MU to build new facility to produce uncommon isotopes

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

By Emily Donaldson
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COLUMBIA — Patients concerned with a potential shortage of isotopes that play a key role in medical imaging tests can look forward to MU providing relief.

MU signed a deal with Global PET Imaging LLC to build a facility capable of processing Rubidium-82. The radioisotope is an active ingredient in a test that often determines whether a patient needs surgery following medical emergencies like heart attacks.

Few facilities are capable of processing this isotope, so it could be in danger of shortage in the near future, according to a news release from the MU News Bureau. At this time, the government is the only producer of Rubidium-82 in the U.S., said Steve Wyatt, MU vice provost for economic development.

"Currently, the government is the domestic producer of this isotope," Wyatt said. "That is why MU is collaborating with Global PET to produce more Rubidium-82 to meet the demand."

Rod D. Martin, executive chairman of Global PET Imaging LLC, said there are roughly 170 to 180 operational PET scanners in the United States. Martin said there is potentially enough demand for as many as 1,500 to 2,000 PET scanners. However, there is only enough of the isotope available to use in 230 to 250 scanners.

"Compared to what should be, there is a tremendous shortage," Martin said.

A PET scanner is a nuclear imaging machine that produces a three-dimensional image of a human body.
According to the agreement, Global PET Imaging LLC will construct a facility to house a 70 million electron volt cyclotron at MU's Discovery Ridge. The cyclotron will be purchased and installed after the facility's construction.

A cyclotron is a circular, race-track like machine through which researchers shoot subatomic particles. The particles collide with one another, causing different reactions and forming new elements from old ones, creating isotopes such as Rubidium-82. Martin likened the machine's shape to a doughnut and each atom to a sprinkle.

Although Martin said there is no exact total for how much money the project will cost, he estimates it will be at least $20 million.

The isotopes produced at the MU facility will be sent around the nation to different hospitals for medical use, Wyatt said. MU will also have access to the facility for other research purposes.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university might find additional uses for the isotope being produced and will look to explore those uses in the future.

While no exact dates have been set yet, it is likely that construction will start in the next 12 to 18 months after the terms are finalized, Wyatt said.

"From the inception to full production, you could expect a three year time frame," he said. "This project requires several regulatory steps."

Columbia was chosen as the site for the future facility because of MU's extensive work with the Research Reactor Center, Wyatt said.

The Research Reactor Center already produces several isotopes used for medical applications. In some cases, MU is the only supplier of these isotopes in the world, Basi said.

The only other company looking to build a similar facility is Zevacor Molecular, which announced Nov. 4 the purchase of its own 70 million electron volt cyclotron dedicated to medical use, the first purchase of this kind. The location of Zevacor Molecular's cyclotron will likely be announced before the end of 2013.

*Supervising editor is Allie Hinga.*
Mums’ friendships affect kids' friendships too

A new study has suggested that mothers’ friendships with other adults can impact their adolescent children's relationships with their own friends, particularly the negative aspects of these relationships such as conflict and antagonism.

Gary C. Glick, a doctoral candidate at University of Missouri, and Amanda Rose, professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences, studied the development of friendships and other peer relationships during adolescence and their impact on psychological adjustment.

They found that adolescents may mimic the negative characteristics of their mothers' relationships in their own peer-to-peer friendships suggesting that mothers can serve as role models for their adolescents during formative years.

"Mothers who display high levels of conflict with friends may signal to their children that such behavior is acceptable, or even normative in friendships. Additional findings suggest that adolescents internalize their reactions to their mothers' conflict with adult friends which may lead to anxiety and depression," Glick said.

Youth ranging in age from 10 to 17 and their mothers were polled separately to measure perceived positive and negative friendship qualities in both groups.

Results showed that positive friendship qualities were not always imitated by adolescents; however, negative and antagonistic relationship characteristics exhibited by mothers were much more likely to be mimicked by the youth studied.

The study is published in Journal of Research on Adolescence.
Expansions, renovations isolate certain parts of MU from campus

By Covey Eonyak Son

MU has expanded its facilities beyond campus grounds in recent years — a move criticized by some members of the university for making the affected feel “isolated.”

For example, the off-campus student housing at Tiger Diggs is “not the ideal situation, particularly for freshmen,” said Frankie Minor, director of the Department of Residential Life.

“While (Tiger Diggs) has been a good option for us, we still feel that the proximity of on-campus housing is still the best option,” Minor said. “It’s very important for students to be in a situation that forces a little more interaction with others; that’s how friendships are formed.”

The effects of distance

The distance between campus and Tiger Diggs can discourage its residents from getting as involved in campus activities and organizations as students living in other residence halls do, Minor said.
“I think that any distance can be an inhibitor,” he said. “One of the fundamentals of real estate is: location, location, location. If you are back in your apartment right now you might ask, ‘Am I really going to that student organization meeting right now when it is pouring down raining and cold out?’”

The distance can limit students from accessing campus resources, said Joelle Khairallah, hall coordinator at Tiger Diggs.

“One thing we do see is that the GPA levels here are slightly lower than other students on campus,” she said. “We do have tutoring here, but obviously they have a better setup and other resources on campus.”

Sophomore Shannon Le, who currently resides at Tiger Diggs, said she is concerned the distance has actually created a divide between the apartments and campus atmosphere.

“I think they perceive us more as outsiders because we live off-campus,” Le said. “You are a little isolated from the campus atmosphere because it is a hassle to wait for the buses. So you might want to stay in your apartment where it’s comfortable to you.”

Representation of Tiger Diggs residents is another concern, Khairallah said.

“Every year, even during Residence Hall Association’s representative committee meetings, the vibe that every single one of my representatives gets is that ‘this doesn’t apply to you, and because this doesn’t apply to you, you have to think differently,’” she said. “Last year, we were able to push for Residential Life to put in some money to improve the number of hours the shuttle bus comes here on weekends. But we did have to push quite a bit more so than on-campus residence halls.”

However, many residents at Tiger Diggs still manage to overcome the distance and get actively involved on campus.

Le is an active member of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity.

Sophomore Victoria Kyles, who also lives at Tiger Diggs, became involved with the Freshman Action Team during her second semester at MU.

“The distance was a little bit of a barrier, but they really helped out (with getting more involved),” Kyles said.

In addition to the shuttle service to campus, Tiger Diggs residents are encouraged to participate in hall government and plan social events at the facility.

*Museum of Art and Archaeology*

Relocation of the Museum of Art and Archaeology to Mizzou North is another controversial move that was heavily criticized by faculty members.
“There are a lot of benefits to having a museum on campus,” said Rachel Harper, coordinator of the honors humanities sequence. “I could no longer require my students to get to Mizzou North. What if they don’t have cars? How would they get there? Imagine what would happen if the library were to move to Mizzou North! Who would use it?”

Between 150 and 300 students from the honors humanities sequence used to visit the museum each semester, Harper said.

“I think it says a lot about what the university values,” she said. “I hope it is a temporary decision.”

Associate teaching professor Nicole Monnier, a member of the faculty council, criticized Jackie Jones, vice chancellor for administrative services, for not consulting the faculty body before making the decision to move the museum.

“The Campus Planning Committee’s primary function is to advise the vice chancellor,” Monnier said. “But this committee was not brought in to discuss the plans for the museum. So obviously, there has been a disconnect between Jackie Jones’s office and at the very least, that particular committee that was very poised to provide input about proposed changes.”

Jones declined to provide The Maneater with a response to Monnier’s statement.

This breakdown in communication is no news, Monnier said.

“I don’t think the faculty was deliberately left out, but for a long time, there has been a disconnect in communication between administrative decisions and those populations who are affected by them,” she said. “In the case of the museum, it affects academic programming, and anyone who uses the museum for classes suddenly had that taken out of their possibilities for how they teach their course.”

The administration had been aware of the radiation problem at Pickard Hall and has been monitoring the situation for years, Monnier said.

“The timeline is really troubling,” she said. “It seems that there has been a three or four month period where the administration knew that this was inevitable and did not announce it until the end of May. It’s interesting that the university didn’t have a plan before this. There should have been a Plan B.”

In the meantime, the museum will do what it can to adapt to this situation, museum director Alex Barker said.

“While we are here, we are going to focus on increasing the accessibility of the collections online and having high-quality images served up,” he said. “Because we are further away, we are also learning to increase our focus on outreach.”

Barker said he hopes the museum will safely return to Pickard in the near future.
“I think in the long-term, it’s important for the museum to be as accessible as possible to students,” he said. “We just do not have enough information at this time to say when we can go back. But I hope we will be back on campus soon.”

The museum plans to be fully moved out of Pickard Hall by the end of 2013 and reopen at the new location around April 2014, Barker said.

In addition to the Museum of Art and Archaeology, the Museum of Anthropology, located in Swallow Hall, and several offices based out of Jesse Hall will temporarily relocate to Mizzou North while the Renew Mizzou renovations take place.

**Future on-campus housing**

The Department of Residential Life’s future plans include increasing housing on-campus and eventually stopping use of Tiger Diggins as an off-campus housing supplement, Minor said.

In addition to Virginia Avenue South Housing, two new residence halls, currently referred to as “Building One” and “Building Two,” and a new dining facility have been approved.

Building One will be constructed over the basketball court area located between Lathrop Hall and South Hall, and will open in the fall of 2016.

Jones Hall will be demolished in January 2015 to make room for Building Two and the new dining hall. These two structures will open in Fall 2017.

The second phase of the plan, which has yet to be approved, will potentially demolish Laws and Lathrop halls to construct new buildings over them. The Pavilion at Dobbs will also be demolished after the new dining hall is completed, and a third building will take its place.

In total, the second phase will add up to 350 beds to the 1,000 existing beds in those halls marked for demolition, Minor said.

“The challenge is that we are running out of room,” he said. “So if we were to add more housing, it would mean we may need to acquire more property.”

Though currently unlikely, the prospect of the university expanding its borders is concerning, Columbia City Councilman Karl Skala said.

“I don’t see any huge issue with that yet, but there may be a time at which there may be a conflict between what the university wants to do and what the city wants to do,” he said.
Appointment of interim chancellor signifies preparations for transitional leadership period

By Crystal Duan

When Chancellor Brady Deaton steps down Nov. 15, his position will not be left unguarded for long.

Before the new chancellor takes office, Deaton will be temporarily succeeded by UM System General Counsel Steve Owens.

The Board of Curators appointed Owens to the interim chancellor position Oct. 23. His term begins on Deaton’s final day.

Although Owens is not a candidate for the permanent position, UM System spokesman John Fougere said Owens has unique qualifications that include comprehensive knowledge of MU.

“His past experience of being a former interim president of the University of Missouri System … makes him uniquely qualified to serve in a similar interim capacity at MU,” Fougere said in an email.

Owens bridged the gap between former UM System President Gary Forsee’s term and that of current President Tim Wolfe, an experience that Deputy Chancellor Michael Middleton said suited Owens to the interim chancellor position.

“He has a very good sense of that interim role,” Middleton said. “We are working as a team to get the campus through this process.”

Middleton, who has been deputy chancellor since 1998, was also given an additional role as transition executive during the time between Deaton’s retirement and the date of the new chancellor’s inauguration.

The transition executive role entails being a point person to convey information to the new chancellor when he or she takes office, Middleton said.

“There is an urgent need to inform the new person of the lay of the land, the issues that are currently on the table, the activities that are currently in the works,” Middleton said. “(The responsibility of transition executive) is to coordinate communication between the provost and the other vice chancellors and the incoming chancellor.”
Middleton said he is developing briefing books to give the chancellor succinct statements of important issues he or she will face upon arriving on campus.

The books will be about the information that the chancellor will need to know about the university’s operations and vision, he said.

“We have a real serious need to ensure that the person hits the ground running … so we can continue the progress we’ve made over the last several years,” Middleton said. “Once that new chancellor is named, I will have to communicate with the new person and figure out, in addition to what we want them to know, what he or she wants to know.”

Deaton will also be a part of the briefing process and go over what he feels the new chancellor needs to know, Middleton said.

Fougere said Middleton and Owens will allow the university to maintain stability in the transitional period.

“Utilizing the team approach of Steve Owens as interim chancellor and Mike Middleton as deputy chancellor and transition executive allows us to maintain the crucial continuity of leadership at the university in the interim period between permanent chancellors,” Fougere said.

Middleton said he and Owens work well together but will have to ensure they do not overstep their boundaries.

“The real question is because this is a dynamic and complex organization, there are going to be questions about what do we need to be doing in this interim period,” Middleton said. “We don’t want to make decisions that would be best left for the new chancellor…. But by the same token, there are things that have to be done. Mr. Owens and I will have to sort out what we need to be deciding in moving forward and what we need to be leaving for the new person to work with.”

The interim positions will end on the first day in office for the permanent chancellor, a date currently unknown.
World of printing takes on new form, expands possibilities
By Samantha Kummerer

For the last four years, the College of Engineering has been enriching its array of technology, starting with the acquisition of a 3-D printer.

A 3-D printer uses gypsum and other materials to produce things such as prototypes at a relatively cheap cost. Since the printer’s purchase in 2008, the MU’s lab has grown to contain five different printers. This expansion allows the machine to make a variety of products.

“It gave the opportunity to print in different mediums to satisfy the customers,” said Bill Carter, a supervisor in the College of Engineering. “The customers being students, professors and outside entities.”

The type of object you would want to print determines the choice of printer. The mediums of the printers vary, but can include gypsum, nylon or acrylic.

Using nylon material allows for a more flexible object. Using the gypsum printer allows for movable objects to be created in one piece, as well as with color.

MU is set apart from others in that the university has five different printers and uses them for multiple disciplines, Carter said.

“The 3-D printing technology is not only expanding at the university, but globally,” Carter said. “Printers are starting to appear in high schools.”

Carter predicts that in the next 10 years, the technology will be found at Kinkos.

“Similar to the computer when it first came out, people know what it (is), but can they really make use of it,” Director of Administrative Services Marty Walker said.

The 3-D printing process allows users to create rapid prototyping. The solid objects come from a digital model. All it takes is an idea that can be modeled on a computer using design software and then printed. The printer creates the objects by pouring material in layers that are about half the thickness of a piece of paper. Upon creation, the products cool, and the printer operator clears them of the soft layer of support that encases them. The entire process takes several hours.

In the disciplines of prototypes, 3-D printing has dramatically cut costs. Carter said it costs about $10,000 to produce cell phone cases, but with 3-D printing, creating a prototype costs $100, which lessens the cost impact of errors.
Given these benefits, MU aims to prepare its students to implement their ideas quickly using 3-D printing.

This technology is not limited to the College of Engineering. The printers have enabled the cooperation and advancement across departments from art to architecture, as well as other outside entities, Carter said.

The major collaboration is with the medical department. The printers assist in the medical field, including in eye and back surgeries.

In one instance, MU’s 3-D lab assisted a patient with a spine curvature. Through converting his MRI to a 3-D printed, life-size spine, surgeons were able to look at the spine more closely. He had one surgery, rather than multiple, because of this process.

“It points out the necessity for 3-D printing with the medical community,” Walker said. “It saves money and time.”

The technology allows for the simulation of bones and organs. These prototypes assist in strategizing surgical techniques.

The vast possibility of rapid prototyping has MU encouraging students to take advantage of the technology. Due to the high cost of the machinery, students do not operate the printers, but the lab encourages their designs.

“Anyone with an idea (that) wants to come up with a tangible product, we’ll work with them,” Walker said.

MU only charges for material costs and covers the rest of the expenses. These costs vary with the choice of material and size of the object.

The university hopes that students will be able to realize the potential of the technology.

“Students are going to be head and shoulders above their colleagues by knowing what it is, how to institute and how to save their company money,” Walker said.

As the rapid prototyping lab continues to grow alongside students ideas, the lab looks to one day be able to receive an update that allows two materials to be joined into one object.

Carter said this would allow a prototype of a hand to be made out of material that would allow one to see through to the bone structure beneath.

The possibilities of objects and materials are restricted only to that of the imaginations of the students, Carter said.
Ryan Ferguson appeals court ruling complex, focuses on Brady violation

BY Tracey Goldner

COLUMBIA — At Tuesday evening's news conference, Ryan Ferguson's attorney, Kathleen Zellner, had words of praise for the "well crafted" ruling of the Western District Court of Appeals in vacating her client's convictions.

"This will be the leading case in habeas law in Missouri," she predicted.

It is a complicated ruling, even for legal minds, that isn't easily simplified.

Rodney Uphoff is an MU law professor who specializes in wrongful convictions. Here's how he interpreted the ruling on Tuesday:

Ryan Ferguson's conviction was based on the testimony of two key witnesses:

- Charles "Chuck" Erickson: Told police that he and Ryan Ferguson killed Kent Heitholt.
- Jerry Trump: Testified that he saw Ferguson and Erickson in the alley the night Heitholt was killed.

Ferguson already lost his direct appeal and unsuccessfully filed post-conviction motions challenging his conviction. His lawyer then filed a writ of habeas corpus challenging the legality of his imprisonment.

Appeals courts usually decline to hear certain issues in a writ of habeas corpus or bar them under procedural rules because the defendant failed to raise the issues in a timely manner. Courts do not want to allow defendants to ambush the court with new claims that should have been raised earlier.

So why did the Missouri Court of Appeals allow Ferguson to raise this new claim on appeal?

Courts have established three exceptions to the rule that bars defendants from raising claims too late. The Ferguson defense team had to convince the Court of Appeals that they met one of the three exceptions.

The relevant exception in the Ferguson case was the gateway to cause and prejudice exception. The Court of Appeals found as follows:
Under the U.S. Constitution and Missouri state law, prosecutors must provide the defense with all exculpatory evidence, which is evidence that tends to show the defendant is not guilty of a charge.

**Exculpatory evidence** also includes impeachment evidence, which is evidence that casts doubt on the credibility or reliability of a witness. This exculpatory evidence is also referred to as Brady material, because the Supreme Court in 1963 first imposed this disclosure obligation on prosecutors in the case of *Brady v. Maryland*.

In *Kyles v. Whitley (1995)*, the court extended the Brady holding that a prosecutor must collect all exculpatory material from the police and turn it over to the defense.

The Court of Appeals found that the cause — the fact certain Brady evidence was not submitted to the defense — and the prejudice — the significance of the information withheld — met the "gateway to cause and prejudice" exception. Ferguson ultimately met this exception because he could not have raised this issue on appeal because Ferguson did not discover the prosecution had failed to disclose the Brady information until after the appeal had been decided.

**What was the withheld information?**

In the Ferguson case, Trump testified that he first recognized Ferguson and Erickson in a newspaper article his wife sent him while he was in jail. The paper was folded in half so that he only saw their faces and recognized them, but he did not see what the story was about: that the two had been arrested in connection with the slaying of Kent Heitholt. In a later interview with the state, Trump’s wife said she did not recall sending the newspaper article to her husband.

The state should have sent the information they gathered in the interview with Trump's wife to the defense, per the Brady Rule, but it did not.

In fact, the investigator who interviewed Barbara Trump never made a report of the interview. According to Uphoff, the failure to turn over Brady material happens too often and is not a problem unique to Missouri.

The prosecutor in the case, Kevin Crane, said he never saw an investigator's report. But because an investigator for his office conducted the interview, the state is still held accountable for that information. The investigator should have alerted the prosecutor so that he could alert the defense of the existence of the evidence.

**What did the appeals court decide?**

Once the appeals court determined the Brady Rule was violated, it conducted a materiality analysis to determine if the evidence withheld was significant enough to actually overturn the conviction. The judges concluded unanimously that the Brady material evidence withheld was so significant that it undermined the court's confidence in the conviction. In other words, it was not sure that if the jury had heard this information, that it would have believed Trump and convicted Ferguson.
With Trump’s testimony void, the only remaining testimony was Erickson’s, and that confession was seriously challenged. The fact that Erickson has since changed his testimony was not a critical part of the court's decision.

A court does not overturn a murder conviction lightly. The appeals court states in the ruling that:

- It has serious doubts about Ferguson's guilt because without Trump's testimony the only evidence pointing to Ferguson is the statement given by Erickson.
- It does not conclude that Ferguson is actually innocent.
Public Hearing on College Ratings

November 7, 2013
BY
Michael Stratford

NO MENTION

A federal college ratings system has the potential to curb access to higher education for disadvantaged minority and low-income students, several college leaders and student advocates told U.S. Education Department officials on Wednesday.

Dozens of students, faculty members, administrators, parents and advocacy groups testified at a daylong hearing at California State University’s Dominguez Hills campus. The event kicked off a series of four public forums that the Education Department is holding this month to solicit feedback on how to develop a federal college ratings system, President Obama's top higher education priority.

As might be expected at a forum open to the public, the comments were wide-ranging and many touched on broad themes about college affordability. Several speakers lamented the decline in state funding for public education. Students relayed personal anecdotes about their struggles with large amounts of student loan debt. Several faculty members said they were concerned that a ratings system would be reductive and would not take into account the full value of a college education.

One central concern for many of the speakers, however, was the extent to which a ratings plan will help or harm students at community colleges and other institutions that serve disadvantaged populations.

Thomas Fallo, the superintendent/president of El Camino Community College District, which serves 25,000 students in the Los Angeles area, said he was concerned that a ratings system would not reflect the realities of how students enroll at his institution.

“Students usually select a community college based on location and convenience” not based on any outside rating or ranking system, he said. Instead of developing an entirely new system of metrics at the federal level, he suggested that the Education Department defer to state-based performance models to evaluate colleges.
Several advocacy groups, while praising the administration’s goals, cautioned that a poorly crafted ratings system could harm low-income students’ access to higher education.

Audrey Dow, community affairs director at Campaign for College Opportunity, echoed those remarks. She expressed concern that underprivileged students would be denied access to education if they were to live in a community where local colleges performed poorly in the ratings system and they therefore received less federal aid. The administration plans to ultimately persuade Congress to link its rating system to federal funding starting in 2018.

She also urged the administration to couple a ratings system with “significant outreach” to help underprivileged students understand and properly use the data.

David Levitus, the California deputy director of Young Invincibles, a student advocacy group, cautioned against ratings metrics that reduce incentives for institutions to enroll disadvantaged students. He said a recent move to performance-based funding in Ohio largely punished institutions that enroll low-income students.

Levitus also questioned the quality of existing data and urged the administration to work with Congress on changing the limitations on what data the federal government is allowed to collect from colleges, alluding to the federal ban on a student-unit record system.

The federal officials at the forum did not respond to comments but said they planned to use the feedback they gather at the public meetings across the country to inform the metrics for rating colleges. The department expects to release a draft version of the ratings system by this spring.

Addressing the concerns about access to low-income students generally, Deputy Under Secretary Jamienne Studley reiterated at the end of the hearing that the department is seeking, in its ratings system, to compare only institutions that have like missions and serve similar populations.

“We take very seriously” the concerns about access for low-income students, she said, adding that the department wants to take metrics such as the percentage of Pell Grant recipients into account in the ratings.
When a Better Ranking Is a Bad Thing

November 7, 2013

BY
Robert J. Sternberg

NO MENTION

When people want to know how “good” a university is, they often turn to published media ratings, such as the rankings of U.S. News & World Report. The assumption is that the better the ratings, the better the university is. But there may be cases in which a better rating is actually a bad thing. It all depends on the mission of the university. Consider, for example, the case of the land-grant mission.

First, the land-grant mission, as framed by the Morrill Act of 1862, emphasizes the importance of access. Believers in the land-grant mission trust in the potential of students and in their capacity for self-improvement. They therefore want to give all qualified students a chance to succeed at their university. From the standpoint of the land-grant mission, the more qualified students a university accepts, the better it is in fulfilling its mission. That’s true even if it means enrolling a large share of those who apply. U.S. News, in contrast, factors into its ratings "student selectivity." In other words, the more students a college or university rejects, the more highly it is rated. The land-grant mission, therefore, leads to the opposite conclusion of the U.S. News ratings regarding what constitutes quality.

Second, the land-grant mission is about access because of a belief of its creators in the modifiability of human abilities. Such a view is consistent with a wide variety of psychological research indicating that people can become smarter.

So in taking students with a wider range of standardized test scores than would normally be admitted to highly selective universities, the land-grant university is betting that students can become smarter through a college education. They are emphasizing “throughput” rather than input. Their concern is with the value added by a college education more than by the input value shown by standardized tests.

On this view, relying heavily on standardized tests in college admissions locks students into a self-fulfilling prophecy, whereby some, by virtue of their superior enculturation, socialization, and schooling, are given more opportunities, whereas others who have had fewer past opportunities are blocked off from better future opportunities. In essence, universities have
created a “Matthew effect” through their admissions process, whereby to those who have more, comes more, and to those who have less, comes less.

Third, the land-grant mission leads us to wish to serve our states and the communities within our states by educating ethical leaders who will make a positive, meaningful, and enduring difference to the nation and the world. Ethical leaders come from all kinds of backgrounds. Through work or chores as well as through school and extracurricular activities, students learn the importance of creativity, integrity, hard work, self-reliance, responsibility, entrepreneurship, common sense, and how to work with others for a common good. ACTs and SATs measure important academic skills, but the scores do not measure these crucial characteristics of ethical leaders.

*U.S. News* does not count these characteristics at all in its ratings, but it does count ACT and SAT scores, which measure only a tiny sliver of the characteristics (in particular, knowledge and analytical reasoning with this knowledge) that have made our state and our nation great. Nor does *U.S. News* count some of the things land-grant universities value most, such as employing as many of our graduates as possible in meaningful, well-paying jobs.

Fourth, *U.S. News* values universities with higher retention rates, which makes sense. But it is much easier for a university to attain a high freshman retention rate if it accepts only students with sky-high high school grades and standardized test scores than if it accepts a broader range of students. Is it “better” to make the university’s task easier? Well, perhaps it is better if the university’s goal is to be as selective as possible. But it is worse if the university’s goal is to give as many qualified students as possible a chance to have a college education. Land-grant universities want to win the retention race, but they typically do not have the jet pack of top high-school grades and test scores strapped to the backs of the large majority of their racers. If they want to increase their *U.S. News* rating, they may be tempted to restrict admissions to students with strong academic backgrounds, again working against access.

Finally, *U.S. News* values colleges and universities on their “financial resources.” Many land-grant universities cannot and never will compete on financial resources with institutions that charge $50,000 to $60,000 or more a year in total expenses. They shouldn’t even try. Rather, land-grant universities, in order to promote access, can and should take pride in being as inexpensive as possible.

They could become more expensive and richer, but only at the expense of their mission. In Wyoming, for example, the State Constitution actually requires that education at our state colleges and university be as near to free as possible. *U.S. News* and similar raters of universities should not define what excellence is. A university’s fidelity to its mission should define what academic excellence is.

Universities that seek to enhance their published ratings, emanating from any of the media, risk sacrificing their mission for the sake of getting higher ratings. There is no one mission that is right for every college and university, and there is no one set of ratings that captures all the factors that lead to excellence in institutions with diverse missions.
Guest Column: Finding a home at MU with fellow student veterans

By Traci Payne

Statistically, I’ve read, the chance of a military veteran actually graduating with a bachelor’s degree is low. Three semesters into my college experience, I can understand why.

I started school with hope, optimism and a desire to get back part of my early adulthood that I felt I had missed out on. I eagerly attended every football game, every organizational meeting, every study abroad information session and any chance for free food. I tried to do what I thought “college kids” did. My grades were almost perfect, but it was a struggle — at times it even felt pointless.

I spent the first year wandering campus alone. I used an app on my iPhone to navigate my way around. I didn’t know a single person. It was lonely, it was frustrating and I wondered what the chances were that I would continue down this path. It took reaching out to fellow student veterans to finally feel at home at Mizzou.

I was hesitant at first. It is not easy to insert yourself into a group that seems so tight-knit. Then, I realized that there was nowhere else on campus that I better fit in. Despite the diversity, there is a silent camaraderie. Now, I wonder how I made it through the first year without them.

Most people cannot understand what it feels like to jump into a traditional university setting after basically growing up in the military. My friends don’t understand, professors don’t understand and my classmates certainly don’t understand. But fellow veterans — they get it.

They understand that on breaks from school, I don’t get to go home to mom and dad and have a month-long vacation. They understand when I go off to my drill weekend, I spend the next two weeks trying to catch up on homework. They understand the frustration I feel when the classmate next to me is watching YouTube videos and I am trying to concentrate.

There is a common misconception that many of the people who join the military do so because they aren’t smart enough for college. That is entirely untrue. Every time I enter the Mizzou Student Veterans Association’s office, I have the honor and privilege of being surrounded by some of the greatest people I’ve ever met. They are intelligent. They are extremely hard-working. But they will never tell you that, because they are humble. They are majoring in statistics, economics, French and health care administration. They are selfless. They help each other with everything. They care about each other. It is by far the best fraternity on campus. On Veteran’s Day, and every day, I consider myself fortunate to be part of this group.

As it turns out, I didn’t really miss out on anything. I left home after high school, lived in the dorms on military bases around the world and made some of the best friends a person could ever
have. Despite the struggles, I do not regret my decision to delay college and serve my country. I have had amazing experiences and I am thankful for the education I received that could have never been learned inside the four walls of a classroom. I may have taken the long way around, but in return, I gained life experience that I wouldn’t trade for anything.
ASK A SCIENTIST Q: How did neanderthals think?

By JENNIFER HENDERSON and DEANNA LANKFORD of MU's Office of Science Outreach

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Question submitted by Ms. Tyus' fifth-grade class at Benton Elementary

A: Libby Cowgill, an anthropologist and an assistant professor at the University of Missouri, notes, "Neanderthals were human relatives who lived between 30,000 and 130,000 years ago, largely in Europe." Neanderthals made stone tools, survived the bitter cold of Ice Age Europe and lived among many predators, including cave lions, bears, woolly mammoths and woolly rhinoceroses.

Neanderthal fossils show that they had relatively large brains. Scientists are able to determine how intelligent Neanderthals were based on artifacts left behind. Cowgill explains, "They were wonderful at making fairly sophisticated stone tools. It requires forethought and planning to pick up a stone and start shaping it so you can get an end product steps ahead of where you started."

While clues left behind can help us understand Neanderthals, we can learn even more by the clues we don't find. Cowgill says, "Modern humans made beautiful figurines, cave paintings and jewelry. Neanderthals didn't seem to do this at a high level; we only find tiny things every now and then." The lack of creativity among Neanderthals illustrates some of the differences between the Neanderthal and humans. Neanderthals have not vanished completely; research indicates that individuals of European descent might carry a small amount of Neanderthal DNA in their cells.

Cowgill suggests that when we think of Neanderthals, we consider that we might not be that different after all. Neanderthals were very similar to humans in many ways — they lived in cooperative groups, helped each other survive and buried their dead. The question we could ask ourselves is, "What does it mean to be human?"

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Booing Obama, not the troops
By Timothy Nickel
November 7, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CST

I was at that game (Missouri v. Tennessee football game, Saturday, Nov. 2), and yes, when the president of the United States was mentioned people booed! Rightfully so!

The new national guard recruits were cheered for, rightfully so!

The sad part of it they are going to have to take orders from a president that doesn't really give a damn about them!

Timothy Nickel is a St. Louis resident.
Support builds for Missouri man who violated Iraq sanctions

5 hours ago • By Jesse Bogan jbogan@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8255

COLUMBIA, MO. • A St. Louis County doctor said he needed money sent to Iraq so his mother could get cancer treatment in a private clinic.

An engineering professor in Rolla said he needed to get funds in the country so his parents and “orphans of my relatives” could buy food and medicine.

And Shakir Hamoodi, the public face of Islam in central Missouri after 9/11, had 11 siblings and a blind mother to help, among many others.

These stories and others like them rest in a thick file that’s been sent to the Obama administration asking that Hamoodi be let out of prison.

Hamoodi pleaded guilty in 2012 to violating sanctions levied against Iraq by illegally sending money to the country before the U.S.-led Iraq war.

Hamoodi has said he bundled the money together only to help the relatives of himself and his friends. He said he was motivated to do it after hearing about a relative who lost a baby because she couldn’t afford a $10 antibiotic.

Now, his supporters describe him as an innocent victim of strict trade sanctions imposed against Saddam Hussein after his 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The restrictions allowed in only humanitarian assistance sent through approved organizations.

Hamoodi’s supporters have recently escalated calls for his three-year prison sentence to be commuted for time served.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., has forwarded the case to the White House, though it’s unclear whether the senator is pushing for Hamoodi’s release.

Hamoodi first was thrust into the spotlight in 2006, three years after sanctions were lifted. Swarms of federal agents raided his large house in Columbia, stunning residents of his prominent neighborhood.

Authorities seized computers and many other belongings, including letters and logs with details about where money was sent.
Over nine years, he sneaked $270,000 into Iraq through neighboring Jordan. He said the money, sometimes as little as $20 a month per family, went far in the inflation-plagued country. During the sanctions, a half-million Iraqi children under the age of 5 died, many from malnutrition, according to one United Nations estimate.

Hamoodi said the funds supported the completion of many advanced degrees and provided a lot of food, health care and peace of mind.

The judge who sentenced Hamoodi, however, said that while Hamoodi may have had good intentions, there’s no way to account for where all the money landed. The judge said he led a sustained and orchestrated violation of the sanctions.

He also had ties to an international charity that federal officials investigated for similar reasons.

But others see discrimination.

“It’s a gross injustice based on racial prejudice and hysteria,” said Craig Van Matre, an attorney who prepared Hamoodi’s petition for a commuted sentence. “I don’t know what good is being served. It’s really shaken my faith in the legal system.”

RAISING AWARENESS

Hamoodi, 61, was raised in a farming family along the Euphrates River in Anah, Iraq, the oldest boy among 12 siblings. He went on to study engineering in Baghdad. With government support, he pursued advanced studies in England, France and eventually Columbia, where he arrived in 1985 and eventually graduated with a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering.

“This is a man who could have been building nuclear weapons for Saddam Hussein, but he didn’t use those skills,” said David Finke, chairman of the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation. “He staked his career and his life in this country.”

Hamoodi became a U.S. citizen in 2002. He and his wife have five children: a son who graduated from Stanford University and went on to Microsoft; a son studying engineering at Wesleyan University in Connecticut; a daughter who earned a master’s degree and is an elementary teacher in Columbia; a son in medical school at the University of Missouri-Columbia; and a son in high school.

Hamoodi’s wife teaches Arabic at Moberly Community College.

Owais Abdul-Kafi, the son in medical school, has been acting as a family spokesman. He said his father wasn’t a member of Saddam’s Baath Party, but rather he received support to study abroad for graduating first in his class as an undergraduate.

Hamoodi taught at MU before he ultimately gave up on engineering, around the late 1990s. In 2003, he opened an international grocery in Columbia with a specialty in ingredients from the Middle East.
He studied Islamic law and became a go-to person for Muslims to settle disputes through their faith.

But he and his family were caught up in an anti-Muslim backlash. Neighbors say their Columbia home had been vandalized on repeated occasions.

As the outreach director for the Islamic Center of Central Missouri, Hamoodi often tried to clear up misinformation in the public about Islam and its 1.5 billion followers. He compared some modern Muslim extremists to the Christian crusaders, saying both groups shouldn’t be held up as the defining followers of each faith.

He told a group gathered at a high school before the 2003 invasion of Iraq that 99 percent of Iraqis supported removing Saddam from power, if it was done like a careful doctor performing surgery. “Please do,” he told the crowd. “But don’t bomb our water again, or sewage systems again, our schools, our hospitals,” as he said was done in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War.

Hamoodi also traveled to mosques in Missouri and different parts of the U.S. to speak and raise money and awareness.

And up until 2003, he was breaking the sanctions by sending money to Iraq.

**FEATHERS IN THE WIND**

While Hamoodi sent the funds to Iraq before the war, it probably didn’t help his case that many of his relatives live in an area of Al-Anbar Province that would later be the center of intense fighting. Around 2006, the year his home was raided, coalition forces sought to locate funding sources for insurgent groups battling in the area, said Rick Brennan, an analyst at Rand who was later part of the effort.

At the time of the raid, investigators asked Hamoodi if he knew anybody from the now-defunct Columbia-based Islamic American Relief Agency, which the U.S. government said illegally transferred funds to Iraq with the assistance of a Jordanian global terrorist. The charity’s officers, who denied being involved with terrorists, pleaded guilty to violating sanctions.

Hamoodi said he didn’t know anybody with the charity, other than attending the same mosque.

Hamoodi was questioned about involvement with another charity based in the Detroit-area that was raided the same day.

Government prosecutors from a counterterrorism unit in Washington got involved in Hamoodi’s case. But after six years of investigations and litigation, the government never proved he was involved with terrorist groups.

In 2012, he plead guilty to conspiracy to violate the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and was sentenced to three years in prison.

The Rev. Maureen Dickmann, a former prosecutor in St. Louis in the 1970s, who is now pastor at Rock Bridge Christian Church in Columbia and a Hamoodi supporter, said the case was overblown.
“They got in so deep they had to do something,” she said of the government’s efforts to pursue the case. “They raided his house and made a big to-do about it. I think they were afraid of getting egg on their face or looking bad.”

Others disagree.

“The bottom line is he did plead guilty to violating a federal statute,” said Don Ledford, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney’s office in Missouri’s Western District.

Hamoodi sent money through his own scheme and later through Life for Relief and Development, the Detroit-based charity that did international development work.

He was a paid speaker and fundraiser for the charity. According to his plea agreement, Hamoodi didn’t have a written contract for the work until 2004. Prosecutors also said he did not report that income to the IRS and other government agencies, allowing his family to receive assistance such as food stamps.

At sentencing in 2012 in Jefferson City, U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey said Hamoodi’s case was different than others like it because he was the leader of a conspiracy that lasted nine years and involved a considerable amount of money.

Even though he had letters from recipients, she said the money was “like feathers being blown in the wind, and you can never keep track of where those dollars in fact went.”

Facing a maximum of 57 months in prison, she sentenced him to 36 months and allowed him to self-report to a satellite prison camp in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., three months later, after celebrating Ramadan.

Hamoodi later petitioned for a reduced sentence, believing that the judge had falsely concluded that the money was all his. His petition was denied.

**CONTINUED SUPPORT**

Hamoodi’s case recently garnered international attention with an extensive column in The Guardian titled: “Iraqi-American is imprisoned by U.S. for saving his family from U.S. sanctions: A harrowing case of a Missouri engineer highlights the travesties routinely imposed on Muslim Americans.”

Support for Hamoodi has never waned in mid-Missouri. An editorial from the publisher of the Columbia Daily Tribune urged readers to sign an online petition that reads: “Putting Dr. Shakir Hamoodi behind bars will not lead to a more just society or establish any societal gains. The sanctions against Iraq are no longer in place.”

There’s been no word back from President Barack Obama.

Drew Pusateri, a spokesman for McCaskill, who has ties to Columbia, confirmed that her office had passed the case to the White House, but he wouldn’t comment on whether the senator was lobbying in earnest on Hamoodi’s behalf.
According to Hamoodi’s son Owais, Hamoodi is spending the bulk of his time in prison reading and teaching the Quran. He shares a 9-by-7-foot cell with one roommate. He walks the perimeter of the prison camp for exercise and looks forward to frequent visits.

He said the hardest part is being away from family, especially his son in high school who is missing out on the tutelage his siblings received.

Without Hamoodi present, sales have fallen at his store, World Harvest International and Gourmet Food.

A caller last week still asked for him. Near the checkout counter, customers can find a donation jar for his family and information about the petition for his early release.

“I hate to say it but I am not holding my breath,” said Austin Poland, 33, standing behind the counter, because sentences are rarely commuted. “Dr. Hamoodi is the last person who belongs in prison.”