Officials with the University of Missouri Children's Hospital on Monday unveiled a $3.1 million expansion to its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

It also has a new name: MizzouThon Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The expansion adds 10 beds to the NICU, for a total of 48 specialty beds. That includes 20 single-patient rooms.

The hospital, part of the MU Women's and Children's Hospital, is at 404 N. Keene St.

The NICU team at the hospital cares for more than 500 premature and critically ill infants each year. Since it opened in 1971, more than 22,000 babies have received care in the unit, according to MU Health.

Several donations paid for construction and new equipment for the NICU expansion, including a $1 million pledge from MizzouThon, the largest student-run philanthropic effort at MU.
The technology in the expanded area is impressive, said John Pardalos, medical director of the Division of Neonatology and Children's Hospital Critical Care Transport Service. He also is an associate professor in the MU School of Medicine.

“The single-patient rooms are what we call smart rooms,” Pardalos said. Each room has a monitor running 24 hours measuring the child’s vital signs and activity.

“At a glance, you can look up at the monitor and determine the baby’s condition,” Pardalos said. He said the tool will be useful to doctors and nurses.

The expansion was built with space for parents in mind, he said.

“There’s more space for the parents to stay there, to sleep there and spend as much times as they want to care for their baby,” Pardalos said, adding that the time together improves parent and child bonding.

He said there are no televisions in the rooms, but there’s an entertainment area with educational games and other materials. It includes videos for parents about proper care of newborns.

Pardalos said the average daily census in the NICU 10 years ago was around 15 babies, but now it is around 35 infants. He said smaller infants are better able to survive and they are staying longer in the NICU, resulting in the higher number.

“This new space creates a more patient- and family-centered environment, which enables our team to deliver the best care and experience possible,” Keri Simon, executive director of MU Women’s and Children’s Hospital, said in a news release announcing the completion of the expansion. “All of the additions promote the participation of the family in the baby’s care and transition home.”

The expansion also includes a family and infant room where parents can stay overnight with newborns to simulate how it will be when the parents take the baby home and away from constant medical care.

There also are two lactation areas to give mothers a private area for breast-feeding.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Children's Hospital $3.1 million NICU renovation complete
Monday, December 8, 2014 | 4:57 p.m. CST

BY ELLISE VERHEYEN

COLUMBIA — A $3.1 million renovation of MU Children's Hospital for its now much larger Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was unveiled Monday.

The MU Children's Hospital NICU works to provide critical care for premature and critically ill newborns. Because of the expansion, the hospital's NICU can now care for more newborns. An additional 10 beds have been added to the unit, making the total number of specialty beds 48, according to a news release.
The NICU now includes:

- 20 single-patient rooms
- two lactation areas — providing a private space for new mothers to breast-feed
- a family-infant room — giving families a place to stay overnight with newborns in order to simulate living away from constant medical care
- a portable digital X-ray machine and developer
- a new blood gas laboratory

The MU Children's Hospital NICU team cares for more than 500 premature and critically ill infants each year, a number that will grow with the unit's new expansion.

Each of the 20 single-patient rooms is equipped with "smart room" technology, which displays a 24-hour record of the baby's vital signs.

"Before, all this information was in a paper chart, but now we can see how the child is doing from the moment we walk into the room," said John Pardalos, medical director of the Division of Neonatology and Children's Hospital Critical Care Transport Service and associate professor in the Department of Child Health at the MU School of Medicine.

"This latest technology is more efficient and designed with the baby and family in mind," Pardalos said in a news release. "It also gives us the option to add even more automated capabilities in the future."

The $3.1 million renovation was funded through numerous donations, including a $1 million pledge from MizzouThon, the largest student-run philanthropy at MU. The NICU has been named the MizzouThon Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in recognition of the group's pledge, according to a news release.

The MU Children's Hospital NICU began in 1971 and has cared for more than 22,000 babies.
KRCG-TV (CBS) – Columbia, Mo.

COLUMBIA, MO -- University of Missouri Children’s Hospital now has a larger neonatal intensive care unit.

MU Health Care officials said it provides critical care to more premature and critically ill newborns than ever before.

A ribbon cutting celebrated the $3.1 million renovation. Kristina Hollrah’s son Oskar was born 15 weeks early. She and her family appreciate the new renovations.

Hollrah said, “It’s wonderful. It feels like you are coming into a happy place and a cozy place. You don’t feel like it’s a hospital. It’s a place you are O.K. with your child being if you have to leave. You’re leaving them in safe and comfortable hands.”

The expansion adds 10 additional beds to the unit, bringing the total number of specialty beds to 48.

MU Health Care Dr. John Pardalos said, “It’s a lot quieter for the babies. They won’t be over stimulated. There is also space in the rooms for the parents to spend as much time with the babies as much as possible. It encourages them to bond with the baby. Babies do well. They recognize mom’s and dad’s voices. The more time they can spend their, they do a lot better.”

The MU Children’s Hospital NICU team cares for more than 500 premature and critically ill infants each year. Construction and new equipment in the NICU was funded through a number of donations, including a $1 million pledge from Mizzouthon, the largest student-run philanthropy at the University of Missouri.

Since the NICU was established in 1971, more than 22,000 babies have received care in the unit.

Link to Video: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Renovation
New leadership hopes to boost MU's relationships with businesses

By ASHLEY JOST
Monday, December 8, 2014 at 10:31 am

The University of Missouri Office of Research is poised to roll out a plan to boost private-sector research funding.

When Hank Foley, the UM System’s vice president for academic affairs, was appointed the senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies at MU in March, he came in with a plan to bolster both federally and privately funded research.

Foley rearranged his office, naming MU administrator Steve Wyatt as the university’s new associate vice chancellor and vice provost for economic development.

Foley’s plan focuses in part on improving MU’s status in the Association of American Universities. The association, dubbed the AAU, includes only 34 public universities.

A key part of the plan involves fostering students’ business ideas and promoting interaction with the industry.

The school hopes those relationships lead to opportunities for students as well as research funding.

“We wanted to bring together the key elements of that activity under one person who really understands how to do this and has a vision for it. That person was Steve Wyatt,” Foley said. Wyatt has been at MU for more than 20 years and has strong community ties, Foley said. That makes him “invaluable.”

Wyatt describes his new role as an opportunity to create an entry point for those businesses interested in engaging with the university.

“We’re looking at the types of businesses we have relationships with — like those that recruit — and looking to build those relationships; maybe build the services we can provide them,” Wyatt said. “Part of that is identifying which faculty members might be interested in working in a research environment in the private sector.”

Wyatt said the university has conducted private sector-supported research for years.

Craig Roberts, Faculty Council chairman and a plant science professor with a partial research appointment, said he supports increasing efforts into this type of research and believes many in academia agree that the benefits of engaging in private sector driven research outweigh any risk of taking money from private industries.

“There’s always a concern about people abusing the relationship they have with the industry, whatever that industry is,” Roberts said. “There are concerns about folks letting their integrity be purchased by industry. That can happen, and in fact it’s occasionally going to happen. That’s why the university has conflict of interest policies and plans.”
Roberts said he also supports mandating a disclosure of findings. Some industry-funded research findings are proprietary, and the researcher is prohibited from publishing the data.

Much of Wyatt’s plan for boosting MU’s engagement with the business community mirrors programs at universities like MIT, which Wyatt said he considers to be the “gold standard.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU study shows high-protein breakfast curbs hunger
Tuesday, December 9, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST

BY SCOTT GERMANETTI

COLUMBIA — Heather Leidy is often her own guinea pig. When she hears about a popular diet, she will prepare it at home to see if it's worth testing in the lab.

An assistant professor in nutrition and exercise physiology at MU, Leidy searches for realistic solutions to America's obesity problem.

She has designed several short-term protein studies, many looking at the role of breakfast in curbing hunger throughout the day. In one, for example, she studied whether the breakfast habits of teenage girls caused them to snack later.

It compared a protein-enriched waffle breakfast to the traditional carb-loaded cereal alternative. By trading some carbohydrates for protein, she found that her subjects were more satisfied and less prone to overeating during the day.

For her research in protein consumption, Leidy was awarded MU's Spurgeon Distinguished Medical Research Award. The award goes to an MU School of Medicine faculty member at an early career stage whose research makes a significant contribution to the profession.
The waffle-cereal study enlisted two groups of girls, one eating cereal without much protein, while the other tried the waffles with 30 grams of protein.

"We wanted to make a yummy breakfast that is healthy but is and looks tasty," Leidy said. "We made an egg-based waffle with high protein."

After scanning the volunteers' brains, Leidy was able to conclude that the girls who ate the waffle breakfast had reduced activity in the areas that signal hunger.

Since then, the waffles have become hit in the Nutrition and Exercise Physiology Department.

"We always have faculty sneaking out waffles in the mornings because they are so popular," said Chris Hardin, the department chair. "We're still bouncing around ideas for a feasible name."

Leidy said she is less concerned with selling the waffles than she is about providing healthier eating options to the community.

"I'm a practical scientist," Leidy said. "While I'm out and about, I'll be thinking about practical questions you can ask and bring them back to the lab."

In her current study, called MU 8, she is looking into the effects of eating higher-than-normal protein meals throughout the day.

"Most people will skip breakfast," she said. "It is also typical to have almost all of your protein at dinner, which is at the end of the day."

The study controls the subjects' diets for six days to see if they willingly adjust their food intake on the seventh day. The subjects get a certain amount of protein for each meal and are allowed to eat what they wish beyond that.

If the additional protein has the desired effect, subjects will reduce their consumption voluntarily. Although the exact amount of protein necessary for each person will vary, the study suggests that a consistent, higher-protein diet produces better results than a regular diet does in blunting hormone responses linked to feelings of hunger.

What brought Leidy to MU in 2010 was the innovative MU Nutritional Center for Health and MU Physical Activity and Wellness Center, now located in Gwynn Hall.
The center’s research is a collaboration among the College of Human Environmental Science, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and the School of Medicine.

"We have around four or five studies going on here right now," Hardin said. "Heather Leidy is one of the main ones using the facility."

Researchers can study and test volunteer subjects in the community in the research and teaching kitchens and an observation and behavior laboratory.

"To get conclusions from the testing, you have to control nutrition or exercise," Leidy said. "Now we can see the effect of the experimentation by controlling the others."

The facility allows for the control of all of a subject's meals throughout a testing period, including meals eaten outside of the lab. It also has equipment to monitor body composition and fitness levels.

"We can finally go from short-term studies, adjusting one thing, to full feeding studies," Leidy said.

OPEN COLUMN:

MU concert choice sends mixed message

Monday, December 8, 2014 at 1:00 pm

Editor, the Tribune: The esteemed University Concert Series has chosen to host the “Cherry Popping Daddies.” Last time I checked, this term refers to the bleeding caused when an underage virgin is penetrated roughly enough to cause vaginal bleeding by an adult male. Thus, the crime of statutory rape.

While the university promotes this event, it has battled nationwide criticism over its response to Sasha Menu-Courey’s allegation of rape in February of 2010, followed by her tragic suicide. The White House has called rape and sexual assault on campuses a national health epidemic. While it is estimated that 1 in 5 female students is assaulted while in college, only 1 in 8 of these is reported.

Calls for greater accountability from the University of Missouri in creating a safe environment for female students has resulted in a sincere effort to make this happen. I find it astounding that the university would put forth great effort and enlist the help of talented leaders to combat sexual assault while promoting a concert by the “Cherry Popping Daddies.”
Does this send a mixed message as to the seriousness of rape and sexual assault?
Without a doubt.
While freedom of expression must be protected at all costs, the primary message expressed by the choice of this band is that incestuous and criminal acts can be celebrated by promoting a band with this name.
The university dropped the ball on this one.

Debbie Danner, LCSW, ACSW
503 E. Nifong Blvd., Suite H, 310

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

PHOTO: Swallow Hall undergoes construction
Monday, December 8, 2014 | 9:04 p.m. CST

Swallow Hall undergoes construction as part of MU's $22.85 million renovation project. The construction has been going on since June and is scheduled to conclude by summer of 2015. Swallow Hall is one of the school's oldest buildings. | HANNAH STURTECKY

BY HANNAH STURTECKY
COLUMBIA — **Swallow Hall undergoes construction as part of MU's $22.85 million renovation project.**

The construction has been going on since June and is scheduled to conclude by summer of 2015.

Swallow Hall is one of the school's oldest buildings. It was built in 1893.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Video game development a growing industry in Missouri

Monday, December 8, 2014 | 7:25 p.m. CST

BY GEORGE ASH

COLUMBIA — Video game development is a growing industry in Missouri, as developers pop up in and move to the state.

Direct employment in Missouri by video game developers increased by nearly three times between 2009 and 2012, from 99 jobs to 292, according to the Entertainment Software Association.

Dale Musser, associate teaching professor and director of information technology at MU, said he has noticed a resurgence of interest in the video game industry at the university. Enough interest has been shown that his department is bringing back a class, Introduction to Game Design, that was discontinued around 2009 because of a lack of faculty to teach it.

This spring, given more instructors, a higher level of interest and better technology, the class is being offered again. Students will use coding languages and development engines to write 3D environments, physics and lighting.

Musser attributed the higher interest in video game development to new technologies such as the **Oculus Rift**, a virtual reality headset.
Musser said a virtual reality room is planned for Engineering Building West, where students will be able to use a **Virtuix Omni**, a virtual reality gaming system that allows players to use a treadmill-like device to move their characters through a 3D world.

The class likely will be offered every spring, Musser said.

Carol Mertz, chairwoman of the St. Louis chapter of the International Game Developers Association, said she has noticed the growth of the industry, at least in the St. Louis area.

Mertz said she thinks the formation of her chapter encouraged video game developers to come to Missouri, as it gives them a knowledgeable community from which they can get feedback. She also said that game development in the St. Louis area started to transition from hobby development to professional development since the chapter was created.

The International Game Developers Association’s mission is to advocate for issues that affect members, to connect developers and to promote professional video game development. The organization puts together webinars, hosts workshops and promotes developers in various other ways.

Mertz said developers are both starting up in Missouri and moving to the state from other locations. She said some developers move to St. Louis from the coasts because of the lower cost of living.

Crowdfunding has been a popular way for developers to jump-start projects in Missouri, Mertz said. Developers in Missouri using Kickstarter have successfully funded 17 video game projects since 2010. The highest-funded project, a game called **Delver’s Drop**, received more than $150,000.

In 2012, 292 people were directly employed by video game developers in Missouri, according to the Entertainment Software Association. The average compensation for these employees was $87,922, it said.

Mertz said new people will show up at almost every event the St. Louis chapter puts on. She said the growing technology industry in St. Louis gives game developers the resources necessary to work on projects.

“I don’t see it slowing down anytime soon,” Mertz said.
MU, Minnesota both hope Citrus berth can be a program-builder
Missouri will face Minnesota in Orlando.

By DAVID MORRISON
Monday, December 8, 2014 at 1:00 pm

Gary Pinkel found himself in a strange place.
The junior Kent State tight end was on his way to a career day in the 1972 Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Fla., when a knee injury forced him to the locker room shortly before halftime.

As he was getting an evaluation on the trainer’s table, he couldn’t help but notice three observers.

With unblinking stares and wide, unceasing smiles.

“I go into the locker room and Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Pluto — whatever that guy’s name — they’re standing there looking at me like this,” Pinkel said. “They’re all just kind of standing there.”

Pinkel’s Golden Flashes lost 21-18 to the University of Tampa that day, falling behind by three touchdowns early to a team that included future NFL draft picks Freddie Solomon and John Matuszak and future professional wrestler Paul Orndorff before rallying back to almost pull off the comeback win.

But it’s the Disney characters that Pinkel remembers most.

“You can’t write a script like that,” Pinkel said Sunday. “I vividly remember that.”

**Pinkel will return to the scene of one of the stranger moments of his football career as the coach of No. 16 Missouri (10-3), which takes on Minnesota (8-4) in the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 1, with a noon kickoff on ABC.**

With Southeastern Conference champion and No. 1 team Alabama making the College Football Playoff and Mississippi State and Mississippi landing in CFP access bowls, it left Missouri in the mix with Georgia and Auburn for the SEC’s slot in the Citrus, which gets first choice after the playoff committee.

The Eastern Division champion Tigers were coming off a 42-13 loss to Alabama on Saturday and were ranked below No. 13 Georgia in the final CFP poll.

If the Citrus passed on Missouri, it would have gone to a pool of six bowls that the SEC picked with input from the teams and bowls. It could’ve gone the other way, like when the Orange Bowl picked Kansas over the Tigers in 2007 or the Insight Bowl picked Iowa State over Missouri two years later.

“I kind of thought that was going to happen again,” linebacker Michael Scherer said. “I don’t pay much attention to how big each bowl is. I really don’t know much. I saw some projections last night when we got on the plane, and it didn’t look good.”
But the Citrus — which was known as the Capital One Bowl in the BCS era — wanted Missouri, giving the Tigers an appearance in a prestigious SEC bowl in consecutive years after its Cotton Bowl berth last season.

This is Missouri’s 10th bowl in 14 years under Pinkel. The Tigers have a 5-4 bowl record in that time.

“I’m very honored,” Pinkel said. “They have a choice of a lot of different schools they could have taken in the SEC, and they chose the University of Missouri. That made me feel really good, as a matter of fact. I needed something to pick me up a little bit today.”

With Ohio State off to the semifinal against Alabama and Michigan State in an access bowl, it left Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin as reasonable options for the Citrus. The Golden Gophers had beaten the Cornhuskers and lost to the Badgers over the final two weeks of the regular season and were ranked No. 25 in the CFP poll, behind No. 18 Wisconsin and ahead of unranked Nebraska.

Wisconsin went to the Outback Bowl, Nebraska went to the Holiday Bowl, and Minnesota made its first January bowl game since the 1962 Rose Bowl.

“It means a whole lot,” said Jerry Kill, the fourth-year Minnesota coach who is taking his team to its third straight bowl. “We came in and started from the ground up. We talk about ‘brick by brick,’ do it slowly, try to lay a good foundation and do it the right way. We just continued to make progress. It helps us continue to move the program forward, to play in such a prestigious bowl. It does nothing but help us.”

Missouri has a 4-3-1 all-time edge against Minnesota, but the two teams have not played since a 34-12 Tigers win in Columbia in 1970. The Tigers have not been to the Citrus Bowl since 1981, when it was still called the Tangerine Bowl and they beat Southern Mississippi 19-17. This is their first trip to a Florida bowl since 1981.

Both schools receive an allotment of 8,000 tickets in the newly renovated 65,000-seat Orlando Citrus Bowl Stadium, but Missouri executive associate athletic director Bryan Maggard said Missouri could request more if it needs them, as it did for the Cotton Bowl last year.

As for Kill and the Gophers, the coach said it was unseasonably warm in Minnesota on Sunday, with temperatures climbing into the mid-30s.

“But it’s certainly not 70 or 80,” Kill said. “Coach Kill might come down there right now.”

INJURY UPDATE: Pinkel said his team emerged from the SEC Championship Game without any new injuries that should keep players out of the bowl. Linebacker Kentrell Brothers and defensive tackle Matt Hoch were both shaken up Saturday.

Brothers said he hyperextended his left knee, but he doesn’t expect to miss the bowl.

“They tried to cut” block “me, I got away from it and I ended up planting the wrong way,” Brothers said. “But I’m good.”

Backup safety Cortland Browning traveled with the team to Atlanta but did not dress after injuring a tendon in his foot during practice last Thursday. Pinkel said the junior will undergo surgery and miss the bowl game but should be available for spring practice.

Browning backed up both Braylon Webb and Ian Simon this season and started the Texas A&M game in Webb’s place as the senior sat out the first half because of a targeting ejection. Browning has four tackles on defense and special teams this year.
Senate hearing to address campus sexual assault

By KIMBERLY HEFLING

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators want to know why only a fraction of campus sexual assault victims go to the police.

A Senate Judiciary subcommittee is holding a hearing Tuesday on the role of law enforcement in these cases.

The hearing comes after Rolling Stone magazine published an article describing a gang rape alleged to have occurred at a fraternity house at the University of Virginia. The magazine later acknowledged mistakes in its reporting.

The subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, says he hopes the hearing will shine a light on steps to protect victims.

He cites statistics that 1 woman in 5 is assaulted in college, but the vast majority of cases go unreported.

The surprising top 10 highest paid private college presidents
By Valerie Strauss December 8 at 11:52 AM

The Chronicle of Higher Education's annual list of the best compensated private college and university presidents has just come out with the latest data, for 2012, and the people on it may surprise you.

According to the Chronicle, 36 presidents of private institutions of higher learning earned more than $1 million in 2012, though the average salary was about $400,000. It also reported that “on average, a private-college president’s salary accounted for about 0.5 percent of his or her institution’s overall budget in 2012.”

Here are the top 10 highest paid presidents of private colleges and universities. Remember that total compensation often includes deferred compensation, which is often used by boards of trustees to retain presidents.

1. Shirley Ann Jackson, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. Total compensation: $7,143,312

2. John L. Lahey, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn. Total compensation: $3,759,076

3. Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. Total compensation: $3,389,917


5. Charles R. Middleton, Roosevelt University, Chicago, Ill. Total compensation: $1,762,956

6. Susan Hockfield, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. Total compensation from January through June, when she left the job: $1,679,097

7. David W. Leebron, Rice University, Houston, Tex. Total compensation: $1,522,502

8. John E. Sexton, New York University, New York City, N.Y. Total compensation: $1,404,484
9. Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Rockefeller University, New York City, N.Y. Total compensation: $1,381,341

10. Richard C. Levin, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. Total compensation: $1,375,365

You can find a lot of other data for these presidents and more than 500 more here.

The Chronicle does a separate list of the compensation of presidents of public colleges and universities. The latest such list was published in May 2014 for the fiscal year 2013. Topping that list was E. Gordon Gee, who earned total compensation of more than $6 million that year. He was followed by R. Bowen Loftin, who earned $1.6 million in fiscal 2013 as president of Texas A&M University at College Station. The third highest in fiscal 2013 was Hamid Shirvani, who earned $1.3 million as chancellor of the North Dakota University system. All three men have left those positions.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

It's easy for any pet owner to register a dog as a service animal and receive special treatment

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST; updated 7:16 a.m. CST, Tuesday, December 9, 2014
BY LYDIA MCALLISTER

COLUMBIA — In a matter of minutes and for less than $100, anyone can register a dog online as a service or emotional support animal.

No one will even check to see if it's true.

The upshot: Owners can bypass the fees charged for keeping the dog in an apartment and reap other perks of having a service animal. The dog can visit most restaurants and ride in a passenger seat on almost any airline.
The fallout: When owners falsely register their dogs, they are abusing laws meant to assist those who need animals to maintain their health and welfare. Those laws, however, are so vague that abuse has become routine.

Evidence in numbers
In 2011, more than 2,400 emotional-support animals were approved by the National Service Animal Registry, a commercial business that sells certificates, vests and badges for service animals.

In 2013, the business registered 11,000 animals.

No government agency has oversight over this business, and there is no official certification or licensing process in place.

The registry asks an applicant to check a box indicating whether the dog or other pet is a therapy animal, emotional support animal or service animal.

Then the applicant must simply mark another box to demonstrate that the dog can heel on a leash, come when called, not show any signs of aggression, and sit and lie down on command.

Vests and certificates can also be purchased online for about $25.

One reason pet owners can get away with this is the minimal screening required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It defines a service dog as one "individually trained" to "perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability."

The animal's tasks must be directly related to the owner's disability, according to the ADA website.

Just two questions are posed: Is the animal required because of a disability? What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Emotional support animals are covered under the Fair Housing Act, adopted in 1968 as part of civil rights legislation. These are defined as animals that alleviate symptoms of a person's illness. Landlords are required to make reasonable accommodation to permit a handler with disabilities to keep an emotional support animal, even when a landlord's policy explicitly prohibits pets.
The act allows an owner and an emotional support animal to live in housing that prohibits pets, as long as a letter from a doctor or other health professional can be provided.

According to the act, a housing provider also may not ask an applicant or tenant to provide access to medical records or medical providers or provide detailed or extensive information or documentation of a person's physical or mental impairments. Julie Brinkhoff, the associate director of the Great Plains ADA Center, explains that the emotional disability is not always obvious to others. She said that from the technical assistance calls that her ADA Center receives, a lot of people, both tenants with disabilities and landlords, aren't aware of the guidelines in regard to requesting a service/emotional support animal in a housing situation.

"Under the Fair Housing Act, a person could have a small dog whose presence relieves the symptom of depression as an emotional support animal in their apartment, but under the ADA, which covers public places, the dog would not be considered a service animal," she said.

Brinkhoff said that the ADA Center doesn't know the extent of the abuse but is aware that it happens.

Firsthand view
Christie Hunter, the general manager at Campus View Apartments, has witnessed these attempts to bypass existing policies in Columbia.

At the apartment complex she runs now, the pet deposit is $300, and monthly rent increases by $30.

"I had one experience at another complex of an illegal tenant who claimed a service animal, and for that reason we could not fine them for the illegal pet," Hunter said.

Amy Robinson knows firsthand how easy it is. She said she was able to sign up Beau, her 4-month old Shih-Poo, in 15 minutes.
She accessed the National Service Animal Registry website where she supplied simple answers to questions about type of dog, age and name. After paying a $79 fee, Robinson was sent two documents declaring Beau an emotional support dog, along with two pocket-sized cards to easily carry around.

Her apartment complex required a form filled out by a doctor. Because Robinson suffers from anxiety and depression, getting consent from her doctor was easy.

Robinson said she was able to "register" Beau before she even picked up the dog from the breeder. She used a photograph of the puppy as proof. Beau follows her into stores, supermarkets and restaurants.

Robinson can show a laminated card that says "NSAR Certified" with the dog's name and information about emotional service dogs on the back if she is questioned. Robinson said she chose not to buy a vest for Beau.

"Petting a rabbit might make someone feel safe, but that is not a service animal," said TerriAnn Tucker-Warhover, a veterinarian who developed Puppies with Purpose, an organization that trains service dogs.

"It is less of a loophole and more of a confusion, and these companies prey on the confusion," she said. "There is no law that says they can't, and there needs to be."

Normally, training a service dog can cost anywhere from $22,000 to $30,000, as opposed to the $100 it costs to register an emotional support dog.

**Real needs**
Barbara Willis, who is the director of the career services department at the Missouri School of Journalism, knows what it's like to truly depend on the training her service dog has learned. Willis gets severe migraines as the result of a car accident, and her dog, Jeb, would begin to sniff around her head and then lick Willis' ear if she didn't pay attention to the sniffing.

She said she almost became a recluse for fear of another migraine striking without warning.

"I don't know an owner that doesn't get emotional support from their dog. But that isn't the same as what a service dog does for people with a real need," she said.
Willis said she has noticed increased scrutiny on airlines because of the false certification of service dogs.

"Airlines have become more expensive because airlines now require up-to-date records for the service dog and a prescription from a doctor," she said. "It can be expensive to provide the necessary documentation."

Information on the Delta Airlines' website specifies the requirements for flying with a service animal or an emotional support animal. Both are welcome, provided owners supply documentation less than a year old and signed by a mental health professional to confirm any health-related-disability.

**MU does not require students to officially inform the university that they are bringing a support animal to campus.**

**Barbara Hammer, director of the MU Disability Center, said she is certain that students have taken advantage of the blurred lines.**

Hammer said that if it came to their attention that an animal was not a legitimate service animal or emotional support animal, they would inform the student that the animal cannot be permitted on campus. If the animal is clearly not serving in either capacity, then it is considered a pet and MU's pet policy would apply, and pets are not permitted on campus or in residence halls.

"Emotional support animals are fine in homes, but not OK on campus. You are not justified bringing it anywhere with you," Hammer said.

Some steps are being taken to help curb this abuse of the system.

**Grass-roots efforts**
Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit provider of trained assistance animals, began a petition in 2013 and submitted it with more than 17,500 signatures to the Department of Justice, requesting a foolproof method of registration and authority for sales of identification vests and badges.
Hammer said she is aware of the problem but mindful of students who do require service-dog companions.

Hammer said they are doing what they can to educate the campus and work with colleagues to ensure that students with service animals do not experience discrimination, and to ensure that those animals that are brought to campus are legitimate service animals or emotional support animals.

"It is challenging, and I don't think any of us would deny that it's complicated and a gray area," she said.

"I also wouldn't want to see laws make it harder for people who really need these animals, because service dogs perform such an important duty."

Why Men May Not Try To 'Have It All' The Same Way Women Do

The Huffington Post | By Rebecca Adams

It was 1971, and Johns Hopkins University psychology professor Julian Stanley wanted to answer one very big question: How can we set up highly intelligent kids to become highly successful adults?

To find out, he launched a study so extensive he would not live to see its fruition. Stanley set out to track the accomplishments, educational outcomes and well-being of a select group of gifted 13-year-olds over their lives. He recruited 1,037 boys and 613 girls within five years of one another in the 1970s. All were in the top 1 percent when it came to their mathematical reasoning abilities, based on college-level exams they took to qualify for the study. The children, he reasoned, would offer insights into how to help young people grow up to live successful, fulfilling lives.

He called it the Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth. And before his death in 2005, Stanley handed the reigns of the study over to fellow educational psychologist Camilla P. Benbow. Soon after, Benbow enlisted the help of her colleague David Lubinski.

In 2012, Benbow and Lubinski checked back in with the children, now between the ages of 48 and 53. Along with fellow researcher Harrison J. Kell, they administered a survey to find out how the study participants were faring, 40 years after they first tested into that top tier of academic achievers.

The STEM-minded kids didn't disappoint: Eight percent had earned a patent, 2.3 percent were top executives at "name brand" or Fortune 500 companies; 4.1 percent had earned tenure at a major university; 2.4 percent were attorneys at the country's top firms; and 3 percent had published a book.

But what specifically interested the researchers was the difference between how men and women fared:
"We wanted to investigate the lifestyle and psychological orientation required for developing a truly outstanding career and creative production," the researchers wrote in an article accompanying the survey results, published in November in the journal Psychological Science. "When SMPY was launched, many educational and occupational opportunities were just becoming open to women, so we paid particular attention to how mathematically precocious females, relative to males, have constructed their lives over the past 40 years."

So what insights did the high achievers offer?

Even at this level of intelligence, researchers found that the gender gap was real and obvious. Women in the study, as public discourse would suggest, were indeed interested in "having it all." Men were more focused on money than childcare.

But when it comes to "success," the achievers were varied in how they defined it, chased it and lived it out. As Lubinski told The Huffington Post, "There are many different ways to create a satisfying life."

And at the end of the day, there was one place that no difference existed at all: Study participants across the board talked about their family when asked what made their life worth living.

**Gifted men and women who consider themselves successful spend their time very differently.**

What made Stanley's study so unique was the 40 years in which it was conducted: They're four decades during which American women have had unprecedented opportunities for high-level career success. Benbow, Lubinski and Kell asked the adults about how they spent their time, what was important to them, how they saw their contributions to society and what they'd change about their lives if they could.

The male and female participants seemed to start out their lives divvying up their time similarly: As a whole, their education credentials were well above the American average, with about a third earning a bachelor's degree, a third earning a master's degree and another third earning a doctorate.

When they hit the professional level, however, men and women shifted priorities. The men reported working an average of 11 more hours per week than the women in the same age group, who generally stuck to a 40-hour work week. This pattern was flipped when it came to time devoted to family, relatives, homemaking and home maintenance -- women reported spending significantly more time on domestic duties than the men, and planned to keep doing so. Previous, more nationally representative studies have found similar time use patterns among men and women.

The fact that the women reported spending so much time tending to activities outside the office may provide insight into their careers relative to the men's. While the study participants were equally represented in fields like finance, medicine and law, male participants were more likely to be chief executives or work in STEM jobs. Female participants were more likely to work in general business, elementary and secondary education, as well as health care (below the doctoral level). They were also more likely to be homemakers.

"If there's one thing that the talent development literature is very clear on, it's that people with exceptional careers devote an inordinate amount of time to developing their career," Lubinski said. "These are not 40-hour workweek people. People who need more balance in their life are just not going to have as many cutting-edge careers as people who do. There are exceptions, but they're exceptions."

Outside the study, other statistics reflect a similar gender gap in the professional STEM world. According to the National Academy of Sciences, the number of men in science occupations is double the number of women holding similar positions in all degree levels. Women are notable minorities in engineering, computer science and mathematics, and the coverage of women in Silicon Valley is often
framed around understanding what it's like "being a female in a man's world." Headlines about the industry often ask: "Where Are The Women?"

But an equally pressing question might be: Where do they go instead? This year, Pew Research Center found that 10 percent of mothers with a master's degree or higher are choosing to stay home to care for their families, earning the moniker "opt-out moms."

Lubinski said it's quite possible that women are underrepresented in competitive STEM fields due to personal choices made after completing their education. He cited a 2010 study about men and women in STEM that found that the gender discrepancy at the professional level can be attributed to the life choices men and women make, "whether free or constrained."

He also said that STEM disciplines in particular are not easy career paths to step in and out of if one needs to care for children or an elderly parent -- two duties that statistics show more often fall to women. "If you check out for a year or two, you just don't step back into the same stream," Lubinski said. "Technical disciplines are demanding, and the information decay is rapid."

Chalking up the professional gender gap to choice may be a convenient conclusion for those unwilling to consider structural and personal discrimination, but it's not always that simple. A recent study of 25,000 Harvard Business School alumni, another high-achieving group, found that women's high career expectations didn't always manifest when they got married and had children.

A majority of the men and women in the Harvard study said they wanted their careers to be more important or just as important as their spouse's in the context of the partnership. But in reality, the men's careers generally took precedence. The women, as it would happen, took on the brunt of the childcare at the cost of their careers, despite reporting a desire to share at-home responsibilities with their spouses.

The women's career paths might not have been their first choice, but rather their only choice. Just 11 percent of the women from the Harvard study said they voluntarily left the corporate world to focus on childcare. Most respondents said they had found themselves in "unfulfilling roles with dim prospects for advancement," whether that was because they were "mommy-tracked" after maternity leave, branded as unambitious for taking advantage of flex options or simply passed over for promotions.

As a whole, women surveyed in the Harvard study were less satisfied with their careers than the men. But the Harvard study stopped there -- unlike the SMPY study, it didn't attempt to measure what participants valued in life in general. As a result, it's hard to tell whether these women were happy with the overall outcomes of their choices, even if their careers didn't match up with their expectations.

The SMPY study delved into that question.

**High-achieving men and women also value different things, which may affect how their ambitions manifest.**

The SMPY researchers attempted to figure out why their high-achieving men and women made the life choices they did by analyzing the values reported by each gender group. Among the male participants' top values were full-time work, making an impact and earning a high income. Female participants, on the other hand, valued part-time work, community and family involvement, as well as time for close relationships -- in a nutshell: "having it all."

The men and women also tended to have differing life philosophies. According to the study, "Men, on average, were more concerned with being successful in their work and feeling that society should invest in them because their ideas are better than most people's, whereas women felt more strongly that no one
should be without life's necessities." While men focused on contributing to society through personal advancement, women sought to keep society "vibrant and healthy" through various means. (Previous research has found similar gender divides.)

A wage gap among participants may reflect the financial effects of acting on these values: Male participants made significantly more money than female participants, even when part-time workers were taken out of the equation. The men tended to earn more money if they were married, while the women's income remained unchanged whether or not they were married.

On a national scale, women who work full time earn almost 18 percent less than men. Some of that discrepancy can be accounted for when considering the types of full-time jobs that more often go to women, and the number of hours that women are more likely to work. According to a 2013 report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, men in 2012 were almost twice as likely to work more than 40 hours per week, and women were almost twice as likely to work 35 to 39 hours per week. Jobs that require fewer hours or offer more flexibility often come with lower salaries.

The report also noted that 68 percent of women in professional occupations worked in education and health care. The pay in these fields is generally lower than in jobs related to computers and engineering, fields that in 2012 employed 9 percent of women working in "professional and related occupations," but 45 percent of men in that category, the BLS reported. ("Professional and related occupations" includes education, health care, computers, engineering and law.)

**But the sexes have a major unifier: the importance they place on family.**

Men and women in the SMPY study placed equal importance on living in an urban environment, developing intellectual interests and improving the human condition. But the most notable consensus from the study participants was how their feelings of success were tied to the fulfillment they got from family.

"We asked them, 'What do you need for a meaningful life? What makes life worth living for you? What are you mostly proud of?' There were absolutely no sex differences. The men and the women all talked about their families in one way or another," Lubinski said. "That was the most frequent response, and it was twice as more prevalent as anything about their jobs or work."

Most of the study's participants -- 82 percent of males and 76 percent of females -- were married. But while both sexes agreed on the importance of family, they diverged once again when it came to how they contributed to their respective families. Men tended to invest in family through tangible monetary support, while women were more likely to give hands-on emotional support. Rather than focusing on financial contributions, female participants reported being with family in times of critical need.

Of course, these attitudes and behaviors reflect the average man and woman in the study, and Lubinski said that individuals didn't always follow these patterns. But these findings bring up questions about why these educated women were choosing to contribute emotional support in lieu of income. How much of this gendered approach toward family is instinct, and how much is socialization?

"Most informed observers think it's always a combination of predispositions and your cultural milieu," Lubinski said.

**It's hard to tell why men and women tend to have different views on success and fulfillment.**

All in all, female participants in the study saw success as a more holistic objective, valuing a balance of work, family and community life. Male participants, on the other hand, tilted their fulfillment scales heavily toward work.
So what's behind this divide? Are women forced to define success more broadly because they have less opportunity in the workplace? A portion of the survey addressed this question. When participants were asked how much they'd be willing to work if they had their "ideal job," the results were telling: Thirty percent of women were unwilling to work more than 40 hours per week in their dream career, while only 7 percent of men felt the same way.

"[These women] know they could be making a lot more money, but they have other things in their life," Lubinski said.

And they were perfectly happy with their decisions. Men and women in the study all reported positive outlooks on life and rated their life satisfaction high. In other words, men and women's different values or how they spent their time didn't seem to change how successful they thought they were.

"Most of the important things that happen in life involve tradeoffs, and this is what you’re seeing with this study," David C. Geary, a cognitive developmental and evolutionary psychologist at the University of Missouri-Columbia who was not involved in the study, told The Huffington Post in an email.

Geary said that this pattern of men aspiring for cultural success via job prestige and income (at a cost to their social and family life) and women investing more in their social and family life (at a cost to their professional achievements) is one that's seen throughout the world, and may be tied to an evolutionary predisposition related to marriage prospects and children.

Studies have found that women are more attracted to men who display outward signs that they are wealthy. This means some men might feel more pressure to achieve job prestige, to show they're capable of providing for a partner. But this pressure may also be an evolution of the economy, not just biology, as the cost of living increases.

As for the argument that women aren't given a choice in their current work lives, Geary isn't convinced -- especially in the case of the SMPY study, since the women reported being happy in general.

"People who are forced to do things they do not prefer are typically unsatisfied," he said. "If anything, men have fewer options than women -- that is, I suspect the social consequences of not being culturally successful are still larger for men, in terms of women's marriage preferences and in terms of how they are viewed by other men."

At the end of the day, there are many paths to a happy, meaningful life. "People have different preferences. The important thing is to have opportunity and to follow your passion," Lubinski said. "For some people, 'having it all' means the right mix of things."

Lubinski also highlighted that there were individual differences among participants that didn't reflect the average view of their respective gender. There were plenty of women in the study who were working over 40 hours a week, making comparable incomes to men in their field and who were, according to Lubinski, "very, very famous." The study noted that both the male and female participants advanced society, but they took "different paths to their current highly productive and satisfying lives."

In fact, Lubinski said that the sex differences he and his colleagues found in the study were relatively small compared to the individual differences within each group of males and females. The findings, he hopes, will underscore the importance of equal opportunity, whether that means educating young people about the many career paths they can take or providing flexible work situations to welcome a more diverse work force.
After all, if employers in competitive fields don't make it easy or possible for high achievers to make themselves useful, the world could be missing out on the professional contributions and perhaps even life-changing innovations from "precocious" individuals looking to "have it all."

"It's important to give people opportunities to develop their talent to the extent that they want to, because we have a lot of men and women here that are making wonderful contributions," Lubinski said.

"When you have people at this ability level, what they could do in 20 hours a week is tremendous relative to a lot of people. I think there are going to be opportunities for them on the horizon that we can only fantasize about now."

Columbia Public Schools receives USDA grant

By KYLE NORRIS • 7 HOURS AGO

Columbia middle school students will be seeing more locally grown foods on their plates after the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded the district a $100,000 grant.

The grant is not just aimed to bring more fresh fruits and vegetables to Columbia youth. The district will partner with the University of Missouri Extension to help preserve local produce to provide to students when not in-season and reach out to more locally-owned farms to purchase their fruits and vegetables.

Columbia Public Schools Nutritional Services Director Laina Fullum said that locally grown foods taste better for multiple reasons.

"It is typically picked on time, it doesn't travel very far and the shelf life is better," she said. "If things tend to taste better, then I believe that students are more apt to go back and eat an item again. And that's what we are hoping for, taste better, eat more of it."

University of Missouri Extension Associate Cindy DeBlauw said that if the fruits and vegetables taste better, then kids will eat more of them. Ultimately, that will help them cut calories out of their diet and it will help the battle with obesity in children.
The grant will also help to expand education of the growth of these foods and their nutritional value.

"We hope that there is a connection the kids get with their food and to understand where their food comes from and the people that are growing it and preparing it," DeBlauw said.

The grant will cover 82 projects nationwide and will cost more than $5 million.

Forum to focus on religious symbol on Boone County memorial

Monday, December 8, 2014 at 4:12 pm

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring a public forum Tuesday night on a controversial county government decision and constitutional law.

The forum, at 7 p.m. in the Friends Room of the Columbia Public Library, 100 W. Broadway, will focus on the Boone County Commission’s order to cover a Christian symbol called an “ichthus” from a Gulf War memorial outside the county courthouse, according to a Boone County Commission news release. The memorial lists the names of two Boone County residents killed in the war.

David Lile of Cumulus Radio will moderate the discussion. Professor Bill Fisch, who taught constitutional law at the University of Missouri, will give an overview of the law as it applies to religious symbols on public property before Bart Tichenor and Brent Hayden present opposing viewpoints on the legality of having the symbol on the monument.

Lile will present audience questions to the panelists.