New memorial honors MU students who have died at war

Missing column said to represent impact.

By Karyn Spory

Since after the Great War, the University of Missouri has dedicated monuments to MU students who lost their lives fighting for their country, but as the years went on, there hasn't been enough space display the names of those lost.

That was until the unveiling of the new Veterans War Memorial in Memorial Union yesterday. The memorial was unveiled after the university announced a $1 million gift to create a scholarship fund for student veterans.

The new memorial was designed by Karen Johnson, a senior architectural studies major at MU. The challenge was posed to her interior design studio class to design a memorial that would honor MU veterans and structurally fit into Memorial Union.

Johnson's design features five columns, with a sixth missing. Johnson said the idea struck her while she was walking to class one day. She was near the Columns and thought, "What if one day one column were missing? … It would just be a huge impact to this region, and that is really the same feeling we should have when one of our soldiers gives their full measure."

Johnson said the missing column is reminiscent of the missing-man formation — an aerial salute performed by aircraft during a funeral or memorial event to salute a fallen soldier.

The memorial also includes space for veterans' names to be listed and an interactive touch-screen TV.

"This will be the first interactive memorial to veterans on campus," said Marty Walker, director of administrative services in the college of engineering and member of the Chancellor's Military and Veterans Committee. "It will be truly educational and enables all to understand the rigors and sacrifice of war."
Walker said the interactive portion of the wall will feature a picture of the service member, his or her story and if the person was in the Missouri Oral History Program, then the voice of the veteran can be heard describing his or her military experience.

Martin said Missourians who participated in the Korean and Vietnam wars are being cross-referenced with MU Registrar's office so their names can be added to the memorial.

John Quade, a sophomore statistics major and president of the Mizzou Student Veterans Association, said he was not only humbled by the experience but also inspired.

"They not only care enough about us to do something like the wall, but to believe in our abilities to the extent to have the amount of that donation, it's really inspiring," Quade said of the $1 million gift that created the scholarship fund.
JEFFERSON CITY — A new report ranks Missouri 12th nationwide in the number of international students enrolled in colleges and universities.

The Institute of International Education says there were 17,300 international students in Missouri during the 2012-2013 academic year. That was up nearly 8 percent from the previous year.

China accounted for more than 33 percent of international students at Missouri colleges and universities last year. About 13 percent were from India and roughly 8 percent came from Saudi Arabia.

The University of Missouri-Columbia had the highest number with nearly 2,500, while Washington University in St. Louis had more than 2,200 students from other countries.

The number of Missouri students studying abroad increased by almost 300, to more than 4,900.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/14/4620779/missouri-sees-increase-of-international.html#storylink=cpy
MU study finds abuse knowledge gap among surgeons

November 13
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A University of Missouri researcher says orthopedic surgeons are not often identifying domestic violence as a possible cause of the injuries they treat.

Dr. Gregory Della Rocca teaches orthopedic surgery at the MU School of Medicine and oversees orthopedic trauma services at the Columbia health care system. He surveyed more than 150 U.S. orthopedic surgeons and found that fewer than one in four had received domestic violence training.

Nearly three-fourths of the surgeons surveyed estimated that their patients suffered domestic violence in fewer than 5 percent of the cases. An international study of domestic violence among orthopedic trauma clinic patients estimated the actual rate at 40 percent.

Della Rocca says the Missouri health system's orthopedic trauma unit now screens all patients, male or female, for abuse signs.
Most of the existing research on the employment of adjunct faculty and student success shows a negative relationship, not because adjuncts are bad teachers but because their working conditions prevent them from being as effective as they could be. But earlier this fall, a much-cited study disputed by some, showed the opposite: that students actually may learn more from adjunct faculty members -- at least at research universities that can afford to pay part-timers well and that may discourage tenure-track faculty members from focusing on teaching. Now, a preliminary study is mixing up the literature once again, concluding that employment of adjunct faculty has no impact on student success in community colleges.

“Part-time faculty have no negative impact on student degree or certificate attainment,” reads the study, to be presented today at the Association for the Study of Higher Education annual conference, in St. Louis. “The Effect of Part-time Faculty on Students' Degree and/or Certificate Completion in Two-Year Community Colleges” matches national, individual-level data on student outcomes with national, institutional-level data, including on the percentage of tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. Rather, it finds other factors are linked to student success -- including college size and location.

“Institution size is negatively associated with students’ chance of degree or certificate completion,” the study says. Those who attend large (10,000 or more students) two-year community colleges are 59 percent less likely to achieve a degree or completion certificate than their peers at smaller community colleges. And those who study in towns, suburbs and cities are 61 percent more likely to complete their programs than their peers at rural colleges.

High school grade-point average also is an indicator of success, with a unit increase in student high school GPA associated with a 14 percent increase in completion rates. (“Unit” increase, as determined by the authors, is about a half a letter grade.)

**Hongwei Yu, a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Office of Community College Research and Leadership, served as the study’s lead author, with assistance from Pilar Mendoza, assistant professor of higher education at the University of Missouri at Columbia, and Dale Campbell, professor of education at the University of Florida.**
The authors attribute their findings regarding adjuncts and student success to the possibility that community colleges "hire a significant percentage of part-time faculty who come directly from professional fields and have practical experiences, skills, and knowledge [...] which may help students achieve degree or certificate completion in two-year community colleges. In addition, part-time faculty may provide students connections to workplace or a community."

Yu, a Chinese native, said personal experience inspired the study, which is part of his dissertation. Before coming to the U.S., Yu said, he worked as a part-time instructor of English at a university and technical college, and considered himself to be an effective teacher. So he wanted to more closely examine the role of the adjunct professor on student success at community colleges in this country.

To do so, Yu analyzed individual-level data from the National Center for Education Statistics’ Beginning Postsecondary Students survey alongside a variety of institutional-level data from the national center’s Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, including the percentage of the faculty that is part-time. (He looked at data on students who enrolled in community colleges in 2003-4 and earned or didn't earn a degree or certificate within three years.). Previous research on adjuncts and student success using individual-level data and institutional-level data only has looked at individual states, making his national picture unique, he said.

Ronald Ehrenberg, director of the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute at Cornell University, is among those whose work has found that when other factors are held constant, the increased use of adjuncts at four-year institutions is associated with lower freshman persistence and graduation rates. The same pattern has been found at two-year institutions, and higher rates of adjunct employment at such colleges have been linked to lower transfer rates to four-year institutions and lower completion rates for associate degrees.

Via email, Ehrenberg called Yu’s methodology “interesting.” Previous studies either have used institutional-level data for dependent and independent variables, such as graduation rates and the share of the faculty that are part-time, or individual-level data, such as persistence to the second year and individual exposure to part-time faculty.

But he pointed to a major limitation of the study, which the authors acknowledge: it only controls for the percentage of the faculty that is part-time, not how much time students spend learning from adjuncts versus their tenure-line colleagues.

Because prior research suggests exposure to part-time faculty plays a role in student success, the study says, "Such information would provide important information regarding the effect of part-time faculty on student’s probability of degree or certificate completion." Of course, at many community colleges, a majority of instruction is provided by those off the tenure track, and so having primarily adjuncts as instructors may be the norm for many students. Another significant limitation to the study is that it doesn't track students who transfer to four-year colleges without earning a degree or certificate, and counts them as dropouts.

Beyond the study's net-zero impact findings regarding adjuncts and students success, Ehrenberg added, all other findings seem consistent with prior studies.
Maria Maisto, president of the New Faculty Majority, a national adjunct advocacy group for adjuncts, said the study would have little impact on the central notion of its campaign for adjunct faculty rights: that faculty working conditions are students’ learning conditions.

“We always say that adjunct faculty can't lose no matter what the research says,” she said. “If students do well as a result of being taught by contingent faculty, then why are these faculty treated so poorly? If students don't do well, then why not improve working conditions to see if student outcomes also improve?”

Many adjuncts and their advocates have said the same in a response to the recent National Bureau of Economic Research study showing Northwestern University students learned more from their non-tenure-line professors than their tenured and tenure-track professors in introductory courses.

Yu said his findings were not the definitive take on adjunct faculty employment, and that colleges shouldn’t use them as a justification for hiring adjuncts under poor conditions. Rather, he said, there’s more research to be done, given the growing portion of the faculty that is part-time.

Administrators should “proceed with caution,” he said. "One of the suggestions I would give is that colleges may have to provide better working conditions [for adjuncts] so that they can promote their performance at community colleges.”
WASHINGTON • Bowing to pressure, President Barack Obama on Thursday announced changes under his health care law to give insurance companies the option to keep offering consumers plans that would otherwise be canceled.

The administrative changes are good for just one year, though senior administration officials said they could be extended if problems with the law persist.

An estimated 14 million people buy their own health insurance through the individual market. Of that number, more than 4 million of them have already received cancellation notices from their insurance companies because their policies don’t measure up to the more-comprehensive coverage standards of the Affordable Care Act.

Those cancellations have stoked a firestorm of criticism, especially because many consumers have been unable to shop for coverage on the new problem-plagued online health insurance marketplaces.

With the health care overhaul likely to be a central issue in next year's midterm elections for control of Congress, Obama has been under enormous pressure from congressional Democrats to give ground on the cancellation issue.

"This fix won’t solve every problem for every person, but it’s going to help a lot of people," Obama said at the White House, acknowledging that his administration had "fumbled the rollout of this health care law."

But for people who have already received cancellation notices, it’s unclear what the impact of Thursday's changes will be.

Some state officials, who would have to implement the changes, signaled they may not go along. And some insurers said the administration's action came too late.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners said the president's proposal could undermine the new health insurance markets his law seeks to create.

Obama's proposal "may lead to higher premiums and market disruptions in 2014 and beyond," said Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon, speaking for the organization.
While officials said insurance companies will now be able to offer those people the option to renew their old plans, companies are not required to take that step.

The main industry trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, said Obama's offer could lead to higher premiums, since companies already have set 2014 rates based on the assumption that many people with individual coverage will shift over to the new markets created under Obama's law.

Karen Ignagni, president of the industry group, didn't speculate on whether companies would extend coverage for those threatened with cancellation, but warned in a statement that "changing the rules after health plans have already met the requirements of the law could destabilize the market and result in higher premiums for consumers."

Sidney Watson, a health law professor at St. Louis University, said the big questions are whether policies will have to be filed again at the state level and whether premium rates will be affected.

“This is the beginning of a lot of questions,” she said. “It's not the end of the road.”

Ryan Barker, vice president of health policy at the Missouri Foundation for Health, said Obama's decision could buy more time for some consumers faced with cancellation notices, but only if insurers reverse course.

“It is a tight timeline for insurance companies to make these decisions and get new prices out there for 2014,” Barker said. “That's why I think it'll be interesting to see how many of them push back and say, 'You didn't give us enough time. We can't do this.'”

Under the change announced Thursday, insurance companies will be required to inform consumers who want to keep canceled plans about the protections that are not included under those plans. Customers will also be notified that new options are available offering more coverage and in some cases, tax credits to cover higher premiums.

Under Obama's plan, insurance companies would not be allowed to sell coverage deemed subpar under the law to new customers, marking a difference with legislation that House Republicans intend to put to a vote on Friday.

Only last week, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told a Senate panel she doubted that retroactively permitting insurers to sell canceled policies "can work very well since companies are now in the market with an array of new plans. Many have actually added consumer protections in the last three-and-a-half years."

Republicans were unimpressed with the changes.

House Speaker John Boehner, speaking in advance of the president's announcement, insisted it was time to "scrap this law once and for all."

"You can’t fix this government-run health care plan called Obamacare,” he said. "It's just not fixable."
But Obama's move successfully shifts the focus from the administration, which was taking heat for the insurance cancellations, and puts it on the insurance companies, said Dr. Karen Edison, director of the Center for Health Policy at University of Missouri.

"Insurance companies cancel policies all the time and people re-up for insurance every year," she said. "Some of those everyday practices are coming under a new microscope of the Affordable Care Act."

Edison said the one-year delay for discontinued policies makes it more likely for the health reform law to succeed eventually "because it shows that the government is willing to be responsive when unintended consequences arise."

The delay, she added, will allow the health insurance marketplaces to stabilize and for competitive pressures to drive down costs as more people enter the exchanges.

But Tim McBride, a health economist and associate dean of public health at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, said the Obama administration decision was the best choice given the fiasco of the federal government's HealthCare.gov website.

"I don't think this helps the marketplaces in the long run, but there could have been worse decisions like making these policies go on forever."

McBride also said the decision may help deflect political heat, but could further uncertainty and disruption.

"Basically, they're trying to punt it back to the insurers," he said. "Now the insurers can extend their policies, but what if they don't?"

Obama, for his part, made clear he would continue to fight ongoing attempts to sink the whole program, saying, "I will not accept proposals that are just another brazen attempt to undermine or repeal the overall law and drag us back into a broken system."

"We're going to solve the problems that are there, we're going to get it right, and the Affordable Care Act is going to work for the American people," he pledged.

Tara Kulash and Jim Doyle of the Post-Dispatch and the Associated Press contributed to this report.
Panelists discuss death penalty as state readies for next execution

ACLU chapter hosts gathering.

By Karyn Spory

Jeff Stack once was a death penalty proponent — until he met a murderer and realized, despite the man's terrible act, he was still a human being and didn't deserve to be killed himself.

"I had always assumed I could tell who committed murders," Stack, a legislative consultant for Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, said during a panel discussion on the University of Missouri campus last night. I thought "it was obvious, but that's not the case."

The death penalty discussion was hosted by the MU School of Law's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in the model courtroom in Hulston Hall. It was co-sponsored by Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and the Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Panelists included Hank Waters, publisher emeritus of the Tribune; Melinda Pendergraph, a public defender who has represented several dozen people facing the death sentence; and John Galliher, sociology professor at MU.

Missouri has made news recently amid debate over the state's choice of execution drug.

Missouri's planned use of the anesthetic propofol drew concerns from the medical community because most of the drug is made in Europe, and the anti-death penalty European Union had threatened to limit exports if propofol was used in an execution. As a result, Gov. Jay Nixon stepped in and halted the execution of Allen Nicklasson. Days later, the Missouri Department of Corrections announced a switch to pentobarbital. Pentobarbital is a sedative used as an execution drug by 13 other states.

The state's first execution using the new drug is set for Wednesday. Joseph Paul Franklin is set to be executed for a 1977 murder, but he has claimed responsibility for nearly two dozen other killings and many other crimes.
Stack said Franklin definitely is guilty, but he should be imprisoned for life instead of executed.

Stack said he began working to abolish the death penalty in the late 1980s. "I began to be more aware, and I assumed it would be a short-term" battle "and obviously we'd get rid of it, but here we are so many years later," he said.

When asked about execution drugs, Stack said that is a secondary issue because there is no way to humanely kill a person.

"Yes, you may lessen the pain inflicted, but you're still talking about homicide," he said. "On the death certificate, whether the state were to use poison or hang them, it's still going to say, 'Cause of death: legal homicide.'"

Waters said the rationale behind the death penalty is social vengeance, yet executions are not a public affair, which seems to negate the rationale.

Pendergraph said one of the worst things about the death penalty is that it can give false hope to victims' families, who think that once their loved one's killer is dead, it will give them closure.

"I can tell you, with dealing with victims and victims families, that's a false promise," she said. "It can't take away the pain and the suffering of the victims' family."
John Beahler loved rivers, journalism and writing
Thursday, November 14, 2013 | 8:46 p.m. CST; updated 11:35 p.m. CST, Thursday, November 14, 2013
BY CARLIN WAGNER

John Beahler had news reporting in his blood, said Scott Reeter, his cubicle neighbor of 10 years.

Reeter worked with Mr. Beahler at the MU Department of Publications and Alumni Communication. He said he had nothing but respect for Mr. Beahler.

Mr. Beahler died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013, at Boone Hospital Center. He was 62.

He was born Nov. 23, 1950, in El Paso, Texas, to Lee and Anne (Anderson) Beahler.

Mr. Beahler grew up an army kid. His father was a general in the military, which caused him to spend some of his childhood years in Vietnam.

He attended high school in Prince George, Va., and Waynesville, Mo., and decided to travel before earning a bachelor's degree in political science at MU.

But journalism was his true calling.

When he pursued a master's degree at the Missouri School of Journalism, Mr. Beahler honed his talent for storytelling.

He began his career as a reporter at The Fulton Sun from 1987 to 1989 and then spent more than 20 years as writer and editor for Mizzou Weekly and Mizzou Magazine. He retired in 2010.

Mr. Beahler was truly interested in sharing peoples' stories, and he was good at it, Reeter said.

"His demeanor made people want to tell the story," he said. "He was empathetic. He was never pushy or overbearing. He was always kind and gentle with the people he talked to."

Reeter said Mr. Beahler had a knack for telling stories that most people didn't have.

Mr. Beahler also worked as a freelance journalist and wrote several stories for Illumination Magazine, which highlights research and creative endeavors at MU.
"I was always impressed with his ability to visit with a researcher at the university and then be able to write a story in ... terms for everyone to understand," said Steve Mellis, a friend of Mr. Beahler.

In one article, Mr. Beahler explored **MU biologist Carl Gerhardt**'s research on frog communication.

Here's an excerpt of the story, which published in the Spring 2012 issue of Illumination:

"To most people, the sound is just an unbroken wall of noise, but Gerhardt can hear all the complicated nuances of this amphibian orchestra. Like a concert maestro, he can tease apart the separate voices: the piping of spring peepers, the trilling choruses of tree frogs and the basso profundo blasts from bullfrogs."

"He was an amazing reporter and writer," Illumination Magazine Editor Charles Reineke said in an email. "Old-school journalist in a way that I fear we will never see again: smart, garrulous, witty, self-deprecating. He had the ability to quickly distill information down to its essentials, an eye for the telling detail and a finely developed empathy that never drifted into the overly credulous. He practiced, in short, all that stuff we talk about in J-school then forget about when we get a job."

He was down to earth and very humble in the way he lived his life, Reeter said.

When he was young, Mr. Beahler worked on river barges, and he continued to be enamored by the river culture for the rest of his life. He was an avid kayaker and friends say being on the river was second nature to him.

"He was really connected to the river all his life," said Nurhan Hamarat, a friend of Mr. Beahler.

Mr. Beahler is survived by his longtime partner, Kate King, of Columbia. His parents died earlier.

Private services will be held under the direction of Memorial Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Palmeri Scholarship Fund, Missouri School of Journalism, Office Development, 103 Neff Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Mo., 65211.

"John was an extraordinary person," Hamarat said. "He was brave, loyal and a fighter."

Thursday, November 14, 2013 | 7:27 p.m. CST; updated 12:29 a.m. CST, Friday, November 15, 2013

BY SCOTT SWAFFORD

John Erick Beahler, 62, of Columbia died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013, at Boone Hospital Center.

Mr. Beahler was born Nov. 23, 1950, in El Paso, Texas, to Lee and Anne (Anderson) Beahler.

Mr. Beahler attended high school in Prince George, Va., and in Waynesville, Mo. He worked on river barges as a young man then traveled extensively. He later earned a bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Missouri-Columbia and attended graduate school at the Missouri School of Journalism. He was an accomplished wordsmith with a keen but quiet wit and an eye for the absurd. He had a knack for prying untold stories and beautiful quotes from his sources.

Mr. Beahler was a reporter at The Fulton Sun from 1987 to 1989. He worked as a writer and editor for Mizzou Weekly and Mizzou Magazine in the MU office of Publications and Alumni Communications for more than 20 years, retiring in 2010. He also worked as a freelance journalist and wrote several stories for Illumination, a magazine that highlights research and creative endeavors at MU.

He enjoyed canoeing and kayaking, particularly on the Missouri River.

Mr. Beahler is survived by his longtime partner, Kate King, of Columbia. His parents died earlier.

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Agriculture day offers Battle High students look at farm life

Event gets kids out of classroom.

By Catherine Martin

Agriculture teacher Larry Henneke said his goal for his first year at Battle High School is to "let as many kids know about agriculture" as possible.

Yesterday, he worked toward that goal as Battle students got up close and personal with cows, pigs, goats, donkeys and other farm animals at the school's first agriculture day.

Representatives from universities and the state Department of Conservation also were on hand to talk to kids, and a couple demonstrations were set up to align with courses Battle students were already taking, such as a science class that watched MU veterinary Professor Dietrich Volkmann perform an ultrasound on a sheep.

Many students stopped to pet or hold the animals, and some snapped pictures with their school-issued iPads. Volkmann noticed that although students have ready access to information about agriculture on their iPads, that's not what most of them are looking at. "It's something you have to put in front of their face," he said of agriculture.

The ultrasounds, which revealed three pregnant sheep, are an example of something that makes biology come alive for kids, Volkmann said, and seeing it done on farm animals is a unique opportunity.

"In Missouri in particular, agriculture is really important to the economy, and many suburban kids never come in touch with … agriculture or livestock," he said. "If just one child in the class saw me doing this and wants to become a vet for farm animals, that's just a bonus."

Henneke said that for a lot of students, the up-close lesson in agriculture was a "very new experience," and he agrees it's an important experience to have. "Today's society has gotten so
far removed from agriculture. A lot of students don't have an understanding of where their food supply comes from," he said. "This makes them aware."

Plus, he said, about 20 percent of the students will work in an agriculture-related field in the future.

Junior Jessica Moore, 16, said she is planning to go into some sort of animal science-related field and is interested in exotic animals, particularly reptiles. For her, the ultrasound was the highlight of agriculture day, although it wasn't her first time witnessing the procedure — she shadowed a veterinarian for a day and saw ultrasounds and other procedures performed.

For students who haven't had those experiences, she said agriculture day was a good opportunity. "If they're interested in animals, this is something for them to realize what goes on and see how it works," she said.

Byrice Haynes, who watched the ultrasound demonstration for his forensic science class, said the day was a new experience for him. "It's pretty cool stuff. I go to see a lot of these animals I hadn't seen aside from on TV," he said. "It's cool to see them up close."

He said he had seen chickens and goats a few times, but that was about it. The animals were his favorite part of the experience. Although he said he doesn't think he'll go into an animal-related career — he plans to join the Army — he still enjoyed the day.

"A lot of kids that go to school here have never seen these types of animals and want to get that opportunity," he said. "You can learn different things about them."

Henneke he hopes to make agriculture day an annual event, and Volkmann said he would like to see that. "I think it's of great value for kids," he said.

*This article was published in the Thursday, November 14, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Students learn of ag life: Event gets kids out of classroom."*