MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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UPDATE: MU among schools to receive $20 million National Science Foundation climate grant

By Ashley Jost

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The University of Missouri is one of several higher education institutions in the state that will participate in a $20 million, five-year, grant-funded program to study climate variability and the potential agricultural, ecological and social impacts those changes have on Missouri.

According to a news release, the “Missouri Transect: Climate, Plants and Community” project received the $20 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The grant benefits a team that includes all four UM System campuses, Washington University in St. Louis, Lincoln University and Saint Louis University. The grant also includes the Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center and the St. Louis Science Center.

John Walker, director of the division of biological sciences at MU and principal investigator for the project, said MU is the primary operator of the project. About $12 million of the project budget is associated with MU, though part of that money will go toward faculty who will work at other colleges and equipment that all partner institutions will use.

The grant funds five new faculty members across the state, and at least one will work at MU. Walker said there will be three post-doctoral fellows at MU, about a dozen graduate students, two information technology employees and three staff members to help coordinate the project.

“Missouri’s economy is driven by our diverse natural and agricultural ecosystems, which are affected by climate variability,” Walker said in a news release. “The Missouri Transect project, which capitalizes on our state’s core research strength in the plant sciences, will model and predict short- and long-term changes in climate and determine the impact on these important plant ecosystems, as well as on the communities that rely on them.”

Each institution brings its own expertise. The project includes four interdisciplinary teams focusing on climate, plant biology, community resilience and education/outreach.
“By combining so much of our state’s research capacity and infrastructure in the atmospheric and plant sciences, the Missouri Transect will drive innovation, train a diversified workforce, and catalyze commercial development in areas that are so critical to Missouri’s future,” James Carrington, president of the Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center, said in a news release.

Missouri universities to share $20M grant for climate control studies

Several Missouri universities will share a $20 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a five-year study on the potential impact of climate variations on agriculture, ecology and social issues.

The grant, announced Tuesday, will be shared by four University of Missouri campuses, Lincoln University, St. Louis University, Washington University and the St. Louis Science Center.

Each institution will use its share of the money for research on various aspects of climate, plant biology, community resilience and education/outreach.

John Walker, director of the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri-Columbia, said the project will predict short- and long-term changes in climate and research the impact on plant life and communities.

Information from The Associated Press and St. Louis Public Radio contributed to this report.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Center for Missouri Studies highlights lasting effects of state's history, culture

BY JAMES NOSEK

COLUMBIA — A new Center for Missouri Studies will focus on how society today has been influenced by the state's history and culture and how that will continue, Mary Ellen Lohmann of The State Historical Society of Missouri said.
"There have been so many people who have traveled to or through Missouri, and that offers a varied culture for our state," Lohmann said. "It also paints a more vibrant history for us."

**The center will be established this fall at the society's headquarters at MU.**

"It's really just a way of looking at our current mission and making sure Missourians know that we collect and protect Missouri's history and hope they are enjoying it," said Lohmann, coordinator of publications and media relations. "If we don't look at (history and culture) now, there's no way we can learn from what we are doing today."

The center's activities will include supporting preparation for the state's bicentennial celebration in 2021, according to a news release from the society. The society will take the lead in planning commemorations for the anniversary.

Gary Kremer, who has been the society's executive director for more than a decade, will supervise the new center. Kremer also will be the first Center for Missouri Studies senior fellow and will spend time researching and writing state history, according to the release.

"Gary is a wonderful scholar on topics from black studies to overall general Missouri history," Lohmann said.

**The center will offer two fellowships, each with a stipend of $5,000. One will promote scholarship on Missouri's environmental history and the second will seek interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Missouri's past, according to the release.**

Fellowship proposals are due by Nov. 1. The process is open to both academic and independent scholars, according to the release. The fellows will present their work in a new Center for Missouri Studies Speaker Series. Application details are available at [shs.umsystem.edu/thecenter/](http://shs.umsystem.edu/thecenter/).
COLUMBIA — If you don't own an umbrella, now might be a good time to get one.

Thunderstorms from Kansas will roll across Missouri starting Wednesday and extending through Monday, according to the National Weather Service. Jayson Gosselin, meteorologist for the St. Louis National Weather Service, estimated that 1.5 to 2.5 inches of rain will fall in Columbia between Wednesday and Saturday night, but that most of it will fall on Thursday night.

Ben Miller, a meteorologist for St. Louis National Weather Service, said that a storm front stalled over Missouri and will cause scattered thunderstorms when it collides with areas of low pressure 15,000 to 20,000 feet in the air.

But what might throw a wrench into weekend plans is good news for Missouri agriculture. July was a dry month and corn farmers depend on the rain, especially the corn crop that was on schedule bring in record yields, according to previous Missourian reporting.

According the the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Missouri received an average of 3.01 inches of rain in July 2013. This July, Missouri saw only 2.59 inches of rain, 1.25 inches below the average, according to the Missouri Climate Center.

"Corn needs rain in July," said MU agronomist Bill Wiebold in an MU news release. "Three-quarters of an inch won't do it, no matter how deep your soils."

Brent Myers, MU extension corn specialist, agreed. He said that the soil can store 6 to 12 inches of water, but the reserves are running low.

"We've reached the point where the crops have used all the water in the soil and we could really use the rain," Myers said.
"Every day that we don't get rain, we lose just a little bit of yield," Wiebold said in an interview. "It may take a week to lose 3 or 4 percent, but it accumulates quickly."

This July was also the second coolest in the last 120 years, the release said. The only July that was cooler was in 1950. Because there was so little rain, the mild July weather was beneficial.

"Cool weather slows evaporation from plants and soil," Pat Guinan, MU extension climatologist, said in the release.

Although rain in July was sparse, Wiebold said the storms could still give corn farmers tremendous results.

"We were headed to extremely large yields," he said. "If lack of rain cuts yields 10 percent, Missouri farmers can still have record crops — if we get rains now."

Meyers added that even if the crops didn't get the rain they need, the results wouldn't be completely disastrous.

"If we didn't (get rain) in Columbia, we would probably end up with about an average yield, but we were on track for a very high yield if we had the water supply," Myers said.

Supervising editor is Mary Ryan.

Heart of Missouri United Way approves 2015 funding

August 06, 2014  BY Crystal Duan

Heart of Missouri United Way has approved $614,651 in 2015 Community Impact investments for 10 local agencies with projects that fall into the “need” categories of affordable housing, homelessness, domestic violence and food security. The agencies submitted a total of 18 requests totaling $1.09 million, with 16 of them granted.

The funds will be distributed among Boone County Council on Aging, Heart of Missouri Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Love, INC., Mid-Missouri Legal Service Corp.,

An additional $15,000 was also allocated to support an MU graduate fellow who is working with United Way through the University of Missouri School of Social Work. United Way has also allocated $5,000 to continue support of its 2-1-1 information/referral/crisis line, which is staffed at all times and hours.

Since February, volunteers at United Way have created a rubric to score each request submitted to the organizations. The rubric focuses on fighting poverty among at-risk youths and their families, as well as ranking the four categories of needs based on data analysis of Boone County. In June 2013, homelessness and affordable housing were both identified as most important for county residents, according to the *Columbia Daily Tribune*.

“I could not be more proud of our volunteers and their commitment to serving our community,” United Way executive director Tim Rich said in a statement. “They are some of the most thoughtful, thorough and compassionate people I have ever worked alongside.”

Charter picks up SEC Network

By Post-Dispatch Staff Report

Charter Communications has reached agreement to carry the SEC Network when the channel launches Aug. 14, Charter and SEC Network parent company ESPN announced in a joint statement Wednesday.

Charter is purchased by 52 percent of households in the St. Louis market. A spokesman with Charter said that in SEC markets — St. Louis is one because of its proximity to the University of Missouri — the SEC Network will be available to those who purchase its “expanded basic” level of service as well as those who buy more extensive packages.

The programming schedule will include Missouri’s home football game Sept. 13 against Central Florida.

ESPN previously had announced broadcast agreements with Dish Network, DirecTV and AT&T U-verse.

Dish will have the channel in its “America’s Top 120+” package as well as more extensive bundles. With AT&T U-verse, it will be available in its “U200” and higher-level packages. And DirecTV will have it in its “Choice” (150+ channels) and bigger packages in SEC states.