$75,000 pledged in effort to bring MU museum back to campus
Tuesday, December 17, 2013 | 8:34 p.m. CST BY JOAN KOKA

COLUMBIA — Current and former board members of Museum Associates have pledged $75,000 to support a new building fund for the Museum of Art and Archaeology after a $25,000 donation was announced last week.

The museum is in the process of moving from Pickard Hall to Mizzou North, located at Garth Avenue and Business Loop 70 West, as part of the university’s $22.85 million renovation project, which was announced in May. Museum Associates is an organization interested in seeing the Museum of Art and Archaeology move back closer to MU.

Alex Barker, director of the Museum of Art and Archaeology and vice president of Museum Associates, said the building fund was created in response to the $25,000 donation made by two local entrepreneurs. He said the fund will support discussion about bringing the museum closer to the MU campus, and if the decision were made to relocate the museum, the money would go toward the move.

Barker said that Museum Associates has not made an appeal for money to the public but that current and former members of the organization — some of whom are local business owners and teachers — have made contributions.

"It came as a surprise to me that the fund was able to grow so quickly," he said.

Tootie Burns, chairwoman of the expansion committee for Museum Associates, said the organization has received five to 10 pledges from individuals and organizations in amounts ranging from $5,000 to $10,000.

"Museum Associates have stepped up to the plate, and we’re serious about bringing the museum back to the campus area," she said.
Barker said he was unsure whether more donations would come, but Burns was optimistic. "I expect that we will continue to receive more donations," she said.
MU researchers to study IT in nursing homes

Dec 17, 2013  BY ABBY KASS

COLUMBIA, Mo.–Researchers at the University of Missouri will be the first to study the current relationship between IT systems and quality of nursing home care across the country. The study will examine how IT affects different aspects of nursing home care, such as resident care, administrative activities and clinical support.

Greg Alexander, associate professor at the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, is the lead researcher of this study. He has previously studied the use of IT in Missouri nursing homes and found that the use of IT helped health professionals track patient’s care, make clinical decisions and protect patients’ privacy. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality recently awarded Alexander a grant of $1 million to expand the study to the national level.

“People may not consider IT implementation to be important when searching for a nursing home, but IT certainly impacts the communication between staff and the continuity of care for the patients,” Alexander said.

A previous study done on this topic was completed more than 10 years ago, according to Alexander, but technology in nursing homes has changed since then.

“We will track survey responses each year and analyze how trends in IT adoption levels correlate with nursing home quality measures, such as the number of residents with urinary tract infections, pressure ulcers and pain,” Alexander said.

According to Alexander, a research team will study 10 percent of all nursing homes in the U.S. and track their IT use for the next three years. He hopes that the study will help determine what IT components lead to higher quality care in nursing homes.
MU grief assistance program helps pet owners cope

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 | 4:19 p.m. CST

BY JULIA BUSH

COLUMBIA — The first time Francesca Tocco meets with a client who has lost a pet, she asks to see pictures of the animal.

Together, they flip through images.

It's difficult at first, but soon they're laughing, remembering the good times and the harder times, Tocco said.

**Tocco started the Tigers In Grief, Easing Recovery or TIGER program to help clients of the MU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital clients deal with loss and grief after their pets die or go through a tough diagnosis. The program is part of MU's College of Veterinary Medicine and Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction.**

The closer pets get to families, the harder it is for family members when they go through an illness or die, said Rebecca Johnson, director of the research center. "Companion animals used to live outside," Johnson said. "Then they moved into the house and into the families, and they are largely considered part of the family."

The TIGER program exists to both serve clients in difficult times and to teach students who know how to perform the surgery but struggle with helping grieving clients.

**Dealing with loss**

Tocco, who earned her master's degree in social work and is pursuing a doctorate in nursing at MU, runs TIGER's day-to-day operations as the program's director. She also works as a part-time social worker through the program.
Tocco often stays in the exam room with families while they talk to their pet's doctor. Although she has no medical training, she serves as a sounding board for families to discuss their options. "Sometimes I get a call later and they say, 'Hi, do you remember me and my family? We don't agree on what to do. Can you help us?'" Tocco said.

Other times, she circulates the waiting room at the veterinary hospital. She asks to pet people's animals to start a conversation with them. Then, she tells them about the program and hands out a business card in case they need to call her later.

Tocco knows how it feels to lose a pet, but she tries not to get into her own experiences when talking with clients. Instead, she lets them direct the conversation. "Sometimes I can relate so strongly, and my cat died of the exact same thing, but I let them take the conversation where they need to," she said. She said raising awareness for the program can be challenging. She wants clients to know they can call her, even if it's 10 p.m. "Grief doesn't sleep," she said. "It doesn't recognize holidays."

Tocco has gone to the emergency room at 11 p.m. on a Saturday before, and she has at times spent more than two hours on the phone with a client.

**Learning empathy**

The second facet of the program involves teaching veterinary medicine students to help clients when they're in grief.

Students are trained to do surgeries and treat animals, so that part of the job doesn't scare them, Tocco said. Dealing with people who may be upset is difficult for some students. "They're completely scared for the person who's crying their heart out," Tocco said. "They're terrified for the emotional component – the part that I'm trained for."

Students often ask for concrete steps to console someone because that's the way they are trained in veterinary school: with a process and a step-by-step guide.

"I'll say, I can tell you tricks of the trade, but every time is different," Tocco said.
She said she tells students who are not naturally empathetic to read their environment. If the student is never comfortable talking to people, it's helpful to have supportive staff members who are, she said.

TIGER's support comes from the research center, which was founded in 2005. The center conducts programs and studies about the benefits of human-animal interaction, and it supports several programs in addition to TIGER.

For example, PAWSitive Visits is a program that helps residents in retirement facilities and nursing homes learn about and interact with animals, according to the research center's website.

For TIGER, Tocco hopes the program will have the opportunity to hire a full-time social worker in the future.

The TIGER program can be contacted by email at rechai@missouri.edu or by phone at 882-2266.
MU School of Medicine Receives National Award for innovation in medical education and research

The MU School of Medicine has received a national award for institutions using innovative processes that lead to better research.

The Medical School is one of five recipients of the Learning Health System Challenge Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges, according to a release from the MU School of Medicine.

Linda Headrick, senior associate dean for education at the Medical School and professor of internal medicine, led the application, which focused on using inter-professional education and health system partnerships to improve education about "quality improvement and patient safety," according to the release.

Headrick said one example of inter-professional education was a simulation scenario focusing on teamwork and patient safety for students in the School of Medicine to work with other students in the Sinclair School of Nursing, the School of Health Professions and the University of Missouri-Kansas City's satellite pharmacy program.

Several other MU faculty were also part of the application team.
Columbia School Board mulls yearly boundary review

Annual review seen as advantageous.

MU mention pg. 2

By Catherine Martin

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (2)

Columbia Public Schools might begin reviewing school boundaries every year instead of making ad hoc decisions when overcrowding issues arise.

Right now, boundary lines only change when a new school opens or when a school becomes overpopulated, like the recent changes to the Mill Creek Elementary School boundaries to cope

Last month, the Columbia Board of Education's policy committee began discussing a plan to have a more regular review of boundaries, but members weren't sure how regularly those reviews should take place. Yesterday, some committee members suggested making it an annual practice, though it wouldn't necessarily mean boundaries change each year.

"If we need to do something, we do something; if we don't need to do something, we don't," said school board and policy committee member Jonathan Sessions.

School board President Christine King pointed out that the board already looks at boundaries every year, such as when administrators present the board with data on enrollment and growth, and makes changes when needed.

"It would be nice to have that in policy," said Peter Stiepleman, assistant superintendent of elementary education.
Stiepleman said it would be helpful to his office and other administrators to make some sort of report about boundaries each year. Having a set policy could also be useful to others outside of the school district, such as real estate agents.

Ben Trachtenberg, a University of Missouri law professor and policy committee member, suggested language that the board of education "upon the advisement of the superintendent" will consider each year whether a review of the attendance areas is needed.

The committee also discussed adding additional considerations to the school boundary policy.

As it is now, the list of considerations includes "educational opportunities and learning environment, the geographic location of each school, and the needs and desires of the community." Committee members suggested adding facility needs and demographics, but some had concerns about including demographics.

"My only question is whether 'demographics' is a trigger word," Stiepleman said.

Others pointed out that balanced demographics can be impossible to achieve because of geography. The group discussed wording that would express that balanced demographics would be a consideration but could not always be achieved.

The boundary policy won't go before the board in January but could get a first read in February.

During the policy discussion, Trachtenberg also suggested having a more-permanent policy for what happens after boundaries change. Now, temporary policies are approved on an individual basis. For example, a policy in place now allowed high school seniors to stay in their old boundaries this year instead of moving to a new school when boundaries changed.

Superintendent Chris Belcher said once the board "gets away from the drama" of figuring out those policies for Mill Creek, it can discuss "ways to better prepare us for next time."

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Posted in Education on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 2:00 pm.
That gap shrunk just a bit today as the Mizzou International Composers Festival announced its roster of resident composers for its 2014 edition, to be held July 21 through 26.

The festival, which will mark its fifth anniversary in 2014, has steadily crescendoed into something quite remarkable. The weeklong event allows eight emerging writers of new music, the resident composers, to interact with and learn from a pair of established artists, dubbed guest composers. Each of the eight resident composers has a work premiered in a culminating concert, given by vanguard chamber ensemble Alarm Will Sound. Throughout the week, a number of rehearsals, master classes and other new music-centric concerts are open to the public.

As has been the festival's custom, Columbia is represented among the resident composers. This year's University of Missouri representative will also stand for the nation of Colombia. José Martinez, an MU graduate student and Colombia native, is among this year's field, according to a news release. Martinez was also recently named the winner of the school's coveted Sinquefield Composition Prize.

Joining Martinez is Kansas Citian Nicholas Omiccioli; Ian Dicke of Riverside, Calif.; Holly Harrison of Sydney, Australia; Texu Kim of Bloomington, Ind.; Michael Lee Schachter of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Christopher Weiss, also of Ann Arbor; and Ashley Fu-Tsun Wang of Urbana, Ill. The eight honorees were chosen from a record group of 215 applicants, the release said.

These budding artists will take their cues from an esteemed duo: Beat Furrer and Nico Muhly. Furrer is a professor of composition at Graz University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna and his canon of compositions is rather impressive. Muhly, a student of the great Phillip Glass,
has worked with everyone from the American Ballet Theater and Boston Pops to rock and pop artists such as Grizzly Bear and Antony and the Johnsons.

This year's schedule will continue to be firmed and filled as the weeks progress. Learn more on the festival website here. And, check out just a bit of our coverage from last year.

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