Mizzou to break ground on new outdoor amphitheater

By Koran Addo kaddo@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8305

A rendering of Traditions Plaza slated for construction at the University of Missouri-Columbia

University of Missouri-Columbia students should have a new outdoor space to lounge around in this fall with the planned construction of a new outdoor amphitheater to be called Traditions Plaza.

The Mizzou Alumni Association is funding the construction of the plaza in honor of the university's 175th anniversary.

Traditions Plaza will be located along Conley Avenue on the north side of Carnahan Quad, across from Jesse Hall. It will be used as for outdoor events and a gathering space for students.

Todd McCubbin, the alumni association's executive director, said construction crews are expected to break ground on the plaza in early July and planned to be finished by mid-October, in time for homecoming.

McCubbin said final bids on the project are due next week, but he expects the final price tag to be around $1 million.
“We done a few projects on campus, but for the last couple of years we've been looking for something we could either launch or complete during Mizzou's 175th anniversary,” McCubbin said.

Mizzou spokesman Nathan Hurst said the plaza will commemorate certain university traditions, including homecoming, which is believed to have started at Mizzou, and the annual Tiger Walk tradition, where each fall's freshman class meets and walks through the campus columns toward Jesse Hall.

Hurst said donors interested in supporting the project will have the opportunity to buy a commemorative brick with their name on it to be laid near the amphitheater's stage area. Proceeds will go to various Mizzou-related projects including the alumni association's student scholarship program.

Mizzou to build 'Traditions Plaza'

The University of Missouri-Columbia will build an outdoor amphitheater to be located across Conley Avenue from Jesse Hall on the north side of the Carnahan Quad.

"Traditions Plaza" will house concerts, spirit rallies, outdoor classes and other activities, according to a statement from the university.

Workers will break ground on the project this summer, and university officials estimate it will be completed by the fall.

MU puts emphasis on crosswalk safety

Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri web communications department published a video this week highlighting the importance of pedestrian and driver awareness about crosswalks.
According to the accompanying article, there were 10 pedestrian accidents on campus each year for the last three years. So far during 2014, there have been five pedestrian accidents, MU Police Department spokesman Brian Weimer said.

Web communications director Lori Croy said the video was supposed to be published during safety week in early May but was delayed until now. The project, created by former MU student Nichole Cartmell, is meant to "bring attention to the need for pedestrian awareness," Croy said.

In the video, a student, a faculty member and a local business owner discuss their personal experiences as pedestrians and drivers around campus and downtown.

"It's students, it's parents, it's people in town for games. There's not really one demographic," MU student Caleb Hoke said in the video about common unaware drivers.

Cartmell also includes "best practices" for walking, which includes looking both ways and avoiding texting while walking, among other tips.

SEC summer picnic heads to St. Louis County

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Southeastern Conference may be based in Birmingham, Alabama, but college sports fans in the St. Louis area can get a taste of the SEC a bit closer to home this weekend.

The SEC Summer Summit comes to Creve Coeur in St. Louis County on Sunday with a picnic at DeSmet High School starting at 2 p.m.

The event will feature SEC Commissioner Mike Slive, University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and new Missouri men's basketball coach Kim Anderson, among others.
The Mizzou Alumni Association and the Mizzou Tiger Club are among the sponsors, but organizers emphasize that fans and alumni of all 14 SEC schools are welcome. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/article493582/SEC-summer-picnic-heads-to-St.-Louis-County.html#storylink=cpy

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Missouri Scholars Academy back for its 30th year

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 2:00 pm

The Missouri Scholars Academy, which includes several hundred Missouri high school student attendees, is back next week for the honor program's 30th year.

The program, which is for incoming high school juniors who have been nominated by someone at their school, gathers the students at the University of Missouri for one month each summer to attend classes and engage with different speakers or activities.

While the program itself has not changed much this year, administrative changes are in progress for the program. This year is the first that the academy is operating out of the MU Honors College instead of the College of Arts and Science.

Ted Tarkow, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science, has served as the director of the academy for 29 years. This year, he is acting as co-director alongside Steve Keller, associate director for the Honors College. Tarkow said it is "a natural change" to move the program to the Honors College for future years.

"I have been doing this for almost 30 years," Tarkow said. "The main goal I have — and the goal I think anyone should have for a program they want to see succeed — is to come up with good, credible ways that MSA will continue. We all agreed that this was the best way to do that."

Tarkow will be working with Keller this summer session to show him the ropes, with hopes that Keller will be the full-fledged director as early as next year.

Keller said a few new courses and activities were added this year. During the morning, each student takes three hours of courses for his or her chosen major. Students then take an hour-long class for their minor in the afternoon before activities in the evening.
Among this year's new classes are a class on the elements of writing biographies, a class about agriculture and food policy, a course in American literature and a class on laws and limits of law and power. Additional classes are available in chemistry, mathematics, philosophy and other standard subjects.

This year's speakers include former astronaut and MU physics Professor Linda Godwin, jazz artist Eugene Lowry and hypnotist Tom Thale. Students also are set to take trips to the National Churchill Museum in Fulton and the Missouri Symphony Society.

Students move in at MU on Sunday, with classes starting Monday. The final day of classes is June 28.

June 6, 2014

Why Colleges Are on the Hook for Sexual Assault

By Robin Wilson

When Congress passed the gender-equity law known as Title IX more than 40 years ago, no one expected it to make colleges responsible for handling sexual assault.

Title IX was enacted in 1972 without controversy or even much debate, a "stealth law" aimed at helping women get through the doors of higher education, says Bernice R. Sandler, a longtime activist who is now a senior fellow at the Women’s Research and Education Institute. But the law is now being interpreted to require colleges to investigate and resolve students’ reports of rape, determining whether their classmates are responsible for assault and, if so, what the punishment should be. That is the case whether or not an alleged victim decides to report the incident to the police.

If colleges don’t handle such reports promptly and fairly, they may be blamed for violating the rights of alleged victims and creating a hostile environment for learning, according to the U.S. Department of Education, which is charged with enforcing the
law. In April the agency got specific about compliance in a 52-point Q&A, telling colleges how to conduct an investigation, including interviewing witnesses, examining evidence, and taking "interim measures to protect the complainant."

"Title IX is a pebble in a pond," says Brett A. Sokolow, president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, a consulting and law firm that advises colleges. "Its influence is ever increasing outward in concentric circles."

Campuses are clearly grappling with the weight of their responsibility as they come under pressure from activists, as well as the White House. Many self-identified survivors of sexual assault are pressing colleges to step up their response to sexual violence. And the Obama administration recently released stringent new guidelines to help colleges combat assault—including tips for students on how to file complaints against institutions they believe fall short. The Education Department is now investigating 61 colleges and universities for possible violations of Title IX related to alleged sexual violence.

How effective campuses will be in carrying out their broader role under Title IX is not yet clear, says Peter F. Lake, director of the Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy at Stetson University. "Is this vision of making Title IX effective in these cases going to work?" he asks. Expectations are still evolving, he says, but "we are being forced into developing a college court system, and we haven’t really had that before."

Decisions Set Precedents

So how did a law originally meant to prevent gender discrimination morph into one being used to combat rape?

Expanding the reach of the gender-equity law happened gradually, in large part through precedents set by court cases, starting in the early 1980s. Students sued schools and colleges for allegedly mishandling complaints of harassment and assault; rulings established sexual harassment as a form of discrimination, with assault the most severe form. Therefore, victims of rape could be considered subjects of discrimination under Title IX.
While there was no watershed case establishing sexual assault as a form of gender discrimination, a federal court ruled on student-on-student sexual assault in a case involving Yale University in 2003. "There is no question that a rape," the ruling held, "constitutes severe and objectively offensive sexual harassment."

As a result of the early cases, campuses began instituting formal procedures in the 1980s that allowed students to file complaints about sexual harassment and assault. Many undergraduates, however, said colleges often minimized such complaints, botched investigations, and ultimately failed to protect young women from the men they said had assaulted them.

It wasn’t until 2011, experts say, when the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights released a "Dear Colleague" letter, that campuses began taking their role more seriously.

"The sexual harassment of students, including sexual violence, interferes with students’ right to receive an education free from discrimination," the letter states. It is up to colleges and universities, it says, "to take immediate and effective steps to end sexual harassment and sexual violence." The letter also stressed that colleges should adhere to a standard of proof the department first set in 2002—a standard many had ignored—that told campuses to determine responsibility based on the preponderance of the evidence (i.e., more likely than not), a standard used in civil cases, as opposed to the higher standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" required for a criminal conviction.

"This was a dawn of a new awakening," says Saundra K. Schuster, a lawyer with the risk-management firm. The letter, she says, put campuses on notice that they must handle students’ complaints against fellow students in a uniform way, with the goals of investigating the allegation, remediating its impact on the victim, stopping the behavior, and preventing it from recurring.

Since then, a few investigations by the Education Department have resulted in high-profile settlements—with the University of Montana at Missoula, for example, and Tufts University—imposing many rigid requirements on those institutions, with
implications for others. Hire a consultant on equity issues, for instance. Develop a confidential tracking system for reports of sexual misconduct. Conduct regular surveys to gauge the campus climate.

Still, many question why colleges—not the police or courts—seem to have the primary responsibility for dealing with a crime as serious as rape.

First, say higher-education experts, colleges have always had disciplinary systems in place to deal with student misconduct. "Partying, substance abuse, sex," says S. Daniel Carter, director of the 32 National Campus Safety Initiative of the VTV Family Outreach Foundation, an advocacy group representing survivors and victims of the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007. "These are the same things college students have engaged in for hundreds of years," he says. "When they cross certain lines, campuses have long stepped in to both educate and protect, by undertaking disciplinary action." Parents who pay tens of thousands of dollars in tuition each year also expect campuses to help keep their children safe.

In addition to their responsibility to impose discipline, says Mr. Carter, colleges now have the primary role in responding to reports of sexual assault because no one else will. The criminal-justice system, he says, often opts not to follow through with complaints. Establishing consent or guilt in an encounter between two people in which details are often made murky by alcohol can be difficult, and prosecutors are often reluctant to pursue cases they can’t win.

"While a criminal investigation is initiated at the discretion of law-enforcement authorities," the Education Department says in its recent Q&A, "a Title IX investigation is not discretionary; a school has a duty under Title IX to resolve complaints." The department recommends that institutions "notify complainants of the right to file a criminal complaint" and "not dissuade" them from doing so, but clarifies that "Title IX does not require a school to report alleged incidents of sexual violence to law enforcement."

Students who have reported incidents to their colleges often say the criminal-justice system seems daunting. Many instead seek justice on their campuses, and some
activists have lobbied administrators to expel any student found responsible for sexual assault. Adds Mr. Carter: "Colleges can offer a quite attractive alternative to the criminal-justice process, with a lower burden of truth, a less public process, and a greater chance of actually having something done that protects women."

‘Going to Take Time’
How campuses handle sexual assault might evolve as drunken-driving laws did, says Mr. Lake, at Stetson. "It used to be you could drive drunk in lots of places," he says, "and get away with it."

But public pressure and legislation changed that. "Tactics, training, and techniques to address drunk driving are now ubiquitous," says Mr. Lake. It took 25 years, he says, but "it is now uniformly enforced."

Campuses’ responsibility to respond to sexual assault is also about "society redefining a public-health issue," he says. "It is going to take time for colleges to catch up to the epidemic of sexual assault."

Ann Olivarius, for one, is impatient. In 1977 she and four other female students sued Yale University in one of the first sexual-harassment cases to use Title IX. Harassment of students by professors, the ruling helped determine, is a form of discrimination.

At the time, Ms. Olivarius was a senior at Yale who ran the undergraduate women’s caucus and had been asked by the Yale Corporation to draft a report on the status of women at the university. As part of the suit, Alexander v. Yale, she argued that the university’s lack of procedures for students to report sexual harassment meant she had to intervene on behalf of alleged victims. In that role, she said, she was threatened by professors whose names she forwarded to the Yale administration after students reported them. And Yale, Ms. Olivarius argued, had failed to protect her. The case prompted Yale and other institutions to establish the first procedures for students to file formal complaints about harassment and assault.
Nearly 35 years later, Ms. Olivarius is a lawyer with her own firm, in London and New York, which represents victims of sexual assault in higher education. Colleges are still struggling, she says, with how to protect young women.

"Why is it so hard for an educational institution to police itself?" Ms. Olivarius asks. "If it were GM or McDonald’s that had made no real progress in fixing a serious product defect that’s been illegal for three decades, people would rightly be angry. Universities charge students tuition, they realize this is a recurring issue, yet despite having the best and brightest minds, they seem immobilized."

How to Make Math Learning Fun -- and Effective

Math has always been known as one of the less-glamorous subjects. Sure, there are people who love the rhythm and reason of mathematical concepts, but average Kindergartners won't tell you that they want to be an engineer, or a mathematician, or even a computer scientist when they grow up. But if every Kindergartner grew up to be a fireman, or movie star, or race car driver, or pilot, our society would certainly suffer.

So what makes one student inherently interested in math concepts, while another just wants to score high enough on a math test to not have to take it again? Some of it is natural ability and the way that the brain functions between individuals. Increasing research suggests, however, that exposure to and understanding of math concepts early in a P-12 career leads to a sustained interest and a higher chance of students choosing a math, technology or engineering related career. A recent University of Missouri study found that students who do not grasp the basic meaning of numerals before they enter first grade fall behind their peers in math achievement and in most cases, never catch up. It is vital to make sure students understand the basics of math early on as building blocks to more advanced concepts.

It is no longer enough to simply label some students as naturally "good" at math, while others are stronger in other areas. At its core, mathematicians' median annual pay in 2013 was just over $101,000 - and is expected to grow by 23 percent by 2022. Take into account all of the computer science, technology and engineering jobs that are also rising rapidly, and it's easy to see why students today NEED math proficiency and why it is up to P-12 educators to instill both aptitude and an interest in the traditionally less-exciting subject.
The Mathbreakers Difference

In April I had the chance to learn about Mathbreakers, a virtual math playground that starts with topics as basic as counting and advances through complicated subjects like Calculus. Instead of handing students worksheet-style problems through digital means, Mathbreakers uses action adventure role-playing to give students a fun, yet calculated, gaming environment that puts math at the center. As classrooms become even more gamified, Mathbreakers is a leader in making those concepts effective ones with real-world applications.

The game uses number sense, or the ability to see how to work with numbers and multiple solution approaches, instead of using rote memorization concepts like times tables. Players are in control of their futures in a third-person shooter style that takes them through an array of conquests and challenges.

Mathbreakers is a step towards a full math curriculum available in a virtual world, where students can learn about multiple types of math in the same environment. The vision of the application's creators is that math learners at many levels can use the game to help visualize and understand mathematics on a fundamental level. That starts with basics like number sense, fractions, the number line, operators, and negative numbers.

Instead of giving players one set answer, Mathbreakers lets them use creativity to use math and create their own worlds, in essence. I was really impressed with the way the application seamlessly integrated concepts like multiplication and functions with the storyline and fun of the game itself. Not only does the game encourage players to use math (not just recite it) but it really is a lot of fun.

It seems that the Mathbreakers concept is really starting to catch fire. Schools are now interested in buying Mathbreakers applications to supplement, or even replace, their existing math practices. It makes sense since Mathbreakers adheres to Common Core Standards for grades 1 to 5.

As more people learn about Mathbreakers, I believe that more students will be given the opportunity to have an "Aha!" moment with math. We cannot force students to be interested in any topic but with the right presentation, educators can give students a better chance at succeeding in even the most difficult topics. The game has the ability to transform the way basic math is taught, and to transform student attitudes in the process.

Mathbreakers is a start-up from Mountain View, California and they are raising money on Kickstarter to take their project to the next level. Show your support by donating to their campaign, and get some cool mathy rewards to boot! Here's the link: https://mathbreakers.com/kickstarter/.
When mom's online dating foray turns into a feeding frenzy

Two years ago, when my 61-year-old mother called me in tears to announce that my stepdad wanted out of their 18-year marriage, I did the only thing I could think of to make her feel better: I found a pretty picture of her in a lavender satin dress and wrote her a Match.com dating profile. My three brothers and I hoped she’d find a nice guy who’d watch "American Idol" with her and rave about her Brussels sprouts.

We were completely unprepared for the feeding frenzy that followed.

Dozens of men responded, and my mom had a steady stream of suitors — at one point juggling four. It was awesome to see her happy again: hiding one man’s flowers under the sink before another one rang the doorbell; making Eagles CDs to go on cruising dates down the northern San Diego coast; sending me texts, such as “OMG! I just rode a Harley for the first time.”

My mom and I have always been close, and I loved my new role as her dating coach. I imparted all the romantic advice I’d read on the Internet about how to talk to a man about exclusivity and whether to consider a widower who’d lived alone for the past decade as a good bet for marriage. I persuaded her to trade in her boxy black sweaters for lacy camisoles, although she insisted on keeping her tall black boots. (“The boys love the boots,” she said.)

When she lamented about what to do about her grays “down there,” I told her about Brazilians.

Then it got awkward. Sometimes we forgot we were mother and daughter, and conversations ambled into TMI discussions about safe sex and Viagra. Let’s just say that relationship expert Iris Krasnow got it right in her new book "Sex After . . .: Women Share How Intimacy Changes as Life Changes" when she revealed that our boomer parents are having a pretty good time out there.

As boomers flock to online dating in light of soaring divorce rates that have doubled for people over 50 in the last two decades, their adult children are experiencing an unprecedented role reversal. The number of members over 50 on Match.com has grown 90 percent over the last five
years, and a recent Pew report found that six percent of all people ages 55 to 64 have used online dating.

“People talk about mothering their mothers, but in this case we’re actually daughter-ing our mothers. It’s an aspect of mom-daughter relationships to educate her about things she might not know about, such as how to text or use Facebook or in this case, online dating,” explains Deborah Tannen, Ph.D, professor of linguistics from Georgetown University and author of "You’re Wearing THAT? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation." “But there’s always a question of how close you want to be without feeling uncomfortable.”

Adult children are suddenly dealing with their Moms meeting a flurry of potential partners. Besides getting used to the idea of calling before stopping by Nana’s house these days, they’re wrestling with what to tell their grandkids about her new “friends.” Then there are concerns about her well-being — from questions about whether it’s safe for her to accept a second date at Frank’s house for dinner to more poignant matters about who will take care of her when she gets old.

Our parents aren’t sure what to make of this new role reversal, either. My Mom, for example, isn’t always happy with her kids in her business.

“There’s a certain point in life when these roles get redefined, but almost no one has ground rules for that,” explains Jay Lebow, Ph.D, psychologist with the Family Institute at Northwestern University. “Each person has to figure out what their personal boundaries are and what kind of relationship you want to have.”

My mom and I are still navigating ours.

She’s got a serious boyfriend now, and I tease her about rushing me to the airport after visits home so she can resume her dating schedule. “Oh, stop it!” she says, laughing. There are fewer sex over-shares, which is how we both like it.

“You want to be supportive of your mom, but once you get that information, you can’t erase it from your memory," says Lawrence Ganong, Ph.D, co-chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Still, I’ll take any temporary discomfort to help her find love again. We daughters may think we know it all about the modern rules of dating, but on Mother's Day and the rest of the year, our mothers still have a lot to teach us about the timeless art of putting your heart on the line again at any age.
DuPont signs up U.S. Midwest colleges for big data services for farms

By Karl Plume

June 5 (Reuters) - DuPont Pioneer has signed up eight U.S. Midwest universities to work on research into nitrogen use on farms, the latest in a flurry of deals by agriculture firms looking to reap the benefits of the data collection from farm machines.

The seed and chemicals company will provide some funding for the research and equipment and technology for the schools, according to the three-year agreement announced on Thursday.

In return, the company will have exclusive use of the data for four years, which it will plug into its subscription-based precision agriculture platform that taps mountains of data to help farmers make farm management decisions.

Companies such as DuPont Pioneer and rival Monsanto have been investing aggressively in big data services, hoping to spin detailed weather or soil data into profit for farmers, but there are concerns about data privacy and security.

"This is the first time there's been this kind of collective group come together across such a wide geography to look at soils, crop modeling software and technology, and do an analysis," said DuPont Pioneer spokeswoman Jane Slusark.

The company has deals with equipment makers AGCO and Deere & Co. to wirelessly stream data from machines in real time. It also teamed up with the University of Missouri and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enhance its soil maps.

DuPont Pioneer says it expects the data services to generate $500 million annually over the next decade.

The participating land-grant universities are Iowa State, North Dakota State, Purdue, the University of Illinois-Urbana, the University of Minnesota, the University of Missouri, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"The idea is that if we get a lot of data over many years and across various sites then we can get better in managing nitrogen," said Emerson Nafziger, professor of crop sciences at the University of Illinois and the school's principal investigator in the DuPont Pioneer collaboration.
Farmers often over-apply nitrogen fertilizers to guarantee crops have enough of the essential nutrient, but unused nitrogen is sometimes washed away by rain and ends up in rivers and lakes, he said. Massive dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico have been blamed on overuse of nitrogen on Midwest farms.

**Researchers at the University of Missouri are conducting an inquiry into families within the state with children living in kinship care. Click to hear KMZU’s Brian Lock talk with MU Doctoral Candidate and Family Support Specialist for ParentLink Karen Traylor:**

“We really want to emphasize that this study highlights the strengths of family,” Traylor said. “The types of questions are about what they do every day – not really intrusive or invasive. What we want to do is highlight the great things they are doing, and in so doing we help the families to better serve them.”

Traylor said that recent studies have shown that the number of families with a kinship care situation in the home has increased steadily over the years, with more than 120,000 families in Missouri whose members include children who are being raised by at least one person who is not their biological parent.

“Kinship care would be any other emotionally connected loved one to the minor,” stated Traylor. “Unfortunately, the child does not have a proper care giver and then that loved one takes over custody and maintenance of the child. Anyone falling in that category is eligible for the study. What we are interested in is the routines and family rituals that they have put into place to sort of set up continuity and consistency within the home.”

Traylor said researchers are actively seeking participants for the study. Guardians will be required to fill out forms detailing the child’s adjustment within the home, and teachers will be asked to assess their performance in the classroom and interaction with peers. Interested care givers should contact Karen Traylor at ParentLink, 1-800-552-8522.

Read more: [http://www.kmzu.com/new-study-focuses-on-nontraditional-families/#ixzz33rd4YLgG](http://www.kmzu.com/new-study-focuses-on-nontraditional-families/#ixzz33rd4YLgG)
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Missouri Innovation Center appoints new president and CEO

Thursday, June 5, 2014 | 9:39 p.m. CDT; updated 10:26 p.m. CDT, Thursday, June 5, 2014
BY HANNAH PEDERSON

COLUMBIA – After a six-month nationwide search and an extensive interview process, the Missouri Innovation Center has appointed a new president and CEO.

Bill Turpin, an MU alumnus and tech entrepreneur, will take over leadership of the MIC starting June 23.

"It's great that we would be able to attract someone like Mr. Turpin to the program," MIC Board Chairman David Keller said. "It's just a very unique opportunity for us all, and I hope for him, too."

Turpin studied electrical engineering at MU, graduating at top of his class in 1978.

He began his career at Texas Instruments and went on to found six startup companies, according to an MIC press release. Turpin's first company made an early application for Windows. His next was an innovator in Web page development that was acquired by Netscape in 1995. His third company was responsible for the first email blogging service.

For about the past 10 years, Turpin has been on the advisory board of the MU School of Engineering, Keller said.

MIC's search for new leadership began in January, several months after current President and CEO Jake Halliday announced his retirement. There was an interview process, and the 25 applicants were slowly narrowed to three finalists.
MIC, a nonprofit organization formed in 1984, strives to translate "research innovations into technologies, products, processes and new ventures that benefit society," according to its website. MIC manages the Life Science Business Incubator at Monsanto Place in Columbia, which opened in 2009. The incubator serves as a "safe landing area" for startup businesses, Keller said.

"Businesses that are starting up generally don't have much money and need access to space, laboratory and coaching," Keller said. "We coach and incubate startup companies until such time as they have raised adequate capital and/or are generating revenues that they can move out of the incubator and be supported on their own."

Most of the startup companies are continuations of research projects that are being commercialized out of MU, Keller said.

Up to this point, the incubator has been focused solely on laboratory and life science startup companies. A new software venturing center will serve as a sort of 'accelerator' for information technology startup companies.

"The venture center will be a place for you to bring your software company at a very low cost to collaborate and have professional coaching to grow your company," Keller said. "We've not had an emphasis toward that."

Turpin's experience in the field of information technology is one of the main reasons Keller thinks he will be perfect for MIC.

"Since his specialty is IT, there's no doubt that he will provide a huge level of influence and mentoring to some of the companies who aspire to do some of the things that he's done in his lifetime," Keller said.

Turpin currently resides in Silicon Valley. He will move from California to Columbia this month.

*Supervising editor is Landon Woodroof.*
Local author William Least Heat-Moon tells the story behind his book

Thursday, June 5, 2014 | 10:08 p.m. CDT
BY MARISA TESORO

COLUMBIA — William Least Heat-Moon begins writing each of his books with a No. 2 pencil. More specifically, a Blackfeet Tribe pencil from Montana.

"This way there's no commitment whatsoever to what I'm writing," Heat-Moon said Thursday at the Columbia Public Library.

The former MU student and professor and current Boone County resident, who is also known as William Trogdon, came to the Columbia Public Library to tell the story behind his latest book, “Writing Blue Highways: The Story of How a Book Happened.”

More than 30 years had passed since the publication of his first and most famous work, “Blue Highways: A Journey into America,” in which Heat-Moon documented his three-month, 14,000-mile road trip throughout the back roads of the United States in 1978.

After losing his job as a professor and separating from his wife, he set off on a journey through 38 states in the hope of finding towns untouched by fast-food chains and full of characters. He avoided major interstates as much as possible, choosing instead to travel on secondary roads, which were frequently drawn in blue on maps.

For some, this book was more than a nonfiction travel book.

Kit Salter, a professor emeritus of geography and former chair of the department of geography at MU, used Heat-Moon's book as a textbook for his geography students.

"I told my (students), 'You always ask what should we write, who's our model, how should we shape our seeing of the landscape, our understanding of the landscape,'" he said. "And I said, 'I got the book now.'"
“Writing Blue Highways” is the story of what Heat-Moon experienced after the trip. In this 164-page book, he describes the four-year process of creating the book, including its composition and his struggle to find a publisher for it.

"It wasn't the best four years of my life," Heat-Moon said. "I could dream that the book might find some readership."

He hopes it will provide guidance to others embarking on creative endeavors.

Heat-Moon told the crowd of about 100 individuals that a "writer needs to have lots of delusions to keep oneself going."

He imagined that he was writing for a secret society of readers that didn't mind reading sentences with more than 12 words in them, or didn't mind having to use a dictionary while reading his work, he said.

Lisa Groshong, an MU graduate student who has taken a writing workshop taught by Heat-Moon, was a member of this elite "secret society."

During the Q-and-A portion of the event, she spoke to Heat-Moon.

"I gave your book to someone I was seeing, and he never read it. And that was the end of that," she said. "It was a sort of litmus test."

Supervising editor is Landon Woodroof

Family finds comfort in blessing of animals

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Lily Callahan's voice, barely more than a whisper, forced the words through tears.

"Just never give up hope."
Her 13-year-old American Saddlebred, Bob, a year older than Lily, a seventh grader at Harrisburg Middle School, had just received a hands-on blessing on a recent Saturday morning from the Rev. H. Knute Jacobson, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church.

Bob has battled a rare disease — doctors think it is equine protozoal myeloencephalitis, or EPM — for two years.

Not surprisingly then, Lily was even more emotional the night before after riding Bob to fifth place in the Saddlebred country pleasure class among nine other Saddlebreds at the Calvary Episcopal Charity Horse Show at the Central Missouri Events Center.

"It's been a long haul," Lily's mom, Judy, said with tears welling in her eyes. "He's not just a horse to us. He's our family."

"Just like a human," Lily said, still blinking away tears. "Your best friend in the whole world. You just know he's always going to be by your side."

The Blessing of the Animals has become a mainstay of traditions for the "Church Show," now in its 21st year. The three-day event ended alongside an equestrian education fair coordinated by Katie Coup, owner and instructor at LionHeart Riding Academy in southern Boone County.

The fair included local horse clubs, displays and booths featuring the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Farm Bureau, specific horse breed organizations, 4-H, and a display by the Boone County stormwater education team about proper disposal of horse manure.

LionHeart also had its annual Cookies for Kids' Cancer bake sale on site.

Representatives of the three not-for-profit benefactors of the show — Boone County Council on Aging, the Family Health Center's dental clinic, and Heifer International — also were on hand during the three-day event.

The show has raised more than $250,000 for a long list of organizations during the previous 20 years.

The final day of this year's show got started with the blessing ceremony that included two dogs and seven horses.

Jacobson and associate pastor Cathy Rosenholtz led the service taken from a liturgy for St. Francis Day that included a short homily by St. Francis of Assisi, "Sermon to the Birds," delivered nearly 800 years ago in 1220.

"We're here because we believe it works," Judy Callahan said about bringing Bob, whose registered name is Commander's Debut. "He needs to be blessed. He needs all the help he can get."
Bob, who is boarded at Columbia Equestrian Center, was presented to Lily two years ago on her 10th birthday. He was a bargain at $500. He won two first place awards in competition at William Woods University in Fulton in the spring of 2012. Just weeks later, he began to stumble. Five days later, Bob collapsed, unable to walk.

EPM, the likely illness that felled the gelded Saddlebred, is carried by opossums that often scavenge horse feed. Bob has regained his strength thanks to a trial medication and regular blood monitoring. Only a fraction of horses infected with EPM return to full function. Many don't survive.