The University of Missouri Alumni Association has seen the royalties it collects from financial institutions for promoting their products fall by nearly half since 2009, but the fees still account for more than 10 percent of the association’s revenue.

Earlier this month, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released its second annual report on the agreements between universities and their affiliated organizations and credit card companies. Although MU does not have a direct relationship with a credit card company, the Mizzou Alumni Association collected $338,550 from Bank of America's credit card affiliate last year.

The alumni association promotes a Mizzou Alumni BankAmericard Visa credit card through direct mailings, its website and other means. The bank's contract with the alumni association, released by the CFPB, also gives the issuer the right to a list of "at least" 135,500 names of members and other people the alumni association markets to. It does not include student names, and members can opt out of receiving mailings and other solicitation.

"Affinity contracts like this allow us to run vital programs that allow us to support MU," said Todd McCubbin, Mizzou Alumni Association executive director. "If we didn't have that, we may be asking the university for more support."

The Mizzou Alumni Association's revenue from its promotion of Bank of America's credit card is the largest in the area. Stephens College also had an agreement with the bank's credit card company, FIA Card Services, but it ended last year. Stephens was paid $3,850 by the company in 2012, and $8,410 in 2011 for promoting a credit card.

The University of Missouri St. Louis Alumni Association had a similar agreement with the credit card company, but it ended last year. It was paid $10,868 in 2011 and $5,439 last year. The Missouri University of Science and Technology’s alumni group has a relationship with U.S. Bank, but it did not receive any royalties.

Many national fraternity and sorority groups also have agreements with credit card companies to promote the products to members.
The Mizzou Alumni Association receives royalties based on the average outstanding balance of cardholders that is reduced depending on the amount of debt Bank of America writes off. The association also is paid a flat rate for new accounts opened.

The alumni group's existing agreement with Bank of America, which runs through 2015, does not allow solicitation of students. Nor does it give higher royalty amounts for new student accounts, unlike prior contracts between the Mizzou Alumni Association and credit card companies. McCubbin said new laws in recent years would prevent the association from marketing to students, anyway.

"That's something we supported," he said. "We did not allow Bank of America or our prior credit card partner "to solicit students."

The alumni association's most recent contract with the company included "a pretty good haircut," McCubbin said. According to the CFPB, the number of agreements between credit card issuers and colleges and related groups fell from more than 1,000 in 2009 to 617 in 2012.

McCubbin said declining royalties in recent years likely stem from deleveraging amongst consumers as well as consolidation within the space.

"Bank of America really has a majority of the contracts, and the economy, that makes it a little different environment," he said.

Still, McCubbin said the revenue was "critical" to the group. It collected just more than $3.2 million in its fiscal year that ended June 30, 2012, according to filings with the Internal Revenue Service. And even though many of the credit card issuers' agreements are going away, McCubbin said he thinks MU has the numbers to keep the alumni association's agreement in place after the term expires. "I've not heard or talked with Bank of America about it being the last hurrah."
Jake Halliday, leader of MU Life Science Business Incubator, to retire

Big projects in works at facility.

By JACOB BARKER

Saturday, December 28, 2013 at 2:00 am

Now that the University of Missouri Life Science Business Incubator has nearly filled all of its space with young technology companies, it is ready to raise money to double the footprint of the five-year-old facility.

That's a "formidable" project, said Jake Halliday, CEO of the not-for-profit that runs the incubator. That, he said, is why he's retiring.

People who know Halliday know he's joking about the reason for his retirement. Halliday isn't one to shy away from tough projects. But, the 65-year-old native of Ireland is ready to retire.

Halliday spearheaded the fundraising campaign that raised the money to build the incubator. He came to a floundering ABC Labs in the early 1990s and helped right the ship. And during his more than eight years leading the Missouri Innovation Center, or MIC, he has played a key role in a culture shift that saw the UM System make economic development and entrepreneurship part of its mission.

"That certainly ... will be his legacy," David Keller, the President of the Bank of Missouri and the chairman of the MIC board, said of the incubator. "The other, more untold story, is probably his success in bringing the university's technology transfer operating plan into full fruition."

Halliday has been a key leader in Columbia's business community since arriving here in 1993. He has served on the MIC board since then, when he came to the city to take the helm at ABC Laboratories. He was the contract-research company's CEO until January 2004, and a little more than a year later, he became the MIC's CEO.

A native of Belfast in Northern Ireland, Halliday grew up in public housing and eventually fled the country's political violence to earn a doctorate in botany in Australia. He worked in the Amazon and lived in Colombia, Hawaii and Ohio before coming to Columbia to take over at ABC Labs.
Now 65, Halliday said he is ready to step back and spend more time with his grandchildren. His retirement is effective no later than June 30 to give the MIC board time to find a replacement. Keller said the board plans to advertise the position soon. The search will look at internal candidates, including MIC Vice President Quinten Messbarger, who Keller called a "very viable candidate."

Halliday spread the word about the incubator's resources to MU faculty who wanted to start a company with their research. Before the incubator, Keller said, their "only resource was to have a lab hidden away somewhere in the university."

"Even when we launched the center in 2009, I'm going to say the overall understanding and level of support for our mission was not well understood at the university, and Jake has moved the needle dramatically," he said. "Now, everybody at the university that I talk to from Jesse Hall on down sings the accolades of the incubator and successful technology transfer."

As Halliday leaves, the incubator is gearing up for more big projects. He recently began a push to raise money to build a 3,000-square-foot space for a software and information technology incubator, and work is getting started on the planned $10 million, 40,000-square-foot expansion, expected to take three to five years. The MIC also plans to hire "entrepreneurs in residence" to coach startups.

Where the money will come from for those projects is a big question, but who will be able to replace Halliday looms larger.

"Really, the question we ask ourselves is who are we going to find to replace Jake?" Keller said.
MU student's death ruled a homicide

Friday, December 27, 2013 at 2:00 pm

An autopsy report on the University of Missouri student who was killed in a fatal shooting Tuesday in St. Louis indicates the manner of death was a gunshot to the lung.

Jarrett D. Mosby, 21, a senior at MU studying business administration, was found slumped over in the driver's seat of his car after being shot multiple times.

Lt. Matt Eiskant of the Belleville Police Department, deputy commander of the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis, said the case squad is following up on leads but has not made an arrest. He said the cause of death was officially ruled a homicide in the autopsy report.

"We're trying to find out more information about his life through his family," Eiskant said. "We're just tracking down as many leads as possible."
Beyond Meat, the faux-chicken company that makes its soy-based meat substitute in Columbia, has won another accolade, this one from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

PETA said this week that Beyond Meat had won its 2013 “Company of the Year” award. The animal-rights advocacy group joined the chorus of praise for the company’s product made from University of Missouri-developed technology that critics say mimics meat remarkably well.

The company, based in California, makes the chicken-substitute here and plans to make more meat substitutes with the MU researchers who developed the technology.
COLUMBIA — MU plans to build a viticulture and enology center to promote hands-on wine making and is waiting for matching funds from the state.

Viticulture is the study of grapes. Enology is the study of wine and wine making.

Heidi Griswold, development director in the Office of Advancement in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said the center will include three buildings: a teaching winery, research building and wine and food education facility.

The project was approved by the UM System Board of Curators in November, Griswold said. It will be approached a piece at a time, starting with the teaching winery.

"The teaching winery is a $3 million project, and we currently have $1.5 million committed by industry partners and private entities," Griswold said. "The project now advances to the state legislature for matching funds."

Tony Kooyumjian, chairman of the Wine and Grape Research Committee, said the proposed teaching winery would be a commercial winery. It would replace a much smaller, experimental winery. Kooyumjian said the goal is for students to make and bottle more than 2,000 cases of wine yearly; the current facility produces 100 cases at most a year.

Kooyumjian said the facility will give students experience with cleaning machinery, filtering and basic machinery used in a typical winery.

The research facility will have laboratories, offices for faculty and an auditorium for lectures, Kooyumjian said. The wine and food education facility will be incorporated with the MU departments of Food Science and Hospitality Management, with cooking facilities for wine tasting and food pairings. This will demonstrate what Missouri food products and wine can accomplish together, he said.
"We need to inspire the students," Kooyumjian said.

**Ingolf Gruen, interim director at the MU Grape and Wine Institute, which is funded by the Missouri Wine and Grape Board, said the experimental wine made now at MU is only used for chemical analysis.**

"The winery we have now is just a hole in the wall," Gruen said. "It’s not up to a commercial level."

Kooyumjian said a location has been set aside to build the LED-certified facility that is within walking distance of campus and includes a parking lot.

According to documents prepared for a curators' meeting in November, the teaching winery will be adjacent to the Agricultural Engineering Building. The two-story, 9,300-square-foot building will have walk-in coolers and moveable wine-making equipment, according to the documents.

Kooyumjian said he hopes to break ground in spring 2015 with completion that fall.

Kooyumjian said he hopes the project will be proposed to the state legislature in the first 2014 committee session. He said the project has been in the works in the state viticulture industry for 20 years.

"We are hoping the interests in agriculture, wine and locally-produced food products will convince the legislative committee to approve," Kooyumjian said.

According to the Missouri Wine and Grape Board, the Missouri wine and grape industry has a $1.6 billion economic impact in the state and is ranked 12th nationally in wine grape production. The board’s mission is to encourage the growth and economic development of the Missouri grape industry.

"It’s an economic impact, but more than that, if someone wants to become a wine maker or vineyard manager there isn’t any place they can go other than New York or California for a top-notch university program," Kooyumjian said. "We think there is a demand from the Midwest to attract students that want to learn more about the science of wine making and grape growing."

Kooyumjian said Eckles Hall has been used for the enology and viticulture classes. The classes have become so popular that the program needs its own building, Kooyumjian said.
Cory Bomgaars, Missouri Vintners Association president, and Les Bourgeois Winery vice president of winery operations, said the winery has a partnership program with MU viticulture and enology students. Currently, two students work at Les Bourgeois Winery for 12-month internships during which they gain hands-on skills through wine making. The new teaching winery will be an expansion of this program, Bomgaars said.

"We've always taken advantage of MU's hardworking students," Bomgaars said. "A majority of our employees started working with us when they were in college."

Bomgaars began working at Les Bourgeois Winery as an MU undergraduate 20 years ago. He said the MU wine and grape program is going to the "next level" with its own teaching facility and winery.

Jim Anderson, Missouri Wine and Grape Board executive director, said the board will partner with the university and UM System Board of Curators to help expand the Missouri wine industry.

"We feel it is a great partnership working with the university and the industry to help build Missouri viticulture," Anderson said. "Having the educational component for students, learning viticulture and wine programs, will let us expand our industry in the state."

Anderson said the goal is a team approach in which the board works with the university and students to help advance viticulture and enology. He said there are multiple funding sources through industry and private donors, which has created a unique partnership opportunity.

"Students will be more qualified winemakers when they finish the program," Bomgaars said. "This will have a huge impact on the Midwest wine industry."
MU awaits state funding for teaching winery

December 30

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri-Columbia has raised half of the $3 million it needs to build a teaching winery.

The Columbia Missourian reports that the university now is seeking matching money from the state for the facility. Plans calls for a research building and wine and food education facility to be added in later phases.

Wine and Grape Research Committee chairman Tony Kooyumjian says the proposed teaching winery would be a commercial winery. It would replace a much smaller, experimental winery. The goal is for students to make and bottle more than 2,000 cases of wine yearly; the current facility produces 100 cases at most a year.

Kooyumjian says he hopes to break ground in spring 2015 with completion that fall.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/30/4720218/mu-awaits-state-funding-for-teaching.html#storylink=cpy
Poverty program turns on slow cookers

Families will learn to make healthy meals.

By KARYN SPORY

Friday, December 27, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (4)

Central Missouri Community Action is working to collect slow cookers for families who will participate in the Eat Healthy, Stay Active program.

The goal is to help those families cook healthier meals using their new pots.

The Eat Healthy, Stay Active program launched in August and has first- and second-year medical students from the University of Missouri School of Medicine teach families ways to improve nutrition, increase physical activity and encourage healthier habits. In return, the medical students learn firsthand about the causes and conditions of poverty, said Mernell King, early childhood program director for CMCA.

King said the goal is to collect 70 slow cookers by Tuesday for the families that will participate in the program, which will begin in January. Families participating will be from Boone County.

King said the CMCA staff began collecting slow cookers internally, but he hoped the community would join in to help the organization reach its goal.

Lisa Vanderlip, executive assistant of CMCA, said there were 21 slow cookers in the office and that another 20 have been promised to be delivered to the organization.

Vanderlip said CMCA will be in the office and collecting donations until the end of the month. Vanderlip added that the slow cookers don't have to be new; gently used ones are also welcome.

King said the purpose of the program is to give families the tools to become healthier. "We want to teach people how to eat better, and we know, by working with a lot of these lower-income families, that sometimes they’re working off a hot plate or a microwave, and that's really difficult," King said. "But you can do such healthy meals in a crockpot, but we have to make sure they have a crockpot.”
King said program participants will also receive a recipe book, made by MU students serving as interns at CMCA, with their slow cookers. King said the recipes call for just a few ingredients, usually five or six, and all the ingredients can be found at local grocery stores such as Aldi, where many of the families in the program are likely to already shop.

"That's really economical and a good way to cook," King said.

Slow cookers can be dropped off at any of the CMCA locations.
Missourians may want to warm up to the 'J-turn'

December 28, 2013 11:45 pm

Most Missouri drivers have no doubt heard of and even tried a U-turn — where it is legal to do so, of course.

But how many have heard of a J-turn, let alone tried one?

Seeking to reduce the dangers of turning left across rural four-lane highways from minor roads that intersect them, the Missouri Department of Transportation has built five J-turn intersections across the state in the past six years. The first was built in 2007 on Highway M at Old Lemay Ferry Road in Jefferson County.

Instead of making a left turn, the driver makes a right turn from the side street, then merges across the traffic lanes before making a left — actually more of a U-turn — farther down the road.

It takes people a little out of their way, but it reduces the likelihood of a side-impact accident in which an oncoming, fast-moving car hits the turning car at a right angle, MoDOT officials say. The J-turn dramatically reduces the number of so-called "conflict points" found in a straight two-way intersection.

How have they worked?

**A recent study by the University of Missouri-Columbia concluded that the five intersections have all but eliminated fatal accidents and cut the number of injury accidents in half.**

“We know J-turns are not popular with some drivers, but they are the exact kind of safety solution we need to use in many instances,” David Silvester, MoDOT’s central district engineer, said in a news release. “This report proves they reduce traffic deaths and injuries, and they will continue to be a tool we use to make our roads as safe as possible.”

During an online opinion survey conducted over the summer concerning the intersection of Highway 63 and Deer Park Road, south of Columbia, Mo., some drivers grumbled about difficulty in merging, inadequate space to make U-turns with large vehicles and general confusion about the J-turn concept.

John Miller, MoDOT’s traffic safety engineer, said in an interview that the concept is not unique to Missouri. Maryland had some of the early versions of the J-turn. MoDOT officials went to North Carolina to look at their similar “Superstreet” concept several years ago.

Expect more J-turns in the future in places where they hold the most promise to reduce accidents, Miller said. They have proved a cost-effective alternative to building new interchanges.

“It is a very good solution for many locations,” Miller said.
In the meantime, MoDOT officials are spreading the message of J-turn safety and helping drivers learn more about navigating them. You can find out more about them — including diagrams, videos and the University of Missouri study — at www.modot.org/central.

TOP SPEEDS RAISED ON SOME ILLINOIS HIGHWAYS

Speed limits will go to 70 mph from 65 mph on several major interstate highways crisscrossing Illinois after Jan. 1.

Illinois transportation officials last week released a map showing where the top speeds will increase to 70 mph. They include stretches of Interstates 55, 64 and 70 once drivers get beyond populated areas of the Metro East. New signs should be in place by early January.

Under the new law, top speeds on roughly 98 percent of rural interstates that are under Illinois Department of Transportation control will increase to 70 mph.

TRAVELERS TURNING OVER MORE PROHIBITED ITEMS

From the Ride blog: Air travelers have surrendered 25 prohibited weapons that were found in their carry-on bags in St. Louis this year.

“Some people still just don’t get the word,” Federal Security Director Bill Switzer said last week during a news conference at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. “It’s amazing also ... some folks still try to bring a weapon on board.”

Switzer said there were 12 weapons surrendered to the Transportation Security Administration in St. Louis in 2012. So far this year, there have been 25 weapons.

TSA officials also displayed a wide range of prohibited items, including knives, a baseball bat and tools. You can learn more about the TSA’s prohibited items list at www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items.

The agency has a fairly exhaustive list of prohibited sharp objects, sporting goods, tools and other items, and whether they can be placed in checked bags as an alternative.

Because some of the listed items may be illegal in certain destination states, it is up to the traveler to know that state’s law before boarding the flight, TSA officials add.

SURPRISE! NO DRIVER EXAMS ON NEW YEAR’S DAY

If one of your New Year’s resolutions for 2014 includes taking a driver’s exam or getting a license, you will have to wait until Thursday.

To the surprise of almost no one, the Missouri Highway Patrol sent out reminders that the driver exam stations will be closed statewide on Wednesday in observance of New Year’s Day.

Likewise, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that all of his offices and driver's services offices will be closed for New Year’s.
Looking back at 2013

Sunday, December 29, 2013 at 2:00 am

From a murder conviction tossed out to a dream football season and a new Columbia high school, 2013 had its share of major stories. Here are the top 10, as ranked by the Tribune newsroom.

MU MENTIONS Pages 2, 5

1: Ryan Ferguson released from prison

Ryan Ferguson’s long, strange journey through the state’s justice system in 2013 provided something he and his family had been seeking for nearly 10 years since he was first arrested: freedom.

The 29-year-old Columbia native’s Nov. 12 release from custody garnered media attention and fanfare far and wide.

Ferguson, who had become a near-household name in Central Missouri because of the case, was convicted of second-degree murder and first-degree robbery for the Nov. 1, 2001, slaying of Tribune Sports Editor Kent Heitholt.

Ferguson was sent to prison for 40 years after his 2005 conviction, in which former classmate Charles Erickson confessed and testified against Ferguson in exchange for a plea deal. Erickson and another witness changed their stories years later.

Eight weeks after his attorney argued his case in front of a three-judge panel at the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District, the court issued its opinion vacating his convictions and ordering his release. The state soon afterward decided not to file new charges, and Ferguson became a free man.

The appellate court had found that Ferguson had not been given a fair trial because then-Prosecuting Attorney Kevin Crane failed to disclose material evidence. Ferguson maintained his innocence throughout the years, and his family, headed by his father, Bill, worked tirelessly to bring attention to his case.

Erickson still sits in a south-central Missouri prison, waiting for his attorney to file an appeal.

— Alan Burdziak
2: MU football has surprise success

At the Southeastern Conference football media days in July, reporters picked Missouri to finish sixth in the seven-team Eastern Division. Only one Tiger was selected to any of the preseason All-SEC teams, and that was E.J. Gaines, who barely made the list as a third-team cornerback. No other school had fewer than two players honored.

It was safe to say the Tigers hadn’t made much of an impression in their first year in the SEC.

That all changed in 2013.

Missouri emerged as one of the most pleasant surprises in all of college football, winning its first seven games, then bouncing back from a double-overtime loss to South Carolina to win the final four games of the regular season. The highlight came Nov. 30, when Missouri’s defense held Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Johnny Manziel to his lowest total yardage of the season in a 28-21 victory on Faurot Field that clinched the SEC East title. Henry Josey, a fan favorite who sat out last season rehabilitating after a devastating knee injury, scored the winning touchdown on a 57-yard run late in the fourth quarter.

The victory over Texas A&M elevated the Tigers to the No. 5 spot in the BCS rankings and put them in the SEC Championship Game against Auburn. With a victory, MU would have earned a chance to play for the national title, but its previously sturdy defense was shredded in a 59-42 loss at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Still, Missouri (11-2) heads to a Cotton Bowl meeting with Oklahoma State with a chance to tie the 2007 team for most victories in a season. And Coach Gary Pinkel, whose job security was a hot topic in the offseason, can break a tie with Don Faurot for most career victories at the school with one more win.

— Joe Walljasper

3: Shots fired in downtown Columbia; sheriff criticizes police chief

Boone County Sheriff Dwayne Carey criticized the methods of Columbia Police Chief Ken Burton’s management in the summer after a downtown shooting that left three people injured.

Crime in Columbia was a hot-button issue in 2013 with a handful of murders and numerous high-profile shootings, and, for a period, city and county law enforcement engaged in a public squabble.

Three people were shot after a brawl June 15 at Tenth Street and Broadway.

Public perception that crime was soaring also led to a robust debate over whether the Columbia Police Department has enough manpower.
Burton was hired in 2009 to temper a department many in the community saw as too aggressive. So, he scaled back on executing “dynamic” search warrants and adjusted policies in what he said would make officers safer.

Other cops, though, did not agree, with Carey leading the charge and speculating that Burton had negatively affected the department’s efficacy.

Meanwhile, 20-year-old Eric Cravens was charged with three counts of first-degree assault and one count of armed criminal action for the shooting. He was held at the Boone County Jail for months before prosecutors dropped the charges because of a lack of evidence.

Other suspects are still being sought in the shooting.

— Alan Burdziak

4: Almeta Crayton, Eliot Battle die

Two key members of the Columbia community died this year.

Almeta Crayton, a former First Ward representative to the Columbia City Council who was known for her charisma and philanthropic efforts, died in October after being hospitalized for kidney problems.

Crayton, a transplant to Columbia who originally hailed from St. Louis, was the second black person in Columbia’s history to be elected to the council. She held the First Ward seat from 1999 to 2008.

Crayton was in the process of planning the annual Everybody Eats feast that she organized every Thanksgiving when she was hospitalized. Family members and volunteers took over organizing responsibilities in her absence, and family members have said they will work to make sure the feast is held in the future.

Eliot Battle, a key player in the civil rights movement in Columbia and in integration of the schools, died in June.

Battle suffered minor injuries in a car accident but had been in declining health for the past four years, his son, Eliot Battle Jr., said. “His body said it was time to go to heaven and gave out,” Battle Jr. said.

Battle’s death came just nine days after he spoke at a dedication ceremony for Muriel Williams Battle High School, named for his late wife, who also played a major role in integrating local schools. Eliot Battle was the first black employee to work in an integrated school in Columbia, and Muriel soon followed, eventually becoming associate superintendent for secondary education.

Many friends and relatives of the Battles came from out of state for the high school dedication.

— Catherine Martin and Andrew Denney

5: State rejects Medicaid expansion; health care signups begin
While the General Assembly in Jefferson City debated whether to expand the state’s Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, a group of Columbia-based organizations were awarded state or federal grants to lead the effort to help uninsured Missourians purchase health insurance through an online marketplace run by the Obama administration.

Effective Jan. 1, all Americans — with some exceptions — will be required to have health insurance.

Those news nuggets from 2013 will continue to play out in 2014 as some 300,000 Missourians await Medicaid expansion, which the state GOP has blocked. The feds would pay 100 percent of the state’s Medicaid expansion costs for three years, then 90 percent thereafter, but Missouri is one of 23 states to reject that proposal.

Democrats and Gov. Jay Nixon have embraced the expansion proposal. Republicans have vowed not to accept the expansion dollars until the Medicaid program is overhauled. Without expansion, however, residents who earn less than the federal poverty level will have to purchase insurance through the marketplace without the benefit of subsidies or discounts to help pay for the plans.

Missouri voters approved anti-Obamacare ballot issues in 2010 and 2012, but the 2010 health insurance reform law is still on the books and was largely upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2012.

— Jodie Jackson Jr.

6: Downtown development ratchets up

For years, local “smart growth” proponents have pushed for infill and density rather than continuing the suburban growth that has expanded Columbia’s borders for decades.

But now that developers have taken a heightened interest in downtown Columbia, a new set of problems emerges.

The past year has seen a boom in central-city development. A new hotel and city parking garage are nearly complete on the east end of Broadway; the Tiger Hotel has reopened in recent years; and a new mixed-use loft development opened this summer on South Ninth Street. Another is planned next door.

Still, more residential development has been pitched for the city’s commercial core, including a 25-story apartment building that would be the tallest in Columbia.

Not all of the interest is from student housing developers. Some are building lofts and new commercial space, and tech startups have found a city willing to embrace them with downtown incubator space and support.

The smart-growth wing of local politics has always advocated building where infrastructure is already in place. The irony is, city management says Columbia doesn’t have the infrastructure to keep building downtown.
The debate now returns to how to pay for city electric, sewer, stormwater and other infrastructure needed to serve these developments.

— Jacob Barker

7: Administrative changes at MU

The University of Missouri will see a bundle of changes in administration in the new year after several top administrators called it quits this fall.

On June 13, Brady Deaton announced it was the university’s lack of crisis that made it as good a time as any to retire. Although Deaton was abdicating his chair as chancellor, he had no plans to leave campus. Instead, after his announcement, UM System President Tim Wolfe announced the creation of the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development, which Deaton would direct. Deaton retired Nov. 15 and plans to return to campus after the first of the year to begin getting things rolling with the institute, which will be housed in Ellis Library.

After Deaton’s announcement, a series of administrators in other top positions announced their plans to depart from Columbia.

In September, Provost Brian Foster said after eight years at his post, he, too, would be retiring from MU. The next month, two more officials — Jackie Jones, vice chancellor of administrative services, and Rob Duncan, vice chancellor for research — stepped down, as well.

On Dec. 5, Wolfe announced the appointment of R. Bowen Loftin, president of Texas A&M University, who earlier this summer announced his plans to retire, as the 22nd chancellor of MU. Loftin will begin his tenure at MU on Feb. 1.

It will be up to Loftin to determine how to fill the remaining vacancies.

— Karyn Spory

STORY CONTINUES…
St. Louis sports Year in Review

Haith Survives NCAA Probe

December 27, 2013 2:45 pm
By Jeff Gordon

A cloud hovered over basketball coach Frank Haith during his first two seasons at Mizzou. Allegations arose during Yahoo! Sports expose’ of recruiting malfeasance at the University of Miami, Haith's previous employer.

Haith’s career hung in the balance during the resulting 2½-year NCAA investigation. But irregularities in that probe undermined that Association’s case against the Miami football and basketball programs.

Ultimately the NCAA gave Haith a wrist slap, suspending him for five non-conference games. Haith accepted his punishment and stayed the course, rebuilding MU's talent base with nationally prominent recruits.

“This has been an excruciating ordeal for my family,” Haith said in a statement. “An appeal, which would likely drag further into the season, would only prolong what has already been a lengthy and trying period of time for our student-athletes, the University of Missouri and our fans, and it's time for closure.”
Downtown development soars in 2013
Downtown and student housing development and affordable care act rollout among the top stories of the past year.

By JACOB BARKER
Saturday, December 28, 2013 at 2:00 am

MU MENTIONS P. 2

The word “health” is probably as good as any to describe 2013.

It’s hard to argue that Columbia’s economy isn’t healthy. Investors’ appetite for downtown real estate continues to grow, and the city could look much more vertical in the coming years.

Local unemployment fell to less than 4 percent for the first time since the recession, and Columbia passed the 100,000-jobs mark. The housing market continued a healthy return to stability, and population growth remained steady.

The local tech startup scene had its share of successes, and healthy discussions are occurring about how best to help area entrepreneurs continue to grow local companies. Columbia’s new air service with American Airlines got off to a healthy start, even if it had to end an unhealthy relationship with Delta Air Lines in the process.

Of course, health care policy also left a mark locally, though that mark might not have been as healthy as some hoped.

For one, the Missouri General Assembly did not expand Medicaid, disappointing health care providers and leaving thousands without a path to health insurance coverage. And the health insurance exchanges had a rocky beginning.

As you raise a glass to your health next week, here’s some conversation fodder on the trends and stories that shaped our local economy in 2013.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

In the past several years, downtown Columbia has become a much different place.
First, student housing developers began building large residential complexes near the University of Missouri. But others are building market-rate apartments and commercial space.

The year started with a local debate over a building that includes the oldest structure in the city, the Niedermeyer building at Tenth and Cherry streets. One developer wanted to tear it down and replace it with what would have been one of the tallest buildings in the city. Local preservationists and their allies on the Columbia City Council pushed back, proposing a moratorium on downtown demolitions until stricter zoning rules could be put in place.

The moratorium narrowly failed, and now new zoning and development rules are being crafted for the area after being debated for much of the year. But developer interest is still high: The latest building proposal would add a 25-story mixed-use high-rise to the area, forever altering Columbia’s skyline.

That and other proposals have reignedited a push by city leaders to establish a tax increment financing district to capture the increasing value of downtown real estate. Instead of being divvied up for schools and other government functions, the city would use the money to update the aging infrastructure that a denser, more vertical downtown will need.

That debate is just starting. Expect it to get louder soon.

STUDENT HOUSING

Yes, it’s still coming.

Some of the projects that started earlier will open in 2014, and still others will break ground. The niche industry was an attractive one to investors in recent years, and outside investment continues to flow into Columbia as developers eye the dollars of affluent students.

Amid the growing supply of student housing complexes, the University of Missouri did not grow total enrollment for the first time in almost two decades. The first local developers to jump into the market, Jon and Nathan Odle, have stepped back, saying the market is being overbuilt. They scrapped plans for student housing at a big commercial development on the southeast corner of town.

Meanwhile, the university plans to continue efforts to grow by roughly 5,000 students to near 40,000 during the next several years. Stiff competition for a declining number of young people might make the task hard. Even so, developers hope to build digs for thousands more near the central city.

Whether it’s a bubble or a boom will be a story for 2014 and beyond.

STORY CONTINUES...
A year of moments
Collaboration and creative motion made the artistic sum of 2013 greater than its parts

By AMY WILDER and AARIK DANIELSEN
Sunday, December 29, 2013 at 2:00 am

MU MENTION P. 2

It's not easy to use a proverbial highlighter to identify the outstanding features in a city's year of life. In a novel or narrative, contained in the limited scope of information provided by its author as much as by the physical bounds of the pages, it's fairly easy to identify main points: events that move the plot forward, tie up loose ends or foreshadow things to come. The main points can be easily marked out in brilliant yellow.

A city, especially one with a large and rich arts community such as Columbia, is much more complex and nebulous than a written account. Some stories draw wider attention; this doesn't necessarily make them more important than the quieter goings-on. Looking back over the past year, we've attempted the impossible task of outlining some of the “big” events in the arts; this is by no means a complete rendering. It's more of a rough sketch of the year that was, to provide perspective as we move into the year that will be.

True/False turns 10: From a ragtag — and Ragtag — film series to a force to be reckoned with, True/False Film Fest has grown up quite nicely. The homegrown, world-renowned documentary festival celebrated a decade this year in signature style, featuring punk-rock marching bands and visionary films that span whatever gap remains between nonfiction and fiction aesthetics. Not that “co-conspirators” Paul Sturtz and David Wilson seem to care about this sort of thing, but Year 10 was a success from a distance, as well: Nine of the 15 films Oscar selected for this year’s documentary shortlist screened at True/False, and the festival was named one of “50 Cultural Experiences to Try in 2014” by Time magazine. — AD

For One Read, there's no place like home: This year’s communitywide reading program was especially noteworthy because readers voted in the debut novel of Columbia’s own Keija Parssinen. The monthlong program of discussions and events centered on themes chosen from “The Ruins of Us,” the story of a cross-cultural marriage on the rocks and the potential consequences and far-reaching repercussions of the fallout. Themes chosen from the book included belonging and home, and an exhibit at Orr Street Studios asked artists to exemplify a sense of longing or nostalgia for out-of-reach homes or moments. — AW

PS: Gallery abides: When gallery principals Jennifer Perlow and Chris Stevens announced this spring that they were moving to Denver, the fate of their landmark arts space was uncertain. With the help of close
friends and a wider community of financial backers contributing to a Kickstarter campaign, curator and resident artist Joel Sager took the helm and managed to keep the doors open. The transition thus far has been a gentle one, with changes in show scheduling and the layout of work within the gallery. — AW

**Roots N Blues takes park place:** Roots N Blues N BBQ moved into spacious new digs for its seventh go-round, holding the now-three-day fest at Stephens Lake Park. The lineup was an assortment of wily veteran songwriters (Steve Earle, John Hiatt and Alejandro Escovedo), soulful staples (as in Mavis), erstwhile hitmakers (Blues Traveler, The Black Crowes) and future stars (Nikki Hill, Vintage Trouble, ZZ Ward, Phosphorescent). The sprawling setting was an upgrade in the sights and sounds department, but there were a few first-time bumps in the road — namely, shuttle availability, lines for beer and bathrooms, and lack of lighting away from the stages, factors the festival says it will address before September. Final judgments rested largely on the degree to which fest-goers were able to balance musical affinities and logistical hiccups. As Pete Bland concluded, "The differing documents of the weekend past shone brightly, clearly illuminating that Roots N Blues was almost solely what you and those with whom you shared it made of it.” — AD

**Moving out:** One of the most widely discussed events in the city’s artistic circles this year was the fate — still uncertain at the end of this year — of the University of Missouri’s Museum of Art and Archaeology, formerly housed in Pickard Hall. The campus building was temporarily shuttered because of radiation contamination. The museum's work, which was not contaminated, has been carefully packed and moved to what was formerly the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, now dubbed "Mizzou North," on Business Loop 70. The future for the collection is foggy, though the Downtown Leadership Council recently voted to endorse a possible museum district on the block bordered by Elm, Seventh, Locust and Sixth streets. In addition, $100,000 in pledges were made by private citizens, as well as current and past members of Museum Associates Inc. The money has been earmarked to enable a future move to a more permanent home. — AW

**On the record:** Local musicians upped the ante in 2013, releasing a slew of quality long-players. From folk to rock, lush pop to buoyant blues, it was a balanced slate of offerings and a relatively seamless one, in terms of quality. Aiding the arrival of so many albums into the Columbia atmosphere was the continued growth of two homegrown labels, Home Tone Records (The Late Night Benedictions, Mary and the Giant, The Many Colored Death, We Live in Public, Jenny Teator and the Fevers) and The Nation of Love (Zorya, Ruth Acuff, Violet and the Undercurrents). Other standout albums arrived via the likes of Rae Fitzgerald, The Mojo Roots, New Tongues, The Flood Brothers, The Hooten Hallers and more. — AD

**Ambassadors of dance:** Missouri Contemporary Ballet continued to grow and go in new directions this year. On a trip to the Big Apple in January to attend an Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference — where dance companies show off their work in hopes of landing bookings — the dancers performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center and visited with former company members now living in the city. Its biggest trip, long anticipated, came this summer when the company traveled to Suncheon Bay, South Korea, for the Garden Expo, where they represented Columbia and its arts community in performances during the event.

**STORY CONTINUES…**
Business Loop 70 property owners seek to form taxing district

CID could help give area a lift.

By JACOB BARKER

Sunday, December 29, 2013 at 2:00 am Comments (4)

MU MENTION P. 2

Amidst all the talk about downtown development and improvements, there's another commercial area in the central city that feels a bit left out: Business Loop 70.

"It's one of the principal gateways into our community, and yet it's been the one, I think, that hasn't been paid attention to by our city," said Jack Miller, owner of True Media.

There are dilapidated properties, "ugly" overhead power lines and old infrastructure.

"We've got to get all of that turned around," said Miller, whose firm last year bought, renovated and moved into the formerly vacant Commerce Bank building at 500 Business Loop 70 W.

To do it, he and other property owners are following downtown's lead and working to form a community improvement district, or CID, which can assess property taxes and a sales tax to pay for infrastructure and beautification projects.

Miller, who has been spearheading the effort, said the proposal being pitched to Business Loop 70 property owners would assess the same taxes as the downtown CID: a property tax of 47 cents per $100 of assessed value and a half-percent sales tax. The boundaries would run from Interstate 70 on the west side to College Avenue on the east, and all the abutting properties would be included.

Just this month, property owners along Business Loop met and discussed what a CID is, how it works, and how the money would be used.
"The group has a lot of ideas of what can be done," Miller said. "Certainly beautification, safety, development, advocacy with the city, those are all kind of main themes ... but I think the main goal is to have a unified voice of the property owners on the Business Loop."

There has not been "100 percent" support, but Miller described it as "overwhelming" thus far. To create a CID, more than half of all property owners have to vote to form one, and they must constitute more than half of the assessed value of property within the CID. Miller hopes to have a vote within the next three months.

Cris Burnam, whose family bought the Parkade Center in 2004, agrees the city has forgotten about Business Loop 70, which he said "was the place to do business" when he was growing up.

"Right now, we're just one more name on a long list of things the city of Columbia has to take care of without someone advocating for our area," he said.

The Business Loop, particularly the west end, has already begun to see more investment in recent years.

The Burnam family's investment reinvigorated the Parkade Center, Columbia's first shopping mall. It now houses Moberly Area Community College and retail, restaurant and office tenants. A new Aldi's sits just to the west, and across the road, True Media has filled a vacant building while Head Motor Co. last year built a new showroom.

**Even the University of Missouri's property, where Ellis Fischel Cancer Center vacated, has been rebranded as Mizzou North. When MU decided to close campus buildings and move the Museum of Art and Archaeology and the Museum of Anthropology to the property, museum advocates acted like "it was the kiss of death," Burnam said. A unified voice for the area under a CID could work with the museums as "a partnership willing to promote their brand," he said.**

"Columbia's a big place, it's not just about downtown," he said.

But CID momentum in the area seems to be reaching a critical mass just as top city officials are pushing for a tax increment financing district that could potentially include Business Loop 70. The city wants to set up a TIF to pay for infrastructure throughout the central city by capturing increases in sales and property taxes that would otherwise be dispersed among other entities, including a new Business Loop CID.

"Potentially, there may not be any need for a CID along the Business Loop," Deputy City Manager Tony St. Romaine said. "Our selling point would be a TIF district is not a tax increase. A CID is."

When the city first discussed a TIF district last year, Carrie Gartner, director of the Downtown CID, pushed for officials to wait for a year. That gave the Downtown CID more time to develop a baseline from its new sales tax, which meant stable funding for it and less revenue that would have been diverted to the TIF fund.

A city TIF could be structured so it doesn't capture the new CID's revenue, and those discussions are underway, Miller said.

"A CID and a TIF can work in conjunction with each other," Miller said. "The TIF has to be written in such a way so it doesn't conflict with the CID."
Columbia firm uses bugs to fight bugs

Natural viruses target ag pests.

By JACOB BARKER

Friday, December 27, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Last month, the Brazilian government declared a state of emergency as an outbreak of voracious caterpillars decimated its soy fields.

It sounds like a problem far removed from Mid-Missouri, but one of the companies helping to fight the outbreak has its research operations based here.

Australian company AgBiTech is at the forefront of a renewed interest in pest control using bugs' natural enemies. In this case, those enemies are viruses specific to particular insect species, called baculoviruses.

"A new pest has appeared in Brazil, and nothing else has worked on it," said Holly Popham, the chief scientist for AgBiTech's research lab, based out of the University of Missouri Life Science Business Incubator.

While the Australian company has been around for a little more than 10 years, demand for its insect viruses has been picking up. There's a growing desire for natural pest control in organic agriculture. Also driving demand is viruses' specificity and effectiveness on pests such as the Helicoverpa caterpillars in Brazil, which aren't easily killed by traditional chemical pesticides that can also hurt beneficial insects.

In November, AgBiTech announced it would open a second factory in Toowoomba, Australia, and in October, it opened its Columbia R&D lab to begin developing products for entry into U.S. and other international markets. One reason the company chose Columbia was Popham, a leading entomologist and insect virologist who has worked in the city for years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service.

Popham is working to obtain regulators' blessing for a number of insect viruses for the U.S., Mexican, South American and European markets. In the United States, the first target is the fall armyworm, an "occasional pest that is devastating when it appears," Popham said. Even chemical pesticides fall short in controlling it, and often, they will kill its natural enemies, too.
"For fall army worm, nothing works on that thing, so it's worth developing a sole virus for that," Popham said.

Using viruses to control pests is nothing new, but research into biological insect control waned with the advent of chemical pesticides and, later, genetically modified crops. While a single chemical can control hundreds of species, baculoviruses are species-specific, making it more difficult to keep up with new pests and for farmers to control the variety of insects that threaten crops.

"The enemy is very specific to the pest, so it's pretty difficult from an R&D standpoint to identify the right enemy," said Jake Halliday, who heads the life science incubator and spent decades in the pesticide industry.

But the specificity of insect viruses also is an asset, especially for countries concerned about adverse effects from genetically modified organisms and their complementary pesticides. They work on only the targeted insect, Popham said, and they don't spread to other organisms.

The other barrier that hampered widespread use of baculoviruses is production. Researchers tried for years to manufacture them in the laboratory, but they tend to break down, Popham said. AgBiTech's proprietary technology depends on rearing large numbers of insects, infecting them and extracting the virus.

"The real art behind the science here is being able to produce large quantities," Halliday said. "The commercial interest has probably been constrained by the inability to produce huge quantities of this kind of product and distribute it on a national basis."

Popham sees big potential in European markets, many of which do not allow the genetically modified crops and related pesticides widely used in the United States. But growing interest in organic agriculture offers openings here, too, she said. "The call for less pesticides is much stronger in Europe than here," she said. "As" U.S. "organic markets grow, that's definitely the place to be."

That's one of the reasons AgBiTech doesn't make its viruses in the lab by genetically modifying the pathogens, Popham said. Instead, it selects naturally occurring viruses from the field.

Halliday said AgBiTech recognizes it's not one or the other, pesticides or biological control.

"One of the features that encourages me so much about AgBiTech is they're not a rabid anti-pesticide company," he said. They understand the limitations of using only biopesticides, and "they see themselves as an important complement to traditional pesticides."
When Kate Gallagher was a freshman at Mizzou she was told that there were three “S’s” of college — school, sleep and social life — and that she needed to pick two.

Instead, she added a fourth.

“I threw in sports,” she says.

Gallagher, a senior finance major from Savannah, Mo., maintains her four “S’s” while also running a student business which she helped create.

In addition to keeping a 4.0 grade-point average, Gallagher is a co-founder of Quirks, a consignment shop housed in the MU Student Center that caters to the local crafting community.

Selling one-of-a-kind Mizzou coasters, necklaces and original canvas art, Quirks serves as a creative outlet for crafters, designers and other entrepreneurs. Gallagher and three other students collaborated to develop the idea for the store. They presented their business plan to the Missouri Student Unions Entrepreneurial Program and were granted space for the 2013-14 school year.
“We would like to see it continue after we graduate, whether we own it, or it is something the university picks up,” Gallagher says.

Her responsibilities with the store include issuing financial statements, paying cosigners and handling purchases, along with other day-to-day operations.

Outside of school and her time at Quirks, Gallagher has found success on the golf course as a member of the MU women’s golf team.
“’I’ve been playing in tournaments since I was six,” she says.

In 2011 and 2012, Gallagher was named to the National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar Team and served as a representative at the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum. She is also the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee at MU.

Her work with athletics spans beyond being an athlete, as Gallagher spent the summer as an intern with the MU athletics business office.
Gallagher also manages to make time to serve the community.

“The community around here has given me so much. I think it’s only fair I give back,” says Gallagher, who serves on the executive planning committee for the Boys and Girls Club’s annual Rootin’-Tootin’ Chili Cookoff.

Gallagher recognizes the role of mentors who have influenced her and helped her become the leader she is today. As she looks forward to life after Mizzou, Gallagher says she would like to work in collegiate athletics and become a mentor for other student-athletes.