

JUN 22 2012



Minds meet at Missouri Scholars Academy

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, June 21, 2012

It didn't take long for high schoolers to realize something was amiss this week when they were asked to make mobiles for babies from low-income families.

One table was given plenty of supplies: scrapbooking scissors, a sturdy wooden hanger, glue, glitter, yarn. The other two got wire hangers, a couple of markers and some twine.

But this is the Missouri Scholars Academy, and nothing is as it seems. Students were told they were doing a community service project, but the activity turned into a firsthand lesson about privilege in society and unearned advantages.

Those types of in-depth discussions are happening all over the University of Missouri campus this month during the annual MSA, a camp for academically gifted students from across the state.

This year, the program received a \$150,000 boost from the state, half of which was used to reduce the student fee from \$700 to \$350. This year's camp has 327 participants.

Discussions ranked high on students' list of what they're enjoying most about the summer program.

"The main thing I've gotten out of it is how amazing people in Columbia and Missouri are," said Daniel Shapiro, who will be a junior at Rock Bridge High School this fall. "Having discussions with other intelligent people around the state — some can be controversial — is a great experience."

MSA lets incoming high school juniors experience college during an intense three-week camp. Participants choose a major and minor and can select from dozens of extracurricular activities in the evenings.

"It's a tapestry of opportunities," said Ted Tarkow, associate dean of MU's College of Arts and Science.

Makayla Crouch of Hallsville said she has been able to use high-tech equipment, learned new ways to solve math problems and made a Ukrainian Easter egg.

"Basically everything I never thought I'd do in my life I've done at MSA," she said.

"And a lot of things we've never even heard of," added Calvin Bill, a student at Southern Boone County High School. "It gets you thinking in different ways."

Kelsey Harper, a Rock Bridge student, said she surprised herself this week when she successfully made an edible white-chocolate rose.

"I've loved everything they've thrown at me," she said. "Being from Columbia, I wasn't sure how different it was going to be, but I've branched out and done different things."

Other area students said they saw a pig being artificially inseminated, learned about Hinduism and studied statistics through games.

For Kacie Saxer-Taulbee of Platte City, the mobile-making experience hit home. She was in the group that received few supplies and quickly realized another table had more to work with.

"I was like, 'I want scissors,' " she said afterward. "It was a cool project. It's really important that society be aware of differences, and this illustrated that."

Saxer-Taulbee sees similar disparities at home, where she's the daughter of two moms who don't have the same health benefits, tax deductions and other rights that married parents have. When her nonbiological mom wanted to adopt her, the family had to move to Illinois to make it legal.

Aside from deep discussions and new opportunities, the students agreed one of the best parts of MSA is that they get to be around other smart kids and aren't labeled as being different.

Although Rock Bridge provides opportunities, there's "nothing at this level," student Katy Shi said. "You can tell a nerdy joke here, and everybody actually gets it."



Health care law may or may not affect rising costs

By Jodie Jackson Jr.
Thursday, June 21, 2012

As health care consumers, providers and insurance industry executives anxiously await the Supreme Court's ruling on an array of constitutional challenges to the Affordable Care Act, conversations and debate continue around the issue of reining in rising health care costs.

The health care reform act, signed into law by President Barack Obama in March 2010, focuses on insurance reform, increasing access to health care and providing coverage to more people.

"It tinkers around the edges with some payment reform, but it really doesn't get at some of the major questions about health care costs," said Ryan Barker, a policy analyst with the nonpartisan Missouri Foundation for Health.

The highest-profile requirement of the law — the mandate that everyone who can afford health insurance must purchase a policy — is at the heart of challenges to the law that the Supreme Court heard in March. Analysts suggest that many ACA provisions could stand without the individual mandate, but expanding Medicare and Medicaid and eliminating pre-existing conditions from policy exclusions will be costly.

"How do you pay for that if there's not an individual mandate?" said Karen Edison, director of the Center for Health Policy and chairwoman of the department of dermatology at the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

Barker said the ACA "was the beginning of the conversation" about reform and health care costs.

"There is still a lot of work to do to make our health care system work better in this country," he said, adding that costs will continue to be an issue regardless of the Supreme Court's decision.

"You're not going to change 17 percent of our economy in one fell swoop," Edison said. "The complexity of the health care system makes it impossible to change the whole system at once." She said the ACA outlines some important first steps for moving from a "sick care system to a true health care system."

Columbia cardiologist Jerry Kennett, a heart surgeon at Boone Hospital Center, was named recently to the National Commission on Physician Payment Reform, a panel that will study

changes to the way physicians will be paid under the ACA and other provisions of health care reform.

The health care reform act calls for shifting from fee for service — paying doctors for the volume of patients they see — to a reimbursement tied to patient outcomes, a so-called "pay for performance" model, for Medicare patients. It's a step that some of the nation's largest private insurers also are putting into place or considering.

Kennett said he shares what appears to be a widespread public concern that the ACA doesn't go far enough to reduce health care costs. "In fact, maybe the opposite," he said. "I don't think there's a lot in the ACA that's going to reduce cost."

Kennett also pointed to what some have called an impending "tsunami" of new patients: a convergence of at least 30 million newly insured people and a flood of rapidly aging baby boomers who are expected to live longer — but with chronic and costly health conditions — at a time when the number of primary care doctors is dwindling.

"I don't think our health care system is prepared for that," Edison said. "Where are all the primary providers going to come from?"

Kennett and Edison cited provisions of the act that they say have been beneficial: the provisions for young adults as old as 26 to remain on their parents' policies; a phased-in closure of the "doughnut hole" for prescription drug payments for Medicare patients; expansion of Medicare and Medicaid; and prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage because of pre-existing conditions or canceling coverage when an insured member gets sick.

Edison also noted that the act has created more collaboration among health care providers, and she credits the act for its cost-saving focus on health literacy, which aims to get patients to participate more in their own care.

"Patient education is a huge factor," Kennett said, adding that physicians can only do so much to encourage healthy lifestyles and decisions about diet and exercise.

"Personal responsibility is a big issue," he said. "You can't mandate personal responsibility."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

At Meeting of University Presses, the Future Presses In

By Jennifer Howard

Be part of the conversation, mind your metadata, and use technology as a bridge to the world: That advice animated sessions at the annual meeting of the Association of American University Presses, held here this week.

This year marks the group's 75th anniversary, and attendance hit a record high, with 787 people registered. The numbers created some logistical hassles but gave the meeting energy, too, tempering nervousness about how to feed the growing e-book market and how to convince budget-obsessed administrators that presses are assets, not liabilities.

People talked somberly about the news that the University of Missouri plans to shut down its press. But so far Missouri has been the exception, not the rule. Most presses have survived the recession and budget cuts. Some, like Princeton University Press, had excellent years, according to Peter Dougherty, the Princeton press's director and the new president of the association.

In a lunchtime address, Mr. Dougherty kept clear of gloom, imagining a robust future for scholarly publishers. He called on the group's members to build what he called "the global university press." Rising literacy is building a worldwide marketplace, he said, and the spread of technology "will make our content available everywhere."

In Mr. Dougherty's vision, technology changes but books remain essential. "In a digital culture that granulates knowledge, books synthesize it," he told the audience. "The greatest asset any university press has is the imagination of its editorial staff."

In an interview, Mr. Dougherty described how the idea of a global university press out of his experience at Princeton, which publishes extensively in science and economics. "Our list travels well," he said. "When we think of markets for our books, we tend to look beyond U.S. borders." When Google's executive chairman, Eric Schmidt, came to Princeton's campus recently and gave

a talk about how the Internet keeps growing globally, the press director saw an opportunity for publishers. "All of a sudden these potential readers become more accessible," he said.

Nuts, Bolt, and Metadata

The association and its member presses have work to do at home before they can make the most of a global market. As usual, the meeting served up many sessions on the technical side of publishing, with panels on "Making Your Metadata Better"—"Metadata is marketing," as a panelist at another session said—and on "E-Book Nuts and Bolts." Later this summer, some university presses will see their first checks from UPCC, the new e-book consortium run by Project MUSE. Another e-book platform, Books at JSTOR, should go live in November.

The shifting human element was on people's minds, too. MaryKatherine Callaway, director of Louisiana State University Press, just finished her term as the group's president. In her farewell address, she noted that several press leaders will step down this year. That includes press directors at the Universities of Hawaii, North Carolina, Pittsburgh, and Virginia, and the American University in Cairo, among others. The transitions don't mark a giving-up but a generational shift in press leadership, according to Kate Torrey, who in her mid-60s is about to leave her job as director of the North Carolina press.

The retirements make room for mid-career publishers to step in and try new things. But presses can also be more vulnerable at times of transition, as university administrators take the opportunity to scrutinize operations before they hand the reins to new directors.

Next year, the association's long-term executive director, Peter J. Givler, will also retire, after 15 years on the job. A large part of Mr. Dougherty's presidential year will involve the search for Mr. Givler's successor. The ideal candidate will be "a real star," Mr. Dougherty said, and someone who "understands that there are policy issues that need to be addressed."

Debate Over Fair Use

Those issues include the push and pull between academic libraries and publishers over copyright and fair use. One session dug into the recent ruling in the lawsuit that pitted Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and SAGE against Georgia State University. The publishers claimed that the university allowed professors to use too much copyrighted material in course e-reserves. In May, Judge Orinda Evans of U.S. district court in Atlanta handed down a ruling that threw out most of the publishers' claims.

A lawyer who regularly advises the association analyzed the ruling in a presentation that left many in the room shaking their heads in dismay. Linda Steinman, a partner with the firm of Davis Wright Tremaine, broke down what she called the judge's "cockamamie math" and explained how her application of the standard fair-use tests worked against publishers.

A district-court decision doesn't usually resonate as much as a higher court's, but there's so little precedent in this area that Judge Evans's ruling has outsize importance, according to Ms.

Steinman. "It's a decision that will carry considerable weight," she warned. "It's a terrible precedent to have on the books for the future."

Having e-licensing options in place—for instance, via the Copyright Clearance Center, or CCC, which helped pay for the lawsuit—offers some protection, the lawyer said. After the Georgia State ruling, "you're safer" having licensing options in place to make widespread, unauthorized copying harder, she told the crowd.

A show of hands revealed that many presses don't have e-licensing arrangements yet. Still, audience members said, permissions revenue makes a difference—enough to pay for a staff job here or a couple of monographs there.

But licensing can cost presses too, according to one librarian attending the session. Mike Furlough, the associate dean for research and scholarly communication at Penn State University Libraries, said his institution pays a six-figure fee to the CCC. That money comes out of the collections budget, he said, which means fewer dollars to spend on new content from university presses.

Presses in the Crossfire

Other sessions brought attendees up to speed on recent, often fierce debates about public access to research. The now-dead Research Works Act, for instance, would have prevented agencies from requiring public access to federally financed research.

A panel on "Policy Wars: University Presses in the Crossfire" made it clear that such debates aren't Washington abstractions; they have serious implications for university presses. Ivy Anderson, director of collection development and management at the California Digital Library, said many publishers' "attempts to articulate value receive a fair amount of negative feedback."

Her advice on how to respond? "Positioning yourselves as innovators is the most positive thing one can do."

Janet Rabinowich, the director of Indiana University Press, told a story about how policy issues can hit close to home. After *The Chronicle* ran an article on the Research Works Act and many publishers' opposition to public-access mandates, Ms. Rabinowich said, she was challenged by an influential administrator about whether the university-press association was on the wrong side of the fight to make scholarship more easily accessible. (The group said it opposed the Research Works Act but also objected to the proposed Federal Research Public Access Act, which would require public-access mandates.) The administrator told her the university couldn't support a publishing operation "that basically consorts with the enemy," she said. After more conversation, the threat subsided, but "it did bring to the fore the larger issue of the role the press can/does/should play in advancing the values of the university," Ms. Rabinowich said.

The row over public-access mandates and the ever-louder call for open access puts presses, pushed by their institutions to recover costs, in a bind. "We would be very happy to offer open-

access publications if we could recover the costs of their publication, which would no doubt be considerably less than Elsevier's," she said.

Raina Polivka works with Ms. Rabinowich at Indiana's press as the music, film, and humanities editor. In a hallway conversation with *The Chronicle*, she talked about how it felt to be a publisher put under the microscope. "Our university is suddenly very interested in what we're doing," she said. At first "it was a little frightening, I think, and a little off-putting."

But the scrutiny has been useful too, Ms. Polivka said. "It's been a good exercise for us," she said, "to evaluate how we serve the community."

College improves lives

Since becoming University of Missouri System president, I have touted the advantages of higher education with examples such as a more informed citizenry, higher income and more engagement in society.

Let me give you one more: a healthier, longer life.

USA Today reported that people with bachelor's degrees or higher live about nine years longer than those who don't graduate from high school. Smoking rates are three times lower, and children of parents with college degrees have significantly lower obesity rates.

This all boils down to the No. 1 advantage of higher education: improved quality of life.

As the product of higher education myself and the president of the state's premier public, research land-grant university, I can't stress enough how valuable education is. And I am concerned that there are those in our state who just don't get it.

So, I'll continue to travel throughout Missouri touting the advantages of higher education. But lest anyone doubt my message, let me be clear: Higher education is a game-changer.

It transforms society. It advances our state.

It pays dividends to individuals. And it is related to longer, healthier lives.

Who needs more reasons than that?

Timothy Wolfe
President
University of Missouri
System

Aging In Place Center Uses Xbox Technology To Keep Seniors Safe

Vernon and Jeanne Barr, ages 96 and 89 respectively, are guinea pigs of sorts. They are part of a scientific experiment that uses video gaming technology -- the same technology used in Xbox game system to be exact -- to detect the onset of illness and protect seniors against falls.

The couple has lived in the TigerPlace Aging-in-Place residences in Columbia, Missouri for the past five years. Their one-bedroom apartment has a kitchen and a porch where Vernon likes to putter around with his plants. It is also outfitted with motion detection sensors over each doorway, high-tech sensors embedded in their mattress and a Microsoft Kinect box mounted on the ceiling to detect falls. The data collected by this equipment is analyzed by University of Missouri researchers who use the information to determine changes in the Barrs' health and behavior patterns.

For example the motion detectors can report if Vernon or Jeanne are getting up to use the bathroom an excessive number of times each night; if that happens, a nurse is sent in to evaluate for a urinary problem. If one of them has a restless night's sleep, the researchers are able to take note of it and investigate why; restlessness at night may be due to anxiety or depression. If one of them wanders off in the middle of the night in what might be an early Alzheimer's episode, the motion detector reports it.

The Barrs, both retired teachers, are part of 65 residents participating in the research study on fall detection -- that's the Xbox technology supplied by Microsoft Kinect. While the technology is still being refined, Vernon says he doesn't mind being a scientific study sample. He's happy his participation might contribute toward something that makes it possible for seniors who want to keep living independently to do so as long as possible. He says he has fallen three times in the five years he's lived at TigerPlace and likes the idea that one day a fall might actually be anticipated -- and prevented ([we have tips on how to prevent falls at home here](#)).

Jessie Back, the TigerPlace social worker, says that the bed sensor embedded under the mattress is so sensitive that it can detect pulse rate, respiration and changes in breathing. An alert is sent out to a clinician if there is a major change.

Privacy is of course protected and the Microsoft Kinect box that is mounted near the ceiling captures images of the Barrs that aren't identifiable. "It's more like a walking blob," Back said. But by studying the couple's walking patterns, the technology can detect changes in gait and stride. "It is helping us detect stumbles and trips, hoping to detect and avoid falls. There is a lot of information that is gleaned from something like a new sway in a person's gait," said Back.

As for Jeanne Barr, she says she is seldom aware of the sensors and really doesn't much think about them. "We're both interested in science and experiments; this didn't cost us anything and might help us -- so we figured 'Why not?'"

And while the goal of the experiment might be to enable seniors to keep living in their homes (an increasing number of older Americans want to age in place) Jeanne Barr is actually quite happy to be living in an assisted living facility. "I have a lot of things wrong with me -- macular degeneration, problems with my right foot, a pacemaker. For years, I didn't go anywhere except to doctors' offices. But I didn't realize just how isolated I was until I got here and now have so many people to talk to!"

Marjorie Skubic, a professor of electrical and computer engineering in the MU College of Engineering, and Marilyn Rantz, a nursing profession in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, have used motion-sensing technology to monitor changes in residents' health for several years at TigerPlace. They recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation to expand their work to a facility in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

"The sensors help identify the small problems -- before they become big problems," Rantz said. "Based on the data collected by the sensors, health providers can offer timely interventions designed to change the trajectory in individuals' functional decline."