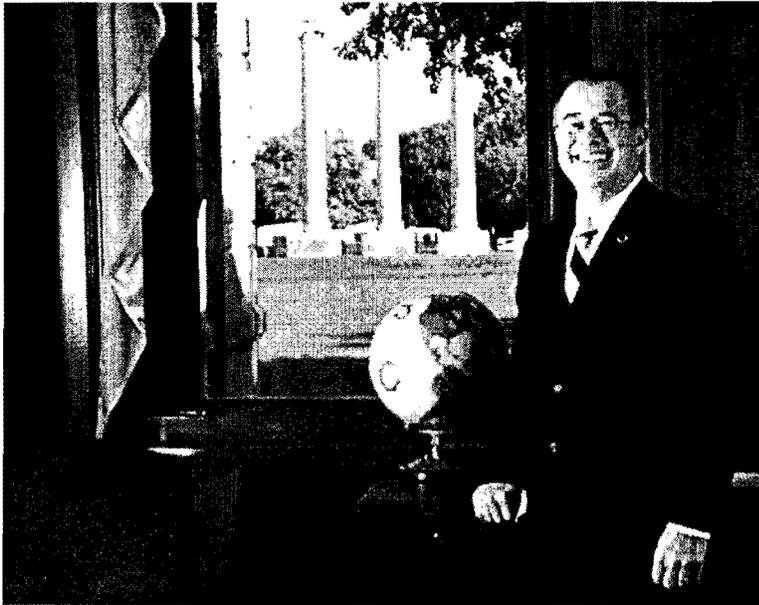


AUG 10 2012

## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

### UM Press rejected chancellor's book



Brady J. Deaton became chancellor of the University of Missouri in 2004. His doctorate is in agricultural economics. About 15 years ago, he talked to the University of Missouri Press about publishing his book.

BY JANE HENDERSON > Post-Dispatch Book Editor • [jhenderson@post-dispatch.com](mailto:jhenderson@post-dispatch.com)

**The controversy over the fate of the University of Missouri Press hasn't quieted since the Columbia campus said it would take over the press and reorganize it with new leadership and an emphasis on student instruction.**

At least 29 authors have asked that the university return the rights to their books, including all of the historians and contributors to the press' "Dictionary of Missouri Biography."

Meanwhile, Mizzou Chancellor Brady Deaton met with members of the school's Faculty Council and noted that in the past the press had declined to publish his own book.

"The announcement of the new press has only made people angrier," Ned Stuckey-French, who has published with the press, said by email.

"No one except the administrators who are trying to hide their mistakes behind smoke and mirrors supports this pretend press. ... They are angry that Chancellor Deaton understands so

little about scholarly publishing that he seems to think of the U of Missouri press as his own press...."

Stuckey-French has been one of the leading activists trying to save the press in its current form. An English professor at Florida State University, last year the UM press published his "The American Essay in the American Century."

He has requested that the rights to his book be returned and said that he is to speak later today with the assistant vice president for academic affairs, Deborah Noble-Triplett.

On Aug. 6, a letter from contributors and editors of the "Dictionary of Missouri Biography" was sent to UM system President Timothy Wolfe. It reads, in part:

It is with sorrow and regret that we ask to reclaim the licenses and rights for the six volumes in the Missouri Sesquicentennial Edition of the History of Missouri Series and the Dictionary of Missouri Biography published by the University of Missouri Press. We do so because we firmly believe that the new model offered as a replacement for the existing press will be unable to sustain the quality and high standards that all serious scholars expect and deserve. Moreover, if the present ill-conceived design prevails unaltered, we will be unwilling to assist or support the proposed venture in any way. It is our considered opinion that the vast majority of academics at the University of Missouri and elsewhere will choose to follow a similar course.

To see the rest of the letter, go to the Save the University of Missouri Press' Facebook [page](#).

Also on that page, is an account of a recent meeting members of Mizzou's Faculty Council had with Wolfe and MU Chancellor Deaton. Wolfe didn't show up in person; he talked by telephone.

Math professor Stephen Montgomery-Smith reports that Deaton noted the press declined his own book project, saying it was not in the press' scope of interests. Deaton also is reported as saying the press had fairly narrow content.

A [story](#) this week in the Columbia Daily Tribune said:

In a statement to the Tribune, Deaton clarified that he was in the early stages of his book and that the press's input was merely part of his information-gathering process. He said he stands by his point that the UM Press could be an outlet for a wider array of scholarly subject areas.

In 54 years, the press has published more than 2,000 books. Like all academic presses (even most general publishers) it emphasizes certain areas. The press' [website](#) says

The press publishes in many areas including, American and World History; Intellectual History; Biography; Journalism; African American Studies; Women's Studies; American, British, and Latin American Literary Criticism; Journalism; Political Science, particularly Philosophy and Ethics; Regional Studies of the American Heartland; and Creative Nonfiction.

Deaton holds a doctorate in agricultural economics.

Although Wolfe has rejected a Faculty Council request that UM halt its plans to overhaul the press, the UM system has finally taken a formal step to get the faculty involved: An advisory committee will be established to help the press transition to its new home on the Columbia campus.

A phone call this week to the press' editor in chief was not returned.

**Update:** Editor Clair Willcox cleaned out his office in July. Of the nine remaining members of the press' staff, three are expected to leave by the end of this month, two more leave in October and the rest are expected to stay on until November or December.



## Woman reports assault near MU

Thursday, August 9, 2012

**A woman reported she was assaulted early yesterday morning while walking near the University of Missouri campus.**

The 1:42 a.m. incident happened on the 1500 block of University Avenue, where the woman was walking by herself. She reported being approached by a man who knocked her down, Columbia police said. The woman said she was grabbed by her shoulder and pulled to the ground before the suspect began running east on University and drove away in a red sport utility vehicle. The vehicle left the scene heading south on William Street, police said.

The victim suffered a minor injury to her back and refused medical attention. The suspect was described as an Asian man, about 5 feet 8 inches tall with a stocky build and dark trimmed hair.

As the start of the fall semester begins at local colleges, local law enforcement agencies are advising people to use the buddy system; avoid high-crime areas; trust your instincts; don't advertise personal belongings such as phones or cash; and be alert.

For information, visit the police department's website at [www.gocolumbiamo.com/Police](http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Police).

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## UMSL develops 'Plan B' to renovate science lab complex

7 hours ago • BY TIM BARKER [tbarker@post-dispatch.com](mailto:tbarker@post-dispatch.com) > 314-340-8350

### MU MENTION P. 2

The University of Missouri-St. Louis has finally given up on the state's stalled plan to use money from its student loan authority to pay for campus improvements.

Instead, the school will look elsewhere to jump-start the long-planned renovation of its worn-out Benton-Stadler science complex, picked five years ago to receive nearly \$30 million from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority.

"We're still listed to receive the money for that. But we just can't wait forever," said Thomas George, UMSL's chancellor.

Indeed, there seems to be little reason to believe that money — part of \$105 million still owed to the state — will ever find its way to UMSL.

The original plan, envisioned by former Gov. Matt Blunt and put into law in 2007, called for the loan authority to pay the state \$350 million over six years to support a series of capital projects on campuses across the state. The so-called Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative was put into motion at a time when the economy was strong and the authority was flush with growing assets.

Things got off to a great start when the organization made an initial bulk payment of \$230 million in September 2007. That was supposed to be followed by a series of quarterly payments until the balance was paid. But by mid-2008, with the economy faltering, the plan sputtered and MOHELA was forced to suspend payments.

While the money was flowing, it funded a range of projects, including \$16 million for a child and parent education center at Harris-Stowe State University; \$24 million for a plant biology center at Northwest Missouri State University; and \$30 million for science and math halls at Missouri Western State University.

The state's flagship University of Missouri system didn't fare so well. Of the \$114 million the system was supposed to get, it received just \$40.3 million. And in the current political and financial environment, there's not much optimism that things are going to change.

"It doesn't appear to be anyone's priority," said Nikki Krawitz, the system's vice president of finance.

It's not so much that MOHELA has no money to spare, but rather that the state — and Gov. Jay Nixon — have found other uses for the loan authority's surpluses. Even though the quarterly payments have stopped, MOHELA gave the state more than \$60 million to help offset budget deficits in 2010 and 2011. And the organization has set aside \$5 million for 2012.

Essentially, money that could have gone to capital improvements was used to bolster Access Missouri — the program that supports lower- and middle-income students — after it was gutted in Nixon's budgets.

"There were multiple needs. We couldn't do both," said Will Shaffner, MOHELA's director of business development and governmental relations. "There would have been students in Missouri who wouldn't have been able to go to college or to complete college without that access grant."

Still, Shaffner said the organization has obligations under the 2007 law to finish paying what it owes to the Lewis and Clark fund.

The state, however, isn't in any hurry to collect the money. Originally, the balance was due in September 2013. But each of the loan authority's recent budget-friendly gifts to the state have netted extensions to that deadline. Now, the balance isn't due until 2019, making it a problem for some other governor to deal with.

Nixon, who opposed the Lewis and Clark initiative when he was attorney general, would not comment for this story.

And so University of Missouri officials must, for now, deal with the frustration of missing out on millions of dollars in state funding, largely because of bad timing. When the money came rolling in, the projects that were ready to go got funded first.

**Another project that didn't get funded was the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia. It was taken care of in late 2010, when the system's Board of Curators voted to issue \$265 million worth of bonds to support capital projects. The list included nearly \$32 million for the cancer center, with the bonds being paid for with patient revenue.**

The solution was tougher in the case of Benton-Stadler. Like most academic buildings, it generates little or no revenue with which to cover bond payments. Renovation of the complex has been on the school's wish list for more than a decade and has been slated for funding on three occasions.

The newest plan is the direct result of the message sent to higher education leaders earlier in the year by Nixon, who was threatening to slash funding to colleges and universities by nearly 8 percent in his next budget. Schools eliminated faculty positions and programs to save money. But by the time the budgeting process was over, the higher ed cut was a modest 1 percent.

The school plans to use some of its savings to support \$30 million worth of bonds to build a 75,000-square-foot addition to the Benton-Stadler complex, providing a place to move science and teaching labs so that a total renovation can be done later.

And even though the project is being funded through cuts to other departments, George says the plan has the support of the campus, noting that virtually every degree-seeking student takes classes in the complex at one time or another.

"I think people on campus, even the nonscientists, recognize the importance of Benton-Stadler," he said.

## McCaskill's dream opponent, Akin, still offers an uphill battle

MU mention page 3

STEVE KRASKE

Chere Chaney could barely contain herself.

Asked about the prospects of her candidate, Democratic U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, facing off against conservative Republican Todd Akin in November, Chaney rubbed her hands together and gushed, "Oh, yea, *baby!* We're excited to death."

A member of the Communication Workers of America, Chaney joined legions of Democrats on Wednesday who were re-energized about McCaskill's chances after months of dispiriting news that the senator was all but toast.

They think Akin -- who easily won Tuesday's GOP Senate primary -- is perhaps the only Republican Senate candidate of the three hopefuls that McCaskill could defeat.

Still, Republicans, and even some Democrats, cautioned that the race will be highly competitive and even uphill for the former Jackson County prosecutor, who trails in the polls in a state that continues to tilt to the right.

McCaskill calls herself the underdog. Her former campaign manager, Richard Martin, acknowledged that Democrats must be cautious.

"This is no time for her to be overconfident or for Democrats to think they've been given any kind of gift," he said. "There's still work to be done."

All day Wednesday, signs of exactly what McCaskill is up against surfaced. A group called Crossroads GPS that has ties to Karl Rove, former President George W. Bush's political director, announced a new \$874,000 ad buy in Missouri that accuses McCaskill of raising taxes.

Republicans point out how often McCaskill voted with President Barack Obama, who remains unpopular in Missouri. And they insist that McCaskill had it wrong when she claimed in a campaign stop in Kansas City that Akin was "out of the mainstream of Missouri."

It's McCaskill's who doesn't get it, they argue, and exhibit one is her backing of the new health care law. "It's her views that are outside the mainstream," said Akin spokesman Ryan Hite.

On the first day following the intense, months-long GOP primary fight between Akin, businessman John Brunner and former state treasurer Sarah Steelman, Akin took time off the campaign trail. Hite said the candidate would remain on the sidelines until next week.

McCaskill, however, launched her general-election campaign with a sharp denunciation of Akin that ranged from her opponent's stands on Medicare, Social Security and the minimum wage, to college loans.

"Today begins an opportunity for Missourians to take a hard look at two very different visions of what our country is and should be," she said.

Akin wants to privatize Medicare and Social Security, McCaskill noted. He objects to the minimum wage and to federally backed student loans.

"That means if you don't have the money to send your child to school, your child can't get a loan to go to school, which means that only the rich kids are going to college," she said.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee released a list of bills that easily passed the House, but which Akin opposed. One was a measure aimed at improving training and education for autism service providers that had the support of 147 Republicans. Akin was one of 24 who voted against it.

But Akin's camp hurried to reject any attempt to portray him as extreme.

"If she tries to paint us into some far out corner, Missourians will say, 'Hold on,'" Hite said. "She voted us into more debt, more spending and less individual liberty the last six years. I don't believe Missourians consider that mainstream."

Any notion that Akin was part of the same wave as other Tea Party conservatives -- Christine O'Donnell of Delaware and Sharron Angle of Nevada -- who won primaries but then lost general elections, also is wrongheaded, said GOP strategist James Harris, who worked on Steelman's campaign.

O'Donnell and Angle were political newcomers who struggled to explain their stands on the issues; Akin has served in Congress for six terms, and has been easily re-elected from his suburban St. Louis district.

"Todd knows foreign policy," Harris said. "He understands national security. He knows economic policies inside and out."

The race will come down to the economy, and which vision makes more sense to voters, Harris added. "They'll say of the Obama-McCaskill policy, 'Hey, that's not right.'"

A poll conducted for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last month showed all three Republicans leading McCaskill. Akin's lead of 49-44 percent was the smallest of the three and within the survey's margin of error.

Still, she's running in a very different year than 2006, when she won her first term. That was a big Democratic year, and yet McCaskill narrowly won 50-47 percent in her race against Republican Jim Talent.

That national Democratic tide appears to be missing in 2012. But Akin is not well-known outside his 2nd Congressional District, and he spent much of his campaign war chest to win the primary.

That gives McCaskill an opening, political analysts said.

"She can confidently claim the middle ground," said Kansas City Democratic consultant Steve Glorioso, who has worked for McCaskill. "It's no longer this anybody-but-Claire. Now voters have to pick between a certified moderate and someone who's in the far extreme."

Yet Martin pointed out that Akin will be backed by a legion of conservative supporters who will work to get Republicans to the polls. "That base will be with him," he said.

The question will be which candidate can best appeal to middle-of-the-road independents. Mitt Romney, who holds a comfortable lead in Missouri, will help Akin with more moderate voters, while Akin will help Romney with conservatives, said GOP consultant Jeff Roe.

"Campaigns are all about incumbents, so this race is all about Claire," Roe said.

McCaskill will likely try to keep the focus on Akin, observers said, but Akin will likely do just the opposite.

**"A whole lot depends on national trends," said Dave Robertson, a political scientist at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "If Obama's job approval is up, if people get a little more confident in the economy, that will be a big help to her. But time's a-wasting on that."**



## Company to begin construction of trail

Thursday, August 9, 2012

**A construction company has been cleared to start Monday on construction of the Greenbriar Trail in southwest Columbia, which will link Greenbriar Drive with the University of Missouri Recreation Trail.**

According to a news release from the city's Public Works Department, Lehman Construction LLC of California, Mo., will begin moving equipment to the site Monday and could begin work within the following 10 days.

The \$792,000 project will be paid for from \$28 million in federal grants awarded to Columbia to enhance non-motorized transportation.

The project also will include trail improvements from Mick Deaver Memorial Drive to Old Route K. Public Works is advising trail users to expect closures while the project is under way and to use caution if entering a work zone. The project is expected to be completed by fall.

## Participants lose a combined 22,309 pounds in Columbia Slimdown Challenge

By [Xinrui Zhu](#)

August 9, 2012 | 6:31 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Danielle Wiedmier said she sleeps better, looks better and has more energy than she did three months ago.

The 34-year-old mother of two daughters and two sons lost 39 pounds in 12 weeks as a member of the first Columbia Slimdown Challenge.

“Exercise and diet is not fun,” Wiedmier said. “But whenever I wanted to give up, I kept reminding myself of the importance of losing weight.”

She and 3,500 other Columbia residents joined the weight-loss challenge, which began on April 1. After a period of intense dieting and training, 2,032 people officially weighed out on Aug. 1.

Together, they dropped a total of 22,309 pounds.

The challenge’s participants lost an average of 10.8 pounds each. The most weight lost by one individual was 74 pounds.

“Losing weight is hard for most individuals,” said Shelley Naydyhor, who helped organize the challenge. “To come together as a community and do so is pretty amazing.”

**The Tiger Institute for Health Innovation, a subsidiary of MU, created the challenge with the help of Cerner Corp., its strategic partner.**

Teams of four to six entered the competition to see who could lose the largest percentage of body weight within the three-month window.

Cerner Corp. initiated a similar challenge in Kansas City in 2010, which helped area residents drop a combined 25,604 pounds.

In the Columbia challenge, Wiedmier won third place, and her team, the Mighty Mommas, placed 42nd among the 656 teams that entered.

Competitors weighed in weekly at one of seven kiosks around the city set up at HyVee stores, University Hospital, the Activity and Recreation Center and Wilson's Fitness Center.

Observers were present to ensure authenticity and fairness when the competitors reported their numbers. Results were then uploaded to a competition website, which calculated the percentage of weight lost and ranked teams and individuals.

Participants could also attend free fitness classes and receive dietitian services and personal training. A nutrition blog provided health tips and helped set up personal accounts to track progress.

Prizes went to weekly winners to keep them motivated — for example, a year of free Subway sandwiches, MU football tickets, consultations with a dietitian and nutrition sessions.

The winning team was Slimma Down-Wilson's Forum, whose members lost an average of 15.75 percent of their body weights. The team of six included Chris Wiedmier, Danielle Wiedmier's husband.

"Lifestyle change is what we were after, and we did that," said Chris Wiedmeier, 41, an assistant finance director at Joe Machens Ford Lincoln Mercy.

Danielle Wiedmeier said team pressure and family support pushed her toward her goal, and simple changes in diet and fitness helped her reach it.

"Team pressure definitely plays a role in the process," she said. "You get motivated because you want to be accountable. "

Danielle Wiedmier said she learned about the contest when a friend was building a team for it. She agreed to join to drop some weight and help her two daughters, 9 and 2, establish healthy body images.

"I want them to see me making good eating choices and living a healthy lifestyle," Danielle Wiedmier said. "As they grow up, I want them to see healthy women and role model after them."

Chris Wiedmier lost 64 pounds. Although he did not belong to his wife's team, they supported each other at home.

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The Wiedmiers cut out fast food and put more vegetables on their plates. They say the change benefited their four children as well.

Kathy Moser, who lost 37.9 pounds, also emphasized the importance of healthy eating habits. She said she gave up candy and ate more vegetables every day.

"I don't exercise a lot because I just don't like exercising," said Moser, who works in accounting for MBS Textbook Exchange Inc.. "Personally, I think eating healthier food helps a lot."

Building a healthier image for her 10-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son was another motivation, but Moser said it was not the only reason she accepted the challenge.

"I mainly wanted to do it for myself," she said. "I want to live healthier, and I want to be around longer."

Thirty-one percent of adults in Missouri — and 28 percent in Boone County — are obese, according to County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, a project conducted by the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute.

"The number is not great," said Naydyhor, a sales executive with the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation. "There is a clear need to help the members of Boone County lose weight."

The organization is sponsoring a walking competition in Columbia that begins Sept. 17 and ends Dec. 17. Participants will wear pedometers to measure their steps.

"We encourage a lifestyle change, not simply losing weight" Naydyhor said. "Our goal is to attract 5,000 people."

*Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.*