

MISSOURIAN

MU biomedical research program receives \$3.1 million grant

BY Ashley Crawford

COLUMBIA — To help fund research by underrepresented minorities, MU's biomedical research program will receive a \$3.1 million grant.

This is the third time the research program has received a grant that has been awarded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, said Pam Monroe, administrative assistant at MU's Department of Undergraduate Research.

The \$3.1 million, which will be awarded over five years, is a part of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development program at the institute and will benefit both graduate and undergraduate students.

Seven to eight graduate students are chosen per year to conduct research depending on the depth of the research and the time that they will be working on it, said Josh Murray, a senior information specialist with the department of undergraduate research.

MU's undergraduate research program, EXPRESS, which stands for Exposure to Research for Science Students, will use funding from the grant to support 45 undergraduate students who are from underrepresented ethnic groups studying the sciences, according to a news release from MU's Office of Undergraduate Studies.

According to the release, the grant will also fund:

- Materials and supplies
- Peer mentors
- Staff salaries
- Guest speakers
- Students to present their research at scientific conferences
- Stipends and tuition for beginning graduate students at MU

EXPRESS has received funding in the past from National Institutes of Health, and the continued success of the program is why the institute awarded the grant again this year, the release said.

The institute created the student development program to increase the number of underrepresented minority students that pursue a doctoral degree in biomedical sciences, the release said.



Wolfe tackles Twitter questions

By Janese Silvey

Posted October 3, 2012 at 11:55 a.m.

UM System President Tim Wolfe skipped the dozens of questions about the UM Press and also one about why the university doesn't have domestic partner benefits, but he did tackle a couple of tricky topics in his first video response to questions posed to him through Twitter.

For weeks, Wolfe's PR staff has collected questions Twitter users were asking by mentioning Wolfe's @UMPrez handle. His video responses were posted online this week.

Wolfe mostly used the questions as a way to tout university successes. When Steven Anthony, an out-of-state student, asked about keeping college affordable, for instance, Wolfe talked about how the four campuses have increased the amount of financial aid they offer by 80 percent over the past decade. (He didn't mention that the increases in institutional aid are funded through tuition increases, though.)

Someone tweeting as Mariakerford asked Wolfe about the importance of students in shared governance, giving him a chance to mention the student curator position, a non-voting role on the board aimed to represent students from all four campuses. Wolfe also said students and anyone else can send him ideas through his online suggestion box, and he said he reads all of them.

A question about whether campuses could be coal-free by 2015 gave him the chance to talk about MU's biomass boiler, expected to be online by the end of this year.

Krissy Gardner sent a more specific question, asking whether Wolfe supports UM-Kansas City changing its name to the University of Kansas City, an idea Chancellor Leo Morton pitched this year.

The idea is to heighten awareness that UMKC is a primary educator of Kansas City's workforce, with 75 percent of graduates staying there to work, Wolfe replied. Morton, he said, is conducting surveys to gauge support for a name change. Wolfe said he supports that process and looks forward to hearing more.

Someone tweeting under the handle elpa9450 apparently created his or her Twitter account for the purpose of tweeting questions to @UMPrez. Of the person's eight total tweets, seven are questions to @UMPrez.

Elpa9450 wanted to know whether the system could gain political strength by adding more institutions, where campuses were going to find students with a declining Missouri high school population and whether Wolfe would support a voting student curator. The tweeter also wondered how Wolfe plans to make his tenure as president effective and whether the system has suffered because of turnover in the president's office.

From among those options, Wolfe chose to answer this from elpa9450:

"@UMPrez Would you consider changing your last name from Wolfe to Tiger?"

"I have done some research and although tigers are fierce and commanding on the outside, they're noble and discerning on the inside," Wolfe replied. "Wolves? They're known to be social and work collaboratively in packs. They have a strong sense of family and loyalty, and that really does suit my personality best. It also speaks to the collaborative work that is demanding of your president. So I think I'll stick with Tim Wolfe, but thanks for your suggestion."

MISSOURIAN

Presidential debate watch party on campus draws crowd

COLUMBIA — A crowd of around 200 people came out to the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center on Wednesday night for a free watch party for the first presidential debate of the season between President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

Tigers Against Partisan Politics, a new student organization, partnered with Associated Students of the University of Missouri to host the event with free food and drinks. The room was full, with many left standing and very few attendees leaving throughout the 90-minute debate.

While a few of the attendees were seen using their phones, most were attentively tuned to the screen projected on the center's multipurpose room screen. The two candidates exchanged arguments from their differences on creating jobs, how to tackle the federal deficit, health care and the mission of federal government, among other topics.

Following the debate, professors Mary Kay Blakely, William T. Horner and Ben Warner answered questions and gave feedback to those who stayed behind.

The first question asked by Blakely, an associate professor of magazine journalism, was if anyone changed their mind after this debate — though no one raised his or her hand.

Horner agreed with the audience and said that post-debate, the race is most likely still a 49 percent to 47 percent race, with President Obama in the lead.

Horner also answered a question addressing the correlation between debate performance and a November victory. Although there has been no verified correlation, he said there are cases in which debates might help with very close elections and give voters confidence to participate in the voting process. In general, he said, debates are important for "informing the electoral and celebrating democracy."

Sarah Hatfield, a senior at MU, said she plans to vote for Obama after this debate, citing Romney's "poor job" in the debate.

"(Romney) seemed unprepared," she said. "He couldn't think of ideas to back up his statements."

Stephen Painter, a senior at MU, said his views are shifting from Obama to Romney.

"But I'm still having to choose between the lesser of two evils," he said.

Lecterns at 10 paces: the Mitt and Barack show begins

NICK O'MALLEY

Published: October 4, 2012 - 5:49PM

WASHINGTON: If you listened to the whispers from the campaigns over the past week you would think neither believed their candidate had a hope of stringing a full sentence together during the first presidential debate, let alone of winning it.

Both have been so determined to lower expectations that they have been leaking increasingly dire predictions.

"He's been doing some studying," conceded an aide to President Barack Obama, Jen Pasaki. "But it is certainly less than we have anticipated because of events in the Middle East, because of his busy travel schedule ... Mitt Romney, on the other hand, has been preparing earlier and with more focus than any presidential candidate in modern history.

"Not John F. Kennedy. Not President Bill Clinton. Not President George Bush. Not Ronald Reagan has prepared as much as he has."

Mr Romney was not taking that lying down. "The president is obviously a very eloquent, gifted speaker he'll do just fine," he told Fox News last week. "I've, you know, I've never been in a presidential debate like this, and it will be a new experience."

Now it is too late to lower expectations any further. At 9pm Wednesday local time (11am Thursday AEST) the debate will begin, and Americans will have an hour and a half to consider the two candidates side by side for the first time.

The debate on domestic policy will be broken into six 15-minute segments — three on the economy and one each on healthcare, governance, and the role of government.

Though they are always one of the great setpieces of modern American elections, debates of recent history have had little impact on outcome of the election. But this year is different, says Mitchell McKinney, a specialist in presidential debates from the University of

Missouri. Mr Romney is down (slightly) in the national polls and (slightly more) in the swing states. But he is within striking distance.

Just over a month before polling day he could turn his campaign around with strong victory, says Professor McKinney. And he believes the President is suffering an incumbency handicap.

"Incumbent presidents don't tend to do well in first debates. They have been living in a presidential bubble for four years. People around them have been agreeing with them. Music comes on when they walk into a room," he says.

"But suddenly in a debate they are an equal. There is no presidential seal on the podium during a debate." Either way Professor McKinney says the President would be happy with a narrow victory or even a draw, while Mr Romney needs a clear victory to reap any serious advantage, especially since early polls have already opened in some states.

To do that he must convince the audience that America's \$16 trillion debt, its stagnant economy and its 8.2 per cent unemployment level is the President's fault.

To date the Republican campaign has been frustrated with how willing much of the electorate has been to accept that the fault for its grim fortune lies at least in part with the previous administration.

While Mr Romney will argue there are fewer people employed today than when Mr Obama took office (a claim his advertising is hammering) the President will respond that the soaring unemployment rate he inherited has been reversed and 4.5 million jobs have been created.

Mr Obama will seize any opportunity to raise the auto-industry bailout he championed that Mr Romney opposed.

Mr Obama is likely to demand Mr Romney provides details on which loopholes he plans to close to achieve his goal to cut individual rates by 20 per cent while increasing military spending and cutting the deficit. (Republicans were not helped to this end on Sunday when their small-government vice-presidential candidate Paul Ryan refused to explain this because, "It would take me too long to go through all the math." In the health segment Mr Romney will focus on the unpopular aspects of "Obamacare", particularly the mandate that coerces individuals into taking out health insurance.

The President will focus on popular government programs for the elderly (known as Medicare) and probably seek to score points by highlighting — yet again — that his reforms were based in part on those created by Mr Romney when he was governor of Massachusetts.

In the section on governance both will seek to blame the ongoing gridlock in Washington on one another.

STORY CONTINUES...

Schaefer, Still duke it out

Senate candidates debate on campus.



MU MENTION PG 2

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

If the two state Senate candidates' descriptions of each other are accurate, Sen. Kurt Schaefer is a coward who doesn't show up for tough votes, and Rep. Mary Still is a loudmouth who can't get anything done.

They each have a different view of themselves. Schaefer portrays himself as a pragmatic achiever with more than 50 bills passed in four years. And Still sees herself as a roadblock to bills that will hurt women and working people.

Still and Schaefer's views of themselves and each other made last night's hourlong debate for the 19th District Senate seat a lively affair. Voters will decide Nov. 6 which candidate they prefer.

Schaefer, a Republican, won the Senate seat in 2008, defeating incumbent Democratic Sen. Chuck Graham. Still, who is in her second term in the House after a career in public relations for the university and Govs. Jay Nixon and Bob Holden, is trying to take back the traditionally Democratic seat.

With Republicans holding a large legislative majority, Schaefer sought and won the chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee. From that position, he has protected higher education funding and built a record of achievement, he said.

"I want to work with anyone who has an idea and wants to roll up their sleeves and help to make this a better state," Schaefer said.

Still, who has labored as part of the smallest Democratic contingent in the Missouri House since the 1920s, said she has had to be more creative. Still said she fought hard for strong legislation requiring insurance coverage for autism services.

She also said achievement isn't just about passing bills — by constant agitation, she said, she raised the profile of two major issues, tobacco taxes and payday lending. "I am not in Jefferson City to represent wealthy special interests. I am not in Jefferson City to represent lobbyists. I am not in Jefferson City to represent the fringe of any party, especially the tea party," she said.

Still attacked Schaefer's record as the Senate's chief budget writer. During his tenure, funding for the University of Missouri system is down \$23 million and enrollment is up by 4,000 students. "That is not a recipe for success," she said.

Schaefer replied that while Still worked for Holden, \$100 million was cut from higher education. "Every student in this room is paying the tuition that still reflects that cut."

This year, when Nixon proposed cutting \$106 million, lawmakers resisted, and the cut was not included in the budget, he said. Still voted against the budget that avoided the large cut, Schaefer said.

Still defended the vote. The bill didn't give the university enough, she said.

Schaefer was absent during Senate votes on bills restricting access to birth control, controlling mercury pollution from power plants, supporting vaccinations for the papilloma virus and requiring voters to show a photo ID to cast a ballot, Still said. And he has voted to overturn voter-passed initiatives such as dog breeding restrictions, she said.

"You have to elect people you trust," Still said. "Time and time again, the legislature has voted to overturn the will of the people."

The real issue, Schaefer said, is competence. Still complains that she can't pass legislation because she's in the minority, he noted. Voters need to look at the candidates, he said, and decide "do they have the right skill set to make sure they are not just there lobbing bombs at everybody of one political party?"

‘Animal Practice’

Puppet master and MU Professor Martin Holman will be on the NBC comedy “Animal Practice” Wednesday night.



Nicholas Benner/University of Missouri

By Janese Silvey

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

You won't actually see his face, but a University of Missouri professor with a unique talent will make his national television debut tonight when he appears on NBC's new comedy "Animal Practice."

Martin Holman will be the puppet master wearing the black robe and hood controlling his traditional Japanese puppets.

"Animal Practice," which starts at 7 p.m., is a new comedy about New York veterinarian Dr. George Coleman and his famous animal patients, according to NBC's website. Dr. Yamamoto is a fellow veterinarian who is Japanese and has a deep-seated fear of puppets.

Tonight, viewers find out why.

Holman, coordinator of MU's Japanese Studies Program, is the director of the Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe, the first of its kind in America. The troupe, made up mostly of his alumni, has put on some 150 shows, performing in 33 states and in Canada.

Holman also has the distinction of being the first foreigner to have been trained in traditional puppetry in Japan, completing a two-year program while he was director of the Japan Center for Michigan Universities.

NBC tracked him down while scouring the country for someone skilled in traditional Japanese puppetry. He first talked to representatives from the network on Aug. 14. They flew him to California the next day, and by Aug. 16 he was filming the scene. "It took about five hours of shooting from different angles," Holman said. "Who knows what this will be edited into?"

The scene stays true to traditional Japanese puppet theater, where the puppet master is fully visible, standing behind the puppet and holding it at head level, he said. The black robe and hood also are part of the traditional routine.

Holman plans to cancel his weekly guitar lesson tonight and invite a few friends over for a watch party. He's hoping others will tune in, too, if for no other reason than "warming up their TVs" for the presidential debates that follow.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to see puppets" today "because you can watch traditional Japanese puppets manipulated by Martin Holman at 7 p.m., and at 8 p.m., you can see puppets manipulated by their corporate sponsors," Holman quipped before adding: "And that includes the journalists."

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Editorial: Big Pig's \$39 million settlement smells like a bacony victory

7 hours ago • [By the Editorial Board](#)

MU MENTION P. 2

Two weeks ago, Britain's National Pig Association sent out a press release claiming that a "world shortage of pork and bacon next year is now unavoidable." Within a few days, the Internet was up to its hocks in "[world bacon crisis](#)" stories.

Shockingly, for a story that caught fire on the Internet, it wasn't true. The price of bacon and other pork products will be going up next year, as will the price of everything else that has corn in it. But there will be plenty to go around.

Depending on what brand you buy, there may be a few cents worth of legal costs included in the price, too. In late August, [Premium Standard Farms LLC](#), a unit of Virginia-based [Smithfield Foods Inc.](#), [privately settled](#) a long-running set of lawsuits in Jackson County.

The case involved 13 separate lawsuits and 287 separate plaintiffs, all of whom lived near Premium Standard's hog plants in northern Missouri. The company has 63 farms that raise sows and nine CAFO (confined animal feeding operations) plants in seven counties that feed and process the hogs. The firm also contracts with local farmers who raise sows for finishing.

The plaintiffs charged that odors from the operations had damaged or destroyed the value of the properties. They also expressed concern about potential damage to groundwater from wastewater runoff.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Smithfield Foods said it had [set aside \\$39 million](#) to cover litigation costs in Missouri. Set aside a third of that for attorneys' fees and costs, and it works out to about \$90,000 for each defendant.

Sounds like a lot, especially considering that many of the plaintiffs are members of the same families. But consider what they're giving up for their \$90,000.

If you live downwind from a facility that processes hundreds of thousands of hogs a year, the value of your home is approximately zero. You can still farm the land but good luck selling the house.

Under the terms of a bill passed by the Missouri Legislature in 2011 and signed into law by Gov. Jay Nixon, CAFOs are designated as "permanent nuisances," not "continuing nuisances." Being a permanent nuisance actually works to Premium Standard's benefit.

Future plaintiffs will get one shot in court, not multiple shots year after year. Plaintiffs can recover only the fair market value of their property, plus whatever punitive damages a court might award.

In effect, the law granted eminent domain authority to CAFOs and chose Big Pig over small farmers, or at least over the small farmers who don't raise pigs for Premium Standard.

A 2011 study by the University of Missouri Extension Service estimated that Premium Standard and a sister company, Farmland Foods, were responsible for 5,200 jobs in Missouri, either in direct employment or spin-off jobs. The study estimated that Premium Standard and Farmland are worth \$1.1 billion a year to the state's economy.

The pork industry's overall economic impact has been important to the state and vital to north central Missouri. But the industry has had to be dragged kicking and squealing into doing the right thing. Premium Standard has been known to plant a row of trees and call it a "vegetative environmental buffer."

Environmental groups have sued time and again. The federal Environmental Protection Agency sued in 1996. In 1999, Mr. Nixon, as state attorney general, was building a case for inadequate water pollution controls. A consent decree reached in 2002 gave Premium Standard eight years to install odor-reducing technology.

The latest legal settlement also includes an agreement to install "next-generation" odor control equipment required by a consent decree reached with Attorney General Chris Koster in 2010. Premium Standard doesn't move until it has to.

Premium Standard's critics will never be completely satisfied — the nature of factory-farming means it always will be controversial. But as the "world bacon shortage" panic suggested, most consumers want their bacon, regardless of how it's raised.

Hog-farming will always be a dirty, smelly business. It comes down to a question of how dirty and how smelly it is allowed to be. Premium Standard would be well-served by getting out in front on these issues, doing everything it can to reduce odor and water pollution, rather than dragging its feet.

Thanks to the Legislature, its exposure to lawsuits by its neighbors will diminish. Its obligation to be a good neighbor will not.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Secret Cold War tests in St. Louis raise concerns

14 hours ago • Associated Press

MU MENTION P. 3

Doris Spates was a baby when her father died inexplicably in 1955. She has watched four siblings die of cancer, and she survived cervical cancer.

After learning that the Army conducted secret chemical testing in her impoverished St. Louis neighborhood at the height of the Cold War, she wonders if her own government is to blame.

In the mid-1950s, and again a decade later, the Army used motorized blowers atop a low-income housing high-rise, at schools and from the backs of station wagons to send a potentially dangerous compound into the already-hazy air in predominantly black areas of St. Louis.

Local officials were told at the time that the government was testing a smoke screen that could shield St. Louis from aerial observation in case the Russians attacked.

But in 1994, the government said the tests were part of a biological weapons program and St. Louis was chosen because it bore some resemblance to Russian cities that the U.S. might attack. The material being sprayed was zinc cadmium sulfide, a fine fluorescent powder.

Now, new research is raising greater concern about the implications of those tests. St. Louis Community College-Meramec sociology professor Lisa Martino-Taylor's research has raised the possibility that the Army performed radiation testing by mixing radioactive particles with the zinc cadmium sulfide, though she concedes there is no direct proof.

But her report, released late last month, was troubling enough that both U.S. senators from Missouri wrote to Army Secretary John McHugh demanding answers.

Aides to Sens. Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt said they have received no response. Army spokesman Dave Foster declined an interview request from The Associated Press, saying the Army would first respond to the senators.

The area of the secret testing is described by the Army in documents obtained by Martino-Taylor through a Freedom of Information Act request as "a densely populated slum district." About three-quarters of the residents were black.

Spates, now 57 and retired, was born in 1955, delivered inside her family's apartment on the top floor of the since-demolished Pruitt-Igoe housing development in north St. Louis. Her family didn't know that on the roof, the Army was intentionally spewing hundreds of pounds of zinc cadmium sulfide into the air.

Three months after her birth, her father died. Four of her 11 siblings succumbed to cancer at relatively young ages.

"I'm wondering if it got into our system," Spates said. "When I heard about the testing, I thought, 'Oh my God. If they did that, there's no telling what else they're hiding.'"

Mary Helen Brindell wonders, too. Now 68, her family lived in a working-class mixed-race neighborhood where spraying occurred.

The Army has admitted only to using blowers to spread the chemical, but Brindell recalled a summer day playing baseball with other kids in the street when a squadron of green Army planes flew close to the ground and dropped a powdery substance. She went inside, washed it off her face and arms, then went back out to play.

Over the years, Brindell has battled four types of cancer _ breast, thyroid, skin and uterine.

"I feel betrayed," said Brindell, who is white. "How could they do this? We pointed our fingers during the Holocaust, and we do something like this?"

Martino-Taylor said she wasn't aware of any lawsuits filed by anyone affected by the military tests. She also said there have been no payouts "or even an apology" from the government to those affected.

The secret testing in St. Louis was exposed to Congress in 1994, prompting a demand for a health study. A committee of the National Research Council determined in 1997 that the testing did not expose residents to harmful levels of the chemical. But the committee said research was sparse and the finding relied on limited data from animal testing.

It also noted that high doses of cadmium over long periods of exposure could cause bone and kidney problems and lung cancer. The committee recommended that the Army conduct follow-up studies "to determine whether inhaled zinc cadmium sulfide breaks down into toxic cadmium compounds, which can be absorbed into the blood to produce toxicity in the lungs and other organs."

But it isn't clear if follow-up studies were ever performed. Martino-Taylor said she has gotten no answer from the Army and her research has turned up no additional studies. Foster, the Army spokesman, declined comment.

Martino-Taylor became involved years ago when a colleague who grew up in the targeted area wondered if the testing was the cause of her cancer. That same day, a second colleague confided to Martino-Taylor that she, too, lived in the test area and had cancer.

Martino-Taylor decided to research the testing for her doctoral thesis at the University of Missouri. She believes the St. Louis study was linked to the Manhattan Atomic Bomb Project and a small group of scientists from that project who were developing radiological weapons. A congressional study in 1993 confirmed radiological testing in Tennessee and parts of the West during the Cold War.

"There are strong lines of evidence that there was a radiological component to the St. Louis study," Martino-Taylor said.

Blunt, in his letter to the Army secretary, questioned whether radioactive testing was performed.

"The idea that thousands of Missourians were unwillingly exposed to harmful materials in order to determine their health effects is absolutely shocking," the senator wrote.

McCaskill agreed. "Given the nature of these experiments, it's not surprising that Missouri citizens still have questions and concerns about what exactly occurred and if there may have been any negative health effects," she said in a statement.

Martino-Taylor said a follow-up health study should be performed in St. Louis, but it must involve direct input from people who lived in the targeted areas.

"Their voices have not been heard," Martino-Taylor said.