just seemed like common sense, Kelsey said.

“We were just talking about it, and we realized that there was nothing like it on campus,” Kelsey said. “We thought it was weird. We had a lot of friends that would make stuff and none of them had a place to sell it, and there was really a need for that.”

Quirks did not appear out of thin air. The store first started as a business pitch to the Entrepreneurial Program. According to its page on the Student Unions website, the program looks to nurture creativity among students and allow them a high-traffic venue in the Student Center to fulfill their entrepreneurial endeavors.

“We applied for the spot with the Entrepreneurial Program, which is a thing that the Student Unions run,” Kelsey said. “We had to give a written proposal, and then do an hour-long spoken proposal. We were the team that was chosen, and we got to have a store there, and since then, we’ve been working to make it a reality.”

Quirks has already received more than 40 consignor applications, though it will continue to accept new consignors throughout the year. Any student, faculty member or MU alumnus can sign up to have his/her creations sold in the space.

Consignors have the opportunity to make money through the business, Kelsey said.

“The way it works is the four of us are equal, with an equal share of the profit,” Kelsey said. “As the consignors go, they can put stuff in there, and they get to keep 66 percent and we keep 33 percent. It is significantly better than most consignment stores. Most of those are usually more 50-50, and so we wanted to lean the other way, 66-33. We wanted to make it a better deal because these are college students and they need a little extra money.”
Kelsey said it is not all about money. The creators of Quirks want the store to be an outlet of student creativity, even for those who do not believe they are creative.

Despite the store’s short lease time and spring graduation plans of all four Quirks founders, they hope Quirks will become a permanent part of the MU community.

“I really want to expand that creative focus on campus, that people realize that they can make things that other people can appreciate,” Kelsey said. “We also want to promote student art on campus and make that a little more stable even after we’re gone. We hope it inspires something like this to stay around even after we graduate. That’s a lofty goal, but we think if we do this right, it could stay around.”

Quirks also runs an unpaid internship program for students. Beattie said they are interested in interns for social media, space design and internal operations.

“It’s an unpaid internship that will last throughout the semester, and we told them that they can stay on if they wanted to,” Beattie said. “Everyone that is doing an internship is doing something that they care about or that they want to get into someday, so the people who are working with us are passionate students that wanted to help out.”

Sophomore Christine Jackson, the space design intern and a consignor, got involved in Quirks through Facebook. So far she has made several items for the store’s opening, including chalkboards, chalkboard pencil jars and silhouette paintings.

Jackson said she believes in the store’s purpose.

“I think and hope it will do really well,” Jackson said in an email. “It’s a great spot next to the bank, and it’s a fantastic showcase for Mizzou’s artists and crafty individuals. Hopefully people will appreciate their work and make this a success.”
Q: How many different types of fossils are there in the world?

By TABITHA FINCH and DEANNA LANKFORD of MU’s Office of Science Outreach

Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Question submitted by John Gerhart's third-grade class at Benton Elementary School

A: Paleontologist Casey Holliday, an assistant professor in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences at the University of Missouri, says: "A fossil is any type of evidence that tells us something about that organism." That means fossils can be bones, teeth, plant pressings or other indirect findings such as footprints, nests, burrows and coprolites [fossilized dung]."

How do fossils form? Holliday describes fossilization: "Over time, the minerals leach in and replace all the organic material." This process usually takes about 10,000 years to occur. Fossils are only found in sedimentary rock, which is a type of rock that is transported by water or wind. Major fossil discoveries have been made around the world, including in Germany, China and Utah. Scientists are even unearthing dinosaur fossils in the Bootheel of Missouri!

Although we have learned a lot about extinct species from fossils, paleontologists estimate we have uncovered only 5 percent of species that have existed on Earth. Holliday says we mostly know about large vertebrates because they are easiest to find and people are interested in them. He also noted tropical areas do not have many fossils because the organic material decays too fast and does not have time to fossilize.

Fossils are important to study for many reasons. "Fossils tell us about how animals work," Holliday says. For example, researchers discovered extinct crocodiles that lived on land and ate plants. We can also learn about the evolution of organisms and climate change by studying what happened in the past. This information can help scientists make predictions about changes on Earth in the future.