MU admissions director Barbara Rupp to retire May 1

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 | 5:29 p.m. CST
BY T.J. THOMSON

COLUMBIA — Although they might not know it, each of the 24,000 would-be undergraduates who applied to MU this year have felt the impact of Barbara Rupp.

Rupp, who oversees MU’s undergraduate admissions and recruiting efforts, plans to retire May 1. As director of domestic admissions, Rupp oversees a team of about 35 who answer thousands of phone calls, send countless mailings and emails, and talk with students at college fairs and high schools about MU.

Rupp has worked at MU for 16 years, the past 10 as its director of admissions. Previously, she served as assistant and associate director of admissions.

In 1997, when Rupp started in the MU admissions office, 22,500 students were enrolled. This year, 34,658 students attend MU.

Rupp said she couldn’t attribute the roughly 65 percent enrollment increase to a single factor.

"A lot of that, quite honestly, I feel very fortunate," she said. "My timing as director also occurred at a time when there was a really healthy growth of high school graduates in Missouri and beyond. It's a lot of factors."

These factors included hiring recruiters that promote MU beyond the state's borders. Rupp said MU employs two full-time recruiters in Chicago, one in Dallas, and one who covers Minneapolis and Denver. Additionally, Rupp said MU increased its international focus during her tenure.
Most recently, MU’s move to the Southeastern Conference last year also increased its appeal in the Southeast, where it has been ramping up recruiting efforts, Rupp said.

Although Rupp has worked in the admissions field for about three decades, she hadn’t intended to do that, she said.

Instead, armed with an English degree from Marietta College in Ohio, Rupp started as a high school English teacher. The economic realities of American education in the 1970s changed her mind and, eventually, her career path.

"I ... decided that good high school English teachers work far too hard for too little money, so I started looking around," she said. "Honestly, it was strictly serendipity. I actually started at a community college and was registrar and director of admissions there. From there, I ended up at the University of Rochester, honestly following my husband’s career as a professor of music theory. I ended up landing a really nice job there, and I loved it."

From there, she followed her husband again, this time to Missouri, and started work at MU in 1997.

Sixteen years later, Rupp is looking forward to retirement, which, for her, means trading Missouri’s plains and prairies for an isolated cabin in northern Ontario during the summer.

"I have a lovely little cabin up in Canada," she said. "The cabin is on an island accessible only by boat." She'll be joined by her husband, Neil Minturn, who will continue to teach in the MU School of Music, and their yellow Labrador retriever, Izzi.

Rupp joins a list of top administrators who have announced their departure from MU in the past several months. That includes Chancellor Brady Deaton, Provost Brian Foster and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Jackie Jones, who are retiring, and Vice Chancellor for Research Rob Duncan, who is taking a job at Texas Tech University.

Chuck May, senior associate director of admissions, will serve as Rupp's replacement in the interim, according to an email from Ann Korschgen, vice provost of enrollment management.

"He has worked here longer than I have," Rupp said. "He knows this office inside and out. Very well respected. I think it will be pretty seamless."
Obama, in speech, to focus on income disparities

1 hour ago • JIM KUHNHENN Associated Press

WASHINGTON • Amid public doubts over his stewardship of the economy, President Barack Obama is putting a renewed focus on the income gap between rich and poor as he pushes for short-term congressional action and begins setting the domestic agenda for the remainder of his presidency.

The president plans to deliver an address Wednesday to argue his case that income inequality and wage stagnation are threatening upward mobility and retirement security. The speech comes amid growing national and international attention to economic disparities — from the writings of Pope Francis to the protests of fast-food workers in the U.S.

Obama is not expected to propose any new policy initiatives. But the White House says he will reiterate his call for an increase in the minimum wage and promote possible economic benefits of the troubled health care law. Obama also is expected to call on Congress to make a deal on 2014 spending, pass a farm bill with enough money for food stamps and extend unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed before the end of the year.

Polls show that the economy remains the single biggest concern for Americans, despite the recent focus on problems with the health care law. While some economic indicators are showing positive trends, unemployment remains high at 7.3 percent.

Moreover, the speech comes at a low point for the president. A recent CBS News poll shows that 60 percent of adults disapprove of his handling of the economy, the highest in nearly two years.

Setting the tone for his State of the Union address early next year, Obama is expected to highlight policy priorities that he has previously called for, including attracting businesses from overseas, simplifying the tax code, spending on infrastructure, improving education to compete for high-tech jobs and making college more affordable.

Those ideas have been recurrent themes in Obama's economic agenda, but most have failed to materialize.

Obama has attempted to include some of those policies in past negotiations with Republicans for a comprehensive budget deal that would lower long-term deficits, raise revenue and increase upfront
spending to spur the economy. But those efforts have failed and current budget negotiations between congressional Democrats and Republicans are far less ambitious.

"The economy is elemental to most Americans, and it is the principal focus of this presidency," White House spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday, noting that Obama inherited the worst recession since the Great Depression in 2009. "We've seen sustained economic growth and job creation for a long time now. But we are not where we need to be."

Obama is expected to press Congress to strike a deal that at least softens the blow of automatic spending cuts that are scheduled to kick in after Jan. 15. He also is expected to call for a renewal of jobless benefits for 1.3 million long-term unemployed people that expire just three days after Christmas. The additional weeks of benefits have been extended each year since 2009, but a senior Republican lawmaker, Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, said Tuesday that Republicans oppose yet another extension.

Wednesday's speech is sponsored by the Center for American Progress, a think tank with close ties to the White House. It is the latest in a series of Obama addresses focused on the challenges of attaining the American dream, from a 2005 commencement address at tiny Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., to his speech in Osawatomie, Kan., in late 2011, to a return address at Knox College last July.

The speech comes near the end of the first year of Obama’s second term, with few domestic legislative achievements and plenty of upheaval, including the problem-plagued launch of the health care website, brinkmanship over the nation's borrowing limit, a government shutdown, spying revelations and the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

Economic inequality has been getting new attention lately, however. Pope Francis, in a wide-ranging church document last month, denounced the global financial system, specifically attacking trickle-down economic theories as unproven and naive. Meanwhile, fast-food workers in about 100 cities planned to walk off the job Thursday, organizers say, as part of a yearlong push to highlight the difficulties of living on the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour.

While the United States continues to recover modestly from the recession, unemployment and wages indicate the growth is not reaching all households.

"We need to be mindful of the inequality problem, which is as embedded as ever in our economy," said Jared Bernstein, a fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and former economic adviser to Vice President Joe Biden. He said that while some signs of economic recovery are beginning to follow historic trends, "we never had the burst of growth before settling back into trend that you associate with deep recessions in our past."

"We settled into the trend before we repaired the damage," he said.

Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.
The Skinny on Sports Spending

December 4, 2013  BY Doug Lederman

NO MU MENTION

Wondering how much more your college's sports program spends per athlete than your institution does in academic funds per student? What your university spends on coaching salaries per player? What your campus pays to subsidize its sports program out of institutional funds?

Then the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics has the database for you.

The commission, which next year will mark 25 years since issuing its first report on college sports reform, is today releasing a database designed to provide campus officials, policy makers, reporters and others with better -- and more accessible -- statistical information about how colleges in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I finance their sports programs. It does so by marrying data from several existing sources in a unique way.

The data on sports revenues and expenditures come from USA Today's groundbreaking college sports finances database, which has been available for several years and is based on colleges' own reports to the NCAA. The association itself does not make these data public, and USA Today's database includes only those institutions (all public) that have acceded to the newspaper's requests for the information.

Many private universities (including Duke, Northwestern and Stanford Universities and the University of Southern California) and a handful of public institutions (such as Temple University and the University of Pittsburgh) that are exempt from state open records laws are missing from the Knight database as a result. (Knight officials say that they will welcome the participation of any such colleges that want their information to be included, but even the private institutions whose presidents are on the Knight panel -- R. Gerald Turner of Southern Methodist University, John J. DeGoia of Georgetown University -- are not participating in the commission's financial database.)

The Knight database merges those sports budget data with information on athletic participation that is drawn from colleges' reports to the U.S. Department of Education under the Equity in
Athletics Disclosure Act, which collects information on gender discrimination under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Those athletics data are then combined with statistics on academic and instructional spending from the American Institutes of Research's Delta Cost Project, which refines data from the federal government's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

The result allows users to compare athletic and academic spending at any combination of Division I institutions and to customize analyses depending on their interests. The Knight Commission argued in a 2010 report that making more accurate and comparable financial data about college sports publicly accessible was important in trying to redress an imbalance -- laid out in the report -- in which spending on athletics was growing at a significantly faster clip than institutional spending over all, and especially on instruction.

“We already see levels of spending at some universities that require them to divert substantial resources from their core academic responsibilities,” William E. (Brit) Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland and, with SMU's Turner, co-chairman of the commission, said in a news release about the database. "We are hopeful this online database will help university leaders and policy makers develop practices and policies that bring better balance to athletic expenditures within the broader institutional missions.” (Kirwan knows what he's talking about: his system's flagship institution, the University of Maryland at College Park, is leaving its longtime home in the Atlantic Coast Conference for the Big Ten Conference, in pursuit of greater visibility and much larger television dollars, a year after it cut numerous teams to lessen a major sports deficit.)

Among a few of the data points generated by the Knight database:

- From 2005-2011, in every Division I subdivision, athletic spending per athlete grew at a faster rate than academic spending per student.
- During that same period, academic spending per student at institutions that compete in the NCAA's top competitive level, the Football Bowl Subdivision, rose by 3 percent after adjusting for inflation, while athletic spending per athlete increased 31 percent and football spending per football player grew 52 percent -- excluding spending on athletic scholarships.
- From 2005-2011, the growth in institutional support for athletics per athlete was greater than the growth in academic spending per student.
TRENDS IN SPENDING AND INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING

The median amounts for academic, athletic, and football spending along with institutional funding for athletics are shown on a per capita basis for the defined years. Amounts reflect current dollars. Inflationary adjustments can be made in custom reporting.

In 2005, academic spending per FTE student was $50,000, athletic spending per athlete was $70,000, institutional funding for athletics per athlete was $100,000, and football spending per scholarship football player was $150,000.

By 2011, academic spending per FTE student increased to $150,000, athletic spending per athlete increased to $120,000, institutional funding for athletics per athlete remained constant at $100,000, and football spending per scholarship football player increased to $170,000.

The percent change over the period is as follows:
- Academic Spending per FTE Student: 24%
- Athletic Spending per Athlete: 58%
- Institutional Funding for Athletics per Athlete: 73%
- Football Spending per Scholarship Football Player: 68%

For quick adjustments to the graph, click on the metric symbol to eliminate the corresponding line.
Editorial: The Antlers deserve a chance to improve conduct

The spotlight at Mizzou Arena has recently been stolen from what happens on Norm Stewart Court to what happens in the stands above it.

Although the men’s basketball team has easily handled its opponents at the past two home games, all eyes have been fixed on The Antlers, the notoriously boisterous student group that’s been terrorizing opposing teams and angering university officials since its inception in 1976.

Last month, the decades-long struggle between The Antlers and the athletic department regarding “crossing the line” boiled over. Athletic Director Mike Alden approached Missouri Students Association President Nick Droege and Vice President Zach Beattie and reportedly asked them to set up a meeting with university officials and Antlers representatives to discuss recent conduct. “Grand Poobah” Emmett DeLaney, the leader of The Antlers, attended the subsequent meeting and was given a list of material (Antler chants, insults and T-shirt messages) the athletic department had compiled from two recent games and had judged to be “over the line.”

Alden was not present at the meeting.

DeLaney and The Antlers apparently agreed to tone it down and, as posted on their Twitter account, “cut out any blatant misogyny, racial or disaster jokes” during MU games. However, they were not given the chance to prove this.

Before tipoff at the Nov. 23 game against Gardner-Webb, university police removed the entire Antlers group from Mizzou Arena after the group’s traditional “Scum, scum, scum, go back to where you’re from / And die” chant (the last word of which had been changed to “cry” by some members). Police informed the group their ejection had been due to “a pattern of unruly behavior.”

Two days later, The Antlers returned to Mizzou Arena (as part of an embarrassingly sparse crowd of 6,065) for the game against IUPUI, wearing full suits, bearing signs emblazoned with cats and butterflies and chanting mantras such as “Sportsmanship.” During the second half, however, they chanted “Pelvic thrust, churn the butter, step to the right, cop a feel,” following which they were again ejected.

The two successive ejections attracted plenty of attention and debate. While these events have provided an opportunity to discuss the role of The Antlers and spectatorship in general, it has
mostly just been a shameful experience for MU basketball, and both The Antlers and the athletic department are responsible.

We understand The Antlers’ entire point is to toe “the line” and make Mizzou Arena as unwelcome an environment as possible for opposing teams. The problem with demarcating “the line” of offensive material is that it’s different for everyone; however, we’d venture to say most people would find much of the material on the athletic department’s list to be inappropriate for a college basketball game with families and children in attendance. When The Antlers heckle an injured player or shout profanities that cause parents to cover their children’s ears, it’s an embarrassment to all MU fans.

If you overstep “the line,” you have to accept the punishment. But the fact that these past two ejections have come after chants The Antlers have repeated for decades — neither of which were on the athletic department’s list — shows the department isn’t particularly interested in maintaining consistent standards as to the location of “the line.” It’s true that tradition isn’t always a good excuse to continue shameful practices, but suddenly booting The Antlers for something they’ve chanted so many times without incident is unfair and only serves to undermine the department’s intentions.

Clearly, this debacle comes from a breakdown in communication. Alden should have been at the meeting with DeLaney, MSA President Nick Droege, MSA Vice President Zach Beattie and other university officials, rather than sending a representative. If he intends to accomplish anything other than a game of acrimonious Twitter "telephone," he must approach The Antlers and personally work with them to establish clear standards of conduct.

On the other hand, The Antlers must stick to their promise to refocus their energy on less offensive material. As group co-founder and current St. Louis Post-Dispatch columnist Jeff Gordon wrote, “The Antlers could tone things down without risking folks tuning them out. You don't need to be obscene or excessively cruel to be effective.” The Antlers’ purpose is to anger, confuse and distract the opposing team. Not to provoke the athletic department or university officials. Not to offend fellow MU fans and families. Not to make themselves the story of the game. We urge them to do right by the team and the university they support.

Mizzou needs The Antlers. We need them, with their spirit and passion and firm commitment to disturbing the peace. What we don’t need is the vulgarity and crudeness that have characterized Antler activities as of late. Even when most of the stands are empty and the students in the Zou Crew “spirit section” have sat down or gone home, The Antlers are there, raising hell and helping the Tigers win. The athletic department should not keep The Antlers down; to the contrary, it should let them prove they can do what they do best without making Mizzou Arena unwelcome or embarrassing for their fellow MU fans.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • The big prizes in Saturday’s Southeastern Conference championship game are the conference title and the automatic invitation to a BCS bowl game. But the head coaches for No. 3 Auburn and No. 5 Missouri could be engaged in their own personal dual.

Conference and national coaching honors figure to be on the line for Mizzou’s Gary Pinkel and Auburn’s Gus Malzahn after both have pulled off unexpected one-year turnarounds.

Pinkel and Malzahn were named two of three finalists for the Maxwell Club national coach of the year award Tuesday, along with Duke’s David Cutcliffe, who has led the Blue Devils to a school-record 10 wins and a spot in Saturday’s ACC championship game against Florida State.

Pinkel, who Saturday tied Don Faurot for the most head-coaching wins in Mizzou history, has led the Tigers to an 11-1 record and 7-1 in the SEC after last year’s 5-7 debut in the conference. With a win Saturday he’ll become the program’s career leader for wins — and could edge Malzahn for the league’s top coaching honors.

“It speaks volumes for how great a coach he is and how well he does his job,” offensive guard Max Copeland said of Pinkel, who’s 101-62 in 13 seasons at Missouri. “That’s what those stats are indicative of, how well you do as a coach. He’s a very deserving person of such an accolade.”

Not bad for a coach who when the season began was considered to be coaching for his job, a perception that wasn’t lost on his players.

“A lot of these people, their friendship’s a fog that will disappear when the wind redirects,” Copeland said. “It really speaks to his persistence and his determination.”

In Malzahn’s first season at Auburn, the Tigers have matched Mizzou’s 11-1 and 7-1 records, improving from 3-9 and 0-8 last season. Since the SEC expanded to 12 teams in 1992, 13 teams have gone winless in conference play. Prior to Auburn’s 7-1 run through the conference this year, South Carolina (2000) and Ole Miss (2008) pulled off the best one-year improvements, finishing 5-3.

Pinkel acknowledged some parallels between Mizzou’s progress and Auburn’s sudden turnaround but resisted comparing the two situations too closely.

“Gus has done a remarkable job with that program in such a short time,” he said. “They had a coaching change, obviously. We had eight straight bowls (before 2012). This is the fourth time in the last seven
years we’ve had double-digit wins. The programs are a lot different, but we both had poor years last year. And now we come back and we’re playing for the SEC championship.”

Eligible voters for the Maxwell Club coaching award include FBS head coaches and sports information directors, Maxwell Football Club members and selected national media. The winner will be announced Dec. 19.

EALY LEAVING EARLY?

Among Missouri’s draft-eligible underclassmen, junior defensive end Kony Ealy figures to have the highest stock if he chooses to enter the 2014 draft. Ealy received a third- to fourth-round grade by the NFL’s draft advisory board last year when he could have entered the draft after his redshirt sophomore season. Ealy, who plays both on the edge and inside at defensive tackle in different packages, has eclipsed his career-high totals for sacks (6.5) and hurries (14).

Could he have played his final game at Faurot Field Saturday against Texas A&M?

“We’ll see at the end of the season,” he said. “I haven’t made any decisions as to that. My mind’s not even focused on that right now. I’m just worried about Auburn and getting to Saturday and playing my best.”

SLIVE CHIMES IN

Appearing on local radio airwaves Tuesday, Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive backed Auburn athletic director Jay Jacobs’ assertion that a one-loss SEC champion, either Auburn or Missouri, should play for the national championship. The winner of Saturday’s SEC championship game likely will be left out of the BCS national title game as long as No. 1 Florida State and No. 2 Ohio State defeat Duke and Michigan State in their respective conference championship games.

“You can make a very compelling argument that a one-loss team from the SEC should play for the national championship even over an undefeated team from another league,” Slive said on “The Morning After” show on WGNU (920 AM). “Now, whether the voters see it that way remains to be seen. But I think we’ve made a compelling argument.”
Odd as it seems, CBS, which gets the first choice of Southeastern Conference football games to broadcast each Saturday during the regular season, will air a Missouri game for the first time this year when Mizzou faces Auburn in the SEC championship game Saturday.

Even CBS voices said that’s a shame, and the talent has ramped-up preparation.

“I’m ankle deep in Missouri notes right now,” said lead announcer Verne Lundquist during a conference call Tuesday.

“We owe the (Missouri) Tigers a lot of respect for what they accomplished, and it will be our challenge to tell the Missouri story in equal amounts to the Auburn story.”

As he does during regular-season game preparation, analyst Gary Danielson will be in Columbia on Wednesday to watch practice and speak with coach Gary Pinkel and team personnel.

“The coach needs to see me in person,” Danielson said. “We’re going to critique them and say things, and I want to make sure he knows when we say something he doesn’t agree with, he knows we at least went there and saw him.

“We owe the team that work.”

Among SEC East schools, CBS showed five Georgia games, three each for Florida and Tennessee and Vanderbilt once. Missouri, South Carolina and Kentucky did not appear on CBS this season.

“It’s not an exact science,” said Sean McManus, chairman of CBS Sports. “We pick a game that maximizes viewer interest and television ratings. I wish we had had Missouri on. They’re tough calls.”
Rankings, league standing and star power are some of the factors that go into the decision of games to select for broadcast.

Texas A&M, with dynamic quarterback Johnny Manziel, had four appearances, as did two-time defending national champion Alabama.

CBS struck gold with Auburn’s last two games: the Nov. 16 victory over Georgia that was won on a long tipped pass for a touchdown; and last weekend’s Iron Bowl, won by Auburn on a field-length missed field-goal return.

Missouri provided some dramatic moments, but they were captured on other networks. On Oct. 12, when Missouri won at Georgia on ESPN, CBS selected Florida at LSU. On Oct. 26, when the Tigers lost to South Carolina in double overtime on ESPN2, the CBS call was Tennessee at Alabama.

Mizzou was late to the national radar, projected to finish sixth of seven in the SEC East preseason poll, and not entering the top 10 until its seventh game.

A year ago, Missouri had two CBS appearances and was squashed by South Carolina and Alabama.

But Lundquist and Danielson said Missouri won’t be short-shrifted in the coverage.

“Missouri has had a magical season, and we will document it to the fullest,” Lundquist said. “It’s an extraordinary accomplishment.”
Football fans make Atlanta road trip plans on short notice

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 | 7:36 p.m. CST; updated 9:56 p.m. CST, Tuesday, December 3, 2013

BY LINDSEY DAVISON

COLUMBIA — Students and alumni are scrambling to find tickets and transportation to Atlanta this week to nail a seat in the Georgia Dome for Saturday's Southeastern Conference Championship game.

Sophomore Kayla Lewis bought a student ticket for $60 and is splitting costs for gas and a $25 parking pass at the dome with friends.

They are carpooling eight hours to Mississippi on Friday night to stay at the home of a friend's relative. On Saturday morning, they'll drive across the Alabama border and into Georgia, then back to Mississippi after the game ends.

Lewis said she hopes to spend less than $200 for the entire trip.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me," she said. "Since I grew up outside of Columbia, I've been attending MU football games since I was 7 years old.

"Getting to watch my hometown team come back from last year and make it all the way to the (SEC) championship is just beyond anything I could ever imagine," she said.

Matt Butler, a 1995 MU alumnus who lives in Austin, Texas, advertised on Craigslist for a ticket. He said he hopes to drive 14 hours from Austin to Atlanta and share a hotel room with MU Law School faculty member Jayme Salinardi to save money.

But he's still looking for a ticket that isn't off the charts. The average price for a single ticket on craigslist.org was about $250 on Tuesday afternoon. One ad listed a 20-ticket Luxury Skybox Suite for $25,000. It included four parking passes, a private restroom, a fridge and wet bar, various TV options and a private hostess.
"Ticket prices are ridiculous," Butler said. "It's like people are trying to put their kids through college on them."

He said the short notice makes planning more difficult. The Missouri Tigers earned a berth in the SEC Championship game Saturday after beating Texas A&M. "Even for a bowl game, you still have two or three weeks of notice to make arrangements," Butler said. "I still really want to go, it's just looking at the reality of the amount of time, effort and money it takes to get there."

Zach Sullentrup, a sophomore at MU, was one of about 20 members of Tiger's Lair, the official student cheering section, to camp outside the MU Student Center about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday for a chance to get a package deal.

Tiger's Lair offered its members a $150 bundle that included a game ticket, bus transportation and one night in a hotel near downtown Atlanta. Bundles were sold in person starting at 10 a.m. Tuesday and were sold out by 2:30 p.m., according to the Tiger's Lair Facebook page.

"My friend and I decided it was an opportunity we didn't want to miss since it includes a hotel room, travel and a ticket," Sullentrup said. "So we rushed to get our homework done then stood in line all night."

The Mizzou Alumni Association also offered bundles for its members. Alumni could choose a $1,339 deal that included round-trip airfare and two nights in a hotel or a $649 bundle that included two nights in a hotel.

Both offers included other benefits — a Tigers tailgate, for example — but not game tickets. A ticket could be purchased separately for $100.

All bundles were sold out by 5 p.m. Monday, said Todd McCubbin, executive director of the Alumni Association.

"It's the premier way to go, but we know a lot of people are doing their own thing as far as airline miles and hotel points," he said. "Our job was to offer an option, and we did."
MU reactor responds to international shortage of medical radioisotopes

By Covey Eonyak Son

The MU Research Reactor Center will adjust its initial plans for maintenance to help mitigate a recent loss to the global supply of radioisotopes.

Radioisotopes are essential to the diagnosis and radiotherapy for cancer patients, said Carolyn Henry, interim associate director of research at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

“A loss in the supply (of radioisotopes) could be devastating for patients who need those products for either diagnostic purposes or therapy,” Henry said. “Being able to have other options that will target tumors better, especially for patients who are resistant to more standard therapy like chemotherapy just adds to our available resources to fight cancer.”

Two international research reactors, located in the Netherlands and South Africa, have undergone an unplanned shutdown causing a disruption in the supply chain.

“When the two reactors went offline in an unscheduled fashion, we got the call from our customers asking if MURR could adjust its planned maintenance evolution,” MURR Associate Director Kenneth Brooks said. “We agreed so that cancer patients will continue to get treatments.”

Multiple issues could be the root of the shutdowns, MURR Director Ralph Butler said.

“Our understanding (is that) they are shut down due to technical and operational issues,” Butler said. “One of the past reactor outages at the reactor in the Netherlands was related to a fresh water pipe that supplied cooling water. When it appeared there was a breach in the pipe, all related systems were reviewed while the pipe was repaired.”

Under normal circumstances, MURR’s reactor would undergo a half day of inactivity each week, and a two-week offline period once every eight years to conduct a maintenance evolution.

During this time, the reactor’s beryllium reflector, a component which acts as a mirror to neutrons and allows the nuclear fission to occur, is replaced, Butler said.

“We have a year window in which to perform this maintenance, and it is because of that flexibility that we have been able to make our recent schedule adjustment,” Butler said.
MURR’s next maintenance evolution was initially scheduled to start Dec. 9, Brooks said.

“But to serve the needs of our customers, we will now do our maintenance revolution in Jan. 6,” Brooks said. “We are hoping the other reactors will come back online (by the time we go offline). They are forecasting that at least one of them will come back in a timely fashion.”

A reactor in Belgium will also extend its planned operating cycle to better meet demands, Butler said.

Brooks said this surge in demand for radioisotopes is due to the short-lived nature of many radiopharmaceuticals.

One of MURR’s major products is Samarium 153, an active ingredient in Quadramet, a nuclear medicine developed by MU researchers.

Originally found effective in treating dogs with bone cancer, Quadramet has also proven effective in treating human patients, Henry said.

“In my research here, I have looked at ways to combine that therapy with others to try to allow patients with bone cancer to not have to undergo an amputation,” she said. “We are also looking at new formulations of radiopharmaceuticals that are similar to that, but maybe easier to ship to more distant sites and third world countries.”

Butler said MURR supplies 35 different radioisotopes to researchers and medical communities in approximately 18 countries each year.

“There are a handful of research reactors that provide isotopes for the same purpose and each reactor doesn’t provide exactly the same isotope as others, so it is best when we are all available to ensure steady supply for patients,” he said. “MURR’s current isotope supply enables the treatment of well over a thousand patients each week.”
Students say high school coursework more indicative than ACT

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — When Ashley Bland was in high school, her parents often told her to work hard so she would have different academic options after she graduated.

To reach her fullest potential, Bland reached out to her support system — her guidance counselor, her Advanced Placement English teacher and an older cousin who was in college — to figure out which study strategies were best for her.

"I've never been a straight-A or B student," Bland said. "I had to find out which resources worked best for the type of student I am."

For Bland, taking challenging courses and maintaining a high GPA was her ticket to getting into a good school out of state and earning enough financial aid to afford it.

"I knew that if my grades weren't up to par, I wouldn't get in anywhere," Bland said.

She said she wasn't as concerned with getting a high ACT or SAT score.

"It's just a way to make kids compete for the numbers," Bland said. "AP and honors classes are what prepared me for college. They gave glimpses into harder coursework."

Now an MU senior studying hospitality management, Bland said prioritizing her GPA paid off. She credits her competitive high school academic record with the scholarship awards she received.

Thirty MU students interviewed by the Missourian reflected on their time in high school and said that when they were preparing for college, they concentrated on doing well on high school coursework rather than studying for the ACT or SAT.

The ACT is a content-based standardized test frequently taken by students in the Midwest to measure college readiness. Students from the East and West coasts often
take the reasoning-based SAT, which is also used by universities as an indicator of college readiness.

The MU students said their standardized test scores were not an adequate reflection of their academic capabilities. They said they thought the types of courses they took in high school and the grades they earned better indicated whether they were ready for college coursework.

**Choosing challenging courses**

It wouldn't be prudent for some high school students to jump into an honors-level or AP course if they were not prepared, but students need to be challenged in the classes they do enroll in, said Brett Potts, principal at Blue Valley West High School in Overland Park, Kan., who wrote his dissertation on the relationship among high school academic preparation, ACT scores and college degree completion.

Having a 4.0 GPA in high school wouldn't mean as much if a student hadn't taken challenging coursework, Potts said.

"Some students have a tendency to take the path of least resistance," Potts said. "We have to find a good balance to push students out of their comfort zones."

For Potts, whether students are prepared for college courses comes down to what classes they take in high school and whether the classes they take are "individually rigorous," which Potts defines as challenging each student's academic capabilities.

A student has to find a balance of rigor and success, Potts said. A student has to be challenged, but not to the point at which he or she is buried in work and not successful anywhere.

**Evan Chiarelli, an MU freshman majoring in political science, said he chose his high school courses based on his individual needs and interests.**

He took a lot of AP classes as a high school freshman and sophomore. He said he wanted to challenge himself and gauge his abilities to handle the course load.

Chiarelli said he chose classes such as AP Human Geography and AP U.S. Government and Politics to gain a better understanding of what he would be doing as a political science major.
When he was a high school student, he thought those courses would be similar to classes he would take at MU.

In his junior and senior years, Chiarelli said, he traded in classes such as AP English Literature and Composition for courses in debate and public speaking because they were more in line with his personal and professional interests.

He said those classes helped him improve skills he thought were necessary for political science students.

"Taking AP classes helped me create a necessary work ethic, and taking classes I enjoyed motivated me to work harder," Chiarelli said.

Story Continues: http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/168156/students-say-high-school-coursework-more-indicative-than-act/

"Z-O-U," the audience in front of him shouted back.

"Like the seniors Saturday night, that was my last visit to Faurot Field," David said, referencing Missouri's 28-21 win over Texas A&M to win the SEC East championship.

"Win or lose, I'm going to love my Tigers to the grave," he added.

David Oliver, a former professor in MU's School of Medicine, was diagnosed in October 2011 with stage IV nasopharyngeal carcinoma, a type of throat cancer that had also spread to his bones and lymph nodes.

After learning about his incurable disease, he announced his diagnosis to friends and colleagues through a video, then eventually created a blog about his illness.

On Tuesday, David and his wife, Debra Oliver, gave a speech about cancer and death in the School of Medicine's Bryant Auditorium. About 150 students, friends and family members listened to David's plans for the future.

**HOPE**

David decided six months ago to stop cancer treatment so he could spend more time with his loved ones. At the time, his doctor told him that at worst, he would have 186 days to live. Today, he does not know how much time he has left. After David made the decision to stop treatment, he and Debra had a conversation about what to do in the time ahead. "I want to die well," David remembered saying at the time.

"I wanted to know what that meant to him," Debra said.

"I chose quality of life, instead of quantity of life," David said.
David wrote a book titled "Exit Strategy: Depriving Death of Its Strangeness," which was published in February. The book, like Tuesday's speech, highlights the steps the Olivers have taken and will continue to take through the rest of David's life. David sums up his "exit strategy" with HOPE:

(H) I want to die at home
(O) Surrounded by others
(P) Pain-free
(E) Engaged and excited until the end

David said he wants to be as lively as he can until his last day, "even if that means I have to put rollers on my bed," he said. "I want to be living, even if it's from a bed in our living room, which is clearly a good place to live," he said. David and Debra have taken several vacations in the past six months, when David was having his "good days."

They have visited family in Arizona and traveled to Canada, and this weekend they plan to travel to Atlanta for the SEC Championship game if weather permits. The Olivers plan to continue to travel as long as David feels well enough.

'A family disease'

Debra Oliver is an MU professor with a background in hospice work, which she said has been helpful through her husband's illness. "I've spent my whole life preparing for this," she said, teary-eyed. However, she added that her background with cancer patients didn't give her a sense of how to deal with it personally. "Cancer is a family disease," Debra said. "It's two patients, and the caregiver experiences different things."

For example, she said that even on David's good days, she is afraid to leave him alone.

"The caregiver suffers the most," David said. Debra said that courage is what gets her through the rough days, along with making sure she takes care of herself.

Editorial: Want to lure Boeing? Follow its CEO's advice

13 hours ago • By the Editorial Board

Most of us learned in grade school not to use a word in its own definition.

The writer of the House bill filed Monday as the first step to lure the Boeing Co., to build its new 777x airliner in St. Louis by offering a jetliner full of taxpayer cash, apparently missed that class.

Here’s the last line of the bill, which allows Gov. Jay Nixon to bypass existing caps and controls on state tax subsidy programs in an effort to give Boeing up to $150 million a year in exchange for several thousand manufacturing jobs:

“Because economic development is vital for the continued success of the Missouri economy, this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution, and this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.”

What the writer gets wrong is that economic development isn’t vital to the economy, it is the economy. What is vital to economic growth is developing an atmosphere in which companies want to locate and grow. Unfortunately, for too long, Missouri’s approach to economic growth has been precisely what is now being proposed in a special session of the Missouri Legislature at an unprecedented level. It’s legalized bribery.

Whether it’s Wal-Mart playing competing municipalities against each other in exchange for tax handouts or Boeing pitting Missouri against Texas, Utah, South Carolina, California and Washington, the game is the same.

Missouri’s economic development policy is to give companies the moon and pray they bring along a few stars.

Here’s how former state Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield, described the concept during the 2010 special session in which Missouri lawmakers took money from the future pensions of the lowest-paid state workers in the country to give to Ford so it would, maybe, keep open its truck manufacturing plant in Claycomo.

“We suck at economic development,” Mr. Purgason said. “Apparently, we don’t understand that what we’ve been doing isn’t working, and our answer is to keep doing the same thing.”
Missouri is doing the same thing again. Only this time, the price isn’t $150 million over a decade, it’s at least that much in one year, with even more tax abatements and giveaways at the local level. Total price tag? It’s impossible to know, but it’s likely more than $2 billion over two decades.

What makes the attempt to lure Boeing so disconcerting, even while understanding the potential positive impact of the high-paying manufacturing jobs, is the speed and secrecy that highlight the race to win this beauty contest. Supporters of the governor’s proposal to hand over potentially billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies say that if Missouri and St. Louis don’t do it, another state will, and that’s true. We want Boeing to come here as much as anybody. But there has to be a better way.

With that in mind, we’ve rewritten the governor’s call for lawmakers to come into special session, using some of his own words. Here’s what it should have said:

WHEREAS, education is the best economic development tool there is; and

WHEREAS, Missouri has failed to fully fund its K-12 schools or colleges and universities for several years; and

WHEREAS, our state’s largest employers, including Boeing Co., deserve and want a qualified workforce that comes from high-quality schools; and

WHEREAS, one of the best returns on investment in state funding, both in terms of educational outcomes and economic development, according to numerous studies, is quality early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, in the last several months, Missouri’s health care industry has been bleeding jobs because of the Legislature’s failure to expand Medicaid, using $8 billion in federal funds for the first three years of the expansion; and

WHEREAS, according to a University of Missouri study, expanding Medicaid will produce 24,000 jobs in the state, while putting more money in consumers’ pockets because so many of the 800,000 Missourians without insurance would gain it; and

WHEREAS, a well-educated and healthy middle class combined with the state’s existing low taxes, should serve as an economic beacon, drawing companies from all over the country to Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Boeing Co., has asked several states to compete for a manufacturing plant with up to 8,000 new jobs. St. Louis has the land, the transportation infrastructure, the qualified aerospace workers and the ability to move quickly on constructing such a plant to win this competition; therefore

I, Jeremiah (Jay) W. Nixon, governor of the state of Missouri, do call on the General Assembly:

TO ENACT legislation that would fully fund the K-12 education funding formula, and increase higher education funding to create the capacity to turn out qualified aerospace employees.

TO ENACT legislation that would require every school district in the state to provide free early childhood education to students living at or under 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
TO ENACT an expansion of Medicaid as called for in the Affordable Care Act, making sure that whatever reforms are a part of such legislation qualify for a federal waiver that will free up $8 billion in federal funds.

TO ENACT legislation to pay for such programs, if necessary, by reducing existing tax credit giveaways to corporations and adjusting Missouri’s outdated income tax collection system to raise more revenue.

TO PASS a resolution outlining for Boeing executives the long-term benefits to the company, its employees and their families of locating in a state that truly values education, and the ‘public health, welfare, peace, and safety’ of all of its people. Included in that resolution will be the following words, taken from an interview Boeing CEO James McNerney gave in May of this year: “Addressing some of the educational shortfalls we have in this country will probably have more to do with the long-term competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing than anything else.”

Sure, Missouri could be like all the other states and pass a fuselage full of incentives without even knowing what’s in the cargo hold. Or it could zig while everybody else zags and change the course of Missouri’s history.
Columbia biofuel company gets $500,000 grant

New fuel will burn like coal.

By JACOB BARKER
Columbia biofuel company gets $500,000 grant

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (4)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded a $500,000 grant to a local biofuel company partnering with the city of Columbia's electric utility, allowing the firm to find and equip a facility in Mid-Missouri to begin manufacturing its biomass pellets.

Enginuity Worldwide has spent years developing its eCARB fuel made from a variety of plant materials such as corn stover and switchgrass. It will combine the USDA grant with at least $1.5 million in private funds to outfit a new production facility, the agency announced.

"We are currently in the final stages of site selection for the initial production line" and hope to make an announcement before the end of the year, Nancy Heimann, business manager of Enginuity, told a gathering of local and statewide notables at University of Missouri's Bradford Research and Extension Center southeast of Columbia.

Enginuity is working to embark on a "test burn" with the city to supplement the coal the city burns at the municipal power plant on Business Loop 70 with biomass. Water and Light Director Tad Johnsen said the city has a contract with Enginuity for the test burn, and it is working to get a permit from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to conduct it. He predicted the test would occur sometime in the summer of 2014.

City Manager Mike Matthes called Columbia "a natural partner" with Enginuity. Columbia is one of the few cities in the state that owns its own power plant, and it has a need to begin reducing some of the more dangerous emissions from burning coal.
The city already tried one test burn last year using MFA Oil's specialized energy crop Miscanthus giganteus. But the old power plant equipment didn't mesh with the miscanthus pellets, which tended to combust before they reached the boiler.

"It's old, and it has a very specific way of working, and it's engineered around coal," Matthes said. "This product has to be a lot like coal to work."

That is how Heimann has marketed Enginuity's eCARB technology. Initial testing has suggested it works well in aging coal-fired power plants, a market Heimann and Enginuity hope to tap as federal emissions regulations force power producers to clean up their plants' pollution or undergo expensive retrofits. It compresses biomass — including crop waste — into a compact pellet that has a relatively high combustion point and doesn't retain too much moisture.

Enginuity is hoping to leverage the grant and its first customer, Columbia, to expand its business.

"Missouri has vast, diverse and abundant biomass resources, and we intend to use them all," Heimann said.

Also driving the project is Columbia's renewable energy mandate, which requires the city to boost its energy sources from "renewables" to 10 percent by 2017.

Enginuity's product is still quite expensive. Its proposal to the city would charge $500 per ton of the eCARB, versus the $125 per ton of miscanthus that MFA charged and coal prices that can be even lower.

The renewable energy mandate, Heimann said, is what "made Columbia such a good place for the idea to take seed."

*This article was published in the Tuesday, December 3, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Biomass plan gets $500,000: New fuel will burn like coal."*