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Missourinet

MU sells research lab for \$43 million

November 8, 2011 By [Allison Blood](#)

IDEXX Laboratories Inc has bought a research and diagnostic laboratory business of the College of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Missouri, called RADIL. IDEXX has stated in a release that it paid 43 million dollars in cash for the RADIL portion of the lab. Vet college Dean Neal Olson says it's only a certain part of the lab that IDEXX owns now.

He says the part of the laboratory they have sold does the "fee for service" operations. The lab takes in samples from other research labs from across the country and does several tests on the samples, and then sends them back. He says very few students work at that laboratory.

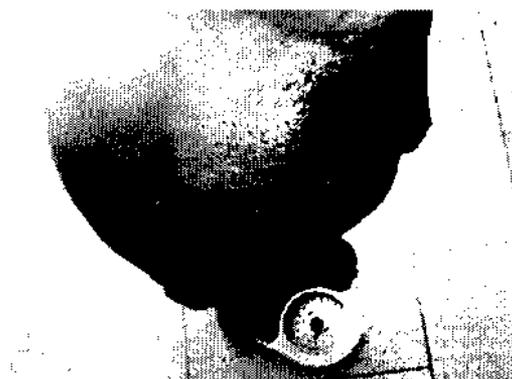
He says it hasn't been decided yet exactly where the money will go, but it will probably stay within the college of Veterinary Medicine.

See the release from IDEXX [here](#).

Vitamin D deficiency a bigger problem in obese teens

Obese adolescents absorb vitamin D in their fat stores, preventing it from being utilized in the blood

BY Afp Relaxnews November 8 2011



GUSTOIMAGES/Getty Images/Science Photo Libra

Vitamin D enables the body to absorb calcium and is essential for maintaining strong bones.

Obese teenagers need significantly more vitamin D than their leaner counterparts, say researchers in a new US study which suggests that current recommended guidelines are sorely insufficient.

According to the National Institutes of Health in the US, while vitamin D deficiency is common in Americans, this is especially true of overweight and obese adolescents.

And in a study released last week, researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia say that teenagers who are obese need a daily dose of at least 4,000 IUs (International Units) to meet dietary requirements -- that's nearly seven times more than the current daily recommended intake of 600 IUs, as set out in guidelines by the Institute of Medicine, the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

WHY YOU NEED VITAMIN D

"If obese adolescents only consumed the recommended 600 IUs, they would be in trouble," said study author Catherine Peterson in a statement. "It takes 4,000 IUs to raise their vitamin D status within a sufficient range...This indicates that physicians need to carefully evaluate the vitamin D status in their overweight and obese patients."

Obese adolescents absorb vitamin D in their fat stores, preventing it from being utilized in the blood and are about half as efficient as their leaner counterparts at metabolizing their benefits, researchers explain.

After giving a group of obese teens either a placebo or vitamin D3 supplements of 4,000 IU/day for six months, scientists found that while the amount may be the maximum level set by the IOM, it was safe and effective at improving teens' vitamin D status.

Meanwhile, to help consumers meet their nutritional needs, retailers have been coming out with vitamin D-fortified products like milk and orange juice for years. In a study published earlier this year in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, scientists said that baked goods like bread could also provide a good opportunity to carry vitamin D and fill the continuing nutritional gap.

Bread made with vitamin D2-rich yeast was shown to be as beneficial in lab experiments as vitamin D3 which is found in sunshine and foods like canned salmon, sardines and cheese, scientists said.

Vitamin D enables the body to absorb calcium and is essential for maintaining strong bones.

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/vitamin-deficiency-a-bigger-problem-obese-teens-article-1.974285#ixzz1d8uE4A4S>

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Education digest

Posted: Wednesday, November 9, 2011 12:00 am

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI > Grant supports study of media literacy • Researchers at the University of Missouri are developing a way to measure news literacy among teenagers.

Stephanie Craft, an associate professor in the University of Missouri School of Journalism and lead researcher on the project, will work with focus groups made up of Chicago high school students. This research is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. The grant is part of nearly \$5 million in new grants over the next two years to 22 organizations committed to strengthening quality journalism, promoting news literacy and protecting press freedoms.

MISSOURIAN

MU public health students partner with Engineers Without Borders

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 6:44 p.m. CST; updated 7:40 p.m. CST, Tuesday, November 8, 2011

BY ALLYSON GOODIEL

COLUMBIA — Students in the **MU public health master's program** have partnered with Missouri University of Science and Technology's chapter of Engineers Without Borders to work on public health issues in Central America.

Engineers Without Borders is a group that works to improve the quality of life in developing communities through sustainable engineering projects. The Missouri S&T chapter is focused on improving sanitation and water quality.

Lynelle Phillips, field placement coordinator for the public health master's program, said that the partnership began after Richard Stevenson, faculty advisor for the Missouri S&T chapter of Engineers Without Borders, contacted her.

"Dr. Stevenson wanted to forge a partnership where we could tackle community problems from a dual approach of public health and engineering," Phillips said.

Phillips said that the idea came about after Stevenson found that many of the community problems the engineers were working to fix had turned into public health issues.

"Environment is so closely related to health," Phillips said. "It was just a natural partnership."

The group recently built infrastructure to bring clean water to villages in Central America.

Erik DeLaney, an MU public health graduate student, was one of the first students to participate in the program.

"I first went to Guatemala in January for five days just to get a feel for the situation," he said. "We wanted to check it out and understand the public health issues we would be working with."

DeLaney went back to Guatemala for two weeks in August and used Photovoice, a research method that involved giving digital cameras to villagers and asking them to take photographs of their health concerns.

"We also held focus groups to talk about the issues," he said. "We used both the pictures and transcripts of the focus groups to analyze the data and bring out the bigger health issues."

He and a fellow student, Andrea Winberg, used the photos to create a poster to showcase their research.

DeLaney said they used both forms of research to create the poster and to present their findings to the engineers to help with current projects and to identify new projects for the community.

DeLaney and Winberg presented their findings at the Missouri Public Health Association's annual conference in September.

They won first place in the student poster competition.

Abigail Rolbiecki, an MU public health graduate student, went to Honduras to work with Engineers Without Borders after Phillips suggested it as part of an internship program all public health graduate students must complete.

Rolbiecki used Photovoice in her research as well. She said photography has always been a passion of hers, so she jumped at the chance to use it.

"The community buy-in we had was incredible," she said. "It gave me the energy to continue with this project."

She will be going back to Honduras for ten days in January 2012. While there, she plans to implement a health education curriculum based on recurring themes she found through her research.

Phillips said that one community participating in the program took pictures of its cookware that was caked in calcium deposits. She said many of the villagers were getting kidney stones as a result of the calcium in the water.

“Engineers who had helped tap a well in that community didn’t realize it had a really high calcium content,” she said. “Having communication like this helped facilitate the conversation and make plans for the future.”

She said that she is not aware of other chapters of Engineers Without Borders creating a partnership with a public health graduate program.

"Maybe we can be a flagship program for others," Phillips said. "It's certainly worked well for us."

Missourinet

UM students team up, travel to Central America

November 7, 2011 By [Allison Blood](#)

The Missouri University of Science and Technology's Engineers Without Borders program recently partnered with students in Columbia's public health school to study the problems people are having with water systems in Honduras.



Sanitation is one of the major health issues in Central American communities. MPH students worked with residents to find ways to address the growing trash problems in their communities. Photo courtesy of MU News Bureau

An MU research student, Andy Craver, says the study proved the system was broken, and much of the water was not safe to drink. He says a total overhaul wouldn't be an option though. He says the landscape is too rough, and it would be very expensive and time consuming.

He says instead the group sought to educate the population. Craver says most people weren't getting sick because they could see the water had sediment in it, so they knew it probably wasn't clean. He says many people buy bottled water instead, but that is a very expensive solution. Craver says more students will travel to Honduras over the winter break to continue work there.



Now that SEC move's official, time to make it rain

By David Briggs

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

By most measures, the Missouri athletics department is set to begin its six-figure capital campaign with little momentum.

The Tigers' football team is fighting to make a low-tier bowl game after piling up 40 wins in the previous four seasons. A shroud of uncertainty hangs over the basketball program as the NCAA continues to investigate pay-for-play allegations against first-year Coach Frank Haith. And the department's top fundraiser, Whit Babcock, left MU last month to become the athletic director at Cincinnati.

But a move to the Southeastern Conference could provide just the lift Missouri needs.

As MU prepares to move to the Fifth Avenue of college football next season, school officials are counting on a steep rise in donor contributions.

Athletic Director Mike Alden said he expects Missouri's move to a more stable home will "translate to greater support" through season-ticket sales, donations to the Tiger Scholarship Fund and gifts toward the \$160 million capital drive.

So far, pledges to help Missouri stay on the lead lap of the SEC arms race have come from donors big and small, with many making it clear the level of their future donations pivoted on the university's future conference affiliation.

A recent open-records request for one day of emails to Missouri curators showed at least a dozen supporters who promised to either increase their contributions or begin donating to the athletic department if MU left the Big 12 for the SEC. Even a graduate student, who did not respond to messages from the Tribune, said he would give the school "everything I can."

Another fan, Columbia lawyer Clark Jones, wrote that he would quadruple his annual donation to the TSF from \$3,000 to \$12,000.

"There's a lot of people that are eager for a change," he said in a phone interview, "and I think this move will provide a good incentive for them to either increase their donations or start giving altogether."

He added: "I can tell you at least 10 people I know who have said if we stayed in the Big 12, they were going to stop giving. The general" vibe "is if the university isn't willing to step up to the plate and do what's going to be best over the long haul, why should I make sacrifices to support mediocrity?"

Other MU donors disagree. One prominent booster said he would've continued donating at his current "six-figure" annual level regardless of whether Missouri joined the SEC. And many traditionalists have threatened to stop giving because Missouri is headed south.

Todd McCubbin, the executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association, said dozens of fans have threatened to cut financial ties with the university.

"There were certainly folks that have come out and said, 'I'm going to drop my alumni association membership,' " he said yesterday. "Any time you make a major decision, whether it's conference realignment or a lot of different things, fans will react and you're going to perhaps lose donors."

McCubbin, however, described alumni reaction to the move as positive overall.

Missouri needs that buzz to lead to increased donor confidence. More than additional television revenue will be required if the school desires to approach a level economic playing field with many of its new conference rivals. According to federal data, MU spent more than \$23 million less on its 20 athletic programs in 2010 than the eighth-highest-spending school in the SEC — Kentucky (\$76.3 million).

Already, Missouri has expedited plans to upgrade facilities, from Memorial Stadium to the softball complex.

Softball Coach Ehren Earleywine said he spoke last month with Associate Athletic Director Tim Hickman about a time frame for the construction of a new indoor training facility, a locker room and a team lounge.

"We had always planned on improving the facility, but that process is going to be sped up now," Earleywine said. "He wants some things on paper this spring, some blueprints, and he thinks by next fall there's a serious chance we could start to do something."

Let the fundraising begin.

"The enthusiasm that I've seen over the last several weeks with a lot of our donors that help us on that campaign is indicating that we're looking forward to some gifts," Alden said. "They haven't been tied specifically to, 'Well, if you do this, we'll do that.' I don't think that's what our supporters generally are like. They want to support Mizzou in the best light. But for the most of them, those opportunities that exist with the SEC have motivated them at a higher level."

Following Pinkel's lead, Tigers mum on SEC

By Dave Matter

There were reasons football players were not among the Missouri athletes at the MU Student Center on Sunday to celebrate the school's new allegiance with the Southeastern Conference. For one, the team had a 5 p.m. meeting scheduled right in the middle of the announcement. Two, Missouri players aren't in a party mood these days.

Needing two wins in their final three games to salvage a .500 record, the Tigers rarely went off script yesterday in their first encounter with reporters since the SEC news became official. With No. 21 Texas (6-2, 3-2 Big 12) coming to town for Saturday's 11 a.m. kickoff, players and coaches swiftly changed the subject when the SEC came up.

"I really do not care about that conference," cornerback Kip Edwards said. "My mind right now is on these seniors and getting them a win Saturday."

"I'm not worried about the SEC," receiver T.J. Moe said. "I mean, it's cool. Fine. Whatever. It'll be fun for next year. But right now I'm worried about playing Texas."

The players took their cue from Coach Gary Pinkel, the school's most outspoken critic of the Big 12 Conference the last few months as Missouri maneuvered to the SEC. Though Pinkel never publicly stumped for the SEC, his bold comments on Big 12 revenue-sharing policies and the ESPN-funded Longhorn Network became touchstones for MU's restlessness in the Big 12.

But Pinkel opened his weekly media conference yesterday in a prevent defense. He addressed the SEC move with a brief comment and politely rebuffed a few more questions related to the conference change.

"Our administration has made a decision based on what's best for the future of the University of Missouri and the state of Missouri, to go to the Southeastern Conference," he said. "I fully support it. It was certainly based on a long-term decision. As it sorts itself out, we expect it to be a tremendous plus for this university and the state. I'm excited about that. I'm more excited about the opportunity we have to play Texas this week and focus on that and the month of November here finishing up."

Asked about his staff's recruiting assignments in Texas and maintaining the Kansas rivalry, Pinkel said he'd be happy to discuss those topics after the season.

“Coach doesn’t want us talking about the SEC,” co-offensive line coach Josh Henson said. “We’ve got a big game this week, and obviously we’re working hard to finish our season right.”

The second-year assistant might become Pinkel’s most valuable staff member as the program transitions into the new conference and, perhaps, new recruiting terrain. Henson spent four seasons in the SEC working under Les Miles at LSU, serving as the tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator from 2005-08. For now, though, all’s quiet on that front.

“It’s something that’s exciting for our team and our fans,” Henson said, “and I think in three weeks we’ll be dealing with that.”

A few Tigers couldn’t resist testing the gag order, like Moe, who joked that Missouri players shouldn’t expect any favorable calls from Big 12 officials the rest of the season.

“If I was a referee, I wouldn’t give us any calls,” Moe said. “Not that we did anything. I didn’t make decisions to go anywhere. I’m just playing football.”

“I’m sure they’ll be fair,” Moe quickly added. “I’m actually buddies with half the referees out there because I’m always talking to them when I’m out there on special teams.”

Wideout Marcus Lucas said part of the appeal of playing for Missouri was the rivalry with Kansas and the Border War matchup in Kansas City at the end of the regular season. Lucas, a Liberty native, said players weren’t told anything about the SEC move until the news emerged Sunday. Lucas said he asked receivers coach Andy Hill on Sunday if the Kansas rivalry will survive.

“He says he doesn’t know yet,” Lucas said. “Hopefully, we work it out, he said. He wants to play Kansas. He played here, and the rivalry’s big for him. It’s big for all Missouri fans.”

Otherwise, Lucas said, players aren’t that interested in the SEC news, not with Texas visiting Saturday and postseason eligibility at stake. Missouri (4-5, 2-4 Big 12) must have six wins to qualify for a seventh consecutive bowl game.

“Honestly, I’m just really focused on that right now,” the sophomore said. “I just want to finish this year strong. We have a lot to do this year. When the time’s there, then we can start talking about it.”

Defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson said that conversation can continue July 1, 2012, the date MU’s membership in the SEC is set to become effective.

“I’m being honest with you, they told us not to answer anything about it,” Richardson said of MU’s coaches. “That’s how focused we are about it. So we can leave it at that. July 1 is when you can ask us questions about it. Or that’s when you can get a straight answer.”

That doesn’t mean the questions will disappear, even for Missouri’s seniors, the ones who will never play a down in the SEC, like nose guard Dominique Hamilton.

“That’s the buzz right now,” he said of the SEC. “But the buzz with me is worrying about Texas.”

MISSOURIAN

Michelle Obama declines invitation to speak at MU food convention

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 | 5:55 p.m. CST

BY KAYSIE MOORE

COLUMBIA — **Michelle Obama declined the invitation to speak at a MU food convention in March.** An email from her scheduling department said the first lady must decline the majority of the invitations she receives due to time constraints.

MU's Life Sciences and Society Annual Symposium is set to take place March 16-18, and the replacement speaker will be Brian Wansink from Cornell University. Wansink is the author of "Mindless Eating: Why We Eat More Than We Think."

Stefanie Engelstein, director of the symposium, said the social media effort to get Michelle Obama's attention began over the summer.

"We did know that (the rejection) was the most likely outcome, but we organized an event that would still be outstanding even without the first lady," Engelstein said.

Here is the email response in its entirety:

Dear Stefani,

Thanks to you and your colleagues and students at the University of Missouri for inviting the First Lady to the Life Sciences & Society Symposium. Due to time constraints, the First Lady must decline the majority of the invitations she receives. We have reviewed your invitation and, unfortunately, the First Lady will be unable to attend.

The First Lady values each and every invitation, and we thank you again for thinking of us. Mrs. Obama sends her best wishes and hopes that you continue your work to strengthen your community and our country. Thank you again for your interest and understanding, and please keep us in mind for future events.

Sincerely,

The Scheduling Department of First Lady Michelle Obama

MISSOURIAN

UM System faculty, staff to receive upgraded email system

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 | 7:03 p.m. CST; updated 7:26 p.m. CST, Tuesday, November 8, 2011

BY DI ZHU

COLUMBIA — **The faculty and staff at MU** will receive an upgraded email system with more storage and better organizing functions in less than three weeks.

Beginning Friday, the Division of Information Technology will update MU and University of Missouri System faculty and staff email accounts alphabetically by last name to Microsoft Exchange 2010, which replaces the current Exchange 2007 “post office.”

“It will take approximately 17 days to finish the whole transition of MU and UM system,” said Terry Robb, spokesman for the Division of IT.

Email users at University Hospital, Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Professions and the Missouri Rehabilitation Center at Mount Vernon would not be included in this round of updates for technical reasons, Robb said.

After moving to the new Microsoft Exchange server, email users will have a larger mailbox—15 gigabytes, compared to two gigabytes now.

Users can drag email folders from a local computer to the server and save a large number of emails on the server, Robb said. Users can then access them at any time anywhere as long as they have a browser and Internet access.

A new feature will also allow users to better comply with the university’s record retention policy for organizing their email history.

“Users can keep their email records for specific time period of one, three, five and 10 years,” Robb said.

Though much will be improved, Robb thinks it won’t be difficult for users to adjust to the new version of the email system.

“There won’t be much change in the desktop and laptop client interface, actually,” Robb said, “and it is very simple to learn the new features.”

Some smartphone users may need to change their configurations to ensure that their smartphones access mail at mail.umsystem.edu.

The Division of IT also offers a “what’s new” tutorial for those interested in learning about the new features.

Installing the new system began in August 2010, and the upgrade has cost just under \$700,000 so far, Robb said.