Program shows advanced practice registered nurses better for nursing homes

Generated from News Bureau press release: Nursing Home Improvement Program Identifies Ways to Improve Care for People with Heart Disease

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/news/program-shows-advanced-practice-registered-nurses-better-for-nursing-homes

COLUMBIA - Results from the Missouri Quality Initiative for Nursing Homes (MOQI), show that advanced practice registered nurses, or APRNs, in nursing homes might help improve the health of nursing home residents with heart disease.

MOQI is a partnership between the University of Missouri and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and provides full-time APRNs to work in participating nursing homes.

An APRN is a nurse with advanced qualifications, oftentimes a doctorate, and is good at managing chronic illnesses, according to Dr. Marilyn Rantz, a Curators professor at the Sinclair School of Nursing.

"Anytime you add additional education, one becomes better prepared to learn the skills that are necessary to more advanced practice," Rantz said. "And be able to better manage people with complex chronic illnesses."

Rantz said that in the first three years of the program, potentially avoidable hospitalizations have decreased by over 30 percent.

"Through early illness recognition we can manage people very well in the nursing homes and help reduce avoidable hospitalizations and those costs." Rantz said.

Rantz said heart disease is very common among older adults.
"APRNs and the nursing homes staff are particularly good at managing congestive heart failure and managing other heart problems that people in nursing homes have." Rantz said.

Rantz said APRNs can also help other staff in nursing homes learn how to detect changes in condition very early.

"Little, subtle things that happen with older adults," Rantz said. "You can detect those things early, and treat those problems when the problems are small."

Rantz said anytime extra education is added, a person becomes better prepared to learn the skills that are necessary to more advanced practice.

Rantz said she thinks APRNs should be in every nursing home.

"It would go a long way to improving the quality of care," Rantz said. "As well as reducing the cost."

Rantz said APRNs help reduce the number of avoidable hospitalizations, which would cover the cost of the APRN.

Rantz said the program will continue for four more years so the payment methods associated with bringing in APRNs to nursing homes can be studied.

**Clips continued onto next page.**
United spreads its wings
Service to Chicago and Denver begins in August

By Megan Favignano
Columbia Daily Tribune

United Airlines this summer will begin daily flights out of Columbia Regional Airport to Denver and Chicago.

Columbia and United Airlines officials said at a news conference Monday that starting Aug. 1 the airline will begin a daily flight to Denver International Airport and twice-daily flights to Chicago O’Hare International Airport, adding that reservations for both flights are available for booking.

Mayor Brian Treece described the airport as a “catalyst” for Columbia’s economy.

“Denver to Columbia now provides additional opportunities for people from the western United States to travel to Columbia and Mid-Missouri to conduct business, to go to college, to receive affordable class health care and lifesaving treatment, as well as enjoy our premier cultural activities,” Treece said.

Andrew Bell, United Airlines sales manager for Missouri, said the airline will use CRJ200 regional jet aircrafts that seat 50 people each. He said the early August start will enable some students at the University of Missouri and other area colleges to fly into the airport for the fall session.

“Students returning and those freshmen coming in, we would welcome them on United Airlines,” Bell said.

Bell described Denver as a “western gateway” with a variety of connecting flights. Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes said a passenger demand analysis indicates a need for flights to these cities.

“I believe that the market is starving for more flights,” Matthes said.

The announcement comes at a time when Columbia is looking to add another terminal to its airport. Voters approved a 1 percent increase to the city’s hotel gross receipts tax in August, which will provide $10 million toward the $38 million project to build a new terminal and facilities at the airport.

The city, Matthes said, is always communicating with airlines about additional flights at the Columbia airport. Even with the addition of United, Matthes said, unserved demand remains.

“There’s room to grow,” Matthes said. “The pinch in the pipeline right now is the terminal.”

Treece said he believes customers would like to see flight connections to Phoenix, Atlanta or Charlotte, N.C. But any additional flight service depends on a new terminal. Treece said he has been pushing city staff to seek bids for the new terminal project by the end of the year.

American Airlines currently is the only airline serving Columbia Regional Airport. United’s flights to Chicago will be in addition to the
Chicago flight American Airlines already offers. Treece said the city discussed the potential deal with American Airlines and that both airlines recognized competition is inevitable and "ultimately good."

"I think competition is good, and this is great news for consumers. Adding two additional flights to Chicago is clearly going to give consumers more choices when it comes to both schedules but also choice of seats," Treece said. "I think adding the total number of seats on those two Chicago legs is only going to enhance price competitiveness, too."

Treece said the airport served a record number of passengers last month and has seen an 85 percent growth in passenger counts since 2010. Treece mentioned a recent land deal between the city and Colorado-based Aurora Organic Dairy, which plans to build a manufacturing plant that could create as many as 150 jobs. He said those new jobs and the addition of United Airlines send a message that Columbia, Boone County and Mid-Missouri are "a great place to expand and relocate and grow and invest."

Brian Neuner, chairman of the

Boone Hospital Center Board of

Trustees and Joe Machens Dealerships' director of business development and public relations, described the addition of United Airlines as a "very positive development."

"Just on the basis of recruiting top-level talent, we've got a greater access point now," he said.

Former Mayor Bob McDavid, who championed airport causes during his terms, said American Airlines has helped the airport achieve the growth evidenced by United stepping onto the flight schedule.

Though the city owns the airport, the airlines are responsible for staffing, Matthes said. Bell said he did not have information on jobs related to the airline offering services in Columbia.

Columbia is among 31 new destinations for United Airlines service in the United States and Europe, according to a news release.

Reporter Jodie Jackson contributed to this report.

mjkwarignone@crow-
biatribune.com
573-815-1719
United adds Denver, Chicago flights at Columbia

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — United Airlines plans to add daily flights from Columbia Regional Airport in mid-Missouri to both Denver and Chicago beginning this summer.

Columbia officials said at a news conference Monday that starting Aug. 1, one flight daily to Denver International Airport and two daily to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport will fly from Columbia.

Andrew Bell, United's sales manager for Missouri, says the airline will use 50-seat CRJ200 regional jets. He says starting flights in August will allow University of Missouri students to fly directly to Columbia for the fall semester.

American Airlines is currently the only airline serving the airport.
MU Students Will Vote on an Additional Fee to 'Enhance Mizzou'

By Monica Harris

MU students could be paying more out of pocket for upkeep of student life as soon as fall 2017. The student services enhancement fee is a referendum to current MU student activity fees up for vote in March. It aims to improve MU’s campus community and facilities by putting funds into needed areas of improvement and maintenance.

The areas the money will go to is based on a 2016 satisfaction survey conducted by the Division of Student Affairs.

Enhance Mizzou is a campaign under the Division of Student Affairs dedicated to sharing the information and data necessary to make an educated vote on the fee.

It simplified the fee into six benefits:

- Extended library hours
- Improved access to mental health services
- Expanded wireless access across campus
- Expanded technology for learning spaces
- Well-maintained student learning spaces and heavily-used facilities
- Continued access to a variety of social and educational programs outside the classroom

Lead communications coordinator for Enhance Mizzou Shane Stinson, said along with presentations to student organizations they are also setting up information tables in places like the library to “[try] to target some of those places where students are impacted by the fee.”
Along with in-person communications, Enhance Mizzou is heavily implementing social media in the initiative. It uses platforms like Twitter to release additional data related to the benefits.

The Associated Students of the University of Missouri, Mizzou Chapter – President, Chris Dade said paying more money through a new student fee “isn’t ideal, but it’s the best answer to a lot of the issues we have on campus.”

At a rate of $2.91 per credit hour the student services enhancement fee will cap at $35 per semester for a full-time undergraduate student. Graduate and professional students would max out at a full-time fee of $26.19 per semester.

Students will begin voting on the referendum in addition to Missouri Student Association elections online or at polling stations on campus March 6 through March 8.

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MU Professors Receive Grant to Conduct Research During Solar Eclipse

By Tess Vrbin

Around 1 p.m. on August 21, the sky will go dark over Columbia. But Dr. Angela Speck, director of astronomy and professor of Astrophysics at the University of Missouri, says darkness is not the only result of a total solar eclipse.

“When an eclipse happens, it’s not just, ‘Oh, we can see stars during the day,’” Speck said. “There’s also an effect on the temperature of the atmosphere, on how that cooling affects what the atmosphere does.”

Speck and MU Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Science Bo Svoma are the lead researchers on a project they will conduct during the eclipse. Earlier this month, NASA awarded them a grant of about $50,000 for their research.
Speck said part of the reason they received the grant is because she co-chairs a national task force of astronomers and other professionals who are preparing for the eclipse. She is traveling the state giving speeches to recruit about 50 volunteers from the public, or “citizen scientists,” to measure the air temperature in Columbia before, during and after the eclipse.

Svoma wrote the grant proposal and will direct the research after the volunteers collect the temperature data. He said they will hang temperature sensors from trees and record the air temperature over a five-day period, with the eclipse happening on the third day.

The weather in August is expected to be sunny, but Svoma said the researchers will still be able to collect workable data even if it’s overcast or rainy during the collection period.

He said scientists will be able to use the temperature data to ensure the accuracy of weather models.

“We can take an atmospheric model and put a solar eclipse into it, but we wouldn’t know for sure if the model worked correctly,” Svoma said. “We can only get a data set like this during an eclipse, so it’s kind of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, really.”

MU holds clinic for free MMR vaccine amid mumps outbreak, supplies limited

By Kelsey Kerwin

COLUMBIA, Mo - The University of Missouri is giving out free doses of the mumps vaccine again Tuesday, but supplies are limited.

A free clinic is happening Tuesday from 10:00 to 4:00 on the main floor of the student center.

Students can also get that shot at the same time and place on Thursday.

The health center gave out 1300 shots of the MMR vaccination at its clinic last week, but they only have about 700 left.

MU has seen 350 confirmed and probable cases since the fall semester.
Mizzou has to go 50 days without a confirmed case of the mumps to be considered "mumps free."

Missouri Representative proposes charter schools


No MU Mention

JEFFERSON CITY - A proposed bill will introduce the idea of charter schools in the state of Missouri.

Missouri law currently states charter schools are only allowed in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. House Bill 634 looks to change that.

Representative Rebecca Roeber (R.) proposed the bill, and it calls for the process to begin creating charter schools in mid-Missouri. According to the house bill, the charter school would be organized as a Missouri nonprofit corporation.

Charter schools would also have the opportunity to affiliate with a four-year university or college, including a private college or university, or a specified community college.

"Affiliation status recognizes a relationship between the charter school and the college or university for purposes of teacher training and staff development, curriculum and assessment development, use of physical facilities owned by or rented on behalf of the college or university, and other similar purposes. A university, college or community college may not charge or accept a fee for affiliation status," HB643 states.
Jefferson City Public Schools and Columbia Public Schools would not comment on the affect this would have on their schools.

A hearing will be held by the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee to hear concerns over HB634.

The Washington Post

Taking a lawbreaking past out of college applications

By Ovetta Wiggins

The rejection notices from the graduate programs at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Missouri didn’t offer Stanley Andrisse an explanation. But the former drug dealer thinks he knows why the schools turned him down: He checked the box on the application that asked whether he’d been convicted of a crime.

It took a former professor personally vouching for him before he finally won admission to St. Louis University, where he earned a doctorate.

“I am a convicted felon,” Andrisse, now a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, told Maryland lawmakers this month at a hearing on whether the state should forbid questions about criminal records on college applications. “But I am also a doctor, a scientist. . . a youth mentor, a published author and many other things. Eliminating me before you know all of these other great things is an injustice to society.”

A bill being debated by the General Assembly would make Maryland the first state to prohibit public and private colleges and universities from including questions about criminal history on their applications. Admissions offices could still ask applicants who have been accepted whether they have been convicted of a crime, but could not withdraw an offer of admission based on the answer.

Advocates say having the question on applications can disqualify some candidates and scare away others. Getting rid of it, in their view, would be the next step in Maryland’s quest to level the criminal justice playing field and help felons remake their lives.
Opponents, including some college administrators, say the question yields valuable information about potential students and would be hard to excise from application forms, given that many institutions rely on the Common Application, which asks about criminal history.

“I think it is in the campuses’ best interest to know,” said Sen. James Brochin (D-Baltimore County), a member of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and a former adjunct professor at Towson University. “Rape, murder, inappropriate contact with a minor — that’s pretty relevant stuff. Misdemeanors, theft under $100 — not so much.”

The push to remove questions about criminal convictions is part of a broader criminal justice reform effort underway in Maryland and across the country. More than a dozen states, including Maryland, already prohibit most public employers from inquiring about past convictions on job applications, though they can ask after agreeing to interview a prospective employee. Two years ago, Gov. Larry Hogan (R) signed the Second Chance Act, which shields certain nonviolent offenses from online criminal records.

But despite a strong effort from advocates, and a push by the administration of former president Barack Obama, no states so far have taken the additional step of “banning the box” on college applications. New York is considering a bill similar to Maryland’s, according to state legislative analysts, and the State University of New York and the University of California system have removed the question from applications on their own.

Sen. Joan Conway (D-Baltimore), the lead sponsor of the Senate version of the bill, said she expects an amended version of the proposal to be approved by the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, which she chairs. Del. Maggie McIntosh (D-Baltimore), House bill sponsor and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, also anticipates the measure receiving a favorable vote in her committee.

Both lawmakers said the legislation would remove an obstacle that keeps convicts out of college, but would still allow universities to get the information that they need later in the admissions process.

“I do think the question inhibits many of them from even applying. And that is really the point that we’re trying to make and the hurdle we’re trying to overcome,” McIntosh said.

Del. Erek Barron (D-Prince George’s), a co-sponsor, said that having a question about past convictions on a college applications constitutes “unnecessary scrutiny” of ex-offenders.

“We expect Marylanders who have criminal histories to have learned their lesson and move on to productive, positive citizenship,” Barron said. “But [they] are often thwarted when they encounter college applications that ask if they have ever been convicted of crimes.”

Some legislators argue that the measure may be too broad. During a recent hearing, they questioned whether the state should impose the law on private universities, whether schools should be able to rescind an applicant’s acceptance after a background check is conducted and whether it made sense not to know if applicants have been charged with violent crimes.
“The institutions have a responsibility for their students and their safety,” said Sen. Bryan W. Simonaire (R-Anne Arundel), a member of Conway’s committee.

More than 600 colleges across the country use the Common Application, which has asked applicants about their criminal history since 2006. After the Obama administration urged colleges last year to consider dropping the question, the Common Application changed its wording but continued to ask about criminal convictions.

Joann Boughman, senior vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University System of Maryland, testified against the bill. Responding “yes” to the question does not disqualify an applicant from being admitted, Boughman said. Rather, it allows a college or university to assess the applicant’s qualifications, provide support and guide the applicant on fields of study.

A 2013 survey of 50 Maryland colleges showed that 40 percent included a question about criminal history on their online applications. Natalie J. Sokoloff, a professor emerita of sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice who conducted the study, found that private and four-year colleges were more likely to include the question than other institutions.

The applications from prospective students with criminal histories were forwarded to a special review committee, Sokoloff said, and most schools offered an appeals process to applicants who were rejected because of their past.

Among those who testified in support of the bill was Chris Wilson, who was sentenced to life in prison for first-degree murder in 1997, when he was barely 18. While locked up, he learned foreign languages and earned his high school equivalency and an associate’s degree.

Wilson was released in 2011 and was admitted to the University of Baltimore after writing a letter to the admissions office to explain his incarceration. Today, he owns a construction company and a furniture restoration business. He employees other ex-offenders and is still taking university courses so he can earn a bachelor’s degree.

“I wouldn’t be here if I didn’t get a second chance,” Wilson told lawmakers.

Andrisse testified that going to graduate school was a “game-changer” for him, one that he said would have come much more easily had he not been asked about criminal convictions on his applications.

“As small as that one sentence may be, it is a mountainous barrier to someone like myself,” Andrisse said.
Warm weather crimps flow of sap — and syrup — at MU maple grove

DAPHNE PSALEDAKIS, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — It's nicknamed the "sugar bush."

The grove of about 130 maple trees on a knoll east of Ashland bears the marks of maple syrup production: plastic buckets and bags for collecting the thin sap that's boiled down to make the familiar sweetener.

Some of the bigger trees have two buckets on either side. A couple inches of sap lined the bottoms of a few on Feb. 18, but most were empty.

Unseasonably warm temperatures have put a dent in syrup production this winter at the Baskett Wildlife Research and Education Center. The 100 gallons of sap that became almost two gallons of syrup earlier this month was the second batch of the season, and probably the last.

This year, only around 200 gallons of sap was collected — about half of the yearly average.

The research center usually collects 400 to 500 gallons of sap over the course of the season that runs from the end of January through early to mid-March, when temperatures are below freezing at night and above freezing during the day.

The syrup produced from the "sugar bush" sap is given as thank-you's to students who volunteer for the production process. Benjamin Knapp, superintendent of the research center, hopes to take produce to a commercial level.

"We've had ideas of working with local restaurants, or the university has the bed and breakfast that they manage," Knapp said. "But, at this point, those are all ideas."
To produce maple syrup commercially the center would have to receive permission from MU as well as identify and efficiently tap the trees that produce the most sap, among other changes.

Some of the equipment needed to produce on a commercial level is already in place. When the center began producing maple syrup in 2012, commercial-grade boiling equipment was purchased for around $10,000.

It includes a large pan system run by a wood-burning fire used for the "big" boil and a smaller, propane operated pan used for "small" boils.

When the sap is collected, it only has a sugar content of 2 to 3 percent, looks like dirty water and has about the same consistency. To turn the sap into maple syrup, it goes through a two-step boiling process.

The first "big" boil is done once 80 or more gallons of syrup has been collected; it boils down until it has reached sugar content of 30 to 40 percent.

The second "small" boil is the final step to make the sap into maple syrup that is thick, sticky and has a whopping sugar content of 66 percent.

Maple syrup production in Missouri in the past has been a feat undertaken by hobbyists who tapped trees in their backyard and boiled the sap on their stove, Hank Stelzer, MU state forestry extension specialist, said.

It's nothing like the large-scale maple syrup production that's famous in the Northeast and Vermont.

As more people in Missouri realize that they have maple trees on their property, Stelzer said, they're beginning to take advantage of the untapped potential for homemade maple syrup.

"There's a lot of interest," Stelzer said. "I'd say there's more now than there's ever been."
New stickers downtown remind cyclists to stick to the streets

DAPHNE PSALEDAKIS, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Warm February weather has brought with it stickers on sidewalks downtown reminding bicyclists to stick to the streets.

GetAbout Columbia and The District worked together to create the stickers and place them on downtown sidewalks to remind people that riding bikes on sidewalks in a business district is against city ordinance.

"With so many people coming in and out of businesses and not seeing a bike, an accident is bound to happen," Katie Essing, director of The District, said.

**Bicyclists still ride on sidewalks from time to time even though it's a violation, Essing said. Part of the reason might be that it's not illegal to ride bikes on sidewalks on the MU campus, and riders may not be aware that once they are downtown they can no longer do so, Essing said.**

Newcomers to Columbia might also be unaware of the ordinance, Janet Godon, GetAbout Columbia planner, said.

"I know of a lot of complaints from people who are walking and complain about cyclists going too fast or a potential for a dangerous situation," Godon said.

The city ordinance mandates that bike riders in business districts in Columbia not ride on sidewalks, give right-of-way to pedestrians and audibly signal to a pedestrian if they are about to pass them.
The District and GetAbout Columbia bought 70 stickers that would attract the attention of cyclists and stick out among the "cluttered" signs downtown to inform them about the city ordinance. The stickers cost $12.50 each.

Last year, GetAbout Columbia worked on a similar project using chalk stencils on sidewalks. They decided with The District this year to use stickers that look nicer and last longer.

"Usually, this time of year there's more people out riding their bike and it's a good time to get that reminder out," Essing said.