



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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The Washington Post

Why all parents should care about arts education

By Jill Coody Smits

When we think about “the arts,” often we go huge: the Louvre, Broadway, Swan Lake, Picasso. Perhaps without even realizing it, though, many parents instinctively know the value of the arts and incorporate them into our children’s lives in much smaller ways. Otherwise, why would we give our toddlers that first pack of crayons?

A few weeks ago, my 10-year-old daughter joined about 20 other tweens on a grand university stage for the culmination of six months of hard work with our citywide youth orchestra. Finely dressed in black bottoms and white shirts, the string ensemble snapped their bows to attention when their conductor raised her baton, then played the heck out of “Entry of the Tumblers.”

Though the performance was a thrill, in the context of an entire childhood it is hard to tease out how important the arts are to our kids’ lives and well-beings. I would like to think, however, that this recital will be remembered as some kind of turning point for my performance-averse child, who initially threatened to throw her audition.

I won’t know how accurate my theory is for quite some time, but there is a mounting collection of research that suggests arts education can have a powerful influence on kids in areas ranging from critical thinking and math skills to multicultural understanding and confidence.

Brian Kisida, assistant research professor at the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, says the arts can give kids who may not be math whizzes or star athletes a place to excel, and finding that place to shine leads to all-important engagement. “There are correlational studies that show kids enrolling in high school arts programs are more likely to graduate and go to college.”

In addition, he says the arts can have the larger societal effect of increasing tolerance and empathy. “Art has a broadening effect because it presents a perspective on reality that challenges preconceived ideas and makes kids look at something from outside their comfort zone.”

Conversation Starter

On March 3 in Columbia, Mo., about 1,400 high school students got to experience that broadening effect when they attended the True/False Film Festival screening of “I Am Not Your Negro.” The screening was followed by a Q&A with film producer Hébert Peck, and the festival’s Education and Outreach Director Allison Coffelt said students submitted more than 200 questions. While a few were most curious about what it was like to work with Samuel Jackson, she says there were many “powerful questions asking what they could do and how they fit into this American history that shows the truth about our racist past.”

It’s an important conversation to have in our complex society, and one that probably would not have happened without a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant that made the screening—as well as other arts-education projects the Festival does with Columbia’s Ragtag Cinema and local public schools—possible. Coffelt describes that grant as “essential” to the work they do.

Art for All, Everywhere

Coffelt’s organization isn’t alone. The NEA is a 52-year-old government agency formed to give all Americans the opportunity to engage in the arts. It supports more than 2,000 programs, including arts education programs in every Congressional district, and they do it all on less than [\\$150 million, accounting for just 0.003](#) percent of the federal budget in 2016.

In Lexington, Ky., for example, the Music on the Northside Initiative provided kids with free weekly music lessons and bluegrass group lessons focused on Appalachian-style music. Tulsa elementary students were taken to see a Tulsa Symphony presentation of “This Land is Your Land: A Celebration of Woody Guthrie.” Central and South Louisiana students learned about bullying during a Shreveport Opera Xpress performance of “The Ugly Duckling.”

Arts Education Under Threat

Unfortunately, programs like these are under threat because President Trump’s current budget proposal recommends [eliminating the NEA altogether](#). It would be a serious blow, especially when many underfunded school districts are already scaling back arts programs.

Karen LaShelle is executive director of Creative Action, an Austin nonprofit that uses the arts to support the academic, social and emotional development of more than 20,000 kids. The organization relies on NEA funds for specific programs, and she says there is a tangible payoff for investment in arts education that kids can’t get in a typical learning environment. “Those who participate in the arts are more likely to do well in math and science and be involved in civics.

They benefit from social-emotional learning that helps them manage their emotions, be aware of themselves and succeed later in life.”

Beyond the individual benefits, though, LaShelle says she has been mulling over what it would mean philosophically to have — or not have — federally funded arts programs. “What would it mean to us as a civilization to not have these moments of joy and culture and collective coming together?”

Many parents, grandparents and friends recently got to experience the joy of that “collective coming together” as 20 tweens played the heck out of “Entry of the Tumblers.” My hope is that we won’t as a nation dismiss “the arts” — these everyday achievements that have the potential to make our children smarter, more open, more enriched, more confident, happier — as unessential. They are much more valuable than a Picasso on a wall.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Choi: University of Missouri ‘builds credibility’ with lab finance plan

By Rudi Keller

Tapping the state treasury no longer will be an essential element of University of Missouri construction plans, freeing strategic goals from political timetables and at the same time impressing on state leaders that help is welcome at any time, President Mun Choi said in an interview last week.

Since he assumed his duties March 1, the university has implemented \$101 million in budget cuts across the system and reduced the number of positions in the budget by about 500 jobs. Part of the money cut was to cover reductions in state aid. Part was the result of lower tuition revenue. But the biggest piece, \$39.1 million, was to make money available for big plans Choi said he is determined to see through.

In the capital construction request approved Friday by the UM Board of Curators, the university is asking for \$150 million to support campus redevelopment and a \$200 million building called the Translational Precision Medicine Complex.

“That is going to be the keystone building for the university’s efforts at integrating bioengineering with medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing and health professions,” Choi said.

“It is going to be key to our growth and key to our opportunities to attract faculty members, students, and new research investments from federal agencies as well as from corporate donors.”

And while the request now goes forward to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and from there to Gov. Eric Greitens for consideration, Choi said he has no expectation that money will be available in the coming year. That is, however, his timetable for announcing how it will be built.

He expects, “probably over a period of a year, for us to come up with a plan and a campaign to have plans for funding this building using both private as well as institutional funds,” Choi said.

Greitens’ first veto rejected a legislative resolution directing the state to borrow \$48 million to pay half the cost of a new arts and music campus for UMKC. Hours before the veto, Choi issued a statement that the campus would be built without state funding.

In the past, the university has treated major educational, research and general needs buildings as a state responsibility, Vice President for Finance Ryan Rapp told the curators Friday.

The university must accept that the state is short of money now and is likely to remain so, Choi said. But he isn’t dismissing the notion that moving ahead on major projects without state support can have a long-term political benefit.

“I think it builds credibility with members of the state legislature as well as other elected officials in the state, including the governor, that we are very serious about doing our business in a very strategic manner and placing our resources where the highest priorities are,” Choi said.

The university’s image in Jefferson City has taken a beating the past three years. Relations soured before the campus November 2015 protests that ended with the resignation of Tim Wolfe. In February 2015, Wolfe angered lawmakers by complaining to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial board that Missouri was on [“a race to the bottom”](#) because of tax cuts favored by the Republican-majority legislature.

State Treasurer Eric Schmitt, then a state senator, called the remark “a little bit insulting to working families” and said Wolfe’s time would “be better spent doing a thorough review of the system.”

Despite the anger, the university did fairly well in the appropriations process, in large part because then-Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, chaired the Senate Appropriations Committee. While there were some punitive cuts after the protests, the overall state appropriation increased. The state’s current fiscal crunch developed since July 1, 2016, as revenues failed to meet projections.

A major university initiative without state help will help repair the system’s image with lawmakers, state Sen. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia wrote in a text message.

“Given the tough financial outlook for the state, seeing UM take the lead in an initiative like this shows we are looking to the future and adjusting to the evolving landscape of higher education around the country,” he wrote.

Republicans hold more than two-thirds of state legislative seats and their 14-year grip on a majority does not seem to be in danger. That conservative leadership is looking for initiative from the university, Rowden wrote.

“Embracing our mission to enhance the research capacity and footprint will be greeted warmly, and something I would hope the legislature would be eager to be a partner in.”

The last major research building constructed in Columbia was the [Bond Life Sciences Center](#), completed in 2004 at a cost of \$60 million. Half the money was supplied by earmarked funds in the federal budget, provided by the center’s namesake, former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond.

Moving ahead on the lab will show the university’s own priorities drive fundraising and spending, curator David Steelman said.

“We are going to figure out a way and there is a very simple reason — we are a unique university in terms of graduate schools all on one campus, with a nuclear reactor,” Steelman said. “We are in a unique position to take advantage of those different disciplines and cutting edge research.”

While the lab is a new request, the list sent to the coordinating board also included repeats. One was for Schrenk Hall renovations and construction on the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus in Rolla. The university is seeking \$54 million. In a request submitted in 2014, the university sought \$28.5 million.

At the curators meeting, recently appointed member Jeff Layman of Springfield noted the project had no campus funding allocated or private support. He asked how long it had been on the list, and the reply from Steelman was 20 years. Layman asked if it was really a priority, if nothing has been done because lawmakers wouldn’t fund it.

Layman operates a Morgan Stanley financial advising firm in Springfield and was Greitens’ finance director for the 2016 campaign. Greitens [appointed him to the board](#) with his first round of nominations.

Layman said Schrenck Hall is an example of how the university must change its priorities.

“The university needs strong leadership, and I can tell you the Board of Curators is committed to helping provide that leadership,” he said.

Greitens has two more vacancies to fill on the board.

“The governor was very clear that things need to be done differently in order to turn the university around,” Layman said. “Everyone recognizes we have serious challenges and that’s why we’re here. We’re taking strong action.”

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University of Missouri curators request \$253 million for building needs

By Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri Board of Curators voted Friday to ask state lawmakers for \$253 million for building needs but not before discussing whether the UM System is asking for the right amounts for the right reasons.

The biggest project is the Translational Precision Medicine Complex on the Columbia campus, a \$200 million science building that is President Mun Choi's top priority for attracting new researchers and new grants to MU. The university is seeking \$150 million from lawmakers for the building and associated renovations of existing buildings.

The list also includes a project for each of the other four campuses — renovation of a chemistry and biology building at UMKC, space consolidation and infrastructure needs at UMSL and a new wing and renovations of existing space in Schrenk Hall at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The request will now go to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education for approval and submission to Gov. Eric Greitens for consideration in the budget to be sent to lawmakers in January.

At the board's September meeting, a new plan for setting capital priorities will be up for a vote, Curator David Steelman said. It is being developed by a working group of curators and administrators and is intended to give the curators a bigger voice in the process.

"This will be the last, I hope, capital appropriation request done in this manner by the board and even this request is not the old way of doing business," Steelman said.

In the past, the administration of each campus identified a priority project and sent a request forward to the system offices. If lawmakers didn't fund it, it would remain the top priority. The total cost for the projects included in the request is \$357.6 million, with the university promising to raise \$104.6 million.

After Steelman, who lives in Rolla, said he was disappointed that Schrenk Hall had no associated fundraising, he was asked how long it had been on the list as the top priority for the campus.

"About 20 years," he replied.

"Obviously if it has been a priority for 20 years it is not really a priority," Curator Jeff Layman said.

With the state short of money and the university feeling the pressure of reduced operating appropriations, curators questioned whether the list should be pared even further.

“It seems if we are going to ask for money to fund our most important projects, or enhance MU’s AAU status, it just seems a couple of these should fall off,” Curator Darryl Chatman said. “Why should we go with four when we could go with two? Why aren’t we going ahead with our two most important projects?”

The AAU, or American Association of Universities, is a body of 60 top research universities in the United States and Canada that includes 36 public universities. The most recent publicly released internal rankings showed MU near the bottom of public university members in a number of categories including competitive research grants. Two universities, the University of Nebraska and Syracuse University, lost their membership in 2011.

Choi told the board that maintaining MU’s membership is a top priority and the Translational Precision Medicine Complex is part of that effort. It will be a collaborative research space for medicine, engineering, veterinary medicine and other disciplines.

“That is critical,” Choi said. “The AAU status of Mizzou does translate into prestige for the other campuses.”

The discussions of how to fund campus building needs requires a new focus, Vice President for Finance Ryan Rapp said. In the past, the university relied on the state to provide money before moving ahead with education or general needs buildings while financing construction of residence halls, athletic facilities and other needs from borrowed and donated funds.

Now, the university is trying to figure out how to fund its educational and research building needs without waiting for state lawmakers.

“If we as curators believe these are our top projects, we will want these funded with or without the state’s support,” Curator Jamie Farmer said.

MISSOURIAN

UM Board of Curators asks state for \$150 million for MU project

EDWARD MCKINLEY, Jul 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — Mun Choi, the UM System president, was authorized Friday to send in a state funding request for educational buildings at each campus.

The Board of Curators met Friday morning in Ellis library's teleconference room, and they voted unanimously for Choi to send in the request. The request is for fiscal year 2019, which will begin on July 1, 2018, so the talks revolved around potential funding after that date.

The request listed priority projects for each of the four UM system campuses. The main item of discussion, and the most expensive of the projects, was MU's planned Translational Precision Medicine Complex.

Translational medicine focuses on research to discover new ways of diagnosing or treating health problems and also instituting those new techniques on actual patients.

With the recent big cuts made to the Missouri higher education budget, the curators said it is unlikely that these projects will be immediately funded, but they believe it is important for their request to be officially made nonetheless.

MU's translational medicine complex is expected to cost about \$250 million, \$100 million coming from the school and \$150 million asked for from the state. It is estimated to generate over \$500 million in economic impact and create 3,860 jobs, [according to the appropriations request](#).

MU has taken preliminary steps for the new translational medicine complex to be built on the site of the former International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine, [which was closed at the end of June](#).

MU is one of the 62 members of the Association of American Universities. This means it is considered a leading research institution across the U.S. and Canada. The other three UM System campuses benefit from MU's status as an AAU university, so investing in a new research facility at MU helps the whole system indirectly, curators said. For this reason, the translational medicine complex is the top capital funding priority for the system, they said.

Several times throughout the meeting the curators referenced their July 18 and 19 retreat in Columbia, which Maurice Graham, the chair of the board of curators, described as one of the

most constructive curator meetings he has ever participated in. At Friday's meeting, Graham emphasized the need for the capital appropriations request to include projects from all four campuses in order to continue the spirit of intra-system cooperation that was a focus of that [retreat](#).

All four campuses are represented in the appropriations request. The Kansas City campus and Missouri University of Science and Technology are each requesting funds for renovations of their chemistry and biological sciences buildings, and the St. Louis campus is requesting funds for "space consolidation and infrastructure."

Ryan Wrapp, the system's chief financial officer, emphasized the need for the system to move away from a reliance on state funding for school buildings. In the past, the state would fund new buildings entirely, he said, but now they need to move toward targeted fundraising, partnerships with private businesses, or fund-matching with the state.

Curator Jeffrey Layman pointed out the possibility of a future federal infrastructure bill that could provide additional funding for public universities. President Donald Trump has repeatedly called for such a bill, though lately Congress has been mainly focused on health care, and the president has not unveiled any major infrastructure bill.

Choi described the request to the state as the first step in a dialogue and as a "give and take." With the four campuses' top priorities formally submitted to the state, when there is money to spend the state will know exactly what the campuses hope to use it for, he said.

It was pointed out that, historically, funding has come to the system often when it is not expected, so the process of requesting the funding is still important even if it feels extremely unlikely.



UM Curators to ask state for more than \$250 million for capital projects

By: Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/um-curators-to-ask-state-for-more-than-250-million-for-capital-projects/594949816>

The UM Board of Curators will ask the state of Missouri for more than \$250 million to fund four key capital projects.

The board approved the capital appropriations request for fiscal year 2019 at a teleconference meeting Thursday.

More than half of the \$250 million would go towards projects at the University of Missouri. Vice President of Finance Ryan Rapp said the system will be asking for \$150 million for Mizzou, part of that being for the renovation of buildings and the other portion for the construction the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, a new research facility at MU.

UM System President Dr. Mun Choi said the Translational Precision Medicine Complex is the top priority for the UM System. The university is limited to asking for money for one project per campus.

In addition to the \$150 million for Mizzou, the university will ask for more than \$33 million for the Spencer Chemistry & Biological Sciences Renovation phase II at UMKC, more than \$55 million for the Schrenk Hall Addition and Renovation phase III at Missouri S&T and \$16 million for space consolidation and infrastructure at UMSL.

Rapp said that over the past 15 years, state funding has been sporadic and there is a "significant likelihood" that the system will not get the funds they're asking for. However, he stressed that it is important to make the request in case those funds become available.

State Rep. Chuck Bayse told ABC 17 News that state funds are limited, but they will do what they can in order to properly fund the University of Missouri.

"It's going to be a tough year there's no question about it, so we'll advocate as best we can and get them the money that they need."

Mark McIntosh, MU Vice Chancellor for Research, Graduate Studies and Economic Development, said the investment is critical, even at a time of financial challenges.

"We build a high quality facility, we attract high quality faculty, the students really want to learn in that kind of environment."



UM System wants more than \$250 million for four priority projects

By: Kristen Reesor

COLUMBIA - The UM System curators will request \$250 million in fiscal year 2019 for priority research, infrastructure and renovation projects.

The curators approved the appropriations request in a teleconference meeting Thursday. The money will go toward four projects, one at each of its campuses throughout Missouri.

The largest request, at \$150 million from the state, is for the MU Research and Education Strategic Redevelopment/Translational Precision Medicine Complex. The purpose of the project is to maintain and repair research and education buildings. In addition, the system plans to renovate or replace Waters Hall, Mumford Hall, Whitten Hall, Stanley Hall, and Lefevre Hall. It also plans to build a new research facility.

The other \$100 million will come from MU.

The second most expensive project is the Missouri S&T Schrenk Hall Addition and Renovation Phase III. It involves the renovation of Schrenk Hall to house chemistry and biological sciences departments.

The third project, called UMKC Spencer Chemistry & Biological Sciences Renovation Phase II, will renovate two buildings at the UM System campus in Kansas City.

The final project aims to improve UMSL's operating costs by reducing the campus' square footage. According to meeting [documents](#), the Arts Administration Building, Bellerive Hall, Education Administration Building and Music Building are targeted for decommission because they are underutilized and in poor condition.

The UM System report states these projects will create 5,520 jobs and have a \$7.65 million impact on the economy.

[Editor's note: This story has been corrected to show the right amount of money in the request. We apologize for the mistake.]



[UM Curators approve funding for precision medicine complex](#)

COLUMBIA — **A 200,000 square-foot medical facility is a step closer to reality after Friday's vote releasing university funding.**

The UM System Board of Curators approved a total of four capital projects, one on each of the system's campuses. By far, the largest is on the MU campus, where administrators hope to renovate or replace five buildings on the northeast side of campus and build a new transitional precision medicine complex. System documents show the complex would research the impact of variable such as one's genetics, environment and lifestyle.

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The four-campus system estimates the MU projects would add a total of \$534,800,000 to the local economy and generate 3,860 jobs.

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University of Missouri center aims to address critical physician shortage

By ALISA NELSON

The University of Missouri says more than 90% of the state's counties lack adequate access to health care professionals. School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine says the university has opened a Patient-Centered Care Learning Center in Columbia that aims to address a severe physician shortage.

A dedication ceremony on Friday signals the completion of the \$42 million expansion, which has been a decade in the making.

“Our state and nation are in desperate need of more physicians to serve a growing elderly population, increasing numbers of patients living with chronic illnesses and many others now gaining access to health care,” says Delafontaine.

Missouri ranks among the top 20 states with residents older than age 65 who require additional medical care.

Delafontaine says the university received more than 2,300 medical school applications this year. An additional Springfield clinical campus and partnership between CoxHealth and Mercy Springfield also allows MU to expand its medical student class size by 30%, from 96 to 128.

“We believe this unique and innovative collaboration will serve as a model for other areas suffering from shortages of health care professionals,” says Delafontaine. “We are proud that the University of Missouri is leading the way on yet another major initiative to advance the health and economy of our state and nation.”

David Barbe of Mercy Springfield calls the number of primary care physician openings “embarrassing” in southwest Missouri’s rural communities.

“Many of the projections suggest as much as a 100,000 physician shortage over the next ten years,” says Barbe. “It is not just the absolute number of physicians we are short, it is the distribution of physicians.”

Barbe says the facility will have a major return on investment through things like the economy and many good-paying Missouri jobs.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri medical school expansion continues with new building

By Tess Vrbin Columbia Daily Tribune

The north side of the University of Missouri School of Medicine’s newest addition provides a direct view of Jesse Hall. UM System President Mun Choi said the iconic administrative building is “a testament to our commitment” to Missouri, the university and all future MU medical students that will use the new Patient-Centered Care Learning Center.

Choi was one of several speakers at the grand opening of the facility. Construction took two years and the facility is part of a \$42.5 million expansion project a decade in the making. The project also includes a clinical campus in Springfield, the result of a partnership between MU and two Springfield health systems, CoxHealth and Mercy.

Both additions to the medical school have allowed it to incrementally raise its class size by one-third, from 96 to 128 since 2014. The Springfield campus will host 64 third- and fourth-year students, the additional 32 from each class, by 2020. The Association of American Medical Colleges has called for all medical schools to increase enrollment by 30 percent to address the nationwide shortage of physicians.

AAMC’s most recent report about physician supply and demand predicts a shortfall of between 34,600 and 88,000 by 2025. This projection has dropped from a maximum of 90,400 since 2015

and 130,600 since 2010. Data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that in 2013, the U.S. ranked 31st out of 35 countries in terms of medical graduates and 24th out of 28 countries in terms of physicians per 1,000 people.

The shortage is most striking in rural areas because most physicians live in cities. American Medical Association president David Barbe said that as vice president of regional operations for Mercy in Springfield, he is responsible for recruiting physicians at Mercy's many rural practices in southwest Missouri. He is "embarrassed" about the large amount of open positions within the network, particularly among primary care physicians, he said.

The MU School of Medicine's Rural Track Pipeline Program recruits students from rural areas and trains them in rural communities throughout the state, said program co-founder Weldon Webb, who is also the associate dean for the Springfield clinical campus implementation.

The clinical campus started hosting students last summer, and it is located between CoxHealth and Mercy. CoxHealth president and CEO Steve Edwards said the partnerships between the two competing health systems once seemed unlikely. He compared them to the longstanding rivalry between MU and the University of Kansas.

Patrick Delafontaine, dean of the medical school, said many of the physicians at both systems work as faculty at the clinical campus. He also said the program creates a "very strong potential" for the development of more medical residencies in Springfield, which will increase the physicians' chance of staying in the area.

According to previous Tribune reporting, MU sought student input during the medical school expansion process, and students wanted a social area, more light, more power outlets and other amenities. Second-year medical student Alex Katubig said she and her classmates no longer will have to attend lectures and do laboratory work in the basement of MU's Sinclair School of Nursing now that the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center has opened. She said the basement has no windows and much less lab space than the new facility. Student collaboration is important to the medical curriculum, Katubig said, and the more spacious and inviting building encourages that.



MU Health opens new multi-million dollar center

Officials hope it will address physician shortage

By: Sara Masler- Donar

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mu-health-opens-new-multi-million-dollar-center/594925100>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - MU Health leaders said they hope a new medical center on the university's campus will help address what the Association of American Medical Colleges is calling a "critical shortage" of doctors.

The AAMC commissions a [study](#) every year to look into what shortages the United States could face in health care. The 2017 indicates a projected shortage of between 40,800 and 104,900 doctors.

AAMC officials said that because the demand for health care will only increase, especially for those 65 years old and older, the number of doctors has to keep up. The shortage is also felt strongly in rural and underserved areas as well.

To help alleviate the shortage, the AAMC recommended expanding medical school class size, innovating in care delivery and team-based care, making better use of technology and increasing federal support for an additional 3,000 new residency positions per year over the next five years.

The University of Missouri partnered with CoxHealth and Mercy Springfield nearly a decade ago to find ways to address the shortage. MU students spend their first two years of medical school at the University of Missouri and then half of them spend years three and four in Springfield, at an extension clinic.

CoxHealth and Mercy are competing systems but came together for this project.

"They compete tooth and toenail but when it's appropriate, they cooperate," said Weldon Webb, the associate dean for the Springfield Clinical Campus and the driving force behind the new

center project. "I worked with them for years on cooperative programs and they came together for this because they saw it as a way to produce more physicians from southwest Missouri and they wanted to be a part of that."

The final piece is the new Patient-Centered Care Learning Center on MU's campus that officially opened Monday, which university leaders said will have the space to expand class sizes from 96 to 128 students. According to some staff, conditions in the existing facilities were not keeping up with the increasing size of classes or with the technology needed to teach.

"I think that's really cool that we're increasing our class size to be able to have more students who are interested in medicine and hopefully primary care," said second-year med student Megan Anderson.

Anderson said there are a number of ways the university helps encourage students to work in rural areas including a rural track program and telemedicine efforts. Telemedicine brings doctors digitally to patients who might be too far away or not have the ability to be physically present to receive care.

"We recruit students from rural communities and put them back in rural communities to do that learning," said Webb. "We retain about 66 percent of those graduates in rural communities in Missouri so it works. We know how to do it."

The \$42 million project was paid for with \$12 million in state funding and the rest in revenue bonds the University of Missouri will repay.

The construction and architect teams are both national companies that are headquartered in Missouri.



MU School of Medicine opens new building

By: Lindsay Hornecker

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-school-of-medicine-opens-new-building>

COLUMBIA – The University School of Medicine’s new Patient- Centered Care Learning Center opened its doors Friday afternoon. MU partnered with CoxHealth and Mercy Springfield to expand the university’s medical school. The \$42.5 million is 98,888-square-foot of new learning space for medical students.

A goal of the medical school was to be able to increase class size by more than 30 percent going from 96 students to 128.

UM System President Mun Choi said, “the reason that this building is so critical is that there is a tremendous need in the state of Missouri to meet the growing healthcare needs not only of the cities like St. Louis and Kansas City and Springfield, but in rural parts of the state where there is significant healthcare disparities throughout the state of Missouri.”

The new building has 32 classrooms, a full floor of clinical simulation rooms and student lounges.

“We wanted to meet the students needs, we did a lot of student surveys early on and they wanted really basic stuff, they wanted light, they wanted water, they wanted bathrooms and they wanted socialization places, and the space they are currently in that was extremely limited or nonexistent, like the M1s there were no windows, they were in the old morgue,” said Weldon Deskin Webb, the associate dean for the Springfield Clinical Campus.

“We wanted it to be reflective of patient center care when they walk in the building, and if you walk around you’ll see the geographic distribution of the state. You’ll see stories about people up on five and six that make the point as Missouri citizens,” Webb said.

Friday’s dedication also highlighted the new clinical campus in Springfield.

“We believe this unique and innovative collaboration will serve as a model for other areas suffering from shortages of healthcare professionals, and we’re proud that the University of Missouri is leading the way on yet another major initiative to advance the health and economy of our state and nation,” said Patrick Delafontaine, M.D., the dean of MU school of medicine.

The state has seen a shortage of healthcare physicians, and the school wanting to expand, MU looked to Springfield.

“For the program we knew we wanted to expand 1/3, but we didn’t have the clinical facilities here to do it in Columbia, so we knew we needed a partner who had an existing clinical facility and didn’t have to build one because that’s the expensive part of medical education, and that’s where Springfield came from. With two large health systems and really no medical education programs in the city, and we’d worked with them before on our rural program.” Webb said.

Because of the expansion there will be an addition 300 physicians in the state of Missouri that will increase the state’s economy by \$390 million and create 3,500 jobs according to the MU School of Medicine.

MISSOURIAN

MU School of Medicine welcomed its most diverse class Friday, officials say

SADIE LORRAINE COLLINS Jul 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — **The MU School of Medicine welcomed both a new building and new class of students Friday, marking the most diverse class in the school's history, Dean of Medicine Patrick Delafontaine said.**

The school has been facing pressing issues about the lack of diversity in their student population. In 2015, only 5 percent of the medical school students were underrepresented minorities, according to previous Missourian reporting. This year, 9 percent of the class are

underrepresented minorities, meaning black, Latino and Native American students, an MU Health Care spokesperson said.

Melanie Bryan, a fourth-year student at the school of medicine, said at the dedication of the new building that she was proud of not only the new structure but also the diversity of this year's class.

"(This is) a student population as diverse as our patient population," Bryan said.

In recent years, the school had to send the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which accredits medical schools, a plan to improve its diversity issues by December 2016. If the committee had decided that there hadn't been enough improvement, the school could have been put on probation, [according to previous Missouriian reporting](#).

The school of medicine's class of 2021, welcomed Friday morning at the annual white coat ceremony, consists of 128 students. This is an increase of 32 students from last year, according to a news release.

Also, 32 percent of the incoming class are ethnic minorities, including black, Asian, Latino, Native American and Pacific Islander students. That is in addition to the 9 percent of the class who are underrepresented minorities.

This is an increase from last year, where 27 percent of the class were minorities and 8 percent were underrepresented minorities, Diamond Dixon, an MU Health Care spokesperson, said.

The Patient-Centered Care Learning Center, a new, \$42.5 million medical education building, was dedicated Friday afternoon after ten years of brainstorming and construction. It was the result of a partnership between the school of medicine and two hospitals in Springfield, CoxHealth and Mercy. The Chambers of Commerce in Columbia and Springfield, as well as the state legislature, also supported the project, said Weldon Webb, the MU associate dean for Springfield Clinical Campus Implementation.

The new education center was part of an effort to combat the nationwide physician shortage, said David Barbe, the vice president of regional operations for Mercy Springfield. There will be an estimated shortfall of 61,700 to 94,700 physicians by the year 2025, [according to a 2016 report for the Association of American Medical Colleges by IHS, Inc.](#)

"The return on investment of this expansion is tenfold," Barbe said at the dedication ceremony.

"This activity that looks like a big investment will reach broadly for many years to come."

The expansion is expected to generate jobs in the medical field that will help alleviate the shortage, he said.

"By giving students more options for clinical training in other hospitals and physician practices, we are educating them on the diverse health needs of our state and increasing the odds of putting more physicians in Springfield and southwest Missouri," Steve Edwards, president and CEO of CoxHealth, said in a statement.

Through the partnership with the two hospitals, MU's school of medicine was able to create an additional medical campus in Springfield in 2016, according to a news release. In February, [nine third-year students were in Springfield](#) and 32 additional medical students were expected to be admitted each year as a result of the expansion.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MISSOURIAN

MU football facility yet to be approved

DAVE MATTER/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH Jul 29

Missouri athletics director Jim Sterk initially hoped the University of Missouri System Board of Curators would vote to approve MU's proposed football facility during Friday's teleconference meeting, but the south end zone complex was not on the meeting's agenda. Instead, the athletics department anticipates submitting its proposal to the board before the end of the summer, department spokesman Nick Joos confirmed.

The project, estimated to cost close to \$100 million, is still on track to be completed in time for the 2019 season, pending board approval. In the meantime, Missouri is working with the project's construction manager to shore up the facility's total cost, Joos said, and refining its funding model to cover the project. As of late June, Missouri athletics had raised \$49 million for the project. Revenue bonds financed through the university will cover the balance of the costs.

MISSOURIAN

MU research: IVF for pigs could produce results for people

GINA BALSTAD Jul 29, 2017

Generated from News Bureau press release: Piglets Might Unlock Keys to In Vitro Fertilization in Humans

COLUMBIA — Petri dishes in the MU Animal Science Research Center contain not only potential piglets surrounded by fluffy, cloud-like material, but also a new method for in vitro fertilization that could one day make the process easier and less expensive for people.

Two years ago, researchers at the MU Animal Sciences Research Center began a side project to their stem cell studies. They began experimenting with pig egg cells and compounds called growth factors.

Randall Prather and Michael Roberts, both curators' distinguished professors of animal science, headed the research, which has resulted in a "serendipitous discovery," according to an MU news release.

The move from stem cells to the egg was logical, Prather said.

"An oocyte — the egg — is the ultimate stem cell because it gives rise to everything," he said.

Lee Spate, a senior research specialist at MU, was part of the team charged with increasing the number of viable pig embryos. By using three growth factors — fibroblast growth factor 2, leukemia inhibitory factor and an insulin-like growth factor — they created a fluid dubbed FLI.

When immature oocytes are placed in FLI, they mature at a greater rate and more efficiently when compared with the compound normally used to mature the cells, Prather said.

Normally, maturing the egg cells for IVF have a low rate of becoming viable embryos. Because of this, quantity is the focus during the normal treatments, making it more expensive.

Human IVF typically costs between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for the procedure sessions, and an additional \$3,000 to \$5,000 for medications, according to the release.

IVF is used by parents who are trying to have a child but struggle to get pregnant because of various fertility complications, such as blocked or missing fallopian tubes, problems with the tissues of the uterus and low sperm count, according to a treatment overview from MU Health Care.

Factors such as age also play a part in low fertility in parents who seek IVF treatment. A woman who chooses to use her own egg in IVF has a 40 percent chance of a live birth when she is in her late 20s, a 30 percent at age 38 and a 10 percent chance by age 43.

Parents who are concerned about potential genetic disorders also elect to use IVF, so the cells can be tested before embryos are tested, according to the overview.

The research Prather's team is doing with pigs could translate to more efficiency for human IVF.

"Anything you learn with a mammal is usually applicable to other mammals," Prather said.

The benefits of FLI occur in the meat of the matter, when the egg cell is being matured. In normal, non-IVF circumstances, this occurs when the egg is in the ovary, said Prather. For an egg to be ready for fertilization, it has to grow in size.

The eggs are surrounded by "nurse cells," Prather said. These cells are also referred to as cumulus cells because of their distinctive, cloud-like appearance.

In IVF, immature eggs are taken from pig ovaries to be matured artificially and then fertilized.

"When we mature them in our regular methods we get the cells to expand up a little bit, but not really very much," Prather said. "With this new medium (FLI), they expand up as they should. They look like giant clouds."

These "giant clouds" block signals and interaction with other cells that disrupt the process of maturation, Prather said. The eggs reach a stage of maturation called metaphase two and are better suited for fertilization.

Once fertilized, the goal is for the egg cells to become blastocysts after about six days, research scientist Bethany Redel said. This is transferred into a surrogate mother pig.

The rate at which fertilized eggs become blastocysts has also increased from this process. Similarly, twice as many piglets are produced from implanted embryos.

By using FLI, immature eggs can be taken from younger animals to produce offspring, Prather said. This can be used in other animals the research center studies, such as cattle.

"One of the challenges to cattle — it's more of a challenge in cattle than it is in pigs — is the generation interval," Prather said.

Pregnancy in pigs lasts about four months, for which they produce 12 to 15 piglets, whereas cows last for about nine months and typically only produce one calf. Both generational interval and the fewer offspring per pregnancy slows genetic progress, making improving cattle take longer, Prather said.

Using FLI also increases the center's ability to provide resources to research groups. Genetically modified pigs are better suited than other animals in particular circumstances, such as the symptoms of cystic fibrosis.

People born with cystic fibrosis have many symptoms that mice, a common research animal, don't present when given the mutation.

"Most people think of CF as lung disease, but you can take that exact mutation that occurs in people and put it into mice, and you don't get any of those symptoms," Prather said. "Well, we put that mutation in pigs, and the pigs get all the symptoms."

The research center receives funding from the National Institute of Health from the National Swine Resource and Research Center and an RO1 grant, which was used to further the progress with FLI.

Prather's team sent in an application for a "use patent" for FLI, but he suspects it will be awhile before it is patented.

Meanwhile, the team is working to encourage IVF clinics to undertake using FLI with humans egg cells. Several clinics have shown interest in the research but have yet to move to do anything with it, Spate said. This is not unusual, since research involving humans is a greater undertaking.

"The ball is in their court now," Spate said.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Frat at Missouri sued over alleged near-fatal hazing case

By: Jim Suhr

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A former University of Missouri student is suing a fraternity and its parent organization over an alleged hazing incident he says left him with near-fatal alcohol poisoning while the frat already was on probation for alcohol infractions.

Brandon Zingale's lawsuit filed Thursday in Boone County — home of the Columbia campus he attended — alleges he and other pledges of the Kappa Alpha Order's Alpha Kappa chapter were "coerced" to participate in a September 2016 vodka-chugging contest.

After that forced binge incapacitated Zingale, then an 18-year-old freshman, he was left alone in a bedroom overnight and was found the next morning drenched in urine, "unconscious, barely breathing and unable to be awakened," the lawsuit alleges.

When rushed by ambulance to a hospital 10 hours after the drinking stunt, Zingale still had a blood-alcohol level of .41 — five times more than the state's legal threshold for intoxication and within the range considered lethal, according to the lawsuit.

Fraternity members "were instructed and agreed to keep the truth about what happened to Brandon from university officials, the police and Brandon's family," the lawsuit alleges while also claiming that Zingale was drugged against his will at least once.

That alleged hazing came roughly two weeks after the fraternity already had been placed on semester-long probation for illegally providing alcohol to minors. The university suspended the fraternity the next month, then weeks later barred it from officially being recognized on campus for five years, citing repeated conduct violations that included Zingale's case. The ban prohibits the fraternity from campus activities and access to some university amenities, including auditoriums and meeting rooms.

Zingale withdrew from the university shortly after the incident and has enlisted in the military, according to the lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages and also names three members of the fraternity, including its president at the time.

"This brave young man hopes his action will help deter fraternities from reckless alcohol hazing and universities from ignoring or tolerating this recklessness," Ken Chackes, Zingale's attorney in St. Louis, said in a statement. "He hopes to hold this fraternity responsible for its irresponsible behavior that almost cost him his life."

Brent Buswell, a spokesman for the Virginia-based Kappa Alpha Order, declined to publicly discuss the lawsuit, telling The Associated Press by email that "the fraternity and legal counsel will review the allegations and will respond in court."

Similar stories ran statewide

MISSOURIAN

Former MU student sues Kappa Alpha for alcohol hazing

GINA BALSTAD Jul 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — **The MU chapter of Kappa Alpha fraternity and its national organization are being sued by a former MU student who was injured in a 2016 hazing event involving binge-drinking.**

Brandon Zingale was a Kappa Alpha pledge who nearly died in an alcohol-related hazing event in 2016, according to the lawsuit filed with the Boone County Circuit Court.

During the night of Sept. 27, 2016, Zingale became so intoxicated he could not take care of himself, so fraternity members put him to bed wearing a backpack to keep him from rolling onto his back and dying of asphyxiation, according to the suit. The next morning, Zingale was found alone, unconscious, unresponsive and barely breathing as a result of alcohol poisoning.

Defendants listed include the fraternity as well as the national affiliate, Kappa Alpha Order, and three fraternity members — Jacob Lee, who at the time was chapter president, and Max McGrath and Ryan Heuermann.

When the ambulance arrived, Zingale was on the floor, foaming at the mouth and cold to the touch. When he arrived at the hospital, 10 hours after he had been drinking, his blood alcohol content was .41, more than 20 times the legal limit for driving under the influence as a minor, according to the suit.

Zingale, who was [18 at the time](#), was within the range of alcohol poisoning that can lead to death. He was diagnosed with damage to his nerves and brain and acute respiratory failure.

After the incident, Zingale withdrew from MU because of his injuries from the incident and moved to Illinois, the suit says. He has enlisted in the military.

After investigating the incident, MU officials found that active members of the fraternity were "encouraging or forcing" the pledges to take exaggerated drinks of vodka, according to the suit. Pledges were also made to fight each other. Zingale, the suit says, was among these pledges.

As a result, MU suspended the fraternity from the campus for a five-year period.

This is not the first time the fraternity has been in trouble with MU. Two weeks before the incident, the chapter was put on probation after an August 2016 incident in which the [fraternity was caught providing alcohol to minors](#).

After that incident, fraternity members had to attend alcohol education program called "[Raising the Bar for Greek Students](#)."

Zingale was the third student who had to seek hospital treatment from alcohol-related incidents at the fraternity early in the 2016 fall semester, according to the lawsuit. One student needed stitches after going to the emergency room for a head injury; another was threatened after going to the hospital for alcohol poisoning.

The Kappa Alpha Order and the local chapter knew the risks of death and injury hazing traditions present, the suit claims.

Following the incident, Jesse Lyons, an officer for the national Kappa Alpha Order, [emailed the Missourian](#) to say the organization had conducted its own investigation and found the hazing allegations to be false. Its investigator did uncover other incidences of hazing and alcohol violations, which the Kappa Alpha Order decided "must be addressed."

Kappa Alpha officials did not respond Friday to questions from the Missourian.

As a pledge, Zingale was repeatedly made to drink large amounts of alcohol to get into the fraternity. At least once he was drugged against his will, according to the suit.

The three fraternity members included in the lawsuit "authorized, directed, aided, abetted and was complicit or participating in alcohol related hazing events." They also failed to obtain timely emergency medical assistance, according to the suit.

MU fraternities show a history of trouble with hazing and alcohol violations. [As of December 2016](#), almost half were on probation and at least three were suspended.

Zingale's lawyers said he wants his experience to help change fraternities' reckless behavior, according to a statement the Associated Press received from his attorney.

"This brave young man hopes his action will help deter fraternities from reckless alcohol hazing and universities from ignoring or tolerating this recklessness," Ken Chackes, Zingale's attorney in St. Louis, said in a statement. "He hopes to hold this fraternity responsible for its irresponsible behavior that almost cost him his life."

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

MU fraternity sued over near death from alcohol

A former University of Missouri student who almost died during a fraternity pledge drinking contest is suing his former fraternity, its national headquarters and three members for negligence. Brandon Zingale was found unconscious and breathing shallowly on Sept. 28 when paramedics were called to the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at 1301 University Ave.

When he arrived at Boone Hospital Center, 10 hours after taking his last drink, his blood alcohol level was 0.41 percent, according to the complaint filed Thursday in Boone County Circuit Court. It was the fraternity's third serious alcohol incident in a month's time where students were hospitalized. MU withdrew Kappa Alpha's recognition as a student organization for five years as a result of a campus investigation.

"One student, early in the pledge process, was so intoxicated that he passed out, hit his head, and was taken to the emergency room where he got stitches," the lawsuit filed by attorney Kenneth

Chackes of St. Louis states. "A second student was taken to the hospital with alcohol poisoning and was later threatened with a beating if he ever went to the hospital again with a drinking problem."

In the lawsuit, filed by, Zingale accuses the fraternity and its officers, Jacob Lee, Max McGrath and Ryan Heuermann, with negligence. The national fraternity is being sued on theory that it is responsible for the actions of the fraternity on the MU campus. Lee was president of the fraternity and put Zingale in a bed, unconscious and unresponsive, rather than seek medical attention.

"Max McGrath and Ryan Heuermann encouraged and/or coerced Brandon to take extended pulls from a handle of vodka until he was rendered incapacitate," the lawsuit states.

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MISSOURIAN

State offices and MU plan for the coming eclipse

EDWARD MCKINLEY AND CONNOR LAGORE, Jul 28, 2017

COLUMBIA — Right now, students are in the dark about their first day of classes.

During what Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes called a "once-in-a-lifetime experience" — a total solar eclipse — it will be up to MU professors whether they hold classes on Aug. 21, according to a campus-wide email sent on Wednesday.

MU's campus will remain open, and, in the email, Stokes encouraged professors to communicate their decisions directly to students.

The last total solar eclipse in Missouri was in 1869. The next time Columbia will see a total eclipse will be "several hundred years in the future," Stokes said.

Staff members will be allowed to ask their supervisors if they can take a break or have a late lunch. If any staff members wish to attend eclipse-related events, Stokes recommended they use vacation time.

Stokes also warned of some logistical hazards that will plague Columbia that day.

"If you do plan to drive, allow time for extra traffic," she said in the release. "Similarly, with the extra crowds you may need additional time to park."

For employees that eat lunch downtown, they might want to plan for more time away from their desk, she said.

Because of the crowds on campus in downtown Columbia, MU faculty and students have other options to view the eclipse.

The Bradford Research Center, located at 4968 S. Rangeline Rd., and the South Farm Research Center, located at E. New Haven Road, will both be available for viewing.

Columbia and Jefferson City are among the places where the full effects of the eclipse will be visible. NASA has chosen Jefferson City as one of seven locations across the country to livestream the eclipse, according to a Friday release from the state [Office of Administration](#).

The eclipse effects will be visible in mid-Missouri from approximately noon to 3 p.m., and the totality — when the sun will be completely blacked out — will occur at 1:12, lasting about three minutes.

All non-essential state offices will be closed to allow their employees to view the eclipse, according to the news release. The state expects 40,000 to 50,000 visitors to Jefferson City for the event, and many of them are expected to congregate near the capitol.

State employees outside of Cole County will be given the day off work, according to the Associated Press.

MISSOURIAN

Eclipse 2017: Here's what you need to know

[ETHAN MAY](#) Jul 28, 2017 Updated Jul 28, 2017 [0](#)

For 2 minutes and 36 seconds on Aug. 21, Columbia will experience a celestial event that is anticipated to be one of the most exciting in recent memory.

A total solar eclipse will take place at 1:12 p.m. It will be the first total eclipse visible in the continental United States in 38 years and the first in Missouri since 1869. Here's what you need to know before enjoying the historic event.

Weather outlook

August in Missouri is known for heat — the average high temperature being 85.1 degrees in Columbia, according to the National Weather Service — and sunshine. It has not rained on Aug. 21 [since 2010](#), and the average precipitation for the date is .15 inches.

Viewing the eclipse

The eclipse will happen over the course of three hours in these phases.

Phases of the eclipse

Start of partial eclipse — moon begins crossing the sun: 11:45 a.m.

Start of total eclipse — sun is blocked: 1:12 p.m.

Maximum eclipse — sun is completely blocked: 1:13 p.m.

End of total eclipse — blockage of sun ends: 1:14 p.m.

End of partial eclipse — sun is no longer blocked: 2:40 p.m.

When the total eclipse begins, it's time to [put on a pair of solar eclipse glasses](#). You'll want to [wear them correctly](#) so you don't fry your eyes.

A tourism event

[Visitors are buying up Columbia hotel rooms for eclipse next August](#)

Visitors with plans to make Columbia their destination for a total eclipse of the sun next August are snapping up rooms around town.

The city could be crowded on the big day as one expert predicted the eclipse could attract up to 400,000 visitors to Columbia. Even small towns are [expecting as many as 10,000 people](#).

City and state agencies [have prepared](#) for the influx of tourists.

All Columbia hotels are booked, and as of 1 p.m. July 28, [Airbnb](#) had only 13 open listings around the city for Aug. 20–21.

Excited scientists

[Boston amateur astronomers coming to Columbia to view the total solar eclipse](#)

The group studied seasonal weather patterns when searching for a location.

MU physicist Angela Speck has been [looking forward to the eclipse](#) for more than a dozen years. She has used her expertise to [share knowledge](#) with people curious about the eclipse.

Local high school students will [contribute to nationwide research](#) about the eclipse.

Making plans

Gans Creek Recreation Area and Cosmo Park will host eclipse events tailored to both festival-goers and serious viewers with equipment during the total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 21.

The city of Columbia has recognized its fortunate geographic situation and has [prepared a number of activities around town](#).

If you're looking to escape the city for the eclipse, you can [find events in nearby towns here](#).

Some of the bigger events we know about:

[Show-Me Totality](#), multiple locations and events hosted by the city

[Solar Eclipse of the Katy Trail Ride](#), (Note: Registration is already full)

[Foodstock](#), Corporate Lake, hosted by Serve It Up CoMo

[Total Solar Eclipse Golf Tournament](#), benefiting the Boy Scouts

[Eclipse: Journey of the Sun Across Gans Creek Wild Area](#), hosted by Missouri State Parks

[Total Eclipse in the Park](#), Rose Park

Share your photos and your plans

Share your eclipse experience with us: [Tell us](#) what you have planned and include #ShowMeEclipse in your social media posts about the event.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Sharing their work: Public benefits from MU vegetable yield research

By Tess Vrbin Columbia Daily Tribune

At Bradford Research Center on the outskirts of Columbia, the rows of tomato and pepper plants are dwarfed by the neighboring cornfield. However, within those rows are 95 varieties of tomatoes and 72 varieties of peppers.

“I doubt if there’s anywhere in the Midwest that has as comprehensive a planting of different tomato and pepper cultivars as we have right here,” Research Specialist Steven Kirk said.

Bradford is where the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources grows fruits and vegetables for research and educational purposes. Kirk said the researchers at Bradford are not farmers, but they imitate farming practices in order to find solutions to everyday problems farmers face, such as weeds and plant diseases. The primary goal, Kirk said, is to increase farmers’ production and revenue.

Kirk is currently working on a project involving cover crops and watermelons. The cover crops grow between rows of watermelons to add organic matter to the soil and to reduce soil tillage by suppressing weeds. Kirk said he is growing buckwheat, cowpeas and yellow sweet clover as cover crops to find out which one yields the most watermelons.

Cover crops for commercial fruits and vegetables are different from the cover crops that corn and soybean farmers plant. The latter cover crops grow in the fall and winter when corn and soybeans are not growing, Kirk said, but both kinds of cover crops stave off weeds.

“You have the chance to decide what you want to grow between your rows,” he said, “because if you don’t, nature will be glad to fill it with any kind of nasty weed.”

Another vegetable research project at Bradford is evaluating five varieties of sweet potatoes’ growth, yield and resistance to disease and insects. Associate Professor of Plant Sciences Xi Xiong and graduate research assistant Waana Kaluwasha are working on the project from June to October. Kaluwasha said sweet potato consumption has been growing because of the vegetable’s nutritional value, so the research is important because it helps farmers meet the increasing demand.

Kirk, Xiong and Kaluwasha will discuss their projects during wagon tours of Bradford during the Vegetable Grower’s Field Day on Thursday. The research center has hosted the annual Tomato Fest since 2005, but Kirk said the festival is too hectic to feature the plants in the vegetable garden because the focus is mainly on eating the produce. The field day will be an opportunity for visitors to see the vegetables up close while they are still on the plants, he said.

“It’s hard to get that concept when it’s sitting on a plate all cut up,” Kirk said.

Bradford Superintendent Andrew Biggs agreed that the field day is more about education than entertainment, and it is “more about how to grow things than what to grow.”

The field day will include a presentation from Kathy McFarland of the Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company. After the wagon tours, there will be walking tours that showcase the tomato and pepper gardens. Researchers and faculty members from the MU Department of Plant Sciences will lead the tours and discuss vegetable cultivation, insects and diseases.

Biggs said Bradford faculty members regularly collaborate with researchers at other facilities, and research at Bradford “comes and goes” based on the availability of funding. Grants from the state, federal government, and not-for-profit organizations fund research at the center, which is currently in a lull, Biggs said.

However, the current research projects are important because vegetable production in Missouri is on the rise, Kirk said.

“It’ll never be corn and soybeans, but it’ll be substantial,” he said.

MISSOURIAN

Composers establish connections during week-long festival

[CONNOR LAGORE](#) Jul 29, 2017

COLUMBIA — Aaron Parker stood at the front of the ensemble, reading through his score while artistic director Alan Pierson emphatically directed Alarm Will Sound as they rehearsed Parker's piece, the six-movement "Atholhu."

Alarm Will Sound, the 20-member band sprawled in front of Parker and Pierson, emitted a chaotic sound with flutes, brass, percussion, a piano and a large double bass, among others.

Pierson directed the band with flair, waving his arms to keep time. The band members matched his fluctuating intensity with the tones of their instruments. When Pierson signaled to stop, the ensemble members came to an abrupt halt.

"How was the pacing?" Pierson asked Parker, who approved of the tempo with which the band interpreted his work.

The Friday morning rehearsal was part of the Mizzou International Composers Festival, which began Monday and finishes Saturday. Each of the eight resident composers selected to be a part of the festival will debut a piece of music at Saturday night's concert.

The final concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Missouri Theatre, located at 203 S. Ninth St.

The festival, in its eighth year, was known as the "Mizzou New Music Summer Festival," from 2010 to 2013. The event, funded by the Sinquefeld Charitable Foundation, was renamed to reflect its compositional and educational aspects, said Jacob Gotlib, the festival's managing director.

Parker and the seven other composers have from December until May to produce an original composition that will be performed by the contemporary ensemble Alarm Will Sound.

The 26-year-old Parker, from Suffolk, England, said he was excited to be selected from 260 applicants, as the festival would provide him a unique opportunity to work with an ensemble experienced in blending so many different genres of music.

"It also gives you the opportunity to write the piece that you dream of writing," Parker said. "It's much more of a blank canvas than is often the case."

The versatility of Alarm Will Sound allowed Parker and the other composers to have more freedom in writing for the band's talents.

"It's an ensemble that can do so many different things," he said. "I wanted to utilize the fact that they have many facets to their work."

Composers spend the week leading up to Saturday's performance working with the ensemble, which may not seem like much time, but composer Christopher Mayo said that in the composition world, it's luxurious.

"It isn't very much time, but I think in comparison to so many other types of projects, it really is a lot," he said.

Going into the week, Mayo expected Alarm Will Sound's experience with the festival should help in preparation for the debut of his new composition.

"The fact that they're a group of people who have worked together for such a long time, I think this will be a very smooth rehearsal process," he said.

Parker said that being able to work in such a hands-on manner with the ensemble allows for a relationship to be established, which helps both entities when bringing the piece to life.

"In this rehearsal, it was really nice to talk with the ensemble at some length about where things come from," Parker said, "because particularly with contemporary music they come from some

quite obscure places, and things can seem a bit bizarre on the page, so you need to have that connection verbally and musically in a rehearsal."

Parker said that even the time that the composers spend with each other and the ensemble outside of the practice room helped to build on their connection.

"It's been really nice to socialize with the ensemble and get to know them outside of the rehearsals because that has a massive impact on the work you're able to get done," he said.

"There's a really positive vibe to everything."

Mayo, who is further along in his career than most of the other composers, said that being surrounded with other people in the same profession has been nothing short of educational.

"It's a really great chance to dedicate time to learning, reflecting and taking in a lot of what other people are doing and having a chance to have some constructive feedback and some discussions that you don't really get a chance to have when you're not a student anymore," he said.

Parker agreed.

"It's really nice to socialize with a cohort of composers," he said.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Summer rep program takes founder's name

University of Missouri Summer Repertory Theatre just closed the curtain on another season. But a recent designation will allow the summer company to honor a man for all seasons.

The program has been renamed the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre, in tribute to Clark, who founded and guided the first summer rep season in 1969. The honor was announced after a July 13 presentation of "Seussical the Musical." Clark taught at MU for more than 30 years, according to a news release, and was dean of the College of Arts and Science from 1988 to 1997.

More than 120 summer rep shows have been produced since 1969, the school said. This year's season included "Seussical," "Red, White and Tuna" and Comedies-in-Concert, a 15-year-old tradition in which students rehearse and stage a comedy in the span of a day.

Clark died in 2014 at age 82. His wife, Yvonne, was represented at the July 13 ceremony by her sister, Margo Murray