TigerPlace celebrates 10-year anniversary

By Alicia Stice

Sunday, June 29, 2014 at 12:00 am

Eric Minturn, executive director of TigerPlace, wants to change the way people think about long-term care for aging adults.

*TigerPlace, which celebrated its 10th anniversary yesterday with an open house, is a unique partnership between Americare and the University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing.*

Americare runs all aspects of TigerPlace except for nursing care, which is provided by the nursing school. Nursing students also come in several times a week to provide care, such as foot and hand massages, to residents.

This partnership and TigerPlace’s focus on providing individualized treatment gives residents access to cutting-edge technology and care that helps them enjoy a higher quality of life, Minturn said.

“To understand what we do, you almost have to understand the traditional model of care,” he said.

This traditional model often means placing residents into one of three categories of care: Independent living, assisted living or skilled nursing, Minturn said. At TigerPlace, residents do not need to move from one room or facility to another as their medical needs change.

To achieve this, researchers with the MU College of Engineering have developed fall detection technology that helps keep residents safe, and the MU School of Veterinary Medicine provides animal care, such as walking dogs or cleaning litter boxes, that makes it easy for people to keep their pets.

The latter was particularly important to resident Lee Boyle, 90, when she decided to move to TigerPlace five and a half years ago with Rags, her Shih Tzu.
“Other places said” pets “could come, but they didn’t look as nice as this place,” she said.

Minturn said the staff at TigerPlace believes allowing residents to care for their pets can greatly improve their quality of life, so they do everything they can to make that possible.

University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and nursing school Dean Judith Fitzgerald Miller spoke at yesterday’s open house and praised TigerPlace officials for their work with residents as well as the learning opportunities provided to MU students.

“The other important thing here is that 1,200 of our students have been here and learned from the experience,” Loftin said.

Americare also announced it soon would be opening a sixth Columbia location.

Minturn said the details on the new location are not yet finalized, but it is planned for southwest Columbia. Americare hopes to break ground on the facility sometime in the next year, he said.

Minturn said moving forward, he hopes more assisted-living providers can adopt a philosophy similar to what is practiced at TigerPlace.

“In a sense what we’re hoping for is awareness,” Minturn said. “We’re hoping the traditional model of long-term care opens up their view to some of the different approaches we try here.”

---

**MU researchers draw link between El Niño, crop yields**

By Alicia Stice

Saturday, June 28, 2014 at 12:30 am

John Sam Williamson, a soybean and milo farmer in Boone County, knows what it means to be at the mercy of the weather.

He’s dealt with irregular rainfall, droughts and floods. Fortunately, this year the weather has mostly been good to him.
Tony Lupo, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Missouri, conducted research linking farmer-friendly weather to a certain stage of the El Niño — Southern Oscillation cycle, which researchers previously thought played only a small role, if any, in how well certain crops grow.

“We found it was not so much the El Niño and La Niña, but it’s the transition between one phase and another that’s important,” Lupo said. “When you transition toward El Niño, like this year, you expect plenty of rain and mild conditions.”

Atmospheric scientists refer to the period of warmer-than-normal waters in the equatorial Pacific as El Niño. When temperatures are shifting to El Niño, the Midwest typically sees milder summers with more regular rainfall, Lupo said. During transition periods to La Niña, the Midwest sees more hot summers with irregular rainfall.

Lupo said the Pacific is currently in what’s called a neutral condition and is transitioning to an El Niño period.

“Where it starts from is not as important,” he said.

For some farmers in the area, the cool, wet spring meant delaying the application of pesticides and herbicides, but other than that there have not been any negative effects from the rainfall, Williamson said.

How frequently it rains tells you much more about how well crops will do than whether there is higher than average rainfall for a given season, he said.

Crops need an inch of rain a week during their growing season, more than that if temperatures rise above 90 degrees.

“The distribution of that rain is probably more important than the total rainfall,” Williamson said. “If you didn’t get any rain for six weeks and then suddenly you got 6 inches, you’re caught up, but obviously things were dying of that lack of rainfall during that six weeks.”

MU sophomore Jessica Donovan, one of Lupo’s students, analyzed harvest records dating back to 1920 for corn, soybean and wheat.

She found a significant correlation between corn and soybean yields and the El Niño — Southern Oscillation cycle even controlling for the effects of agricultural technology on yields.

Lupo said the correlation is more pronounced on corn but also can be seen on soybeans. This could be because soybeans have deeper roots, which could make them less vulnerable to weather variations.

The research now has only identified the correlation.
Lupo said he hopes future studies can quantify the differences in crop yields during different stages of the El Niño — Southern Oscillation cycle and develop a predictive tool to anticipate when the next change in the cycle will take place.

“We’re only to the stage where we’ve identified the trend,” he said.

**Male turtles are feminized by chemical found in plastics**

By Blythe Bernhard bbernhard@post-dispatch.com 314-340-81290

The turtles are in trouble. A chemical found in Missouri’s rivers and streams can influence the sex organs of developing turtles, making males more like females, researchers say.

*A pilot study conducted at the University of Missouri showed that the synthetic chemical bisphenol A — or BPA, which is known to mimic estrogen and disrupt hormone levels in animals — can alter a turtle’s reproductive system after exposure in the egg. Turtles are perfect creatures for this type of study, because their sex is determined by the temperature of the environment during their development in the egg.*

“Cool dudes or hot babes,” explained Sharon Deem, director of the St. Louis Zoo’s Institute for Conservation Medicine and a lead investigator on the study.

The researchers dropped a liquid form of the chemical onto hundreds of eggs that were incubated at cooler temperatures required to produce male turtles. A few months after they hatched, the turtles’ sex organs were removed and studied. The male turtles had developed gonads that were closer to ovaries than testicles.

The BPA essentially overrides the temperature in determining the sex of the turtle, creating an animal that is probably unable to reproduce, Deem said.

The researchers used the same levels of BPA that were found in samples from Missouri waterways including Peruque Creek in St. Charles County, James River in Nixa and Perche Creek in Columbia. The estrogen-like chemical is found in plastics and is thought to contaminate more than 40 percent of U.S. rivers. Estrogen also enters the waterways through the urine of men and women, especially pregnant women and those taking birth control pills. Waste water treatment plants cannot fully remove hormones, sending them back into the natural water system.

The study on turtles is a good indicator of the overall health of the ecosystem because the reptiles live in oceans, rivers and on land, scavenging food from decaying plants and animals.
“We have some environmental issues that are impacting wildlife,” Deem said.

The researchers from the university, the zoo, Westminster College and the U.S. Geological Survey recently received a $250,000 grant from the Mizzou Advantage research project to continue the study and compare results among fish, mice and turtles. They also hope to learn whether the introduction of synthetic and natural hormones alters the animals' DNA, which could create problems in future generations.

The changes already seen in animals' reproductive systems indicate the potential for the same effects in humans, the researchers said. Urinalysis has shown that 93 percent of people have detectable BPA levels in their bodies from exposures to plastics or industrial fumes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Bisphenol A is found in certain food and drink packages including plastic containers, water bottles, baby bottles and cans. The chemical can leech into food or liquid, especially when the packaging is heated. The chemical is believed to pose higher risks to fetuses, infants and children and can potentially affect brain and reproductive development, according to the National Institutes of Health. Earlier this year, University of Missouri researchers showed that pregnant monkeys exposed to very low levels of BPA produced offspring with birth defects.

“If that’s happening in (animals), that would suggest it could be happening in humans and babies as well,” said Cheryl Rosenfeld, associate professor of biomedical sciences at the University of Missouri.

The Food and Drug Administration has rejected efforts to ban BPA from food packaging, although several manufacturers of baby bottles and canned foods have voluntarily stopped using the chemical.

The researchers hope to eventually take the lab study into the field, where they would take blood samples from turtles to determine their level of contamination, said Dawn Holliday, assistant professor of biology and environmental science at Westminster College. The concern is that chemicals in the waterways could already be altering the natural sex selection of turtles, leading to extinction.

“Changing reproductive rates is not something you would be able to walk out to a creek and observe,” she said.
MU linguist, team to research threatened African languages

By Hannah Pederson
June 29, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — **Although Michael Marlo is not fluent in African languages, he certainly can say hello.**

It's "Mulembe!" in Luyia, and that means "peace." Or "Oli mulamu?" which means, "Are you healthy?"

"Ndina?" means "How are you?" in Tiriki.

In Bukusu, another common greeting is "Nono?" It can be translated to mean, "So, what's up?"

Marlo's vocabulary is about to get a lot bigger thanks to a grant he and six colleagues from across the country were awarded in May to study four of the many Luyia languages. **With the four-year, $330,000 National Science Foundation grant, Marlo and his fellow grantees will study Bukusu, Logoori, Tiriki and Wanga to write a series of books on each of the languages.**

The team also will write a grammatical sketch, a preliminary dictionary and a collection of folk tales and other narratives for each language. The project involves a mix of work in the U.S. and Kenya; research assistants in Africa are already collecting narratives.

Luyia is a group of Bantu languages spoken in Eastern Africa. Marlo first encountered them as an undergraduate linguistics major at Indiana University when he took a required yearlong field methods class that focused on Lusaamia, a Luyia language spoken in Western Kenya. He was hooked.
"I was actually terrified going into it because all I knew was a little bit about French and Spanish. I really didn’t know what I was getting myself into," Marlo said.

The students learned about Lusaamia in a nontraditional method: by interviewing a native speaker of the language.

That native speaker became Marlo’s collaborator on a book he wrote on Lusaamia with his professor.

"It was one of maybe three works written on the language, and the first really serious description of the structure of the grammar of the language," he said.

After he completed his undergraduate degree, Marlo decided to continue studying Luyia languages in graduate school because he was already on his way. He ended up doing his doctoral research on varieties of Luyia languages and spent five months in Kenya doing field work in 2006. He received his doctorate from the University of Michigan in 2007.

**In 2010, he joined the faculty at MU where he teaches field methods in linguistics, phonology, structure of American English and syntax in the linguistics department.**

In January 2013, Marlo and his colleague Michael Diercks, an assistant professor at Pomona College, applied for a National Science Foundation grant and narrowly missed being funded. The linguistics program director at the foundation encouraged the pair to revise and resubmit the proposal, which they did in August 2013. This time they were funded, and it became official at the end of May.

Marlo said he’s excited by the prospect of studying largely undocumented languages because "you can't go to the library or anywhere to find out about them because nobody has written about it."

With a population of about 6 million, Luyia is a fairly large ethnic community. There are more than 20 distinct subgroups of Luyia, each speaking their own dialect. Most of the individual Luyia communities are fairly small and do not have a written tradition. Because the languages could be endangered due to increasing influence by other languages, they are important to study, Marlo said.
"When languages disappear, speakers lose a major piece of their culture and linguists lose the ability to study what those languages might reveal about human nature," he said. "At the moment, the Luyia languages can generally be considered safe in the sense that there are substantial communities of speakers, and children are learning the languages."

He said there are some signs of threat, however; some children, especially in middle-and upper-class households, are not learning their indigenous languages but instead only Swahili and English, the official languages of Kenya.

"My worry is if it's seen that the wealthy kids don’t need the language, you can get a stigma attached to the language — that this is a language of the poor and it should be shunned if you want to get ahead," he said.

David Odden, professor emeritus at Ohio State University and a member of the team, will be focusing on Logoori during the four-year project. He agrees the languages are in danger.

"There is a longterm risk, especially given modern mobility," Odden said. "Vocabulary items are at risk of being lost, and distinctive grammatical features of individual languages are at risk of being smoothed out in favor of a more homogenous generalized Luyia."

The team has already begun its research and will continue until spring 2018.
Siegenthaler has been named director of Mizzou Online. She has served as interim co-director for the past three years.

David Coil

Coil, a project manager at Coil Construction, is one of 19 students of the inaugural class of MU’s executive MBA program. "My experience in the exec MBA program allows me to bring more structure and value to Coil Construction," he says.

Brad Fresenberg

MU’s Fresenberg won the Founder’s Award from the Sports Turf Managers Association for his service to the industry as a professor in the Division of Plant Sciences. STMA is the professional organization of 2,600 sports-field managers worldwide.

Judy Wall

Wall has received the SEC Faculty Achievement Award, an annual award honoring one professor from each SEC university who demonstrates outstanding teaching, research, scholarship and mentorship. Wall is a curators professor of biochemistry at MU.

Lawrence Ganong

Ganong was awarded the 2014 Friend of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance Award for guiding a new online program and inspiring faculty commitment to human science degrees. Ganong is the co-chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences and a professor in the MU School of Nursing.

MU acquires historic Missouri Theatre

June 27, 2014
By Sarah Walsh

The University of Missouri announced June 19 that it has officially purchased the Missouri Theatre from the Missouri Symphony Society, completing a lease-to-purchase action that the two organizations signed in 2011. The $3.7 million agreement will enable MU to hold its own programming in the historic theatre — making the downtown building a crucial asset as the university’s foremost programming location, Jesse Hall, closes for renovations during the 2014-2015 school year.
MU hosted more than 500 events, including guest speakers, musical performances and conferences, in Jesse Hall and the Memorial Student Union in 2013. According to Gary Ward, interim vice chancellor for operations, adding the Missouri Theatre as a new performance venue will allow the university to sustain this level of activity while Jesse Hall is closed and expand its programming options in the future.

The Missouri Symphony Society will maintain its existing offices inside the theatre and perform in the Hugo and Lucy Vianello Auditorium throughout the year. In exchange, the university will have access to the Missouri Symphony Society’s equipment and musical instruments for its own events.

“We knew this was a win-win situation for everyone,” said Ward in a statement.

The Missouri Theatre, which first opened its doors 1928, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1979. In recent years, the 86-year-old building has served as the home of the Missouri Symphony Society and hosted community arts programs such as the University Concert Series and the True/False Film Festival.

MU NICU prepares for renovation

June 26, 2014
By Sarah Redohl

The University of Missouri Children’s Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) held a breakfast Thursday, June 26, to update more than a dozen people on its renovation project.

In 2013, the NICU provided care to 536 infants with around one third of those transferring from community hospitals. Although the number of infants cared for has remained steady over the past few years, the duration of visits has increased.

In 2012, the average daily number of patients was at 45, even though the NICU only has 38 beds available. The current renovation will expand the NICU from 38 beds to 48 beds, and will include 20 single patient rooms, two lactation areas, a family infant room, mobile x-ray storage, a laboratory for blood work, a physician multipurpose room and a nourishment area.

Just last year, the NICU underwent renovations on its waiting room, with an $80,000 donation from Pascale’s Pals. For the NICU’s current renovation, there are a number of naming opportunities, ranging between $5,000 and $1 million.
Briefly in the News: July

June 26, 2014  By Sarah Redohl

Top 10

The American Academy of Family Physicians has awarded the University of Missouri School of Medicine with a Top 10 Award for its family and community medicine program. This is the second year in a row the MU School of Medicine has received this distinction.

Award recipients are determined by the greatest percentage of graduates who choose first-year family medicine residency positions. The MU School of Medicine ranked fourth in the nation in number of graduates going into family medicine between 2011 and 2013.

The school is ranked eighth in the nation in family medicine by U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Schools, 2015 Edition, and its Department of Family and Community Medicine has been among the top 10 for 21 years in a row.

5,452

MU bestowed 5,452 degrees during spring commencement: 3,814 bachelor’s degrees, 1,009 master’s degrees, 268 doctorates, 128 law degrees, 111 veterinary medicine degrees, 97 medicine degrees and 25 education specialist degrees.

More than 270 of those degrees will be conferred upon students who have completed online degree programs.

Like a Good Neighbor…

State Farm awarded four divisions at MU with Good Neighbor Citizenship grants, totaling $118,200 to help citizens in auto accidents, tax preparation, driver safety and student mentoring.
New college grads seek jobs that offer balance, flexibility

June 28, 2014 12:00 am  •  By CINDY KRISCHER GOODMAN  •  Miami Herald

NO MENTION

The college graduates of 2014 are starting to flood the highly competitive job market, bringing along their workplace expectations.

With their notably high debt from student loans, you would think new grads would jump at any job they could get. Instead, some of this year’s crop are selective in their job searches, reluctant to be stuck in a cramped cubicle from 9 to 5 each day and looking to be wowed by the jobs they land, career experts say.

“The idea of not being in a job they love is stressful for them,” said Christian Garcia, executive director of the Toppel Career Center at the University of Miami. Garcia said he has had students shy away from jobs in which they’ve heard the boss is difficult, the hours or commute long or the job description “boring.”

“They want to feel each opportunity is ‘the’ opportunity,” Garcia said.

The pickiness is perplexing considering this is the sixth consecutive graduating class to enter the labor market during a period of profound weakness. However, the Class of 2014 is uniquely optimistic, and its members expect to find positions in their chosen fields, according to a recent employment survey by consulting firm Accenture. These graduates also are determined to find work-life balance in their jobs — or come up with ways to obtain it.

In fact, for the past few years, work-life balance has been the number one career goal among students in the global surveys by Universum, which offers research and services worldwide to help employers attract talent. More than leadership opportunities, security or prestige, these college graduates seek balance. They want their jobs to reflect who they want to be and the lifestyle they want to live, one that might include training for a 5K or giving back to the community.

Fortunately for the 2014 grads, they are the first generation that can easily expect to find a telecommuting or remote job in their fields, according to FlexJobs.com, a website designed to help people find flexible work options. Sara Sutton Fell, CEO of FlexJobs, said almost every flexible position on her website has entry position levels — and college graduates are applying for them. Many pay salaries equal to onsite positions.
“Telecommuting options are a natural fit,” Fell says. “The younger generation is mobile by nature. They’ve grown up with technology and without having to do location-specific tasks.”

Across the board, new graduates are fielding more job opportunities than last year or even last fall, college career counselors said. Some are taking jobs as independent contractors, trying to turn internships into paid positions, crowd sourcing for their startups and signing on to project work. Many are asking boldly in job interviews about work-life balance and favoring employers who paint an attractive, values-driven picture, Universum’s research shows.

This creates potential for small businesses to snap up talented graduates, many with strong skills in technology and teamwork, says Mason Gates, director of business development at CSO Research. “Instead of fitting employees in boxes, smaller companies are opening themselves up to be flexible or virtual. They might get the best young employees if they are open-minded.”

Gates, who works with universities’ career centers, says that for new graduates, taking on debt to get the job scenario they seek doesn’t scare them. “Their attitude is, ‘I will borrow more to start a company if I want to.’ They have a different view of their high level of debt. They can’t even grasp it.”

These 2014 graduates, members of the 80 million in Generation Y, are projected eventually to set the tone in workplaces. Garcia believes employers will soon meet young workers halfway, giving them more of the flexibility and work-life balance they seek, and rewarding those who work smart from wherever they are situated.

Those employers who don’t could be in for high turnover. Alec Levenson, a research scientist at the Center for Effective Organizations at the USC Marshall School of Business, says employers are going to find that these young workers disengage when they experience work-life imbalance. Just like they’re doing with their job searches, Levenson believes there will always be some millennials who will go for the brass ring. Others will say, “I don’t need that” and look elsewhere.

**2014 COLLEGE GRADUATES**

- Seventy-one percent of grads are leaving college with loans to pay off; the average size of that debt is $29,400, according to The Institute for College Access & Success.
- The average starting salary in the U.S. for new college graduates earning bachelor’s degrees in the first quarter of 2014 rose 1.2 percent year over year, according to the nonprofit National Association of Colleges and Employers’ April 2014 “Salary Survey” report.
- Nationally, employers say they plan to hire 8.6 percent more Class of 2014 graduates than they hired from the Class of 2013, according to a new survey from the National Association of Colleges and Employers.
- This year is expected to be a strong year for hiring nationwide, with 27 percent of employers planning to hire, according to the National Association for Business Economics.
Only 11 percent of this year’s graduates are leaving college with a job offer in hand. Meanwhile, almost half of graduates from 2012 and 2013 report they are underemployed and working in jobs that have nothing to do with their college degrees, according to an Accenture survey.

Problem with zoysia may not be feared fungus

June 29, 2014 12:00 am  •  By Chip Tynan Special to the Post-Dispatch

Q • We have zoysia grass in the backyard. I’ve seen many of my neighbors lose their lawns to an unstoppable fungus. Now I see that it has started in our yard. Is there anything that can be done before it kills our whole lawn?

A • Assuming you’re referring to large patch fungus of Zoysia, find detailed information about this disease online here: tinyurl.com/olxjnm5.

That said, don’t assume your problem is a fungus. While zoysia can be damaged by large patch disease, we’ve also had major outbreaks of chinch bugs as well as hunting billbugs in recent years in the St. Louis area. The presence of thatch will create habitat where both insects and disease can thrive. Inappropriate cultural practices on the part of many zoysia owners are also contributing to disease issues. It’s critical that zoysia caretakers understand the proper cultural requirements for managing a warm-season grass (zoysia and bermudagrass) versus a cool-season grass (fescue, bluegrass and rye).

Read over this article that summarizes the issues we’ve had with zoysia lawns in recent years at tinyurl.com/orfmlmf.

Find information on thatch control online here: extension.missouri.edu/p/G6708.

Find out how to properly establish and maintain zoysia here: extension.missouri.edu/p/G6706

Lastly, consider submitting a sample of your lawn to the University of Missouri’s Plant Diagnostic Clinic at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo. See plantclinic.missouri.edu/submission.htm Samples can be mailed directly to the clinic, or dropped off in person at the St. Louis County Extension office, 10650 Gateway Boulevard, St. Louis, 314-400-2115.
ANY QUESTIONS: Who painted the murals in 1110 South College Ave.?

By Marisa Tesoro

June 30, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

Rogelio Tijerina painted this mural that hangs at 1110 South College Ave. It is dated May 3, 1979. | Cliff White/Missouri Department of Conservation

Have a question about goings-on around town? This is part of a project called "Any Questions?" that takes on community curiosities and tries to address them. Submit your questions to submissions@ColumbiaMissourian.com or by using the form below this story.
Reader Joe Dillard asked us what we knew about the artists behind the murals in the building 1110 South College Ave. We did some research to find out where these two artists are now and if they have continued painting.

**The MU-owned building was previously leased by the Missouri Department of Conservation. It has no name other than its address, and it currently houses offices such as the Missouri 4-H and MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute.**

When you walk into the building, a large mural painted above the stairs greets you. **Rogelio Tijerina painted this mural — a scene of a river and wildlife around the water. In the middle of the mural, a man collects a water sample, and on the right side of the mural, another man performs a test in a lab. Tijerina signed his work and dated it May 3, 1979.**

Tijerina received a BFA from MU, then attended graduate school at the University of Wyoming, where he received an MFA, according to an article on chicagoreader.com. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago later offered him a fellowship in 1984, and he taught at the institute until 1997.

Tijerina's art did not stop with the mural in 1110 South College Ave. He continued his craft, creating life-size bronze sculptures of animals.

Tijerina now splits his time between his ranch in Texas and his art studio in Chicago.

Pamela Lenck Bradford was the artist behind the other mural in the building. Her artwork is seen when entering from the back entrance. In the foreground, a large eagle carries a fish in its talons as it flies over a green landscape, and another eagle soars through a beam of sunlight in the background.

Bradford graduated from Columbia College in 1980 and received the Young Alumni Award in 1988.

Since her time at Columbia College, Bradford moved to Norman, Okla., where she frequently has exhibitions of her paintings at local galleries. In addition to her showcases, Bradford has also donated her skills to painting murals in classrooms across the city, according to an article in the Norman Transcript.