The University of Missouri announced $2 million worth of gifts to help community journalism and health research Wednesday and Thursday.

The university on Thursday lauded a $1 million gift from Frank Booth, a Columbia resident and MU College of Veterinary Medicine professor who is donating the money to endow a fellowship in physical activity and health in the MU School of Medicine. Some of the money will fund his research into the subject. The announcement was held at Memorial Union.

On Wednesday, officials announced a $1 million gift to foster teaching and research in small-town journalism at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

Booth is a veteran researcher in physiological, biochemical, molecular and genetic adaptations that occur during exercise, with more than 40 years of experience.

Booth already had donated $10,000 to help fund his own physiology research.

Of the $1 million Booth pledged, $800,000 will go toward his research, $750,000 of which Booth has already paid. The other $200,000 will endow the fellowship.

The fellowship will be funded by an estate gift. The gift will provide $10,000 annually in fellowship awards divided among second- and third-year graduate students involved in physical health and exercise research at the MU Health Activity Center.

Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for advancement, said the fellowship will start on a smaller scale next semester but will reach its full capacity after the estate gift is fulfilled.

Neil Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, said Booth jokes he sometimes feels like Paul Revere trying to fight against and better understand chronic diseases. Olson called that the hallmark of Booth’s research.

On Thursday, Booth outlined a series of life events that prompted him to be an activist.
“I’m unhappy with the state of American health, and it’s not something that we can’t change,” he said.

Booth said he started saving in high school.

The $1 million journalism school donation announced Wednesday comes from Walter Potter Jr., a Falls Church, Va., resident and MU journalism school alumnus. It supplements the existing Walter B. Potter Fund for Innovation in Local Journalism, which was established in 2010.

The endowment already funds a conference in Potter’s father’s name. The conference started in 2011, and the second is this week at the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

The conference brings community journalists together to talk about technology and the industry climate.

The $1 million will be used to support teaching and research into community journalism in rural areas and urban neighborhoods.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin introduced Potter, a third-generation newspaperman, saying he had ink in his veins.

Potter spoke to a full room in the Reynolds Alumni Center about his passion for journalism and how he wanted to give back to the industry that carried his career and the careers of his father and grandfather, both of whom owned and operated small-town newspapers.

“It’s natural to want to give back when you’ve received so much,” Potter said.

Potter, who is retired, worked at papers that his father owned in Virginia and as a police reporter for the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, a reporter for the Nashville Banner and a reporter and editor for the Kansas City Times.

Dean Mills, outgoing journalism school dean, said that although many believe the future of journalism is financially unstable, small, local newspapers aren’t just “surviving, but thriving.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU researcher donates $1 million to MU School of Medicine

Thursday, November 20, 2014 | 6:39 p.m. CST | BY SCOTT GERMANETTI

COLUMBIA — MU researcher Frank Booth announced his donation of $1 million to the MU School of Medicine on Thursday.
He hopes the gift will assist in impacting exercise physiology in a meaningful way, leading more people to live healthy.

Booth was able to raise the money because he has been investing in the stock market since college.

Booth, a professor in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Medicine and research investigator at the MU Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center, is an expert on genetic motivations for exercise and activity, researching the unhealthy effects of physical inactivity on the brain and the aerobic capacity, or the maximum amount of activity someone can do based on oxygen consumption.

The donation establishes the Frank Booth Fellowship in Physical Activity and Health for the MU School of Medicine. The funds will be directed toward continuing two studies that Booth is supervising and that are headed by his students.

"While much of private and government funding for biomedical research is for treatment, the hallmark of Booth's research is on lifestyles: the effects of exercise and sedentary lifestyles," said Neil Olson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

One of Booth's studies looks to uncover why aerobic capacity falls in midlife. They hope to locate and trigger the specific molecules that prevent this fall.

The other study evolved from looking at how active young toddlers wear out their parents.

"Why are are parents sitting in wheelchairs in nursing homes?" Booth asked. "What in the brain changes to motivate us to be less active?"

His own grandmother, now struggling with dementia in a nursing home, is one of his greatest motivations for research into this area.

Booth used a metaphor to describe her rapid deterioration of health, saying that in her eight decades, she traded in a jet engine down to a motor bike. She continued trading in vehicles until her engine's capacity to function was exceeded, in reference to aerobic capacity.

"I wanted to know why. Why does physical activity help prevent the aging system?"

Basic physical activity helps prevent 35 chronic conditions, Booth said.
To examine this, Booth started an animal study six years ago, breeding animals to be less physically active. Then they studied the brains of active animals and the inactive animals to determine why they acted differently.

"There are sociological things, but there are also biological things in the brain at work," said Booth.

Because the animals don't face the societal influences that humans do, examining them for the biological explanations of physical inactivity is more straightforward.

"Disease may be caused by a gene, and when you can fix the gene, the disease goes away," Olson said. "That's not the case here. All roads of social culture go into play."

Booth suggests that intense physical activity is not necessary to maintain moderate physical health. He said this could be as simple as going out for about 30 minutes a day.

**Supervising editor is Bailey Otto.**

---

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**MU Faculty Council discusses Title IX policies**

Thursday, November 20, 2014 | 9:38 p.m. CST; updated 6:57 a.m. CST, Friday, November 21, 2014

BY RYAN MCELROY

COLUMBIA — **MU Faculty Council is considering rule changes regarding how the university handles Title IX issues.**

**On Thursday, Faculty Council discussed changes to Executive Order 41 in regard to student and faculty policies. The council also voted on whether to endorse a Title IX statement for students and faculty.**

MU's Title IX office drafted a statement for students and faculty regarding Title IX policies, which could be included in syllabi. The council voted on the statement, ruling against using the draft as it is now, deciding it needs revision.

**Student policies**
Faculty Council member Dennis Miller said a subcommittee has been formed to review chapter 200.025 of the University of Missouri System’s Collected Rules and Regulations. This section, added through Executive Order 41, addresses procedures and policies related to Title IX violations. Miller said the subcommittee is working on three main changes to the collected rules, including allowing faculty members on panels that review Title IX violations, urging witnesses of violations to participate in review panels and addressing the role of advocates in review panels.

"The collected rules say that a student can have an advocate," Miller said. "In that equity panel, if one person has a lawyer and another person doesn't have a lawyer, the proceedings can be unfair."

Miller said they hope to take these proposed changes to UM System President Tim Wolfe after the new year.

Faculty policies
Another subcommittee has been formed, consisting of one Intercampus Faculty Council member from each UM System campus. The subcommittee is working to create policies regarding faculty members accused of Title IX violations.

Title IX violations are required to be resolved in 60 days. This might be problematic in regard to accused tenure-track professors because of the long process of dismissal for cause, Miller said.

"Where this group is working to is, I think, a two-step process," Miller said. "We have that initial investigation that I think could be done in 60 days, and then we would have to initiate, for tenured faculty, removal for cause."

Council member Tim Evans said candidates for the Title IX administrator position will meet with council members and hold open forums in December.
University health system won't hire tobacco users

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri Health Care system is snuffing out tobacco users as future employees.

The Columbia-based health system on Thursday announced a new hiring policy that bans nicotine users, including those who prefer chewing tobacco or electronic cigarettes. The new rules won't apply to existing workers.

MU Health Care CEO Mitch Wasden called the move an effort to "lead by example."

Job applicants who admit to using nicotine will be given information on how to stop such use and allowed to reapply within 90 days. Employee drug screening tests will also check for tobacco use.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/article4032404.html#storylink=cpy

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Health Care will no longer hire smokers, other nicotine users

COLUMBIA — The MU Health Care system will no longer hire nicotine users, starting Jan. 1.

Current employees of MU Health Care will not be affected by the new policy, Mary Jenkins, Public Relations Manager of MU Health Care, said.
Applicants for jobs will be asked if they use nicotine products at the beginning of their application process. Only if they answer “no” will the application process proceed. If they say “yes,” they cannot apply at that time, but can re-apply after 90 days. They will also be provided resources which can help them kick the tobacco habit, Jenkins said.

All new employees must take drug screening tests. The screening is a one-time thing and will not be a continuous process. This raises questions about how MU Health Care would deal with employees who start or resume smoking after being hired.

“If we become aware that employees hired under this new policy are using nicotine products, we have the capacity to do additional screenings,” Jenkins said. MU Health Care screens new employees for a range of drugs, including narcotics, she said. Nicotine would be added to the list of screened substances, she said.

Kevin Everett, associate professor in Family and Community Medicine at MU, said urine, blood and saliva tests are commonly used to detect nicotine use. These tests could detect nicotine one to two weeks after the last use, he said, but added that the time period varies from person to person.

Everett said he supported the initiative as a doctor.

"We encourage our patients and their families to quit the use of tobacco products, and this is an extension of that philosophy," he said.

Boone Hospital Center has a similar policy of not hiring people who smoke tobacco or use nicotine in any form, according to its website.

“BJC strives to improve the health and well-being of our employees, patients and community. As part of this commitment, we do not hire employees who use tobacco or nicotine,” the website states.

Dan Viets, president of the Missouri Civil Liberties Association, said he thinks the new policy is a mistake. He said he agrees that tobacco is a potentially dangerous substance, but he doesn’t think the university as an employer has a right to dictate what its employees do in their private lives.

“It's none of their business,” he said.
“Are they going to stop hiring people who skydive or play football, both of which could cause serious injuries and harm the health of those employees?” he asked. Viets said he supported the promotion of healthy behaviors “through education, not through intimidation and discrimination.”

MU Health Care does not charge applicants for the drug screenings, Jenkins said.

“This is a great first step towards promoting wellness and health,” she added, since “tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable death in the United States.”

Report: No cause for concern after mold found at Ellis Library

By Ashley Jost

Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 10:30 am

Test results indicate no cause for concern after mold was found on a heating and cooling vent at Ellis Library on the University of Missouri campus last week.

According to a report written by Dennis Elmore, manager of laboratory safety with MU Environmental Health and Safety, results from air sample tests collected Nov. 13 “do not indicate that mold is being amplified at any of the sampled locations within the building.”

The initial concern came after library employees found mold on a vent in the special collections area of the fourth floor.

In the report, Elmore said that in all of the testing, no spores were found of the type commonly identified as “black mold.” Mold is naturally present in the environment, Elmore said, but tests didn’t show any levels higher than normal.
More and more students are leaving their home countries to attend school in Missouri.

International student enrollment is increasing throughout Missouri's colleges and universities, including MU.

Between the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years, Missouri experienced more than a 5 percent increase in international student enrollment, according to the Institute of International Education's 2014 Open Doors report. Missouri ranked 12th in the country for most international students.

Open Doors is a comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States, and on U.S. students studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities, according to the Institute of International Education's website.

The report lists the five Missouri schools with the highest international student enrollments as:

1. MU (2,576).
2. Washington University in St. Louis (2,449).
3. Missouri State University in Springfield (1,635).
4. University of Missouri-Kansas City (1,415).
5. Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla (1,371).
Karla McCollum, who chairs the Study Missouri Consortium, said increasing international enrollment is economically beneficial. NAFSA: Association of International Educators reported that foreign students spent more than $500 million in Missouri during the 2013-14 academic year.

There are social benefits to international study as well, McCollum said.

"Our world is now at the point where our U.S. students need to be able to operate globally," said McCollum, who is also director of admissions at North Central Missouri College. "One, it teaches students how to interact with somebody. Two, it breaks down stereotypes and barriers, and brings a more understanding way of thinking to U.S. students."

Yichen Zhang is an MU sophomore from Shanghai, China, who is secretary of MU's International Student Council. For her, the opportunity to meet different people is an important part of international study, she said.

"I am different than Americans, and Americans are different than me," said Zhang, who is studying strategic communication at the School of Journalism. "By communicating with them, you get a different perspective, which is good for a journalism student or anyone really."

International enrollment at MU continues to increase. According to the university's International Center, 2,879 international students were enrolled as of fall 2014, an increase of 303 students since the previous academic year.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Protest on campus supports 43 students who went missing in Mexico

Thursday, November 20, 2014 | 8:16 p.m. CST

BY GEORGE ASH

COLUMBIA — A protest was held in Speaker’s Circle on Thursday afternoon in support of 43 students who went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, in
late September.

Nearly 30 people showed up to the event, which was organized by Demetrio Anzaldo-González, a Latin American Literature and Spanish professor at MU, and Guadalupe Pérez-Anzaldo, an assistant professor of Spanish at MU.

The protest began at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 20, Mexico’s Revolution Day. Protestors walked in a circle chanting and holding signs before stopping for a moment of silence at 3:43, a time chosen in honor of the 43 missing students.

"1, 2, 3, 4 ... ," they counted in unison, all the way to 43.

The disappearance of the students, who attended a teacher’s college in southern Mexico, has caused protests throughout Mexico.

Anzaldo-González used a rolled up piece of paper as a megaphone to lead the protestors. He said the Mexican government’s failure to investigate the disappearances points to its involvement.

More people joined as the protest went on, using provided supplies to make signs. One read that a gang and police members were suspects in the disappearance.

The signs, chants and talk were a mix of Spanish and English. Phrases included “The people united will never be defeated,” along with “No justice, no peace” and “No more killer cops.”

Sentiments at the protest echoed those felt by the people protesting the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. At one point the protestors chanted, “From Ferguson to Iguala.”
Minnesota, Illinois health insurance subsidies in jeopardy

By Jordan Shapiro jshapiro@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8114

Thousands of people in Missouri and Illinois would lose a total of more than $2 billion in annual health insurance subsidies if the Supreme Court rules against President Barack Obama’s administration in a case next year.

The case has garnered national attention since the high court agreed to hear it earlier this month. At issue is whether the government can award subsidies to consumers who purchase health plans in a marketplace operated by the federal government.

The court is expected hear arguments on the case in March and could issue a ruling in June. That timing means the court’s ruling likely won’t affect coverage until the 2016 enrollment cycle.

If the court were to rule against the administration, an analysis by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation estimates that 215,000 Missourians and 315,000 Illinoisans would lose their subsidies in 2016 because both states use federally facilitated marketplaces. The subsidies for that year are projected to be worth about $1 billion in Missouri and $1.4 billion in Illinois.

“It does not mean they couldn’t keep their coverage, but it would be very expensive for them,” said Tim McBride, a health economist at Washington University. “A lot of people would end up dropping their coverage, and it would blow a big hole in the intention of the law.”

Subsidies are central to the Affordable Care Act’s goal of making coverage more affordable for millions of Americans. About 85 percent of people enrolled in marketplace plans received a subsidy for their health coverage.

Federal data show subsidies cover 76 percent of premiums on average for federal exchange customers. Customers now pay about $82 on total monthly premiums that average $346, meaning a federal subsidy of $264 a month makes up that difference.

Cora Walker, a St. Louis University law professor, said that even if the court struck down the subsidies the rest of the law would stand, including expanded Medicaid eligibility that has insured almost 9 million people. But she said losing the subsidies could create winners and losers.
“It’s going to kind of create an even more fragmented health care system than we had before the law was enacted,” she said.

The Supreme Court will need to weigh whether the wording of the Affordable Care Act limits subsidies to consumers in states who opted to set up their own insurance exchanges. In 2014, only 16 states used their own marketplace.

Opponents of the subsidies point to a section of law that says they should be awarded to those who bought a plan on an exchange established by the state.

The administration says Congress intended to make the subsidies available to all customers regardless of where they live.

That position was criticized in a “friend of the court” brief filed by a University of Missouri law professor urging the Supreme Court to take up the subsidy challenge.

“

It eliminates state officials' ability to decide whether they and their citizens will participate in the Act’s system of cooperative federalism, thus undermining the democratic process in the States,” said the brief co-written by Josh Hawley, who was part of the legal team to represent Hobby Lobby in its successful Supreme Court challenge against part of the health law.

Should the court decide the law’s wording prevents subsidies in federal marketplace states, then those states could create their own exchange — an action that could allow the subsidies to continue to flow.

Illinois, whose exchange is currently run in partnership with the federal government, is considering whether to create a state-based exchange in its legislative session that started Wednesday.

Missouri subsidies would be in a more precarious position. A ballot measure was passed in 2012 that prohibits the formation of an exchange without the approval of the Legislature or voters.

The Republican-led Legislature has fought the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and would be unlikely to relent any time soon.

“That 'we shouldn’t do it because the voters don’t want it' is probably the political stance they would take,” McBride said.

This report was prepared in collaboration with Kaiser Health News, an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation.
These Public Colleges Spit Out Grads With the Most Student Loan Debt

Christine DiGangi

Pennsylvania has some pretty dismal student loan debt figures: Graduates of Pennsylvania colleges and universities have some of the highest average debt loads in the U.S., a huge portion of students take out loans and nine of the 20 public schools with high-average debt loads are in Pennsylvania.

Earlier in November, the Institute for College Access & Success released its report on student debt among the class of 2013, which uses self-reported data from higher education institutions to compile a picture of student loan debt among U.S. college graduates. Because universities report data voluntarily, not all institutions are represented in the report (few for-profit colleges are), and it isn’t audited for accuracy (it’s based on information reported to Peterson’s, a college guide, by 1,108 public and private four-year colleges). It doesn’t include debt levels of students who dropped out, who are the most likely to default on student loans, and doesn’t count pre-existing debt of transfer students.

The data has limitations, but it represents 83% of people who earned bachelor’s degrees from four-year public and private nonprofit institutions in the 2012-2013 academic year, and some of those graduates have just begun repaying student loans.

It seems many of them went to school in Pennsylvania: The average 2013 graduate of a Pennsylvania school was $32,528 (third behind New Hampshire and Delaware), 71% of graduates left with debt (third behind New Hampshire and South Dakota), and nine of the 20 public schools where graduates have high average debt loads are in the Keystone State. (It’s worth noting again: These aren’t absolutely the schools where graduates have the most debt, just among the schools that reported data to Peterson’s, the source used for the study.)
20. The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
   Galloway, N.J.
   Average debt among 2013 graduates: $33,944

19. Clemson University
   Clemson, S.C.
   Average debt: $34,114

18. Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
   Mansfield, Pa.
   Average debt: $34,155

17. Massachusetts Maritime Academy
   Bourne, Mass.
   Average debt: $34,224

16. Temple University
   Philadelphia
   Average debt: $34,382

15. University of Maine
   Orono, Maine
   Average debt: $34,389

14. Kentucky State University
   Frankfort, Ky.
   Average debt: $34,428

13. University of Pittsburgh-Bradford
   Bradford, Pa.
   Average debt: $34,604

12. University of Pittsburgh
   Pittsburgh
   Average debt: $34,623

11. Michigan Technological University
   Houghton, Mich.
   Average debt: $34,903
10. Pennsylvania State University
State College, Pa.
Average debt: $35,430

9. University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Johnstown, Pa.
Average debt: $35,480

8. University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg
Greensburg, Pa.
Average debt: $35,700

7. University of New Hampshire
Durham, N.H.
Average debt: $36,064

6. Ferris State University
Big Rapids, Mich.
Average debt: $37,325

5. Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, Pa.
Average debt: $37,457

4. University of West Alabama
Livingston, Ala.
Average debt: $38,126

3. Lincoln University of Pennsylvania
Average debt: $39,206

2. Texas Southern University
Houston
Average debt: $40,350

1. Citadel Military College of South Carolina
Charleston, S.C
Average debt: $48,862

For comparison, the average 2013 graduate with student loans had $28,400 in debt (69% of graduates took out loans). The fact that student debt loads are rising and so many Americans borrow money to go to college is a
big deal because student loans affect those borrowers’ credit and ability to participate in the economy, and if the loans can’t be repaid, those people face wage garnishment, debt collection and terrible credit scores. Student loans aren’t inherently bad: They help people who otherwise can’t afford college get degrees, and when loan payments are made on time, they help the borrower’s credit score. (You can see how student loans affect your credit by getting two of your credit scores for free on Credit.com.) Because student loans are rarely dischargeable in bankruptcy, it’s crucial to stay on top of payments, and if you start struggling to make them, look into repayment options and reach out to your loan servicer to see if you can work out a more affordable plan.