COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU research feels effects of government shutdown

By Crystal Thomas, Emily Donaldson
October 9, 2013 | 8:57 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – Every workday since the government shut down Oct. 1, an estimated $1 million in new federal award opportunities and starts at MU are delayed.

Robert Duncan, vice chancellor of research, estimated this number because MU received more than $253 million in new federal awards during the 2012 fiscal year. Broken down, it means MU spends slightly less than $1 million of federal funds each workday on research and research-related activities, he said.

Duncan said he hopes these delayed opportunities will come through once the government opens back up, but as the shutdown stretches on, the chances of getting caught up on awards becomes less and less likely.

"If the government shutdown extends indefinitely, the pipeline of new funding opportunities will be interrupted, and these missed opportunities will probably never come back," Duncan said in an email.

Duncan and other associate deans of research in various MU colleges agree that the longer the government is closed, the larger the negative impact will be. However, no one is certain of the specific long-term effects.

So far, MU research is seeing several effects from the shutdown:

**Delayed grant proposal applications**

Marc Linit, associate dean for research and Extension in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said federal websites used for grant applications and
renewals are temporarily out of operation. Federal employees who process the grant proposals are furloughed, causing uncertainty about the future of research programs.

Duncan said delayed research "badly impacts our ability to advance knowledge and discovery across all disciplines."

Expiration of research funding

If the shutdown lasts for a month or longer, current grants could expire and not be renewed, Linit said.

"Research projects could be caught in a disruption in the flow of money," Linit said.

Because grants have unique application and renewal dates, they operate on their own schedules. If all grants' application dates were spread evenly throughout the year, Linit estimated 1/12 of them would expire within this month, though the exact number that could expire isn't certain.

Until federal funding is restored, MU will make sure salaries funded by grants will be paid, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

"We are working with departments with any individual who would be normally paid by a grant," Basi said. "Should money not be available for anyone paid through grant funds, we are looking for alternative sources for that money."

Basi said MU is planning on the federal government reimbursing MU's efforts to pay anyone who depends on grants.

"We have received several notices from our federal funding agencies that we are to continue with business as usual as it relates to our scientific research grants," Basi said.

Adjunct faculty furloughed

Linit said three Department of Agriculture labs have closed on campus, furloughing employees, some of whom are adjunct faculty, and removing access to materials and equipment that both students and researchers use for agricultural research.
Claire Baffaut is a federal employee who has been furloughed since the government shut down. She works as an Agricultural Research Service researcher and as an adjunct professor in the MU Department of Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences.

She was working on a research project that connects Missouri farming techniques to environmental effects in the Gulf of Mexico. Four other scientists and four to six undergraduate students also worked on the project. Since the shutdown, the project has stopped because the scientists have been furloughed, and the students cannot work without advisers.

Furloughed adjunct faculty cannot be replaced by MU in the meantime because of a lack of resources, Linit said.

**Research affected**

The project Baffaut is working on will not only be delayed, but also the data for her research will be affected.

Since Baffaut and her team were furloughed, they haven’t been able to collect data from bottles of stream water waiting to be analyzed.

"It definitely decreases the quality of that data set," Baffaut said. "It puts into question the data that we have because we are missing some. It increases the uncertainty and decreases the reliability of the data set."

Baffaut’s research is on a timeline as well. If fields are harvested before the government shutdown is over, the conditions of the fields are different from what the experiment calls for.

"The more we wait, the more events we miss," Baffaut said.

**Student research delayed**

Thomas Larsen, a senior at MU, said research for his honors thesis has been challenging since the shutdown. As a double major in geography and anthropology, he is concerned about getting his degrees finished on time.
His honors thesis requires data from national websites that were shut down along with the federal government. In addition, his geographic information science class was let out early because information was not available for the course's assignments.

"My future as an undergrad student is getting a little more difficult," Larsen said.

**Short-term and long-term effects**

Noah Manring, interim associate dean for research at the MU College of Engineering, said there is not much to worry about in the short term.

Because the government has only been shut down for just over a week, Manring has yet to see significant changes to research at the College of Engineering. He said the sequestration issue has had more of a negative effect on research than the government shutdown.

Sequestration refers to automatic, across-the-board budget cuts that were put into effect on March 1 because of the government's inability to produce legislation to decrease the deficit. It caused the amount of federally granted awards at MU to be at a five-year low in 2012, because federal agencies braced themselves for the cuts one year ahead of time. In 2012, the amount of federally granted awards rang in at roughly $112 million, down from $120 million in 2011, according to a 2011-12 report by the MU Office of Research.

While the long-term effects seem harmful to the future of MU research, many of those potential effects wouldn't kick in unless the government is shut down for a month. Linit and Manring both cited this specific period of time as the point at which harsher consequences could start to occur.

"If the shutdown ends tomorrow, then this is of no great concern," Duncan said. "But if it drags on, then it is difficult to know how bad it may become."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Government shutdown stalls fellowships applicants

By Crystal Thomas
October 9, 2013 | 6:45 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Some federal agencies are not accepting or processing fellowship applications during the government shutdown, Tim Parshall, director of the MU Fellowships Office, said.

The shutdown started Oct. 1. Six of the 10 programs for which MU students are currently applying involve federal funding, Parshall said. They are: the Fulbright Scholars Program, the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, the Boren Fellowships, the Critical Language Scholarship Program and the George J. Mitchell Scholar Program.

The National Science Foundation, a huge contributor to fellowships, is closed for now. Its inactive website states that no new payments or contracts for fellowships will be made while the government is shut down.

The deadline for Science Foundation fellowships is early November, and generally 20 to 30 MU students apply, said Robin Walker, director of professional development and external relations for the MU Graduate School. Students are starting to panic, especially if they didn't get started on their application before October began.

Would-be applicants get a message saying they can't submit their forms just now, Parshall said.

The three-year fellowship offers $30,000 each year to those awarded, Walker said. Nationally, the National Science Foundation awarded 2,064 fellowships out of the 13,000 applications last year.

"It's real high stakes," Walker said.
Applicants are advised to proceed as though deadlines will remain the same. Walker said the lack of information and communication because of federal employee furloughs have left professionals who advise fellowship applicants without answers.

"We need to go through this dark, uncertain time together," Walker said.

For fellowship applications, the Fulbright Scholar Program has the closest deadline of Tuesday.

"There is no reason that Fulbright will be affected in the short-term," Parshall said. "I think that it would be affected in the long-term if the government shutdown went for much longer."

Current Fulbright Scholars are not affected because a contractor independent from the government, the Institute of International Education, administers and processes Fulbright funding, Parshall said.

"At this point, two current holders of Fulbrights have heard of no impact on their situation," Parshall said.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
MU partners to expand Internet access to community college graduates

By Ben Walton
October 9, 2013 | 6:34 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU and the Missouri Community College Association have established a partnership to provide Internet access to community college graduates who enroll in Mizzou Online classes, according to an MU news release.

Each community college in the association is agreeing to provide Internet access as needed through campus computer stations to Mizzou Online students as a free service. MU Senior Information Specialist Josh Murray said the plan will be implemented immediately.

The purpose of the partnership is to make distance education courses across the state more comprehensive so more people can earn their degrees while remaining in each community college's service area, according to the release.

"Part of our heritage at MU is to serve the state of Missouri by making higher education accessible to citizens across the state," said Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies and interim vice provost for eLearning, in the release.

Associate degree graduates of the respective community colleges who enroll in Mizzou Online courses are the only people who will be able to use the work stations.

Mizzou Online offers 90 undergraduate and graduate degrees. It served more than 12,600 students last year.

"The use of existing and emerging technology to make higher education more accessible to residents in all regions of our state is a priority of the Missouri Community College
Association," said Ray Cummiskey, president of Jefferson College and chairman of the MCCA Presidents and Chancellors Council, in the release.

The Missouri Community College Association was founded in 1963 and supports 12 community colleges and their respective branches around the state.
Researcher wants to learn why people with hearing aids don't use them

By Harry Jackson

COLUMBIA, Mo. — University of Missouri researcher wants to increase the use of hearing aids among people who have them.

She has received a fellowship that will enable her to study why people with hearing impairments and have hearing aids often don’t use them.

Kari Lane, assistant professor of nursing in the M.U. Sinclair School of Nursing, recently was awarded the fellowship, by the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence.

Previously, Lane developed an intervention and self-guided workbook that help adults with hearing impairments acclimate to hearing aids. The fellowship award will allow Lane to test the effectiveness of the intervention and see to what extent it increases adults’ hearing-aid use.

Lane said several factors contribute to why some individuals do not use their hearing aids or why they only wear the devices occasionally.

“When adults with hearing impairments begin wearing hearing aids, they hear things that they aren’t used to hearing, which can be overwhelming, fatiguing and frustrating,” Lane said. “In addition, the cost to purchase and maintain the devices is high, and multiple appointments to fit the hearing aids can also cause stress.”

Despite obstacles that prevent individuals from using their hearing aids, the devices give those with hearing impairments an enhanced quality of life that is worth the time and money needed to adjust to the devices, Lane said.

“People think wearing hearing aids makes them old,” Lane said. “It’s important to reduce the stigma associated with wearing hearing aids so more people use the devices. The sooner individuals receive treatment for their hearing problems, the better their outcomes are.”

If the intervention she developed proves effective, Lane said she hopes to train others how to use the workbook and accompanying intervention. Ideally, she would like to train individuals at audiological clinics who could educate and assist persons with hearing impairments as they begin wearing hearing aids so they continue using the devices.

The fellowship is worth up to $120,000 in support for her research.
3-D Printing Lab encourages entrepreneurship and investment

Oct 9, 2013  BY KRISTI MCCANN

The University of Missouri’s College of Engineering opened a three-dimensional printing facility two years ago, and in that time, it has appealed to both students and faculty. Doctors, researchers and people studying widely diverse fields, such as paleontology, medicine and engineering have utilized the facility.

“A tangible, three-dimensional model helps me plan exactly where to place the screws and rods to straighten the spine, or determine which sections of malformed vertebrae I need to remove,” says Craig Kuhns, a surgeon at the Missouri Orthopedic Institute.

The 3-D printers also aid research and improve teaching abilities, which in turn enhances the skillsets that MU students obtain. The facility provides valuable experiences both in and out of the classroom and prepares students for applying 3-D technology in their professional field.

“Budgets are shrinking, but the 3-D printing lab doesn’t have to worry about funding cuts because the machines pay for themselves via fees MU receives when we do jobs for outside organizations,” says Mike Klote, manager of MU’s 3-D printing facility. “Our 3-D printing lab exemplified economic development. Students use what they learn in the lab to start companies or get great jobs. Then those alumni bring employment and investment back to Missouri.”
Amid hurricane season, colleges stay vigilant

Jennifer Smola, USA TODAY College 9:39 a.m. EDT October 9, 2013

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For colleges and universities where severe tropical weather is a threat, being prepared is everything.

Tropical Storm Karen may have mostly fizzled out over the weekend, but hurricane season still is in full swing.

And for colleges and universities where severe tropical weather is a threat, being prepared is everything.

In the face of dangerous storms, emergency management teams plan for as much as possible, from storm tracking to campus evacuation plans, says Norris Yarbrough, director of emergency response at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Before Karen dissipated, it threatened the Gulf Coast. With Tulane's homecoming festivities planned for the weekend, more people than normal would be on campus and potentially would feel the impact of the storm, Yarbrough says.

After receiving early alerts about the storm's developments, Yarbrough and his emergency team got to work.

"When we saw that this particular system was being forecast to have a direct impact … we ramped up our emergency operations group," he says.

As part of this process, emergency management and university officials send emergency messages to students, bring in extra water and supplies and discuss evacuation decisions and event cancellations, according to Yarbrough.

Fortunately, few of Tulane's homecoming events had to be canceled because of the weather.
Emergency management officials agree that creating trust between the university and students when it comes to safety is key in preparing for severe weather.

"By having a good line of communication back and forth … that's how you avert anyone getting nervous," says Scott Burnotes, director of emergency management at the University of Miami.

For Florida State University in Tallahassee, where severe tropical storms and hurricanes are less likely, communicating with students at all times — not just in times of emergency — is important, too, says Dave Bujak, the school's emergency management coordinator. The use of social media in safety communication can help build a safe environment on campus, he says.

"The social media allows us a more open or liberal platform to post more frequently, to post more candidly," he says. "It's our opportunity to build that culture of safety on our campus."

**When out-of-state students aren't used to an area's severe weather, they may panic in emergency weather situations, says junior Noelan Hensley, president of the University of Missouri-Columbia chapter of the American Meteorological Society.**

"They're kind of oblivious to how (weather) impacts how they go on about their daily lives," he says.

To put weather preparedness on students' radar, universities spend time during orientation programs discussing weather safety with incoming students and their parents.

"We stress to them that they need to know where they're going to go or what they're going to do," Burnotes says. "We are called the Miami Hurricanes … there's no hiding the fact that hurricanes are an issue here in Miami."

At Tulane, students and parents are required to develop their own emergency plan upon enrollment, Yarbrough says.

"It makes them think about it," he says. "That goes a long way to calm them down."

Staying informed about severe weather through university alert systems or through smartphone weather apps is a wise move for students, Hensley says.

"If they're informed, students tend not to panic as often," says the 21-year-old atmospheric science major.

On the bright side, being in a hurricane-prone area can help promote good practices in all aspects of safety, not just weather, says Burnotes.

"It's a way of life down here," he says. "What that allows us to do is … have a culture of preparedness with our employees and our students."

*Jennifer Smola is a senior at Miami University.*
"Tigers on the Prowl" is an appropriate slogan for University of Missouri sports fans as MU seeks a bowl bid and a Southeast Conference basketball title, but to many Columbians, "Tigers on the Prowl" has a much deeper meaning.

Let me explain and invite you to a party with 10 fabulous tigers on a mission to make our community better.

Charles "Chuck" Crews is an avid Tiger fan, a sponsor of Olympic sports at MU and a personal sponsor of wrestler Ben Askren, but his "Tigers on the Prowl" are different animals than the MU Tigers.

Back in June, Chuck called a news conference to announce a fundraiser for 10 charities in our community and to introduce the community to 10 life-size fiberglass tigers, each painted uniquely by 10 area artists and sponsored by a Columbia business.

In the four months since, the 10 tigers have been prowling around town, visiting various establishments and generating interest in finding them a future home.

Those homes will be decided at 5:30 p.m. Sunday at The Crossing, 3615 Southland Drive. The evening will open with music by the Norm Reubling Band, and there will be plenty of food and drink, and a silent auction — all for the $25 admission price. Tom Bradley of The Eagle 93.9 radio will be the emcee and auctioneer.

Each of the 10 tigers has already earned $2,500 for charity. The sponsors of each tiger paid $2,500 for the right of sponsorship. In fact, this whole idea, the brainchild of Chuck Crews, has cost Chuck himself $10,000 for a start. He put up $5,000 to get his idea off the ground, then bought two sponsorships for his chain of two barbershops in Central Missouri, Cost Cutters and Super Cuts.
The artist for Cost Cutters was Ashley Arnold, and the charity is Special Olympics. The Super Cuts artist was veteran Peggy Guest, and the charity is the Foundation for the Higher Good.

The rest of the lineup:

- Columbia Orthopedic Group: Artist — David Spear; charity — Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri
- Betz Jewelers: Artist — Dennis Murphy; charity — True North
- Barton Law Firm: Artist — Sue Yarborough; charity — Granny's House
- Matrux Automotive: Artist — Scott Kronk; charity — Honor Flight
- Boone County Bank: Artist — Nancy DeClue; charity — Meals on Wheels
- Veterans United Home Loans: Artist — Kayla Peterson; charity — in2Action
- The Crossing: Artist — Dana Hartgrove; Charity — Love, Inc.
- Manor Roofing and Restoration: Artist — Christa Breedlove; charity — Ronald McDonald House

When the sale is complete, the charity gets 75 percent of the take, and the artists get 25 percent. And Crews? He gets the warm and fuzzy feeling that comes with knowing you made something good happen — a "first" in our community.

Crews came upon the idea of "Tigers on the Prowl" after a visit to Eagle River, Wis., where people painted eagles for charity.

Chuck loves making things happen. He was a political fundraiser/campaigner and ran his own flower store in Wichita Falls, Texas, and a gift shop for 10 years in Tulsa before coming to Columbia as vice president of marketing for Midway USA. He opened a gift shop named Strawberry Patch in the Columbia Mall and, in 1999, got into the haircut business. He and his sons, Adam and Aaron, operate nine Cost Cutters and two Super Cuts shops in Central Missouri.

Chuck is betting that initial $10,000 that "Tigers on the Prowl" will be a great success. If so, he says, "we'll do it again next year."

Either a gremlin or that evil force called "spellcheck" created an embarrassing misspelling in a recent history column. I had written about a major business promotion for Jim Denneny of Fayette. Somehow, Jim's name was shortened to Denney.

Apologies to the late Jim's son, Columbia physician Jim Denneny, Jr. and to the senior Denneny's granddaughter, a recent Central Methodist University graduate and currently a school trustee.

Bill Clark’s columns appear Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Reach him at 474-4510.
MFA Oil pledges to raise $100,000 for Children’s Hospital

By Ruth Serven

People wearing lab coats, Columbia Chamber of Commerce jackets, and Missouri Farmers Association Oil Company red polo shirts crowded around a giant pair of scissors.

Representatives from each organization cut a ribbon for the Pediatric and Adolescent Specialty Clinic, the newest addition to the University of Missouri’s Children’s Hospital. The clinic has been open since 2011.

The ceremony celebrated MFA Oil’s commitment to raising $100,000 for the Children’s Hospital, a donation which contributed to the new clinic.

MFA Oil, based in Columbia, is in the third year of that commitment. The company raises money through its annual Poker Run, in which contestants stop at locations across the state to pick up a playing card. The event ends in Jefferson City when players have collected five cards.

“We wanted to have some fun and raise some money at the same time,” said MFA Oil spokesman Tom May. “And through that idea we created the MFA Oil Poker Run.”

May said the Poker Run has raised $138,000 over the past three years. The money has been split between the Children’s Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House.

“The Poker Run helps raise awareness for two great things in our community, and it helps out the organizations,” May said.

MFA Oil employs 1,500 people in central Missouri, many of whom, including May himself, have used the Ronald McDonald House and the Children’s Hospital.

“These are lifesaver places,” he said.

Kellie Coats, director of development for MU Health Care, said MFA Oil, Ronald McDonald House and the Children’s Hospital all serve the same communities across Missouri.

“We see kids from at least 113 of 115 counties in Missouri,” said Tim Fete, medical director of MU Children’s Hospital.

He added that the Children’s Hospital sees 25,000 patients per year, and is able to offer “a breadth of specialties. We can take care of almost any need a child has.”
Philanthropic donations are a significant part of the Children’s Hospital’s funding.

Fete said donations help cover clinical costs, gas and food expenses for families who have to travel, pay for equipment needed in the facilities and support research.

The hospital offers routine care for children, but it also provides a large range of specialties, from asthma treatment to orthopedic care to NICU facilities.

The donation money from the Poker Runs will go into the Children’s Hospital’s general facilities fund, and expansion is planned, Fete said.

“Our goal is to take care of kids all around mid-Missouri, and rural Missouri as well,” he said. “We are very excited to be partners with MFA.”