FATAL MU WALKWAY COLLAPSE SPURS BROADER CONCERNS

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A recent walkway collapse at an apartment complex for graduate students and their families has led more than 500 people to ask the University of Missouri to move a child-care center to a safer location.

The Columbia Daily Tribune (bit.ly/1cRBPrJ ) reports that 549 people have signed a petition concerning the day-care center after the fatal walkway collapse. Twenty-three-year city firefighter Bruce Britt died after he fell from the second-floor walkway at University Village in late February.

Another petition seeking the complete renovation or demolition of University Village has nearly 100 signatures.

A structural engineering firm working for the university attributed the collapse to weather damage and a construction flaw in which excess air remained inside the concrete slab.

Day-care center parents are scheduled to meet privately with university officials Wednesday.

Two petitions seek action on University Village complex

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (3)

Several weeks after the partial collapse of a University Village walkway at the University of Missouri, decisions about the future of the complex and the day-care center inside the complex are still under discussion.

Meanwhile, two petitions signed by students and their supporters are circulating, one that calls for the university to move the day care from the complex and a second that asks for the complete renovation or demolition of University Village, located at 601 S. Providence Road. By this morning, 549 people had signed the petition requesting the day-care center be moved, and 97 had signed the petition requesting complete renovation or demolition.

The concerns come after about half of a second-floor walkway collapsed on Building 707 at the complex on Feb. 22, killing Columbia firefighter Lt. Bruce Britt, who was standing on the walkway before the collapse.

MU hired Trabue, Hansen & Hinshaw Inc. to investigate all University Village buildings — along with the rest of the 1,300 MU-owned buildings across the state.

A THH Inc. report dated Feb. 23, the day after the collapse, says inspectors found "immediate needs" at Buildings 602, 604 and 709. Building 602 houses the on-site day care, the Student Parent Center. The university quickly installed supports on the walkways after the fatal incident.

Kim Bodner, who organized the day-care petition, said she was motivated to do so after seeing the way parents "mobilized together" to get their concerns out about the day-care center and to "get answers from the university."

Bodner is not a University Village resident, but she is a graduate student who was bringing her 4-month-old son to the Student Parent Center during the day.

"His last day there was the day before the collapse," she said.

Bodner said parents of children at the day-care center received an email this morning inviting them to a parents-only meeting at 5 p.m. tomorrow at the center.
The university released details yesterday about $4,000 worth of work to Building 707's walkway last summer.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the work involved "topping" fixes to repair tripping hazards. The section that was repaired was on the part of the walkway that didn't collapse, he said.

Topping, according to Portland Cement Association website cement.org, can range between a quarter-inch and 2 inches thick and contains a mixture of sand and concrete.

Basi said crews inspect walkways at University Village at least once a year, but there are no records of those inspections unless workers find a problem.

A look at the documents related to University Village walkway collapse

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 | 6:46 p.m. CDT; updated 7:31 a.m. CDT, Wednesday, March 12, 2014
BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — MU released hundreds of pages of reports, work orders and emails in response to public-records requests after a walkway at University Village apartments collapsed Feb. 22, resulting in the death of firefighter Bruce Britt while he was responding to a report of a structural emergency. Here's a look at the documents.

Inspection report from Feb. 23
This report from Trabue, Hansen and Hinshaw Inc., the structural engineering firm hired by MU to evaluate University Village after the walkway collapse, details problems found in the walkways of several other buildings in the complex.

Inspection report from March 4
The other report from the engineering firm details the cause of the walkway collapse.

Residential Life emails
This document contains a series of emails between Residential Life staff in 2010 discussing problems and planned repairs to the walkways at University Village.

**Project reports for furnace replacement**
These project reports detail repairs and replacements conducted in 2012 after an inspection mentioned on Page 30 of the Residential Life emails determined the furnaces were all more than 25 years old.

**Campus Facilities work orders**
This collection of work orders between 2004 and 2014 shows the maintenance history of buildings at University Village. The embedded document has been edited to highlight work orders for Building 707.

**University Village maintenance requests**
This document summarizes maintenance requests at University Village apartment complex.

**Graduate and family housing master plan**
This presentation makes recommendations for graduate and family housing units owned by the university. It recommends that University Village be demolished by 2011 because it would be too expensive to renovate.

**Closing notification for buildings 708 and 705**
These are letters notifying residents that two University Village buildings were being closed. Building 708 closed in 2006 for "preventative maintenance" and was still unoccupied in February. Building 705 was closed due to safety concerns.

Petitions created in wake of University Village reports

By Covey Eonyak Son and Crystal Duan

Since the University Village apartments were constructed between 1955 and 1956, they have become a hub for graduate students with families looking for affordable housing.

Over the years, the complex has accumulated a large number of structural concerns and generated waves of discontent among residents and students, who are concerned with overall condition of the apartments, according to a report published by the university.

In 2007, MU commissioned Mackey Mitchell Architects to develop the 2008 Graduate & Family Housing Master Plan. The firm looked at and recommended plans for all Department of Residential Life apartments — Manor House, Tara Apartments, University Heights and University Village.

Manor House, Tara Apartments and University Heights were recommended to be renovated, at an estimated cost of $19 million total.

University Village was the only one recommended to be demolished.

“There is significant structural damage and deterioration in all buildings (of University Village) except 702 and 703,” the plan stated. “There are other significant problem areas, but the need to replace the structural framing means essentially the entire building needs replacement.”

The plan also listed numerous building shell deficiencies: termite-damaged wood structures, deteriorating metal decks that were deemed a “safety hazard,” damp interiors resulting from inadequate waterproofing and ventilation and outdated furnace and air conditioning units with no central air system, just to list a few.

The plan said buildings 707 and 708 had settled.

“Renovation is not a reasonable alternative,” the plan stated. “The site is in a floodway, so new construction on this site is not desirable based on financial modeling of costs necessary for redevelopment at this site.”

A potential full renovation would have cost more than $15 million, whereas vacating and demolishing the complex would have cost a little more than $1 million.
However, MU spokesman Christian Basi said the university decided not to close down University Village because many graduate students were dependent on it as a housing option.

“It’s low-cost compared to other housing options: It is close to campus and downtown, and the community down there is very tight-knit,” he said.

Graduate Professional Council President Jake Wright added that there are not many other graduate housing options in Columbia.

“Graduate and professional students have a different set of housing needs than undergraduates, and frankly, it’s much more profitable to build an apartment like Brookside or The Den,” Wright said.

To keep University Village open, Residential Life completed nearly 4,500 work orders — 2,110 related to building maintenance, 153 electrical issues, 244 heating, ventilating and air conditioning, and 669 plumbing — since Jan. 1, 2009, which totaled more than $1 million in repairs.

Buildings 708 and 705 were shut down in 2006 and 2011, respectively, for multiple reasons.

“We shut (building 708) down for safety reasons,” Basi said. “Building 705 was shut down for a multitude of reasons, like termite problems, roof issues and utility problems. It was too much for us to fix, so we shut it down.”

After the recent balcony collapse of building 707, the university hired the Trabue, Hansen & Hinshaw Inc. engineering firm to inspect the facility and other university-owned and leased buildings.

The firm’s report released last week stated there was evidence of continued deterioration of the building’s walkway support beams, metal decks and concrete slabs. The report links the cause of the collapse to the concrete slabs.

“We are confident that the collapse was a result of a concrete shear failure along the outer edge,” the report stated. “It is likely that water and chlorides, and expansion from freeze-thaw action, combined to deteriorate the concrete to the point where its shear strength could no longer support even only the self-weight of the walkway.”

After this information was made public, sophomore Garrett Poorman started a petition March 7 urging the university to either fully renovate or demolish the complex.

“As someone who pays tuition to the university, and someone who paid into the residential fund pool, it just upset me to see how deteriorated the buildings got and how Residential Life is endangering my fellow students at Mizzou,” Poorman said. “I saw it as a social injustice, and I decided to act on it.”
Former graduate student Claire Schmidt also passed around a change.org petition, started by psychology doctoral student Kimberly Bodner, that focused on moving University Village’s Student Parent Center daycare.

Schmidt and Naomi Clark, a English doctoral student who has two children in the Student Parent Center, had previously contacted and met with university officials in 2012 about concerns with unsafe conditions at the center.

“We met personally with all of those administrators to talk about safety and lack of communication at the Student Parent Center last year,” Schmidt said. “At that time, we were concerned about if Mizzou is committed to finding a safe space for the Student Parent Center for a long-term student day care. We met with them, and the answer was, we aren’t going to talk about the big picture.”

When Schmidt heard of the Feb. 22 collapse, she said she was appalled.

“We were incredibly upset to know how very familiar Mizzou was with the danger our children were in, and (it) still continued to take our money in day care and allowed us to put our children in danger,” she said.

Basi said taking care of issues with University Village is still a priority for the university.

But the staggering number of other projects on MU’s to-do list, however, might give the university difficulty in consolidating any potential renovation costs.

“We have more than $500 million in deferred maintenance projects across campus,” Basi said. “Although Residential Life is a part of that, if we did (transfer funds to) Residential Life, we would shortchange other areas.”

At this time, at the top of the deferred maintenance list is Lafferre Hall, which scored a 0.91 on the Facilities Conditions Needs Index, which means 91 percent of the building’s systems need to be replaced. Other academic buildings in need of renovation include McKee Gymnasium, Waters, Mumford and Stewart halls, Basi said.

Regarding why University Village was kept open, Basi said the complex and its low costs remain popular with students. Thus, MU responded to the demand.

“That complex is very popular with many of the married and graduate students for several reasons,” Basi said. “Because we have had a demand for that kind of housing, we were doing everything we can to keep it open and maintain it as a viable housing option for our students.”

However, Poorman said he still has general safety concerns for people within the complex.

“Unfortunately the students that live at University Village are ones who are full-time students, and then they go to a job, and they have to put their kids to bed, so they don’t really have time to
Poorman said he was also upset by the university’s labeling of University Village facilities as “structurally sound.”

“Structurally sound’ doesn’t mean that buildings are in good condition,” he said. “It doesn’t mean that they couldn't be better, and it doesn't mean students are 100 percent safe.”

Poorman’s petition had 105 supporters as of Tuesday night.

“The petition is about having a document to take to administration and say this is an issue that students really care about,” Poorman said. “(We want to show) it’s not an issue you can easily brush aside.”

Bodner’s petition had 592 signatures as of Tuesday night.

MU Libraries start fundraising for books damaged by mold

By Ellie Papadakis

Since the Collections Enhancement Fund started Feb. 18, MU Libraries have raised $2,900 of its $50,000 goal.

Following the news that mold had ruined 600,000 stored MU Libraries books, the administration put together the online donation page where people can give money to help the libraries restore their collection. The fund was supposed to make donating as easy as possible.

“Every dollar we raise will go in response of the mold bloom, or it will go to rebuilding the collection,” said Matt Gaunt, MU Libraries director of development.

So far, there have been two $1,000 donations, which make up the bulk of the money raised. Gaunt said approximately 15 people have donated, and one-third of the donors have been library employees and faculty.

MU graduate Russell Barclay is a professor of communications at Campbellsville University. He and gave a $1,000 gift to the fund. He first heard about the library’s situation through a Facebook
link from the Columbia Missourian. He said that while he was at MU, he would spend a lot of
time in the library and giving back was important to him.

“Back in 1972, I was walking through the library with a bunch of cards in my hand — we had
card catalogues in those days — walking through the stacks, heading toward a bunch of books
that I wanted to look at, and I saw a slender volume on the shelf called ‘How to Read
Hieroglyphics,’” Barclay said. “It had nothing whatsoever to do with anything that I was
studying, but I took that book out and spent the better part of a week trying to teach myself
hieroglyphics.”

When he first heard about the damage, Barclay said he thought it was a shame. He remembered
how grown-up and intellectual he felt when choosing books off the shelves.

“I was afraid that that book on hieroglyphics had been damaged,” he said. “Isn’t that strange?
After all the books I took out of there, I remember that one.”

The library is also looking at a few larger donations from foundation sources. Gaunt said he
hopes these sources will be able to cover the majority of treatment and other expenses. If that
happens, any leftover money raised will be used to strengthen MU’s collection.

Graduate Ken Mares is the director of Students and Teachers as Research Scientists at UM-St.
Louis. His family, including his sister who is also an MU graduate, has given endowments to the
university since the 1990s, but one of Mares’s main focuses is the library.

“I used to go up to Third Floor East, where I had a table,” Mares said about his time as an
undergraduate science major in the 1960s.

When he needed a break from studying, he would go look at the books in the nearby music
section.

“It was a shame; it should never have happened,” he said of the mold damage.

Despite these efforts, MU Libraries is still underfunded. The average Association of American
Universities library has a budget of more than $35 million. MU’s library budget is approximately
$18 million.

There has been some confusion as to how many books will be cleaned. While 120,000 books
have been identified for cleaning so far, administration expects more books will be saved as the
identification process continues. Over the next few months, at least half of the 600,000 books
could be saved.

“We will save as many books as are necessary to preserve access to the information currently in
our collection,” Gaunt said.

Many of the stored documents already have electronic duplicates. There is less of a need to save
those types of books if students are not actively seeking out physical copies, he said.
“It’s not just a matter of us internally understanding what we have, to understand what we need to save,” Gaunt said. “We also need to understand what is available through our partners, how much of that is material they would like to give to us, how much of that is material that they would like to maintain ownership of, but loan to us as necessary, or in some cases what’s available in an electronic resource.”

MU 2020 strategic plans focus on study abroad

By Lakshna Mehta

MU hopes to see more students studying abroad in years to come.

According to MU, 23 percent of current undergraduates have participated in a study abroad program.

But MU wants to see the number rise to 30 percent participation by 2018. The national average of students studying abroad is 2 percent.

“Given our current participation rate, MU’s goal … is ambitious but attainable with the full support of the university,” Director of Study Abroad Barbara Lindeman said.

Lindeman also said a plan to reach this goal is still in the beginning stages of formulation.

Senior Joshua Foley said he was excited to hear the study abroad program is getting an upgrade.

“The first time I studied abroad was to Japan,” he said. “I am now looking for programs in Russia, but the university doesn’t have its own Russian program that I know of. So I’m hoping they develop one of their own because I know that that would be really popular.”

Gay Albright, director of International Programs for the College of Business, said the college will be adding more short-term study abroad programs because those are the most popular types of programs for business majors.

“We are working to develop a winter intersession program in South America for 2014-15 and a 2015-16 winter intersession program in Asia,” she said. “We expect to offer more full-semester and even full-year programs in the future.”
Albright said it was important to help students realize the importance of broadening their global mindset.

“As international markets continue to develop, our students need to continue to be prepared for working in a global business setting,” she said.

A concern for some students considering study abroad options is program cost.

Freshman Shannon Johnson said she would study abroad if it were cheaper or if the university provided more scholarship opportunities to study abroad.

Tiffany Sciara, also a freshman, said she would love to see more funding particularly for year-long programs.

“I’m in that awkward place where I don’t have financial needs like a lot of other students, but I would need financial assistance to study abroad,” Sciara said.

Depending on the type of program and the school sponsoring the program, there are a limited number of scholarship opportunities available for students.

Jim Scott, director of the International Center, said he is hopeful the university can fund more scholarships for study abroad programs of all types.

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**Forbes**

**DuPont's Encirca Farm Services To Bolster Agricultural Revenues**

DuPont recently announced the launch of its Encirca whole-farm services that will help farmers make more informed crop planting decisions to improve their yields. This could be seen as a move by the company to increase its presence in the fast-growing precision farming market, while adding profitable revenues to its agricultural business.

DuPont generates revenues by supplying high-performance materials and chemicals, electronic materials, high-performance coatings and agricultural products to industries and consumers worldwide. Most products manufactured by DuPont are used as raw materials by other
industries, making it a predominantly B2B (business-to-business) based company with the exception of the agriculture and nutrition divisions.

We currently have $78 price estimate for DuPont, which is more than 15% above its current market price.

**See Our Complete Analysis For DuPont**

The precision farming market has been growing strongly over the past few years on increasing demand for sophisticated data analysis tools to boost farm yields. Companies operating in the market provide growers with information and analysis on key farm input parameters including but not limited to seeds, weather, soil, crop condition, and the application of pesticides. The market is expected to be worth $3.7 billion by 2018.

Monsanto MON -1.54%, the world’s biggest seed company and DuPont’s key competitor, acquired Precision Planting Inc. in May 2012 to reinforce its prescription offering. Other companies operating in the precision farming market include Deere & Company, Trimble Navigation Ltd. (NASDAQ: TRMB), Raven Industries RAVN +0.61%, and AgJunction Inc.

DuPont launched its whole-farm services product as a mobile device application named, Encirca View. It can be thought of as an information platform, in which the basic free service would allow growers as well as Pioneer (DuPont’s seed company) agents to record and share crop observations. Not only this, growers can also directly reach out to DuPont experts for any advise on crop management through this platform.

The premium package also includes market news and analysis, grain-trading capabilities, and field-specific weather forecasts. The company plans to charge a monthly subscription fee of about $150 per month for the premium package. By the third quarter of this year, DuPont also plans to launch another fee-based service called Encirca Yield that will help growers assess specific decisions on planting seeds, application of pesticides and water usage. It expects to charge growers around $10-20 per acre for these services.

Because information technology and data analytics are not DuPont’s key areas of expertise, it has collaborated with several other companies to provide reliable services on its Encirca platform. Last year, the company collaborated with John Deere for wireless data transfer, and last month it also entered into a partnership with DTN/The Progressive PGR +0.08% Farmer to serve growers with instant weather and market information. **It also entered into a three-year**
collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Missouri for the collection of soil, topography and watershed data.

DuPont sees huge potential in the farm data services market. Although, we believe that growth in the short to medium term would mostly come from the U.S., where farmers are financially strong to afford these services and adoption rates are high. The company expects to generate more than $500 million in incremental annual revenues from these services in the long run, which is around 4% of its 2013 agricultural products sales revenue.

Ryan Ferguson complaint alleges investigators withheld evidence, coerced witnesses

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 | 7:10 p.m. CDT; updated 6:49 a.m. CDT, Wednesday, March 12, 2014
BY DANI KASS

COLUMBIA — A lawsuit filed by Ryan Ferguson's attorneys alleges that city employees violated Ferguson's civil right to a fair trial by withholding evidence, pressuring involved persons in interviews and failing to investigate other suspects.

The complaint lists and elaborates on nine allegations. Latisha Stroer is the only police officer listed who is still working for the Columbia Police Department. The others have retired or moved to different agencies. William Haws and Ben White are still investigators for the Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Kevin Crane is now a judge in the 13th Circuit of Boone County.

Count 1: Destruction and/or suppression of exculpatory evidence
Against: Prosecutor's investigator William Haws, police officers
Haws failed to disclose interviews with two key witnesses, Barbara and Jerry Trump, to both the prosecution and the defense.
Jerry Trump was a janitor who was working at the Columbia Daily Tribune the night Kent Heitholt was murdered and saw two men leave the scene, but said he couldn’t identify them. According to the complaint, Haws visited Jerry Trump while he was in prison for a parole violation and coerced him into identifying Ferguson and Charles "Chuck" Erickson as the men he saw that night. Trump agreed, fearing that prosecutors would press additional charges against him and keep him in prison.

During the trial, Jerry Trump testified that he recognized Ferguson and Erickson when his wife emailed him a newspaper with their picture. Haws interviewed Barbara Trump before trial and she told him she didn’t remember sending the article to her husband.

Haws didn’t prepare reports of either interview, so neither Chief Prosecutor Kevin Crane nor the defense explicitly knew they took place. The appeals court opinion from November found that this information was crucial to the case and that if Ferguson’s team had known about it, they would have had reason to question Jerry Trump’s credibility. Instead, they focused their case only on discrediting Erickson.

Detective John Short didn’t disclose interviews with two other witnesses, Michael Boyd and Kim Bennett, to either the defense or prosecution, according to the complaint.

Kathleen Zellner, Ferguson’s lead attorney, also states that Detectives Brian Liebhart and Latisha Stroer, who were both investigating the case, didn’t disclose interviews with Richard Walker, an inmate at Boone County Jail who claimed Ferguson confessed to him. Zellner states that Stroer and Liebhart told Walker what to say on camera, implicating Ferguson, and in turn he was removed from solitary confinement. Walker also wrote several letters to Liebhart, which Zellner alleges Liebhart destroyed without making notes of their content or disclosing that they existed.

Zellner states that Liebhart, Detective Jeff Westbrook and Short failed to disclose the coercive interview tactics they used against Dallas Mallory, a friend of Ferguson and Erickson who told investigators he saw them the night Heitholt died. Mallory said Erickson claimed to have beat someone up that night. Zellner claims Mallory didn’t see either of them that night and only said he did after being threatened and coerced by the police. Zellner states police placed Mallory in a small room, called him a liar when he denied seeing Erickson, told him he couldn’t leave until he told the truth, refused to let him eat or use the phone and threatened to put a hold on his car and charge him with murder until he agreed to their version of events.
Zellner states that Sgt. Stephen Monticelli and Chief of Police Randy Boehm either approved of, or were indifferent to, the tactics used by investigators.

**Count 2: Fabrication of evidence**  
*Against: Police officers*  
Zellner states that officers fabricated reports when they interviewed Walker, Mallory and Meghan Arthur. Arthur went to the Police Department to vouch for Ferguson's innocence, but Stroer "deliberately misquoted" her and wrote that Ferguson said "he and Erickson had done something stupid," according to the suit.

The complaint also alleges the officers fabricated the videotaped interview with Walker and that the information was used to get Erickson to confess and testify against Ferguson.

**Count 3: Reckless or intentional failure to investigate**  
*Against: Haws, prosecutor's investigator Ben White, police officers*  
The complaint alleges the Police Department purposely ignored evidence of Ferguson and Erickson's innocence and, as a result, conducted an investigation that didn't seek to find the true killer.

**Count 4: Malicious prosecution**  
*Against: Haws, White, police officers*  
The complaint alleges that officers maliciously prosecuted Ferguson when they knew there was no probable cause.

**Count 5: Conspiracy to deprive constitutional rights**  
*Against: Haws, White, police officers*  
The complaint alleges that officers and investigators conspired to withhold favorable evidence from Ferguson and to fabricate evidence against him. They also intentionally failed to conduct an investigation that would have established his innocence.

**Count 6: Failure to intervene**  
*Against: Haws, White, police officers*  
The defendants knew of each other's illegal activities but didn't intervene, according to the lawsuit.

**Count 7: False arrest**  
*Against: Police officers*
Officers illegally arrested Ferguson without probable cause, according to the complaint.

**Count 8: Defamation**  
*Against: Crane, Boehm*  
The complaint states that Crane and Boehm defamed Ferguson in November 2013 when they made comments to the media that said they still believed he was guilty after his *convictions were vacated*. Boehm also said the investigation was conducted "ethically and professionally," which the complaint cites as further evidence that Ferguson was defamed.

For the statements to be defamatory, they must be false and cause harm to Ferguson.

**Count 9: Indemnification**  
*Against: The City of Columbia and Boone County*  
If this accusation is upheld, the city and county would be financially responsible for the wrongdoings of their employees, if they are found liable.

Rodney Uphoff, an MU law professor and expert on wrongful convictions, said generally cities can't be held liable for the actions of their individual employees, as established in *Monell v. New York Department of Social Services*. For the city or county to be held liable, Zellner would need to prove that the department had some involvement in or knowledge of the misdoing, such as failure by the department to not fix a systematic issue or provide adequate training.