Fallen firefighter's procession passes University Village

Thursday, February 27, 2014 | 10:30 a.m. CST; updated 11:23 a.m. CST, Thursday, February 27, 2014

The procession for Columbia firefighter Lt. Bruce Britt passes University Village Apartments along Providence Road on Thursday morning. | JACOB HAMILTON

COLUMBIA — Wooden reinforcements remained in place at University Village on Thursday morning to secure balconies, including the one that collapsed on Saturday at the apartment buildings that house MU graduate students.

At 8:30 a.m. Thursday, police officers began to direct traffic on Providence Road intersections and vehicles backed up in both directions in advance of the procession for Columbia Fire Department Lt. Bruce Britt, who died in the balcony collapse.

Britt's procession started at Memorial Funeral Home, 1217 Business Loop 70 W., and ended at The Crossing on the city's south side. Fire engines, police motorcycles and ambulances drove by the entrance to the apartments where Britt lost his life. Avi Vatsa, a graduate student at MU who lives at University Village, was walking to campus before the procession.
"This is a great thing toward him," Vatsa said.

Vatsa said not much was different about living at University Village since the tragedy, except that residents, especially those with children like himself, were being more cautious.

"For a student, this is a nice place," Vatsa said. "But people are still wondering if this place is safe."

The procession continued as police motorcycles zipped south on Providence Road in a "flying-V" formation. More than 30 fire trucks from around the state, including nine from Columbia Fire Department, anchored the motorcade.

MU graduate student Giang Bui caught a segment of the procession on his way to campus.

Bui, who plans to move out of University Village, said he was impressed with the procession and appreciates Britt's courage.

"He deserved all this," Bui said. "After everything he did here, he deserves this."

Minutes passed, and the procession made its way past the apartments on course for The Crossing where Britt's memorial service was held.

MU observes moment of silence for Lt. Bruce Britt

Thursday, February 27, 2014 | 12:59 p.m. CST; updated 3:11 p.m. CST, Thursday, February 27, 2014

MU faculty, staff and students observe a moment of silence Thursday morning on Francis Quadrangle to commemorate Lt. Bruce Britt. Britt died Saturday after a walkway collapse at University Village apartments, a graduate-student housing complex owned by the university. | JOSHUA BOUCHER
BY SIRRAH JOOF
COLUMBIA — **Members of the MU community gathered Thursday morning on the Francis Quadrangle for a moment of silence honoring Columbia Fire Department Lt. Bruce Britt, who died Saturday after a walkway collapse at University village apartments, a complex owned by MU.**

At 10 a.m., about 25 MU students and faculty bowed their heads. As the group stood outside in the cold weather with hands in their pockets, a couple more people stopped to join them.

Although many present at the moment of silence might not have known Lt. Britt personally, the impact that his sacrifice made brought them there. Jake Wright, president of the Graduate Professional Council, was one of those in attendance.

"GPC represents all of the graduate and professional students at the university. Lt. Britt gave his life to protecting those students. Taking a moment out of my day to honor his sacrifice is certainly the least I could do," Wright said.

The group remained for several minutes, after which Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, thanked everyone for being there.

"He certainly was there to keep our students safe and I am very, very grateful for that," Scroggs said.

As the crowd dispersed, a bell honoring Lt. Britt rang from Switzler Hall at 10:15 a.m.

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**University Village residents await answers after walkway collapse**

Six have asked for transfers.

By [Andrew Denney](mailto:Andrew.Denney@Columbia.Tribune)
Contractors hired by the University of Missouri to inspect all 1,300 university buildings throughout the state expect to take a few weeks to complete their work, but some University Village residents aren’t waiting around for a final report and are seeking new homes.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said yesterday that six of the 109 residents of University Village have requested transfers to different housing.

University Village, which houses graduate students and students with families, was built in 1956 to serve a growing student population.

The Maneater, MU’s student newspaper, reported in 2009 that MU Residential Life was considering major renovations that might have been funded by a significant rent increase for tenants.

"The challenge with University Village is that it was built in the late '50s and was probably designed to last only 25 to 30 years," MU Residential Life Director Frankie Minor was quoted as saying in The Maneater.

MU has not released information about the history of repairs and renovations at the complex.

According to a report to the University of Missouri Board of Curators, rents were raised at the complex and other graduate student housing facilities in the current fiscal year to address "safety and basic infrastructure" needs. "These include plumbing concerns, replacing original gas furnaces, water heaters and stoves/ranges," the report said.

The university has raised rents to catch up to rental housing market values but hasn't imposed a major increase in recent years.

Parents with children who attend the Student Parent Center, located in Building 602 at University Village, met last night to discuss — among other issues — concerns about building safety.

Naomi Clark, a fifth-year graduate student with two children who attend the day care center, said parents at the meeting did not receive any updates on building inspections. She does not live at the complex but pays for child care at the Student Parent Center because she likes the location and is pleased with the work of the facility's staff. She said she worries about the center's future.

"I think the handwriting is on the wall that these buildings aren't worth remodeling, and chances are that they are going to go away," Clark said.

Although MU has not released inspection reports for other buildings at University Village since the walkway collapse at Building 707, the day care center is subject to regular inspections by the
Editorial: University Village incident sparks discussion on safety, spending

We, as the MU community and people of Columbia, need to discuss what happened last weekend at University Village.

Early Saturday morning, a balcony partially collapsed at University Village apartments building 707. The fire department responded, and while firefighters were on the scene, the balcony completely collapsed, killing Lt. Bruce Britt. Those who remained in their 707 building homes were evacuated out back windows.

As of Saturday, the other buildings in the complex were structurally reinforced with temporary building jacks. The University Village grounds include 12 buildings with 12 units each, housing mostly graduate students and their families. All 12 units were built in 1956, post-World War II, and were only meant to last 25-30 years, Department of Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said in 2009.

Later Saturday, MU announced intent to investigate all university owned and leased buildings — upward of 250 facilities statewide — for structural soundness in the coming days and weeks. MU will use this data to create short and long term renovation goals. Residence halls were the first to be inspected.
We applaud the Department of Residential Life on its speedy response in the aftermath of this incident. ResLife has really taken care of these students. Those affected have been placed in a ResLife facility, hotel or another University Village apartment temporarily and received a free dining plan and gift cards to purchase necessities for the time being. We also appreciate how MU is allowing the affected residents to break lease to find alternate housing. It is the right thing to do. (Cough, cough, Aspen Heights.)

Hindsight is 20/20, but something could have been done sooner. We know this issue has been on ResLife’s radar since 2009 (cue Frankie Minor), but it obviously has not been a priority. These buildings are decrepit and look like they are going to crumble. Maybe it is out of sight, out of mind, but how could ResLife not take action?

The only thing MU, ResLife and Columbia can do is move forward, but there are certain considerations that need to be taken in doing so.

We have heard repeatedly that the money is not there. Well, then, where is it? We know ResLife is a self-sustaining entity with a $2.8-million budget and only gets extra allocations for repairing and building new structures. This fact aside, find some funds. Money is no longer an excuse for shirking safety. Safety is a justification for requesting, begging for, even, additional funds. Last week, the MU News Bureau reported that MU was ahead of its fundraising goal. We understand that donations are sometimes specific, but why not create a fund to fix these dated complexes?

In the past, MU has asked for money to renovate McKee Gymnasium and Waters Hall, among other buildings. While ResLife is at it, maybe it should look into renovating Tara Apartments, another university-owned graduate housing complex that hauntingly resembles University Village.

If anything, this incident has made it clear that graduate housing is not a priority to ResLife. These apartments are some of the worst on campus. The MU community often forgets that the graduate population is just as important as the undergraduates. There is a tendency to view graduate students as self-sustaining and as not part of the student body. When something goes wrong in undergraduate housing, parents will raise hell. It is hard for graduate students to match the same type of noise when they are working hard, taking care of things at home and dealing with Missouri’s largest university as a landlord.

We understand the appeal of building shiny new structures. They “wow” incoming students and parents alike, but they are clearly not an indicator of the long-term care that students will receive here. Tour guides do not take potential students by University Village, and if they did, parents would be horrified.

Students are at the heart of the issue here. As we usher in a new administration, we need to keep increasing student enrollment in mind. If MU is going to keep boosting enrollment numbers, administration has to keep in mind the fact that our campus does not have the infrastructure to handle it. Columbia as a whole cannot even handle it. We see evidence of this in the growing number of luxury apartments downtown and a city that is scrambling to cope with it.
We know that R. Bowen Loftin’s administrative hallmark is bolstering enrollment, but by cramming more students onto this campus, lives become endangered, and sometimes, lost.

MU police reports detail University Village response

Police officers, firefighters thought they were dealing with a roof collapse.

By [Ashley Jost](#)

Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 2:00 pm

When firefighters and police officers responded to University Village apartments early Saturday morning, they were under the impression that the roof of Building 707 was collapsing and residents were trapped. That appears to be why Columbia firefighter Lt. Bruce Britt was standing on the second-floor walkway when it collapsed.

In his report on the incident, Sgt. Alan Fish of the MU Police Department said he, Britt and another firefighter were on the second-floor walkway of Building 707 walking south — toward the end that eventually collapsed — and Britt was knocking on doors, looking for the residents who were trapped. Fish said he stopped to talk to resident Ghazwan Alwan through the window of Alwan's apartment to ask whether he heard any noises. Britt, Fish wrote, kept walking.

"Just then I heard a loud bang and I began looking to my left," Fish said in his report. "I observed the concrete walkway collapsing towards me and brick being pulled off the front of the building, I could no longer see Lt. Britt who had fallen."

Details of the tragedy are included in incident reports provided by the MU Police Department in response to a public records request. The initial 911 call came from Alwan, who lived in Apartment H on the second floor of Building 707. Alwan said he woke up just after 4 a.m. when he heard a loud crash. Later, he told MUPD Officer Rodney Stewart that he noticed a significant
"dip" in the walkway in front of his second-floor apartment as well as something hanging from the walkway. He then called 911. Shortly after that, Alwan said, he saw cracks forming on the wall in his apartment.

It appears that Alwan's call led first responders to focus on the building's roof. The city's 911 log shows the call coming in at 4:41 a.m. as a confined space rescue. According to the reports of several MUPD officers, dispatchers said residents were trapped inside an apartment. Responders didn't know which apartment at first. They discovered too late that the walkway was close to collapse.

MUPD Officer Josh Harrington wrote in his report that when he arrived at the scene, it was hard to see the roof of the building because of the darkness and his vantage point. "I saw Sergeant Fish and at least one Columbia Fire Department firefighter checking building 707, presumably attempting to locate the trapped residents," he wrote.

After the collapse, Fish and the other firefighter ran toward the north end of the building, away from the crumbling section of walkway. Fish reported that he saw Britt was trapped and saw two other firefighters run toward where Britt had fallen.

"My perception was that the walkway began falling from the south end and outer edge next to the railing, with the side connected to the building falling a split second later," Fish wrote in his report. He said the walkway appeared to flip as it fell, landing "upside down."

Harrington, who was on the ground level when the collapse occurred, said he saw reflective firefighter gear under the collapsed walkway and called out that someone was trapped. He said "after what seemed to be several long minutes," fellow firefighters were able to raise part of the walkway and free Britt. "I saw one firefighter performing chest compressions on the firefighter being rescued as he was being transported on a stretcher into the ambulance," Harrington wrote.

MUPD Officer Rodney Stewart recounted speaking with Alwan, who phoned in the initial 911 call, after Building 707 was evacuated.

"Alwan said as he was speaking to Sgt. Fish, he heard a fireman at the door to his apartment manipulating the lockset," Stewart wrote. "Alwan said the walkway in front of his apartment collapsed as the fireman was at his apartment door and Sgt. Fish was at his bedroom window."

MUPD Detective Sam Easley responded to the scene Saturday evening to take photographs for documentation. He estimated the portion of walkway that collapsed was 40 feet long.

"I also observed what appeared to be severe rusting on the metal, underneath the existing walkway, where the collapsed portion of walkway separated and exposed a portion of the remaining concrete," he said, noting that the concrete on the remaining walkway "appeared to be in a deteriorated state."

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Reports detail response to Columbia collapse

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Police reports show that a firefighter killed in a Columbia walkway collapse was going door-to-door looking for trapped residents apparently because emergency responders thought they were dealing with a roof collapse.

Lt. Bruce Britt was on the second-floor walkway of University Village Apartments, a University of Missouri-run apartment complex, when the walkway collapsed Saturday morning. Britt, a 23-year veteran of the force, was pronounced dead at a hospital. No residents were injured.

Details of the Saturday collapse are included in incident reports provided by the university police after a public records request by The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://bit.ly/1fsqFzq).

According to the reports of several officers, dispatchers said residents were trapped inside an apartment. Responders didn't know which apartment and later discovered the walkway was close to collapse.


University hires firm to inspect 1,300 buildings

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri has hired an engineering company to inspect all of its buildings after a walkway collapsed at a university-run apartment complex last week, killing a firefighter.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/1jDUT1E) the university hired the firm, Trabue, Hansen & Hinshaw Inc., to inspect 1,300 campus buildings, including storage facilities. University spokesman Christian Basi says the university isn't giving the company a deadline for completing the inspections.
John Smith, a structural engineer with the firm, says the buildings on the list are all across the state, including farms and university extension offices.

Lt. Bruce Britt was on the second-floor walkway of University Village Apartments when the walkway collapsed Saturday morning. Britt, a 23-year veteran of the force, was pronounced dead at a hospital. No residents were injured.


GEORGE KENNEDY: Positive signs that new chancellor might be skillful leader
Thursday, February 27, 2014 | 4:40 p.m. CST; updated 6:24 a.m. CST, Friday, February 28, 2014
BY GEORGE KENNEDY

**As he ends his first month on the job, here’s a preliminary impression of our university’s new chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin.**

Until this week, I thought we knew only two things for sure about him. First, he really, truly does love students. And second, he is sufficiently self-confident not to mind looking a little goofy.

Wednesday’s welcoming reception provided supporting evidence of the first characteristic. As he worked the crowd like a candidate for governor, he sought out students and engaged them in conversation.

At one point, responding to a young woman’s request, he even recruited a Columbia Daily Tribune photographer to take a picture on her cellphone of the chancellor with her and a friend.

For evidence of his willingness to be playful, you need to look no farther than the cover of the current issue of “Mizzou,” the magazine of the Alumni Association.
The text reads “Skillful leader,” but the full-page photograph is a close-up of a smiling fellow with a ragged gray mustache and a very high forehead as he pretends to adjust his black and gold bow tie.

Whether he is, in fact, a skillful leader remains to be seen. However, I thought I spotted some hope-producing clues in the long interview by Missourian reporter Kevin Modelski that the paper published Thursday and in the chancellor’s remarks at the reception.

Kevin asked how his fundraising success at Texas A&M might translate to MU. Chancellor Loftin responded that we have to identify strengths and sell them. Even the best universities, he noted, “can’t be good at everything.”

In our case, noting the presence of “a great ag (agriculture) school,” he proposed as a possible selling point a commitment to end world hunger. Maybe it’s a coincidence that his predecessor, Brady Deaton, is tackling that problem in his post-chancellor career. In any case, it’s an ambitious, even audacious, idea.

His response to a question about improving our standing within the Association of American Universities combined ambition with an apparent understanding both of what’s required and how far we have to go.

He ticked off the major criteria relied on by the AAU, including federal research expenditures and National Academy memberships. Then he focused on the School of Medicine, which generates a lot less research money than its AAU peers. The next dean of medicine is going to be charged with “taking the medical school to another level,” he said.

He also found a way to turn a weakness into a potential strength.

“This university may be by itself among those in the bottom quartile of AAU ranking that has actually pretty openly talked about this,” he said.

That talking, as you’ll recall, is included in the university’s latest strategic plan, which was rewritten and toughened substantially after President Tim Wolfe expressed his displeasure with a mushy first draft.
The new plan promises major investments in “high-impact” faculty, with much of the funding to come from internal reallocation. Impact will be measured by those AAU criteria. There will be losers as well as winners.

In the interview and in his remarks at the reception, the chancellor repeated what seems to be a favorite word – “vision” – as in, “It should be our vision for MU.” His long-range vision displays an ambition on a par with ending world hunger.

“We have the opportunity to become the model land-grant university for the second half of the century,” he said. The Morrill Act of 150 years ago gave to land-grant institutions the role of carrying education to the broad society. That, he said at the reception, “is something I’m passionate about.”

More immediately, he pledged in the interview to lead an effort to educate the campus about the related subjects of alcohol abuse and sexual assault.

Last summer, as President Wolfe launched the search for a new chancellor, he specified that he was looking for a “dynamic leader” who would champion our values, foster excellence, engage with the full range of stakeholders, support faculty and staff, and rethink the multiple roles of the university.

The shortest month isn’t nearly time enough to tell whether our new leader can do all that, but there’s no doubt he’s dynamic.

Introducing him at the reception, Faculty Council Chair Craig Roberts said that, so far, “The faculty loves what we see.”

That view may change, of course; but it’s a good beginning.

Loftin officially welcomed as MU Chancellor

By Kevin Graeler

R. Bowen Loftin, who throughout his first month in Columbia has impressed students and faculty alike with his engaging personality and consistent wear of bow ties, was officially welcomed as the MU Chancellor Wednesday afternoon.
Approximately 100 people attended his welcome reception in Stotler Lounge, which was preceded by an hour of meet-and-greet time.

Sophomore Joy Martin set the mood of the room before the official ceremony began by playing the piano. She said she was excited to have the opportunity.

“It gets my name out there,” she said. “People find out that they can use pianists at these events.”

Several MU leaders, including Missouri Student Association President Mason Schara and Graduate Professional Council President Jake Wright, gave speeches before Loftin made his way to the podium.

“The sort of loyalty Loftin has already cultivated at Mizzou only happens when it’s all about the students,” Wright said during the ceremony. “(He) genuinely wants to know about students and know what he can do to help students succeed. Leadership that is all about the students means everything.”

Schara said he has been impressed with Loftin and how eager he has been to interact with students.

“Although he may not be an official member of Residential Life, he lives on campus with all of the freshmen,” Schara said during the ceremony.

Loftin said that his wife, Karen, had significant input in the decision to transition to MU. He cited her fondness for warm weather that they enjoyed during their time at Texas A&M University.

“If she had said ‘no’, then we wouldn’t be here,” he said during the ceremony.

Loftin ended his speech by sharing his vision for the university.

“Ultimately, this place was created for one purpose: educating students,” he said. “This university has the opportunity to become the model land grant university. We have a mission to be an example to all.”

Wright said Loftin’s vision is very ambitious and that the university is well positioned to fulfill it.

“Everybody had a lot of great things to say about (Loftin) because there is nothing not to like about him,” he said.

Schara said he felt blessed to have been a part of the ceremony and that he is fully onboard with Loftin’s vision.

“MSA always says that we want to be the example for the rest of the country and (Loftin) agrees with that,” he said.
Loftin, who officially became the MU Chancellor at the beginning of February, said that he has enjoyed his time on campus so far.

“We look forward to being truly, truly a part of the Mizzou family,” he said. “It’s all about the students. Without the students, we would have no purpose.”

The Tribune's View

$120,000
The cost of pondering sex assault

By Henry J. Waters III

Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (4)

In the wake of publicity surrounding the sexual assault and suicide of University of Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, UM President Tim Wolfe quickly hired an independent law firm to examine the university’s action and reaction to the tragedy. Wolfe's move was quickly endorsed by the UM Board of Curators and generally received positive reviews.

Apparently in response to queries from the client, the law firm promises the inquiry will cost no more than $120,000, certainly a more-than-adequate sum to perform what is bound to be mainly a political exercise.

This is not to chastize Wolfe. He would have been criticized for not doing "something." Nor should we berate the law firm. It's good work if you can get it, and the firm contains principals well versed in the general subject matter. But for the good this inquiry will do, I daresay it could be done for a lot less.

To begin with, a rather extensive post-mortem fails to reveal anything damnable in the university's action. Menu Courey had psychological problems. Her coaches and other officials urged her to get help. She went under the care of university physicians.
In the end, she committed suicide far from campus and word of her alleged sexual assault came forth, but where is the institutional culpability? It's a sad affair. The university properly engages in a reasonable period of second-guessing, but the causes of the victim's malaise surely stem from within, not from any palpable failure on the part of officials.

With a "cap" of $120,000, I wouldn't be surprised if the final bill comes in a few dollars less for appearances' sake. Still, the bill will seem excessive. The cost of political polishing often is too high.

HJW III

The story of media in our country today is very much like the story of the American diet — we are overfed, but we are undernourished.

— GENEVA OVERHOLSER, JOURNALIST, EDUCATOR, 2004

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Posted in The Tribunes View on Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:00 pm.
and that's unfortunate." Mason has since apologized for the remark, but student critics said it reflected the university's lack of commitment to preventing rape and a lack of sensitivity toward victims.

Speaking to about 200 students Thursday, Mason said that when she was a student in Lexington, Ky., a man in a trench coat grabbed and groped her before she was able to fight him off and get away. She said the attack "left me shaken" but that she had no clue where to turn for help.

"I never want a young woman on this campus, ever in her life, not to know where to go if something like that happens to them," Mason said.

The Iowa Board of Regents on Thursday scheduled a special meeting for Friday to hear an explanation of the earlier remark from Mason and to meet behind closed doors to discuss her performance. Board members had considered replacing Mason in 2012, but backed off after leaders of students, faculty and staff groups came to her defense.

After the forum, Mason told reporters that she has a lot of work to do and looked forward to explaining her plans Friday to regents. She said this week has been difficult but may someday be seen as a "breakthrough moment" for addressing the issue on campus.

Board President Bruce Rastetter, a Republican appointee of Gov. Terry Branstad, didn't return a phone message Thursday afternoon.

University officials say sexual assault is not increasing on campus, but the university's handling of such cases is drawing increased scrutiny. Mason noted that the campus uproar comes amid heightened pressure from the federal government to prevent sexual assaults.

Recent cases that have drawn attention include one that involved three men who allegedly assaulted a women walking on campus and three separate incidents involving a taxi driver who allegedly tried to assault riders. Statistics shows that four sexual offenses were reported to campus police in 2013, compared with eight the prior year.

Mason's administration decided last fall to send campuswide warning emails more frequently after assaults occur. Such warnings are required under federal law, but the university had not always sent them when the victim knew the acquaintance.

Other U.S. colleges and universities also have come under criticism for how they handle sex assaults on campus. The University of Missouri this year launched a review after critics said officials were too slow to investigate the
claims of a swimmer who said she was raped by as many as three football players in 2010. The swimmer later committed suicide.

Last month, President Barack Obama announced a new task force on college sex assault, citing statistics showing that 1 in 5 females are assaulted while in college but only 1 in 8 report attacks. The White House called it a public health epidemic.

Mason's personal story came during an emotionally charged forum in which some students shared their experiences of being raped.

Some students are upset by language in the university's warning emails that they say put too much emphasis on the victims and not enough on perpetrators. The emails typically included tips to prevent being sexually assaulted such as avoiding binge drinking and walking home alone, protesters said.

"It was like, 'If you don't do those things, well, then you kinda had it coming,'" said Stacia Scott, a 21-year-old senior who is a leader of the student protests. "Students reached this breaking point where we said, 'enough is enough.'"

Scott and another protest leader, graduate student Elizabeth Rook, said they have already met with administrators to push for language revisions.

Rook gave Mason credit for taking quick action to address many of their concerns. And Scott said she doesn't want Mason to be fired or disciplined, noting that Mason swiftly apologized and started to address the protesters' concerns.

"We want President Mason to be part of the solution," said Scott, who is studying social work.

University of Missouri suspends art education undergraduate program

Few students are in program.

By Ashley Jost
The University of Missouri has suspended its undergraduate art education program for the coming year, meaning new students won't be accepted, but current students will have the chance to finish their coursework and graduate.

Interim Provost Ken Dean said he has received about 100 emails about the decision — which was ultimately made within the College of Education — and he plans to address each one.

Education Dean Daniel Clay and the art education staff met after Clay arrived in 2010 to talk about the program, Dean said.

"My understanding is that the art education staff asked for three years to improve," Dean said. "They were provided with resources and space to continue but were told we wanted to see substantially higher numbers of graduates."

In 2009-10, the program graduated two students. There were eight students in 2010-11, 11 in 2011-12 and seven in 2012-13. The increase was not enough.

"Art education is not dead at the University of Missouri, and it's important that people understand that," Dean said. "We're not doing away with art education. They're discontinuing the particular emphasis area of art education."

In an email sent out to those on the College of Education listserv, Kathryn Chval, associate dean for academic affairs in the education school, listed three other options for current freshmen or other undergraduates applying for admission to the program. One option suggested students earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts and then pursue a teaching certificate. A second option suggests pursuing the graduate art education program. The final option from Chval: "They may pursue an undergraduate degree in art education at one of 27 institutions in Missouri that offers that degree program."

Dean said there are five eligible freshmen set to enter the program next year. Those students will have to make other plans.

Dean emphasized no job cuts are associated with the move. The department housed three faculty members; one took a position at another university, and a second retired. This faculty change made the ultimate decision easier, he said.

The remaining employee is Kathy Unrath, who called the decision to suspend the program "devastating."

"It sends a really powerful message about the support from the university and how all of us value the arts and humanities as part of a holistic approach to education," said Unrath, who will continue to teach art education classes to graduate and undergraduate students.
The decision was announced last week and since then, students and supporters have created online petition forms and social media pages to attract attention to the decision.

"Save Mizzou Art Ed" on Facebook has received more than 3,300 likes in the last week. A change.org petition seeking to "Reinstate the Undergraduate Art Education Program at MU" had 894 supporters by this morning.

Lori Korschgen, a senior art education major and teacher's assistant at Rock Bridge High School, said she is disappointed in the decision.

"I would be concerned on how MU plans to certify students after receiving their BFA," Korschgen said. "Learning your content area and then rushing to gain certification does not train individuals on how to be a successful teacher."

This article was published in the Thursday, February 27, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "MU suspends art education degree track; Few students are in program."

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Posted in Education on Thursday, February 27, 2014 2:00 pm.

MU Libraries director says more than 120,000 moldy books can be saved

Thursday, February 27, 2014 | 9:50 p.m. CST

BY THOMAS DIXON

COLUMBIA — **MU Libraries has identified more than 120,000 salvageable books from the 600,000 that were exposed to mold last fall, Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell said at Thursday's MU Faculty Council Meeting.**

A bid for a contractor to restore the books is due March 7. Remediation will begin as soon as possible after that, Cogswell said.

MU’s lease on the Subtera cavern — the storage facility where mold was discovered — expires June 30. MU Libraries is looking for two storage facilities: A permanent space
for the salvageable books and a short-term holding space to keep some of the books during the transition.

Cogswell said "there's no possible way" to move everything into a permanent space before the Subtera lease expires.

MU Libraries has been asking the university to expand the UM Library Depository on Lemone Industrial Boulevard since 1998. Expanding the depository — which already stores 1.2 million volumes — could cost more than $5 million, according to the MU Libraries website.

Library administrators asked for a depository expansion in 1998, 2005 and 2007, said Matt Gaunt, director of development for MU Libraries. "At each turn, we were told to find something else."

Gaunt said that rejection is what led administrators to the Subtera underground warehouse in 2006.

Cogswell said the UM Risk and Insurance Management office is working with Subtera to reach a compensation deal, despite Subtera's earlier statements that the university would not be reimbursed.

Nicole Monnier, associate professor of Russian, said she had issues with MU Libraries deciding which books to save without consulting the faculty. Council chairman Craig Roberts, a plant sciences professor, echoed this complaint.

"If (the administration) made all the decisions without tremendous faculty input, they wouldn't make the right decisions," Roberts said. "They just are not in our shoes."

The faculty also raised issue about not being notified and consulted when the mold was first discovered in late October. Cogswell said he didn't intend to hide the fact that it happened, but that he didn't feel he had enough information to answer any questions at the time.

Cogswell said the exact cause of the mold contamination is still unknown.
MU's Center for Advanced Social Research to close
Thursday, February 27, 2014 | 6:05 p.m. CST

BY JOSH BENSON

COLUMBIA — The Center for Advanced Social Research is shutting down, the dean of the Missouri School of Journalism said Thursday.

No official date has been set, but the center is winding down operations and will officially close within the next few months, Dean Mills said. Until then, researchers and employees still have projects to complete and client obligations to fulfill.

The center — also known as the RJI Insight and Survey Center — has provided program evaluation, data collection, customized questionnaires, sampling methods and statistical analyses for clients. Researchers have worked for media organizations, government agencies, academic institutions and professional associations.

Mills said the decision was made two weeks ago after he and Esther Thorson, associate dean for graduate studies and research, discussed the situation. Keeping the center open did not make sense from a business standpoint, he said.

After the recession hit in 2007, contracts with nonprofit and government-related organizations began to dry up. Technology trends, funding cuts and ripple effects from the recession led to a decrease in business, he said.

The switch from landlines to cellphones made people harder to reach and the process of conducting surveys more labor intensive. States with reduced funding also began to provide less money to the types of agencies that traditionally employ the services of the center, Mills said.

The center began as a media research bureau during the 1980s. It was a small enterprise that performed survey work for Missouri papers and media outlets. In the 1990s, the operation was revamped and began to attract a national audience, Mills said.
At one point, the Center for Advanced Social Research was bringing in an annual net profit of $100,000 or more to the university, he said.

Three full-time employees and additional part-time researchers have all been notified of the closing. They will lose their jobs, but will be eligible for rehire and have been placed on a preferred hire list, Mills said.

MU deputy chancellor concludes Black History Month by looking forward
Thursday, February 27, 2014 | 11:05 p.m. CST
BY CHRISTA CORRIGAN

COLUMBIA — **MU Deputy Chancellor Michael Middleton still remembers the Confederate Memorial Rock that stood between Tate Hall and the MU School of Law.**

Middleton, who would graduate from the Law School in 1971 and go on to litigate voting rights and employment discrimination, spoke Thursday night in the MU Student Center to cap a month of events celebrating Black History Month.

The Confederate Rock is gone, he said, but the civil rights era still has plenty to teach us.

“**We are still in a revolution,” he said, pointing to economic and educational inequality. “It’s just changed a little.”**

Middleton’s speech, titled “Living Civil Rights: A Mizzou Challenge,” spanned his life, from attending segregated grade schools in Jackson, Miss., in the 1950s to accepting a position as an MU law professor in 1985.

Middleton said living through those times taught him how crucial it is to remain composed in the face of injustice. "I urge you to understand that whatever indignity you are subjected to, your reaction is in your control."
Black History Month events early in the month were cancelled due to weather conditions. Chuck D, a former member of Public Enemy, had to reschedule his talk on “Race, Rap, and Reality.” The event has been rescheduled for April 1.

Hy-Vee and MU Health Care partner to provide convenient care

February 27, 2014  BY Torie Ross

University of Missouri Health Care and Hy-Vee announced on Tuesday, Feb. 25, plans to open walk-in medical clinics at all three Hy-Vee grocery stores in Columbia.

The purpose of the Mizzou Quick Care clinics, which will be open seven days a week, will be to provide health care to individuals age 1 year or older suffering from a common illness.

“If you or family members are ill, but you don’t need to go to the emergency room and can’t get in to see your regular doctor, Mizzou Quick Care will be a convenient option,” said Mitch Wasden, chief executive officer and chief operating officer of MU Health Care.

Construction on the clinics is slated to begin in mid-March. Two of the locations, the Conley Road and East Nifong Boulevard Hy-Vees, should be completed by Aug. 1. The third location, the West Broadway Hy-Vee, is scheduled for completion by Oct. 1.

Susan Pereira will serve as the medical director for the clinics. Pereira is a family medicine physician at MU Health Care and an associate professor at the MU School of Medicine.

Because the Quick Care Clinics will be connected to MU Health Care’s electronic health records, connecting them to all MU Health Care providers, the physicians and the clinics will be able to facilitate access to higher-level care for those who need it.
Andy McCann, chief health officer for Hy-Vee, hopes the clinics will help Hy-Vee further their health and wellness goals. “Partnering with University of Missouri Health Care to offer quick and convenient clinical services in our Columbia stores for minor ailments is just one more way we accomplish that goal,” McCann said.

Mizzou Quick Care clinics will service patients with a variety of ailments including upper respiratory symptoms, skin rashes and minor injuries. They will also provide pregnancy tests, sports physicals and flu shots, in addition to other physicals and limited adult immunizations.

Gender studies event set for March 8 at MU

Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 2:00 pm

The eighth annual University of Missouri Department of Women's and Gender Studies graduate student conference is scheduled for next month.

The conference will highlight the work of graduate students as they present research on women, gender, sexuality and feminist theory and analysis. The conference is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 8 in Tate Hall 215, 519 S. Ninth St.

Anyone interested in attending should register by Wednesday by emailing mu.wgst@gmail.com. The event is free, and food and drinks will be provided.