Measures in General Assembly would fund UM System projects

A plan to fund $71.1 million in upgrades is being considered.

By Rudi Keller

Sunday, April 20, 2014 at 2:00 am Comments (3)

JEFFERSON CITY — Shortly after the Missouri House voted 104-48 to cut state income taxes, Gov. Jay Nixon denounced lawmakers for putting state finances at risk with the tax cut and proposals to "borrow money for unnecessary building projects."

Nixon began the year urging lawmakers to borrow $200 million to replace the obsolete Fulton State Hospital. He has, at times, supported asking voters for a large state general obligation bond issue. But he wasn't talking about those plans. Instead, he aimed at a Senate-approved bill to borrow $600 million and spend it on 303 projects ranging in size from $12,238 to as much as the amount needed for the hospital.

The bill and resolution listing the projects would provide $200 million for state colleges and universities, including $71.1 million for the University of Missouri System. It sets aside $29.7 million for renovations of Lafferre Hall, the engineering building in Columbia. Sponsored by Sen. Mike Parson, R-Bolivar, the proposals await a House Budget Committee hearing.

The committee also is considering a bill authorizing the state to borrow for the mental hospital.

Both Nixon's plan for Fulton State Hospital — endorsed and modified by Budget Committee Chairman Rick Stream, R-Kirkwood, to shorten the repayment period — and Parson's more expansive proposal rely on a promise that future state lawmakers will repay the loans. The promise is not binding but when made in the past — for projects as varied as a state prison or stadiums in St. Louis — has always been kept.
Parson's bill authorizes the Board of Public Buildings to borrow the money. The board — made up of the governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general — has legal responsibility for state property in Jefferson City.

Parson said he worked from lists of deferred maintenance needs submitted by state agencies, universities and community colleges. The list was pared to remove projects that were too expensive and those likely to be funded from other sources, he said.

The hospital was included because it is the state's most pressing need, Parson said, adding that he will support any legislation that will do the job. The project would replace the existing building that houses criminal defendants judged incompetent to stand trial or declared not guilty because of mental illness. The building has high workers compensation costs and high turnover among employees.

"When you start talking about high workers compensation costs for state employees, the thing you have to remember is, think about the people that are in there," Parson said. "Because they don't have the same avenues as a state employee has if you happen to be in that facility."

Stream said he's not ready to endorse Parson's plan. Another measure pending before his committee would commit $24.5 million of general revenue to four renovation and construction projects for the UM System, including $6.125 million for repairs at Lafferre Hall.

"I am not sure we want to increase the bonding capacity to do maintenance," he said.

Lawmakers with personal commitments to seeing big projects financed this year said they will be supporting whatever can pass.

"You either make repairs as you go along or you have to replace," said Rep. Jeannie Riddle, R-Mokane.

State Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, has tried unsuccessfully for six years to put a state bond issue before voters. He's attacked the idea of borrowing on a promise as unconstitutional. But his biggest priority for his final year in the House — securing money for Lafferre Hall — overrides his concerns, he said.

"I am the only person apparently who thinks that debt ought to be approved by the people," he said. "I've got to have a decent respect for the opinion of others and instead of taking my ball and going home, I want to take my engineering school and go home."

DEAR READER: MU fails with sexual violence policies, reacts slowly with task force
Dear Reader,

Imagine the day-mare for the public relators and donation raisers at MU when they saw the St. Louis Post-Dispatch front page:

“FAILURE AT MIZZOU”

All caps. Bold and big and at the top of the page. Followed by the headline: “School did not follow rules after alleged assault.”

The news this week was dominated by the same topic of last week and last month: sexual violence on campus.

On April 11, MU released the findings of an independent review into the death of Sasha Menu Courey. As you’ll recall, Menu Courey was an MU student on the swim team who said she was raped by three football players. Menu Courey later took her life.

The attorneys from Dowd Bennett, the law firm hired as an independent counsel by the UM Board of Curators, couldn’t find anything criminal in the university’s inaction, but the rest of the report was pretty accurately summarized in those three big words in the Post-Dispatch.

The university didn’t define what employees are supposed to do when students tell them about sexual assaults. The university didn’t act on the information it had about Menu Courey’s allegations.

The university didn’t.

So what have MU and its parent system done?

**On Wednesday, UM System boss Tim Wolfe announced the hiring of a risk management firm.** According to the Missourian article, “The Pennsylvania firm will provide an independent analysis of each campus’ sexual assault and mental health resources.”
This is part of “phase II” of the task force Wolfe created in the wake of the Menu Courey story that first aired on ESPN. The first phase was stunningly underwhelming. The task force made an inventory of resources and found the phone book: 10 organizations at MU that support sexual assault victims.

I suppose you have to start somewhere.

This second phase sounds more promising. It's hard to tell. This week I challenged reporters to find more clarity in the language.

Mr. Wolfe and his new MU chancellor have said they want to create a model that other universities will want to copy. Will this risk firm lay out the blueprint? Or, by analyzing the current inventory, is it simply saying, yep, that's what y'all have there at the U?

Wolfe has proven his eagerness to act. After the first outside report, he put out an executive order saying that just about everyone who draws a paycheck with the university seal is required to report student victims’ descriptions of sexual assaults and harassment.

That's lightning fast for the U. Something done.

**ALDEN ON HAITH'S DEPARTURE: 'IT'S DISAPPOINTING'**

April 18, 2014 2:21 pm • By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • After three years as Missouri’s basketball coach Frank Haith told his boss, athletics director Mike Alden, that he was leaving for the University of Tulsa ...

Alden met with reporters at Mizzou Arena on Friday morning to discuss Haith’s departure and Mizzou’s next steps in hiring a fourth head basketball coach since 1999. Haith was introduced as Tulsa’s new coach Friday afternoon. According to ESPN, he’s agreed to a seven-year contract with an annual salary of $1.85 million. Haith had three years left on his Mizzou contract and was set to make $1.75 million next season.
On Thursday, Haith requested permission from Alden to interview for the Tulsa job before making the 45-minute flight to meet with TU’s administration. Friday morning, Haith sent Alden a text message saying he had taken the Tulsa job. At his introductory press conference, Haith said he tried to call Alden on Thursday night but couldn't reach him.

"Why he may choose to go to the University of Tulsa, that would be something you’d have to ask Frank,” Alden said.

“Everyone was just shocked, everyone doesn’t really know what to expect,” Mizzou sophomore forward Ryan Rosburg said. “This is the last thing I thought would happen today. I mean, I was expecting some assistant coaches maybe to leave. Everyone has new opportunities. I just wasn’t expecting that.”

Asked if Haith had approached Alden about a possible contract extension, Alden declined to share specific details from conversations they’ve had in recent weeks, only that Alden expressed to Haith “a sense of urgency” in seeing some progress next season. The Tigers finished 23-12 this year and failed to make the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2008.

“All of us have a sense of urgency on how important it is that we perform academically, socially and competitively each and every year,” Alden said. “I know I had that conversation with Frank and made sure that he knew as happy as we are with the success we have at Mizzou, we always want more.”

As for Haith seeking an extension, Alden said, “I wouldn’t want to get into those personnel type of discussions, only that I know I was very pleased with the job Frank was doing. I know he had three years left on his contract. I know it’s important that I communicated with him that we have a sense of urgency going forward.”

“It’s disappointing,” Alden continued, “because ... I very much enjoyed working with Frank. He’s a good person. He’s a good basketball coach. It was our intention to work together for quite some time. But he made the decision to work somewhere else. I wish him the best as he goes forward to Tulsa.”

Haith did not indicate in his text to Alden if he planned to bring his Mizzou staff with him to Tulsa, though assistant coach Dave Leitao and strength and conditioning coach Todor Pandov attended his press conference at Tulsa.

For now, associate head coach Tim Fuller will serve as MU’s interim head coach, Alden said.

Alden will head the search for Haith’s successor and will have assistance from “others involved with the basketball community.” He declined to identify who those people will be or if he’ll hire a national search firm.
Alden declined to discuss potential candidates, but asked specifically about former Missouri player and assistant Kim Anderson, who recently won the Division II national championship at Central Missouri, Alden said, “I’m not going to discuss the candidates we’re going to be talking with at all, but I’ll digress to say that Kim Anderson has done a magnificent job at Central Missouri State. And, you know, congratulations to him on a national championship and all the great things he’s done in coaching. But we’re not going to talk about specific candidates.”

Will he consider candidates from past coaching searches? Perhaps. That could include Purdue’s Matt Painter, who was widely considered Alden’s top choice three years ago but instead signed a contract extension at Purdue.

“You want to make sure that’s an expansive group,” Alden said. “Those could be people you were looking at last year, two years ago, three years ago, five years ago that you heard about it, whatever that might be. You don’t want to limit your pool.”

Head-coaching experience is not a requirement, nor is previous ties to Mizzou’s program, Alden said. Asked if Missouri is financially set to seek a high-profile coach, Alden said, “We’re very pleased with the growth of our budget at Mizzou. Certainly we always want to grow at a high level. We want to be responsible in what we’re doing but we want to make sure we go out and get the right person.”

Alden declined to set a timeframe for the hiring process but said MU won’t “rush the process for the sake of rushing it.”

BITWELL: ALDEN WAS BIG FACTOR IN HAITH EXIT

By BRYAN BURWELL bburwell@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8185

The people who are dwelling on the frivolous exercise of mocking Frank Haith’s quick exit out of Mizzou or taking for granted the notion that this is the golden opportunity to replace him with a high-profile coaching star just dying to make Columbia his new basketball heaven, are missing out on one glaringly obvious point:

Without a stunningly large king’s ransom laid out on the negotiating table, considering the current circumstances at Mizzou, why would any hot coaching name think this job’s all that attractive?

Make no mistake, someone eventually is going to take this job. Someone is going to leave his current job if he considers this an upwardly mobile move. Maybe it will be a
young guy grinding away at a lower mid-major and willing to overlook some of the glaring deficiencies built into replacing Haith as the next Mizzou basketball coach. Maybe it will be a guy who is stuck in Division II (Kim Anderson?) who would consider this a decided upgrade on his current circumstance. Maybe it will be some eager assistant who wants to fast-track his rise up the coaching ladder and would deal with just about anything to make that big climb.

But anyone who thinks that Mizzou is going to land a coaching star like Wichita State’s Gregg Marshall, VCU’s Shaka Smart or even Dayton’s Archie Miller better slow their roll.

This isn’t a bad job, but it’s a job with certain, shall we say, difficulties.

The biggest difficulty of them all is current AD Mike Alden. Over the past few weeks, I’ve talked to a lot of folks in college coaching circles, and Alden ought to worry that he’s building a reputation as a man who can’t be entirely trusted. We already know that Mike Anderson didn’t trust him. Now it’s rather obvious that Haith didn’t either, and apparently with good reason.

Alden has mastered the fine art of shaping his facts. He doesn’t lie. He just prefers to tell you his truth with certain convenient omissions. He says he was informed via text message that Haith had accepted the Tulsa job, and that is one of those statements that is true as far as Alden was willing to discuss.

Yet I wonder if the entire truth sounds a little more like this:

Haith calls Alden the night before, leaves a voice mail saying they need to talk. He awaits a return call to update the Mizzou AD on negotiations with Tulsa.

Seven hours go by without a return call, and the first return communication is an impersonal text from Alden the next morning rather than a more personal phone call.

If you’re truly interested in keeping your head coach, wouldn’t you return his phone call immediately instead of waiting overnight to text him? If you are a head coach trying to decide what direction to go and you’ve just been wined and dined by Tulsa and your old boss just hits you up with a text, what sort of message does that send?

It sounds like the message was fairly clear. Alden wasn’t all that psyched up about keeping Haith from bolting. If that’s the response I got, I’d have texted Alden, too.

According to well-placed sources, Haith has repeatedly had issues with Alden’s lack of support behind the scenes. While Alden publicly gave the impression that he was backing his coach, one source said that after news broke that Haith was a part of the NCAA investigation into recruiting violations at the University of Miami, Alden demanded that Haith resign. Haith refused and when the NCAA announced a five-game suspension for Haith, the coach wanted to appeal the decision, but Alden discouraged him from appealing.
This is a rather fascinating side to the Haith-Alden relationship that was never seen in public. It shapes a clearer understanding how their relationship could have gone sour so quickly. I wonder how much different Haith’s stay at Mizzou could have been if the AD had been more of a forceful public advocate rather than an aloof politician who knew his hire was an increasingly unpopular one who was on a permanent hot seat?

It would have taken guts to tell the world that Haith’s job was secure and he deserved all the time he needed to stabilize this program. Arkansas AD Jeff Long has used his Twitter account and its 44,000-plus followers repeatedly to quell any anti-Mike Anderson sentiment.

If you want a man who has won 76 games over three years to stay, you defend him. If you want him to leave — and you don’t have the guts to do your own dirty work — you simply let him swing in the breeze.

Of course Haith was going to leave under those circumstances. Who could blame him?

There are other things that don’t quite add up about this job. If a guy can be run out of town by an ambivalent AD and an unrealistic fan base unsatisfied with a man who wins 76 games, a conference tournament title and earns two NCAA berths in three seasons, what will they expect of the next man to fill his shoes?

Will the impatient fan base settle for a rough one or two seasons that could lie ahead with a roster loaded with seven returning freshmen and sophomore scholarship athletes and two incoming four-star recruits (if they decide to stick to their verbal commitments to Mizzou)?

I hope he can get Marshall, but I don’t see how he can pull it off. If Alden can’t persuade Marshall to take this job (the best strategy to do this would be to start saying “yes” and keep saying “yes” to all of his demands), then what will he do when he ends up having to sell his second, third or fourth choice this time?

Will he have the guts to stick with his man through all the hard times? Will he have the nerve to defend him when the public winds shift or will he be strong enough to create an environment that insulates his new man from the ill winds?
Museum of Anthropology marks last day at MU campus home

By Alan Burdziak

Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 2:00 am

The second of two University of Missouri museums slated to move to the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center closed its doors Friday to begin preparing for the move to so-called Mizzou North.

Friday was the last day in Swallow Hall for the MU Museum of Anthropology.

The museum's history stretches back to 1885, when it was in Academic Hall. It was there until the historic 1892 fire. The museum was located in Switzler Hall until 1967, when it moved to Swallow Hall.

The Anthropology Museum is being moved so crews can renovate the 121-year-old Swallow Hall to make it more useful for students and faculty, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

The MU Museum of Art and Archaeology was moved out of Pickard Hall, its campus home, because the building is contaminated with radiation from experiments done in the early 20th century.

The university is "currently in very early stages of testing" for radiation at Pickard, Basi said.

The archaeology museum's cast collection of Greco-Roman art and its gift shop are open at Mizzou North, museum Director Alex Barker said. Construction on the rest of the museum's collection space is slated to begin this summer and be complete in the fall, he said.

Construction is underway for the Anthropology Museum space at Mizzou North, Anthropology Museum Associate Curator Candace Sall said, but no opening date has been set.

Both museums are expected to be at Mizzou North for the "foreseeable future," Basi said.
Though it closed its doors yesterday, the Museum of Anthropology has until June 30 to move its exhibited artifacts into storage at Mizzou North, Sall said.

Next year, the rest of the museum's artifacts will be moved into storage there, she said, as well as the items stored at the American Archaeology Division's Museum Support Center on Rock Quarry Road.

The Anthropology Museum's exhibited display is half prehistoric Missouri artifacts — including tools, weapons, clothing and pipes — and half American Indian artifacts from all over the Americas, with a re-created cabin in the middle from the pioneer days.

Both the artifacts in the cabin and on the American Indian side are from 1800 to the present.

The oldest artifact from prehistory is an 11,200 year-old spearhead.

At Mizzou North, Sall said, there will be slightly less space but more of the museum's collection will be on display because of the layout, giving the museum the opportunity to show off part of the Grayson Archery Collection, which Sall said is the largest archery collection in the world.

Sall said she "really enjoyed being here on the quad. It's been fabulous, but we're excited about the new exhibit space on Mizzou North and the fresh exhibits."

Art and Archaeology's non-exhibited collection is in permanent storage at Mizzou North, Barker said, and its planned exhibited collection is in temporary storage there. He said the move is bittersweet.

"Museums are wonderful spaces for memories," he said, "and you build up a lot of memories in whatever space you're in, so it's always difficult leaving."

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**HOW MUCH MUST YOU SAVE TO SEND A BABY TO COLLEGE?**

April 19, 2014 11:00 pm • By Jim Gallagher jgallagher@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8390

Congratulations, Mom and Pop, on the birth of your new baby. After a few days of waking up for the 3 a.m. feeding, you’ll be dreaming of the day you will send the little darling off to college.

So, let's look at what that happy day will cost you.
If you start at the baby’s birth, and sock away $250 a month, you’ll likely have enough to send him to a state university in Missouri or Illinois, paying in-state tuition.

Of course, the kid will have to work during summers, and probably take out student loans.

Would you rather send the budding genius to a posh private university? Think $500 a month for the next 18 years.

Those estimates come from Mark Kantrowitz of the Edvisors.com website, an expert on college financial aid.

Can’t afford that? Well, for his 18th birthday, you can present the kid with an Army recruiting brochure. Or a job application from Schnucks. Or, you can let the kid go deep into student loan debt.

The cost of college has long been rising faster than inflation and family income. At state colleges, tuition rose 38 percent, adjusted for inflation, over the past decade.

For middle-class families, it’s now stretching affordability, even at state colleges.

You can get a very rough idea of the bite today by cruising the net price calculators on college websites. Colleges have a sticker price, and a real price after scholarships and other aid. The calculators give applicants the likely bottom line.

Let’s look at some examples.

Say a kid chooses the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and is planning to commute from home. The sticker cost — tuition, books, commuting, incidentals — runs nearly $19,000 per year.

Suppose that Mom and Pop make $50,000 per year — the median household income for St. Louis — and have $10,000 saved. The student earned a 21 on the ACT college aptitude test — the average for Missouri — but worked hard and landed in the top quarter of his class.

UMSL would stiff the kid. He’d get no discount from the school. But Uncle Sam would hand him a $2,595 Pell grant, and the state will chip in $1,000 more.

The bottom line: The family must finance $15,384 per year. Ouch. Sure, the student can work part time. But, absent a big family savings account, it still means a mac-and-cheese diet for the family, or big loans for Junior.

The same student from Metro East would pay $12,366 per year at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, if he lives at home.
Does the youngster want to go away to college? Figure $16,000 per year for a Missouri student living on campus at Missouri State University in Springfield.

Studying hard really does pay off. Raise the student’s ACT score to 30 and put him in the top 10 percent of his class, and UMSL would cut its price by $5,000.

“If you get above a 30 on the ACT, you are golden within the University of Missouri system,” says Rob Weagley, who chairs the financial planning program at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

By Kantrowitz’s calculations, saving at his recommended rates will give parents one-third the cost of college, with the rest to be paid with student work, loans and scholarships.

He assumes a 5 to 6 percent return on investments. He also assumes that college costs will keep soaring at the same rate as the past 18 years.

That may or may not happen. The cost increase has slowed recently, according to the College Board. This school year, the sticker price is up only 2.9 percent at state universities across the nation. That’s the smallest rise in at least 30 years.

So, what’s a young family to do?

If you can’t afford $250 a month, start saving whatever you can.

Get a tax-sheltered “529” college savings plan, and set up an automatic monthly deduction from your checking account.

“If you get above a 30 on the ACT, you are golden within the University of Missouri system,” says Rob Weagley, who chairs the financial planning program at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

“Start with something, just to get the discipline,” Weagley says.

Increase it as your income grows. When the child enters school and the day care expenses stop, put the extra money toward college, Kantrowitz says. Get a tax refund? Put part away for college.

“You don’t want to discount how powerful it is to make monthly deposits when your kid is young,” Weagley says. The power of compounding returns can work wonders over long periods.

Money in a 529 plan grows tax-free if used for higher education. Investors can choose plans from other states as well as their own. Missouri’s plan is called MOST, Missouri Saving for Tuition. Illinois has Bright Start.

Missouri gives a state tax deduction for contributions to any state’s 529 plan, meaning a quick saving of somewhat under 6 percent on contributions. Illinois gives a state deduction for Bright Start, meaning a savings somewhat below 5 percent.
Morningstar, the independent investment analysis firm, gives the highest marks to plans from Alaska, Nevada and Utah. It calls Missouri’s plan capable, but not a standout. In Illinois, Bright Start’s low expenses and solid investment results make it an easy choice for state residents, says Morningstar.

Make contributions directly to the plan, rather than going through an investment broker, says Kantrowitz. That keeps the cost down. Most people should pick the age-adjusted option that automatically reduces the risk in investments as college bills approach, says Kantrowitz.

Let your children know you’re saving for their education.

“What a powerful signal it is to them that you believe in them, and that going to college is not a pipe dream,” Weagley says. “They think, ‘Mom and Dad are saving for college, and I’ve got to do my part.’”

**Life Sciences Week celebrates MU’s research diversity**

By [Daniela Sirtori Cortina](#)

*More than 1,000 students, researchers and academics will converge at MU’s annual Life Sciences Week, which began Monday.*

The event started in 1985 as Molecular Biology Week and became Life Sciences Week in 2003 to encourage collaboration among students, faculty and staff from the different sciences, said Ginny Booker, marketing and communications manager of the Life Sciences Center.

“There are many conferences that take place at MU focused on various science disciplines, but this is the only one that involves everything from human and animal health, agriculture and food, the environment, social and behavioral sciences, bioengineering and more,” she said.

Booker said one of the event’s highlights is the research poster session, which showcases more than 300 projects from MU researchers. Topics range from social and behavioral sciences to cellular biology, according to the Life Sciences Week website.

Projects by MU undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students were eligible to enter a research contest to earn mini-grants to further their research.
Postdoctoral student Yi Mou, who won first place in the social and behavioral sciences and education category in 2013, said participating in Life Sciences Week allowed him to obtain feedback from researchers in other areas, which he incorporated into his work.

“To get the award was not my purpose,” Mou said. “The most important activity is that I really like to share my work and get their comments and suggestions.”

Mou’s research aims to understand whether infants can match sound durations to analogous amounts on images they see. In his experiments, Mou plays a sound that represents a fraction of a duration — half a second, for instance — and observes whether infants stare longer at an image that represents the same numerical fraction, or an image that represents another fraction.

His research, Mou said, borrows from neurology and the social sciences.

“You can share your work with people and learn something new from people, not just in your area but in other areas,” Mou said.

In addition to the poster session, the 2014 edition of Life Sciences Week includes a reception to honor members of the former Molecular Microbiology Program.

This year’s event also features seminars by internationally renowned scientists, such as Sabeeha Merchant, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and distinguished professor of biochemistry in the Molecular Biology Institute at the University of California. Merchant was honored at the reception Monday, according to the Life Sciences Week website.

Robert Gallo, who in 1980 co-identified HIV as the cause of AIDS, is also speaking at the event. Gallo is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Other events include tours of MU research facilities, such as the MU Cytology Core, a vendor show with scientific supplies and equipment, and a career fair for future scientists and researchers.

Life Sciences Week is free and open to the public. Most participants are students, faculty and staff involved in the sciences at MU, but Booker encourages all members of the community to attend.

Matt McCune, a postdoctoral student in biophysics who won first place in the bioengineering and informatics category in 2013, said posters can be highly technical, but researchers enjoy sharing their projects with the general public.

McCune creates theoretical models and runs computer simulations to help bioengineers predict the results of experiments with 3-D printing to potentially build replacement organs with a person’s own cells.
“I love talking about what I do even to preschool kids,” McCune said. “It’s not dumbing it down, although some people like to say that. You can just have a conversation, and it’s a good challenge for the presenter to be able to present it to someone who’s not a trained scientist.”

MU to host panel on impact of Vietnam-era protests

Sunday, April 20, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY SOPHIA CONFORTI

COLUMBIA — A panel on the impact of MU student protests during the Vietnam War will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at MU.

Vietnam War Protests at Mizzou: The Legacy of the Kent State and Jackson State Killings will explore the significance of the student protests and how they altered MU culture and policy. The event will be held in Room 18 at Tucker Hall.

Panelists include MU professors Paul Wallace and Bill Wickersham, who were both at MU in 1970. Wallace helped organize anti-war protests on campus and in the community, and Wickersham helped represent student protesters at the time.

Other participants include Musa Ilu, a student involved in the anti-apartheid protests at MU in the 1980s; John Betz, an MU student protestor in 1970; and Curtis Edwards, a current MU graduate instructor researching how social movements affect public policy.

An open discussion will follow the panel.

Report shows ABC Labs added positions in past year
Analytical Bio-Chemistry Laboratories has created 17 net positions in Boone County in the past year, bringing its total employment to 369.

That information was part of the contract-research lab company's annual report to the Boone County Commission. The report is a condition of financial incentives given to the company by Boone County through what is known as Chapter 100 bonds.

In 2006, the county commission approved issuing revenue bonds that allowed the company to finance as much as $15 million in new real property and equipment for its facility on the University of Missouri's Discovery Ridge research park in south Columbia.

The 2006 deal also gave ABC Labs about $1.5 million in property tax breaks over 10 years and occurred after ABC hinted months earlier that it might leave Columbia unless there was some public money on the table.

"We will continue to benefit from the tax abatement," Nancy Adrian, ABC Labs' corporate controller, told the commission this week. "We continue to experience growth."

Adrian said the company has "10 to 15 job openings at any time" at its Discovery Ridge location.

CAMDENTON, Mo. (AP) — It is not uncommon for Phelps County Conservation Agent Darrin Wood to receive calls regarding injured wildlife throughout the year.

He received one of those calls in late March regarding an injured bald eagle which was spotted on private property north of Highway P on Highway 68 in Maries County.

"I promptly responded," said Wood. "I was taken about a quarter of a mile onto the caller's property where a group had been waiting with the injured bird."

Wood said he was able to quickly capture the eagle and place it into a large pet taxi for safe keeping.
"The eagle did not appear to have a wing injury which left me with a few possible diagnoses: lead poisoning, possible head trauma due to flying into something or a gun-shot wound," he said.

The next day Wood contacted the University of Missouri and brought the eagle to the Raptor Rehabilitation Project in Columbia.

Throughout the year, Wood routinely receives calls from the area from people who have come across injured wildlife. However, a call regarding an eagle is a rare one.

"This was my first live eagle call. There have been two eagles shot in Osage County in the past few months that I know of which could have been linked to this eagle if it was shot," Wood explained.

He just recently contacted the Raptor Rehabilitation Project and found out that the exact cause of the eagle's injury was inconclusive.

However, Raptor Rehabilitation Project staff were able to conclude that the eagle was a mature male that suffered a traumatic head injury at some point that completely detached the retina in his left eye which was too severe to rehabilitate for release back to the wild. The eagle had to be euthanized.

"This type of injury is common among injured hawks and owls but rare for an eagle," Wood noted.

The examiner at the Raptor Rehabilitation Project found that the level of lead in the eagle's blood was 0.36 parts per million (ppm) which is higher than average and could have caused the eagle to become disoriented and lose coordination, leading to its injury. The examiner stated that the staff commonly find 0.1-0.2 ppm lead in eagles.

"We were able to agree on a few theories that could have caused this eagle's injury. He could have been feeding on a carcass near a road and flew up too late and partially been struck by a vehicle or the level of lead in his blood caused him to become disoriented and fly into something like a tree or power pole, causing the injury," said Wood.

He and the examiner also agreed that the location where the eagle was found was unusual.

"We believe that he was injured elsewhere and finally became exhausted where he was found," he said.

Wood added that the best thing for people who do run across an injured animal to do is to call a conservation agent first before trying to assist the animal.

Many of the injured animals will not understand that someone wants to help it and take the advances as a threat to its life and try to fight back.
MU preschool celebrates new class, gets surprise gift

Ceremony held to mark new class.

By Alex Schiffer

Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 2:00 am

Friday afternoon, Greta Hull was expecting a simple ceremony to commemorate the newest toddler class at the Robert G. Combs Language Preschool at the University of Missouri School of Health Professions.

Little did the preschool director know she was in for a surprise.

RiteCare Valley of Columbia, the philanthropic division of the local Scottish Rite Freemasons, surprised the preschool with a $10,000 donation for future programs and other needs.

"I was completely surprised," Hull said. "I had no idea. I thought we were just going to celebrate the addition of the new toddler group and then the Scottish Rite surprised us with the check."

The group's relationship with the preschool goes back for years as it has been a regular contributor.

"We originally had an endowment that was left to help children in central Missouri with speech and hearing problems, and we're continuing to do what brothers before us did," said Russell DeVenney, president of the RiteCare board.

The preschool has served children 3 and younger with language delays and has succeeded in helping kids take the next step in speech development. Yesterday's event was to celebrate that the preschool is now taking kids as young as 2.
"We're really happy with what we have right now," Hull explained. "We're serving as many kids as we can with the limited space that we have, and we're not limiting it for children that are financially disadvantaged."

One of the biggest problems the school has faced over the years has been space because the school is only able to take 10 kids at a time out of the many who show interest in the program.

"Very often we will have someone that's been on the list and by the time we get to them they are already in kindergarten," Hull said. "So it depends. Sometimes it's a two-month wait, sometimes it's a two-year wait."

Kristofer Hagglund, the dean of School of Health Professions, agreed that space has been an issue, but he said he believes the program has thrived despite its challenges.

"We've had great support, and the preschool is able to work off the gifts and tuition that we get," he said.

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**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL TRACK DEADLY PIG VIRUS**

**FARMERS AND TESTING LABS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO REPORT INFECTIONS.**

By Tim Barker tbarker@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8350

The federal government is launching a new effort aimed at understanding and controlling a virus that decimates piglet populations.

The Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus has killed millions of piglets across the nation, forcing a spike in prices for bacon and other pork products.

The virus, which is not dangerous to humans, is thought to have originated in China. Cases have been reported, on a voluntary basis, by farms in more than two dozen states, including Missouri and Illinois.

Facing rising concern over the virus, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Friday that it would require farmers and testing labs to report infections. The virus is particularly deadly for piglets up to two weeks old, with essentially a 100 percent mortality rate for those populations.

Mandatory reporting could aid in both tracking and prevention, with researchers still unsure how the virus is spreading.

“**The USDA is moving in the right direction.**” said Ron Plain, an agricultural economist with the University of Missouri Extension.
Missouri has seen at least 119 farms report cases of the virus. That’s roughly 5 percent of the state’s hog producers, but Plain said it’s hard to know if the number is accurate, given the voluntary reporting.

The USDA will work with several large industry groups, which are likely to have privacy-based concerns about how the government plans to handle the data that are collected. Paul Sundberg, vice president of science and technology for the National Pork Board, said the organization, which has spent $1.7 million researching the virus, is eager to take part in discussions over the shape of the new USDA reporting program.

Producers are willing to share data in an effort to combat the virus.

“The issue is how it’s managed. How it’s reported,” Sundberg said.

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**MU artists act as mirror images of each other in combined thesis show**

By Amy Wilder

Sunday, April 20, 2014 at 2:00 am

**Ideas and techniques intersect and parallel one another in the current graduate thesis show in the Bingham Gallery at the University of Missouri: Longitudes and Latitudes, a joint exhibition by graduating students Charlie Thompson and Eric Norby.** The artists and their work are unified by strong craftsmanship — down to individually hand-printed postcards — and by a depth of similar, yet diagonally opposed, ideological exploration. One seems to mirror the other — with the similarities and oppositional reversals that description implies.

This isn't just because both artists use grid forms to their work — the obvious manifestation of longitudes and latitudes. "Our work is rooted in the same — we talk about our work through kind of the same history," Thompson said of the impetus to unite. "We both use the grid. There are common things that made it seem as though it would work well together, and … the integrity of our individual projects is still there in the duo show."

Thompson's work is symmetrically hung, pieces facing each other across the gallery space reacting in visual and symbolic ways. Each piece is mathematically precise, a square. Larger
square pieces, five of them, are divided into 16 equal square planes. The mirror simile is best illustrated in the way two similar series of smaller works converse from oppositional walls.

Each is a series of six — one titled "AMID," the other "SHIFT." They're constructed of enamel and masking tape on panel and have a peculiar visual effect that momentarily disorients the viewer.

In the "AMID" series, one small piece of masking tape appears on a graded background — a grainy textured value scale that lightens toward the top and suggests mist or fog. The tape, one short piece on each, placed apparently randomly, chaotically, stands out on the plane. The tape is enameled, as well, in a dark value, and the effect is like looking at a feature on the surface of the moon. Is the tape really there, or is it an illusory effect of the value shift? You actually have to lean your head against the wall and look from the side to see — and the question is still not quite settled.

The "SHIFT" series across the room is similar in all ways, except that the tape is rendered in a light value with shadows suggested subtly around some of the edges. Thompson has managed to simultaneously render illusory space and realism with one simple object. And this reflects his similarly dizzying explanation about his approach.

"What I came down to is that I'm always trying to illustrate some central location between binary oppositions," he said. "I looked at the history of Trompe-l'œil painting as denying materiality." "Trompe-l'œil" is French for "deceive the eye" — think of those social media posts of amazing illusory spaces painted on sidewalks that make it look like pedestrians will fall into an abyss if they step in the wrong spot; it's an old painting tradition. "And minimal art as anti-illusion," he continued. "So what happens is those two historical points become binary oppositions: illusion and anti-illusion." Disorienting.

"In my work, I want to … rectify this central place in how we explore being and non-being. … It's become mystical in a lot of ways. Trying to … provoke a sense of deep contemplation in the viewer and never giving them an endpoint but making everything in constant flux at all times." The physical lines of Thompson's work might be entirely straight, but the effect of this successfully executed rendering of an ideological fulcrum — a perfectly balanced midpoint between the pinnacle of illusion and conceptual realism — warps, a bit, the internal longitudes and latitudes that inform our trust in the reality of being, and our dependency on vision as the most reliable sense. In reality, it is the most easily deceived.

Stepping through the looking glass — or at least into the other side of the gallery — Norby's work manages, somehow, to achieve an equal and opposite catalyst for experiential musing. First off, his "wonky grid" system gives his frozen, magnified movie landscape stills the uneasy visual impression that each is momentarily frozen in interpretive dance, or a struggle to pull themselves off of the walls altogether — and that this movement continues when you glance away or turn your back.

This is further reinforced by the loose mounting of the paper, which curves away from the wall slightly at the bottom. They're placed in deep rectangular frames that suggest shadow boxes. This
visually anchors his work to the wall and placates, somewhat, the unease of the warping lines and subtly curving paper.

The works are titled with numbers — three sets of numbers that are something like coordinates but are actually time stamps from moments he froze landscape images within films. The process of creation has been something of a research experiment, Norby said, about the appearance of landscape in films throughout history.

"There are two major conclusions that I've come to," he said. "One is that in early cinema, the landscape never appeared because early cinema was so based in theater that generally early Westerns, like '30s and '40s and early '50s Westerns, were shot on ... stages. There's not a lot of character interaction within landscapes.

"Another thing I realized is that the most picturesque landscape generally occurs at the beginning of the second third of the movie — when the adventure begins." Hence his titles: numbers such as "0:35:47" or "0:48:35."

It's difficult to tell which artist is the more anchored in science and which more likely to float off in an existential haze. They're like opposed sides of a diagonally folded square. Some things line up; some intersect but in strangely congruent ways. Mapping out which lines go where is perhaps not necessary, but the visitor might not be able to help it. Or to come to any final conclusions about which side of the mirror is which.

Longitudes and Latitudes remains at the Bingham Gallery through Friday. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. binghamgallery.missouri.edu.

MU professor’s Civil War oratorio musically recounts deep divide

By Amy Wilder

Sunday, April 20, 2014 at 2:00 am
The Civil War split the country apart, not just politically — but on a bitter, personal level. Brother really did fight brother, neighbor fought neighbor, and this was played out nowhere so much as in the border states — particularly Missouri.

**This deep-seated divide and the still-reverberating consequences are the subject of an oratorio, "The War Amongst Families and Neighbors — The Civil War in Missouri," to be performed Thursday at Jesse Auditorium and composed by Stefan Freund, a University of Missouri professor and founding member of the internationally-recognized ensemble Alarm Will Sound.**

**SEEDS OF A STORY**

A divided land even before it was admitted to the United States in the 1820s — which as part of the Missouri Compromise was balanced by the creation of Maine — Missouri's split loyalties were profoundly illustrated in the dual governments that arose at the advent of the Civil War. Even the "family" of the legislative body could not escape intact.

Freund, who grew up in Tennessee and went to school in Indiana and New York, said the genesis for the oratorio occurred in part approximately 10 years ago when he moved here with his wife. Walking downtown, he was intrigued by the Boone County Civil War monument near the courthouse.

"I was struck by the fact the names were listed 'CSA, USA, CSA, USA' — and this is within Boone County. So you could see even in this small area of Missouri that people were literally at each others' throats, battling against each other. I was fascinated by that idea, and later on by probably the most notorious/famous incident that happened in this area: the Centralia Massacre."

The Centralia Massacre, which happened 150 years ago this September, was a gruesome episode in the notorious, largely unchecked, guerilla warfare that occurred throughout the state mostly after Union forces pushed Confederate forces across the Arkansas border. Marauding Confederate sympathizers raided across the state — among their ranks were the likes of William Quantrill, Frank and Jesse James and William T. "Bloody Bill" Anderson, the leader in this incident. Stopping a train at Centralia, Anderson and his men identified Union soldiers and murdered all but one, who was taken prisoner but later escaped.

"I looked into that a little bit more and got intrigued by the person of Bloody Bill Anderson and his life," Freund said. "I thought he would make an excellent villain in some sort of dramatic musical work." So he wrote a grant proposal, originally for a shorter work for baritone and orchestra, which would focus entirely on Anderson's story.

Last summer, Freund began his research. "I had a big stack of books," he said. Unsure of where to begin, he chose a promising tome, "The Civil War in Missouri," by Louis S. Gerteis. This volume focused more on the conventional military aspect of the war in Missouri, Freund said, and he found he was fascinated by this as well, "and perhaps even more important, the political, behind-the-scenes actions that were taking place. … Once I read that book, I had the idea of
writing an oratorio about the entire war in Missouri — not just focusing on the guerilla actions and the last couple of years, but covering the entire war."

Freund met with MU Director of Choral Activities Paul Crabb "in early August, and I said, 'OK, Paul, I want to be a lot more ambitious about this. … I want to write a concert-length piece that … attempts to tell the whole story — a rough story — about the events in Missouri during the Civil War,'" he said.

After months of gathering material from original sources and more contemporary historical accounts, visiting significant sites and researching music of and about the time, Freund had a rough draft for a two-part oratorio that included, on the one hand, political and military aspects from 1861-1862.

And on the other hand, guerilla events, "starting with — well, one of the challenges of telling the story of guerilla warfare in Missouri is, where do you start?" he said. "There were so many events … and things escalated, and this goes back a lot further than 1863 or 1864. It goes back all the way to Bloody Kansas … before that. So I was looking for a way to start the second part without having it seem like I was blaming one side or the other for taking things over the line of conventional warfare to this guerilla aspect."

Telling the story fairly was one of the ideas Freund came back to several times.

"Before I got here, I lived in three different regions, each of which has its own perspective on the Civil War, which is interesting. That's something I've realized, in working on this project — how regionalized everyone's perspective on the war is. … I've been trying to keep a neutral view on things … and tell these different sides of the story," he said.

**MODERN ECHOES**

Using a mixture of arrangements of traditional folk songs such as "Call of Quantrill," Freund found a way to tell the story using all found lyrics; he mined editorials, letters and documents from the Civil War era and carefully curated selections from those to give voice to his vocalists. Included in the performance will be a multimedia presentation of historical documents and artwork dealing with specific events.

About a dozen numbers are included in each of the two parts, Freund said. Some of the pieces are spoken. Arrangements of contemporaneous material include "Missouri! Bright Land of the West!" which was "basically a propaganda song written by Harry McCarthy, who was a Confederate living in Louisiana and wanted … to convince Missouri to join the Confederacy," Freund said. Also included is "I Goes to Fight mit Sigel," which illustrated the part German immigrants played in fighting on the side of the Union. It also allows for some humor in the midst of wrenching, emotional material.

"It's in this really funny faux German accent," Freund said, "so the text is hilarious."
In addition to other arrangements, the 18 remaining pieces are original works composed by Freund and based on historical documents. And the story, 150 years later, is still relevant today.

"And why is this still important?" he asked. "These arguments are still affecting us today. People are still talking about secession and about civil rights."

This collaboration with history comes with more direct cooperation — between the MU Choral Union, the Columbia Civic Orchestra and the University Singers. And with Crabb, who is directing the choral union.

"It is a give-and-take," Crabb said, on the experience of working directly with a composer. "When Stefan writes this music, he has a sound in his ear — he has an aural image of what it's going to sound like. But as a conductor, I have to participate in that as well. I can't take the music and make it sound like somebody else thinks it should sound. I have to do it in a way I think is authentic for me — and in a way the ensembles will sound authentic and expressive.

"It's a very interesting process. Beethoven isn't here when we do the Mass in C minor, but I'm convinced that what he hears … he approves," he continued, jokingly drawing a comparison between working with composers present and deceased. "I haven't heard back from him otherwise."

The oratorio promises to be emotionally impactful, communicating, in both visceral and intellectual terms, the pain, divisions and scars that are still, subtly and not so subtly, at play in contemporary culture.

MU speaker discusses Founding Father's love affair with gardening

By Jan Wiese-Fales

Sunday, April 20, 2014 at 2:00 am

Last Sunday evening, the Mizzou Botanic Garden hosted its inaugural Jacquelyn K. Jones Lecture featuring gardening celebrity P. Allen Smith. The event was timed to coincide with the celebration of the University of Missouri's 175th anniversary.
Smith is a charming and fanatical advocate of gardening as part of a simple and healthy lifestyle. He is an environmentalist and an inspired tastemaker from his home base near Little Rock, Ark. A 2010 article in The New York Times referred to Smith as the "Martha Stewart of the South."

Smith serves up design and lifestyle ideas and advice with a sort of a "boy next door" sincerity on three television shows: "P. Allen Smith Gardens" on affiliate television, and on public television he hosts "P. Allen Smith's Garden Home" and "P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table." He also hosts a radio program, maintains an active social media presence, is a regular contributor to NBC's "The Today Show" and is the author of a number of books and cookbooks.

The topic of Smith's lecture was "The Horticultural Life and Gardens of Thomas Jefferson," and he illustrated his observations about our third president's notable penchant for gardening with slides and banter about Jefferson's influence on his own gardens.

He began by framing Jefferson's gardening and lifestyle pursuits at Monticello, constructed beginning in 1768, in a historical context.

By the mid-18th century, a more formal garden style had given way to an English landscape movement that decried the mastery of nature for a more naturalistic expression of nature's attributes.

In England, Lancelot "Capability" Brown, so-known for his habit of telling clients their land holdings had great capability for improvement, was emphasizing organic shapes and uninterrupted sweeps of scenery.

"Have you ever heard of a ha-ha?" Smith asked. "A ha-ha is one of the most important garden devices of the 18th century," he added, showing a slide of what is essentially a moat-like "sunken wall" that serves as a fence to keep grazing animals in but that doesn't obstruct the view. Jefferson integrated a version of a ha-ha barrier into the landscape at Monticello.

Smith emphasized that although Jefferson left behind a 66-page garden journal and was the author of 21,000 letters, we are left guessing about how the gardens actually looked. But if he were alive today, he would be what we call a "foodie." Jefferson and those who dined with him ate well, both at Monticello and the White House.

"He was a completely obsessed gardener. He was like a kid," Smith said. "He shares seed with everybody, and people give him seed.

"He grew 330 varieties of vegetables. I can't even come up with 30," Smith said. "He thinks about things in a different way — how they come to the table as fruits, roots and leaves."

Jefferson tried grapes seven times and was fond of saying that one success is worth 99 failures.

Smith noted that since there are no photographs of Jefferson's vegetable gardens, there exists the distinct possibility they were not immaculately tended.
"His gardens might have been scruffy — not exactly tidy. He didn't employ an army of people," said Smith. "He was a hopeful guy. He was all about trying things and not so much about the methodology."

If it's true that Jefferson's favorite parts of gardening were planning, planting and the harvest, he and I have that in common.

English peas were one of Jefferson's favorites, and each year there was a friendly contest between him and his neighbors to see who would bring the first peas to the table. Only once did Jefferson best his neighbor George Divers, but didn't have the heart to disappoint his horticultural friend and let Divers host the victory dinner.

Smith said some of the same vegetable varieties that Jefferson grew are still available, including "Purple Calabash" and "Costoluto Genovese" tomatoes and "Dutch Brown" and "Tennis Ball" lettuces.

"Jefferson said that to have lettuce all year long you should plant a thimble full of lettuce seed on Mondays from Feb. 1 to Sept. 1," he added.

So get out your thimble — tomorrow is Monday.

And if your appetite for Jeffersonian gardening has been whetted by Smith's observations on the gardens at Monticello, mark your calendar. In celebration of its 15th anniversary, Mizzou Botanic Gardens (gardens.missouri.edu) will host Peter Hatch, the current director of gardens and grounds at Monticello, later this year on Aug. 26.