MU’s Art and Archaeology Museum closes early

By MacKenzie Reagan

Monday marked the end of an era as the Museum of Art and Archaeology closed its Pickard Hall doors after being a mainstay on the Francis Quadrangle for nearly four decades.

Founded in 1957 as the Study Collections for Art History and Archeology, it was renamed the Museum of Art and Archaeology in 1961. In 1976, the museum moved to Pickard Hall, where it resided until Monday, when the museum closed to move to Mizzou North.

The museum’s collection, along with the Department of Art History and Archaeology, will be moved to Mizzou North, the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center building.

The closure comes as a result of radiation in the building, which had served as a chemistry lab in the early 20th century.

According to a news release from the MU News Bureau, the entire building will be emptied of the more than 15,000 catalogued objects in the museum’s inventory by Dec. 31.

“It's a disadvantage not having the museum on campus, but the university has no choice regarding Pickard Hall,” said Benton Kidd, the museum’s associate curator of ancient art.

The museum, which is free and open to the public, has been an integral part in the education of MU students, particularly those in the honors humanities sequence, said associate professor David Schenker.

Schenker, who teaches the sequence's ancient world class, said the decision "affects (my) ability to conduct classes the way I want to."

He said he usually takes classes to visit the museum once a semester, but now that won’t be possible.

While the decision to move the museum was inevitable given the building’s condition, some faculty members disagree with the way in which the decision was made.
Professor Rachel Harper, director of the Writing Center and coordinator of the honors humanities sequence, said she, and other faculty, feel like the situation was handled poorly.

“The faculty (feels as though) the decision was badly handled,” she said. “There were lots of different ways (the decision) could have been handled.”

Professor Nicole Monnier, director of undergraduate studies in Russian, said the situation is "terribly upsetting," and the issue is not just the decision itself, but how it was made.

She said the decision did not involve faculty input.

"Why were we left out?” Monnier said. “The faculty (needs to) have a voice. We were bypassed."

Because of Mizzou North’s remote location on Business Loop 70, many question how the move will affect visitors’ access to the museum.

"(The move) is a death sentence for the museum,” Harper said.

Schenker noted that the museum is valuable to the university, as it is a location on campus that brings in visitors and the move will end that.

"It's a real loss to the university as an outreach to the public,” he said.

MU faculty and students are not the only ones lamenting the museum’s move. Lee Expressive Arts Elementary School parents have also voiced concerns about the location change, Monnier said.

She said the parents care about how the decision will affect the school’s curriculum as well as the community as a whole, since the museum is no longer in a convenient place for visitors and fieldtrips.

Michael O’Brien, College of Arts and Science dean, said he realizes there may be some inconveniences by moving the museums, but he plans on doing as much as he can to make faculty lives easier.

“There certainly will be disruption in the operation of the two museums as they move to Mizzou North, but everyone’s goal — certainly mine and Alex Barker’s — is to minimize it,” he said. “I certainly plan to work with faculty to accommodate their needs for the collections for instructional purposes.”

The $1.5 million move and preparation present the university with an opportunity to renovate the building for future use and “with an eye toward returning the museum to central campus in the future,” Harper said.
Museum Director Alex Barker, who did not respond to interview requests from The Maneater, wrote about the move in the museum’s fall 2013 edition of Museum Magazine.

“Leaving Pickard is bittersweet,” he wrote. “Our new home will have a different character, and doubtless we’ll need some time to discover how to harness it to our needs. But we will, and I’ll see you there.”

This article previously misspelled the name as the Museum of Art and Archeology. The correct name is the Museum of Art and Archaeology. The Maneater regrets the error.
MU student believed to have abused cat

Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (3)

A University of Missouri student was arrested Saturday afternoon on suspicion of animal abuse for allegedly throwing a live cat into a trash bin.

Nickholes Martin, 18, admitted throwing the cat in a trash bin at Campus View Apartments because he said it appeared to be in poor health, police say. It was not eating, Martin told police, and fluid was running from its eyes.

“He determined the cat was going to die, put it in a bag and threw it in the trash,” MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Martin lives at Tiger Diggs, a section of Campus View operated by the MU Department of Residential Life. The university began housing students at Campus View a few years ago because of a shortage of available on-campus housing.

Weimer said a witness saw Martin toss the cat in the bin and informed Residential Life employees, who then contacted police.

While Martin was speaking with police, Weimer said, Martin shoved an officer, pulled away from them and refused to put his hands behind his back when officers tried to place him in handcuffs.

Weimer said police took the cat that had been placed in the trash bin and another cat that was in Martin's apartment to the Central Missouri Humane Society. According to the Boone County Sheriff's website, Martin was released after posting $1,000 bond.

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Posted in Crime on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 2:00 pm.
MU parking to become more difficult

By Jacob Kornhauser

With the completion of a new residence hall, Virginia Avenue South, slated for fall 2015, campus parking could become harder to come by.

With no plans for new campus parking lots or expanded ones, and Virginia Avenue South being built where a current parking lot is, parking convenience will be even more restricted in the coming years.

**Parking is limited in the lots run by the Department of Residential Life, which are located right outside of residence halls. Of the 3,171 students with parking permits that live in residence halls, only 948 have permits to park in lots near their building.**

Freshman Jonathan Thompson has a spot in a lot near his residence hall.

“I feel pretty fortunate because it makes it that much easier to get out and do stuff if I need to,” Thompson said.

The other 2,223 students who live on campus have parking in alternate locations and garages.

Since 47 percent of students in residence halls live closer to the Virginia Avenue Garage than any other parking location, spots there are more competitive.

The majority of on-campus students are forced to park half a mile away or more.

Freshman Sean Ready is one of those students.

Living in Hudson Hall on the corner of Rollins Street and Virginia Avenue, Ready has to walk approximately 10 minutes to get to his car parked in the CG1 lot, near Hospital Drive. Ready said getting a permit was easy, but he wishes he could park closer to his residence hall.

“The process of getting the permit was easy, and it was on a first come, first serve basis, but I wish I could have parked in a different lot,” Ready said.

Residential Life students account for 365 of the parking spots in Virginia. The rest of the spots in the garages are allocated to campus and hospital visitors.

While inconvenient, current MU students could have it worse.
Other universities, such as Stanford University, Stony Brook University and Ohio University, do not allow freshmen to bring a car to school with them.

Director of Parking and Transportation Jim Joy said MU’s system is “providing adequate parking for students’ academic needs.”

Joy said he understands parking can be inconvenient for students living in residence halls.

With parking allocated based on seniority, the parking system is not tailored toward the needs of freshmen, Joy said.

“There is a priority system (for parking permit applications), with the professors and then faculty getting first priority,” Joy said. “Then any staff members get next priority, followed by graduate TAs and RAs. Graduate students get next priority, and then it goes by year in school.”

Joy said he and his Campus Parking and Transportation committee still try to give freshmen the best spaces they can.

“At the time of application review for a student, that student is given their preference of parking area or the parking area that is the closest still available,” he said.

Often times because of the priority order, the area “closest to the parking area preference that is still available” is still very far away, Joy said.

Within Residential Life, students’ applications are reviewed in the order of when they turn in their application, with priority going to students with the most time spent living on campus.

Incoming 2015 freshmen should not be scared that they will not have a parking spot, Joy said.

“We still have plenty of parking available,” he said. “It’s just a matter of convenience.”