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Where Will the Money Come From?

July 12, 2012 - 3:00am By [Libby A. Nelson](#)

WASHINGTON -- With the possibility of broad budget cuts to discretionary programs, including scientific research, looming from Congressional sequestration early next year, research officers from public and private universities are thinking a lot about the future.

At a roundtable convened by the Science Coalition, an organization of universities dedicated to preserving federal funding for basic research, and the Association of American Universities, the officers discussed the future of pure and applied research -- and where the money will come from to pursue both.

They agreed on the importance of encouraging entrepreneurship, pushing the results of research to the market in the form of a product or patent. But they disagreed on whether applied research -- and the money it brings in -- could replace the federal dollars now provided through the National Science Foundation and other agencies. Many fear that money will dwindle as Congressional concern continues about budget deficits.

The increased focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and technology transfer isn't distracting colleges from basic research or teaching, the research officers said.

"In my personal opinion, we're on the right track," said Robert Duncan, the vice chancellor for research at the University of Missouri at Columbia, who described technology transfer and other forms of applied research as part of state universities' land-grant mission.

Instead, the research officers said, the increased role of entrepreneurship and technology transfer -- forms of monetizing research and discovery on college campuses -- has been a learning experience for students. Some colleges have allowed students to license their own intellectual property, redirecting some of the money made from the deals back to student activities in entrepreneurship and innovation. In many cases, students have been more enthusiastic than faculty about pursuing such opportunities, said Vicki Colvin, vice provost for research at Rice University.

A younger generation of faculty also don't see publishing their research, or patenting and marketing the results, as an either/or choice, she added. "The younger faculty have an expectation that you will try to connect to society and try to solve society's problems," she said.

Colleges have become increasingly focused on innovation and entrepreneurship, not just due to cutbacks in federal funding -- Colvin predicted that in a decade, federal money would make up about one-third of support for university research, down from under 60 percent now and 70 percent at its peak -- but due to concerns about older forms of innovation.

"The era of the blockbuster drug is over," said A. J. Stewart Smith, dean of research at Princeton University, adding that the rise of genomic medicine and the increasing complexity of ailments researchers focus on means that more drugs are failing to make it out of clinical trials. Still, he cautioned that focusing too much on marketable results could harm the pipeline of basic research.

"We're not going too far, but we sure don't want to neglect the long-term stuff," he said, adding that applied research "does not drive out the pure." No corporation will pay for the kind of basic physics research that the National Science Foundation, and other agencies, fund, he said.

Stephen Forrest, vice president for research at the University of Michigan, described the difference between pure research and applied research with a banking metaphor. Pure research is "money in the bank," he said, the "pipeline" that leads to new discoveries in applied research.

"The pipeline has to be stuffed with ideas, most of them failures," he said. "The biggest threat to this company today, an economic threat, is not having a full pipeline."

Still, most acknowledged that only a small percentage of faculty will be interested in aggressively pursuing technology transfer, and that many will never see themselves as entrepreneurs or start new companies to promote their ideas.

And that's fine, said Duncan, from Missouri, adding that in many cases, industry and corporations want quicker results than university researchers can produce. "We love it when our faculty just publish," he said. "You can't commercialize a law of nature."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

UM Press supporters to rally this month

BY JANE HENDERSON > Post-Dispatch Book Editor • jhenderson@post-dispatch.com |
Posted: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 10:03 am | [\(3\) comments](#).

The outcry over the decision to close the University of Missouri Press continues, with professors and press supporters meeting later this month in Columbia to discuss ways to fight unilateral decisions from the system's new president.

The meeting begins at 11 a.m. July 24 in Room 2501 of the MU Student Center. It's sponsored by the MU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

According to press supporter Bruce Joshua Miller:

"The meeting has a dual purpose: to show the strength of faculty opposition to a high-handed maneuver that was pulled without faculty consultation, or at the very least to discuss such opposition, and as a rallying point for anyone and everyone who knows how wrong this decision to close the press is---wrong for the university and scholarship, wrong for the people of Missouri, and just plain wrong.

Even though press supporters were ignored at the UM system's Board of Curators meeting last month, a group trying to save the press continues to grow in numbers. More than 4,300 people have signed an online petition and more than 2,300 "like" the Save the University of Missouri Press Facebook page.

On July 2, the Post-Dispatch published an editorial critical of the curators' approval of \$35 million in program and faculty salary cuts (which included \$400,000 for the 54-year-old university press).

At the same time, the university gleefully announced it would issue \$200 million in bonds for better and bigger athletic facilities. The editorial said this showed that "sports has become the tail that wags the dog. America may be 12th among 36 industrialized nations in the number of college degrees awarded, but we're No. 1 in football and work-out facilities."

With Miller, Ned Stuckey-French has been leading the Save the University of Missouri Press fight. An English professor at Florida State University who had published a book with the UM press, Stuckey-French said by email Wednesday:

The University has from the start and continues to make noise about a "new model" for the Press. All discussions of this new model have been held behind closed doors, but some of their outside "consultants" have suggested to us what it might look like -- fewer books, mostly literary rather

than scholarly or regional books, none of the current staff, perhaps only one on-site staff person, most work (all but some acquisition) done by interns or farmed out to freelancers, distribution and marketing farmed out, greatly reduced revenue and control for the University, little focus on Missouri heritage, elimination of current series (e.g., Twain and his Circle, etc.), etc., etc. We anticipated this kind of pretend or phony press from the start and the language of the petition has always been meant to speak to this kind of maneuver on the University's part. Our efforts have also focused on making these discussions transparent and involving the current staff in them, on retaining the current staff and press while any re-thinking of the Press takes place (i.e., don't destroy the Press and start from scratch but reform the current Press).

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Columbia, MU drop out of Gig. U initiative, search for other high-speed Internet solutions

By [Xinrui Zhu](#)

July 11, 2012 | 8:45 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — After a one-year effort to bring extremely high-speed broadband Internet to Columbia and its research communities, **MU and the city are dropping out a project intended to facilitate the technology.**

Gig. U, also called The University Community Next Generation Innovation Project, represents a group of more than 30 universities nationwide that have been working with potential network service providers to bring ultra high-speed Internet to the universities and their surrounding communities.

The city and MU joined the initiative, which could have provided a one-gigabit bandwidth Internet network with speeds up to 1,000 times faster than current services, last July. This followed a failed attempt in 2010 to win the nationwide Google Fiber competition, which would have provided Columbia with similar services.

The city and MU dropped out of the program out of concern for the expense and because Gig. U had already told them which service providers are interested in providing high-speed Internet to Columbia. Mayor Bob McDavid identified those companies as CenturyLink and Mediacom.

Because the city and MU can work with those companies directly, it didn't make sense to continue using Gig. U as a middleman, Mike Brooks, president of Regional Economic Development Inc., said.

"It is not an inexpensive cost for being a member of the Gig. U initiative," Brooks said.

Chip Byers, director of new initiatives for MOREnet, a statewide research and education network run by MU, said the city would have had to pay Gig. U about \$15,000 if it had decided to continue into the second phase of the three-phase program.

The city and MU already had contributed \$6,000 and \$9,000, respectively, to be part of the program's first phase, which involved requesting information about potential high-speed Internet providers.

"I believe (the decision to drop out of the program) is based on the fact that they have only got two responses," Byers said. "That's my understanding of why we discontinued."

Brooks, however, said finding two potential service providers was a positive thing. "Gig. U was successful for us. They helped us identify the two candidates."

There is still a chance CenturyLink or Mediacom will choose to invest in high-speed Internet in Columbia.

"The respondents will make their own decision to carry out the project or not," Byers said. "The idea was to put the market of Columbia out there as a candidate for investment."

Byers said Columbia has the technology and facilities to support faster Internet services, but that the vendors need an incentive to invest.

"We have all the necessary technology, but we still need a business case to run the program," Byers said. "It should make sense to businesses that they can make money. Somebody in the community has to pay a bunch more to make the gigabit access Internet happen; the vendors may want you to pay more or more people to use it."

MU and the city will continue discussions with potential companies that could help establish faster Internet service.

"I am interested in how we will move forward," Byers said. "I am not sure what will be the next opportunity yet."

Byers said there are organizations in Columbia working on special projects requiring larger bandwidths for which people might be interested in paying higher rates.

One of these projects, a collaboration by MU's College of Engineering and the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, aims to create a better monitoring system in the Tiger Place retirement community. They have developed an application that monitors certain aspects of Tiger Place residents' lives, such as how much they sleep during the day, how much they walk and if they are in danger of falling.

This monitoring system takes a fair amount of bandwidth to run, Byers said.

Byers said this system could be installed in elderly persons' homes so that they can safely remain there instead of being moved to a nursing home. If there are people in Columbia willing to pay for this service, it would provide an incentive for a company to invest in high-speed Internet.

Meanwhile, MOREnet also is trying to find other methods to improve Internet service at MU. The organization is working with Air. U, a program similar to Gig. U, to learn whether it can enhance Internet services on campus and in Columbia.

Although Air. U would be unable to provide Internet service as fast as what would be possible through CenturyLink or Mediacom, MOREnet is considering joining the initiative.

"I am not sure what is the next step, but I am sure a lot of conversation will continue," Byers said.

The bill is already coming due for Missouri's move to the SEC

The Tigers are hard at work figuring out ways to beef up their financials so they can be on a par with their fellow Southeastern Conference teams.

By TEREZ A. PAYLOR

COLUMBIA -- Missouri athletic director Mike Alden has plenty on his mind, especially with the Tigers' first game in the Southeastern Conference approaching this fall. But nothing quite commands his attention like his program's financial status, and all it takes is a look at the new competition to see why.

The SEC is, quite clearly, the most competitive conference in America. It has not only produced the last six BCS National Champions in football, but also racked up national titles in nine sports last school year. But there is, quite literally, a price to pay for that success.

In the 2010-11 fiscal year, five SEC teams spent more than \$90 million each on athletics, and four spent more than \$80 million. Compare that to the Big 12, where Texas and Oklahoma were the only schools to spend more than \$90 million and only three others — Nebraska, Kansas and Texas A&M — spent more than \$70 million.

So it's clear to Alden that Missouri — which operated under a \$64 million budget in 2010-11 — must bridge that gap to be competitive in the SEC. He estimates that Missouri's current operating budget ranks 11th out of 14 SEC teams, and that, he said, isn't good enough.

"We believe that in the next five to seven years, we can be somewhere in the middle of the pack, anywhere ranging from sixth to eighth in the league," Alden said. "That's what we did in the Big 12 — now we're going to a league where we're going to need to generate even more."

Mizzou faces another financial challenge as well.

When the fiscal year ended June 30, Missouri did not receive its \$12.4 million share from the Big 12 as an exit penalty for leaving the conference. With its first SEC check not set to come until next summer, that revenue shortfall means the MU athletic department won't be able to pay all of its \$65 million in expenses.

Instead, the university will cover the debt and the athletic department will pay back the school starting in 2016. Alden likened the situation to a bank providing a customer overdraft protection.

“Mizzou knows we’ll have an overdraft this year ... and they’ll make sure all the bills are all covered,” he said. “But we’re going to start having to pay them back in three years.”

Alden said he is confident the athletic department will be able to pay the money back in time. MU is set to receive upwards of \$20 million in its first year in the SEC.

“Nebraska had to do the same thing, Colorado had to do the same thing,” Alden said of other schools who changed conferences and borrowed money. “West Virginia is going to have to do the same thing.”

So what’s Alden’s plan to increase revenue? It all started with research.

He and his staff looked at other schools who have managed to compete in tough conferences with fewer resources than their competitors — Virginia Tech, Illinois and Michigan State, for example — and found one school that helped provide a road map to financial success in the SEC.

“After Arkansas moved into the Southeastern Conference, they have grown their budgets,” MU senior associate athletic director for operations Tim Hickman said.

After the Razorbacks left the Southwest Conference for the SEC in 1992, they built new athletic facilities and steadily raised their operating budget. Arkansas generated \$91 million in revenue and spent \$80 million in 2010-11 — each figure far ahead of Missouri.

Alden said Arkansas has increased revenue by focusing on three areas: ticket sales, annual giving and multimedia rights. That’s where Missouri is taking aim, too.

“If you go to coach (Frank) Broyles, who is the former athletic director, and (current A.D.) Jeff Long over the course of those 20 years they’ve been in the SEC,” Alden said, “you would see them talk about those three things.”

MU, which has earned around \$20 million in ticket revenue the last three fiscal years, raised football ticket prices across the board to a level Alden says is in the middle of the pack of the SEC.

As for multimedia rights, Mizzou reported around \$4 million in revenue in fiscal year 2011 but Alden said the school currently makes around \$4.2 to \$4.3 million from its Learfield Sports contract and sees that number increasing in the future. And if the much-talked-about SEC Network is launched, Mizzou expects to be able to keep some of those rights on top of an increased share from the conference.

“In order for us to make more money on multimedia rights,” he said, “we need to continue to make more money through corporate partnerships.”

The last area in which Alden hopes to see improvement is annual giving. MU has reported contribution revenue in the range of \$13 million to \$14 million the last four fiscal years. But Alden is counting on fans to give more to the Tiger Scholarship Fund, which raised minimum donations for certain seats at Memorial Stadium.

“Whether it’s \$100 a year, \$500 a year or \$1,000 a year, our growth will be predicated on expanding the number of people who give to us,” Alden said.

Then there are major gifts, such as the \$30 million recently pledged to the university by the Kansas City Sports Trust. Hickman said the money is tentatively scheduled to be given over a 10-year period as the school undergoes \$200 million worth of planned athletic facilities upgrades, \$102 million of which is already accounted for with the donation and \$72 million in bonds.

“If you get some major gifts like we got the other day,” Alden said, “those can accelerate those other things moving forward.”

They sure did for Arkansas.

In the early 1990s, Arkansas received \$15 million from Wal-Mart co-founder Bud Walton toward the construction of a new basketball facility. Bud Walton Arena opened in 1993, and the school hasn’t stopped improving since.

Long, Arkansas’ athletic director, and a few members of his leadership team visited Columbia about a month ago and shared ideas on growth. Like Missouri, Arkansas has big ideas, too. Last year it announced a 30-year, \$320 million facilities upgrade plan.

“We spent half a day with those guys, talking to them about things they’ve been implementing,” Alden said. “We collaborate and share a lot of information with Arkansas.”

Hickman said any major gifts Missouri receives will likely go toward completing projects that will, in time, increase the athletic budget.

The planned upgrades to Memorial Stadium mean more seats, 10,000 or more, which mean more money. Based on a study that projected additional revenue from facilities upgrades, school officials used a conservative estimate and concluded they could borrow \$72 million. Alden expects to easily pay that back — using revenue from future premium seating — over a 30-year period.

“It’s the same financing, the same way they do it at South Carolina, Tennessee, Oklahoma,” Alden said, comparing MU to three schools that have also renovated their athletic facilities.

The creation of the SEC Network could put even more dollars in each school's pockets. SEC commissioner Mike Slive is working on renegotiating the conference's already-rich TV contracts and there is momentum toward the schools' combining their media rights to create a separate network like the Big Ten's.

"That's going to really assist us, as far as increasing travel budgets and recruiting budgets," Alden said. "We hope we could see that somewhere in fiscal year 2015. I think the SEC has proven that the pooling of all the rights in the league is a great deal for all of us."

There was a time when Hickman and Alden figured Missouri stood to earn at least \$5.5 million more in its first year in the SEC.

Hickman is now confident those projections are a tad low.

"We budgeted a \$1.5 million gain in ticket sales," Hickman said, "but I think we'll blow that out because we budgeted based on flat sales with new increased prices, but we have increased prices and increased sales."

He also added that the Tiger Scholarship Fund is on pace to surpass its expectation of an additional half-million in revenue.

Now Hickman feels comfortable projecting Missouri to make at least \$7 million more in its first year in the SEC than it did in the Big 12.

"And that's the conservative projection," Hickman said.

That would bring Missouri's projected revenue this financial year to somewhere around \$70 million — higher than it was before but still far behind several SEC middleweights.

This does not bother Alden. Since he arrived at Missouri over a decade ago, he insists the athletic department has slowly and steadily improved its budget against the likes of big spenders like Texas, Oklahoma, Texas A&M and Nebraska, schools with bigger budgets and bigger stadiums.

"For the most part, we did pretty good, we made good headway," Alden said. "Now we're going to be doing it again — there's just a few more (big spenders) in the SEC than the Big 12.

"It's part of the cost of moving to a big-time league."



MU considers pedestrian safety on College

By Andrew Denney

University of Missouri officials would like to move forward with a plan to improve pedestrian safety on College Avenue by establishing new crosswalks and building concrete barriers to restrict crossings on the pedestrian-heavy street, but MU still lacks funding for the project.

The construction of new crosswalks and concrete barriers was first recommended to the university in 2009 by a hired consultant, but Karlan Seville, a spokeswoman for MU Campus Facilities, said the recent economic downturn put those plans on hold.

The improvement of pedestrian safety features on College has been discussed by MU and city of Columbia officials over the past several years. As part of the university's proposal, two new crosswalks that would allow pedestrians to cross College between Rosemary Lane and Wilson Avenue and near the MU Physics Building just north of the building's service driveway would be installed.

"Students tend to cross where they live, basically," Seville said. "So if you drive along College Avenue before classes begin, it's just a long string of students in that median. So it makes it dangerous for pedestrians and vehicles."

Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor for MU Campus Facilities, discussed the proposed project at a public hearing Monday held by a blue ribbon committee formed by Missouri House of Representatives Speaker Steve Tilley to gather input on the state's transportation needs.

In a presentation to the committee, Ward said on an average day in 2010, about 19,500 automobiles traveled on that stretch of College. He noted that since that year, enrollment at MU has increased.

Ward said that, in a two-day count in 2009, there were about 7,500 crossings on College Avenue between Bouchelle and University avenues, of which about 5,000 were taken between crosswalks. MU police Chief Jack Watring said there have been 11 injury accidents involving pedestrians along that section of College since the beginning of 2009.

Ward told the committee the project would cost about \$1.1 million and said MU plans to reach out to the city of Columbia and the Missouri Department of Transportation — which maintains College Avenue — to collaborate on it.

In response to a question from committee member John Nations, who asked Ward whether a new pedestrian bridge on College could help to make the road safer for pedestrians, Ward said students would not likely use a bridge if it does not lead them more directly to their destination.

The portion of College between Broadway and Rollins Road is about three-quarters of a mile, and in that stretch, there are crosswalks at three intersections.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Former curator's son to lead MU research center

Associated Press | Posted: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 12:33 pm | [\(0\) comments.](#)

The son of a former University of Missouri curator who suddenly resigned in January has been hired as the new director of the school's Delta Research Center in Portageville.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (<http://bit.ly/O1pMtU>) that Trent Haggard will lead the southeast Missouri agricultural research center. He is the son of Kennett nurse Judy Haggard and David Haggard, a former chairman of the research center's advisory board who resigned that position in January.

Trent Haggard is a Missouri graduate who spent the past 18 years as U.S. sales and marketing manager for cotton harvesting at Case New Holland Global. The Delta center focuses on production and management of crops such as cotton, rice and soybeans.

School officials said Haggard's parents were not involved in the job search.

The Washington Post

Kanye West and his 'New God Flow': A self-made throne

By Rahiel Tesfamariam

"I believe there's a God above me; I'm just the god of everything else." The blasphemous bravado of rapper Pusha T's opening line in "New God Flow" serves a purpose. It quickly expunges any notion of religious correctness and preps the listener for the rage and self-glorification that is about to follow. From the bellowing belly of the church choir to the call-and-response hook to the pulsating stomps on which he exits his final verse, Kanye West reigns as a king, sitting on the throne of his own ego.

I thought about Mr. West and his latest religious anthem as I read the findings of a new study from the University of Missouri on the capacity that black men in urban communities have to remain resilient despite hardships. Every socioeconomic and health statistic suggests that the load that black men carry is heavier than most, yet their heads remain above water.

The song is punctuated with those indelible images of triumph that many black men grip in order to persevere. West and Pusha T refer to enemies and annihilation, but it's the beat and forcefulness in their voices that conjure up snapshots of victorious combat. Without them having to say it, you know that they've been fighting for a long time. Fighting nay-sayers, their own tempers, competitors, the seduction of success, the fear of failure, and even those boys in blue who have a license to kill.

The listener should know that this is about more than the glorification of street warfare when West speaks of traumatic life experiences that "can mess up [a man's] whole life," like the unwanted, sexual touch of a male relative.

West wants to ensure that you can't reduce "New God Flow" to another machismo-infused Hip-Hop song. Yes, he's trying to follow in the spirit of rap greats like Biggie Smalls, but he also conjures up other ancestors -- Dr. King, a freedom fighter, and Rodney King, a victim of American racism. West knows from whence he comes, as his various lines in the song reflect a sense of social consciousness that his fame and fortune often overshadow.

West's references to the urban violence that plagues his hometown of Chicago suggest that his pain cuts deeper than his own suffering. He has yet to detach from the plight of his people, which may be why he believes that "dope boys" (drug dealers) maintain respect for him. It's the open season on black men that consumes him. The "Murder to [Black] Excellence" is what has him asking "where did God go."

West's musical evolution has led many to think that his relationship with God isn't the same as it was when he released his controversial faith manifesto, "Jesus Walks." He was seemingly repentant and God-fearing then. He seems unapologetic and self-absorbed now. Yes, he put God in the title of his newest song, but where else is he putting God before himself? Does he know who truly reigns supreme? Should it be enough that he still believes?

This is a man whose entry into the rap world was what the Christian community calls a "testimony of faith." Surviving a car accident that nearly took his life a decade ago, his career was catapulted by the release of "Through the Wire," which told the story of that nearly fatal experience. West had a second chance at life, and he was determined to make the most of it.

But his new life brought about losses that would haunt him daily. West repeatedly said goodbye to loved ones, losing the women who helped shape him into the man that the world cared to know - most notably his mother.

Yet, he constantly seeks and believes in love. Although he has been mocked for being coupled with relationship addict Kim Kardashian, he could easily be praised for his insistence on maintaining public intimacy. He refuses to hide his need for love and validation, which has made vulnerability an indispensable characteristic of his brand. We may publicly critique his immaturity, but we secretly admire his raw humanity. He is boldly fragile, making him stand out among an army of rappers too afraid to admit their own weaknesses.

As broken and wounded as West has shown himself to be through the years, he is also a testament to human resilience. He reflects our flawed efforts to make meaning out of suffering, to celebrate personal flaws rather than allow others to turn our failures against us, to love again and again despite our intimacy with loss and to still believe in our darkest hours.

West knows (he must know) that he's not God. But he also knows, as he should, that God loves him. Interestingly, it may be that very belief that's keeping him from stepping down from his self-made throne. Maybe in time, he'll learn, along with Pusha T, that there's God, and then there's everyone else.

Orlando Sentinel

Do atheists have deathbed conversions?

A story on PSmag.com examines how atheists' non-religious views tend to waver when death draws near:

Are there atheists in foxholes? That timeless question (the literal answer to which is yes) is a shorthand way of asking whether, when confronted by their own mortality, even nonbelievers' thoughts turn to God.

Research published earlier this year tentatively concluded that they do. But a new study, conducted by scholars from three countries, reports that death-related thoughts lead us to reaffirm whatever belief system gives our lives meaning—and for atheists, that's something other than religious faith.

“Our tentative conclusion is that even nonreligious people are tempted toward religious belief, if only implicitly, in the face of death,” writes Oxford University psychologist Jonathan Jong. He is lead author of a paper titled “Foxhole Atheism, Revisited,” published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

“The psychological comforts of religion do not appear to be of universal necessity,” counters University of Missouri psychologist Kenneth Vail. He’s the lead author of the paper “Exploring the Existential Function of Religion,” published in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

Sensors spot lame horses earlier than vets

U. MISSOURI (US) — Small motion sensors placed on horses can detect lameness sooner than veterinarians using the traditional method of a subjective eye test.

The detection system, called the Lameness Locator, places small sensors on the horse's head, right front limb, and croup, near the tail. The sensors monitor and record the horse's torso movement while the horse is trotting.

The recorded information is then transferred to a computer or mobile device and compared against databases recorded from the movement of healthy horses and other lame horses. The computer is then able to diagnose whether or not the horse is lame.

Kevin Keegan, a professor of equine surgery at the University of Missouri, and study co-author Meghan McCracken, an equine surgery resident, put special adjustable shoes on horses that temporarily induced symptoms of lameness. The horses were then monitored by the Lameness Locator as well as by a number of veterinarians using any lameness testing methods they wished.

If no lameness was detected by either the veterinarians or the Lameness Locator, the special shoes were adjusted slightly to increase the symptoms of lameness. This process was repeated until both the Lameness Locator and the participating veterinarians properly identified in which leg of the horse the lameness was occurring.

Keegan and McCracken found that the Lameness Locator was able to correctly identify lameness earlier than veterinarians using subjective eye test methods more than 58 percent of the time and more than 67 percent of the time when the lameness occurred in the hind legs of the horse. Their findings are reported in the *Equine Veterinary Journal*.

“There are two reasons why the Lameness Locator is better than the naked eye,” Keegan says. “It samples motion at a higher frequency beyond the capability of the human eye and it removes the bias that frequently accompanies human subjective evaluation.”

Because equine lameness may begin subtly and can range from a mild problem affecting a single limb to a more complicated one affecting multiple limbs, veterinarians and horse owners know that early detection is the key to successful outcomes.

“If veterinarians can detect lameness earlier, before it gets too bad, it makes treatment much easier,” Keegan says. “Lameness often goes undetected or undiagnosed entirely, which can cause owners to retire horses earlier than needed, simply because they cannot figure out why the horses are unhealthy. The Lameness Locator should be able to help with that as well.”



Retired race dogs save lives as blood donors

By Janese Silvey

For the most part, they're living the retired life, napping through the day, taking morning and afternoon walks and welcoming visitors.

These retired race dogs do have one important job, though: Every three weeks or so, they donate a pint of blood.

Meet the Pets Saving Pets team at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine. The group of greyhounds — along with feline counterparts — donates the blood needed to save other animals that come to the college's teaching hospital with serious health problems.

Susan Goedde's 14-year-old dachshund, Margaret, was one of those sick pets. The dog developed a red blood cell disorder, and her veterinarian in Jefferson City referred Goedde to MU, where Margaret recently received a blood transfusion.

"Without a blood transfusion, she probably would not be alive," Goedde said.

She was so impressed with the hospital and the program that she asked to meet Elmo, the dog who saved her pet's life.

The dogs are former racing greyhounds, animals that are sometimes euthanized when they're finished with their racing careers. Instead, these dogs are donated to MU, where they're used for as long as two years and then adopted.

During their time at MU, they stay in roomy cages that have beds and toys. Students and volunteers walk them at least twice a day.

Greyhounds are the "perfect dogs" to donate blood for several reasons, said Leah Cohn, a veterinary medicine professor who runs the blood bank. First, the breed is considered a universal donor. Although dogs have a wide range of blood types, greyhounds have a higher count of oxygen-carrying red blood cells that matches other types, Cohn said.

They also are large, muscular dogs, so it's easy for them to donate a unit. On top of that, greyhounds "have a great temperament," Cohn said. "They're docile animals, happy to cooperate. They don't have to be held down."

And if a specific canine isn't happy about donating blood once it gets to MU, staff will adopt it out instead of using it, said Matt Haight, a senior veterinary technician. "If they're miserable, it's not worth it," he said.

Cat blood donors also have a room in the hospital with climbing features and toys. Unlike dogs, cats have two blood types, Type A being the most common. Purebreds and rare breeds tend to be Type B, so MU keeps at least one of them in the program, Cohn said. The cats must meet a certain weight minimum and typically donate on an as-needed basis. They also are up for adoption after a year or so.

To introduce the animals to the public and help spread the word when one is ready to be adopted, the veterinary hospital recently launched a Facebook page, Blood Donors of MU CVM. The page has photos of the dogs and when they'll be up for adoption.