COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - University of Missouri addiction researchers think a grape compound promoted as way to stave off Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases could also help methamphetamine addicts battle their cravings.

The natural compound resveratrol is found in fruits and certain vegetables as well as grapes and red wine. Psychological sciences professor Dennis Miller says studies with lab mice show that resveratrol limits the ability of methamphetamine to increase the neurotransmitter dopamine, which sends pleasure signals to the brain.

The research study was recently published in the scientific journal Neuroscience Letters.

Another MU research project is studying the use of resveratrol in tumor-killing radiation treatments.
Inside Memorial Union North, columns jut out from the wall across from the archway entrance, reminiscent of those that stand on MU's Francis Quadrangle.

But instead of the six that stand on the quad, there are only five on the wall; a beam of light shining from the floor replaces what would be the second column from the right.

Glass plaques etched with the names of fallen soldiers who attended or worked at MU hang to the left of the columns.

The almost-complete new memorial, designed in reference to the missing man formation, was dedicated last week. The registrar's office will cross-reference names of Missouri soldiers who have died with university records to add more names to the plaques. The memorial will also include a touch screen with electronic access to the Library of Congress and Missouri Veterans History Project so people can learn about past veterans.

The memorial was designed by Karen Johnson, an MU student studying interior design. Her proposed design was chosen in May by the Chancellor's Committee for Veterans and Military Affairs.

Marty Walker, who spearheaded the new memorial project for the committee, asked the MU Architectural Studies Department, which is under the College of Human Environmental Sciences, to design a new veterans memorial.

Architectural studies associate professor Newton D'Souza assigned the task as a four-week project for the 16 students in his 4000-level studio class.
D'Souza said Walker's conditions were that the memorial be cost effective, maintenance free and easy to manipulate, as well as have an accompanying electronic version.

The students were enthusiastic about the project because it came from a real client, D'Souza said.

To give the students inspiration, Walker sponsored a trip to Kansas City to look at war memorials there. Students also used their own time to analyze memorials around the world, such as the Vietnam and Jefferson memorials.

"We had to think about a lot of things that reminded us of war and what it means to give your full measure," Johnson said.

The memorial could have been built anywhere inside Memorial Union, and students chose different spots within it, D'Souza said.

There are already several memorials for MU's fallen veterans throughout the union.

Names of the 117 men who died in World War I are carved on the walls of the archway, according the Museum of Art and Archaeology's website. The north wing was dedicated in 1952 to the 328 male students who died in World War II, and plaques with their names hang in the wing's foyer. A plaque for MU students, faculty and staff who died in wars from 1945 to 1996 hangs in one stairwell, and a nearby hallway is dedicated to students who have died since the 1990s.

The existing memorials were scattered throughout the building. For the new one, D'Souza challenged the students to condense the names and bring them all to the wall near the entrance of Memorial North. The placement of the new memorial gives it visibility, he said.

"I liked this location because as you enter, you can see the memorial, and it enhances the entrance space, and you don't take up the student areas," D'Souza said. "It connected directly to MU. You couldn't put it anywhere else."

**Missing man formation**
The missing man formation is an aerial salute that honors a fallen pilot. Planes fly in formation but leave the fallen pilot's space empty.
Johnson grew up knowing about the practice because her father was a pilot in the Navy in the early 1950s, and she lived near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Johnson said she wanted to represent that idea with the columns in the memorial.

"One day I was walking to class past the columns, and I was thinking if one of the columns were missing it would be a big deal," she said. "But if a soldier died, the impact would not be felt as broadly."

Johnson said the columns idea also can bridge generations, which was another goal of the memorial project.

Younger generations can identify the missing column with the missing World Trade Center towers, and older generations can identify it with the missing soldier in formation, Johnson said.

Johnson said that she likes the finished memorial but also that she is sad that in the future, the names of more fallen soldiers will be added to the plaques.

"It's really humbling because of what it represents," she said.
To the members of the committee responsible for selecting MU’s next chancellor:

This is pretty obvious, but you have a massive decision in front of you.

Brady Deaton, who officially retired as MU’s chancellor last Friday, left a University of Missouri significantly different from the institution he inherited in 2004. This university, like most American public universities, is facing unprecedented challenges — from budget cuts to technology evolutions to a major shift in the role and function of higher education.

As chancellor, Deaton tackled a wide range of issues. His progress, while substantial, is unfinished, and his successor, whom you have been working to select for several months now, will be responsible for continuing this work.

We urge you to look to Deaton when choosing the next chancellor. He embodies much of what we feel the ideal occupant of the office should be, and MU would benefit greatly from you selecting someone reminiscent of him.

Someone who, first and foremost, believes in the power of education and will work to ensure every student who enrolls at MU receives the best possible education from start to finish.

Someone who will fight, like a tiger, for students and faculty — who will advocate for them to legislators, create connections and opportunities for them around the world and foster a campus culture of communication and openness.

Someone who will keep composure and loyalty in times of stress and crisis, leading MU by example, leading MU through character.

Someone who will seek a visible presence not only on campus but across the state of Missouri, in keeping with MU’s role as the state’s land-grant university, and prioritize Missouri’s own brightest students as part of the institutional mission to serve this state’s residents.
Someone who, while maintaining their pride in this university, will push us to improve ourselves and those around us, remembering MU’s imperfect past and understanding its present evolution of diversity and continuing struggle toward making an inclusive and welcome environment for all.

The chancellor you are selecting will take office at a critical time for our university. He or she will have to make many decisions that will have a long-lasting impact here and could well determine how MU survives and adapts to the changing culture of higher education in the 21st century.

Declining state funding in part led Deaton to focus on expanding MU’s student body like never before and to rely on fundraising to help this campus modernize and attract the brightest individuals it could. The former action has resulted in a university experiencing a wide range of growing pains, and the latter gives us some clue as to how Deaton’s successor could help ease those pains.

As we discussed in an editorial last week, increased enrollment causes increased demand for on- and off-campus housing, university facilities and course offerings, as well as adding to smaller issues such as parking and dining hall space. This, in turn, has lead to a variety of further effects with which the next chancellor must deal.

He or she must ensure the Residential Life Master Plan, which the university has been carrying out since 2006, is executed properly, and determine whether its current plans will satisfy MU’s constant “record freshman classes,” which have resulted in overcrowding and provisional housing for many students.

He or she must work with the city of Columbia to establish stronger partnership and communication as student-geared housing skyrockets in Columbia and growth leads to campus expansion like the new Mizzou North building.

He or she must choose whether MU continues to hold huge, impersonal lecture classes that only serve to cycle students through the material without challenging them to grow, and whether it continues to prioritize non-tenured faculty for teaching purposes rather than tenured faculty.

And, ultimately, he or she must figure out how to pay for it all. With dangerous funding cuts to education being proposed far too often by ignorant lawmakers, it is likely guaranteed the
Statehouse will not be giving MU the level of funding it really needs anytime soon. As aforementioned, this has been remedied through increasing enrollment and increasing donations.

The chancellor’s role as fundraiser-in-chief has been elevated in recent years — under Deaton, the “For All We Call Mizzou” donation campaign broke the $1 billion mark, helping build new facilities and establish 91 endowed faculty positions — and the new chancellor will undoubtedly have to turn to donors to make up funding gaps. He or she may also be faced with the perpetually unpopular prospect of raising tuition, if MU still does not have enough money to achieve its missions.

In all of these looming issues and daunting challenges, though, we want the chancellor you select to see opportunities. We want him or her to approach these decisions with confidence in the students, faculty and staff of this university, and with understanding that there are few schools in America with the kind of potential and resources that MU has.

We trust you are being careful and meticulous with the selection process, and that your efforts will result in the continued success of the University of Missouri in a changing world. With the quality of leadership we have had, exemplified by the man who left the Chancellor’s Office this past Friday, we know MU is in a good place; with the right successor, this institution’s possibilities are endless.

Choose wisely.
Big bonuses on the line for Pinkel

8 hours ago • By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The next few weeks are, to use one of Gary Pinkel’s favorite words, mammoth for Mizzou football. They could also be mammoth for Pinkel’s bank account if the Tigers clinch the SEC Eastern Division, play for the SEC championship and possibly earn a BCS bowl invitation.

Pinkel’s contract, which runs through the 2017 season, pays him a guaranteed annual salary of $2.35 million. The university also pays him an annuity package.

Here’s a look at the contract incentives Pinkel has already earned this season and which bonuses he could trigger in the coming weeks. For each category, Pinkel earns the maximum bonus achieved, not each bonus per category. **Bonuses already earned are in bold.**

**Win 9 games ... $15,000**

Win 10 games ... $20,000

Win 11 games ... $25,000

(If Mizzou wins 11 games, Pinkel earns just the $25,000 bonus, not the preceding bonuses.)

**Tie for SEC Eastern Division ... $25,000**

**Win SEC East & advance to SEC title game ... $50,000**

**Win SEC title game ... $75,000**

(If Missouri splits its final two regular-season games against Ole Miss and Texas A&M, the Tigers will finished tied with South Carolina in the division, triggering the $25,000 bonus. If they sweep the final two games and win the East outright, Pinkel doubles the bonus.)

**Play in non-BCS bowl ... $75,000**

Play in BCS bowl ... $100,000

Play in BCS national championship game ... $150,000

Win BCS national championship game ... $250,000
(Missouri is already bowl eligible. If MU wins the SEC championship game, it automatically qualifies for a BCS bowl.)

MU sells 40,000 season tickets or averages 55,000 for home games ... $125,000

**MU sells 45,000 season tickets or averages 60,000 for home games ... $150,000**

(Missouri is averaging 62,901 through six home games and just announced that the final home game, Nov. 30 against Texas A&M, has already sold out. Pinkel hasn’t officially clinched this bonus, but the Texas A&M game would have to draw around 42,500 fans for Mizzou to average less than 60,000 this season. That won’t happen. Put Pinkel down for the bigger bonus here.)

Wins SEC coach of the year (coaches or AP) ... $25,000

Wins national coach of the year (AFCA or AP) ... $50,000

Finish among top 25 in final BCS standings ... $50,000

Finish among top 10 in final BCS standings ... $75,000

(Missouri is currently No. 8 in the BCS. The final standings are released after the conference championship games. Win or lose the next two weeks, the Tigers are virtually assured to finish in the top 25.)

Pinkel has essentially clinched $240,000 worth of bonuses. Should Missouri win the national championship and Pinkel sweep the coach of the year awards, his maximum performance-based bonus will be $650,000. (Win 11 games, win SEC championship, win BCS championship, sell 60,000 tickets, win SEC coach award, win national coach award, finish top 10 in BCS). He’s also eligible for a $100,000 bonus if “the established goal or goals for academic accomplishment for that year are met and the established goal or goals for social responsibility and conduct for that year are met.”

Missouri’s assistant coaches and select full-time staff members are also eligible for the following bonuses:

Tie for SEC Eastern Division ... $55,000 to 12 staff (9 assistants, 3 staff)

Win SEC East & advance to SEC title game ... $60,000 to 12 staff

Win SEC title game ... $65,000 to 12 staff

**Play in non-BCS bowl ... 1 month salary for 9 assistants**

Play in BCS bowl ... 3 months salary for 9 assistants

Win BCS national championship game ... 4 months salary for 9 assistants

The nine assistants are offensive coordinator **Josh Henson**, defensive coordinator **Dave Steckel, Andy Hill** (quarterbacks), **Brian Jones** (tailbacks), **Bruce Walker** (co-offensive line), **Pat Washington**
(receivers), Craig Kuligowski (defensive line), Alex Grinch (safeties) and Cornell Ford (cornerbacks). The three other full-time staff members are director of recruiting Nick Otterbacher, director of operations Dan Hopkins and associate AD for athletic performance Pat Ivey.

So, what’s on the line Saturday? If Missouri beats Ole Miss, Pinkel’s bonus for wins goes up $5,000 and the Tigers clinch at least a tie for the SEC East, good for the $25,000 bonus. Beat the Rebels in Oxford and Pinkel earns $30,000 in bonuses and his 12 staffers split up $55,000.
COLUMBIA, Mo.—The University of Missouri Children’s Hospital has begun a new program entitled Telehealth, Love and Care (TLC), which aims to unite parents with their children in the newborn intensive care unit at any time via the Internet.

TLC is a video service that will allow parents to interact with their babies using iPads, computers and videoconferencing system called Vidyo. The iPads also have speakers that give parents the opportunity to speak to their baby or their health care provider.

“Some of the babies are in the hospital for two, three or even four months,” said John Pardalos, the director of neonatology and medical director of Children’s Hospital’s Critical Care Transport Service. “At some point parents either have to go back to work, they live far away or they have other kids whose day-to-day needs must be met, and so they cannot be with their babies in the hospital.”

The program gives these families an opportunity to check up on their baby when they cannot be at the hospital with just a computer, webcam, Internet and an email address to use the program.

According to Pardalos, most telehealth video services are used to provide clinical care, but this program is different. The goal of the program is to let parents interact with their children from locations outside the hospital.

The program is free and was funded by the Children’s Miracle Network radiothon, The Missouri Telehealth Network and MOREnet.
Charles Erickson’s attorney says she’ll fight for his freedom

Options limited, professor says.

By Alan Burdziak

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (13)

Now that Ryan Ferguson has been released from prison, attention has turned to Charles Erickson, who implicated Ferguson in the 2001 murder of Tribune Sports Editor Kent Heitholt, and the uphill battle to free him.

Erickson's options, however, are limited, said Ben Trachtenberg, professor at the University of Missouri School of Law.

Erickson has been in custody for nearly 10 years, most of it in prison for second-degree murder and first-degree robbery. He pleaded guilty in 2004 and testified at Ferguson's 2005 trial.

Normally, contesting a guilty plea is "extremely difficult," Trachtenberg said, unless the state decides to free him.

"I think it will depend on whether the prosecutors want to help get him out or don't," Trachtenberg said.

For the state to release Erickson would be unusual, Trachtenberg said, and is dependent upon whether the state thinks Erickson is guilty. Boone County prosecutor Dan Knight has not publicly addressed Erickson's case.

On Nov. 5, a three-judge panel from the Western District Missouri Court of Appeals ruled prosecutors withheld evidence during Ferguson's trial and ordered his first-degree robbery and second-degree murder convictions vacated. The panel did not find Ferguson innocent.

Knight asked for a special prosecutor to determine whether Ferguson should be retried, something Trachtenberg said is possible in regard to Erickson. The state attorney general declined to file new charges against Ferguson. Knight did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.
Erickson, now 29, told jurors at Ferguson's 2005 trial that together they beat and strangled Heitholt around 2:20 a.m. Nov. 1, 2001, in the Tribune's parking lot. But he and another witness recanted their testimony years later and said they were pressured by the prosecution. Ferguson won his freedom after numerous appeals, finally being released Nov. 12.

Erickson and his attorney, Laura O'Sullivan of the Kansas City-based Midwest Innocence Project, have three ways to attack his guilty plea, Trachtenberg said. They could argue that Erickson was mentally ill at the time, that he was coerced or threatened or that he was given ineffective counsel. Much has been made of Erickson's reputation and mental state during his teenage years. He was reportedly a drug addict and has said he blacked out on the night of the crime. Two years after Heitholt's death, Erickson told Ferguson he was having "dreamlike" memories that they killed Heitholt.

"I will be interested in this case what, if any, evidence is put forward on the mental state of Mr. Erickson when he pleaded guilty," Trachtenberg said.

In an emailed statement dated Nov. 14, O'Sullivan said Erickson was "relieved and overjoyed" that Ferguson was released. False testimony and confessions as well as official misconduct lead to innocent people being wrongfully convicted, she said.

"All of these causes led to the manipulation and conviction of Charles Erickson for the same crime, with the same lack of evidence, and the same evidence of innocence hidden from him," O'Sullivan said.

She called Erickson a "victim of the system" and said she will "fight diligently and relentlessly" for his release.

"Fifty percent justice is not enough," O'Sullivan said. "Half the story won't do. We need to finish the job of finding justice for Charles Erickson and, ultimately, the Heitholt family."

If O'Sullivan is successful, Trachtenberg said, he thinks it would be unlikely that Erickson would face a perjury charge because it is possible that Erickson thought he was telling the truth during Ferguson's trial and later realized his mistake.

"Perjury is not for errors," he said. "Perjury is for intentional deceit. People make mistakes all the time when they testify."
Columbia panel discusses images of black males in America

Event is part of five-part series.

By Karyn Spory

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (1)

What do black men ask of themselves, and how do they answer those questions? That is what Hank Willis Thomas set to find out as co-creator of "Question Bridge," a transmedia conversation on black identity allowing black men to voice their own views on what it is to be a black man in America.

Thomas and his co-creators, artists Chris Johnson, Bayete Ross Smith and Kamal Sinclair, traveled the country for four years, collecting 1,600 question-and-answer videos from more than 160 men. The film was shown at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and was the centerpiece of a five-part series at the University of Missouri — "Politics of the Black Body."

The series, which spanned 24 hours, kicked off Sunday evening with a "Question Bridge" screening at Stephens College and ended last night with a screening in Fisher Auditorium at Gannett Hall at MU.

Yesterday morning, Thomas was joined by a panel of scholars and Columbia activists in the Mark Twain Ballroom in Memorial Union to discuss black masculinity in today's culture.

Stephanie Shonekan, professor of ethnomusicology and black studies who also served as panel moderator, asked panelists how they would characterize the black identity.

Ty-Ron Douglas, assistant professor of educational leadership and policy analysis at MU, was born and raised in Bermuda.

"My biological father is African-American; he's actually from St. Louis. My identity as a black man is very much like that, I feel like a border crosser … and I believe at times many people struggle to embrace the breadth of what it means to be a person of color — they struggle with what it means to be African and American," Douglas said.
Thomas said he and his co-creators went out in search of the answer to that question and were surprised with the responses. Thomas said even he and his co-creators "cannot agree on what black male identity is."

Thomas said one of the things he found interesting was that, when going into various environments to facilitate the question-and-answer exchanges, "we would assume based off where we went and the personality that spoke what kind of questions they might ask and what kind of responses to questions they would share, and many times we were surprised and caught off guard; that made us aware of our own prejudices."

Thomas said he hopes the audience, especially those who aren't black, recognize they have much in common with the subjects because the black male experience is a part of the human experience.

"My goal of the project is to share the connections between the challenges we all face," Thomas said.

Mike Logan, a senior political science major, said the panel discussion opened his eyes to things he never would have thought about.

"Instead of sitting here talking to my friends, who are my age and don't have that many life experiences," he said, he heard from Douglas, "who has nine kids and grew up in a bad neighborhood, and" Jesse Adolph, a Ph.D. candidate at MU, "who grew up without a father. It's just so different, and the varying aspects give you different opinions."

Shonekan said she hopes students see an opening up of avenues to critique the black male identity constructed by the media, society and history.

"This doesn't answer any questions concretely, but it shows there are different ways for answering all these questions, all these black men of different walks of life think differently about who they are and what their place in the society is," Shonekan said.