UM System curators consider $49.1 million in construction at MU

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 | 11:45 a.m. CDT; updated 11:04 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, September 11, 2013
BY T.J. Thomson

COLUMBIA — More operating rooms, more private rooms and upgraded nursing stations are part of a pair of MU construction projects to be considered this week by the University of Missouri System Board of Curators.

Under plans detailed on the UM System's website, Missouri Orthopaedic Institute would get a 65,400-square-foot addition and other upgrades. University Hospital would get about $19.1 million in renovations on four of its floors.

The 3-year-old orthopaedic institute stands to gain $35 million in upgrades, including a 15,900-square-foot, enclosed walkway that would connect it to adjacent Parking Structure No. 7's second floor.

The addition would increase the number of operating rooms by four, up to 11 from seven. The new facility would feature additional recovery, clinical, radiology and pharmacy space, according to curators' meeting materials.

Construction would be completed in September 2016.

If the project is approved, $30 million of its $35 million price tag would be funded by debt financing; MU Health Care reserve funds would provide the remaining $5 million.

The 59-year-old University Hospital building stands to gain renovations for about 62,500 square feet, including "upgraded private patient rooms and information technology" for floors four through seven, according to curators' meeting materials.

MU Health Care reserve funds would pay about $19.1 million for the renovations. Construction on the hospital renovations would be completed in August 2015.
The curators also are set to review the system-wide retirement disability and death benefit plan, the physical facilities quarterly report and numerous human resource-related policies, including those dealing with employee personal leave, sick leave, vacation and death in the family.

The curators plan to meet at 10 a.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. Friday in Stotler Lounge conference rooms N-1 through N-3 at MU’s Memorial Student Union.
JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri General Assembly overrode a record number of vetoes Wednesday during the annual legislative veto session.

By midnight, when the House finally adjourned, the General Assembly had overridden 10 of Gov. Jay Nixon's vetoes. As a result, laws went into effect that made it illegal for local governments to restrict federal holidays, increased liabilities for uninsured motorists, made it possible for members of public bodies to vote by video teleconference and capped the punitive damages the Doe Run lead-mining company could be forced to pay.

Despite the record number of vetoes, three of the most contentious bills were put to rest. House Bill 253, a tax-cut bill that has received the most attention of any bill passed during the session, came up 15 votes short of an override in the House. And a hotly-debated gun bill, HB 436, that would have made it illegal to enforce certain federal gun laws was rejected in the Senate after passing the House.

A bill that would have made it easier for people who committed sexual offenses as minors to eventually be removed from the sex-offender registry was briefly discussed before the motion to override was withdrawn.

Vetoes that were overridden in both houses and will now become law:

- HB 19 appropriates funds to help rebuild a vocational school in Pike County.

  The veto was overridden in the House by a vote of 112-47 and in the Senate by a vote of 28-5.

- HB 278 prohibits any state or local government from banning or restricting the practice, mention, celebration or discussion of a federal holiday. The veto was overridden in the House by a vote of 114-45 and in the Senate by a vote of 24-9.

- HB 329 prohibits funeral trusts from affecting a person's eligibility for public assistance, increases the maximum fee a creditor can charge on a loan and makes other changes to financial institution law. The veto was overridden in the House by a vote of 109-51 and in the Senate 25-9.
HB 339 enacts a "No Pay, No Play" law that requires uninsured motorists to forfeit recovery of noneconomic damages under certain conditions. This restriction does not apply if the insured driver in the accident is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The veto override passed in the House 109-51 and in the Senate 26-8.

HB 650 caps the punitive damages that Doe Run can be forced to pay. “This company is destroyed if we don’t take action,” Sen. Dan Brown R-Rolla, said during the Senate discussion. “We want to see an opportunity for the Doe Run company to invest more in the area.” The veto override passed the House 110-50 and the Senate 26-8.

HB 1035 modifies provisions relating to taxation and political subdivisions;

SB 9 modifies provisions relating to agriculture, including allowing some foreign ownership of agricultural lands and allows MU Extension Council to form Extension districts made up of cooperating counties;

SB 110 establishes procedures to follow in child custody and visitation cases for military personnel; and

SB 170 allows members of public governmental bodies to cast roll call votes in a meeting if the member is participating via videoconferencing.

SB 129 establishes the Volunteer Health Services Act to allow for licensed health care professionals to provide volunteer services for a sponsoring organization.

Boone County legislators spoke out about the actions at the Capitol on Wednesday and were already looking ahead to the new session.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, made the first motion to override of the day in the House on a line-item veto in an appropriations bill to help fund a vocational education school in Pike County.

“A vocational education school today with no computers is no vocational education school,” he said.

After the House had debated all of its bills, Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, said he was disappointed with the actions of the House.

“It’s a rough day over all,” he said. “About what I expected, but it's still hard to watch.”

When asked about the future of tax reform, Webber said funding schools was his priority.

“We need to find a way to fund the schools, and until the schools are fully funded, I don’t think we should be looking for ways to cut corporate taxes,” he said.

Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, kept quiet about how he would vote on HB 253 in the weeks and days leading up to the veto session and had received pressure from UM System leaders to support the veto, but he voted to override.

“Ultimately, that was the vote that represented the majority of my district,” Rowden said. He said people that called or sent letters and emails to his office were about 60 percent in favor of overriding the tax-cut measure.
He said he was looking forward to taking up tax reform in the new session and that he had been talking with MU officials and the local Chamber of Commerce and would possibly come up with a proposal of his own.

“Let's keep the dialogue going. If this wasn’t the right solution, we need to find the right one,” he said. “I’ve been keeping bridges open with people on the other side.”

Rowden said he was open to generating new revenues if income taxes were also reduced.

Webber and Rep. John Wright, D-Rocheport, both spoke strongly against the Doe Run bill, arguing it was a form of special legislation crafted to protect a single company.

“This bill is not about jobs, this bill is just about money,” Wright said. “What message does filing and passing this bill send to the families (that have filed claims against Doe Run)?”

**Nixon weighs in**

Gov. Jay Nixon held a press conference at 5:30 p.m. to trumpet the rejection of HB 253 and pointed to a “growing bipartisan coalition” against the legislation, but suggested he was open to tax reform.

“(HB 253) would have cost too much, and the benefits it offered were dubious,” Nixon said.

**He said that he would release the most significant portions of funding that he had frozen in response to passage of the tax-cut bill, including money for the UM System and mental health services.**

“I will move expeditiously and quickly to get those dollars out to the community,” Nixon said.

The governor said he was open to tax reform, so long as it was directly tied to job creation, was affordable and tax-credit reforms were also on the table.

“I’ve not closed my eyes or my mind to sitting down and having a thoughtful discussion about it,” he said.

Nixon said that some of the bills being debated by the legislature were more about politics than about serious lawmaking.

“My sense is there has been a shift to more of a political discourse than a governing discourse,” he said. “The measures left tonight have significant political overtones to them.”
Missouri Legislature fails to override vetoes of tax cut, gun legislation

By Elizabeth Crisp

JEFFERSON CITY • Gov. Jay Nixon scored two key victories as the Republican-controlled Legislature failed to override his vetoes of legislation that aimed to cut income taxes and nullify federal gun laws Wednesday.

The tax cut bill and the anti-gun control measure were among key priorities for Republicans as they returned to the Capitol this week to try to overrule the Democratic governor on more than two dozen bills that he struck down.

But despite holding historic supermajorities in both the House and Senate, Republicans couldn’t muster enough votes on the two high-profile override attempts after Nixon, a former attorney general, launched a summer-long campaign against the tax cut measure and raised several legal questions about the gun bill.

Still, lawmakers managed to hand Nixon a record number of defeats — overriding the governor on 10 bills including measures that will cap punitive damages in lawsuits against the Doe Run Co. at $2.5 million per lawsuit, make it harder for some drivers to sue after accidents, allow payday loan companies to raise their interest rates, and protect federal holidays like Christmas.

Legislative leaders also vowed to continue pushing for a tax cut bill next year, which they say will spur economic development and make Missouri more competitive with its neighboring states.

“This is only a temporary setback for the majority of House members who believe substantive tax relief is the best way to grow our economy and to help the hard-working Missourians who deserve to keep more of their hard-earned dollars,” said House Speaker Tim Jones, R-Eureka.

Nixon, who characterized the tax cut legislation as poorly drafted and harmful to education funding, hailed the unsuccessful override attempt as “a defining moment for our state and a victory for all Missourians.”

“This was a turning point ... (for) issues that really matter,” he said.

The effort to override Nixon’s veto had been bolstered by a newly formed coalition of Missouri business groups and a media campaign largely funded by wealthy St. Louis investor Rex Sinquefield.

Passed in the final days of the regular session after months of debate and revisions, the tax cut legislation was viewed by many Republicans as a key accomplishment. But Nixon immediately seized on several
apparent flaws, including provisions that he said would raise the costs of prescription drugs and college textbooks while creating a hole in the state budget.

The legislation sought to lower the top personal income tax rate by one-half of a percentage point, to 5.5 percent. The corporate tax rate would have been reduced by 3 percentage points, to 3.25 percent. The cuts would have been phased in over 10 years.

The centerpiece of the bill was a 50 percent tax cut, phased in over five years, for businesses that “pass through” their income to the owner’s personal return.

In the end, the House defeated the override with only 94 of the required 109 members supporting it.

“While today brought with it disappointment, we are encouraged and energized by the support we were able to amass in such a short period of time and by the conversation we have sparked regarding the need for tax reform here in Missouri,” said Grow Missouri Coalition treasurer Aaron Willard.

Working late into the evening Wednesday, lawmakers still had an opportunity to override several of Nixon’s other vetoes from this year’s legislative session. The veto session showed a stark contrast from previous years, when lawmakers have attempted few – if any — overrides. The previous record for overrides in a single year was the Legislature’s three in 2003.

About 100 gun rights advocates rallied at the Capitol earlier in the day in favor of the gun legislation, while the national Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence said it was prepared to file a federal lawsuit against the state if the override attempt was successful.

Under the proposed legislation, Missouri would not have recognized federal laws that “infringe on the people’s right to keep and bear arms.” It also would have created a misdemeanor for federal officials who tried to enforce those measures.

In the days leading up to the veto session, the legislation came under fire from law enforcement and Attorney General Chris Koster, who released a letter last week criticizing the bill as “flawed public policy” that would prohibit local law enforcement from working with federal agencies.

Rep. Jill Schupp, D-Creve Coeur, told the House that the bill had “many bad and unintended consequences.”

“It turns law enforcement into criminals and criminals into victims,” she said.

But supporters argued that the bill was necessary to strike back against what they see as a potential for federal overreach.

“We don’t want anybody infringing on our rights in this great state,” said Rep. John McCaherty, R-High Ridge.

The override passed in the House 109-49 but failed in the Senate 22-12.
Among their successes, GOP lawmakers overturned Nixon’s veto of a bill that limits punitive damages in lawsuits against Doe Run. The lead mining company is facing several liability suits alleging that lead contamination has caused health problems. The company says the suits could put it out of business, costing 1,600 jobs. The new law bars punitive damages at mining sites that stopped operating by 1975, and caps other damages to $2.5 million.

Speaking in favor of the measure, Rep. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, said the override would help save jobs and keep the facility from closing.

“This is not about not letting people seek restitution,” he said. “It’s about putting some reasonable caps.”

In its final actions of the veto session, just before midnight the House voted down attempts to override Nixon's vetoes of legislation that sought to prevent foreign laws and a United Nations resolution from being applied in Missouri. Both had won veto-override votes earlier in the Senate.

Media coverage and critics of the foreign laws bill often described it in the context of the U.S. anti-Sharia Law movement. In more than 20 states, conservatives have pushed measures to highlight alleged influences of Islamist Sharia religious law in America. Others maintain it’s a nonissue that is merely being used to whip up anti-Muslim sentiment.

Sen. Brian Nieves, a Washington Republican who sponsored the bill, denied that it specifically targeted Sharia Law. Nieves insisted that the bill was merely meant to ensure “that in Missouri, we are not going to have court cases decided by using foreign law,” regardless of where those laws might originate.

But Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, called the legislation “bigotry at its highest level.”

“A blind man can see that it is. ... That’s exactly what it’s about,” Nasheed said from the Senate floor.

The U.N. bill, also sponsored by Nieves, sought to block implementation of a nonbinding United Nations plan called Agenda 21, which was adopted in 1992 to promote sustainable development.
Editorial: Jay Nixon beats Rex Sinquefield; Missouri wins

15 hours ago • By the Editorial Board

NO MU MENTION

A brief moment of debate on the House floor on Wednesday captured the essence of everything that was wrong with House Bill 253, and why Missourians should be grateful that the Legislature failed to override Gov. Jay Nixon’s veto of the unfair and poorly written tax cut bill.

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. T.J. Berry, R-Kearney, was debating the various tax cut provisions with Rep. Jon Carpenter, D-Clay County. Mr. Carpenter simply explained that the legislation would allow a 50 percent business income deduction tax cut for certain limited liability companies and S corporations to be phased in over three years. Further, Mr. Carpenter noted, that tax cut, unlike the smaller tax cut middle-class folks might receive (about $6 a year for average Missouri workers) wasn’t subject to any economic growth trigger.

In other words, the rich would have gotten theirs no matter how the economy fared. Everybody else would have to wait for the “good times.”

“That’s grossly inaccurate,” Mr. Berry said.

Then he thought about it a bit. He hemmed. He hawed. He stammered.

Finally, he pointed out what most of us knew: Mr. Carpenter got it right.

There is great serendipity in the timing here. Enough Missouri Republicans found the courage to join Democrats in refusing to override the governor’s very smart veto of this very bad bill just the day after a report came out that indicated income inequality in the U.S. is at an all-time high.

An analysis by economists at the University of California-Berkeley and the Paris School of Economics determined that the richest 1 percent of the country pulled in 19.3 percent of the nation’s household income in 2012, the highest amount since 1927. A separate analysis showed that those top 1 percent earners saw their incomes grow by 86 percent between 1993 and 2000. Meanwhile, the rest of the 99 percent of the nation’s earners posted just more than 6 percent growth in the same time period. And most of that went to the top 10 percent of income-earners.

House Bill 253, a project of wealthy retired investor Rex Sinquefield, would have made those statistics even more obscene in Missouri.
In traveling the state this summer to build a strong coalition of education and business leaders opposed to House Bill 253, Mr. Nixon put the target directly on Mr. Sinquefield’s back, telling St. Louis business leaders: “If it’s one guy against 6 million Missourians. I like our side.”

On Wednesday, the one guy who had spent more than $2 million on this battle lost. Six million Missourians won.

**They won because** enough lawmakers understood this fundamental truth:

Missouri is already a low-tax state. If low taxes were the key to a growing economy, the Show-Me State would be thriving.

This is the single fact the proponents of an unfair tax cut never talk about. Missouri is ranked 47th in the nation in terms of overall tax burden. It has been this way since at least the early 1970s. Both corporate and personal taxes are already lower in Missouri than almost any other state in the nation.

Guess what else is low? Our state’s support of K-12 and higher education, the very foundation of Missouri’s economic future.

The combination of those two facts is why school officials joined Mr. Nixon in turning enough votes to protect the state’s public schools from even more damaging cuts.

The numbers don’t lie, and that’s why Mr. Sinquefield and his friends lost the only veto battle that really mattered.
Changes at MU residential, dining halls meant to increase housing options

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 | 12:43 p.m. CDT

The Dobbs Replacement Project, which was approved June 13 by the UM System Board of Curators, includes renovations to the area of campus comprising Dobbs Pavilion and the Jones, Lathrop and Laws residence halls. Tentatively set to begin in 2015, the first phase of the project consists of demolishing Jones Hall and Dobbs Pavilion and replacing them with two residence halls and a dining hall.

Source: MISSOURIAN REPORTING
The Dobbs Replacement Project, which was approved June 13 by the UM System Board of Curators, includes renovations to the area of campus comprising Dobbs Pavilion and the Jones, Lathrop and Laws residence halls. Tentatively set to begin in 2015, the first phase of the project consists of demolishing Jones Hall and Dobbs Pavilion and replacing them with two residence halls and a dining hall.  

Caitlin Campbell
BY Emily Donaldson
COLUMBIA — **Starting in fall 2017, the Dobbs Wok stir-fry and other favored dishes at Dobbs Pavilion will no longer be available. That's because the dining hall is being demolished as part of a master plan to add beds at MU.**

Here is a quick look at other changes to residence halls and dining facilities coming in the next couple of years:

**Jones Hall and Dobbs Pavilion:** Two residence halls and a dining facility will replace Jones Hall and Dobbs Pavilion as part of the Dobbs Replacement Project. The MU Department of Residential Life said these changes are tentatively scheduled to begin in 2015.

Jones will close at the end of the fall 2014 semester and Dobbs will close at the beginning of 2017. The new dining facility will open at that same time.

**Lathrop and Laws halls:** Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said Lathrop and Laws could also be demolished if the UM System Board of Curators approves the change. This would result in five total residence halls and a dining facility to replace the original halls and Dobbs, Minor said.

Resulting halls would look similar to North, Center and South halls with fewer beds and floors per building than Jones, Lathrop and Laws.

Minor said after completing the entire project, campus would have about 250 additional beds. The exact number is still being determined.

**Johnston and Wolpers halls:** Residential Life is also working to revamp two of the older halls on campus. Johnston is set to reopen in fall 2014 with room for 301 students. Wolpers will close for renovation at the end of the fall semester and reopen in fall 2015.

**Virginia Avenue South:** Construction is set to begin on a new residence hall is on the southeast edge of campus, just south of Discovery, Excellence, Respect and Responsibility halls. This hall will have 331 beds and open in fall 2015.

**Increased capacity:** Minor said he hopes these changes will accommodate more returning students to MU and allow students living in Tiger Digs and other extended campus areas to move back onto campus.
COLUMBIA — MU may join the ranks of Columbia, Brown and Boston universities if the MU Office of Residential Life allows gender-neutral housing in future residence halls.

MU is among a large group of Midwestern public universities without housing to serve transgender, gender-nonconforming or coupled students. The university has been talking about adding this housing option for a couple of years.

Frankie Minor, director of MU Residential Life, said those discussions continue, although there are no set plans at this time.

One of the biggest obstacles facing this program is sheer demand for housing in general, Minor said. In previous years, housing has been stretched thin for incoming freshmen. Last year, there were no vacant women's rooms during the fall semester.

But freshman enrollment declined this year. That makes the possibility of creating housing programs to cater to more individual interests more plausible.

Struby Struble, coordinator of the LGBTQ Resource Center, said the center and Residential Life have been in contact about the potential of such a residence hall. However, the center is not campaigning for it directly.

"I think we are constantly advocating for it so we don't plan to have any particular marketing campaigns," Struble said. "There are always conversations taking place about how to continue to make our university great."

Other questions linger, though, including defining what gender-neutral housing would mean at MU.

"Is it for students who are transgender or gender-nonconforming? Or would we say that a brother and sister could live together?" Minor said.

Virginia Avenue South, which is scheduled to open in 2015 on the southeast corner of campus, will have the capability to house any mix of men and women because it will have bathrooms that
Minor called "gender-flexible." That means toilets and showers have complete privacy, making it possible for men and women to use the same facilities. This is not an option in any other current residence hall at MU.

Minor said he is not sure when the decision will be made about whether to have gender-neutral housing on campus.

In general, choices about residence hall programming, such as Freshman Interest Groups or Learning Communities, are decided roughly 10 months prior to move-in day based on student interest from the year prior. If this is true for Virginia Avenue South, a decision based on its programming could be reached as early as fall 2014.

In even having this discussion seriously, MU is following a larger trend. Campus housing experts Brian Willoughby, Jeffrey Larsen and Jason Caroll wrote in "The Emergence of Gender-Neutral Housing on American University's Campuses" that more and more colleges are exploring gender neutral housing.

"Discussion currently taking place at universities revealed what is likely an upcoming wave of transition in the college housing landscape," they wrote in the November 2012 issue of the Journal of Adolescent Research.

In fact, 16 of the 100 largest American universities, surveyed in the article's study, offer gender-neutral housing programs on their campuses. Most direct their programming toward the LGBTQ community with certain provisions to remove any potential romantic relationships from the program, according to the article.

Struble said she hopes this change will come to MU to educate all students, not just members of the LGBTQ community.

"It is an excellent type of learning opportunity for gender relationships and not just trans (transgender) students," Struble said.
Hmm. University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe is moving out of Providence Point and will receive $2,400 a month from the university for private housing. Some will criticize.

Providence Point is the expensive house on campus designed as a combination dwelling and party house for the chief executive. The place is surrounded by lovely landscaping and is commodious for large gatherings, but as a private residence, occupants consistently have noticed shortcomings.

Oh, there is enough bathroom and kitchen space and room for a nice large bed, but off in the residential part, incumbent families don't feel "at home." I have not talked with Wolfe about his reasons for moving out, but I know this has been a common reaction in the past. Wolfe will not have been the first president to live off campus, and this arrangement is not uncommon at other large universities, particularly for system presidents not directly affiliated with a particular campus.

So, if moving out of the house is not a big deal, how about the extra money the university will have to pay?

It will cost extra, but compared with similar compensation at other like institutions, is not out of line. Wolfe will receive less than the chancellor of the UM campus at Kansas City for his private housing.

It boils down to this: Should the UM president be required to live in a home he and his family don't like? Many will say no, but if he chooses to abandon a perfectly good residence provided by the university, he should foot the bill himself.
There are two sides to it, but in the grand scheme this additional perk is not important. It's a reasonable part of compensation for a president deemed worth his overall cost. If not so valued, a president's willingness to live in the corporate dwelling would not make it right.

HJW III

It isn't necessary to be rich and famous to be happy. It's only necessary to be rich.

— ALAN ALDA

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Posted in The Tribunes View on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 2:00 pm.
Kevin Redmond, 19, grew up in Webster Groves, an ambitious student who always knew college was in his future plans. He applied to five universities and researched many engineering programs that fit his needs. The only thing he wasn’t sure about how he would meet the financial obligations that come with attending college.

When he found out that he had earned the 2012 Dr. Donald M. Suggs Scholarship to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia, he expressed it as being “the greatest achievement of my life.”

Mizzou’s Dr. Donald M. Suggs Scholarship is designed to enhance recruitment and retention of academically talented minority undergraduate students and has a total four-year value of $57,000 that includes $7,000 for study abroad opportunities.

Redmond’s mentor and college counselor at Webster Groves High School, Karen Verstraete, is the reason that he is in college today. He keeps in contact with her and says without her he wouldn’t have known about the scholarship.

“This scholarship was the deciding factor for me attending Mizzou,” Redmond said. He is now working on his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at Mizzou with a minor in German. He is also showing interest in aerospace studies, which fits perfectly with his current degree program. Redmond is on track to complete his degree in 2017.

Redmond studied abroad in Germany for two weeks during spring break in March. He took on an additional three credit hours to study abroad for a grade during the semester. He attended his extra class once a week and earned three credit hours towards his degree. His assignments during the semester for this course were to put together presentations, maintain a journal and produce a final paper about his experience in Germany.

For the trip, two faculty members, including the Study Abroad coordinator, traveled with 25 students. Their first stop was in Paris, France, where they stayed for one night before traveling to Germany. After arriving in Germany, Redmond remembers sharing one large room that had a half-dozen bunk beds. Redmond did a lot of sight-seeing and traveled to many cities while in Germany. He visited the Holocaust Museum, BMW-Mercedes engineering factory and T.I. Automotive, where car parts are produced.
Redmond learned more about engineering, culture and food while exploring the beautiful and historic sights. He recalls that “the food was different and depended on the taste of the individual.” During his visit, he noticed that Germans eat “different types of sausage” and smaller breakfasts consisting mostly of bread.

Each student’s travel and meal expenses were covered for the trip. Students were responsible for providing their own money for any additional food. Redmond recalls seeing McDonald’s and other, more familiar restaurants during his trip. Before returning, he collected many souvenirs and keepsakes from Germany. Redmond hopes that he has an opportunity to study abroad again soon, perhaps to Brazil or a country in Africa.

Back at Mizzou, Redmond spends most of his time studying and staying focused on gaining as much knowledge as possible. He is currently an executive board member of the National Society of Black Engineers student group. He plans to seek a higher position on the board like vice-president or president.

Redmond said he would have incurred “a lot of debt” and would not have been able to study abroad if he had not received a Dr. Donald M. Suggs Scholarship. He said he is very “appreciative of the scholarship and the impact it’s had on me.”
COLUMBIA — In Missouri, 74 percent of Medicaid users are women, meaning they are disproportionately affected by changes in health care policy.

That number means women use health care services the most, so whether they can consistently access this care plays a role in their overall well-being, assistant teaching professor in MU’s School of Nursing Kristin Metcalf-Wilson told about a dozen people who listened to her speak in Memorial Union on Wednesday.

Metcalf-Wilson's presentation kicked off MU's "Diversity in Action: Bridging Research and Practice" series. Lecture coordinator Yuan Gao said the purpose of the lecture series is to highlight diversity-related research and see how it applies in policy making.

Metcalf-Wilson spoke about her extensive research on the status of women's health in the state of Missouri and its impact on the state's economy.

In conjunction with Women's Policy Alliance and MU's Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, Metcalf-Wilson helped to compile the Missouri Women's Report in 2011. Throughout her talk, Metcalf-Wilson touched on a few issues the study covered, such as women in poverty and its relation to health care access and personal well-being.

"I've worked as a health care provider in several different states, and when I came to Missouri, I recognized that the women I served needed a voice," Metcalf-Wilson said.

After the report began circulating, she personally distributed hard copies of the document to legislators across the state.

"I'm excited to continue to get out word about the report," Metcalf-Wilson said. "You can use this to help argue your points on policy and to see where women are at."

One key issue Metcalf-Wilson discussed was women's access to health care and their subsequent use of those resources.
"Insurance — including Medicaid — coverage is a key indicator for access and utilization," she said. "Women who lack consistent coverage are more likely to go without preventative, basic and even acute care."

More than 33 percent of the state's working poor are without health insurance because they make too much to qualify for Medicaid but do not make enough to afford private insurance, she said.

"When women do not have access to health services, it has an impact on the rest of their lives," she said, "specifically in the area of reproductive health."

The best case scenario for the state, Metcalf-Wilson said, would have only 10 percent to 25 percent of working age women who are living in poverty or near the poverty level without insurance.

She also said many women between age 55 and 65 can no longer afford private insurance but must wait until age 65 to qualify for Medicaid.

"They're ticking time bombs," she said, adding that older women face issues younger women do not, such as injury because of aging bones.

Keeping access issues like these in mind, she explored women's use of reproductive services such as contraception and abortion, as well as preventative care for breast cancer and diabetes.

Mohammad Saleh, a senior who is double majoring in health sciences and biology, was one of several students who was at the lecture. Although he attended as an extra credit opportunity, Saleh said he thought the issues raised were important and something he is interested in.

"I have lived in another country, so I tend to compare and contrast how the United States is doing," Saleh said. "Other countries aren't as good when it comes to health care, and we tend to take it for granted here."
East Campus residents hope new sculptures will become symbols for neighborhood

COLUMBIA — When people think of MU, they think of icons such as the MU Columns, Memorial Student Union and Jesse Hall.

But the East Campus neighborhood has designed an icon of its own.

The neighborhood plans to put sculptures on Ann Street, Bouchelle Avenue, Cliff Drive and University Avenue, which has heavier automobile and pedestrian traffic.

The sculptures will be cylinders more than 8 feet tall with the letters E and C — for East Campus — combined and bisected by a quill pen.

"The quill pen is to signify the quest for knowledge," said Don Asbee of Hartsburg, the designer and sculptor.

Asbee said he has already begun the work using forged steel.

The East Campus Neighborhood Association is using money from its treasury to commission the sculptures but needs final approval from the Columbia City Council before installing them.

Betty Wilson, a member of East Campus Neighborhood Association and wife of the late former Mayor Clyde Wilson, said she hopes the sculptures will enhance the area and demarcate the neighborhood.

"East Campus used to be a grand home for professors of the university, Stephens and Columbia College," Wilson said. "We are committed to its history."

While traveling across the country, she said she discovered examples of iconic public art in other cities.

"I have admired cities like Savannah, Ga., and Seattle, Wash. These communities have displayed public art as identifiers of the city," Wilson said.

Asbee said the project is special to him because he spent a lot of time in the East Campus area and was involved in neighborhood activities.
"It felt good to do something for something I enjoy very well," he said.

If this project does not get approved, Wilson said, the East Campus Neighborhood Association will try to find buyers to purchase the signs.

"We are hoping not to face that problem," she said.

The neighborhood association needs council approval to use city rights-of-way along the streets for the sculptures. Wilson said she doesn't foresee any problems.
New England private equity firm buys controlling stake in Learfield Communications

New England firm buys stake.

By Jacob Barker

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Collegiate sports media and radio news company Learfield Communications this week announced a deal that will give a New England private equity firm a controlling stake in the company.

Learfield, based in Jefferson City and the longtime holder of the University of Missouri's multimedia marketing rights, announced this week that Providence Equity Partners would purchase Shamrock Capital Advisors' majority share in the company. A purchase price was not disclosed.

"Our plans for growth are robust, and we are grateful that Providence Equity Partners has endorsed those plans and we look forward to our future with our new partner," Learfield President and CEO Greg Brown said in a news release.

Providence Equity Partners, based in Providence, R.I., manages $28 billion in funds focused mostly on global media companies. In December 2011, Shamrock, a $700 million Los Angeles private equity firm, purchased a majority stake in Learfield from founder Clyde Lear.

Lear founded the company in 1972, growing it from a radio broadcasting company to a collegiate sports marketing powerhouse. Its largest segment, Learfield Sports, is based in Dallas and has partnerships with more than 50 universities modeled after its original one with MU.

For more than 30 years, Learfield has paid MU for the right to broadcast its sports on the radio and sell advertising for its stadiums, game-day programs and athletics websites. As more
universities looked to outsource and consolidate management of their athletics brand in the past 15 years, Learfield's growth has taken off. It is now one of the largest collegiate sports media companies in the country, with deals that cover Division I schools such as the University of Alabama, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Penn State. It also owns radio news service Brownfield Ag News for America and Learfield News, which covers state news for radio stations in five states.

Shamrock gave the company an infusion of cash as competition for collegiate broadcast rights intensified. Learfield said Providence will provide the capital it needs to keep growing.

"We're honored to have had the opportunity to grow our brand in the collegiate business with Shamrock Capital, an excellent partner and trusted adviser," Brown said. "We're now grateful for a new opportunity to take the next step in executing our aggressive growth plans."

Brown will remain CEO, and there are no plans to change the staffing, management or operations of Learfield.

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