Mun Choi: Universities deliver solutions to rural Missouri

By Mun Choi

In December, The Chronicle of Higher Education published “A Dying Town,” a story about the challenges facing the Missouri Bootheel. It details the struggles too many Missourians face in staying healthy and prosperous, including the unflinching stories of several residents who, without a college degree, had no safety net when jobs left their towns, the economy stuttered or medical bills piled up. There is no question that the story lights a fire under anyone working in the fields of public health or education. As we continue to strive toward making higher education as beneficial and accessible as possible, it is vital that we make sure no community falls between the cracks.

Higher education has numerous real, proven benefits, but unfortunately, we often hear only about the obvious ones. It’s true — college graduates earn about 65 percent more over their lifetimes than those with only a high school education. This is an important statistic, and it frames the benefits of higher education in a handy, easily digestible number. But as the story showed, money doesn’t tell the whole story. Those with a college education also are less likely to suffer from debilitating conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. These characteristics have economic components, but studies have clearly shown that a college education, in and of itself, plays a role.

Yet public higher education does not operate solely on the individual level. As a land-grant institution, the University of Missouri has an obligation to carry the benefits of university research beyond the campus. We do this by supporting our student and faculty researchers, who constantly are making strides toward bettering lives in Missouri communities and in society as a whole. Research, after all, is consequential precisely because it helps people. Think of a recent study by Mizzou researchers that explored the psychological impact of the 2011 Joplin tornado, finding that, even amid a disaster of tragic proportions, there were opportunities for personal growth. Think of the team of Mizzou scientists, cardiologists and engineers fighting heart disease by working to develop revolutionary new cardiovascular stents, a project that has received millions of dollars in federal grants. The Family Nutrition Education Program through the MU Extension office provides thousands of families with guidance on healthy and affordable food options.
At the Missouri University of Science and Technology, we are empowering teachers to educate the next generation of researchers through Project Lead The Way, a precollege program that inspires students to become involved in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. During the past five years, more than 3,000 elementary and secondary education teachers attended Project Lead The Way classes at Missouri S&T, giving them the tools they need to provide their students with quality science and engineering education.

We are committed to improving the lives of Missourians, and this means cost must not be a barrier to quality higher education. Recently, we signed the Missouri Land Grant Compact that allows all Pell Grant recipients who are residents of Missouri to attend Mizzou tuition-free, provided they meet admissions requirements (honors students will have room and board covered as well). We also have worked to lower the cost of educational materials by adopting open source and lower-cost textbooks. For students from low-income families across Missouri, these efforts mean the prospect of a college education is less burdened by financial concerns. Education, not bills, should be the focus of any student’s time at a university.

Mizzou is helping to broaden access to medical care across the state. The Springfield Clinical Campus and Missouri Telehealth Network from Mizzou’s School of Medicine are integral parts of that task. One telehealth initiative, Show-Me ECHO, helps rural physicians treat chronic pain and conditions such as Hepatitis C. ECHO Autism trains care providers to diagnose and treat autism.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City houses the UMKC School of Dentistry, which, as the only public dental school in Missouri, includes courses that deploy students to provide dental care in underserved areas throughout the state. In addition, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, together with Mizzou, recently received a joint $1.8 million federal grant to train social workers to serve underserved populations with educational and health access programs.

While all these efforts are geared toward different aspects of the community, they operate in service of a single guiding principle: building a stronger, more connected Missouri in which the benefits of the University of Missouri can be felt by anyone of any background or means. Our mission is service, an ethic that guides us in all the work we do.

To see what that ethic looks like, look no further than Freda Kershaw, who was profiled in The Chronicle’s story. Freda works in Pemiscot County for Mizzou’s ParentLink program, which provides research-based information and resources to parents and youths across Missouri as well as working to help families bridge gaps in services by collaborating with communities. ParentLink has expanded its services in the Bootheel, and with the help of community liaisons like Freda, the program is inspiring communities to work together to improve the health and wellness of their residents. We’re so proud of her and many other University of Missouri System faculty, students and staff who are making a difference in their communities throughout our state.

For some, wellness means planting a garden where there was an empty lot. And just as that garden serves as a symbol of the will to change lives for the better, our hope is that the
University of Missouri, too, is more than a system of brick-and-mortar institutions. It is an ethic, and we are striving to ensure that ethic continues to spread across Missouri in all its forms.

Dr. Mun Choi is the University of Missouri system president

For hospitals, partnership is still the answer

By Hank Waters

Negotiations between Boone Hospital and University Hospital came to an abrupt end in recent weeks, but that does not diminish the necessity of pursuing a partnership.

It’s true that for the moment the two sides have not been able to finalize important aspects of collaborative operation. It’s not surprising that the parties will hit a few bumps along the road.

The current lease between Boone and BJC Healthcare in St. Louis is no longer favored by either party, leaving Boone trustees with three options. They can look for another lessee, they can try to operate independently, or they can collaborate with MU Health Care to jointly manage both hospitals as a locally-based health care delivery system.

Without the slightest doubt, as any of us is bound to discover upon adequate inquiry, a partnership with MU is best. For the welfare of the hospitals and the communities they serve, working for mutual strength is the only reasonable option.

The future of health care will evolve in ways to replace the harshly competitive system we have now. It no longer makes sense to pit two local hospitals and physician groups against each other and it will make even less sense in the fairly near future. The arrival of single-payer health care will remove the incentive and possibility of continuing the debilitating competition between the hospitals. The sooner Boone and MU plan for a partnership the more they will be able to avoid the disadvantages of separation.

Our job as citizen/patients is to learn and anticipate the changing situation. At the moment Boone is suffering mightily. The university’s superior financial position may tempt its managers to simply kill the competition and “take over” the marketplace. In fact anticipation of a smart partnership will benefit MU as well, as many on its side understand.

It will be too bad if short-term competitive advantage overwhelms the opportunities of partnership, including reduction of wasteful duplication and building the strongest local/regional bulwark against invading outside competitors. The university’s academic function can be enhanced by the inclusion of more physicians from the private sector. Other collaborations
between academic health centers and independent hospital operators can be studied for examples.

Building a mutually satisfactory partnership is not a slam dunk, as we see with the hiatus of the moment, but the basic good will of the negotiators and the operational good sense of their goal provide the raw materials of success. Let the negotiations resume.

New cancer drug relies on local isotope

By Claire Colby / Columbia Daily Tribune

Generated from News Bureau press release: MU Research Reactor supplying radioisotope for new FDA approved cancer therapy

For 15 years, scientists at the University of Missouri Research Reactor have been experimenting with the potentially healing properties of radioactive isotope lutetium-77. Now that hard work paid off.

On Jan. 26, the FDA approved a promising cancer drug created from the isotope.

“You can think of this isotope as the active ingredient of the drug,” said reactor Associate Director Ken Brooks.

The reactor, called MURR by those who work there, identified the potential in this isotope, but another company was responsible for creating the delivery mechanism.

The new drug, called Lutathera, is approved to treat some types of pancreatic and gastrointestinal cancers. MU’s reactor is the sole supplier of necessary isotope. The drug itself was developed by Advanced Accelerator Applications. Though Lutathera is on the market now, hospitals must receive appropriate licenses to handle radioactive material before they can administer the drug to patients.

“The drug has been under our development since 2010,” said Rachel Levine, spokeswoman for Advanced Accelerator Applications. The drug’s wholesale price is $47,500 per dose.

Such alliances are important for the researchers at MURR.
“It’s in our DNA to collaborate with other organizations, so this type of public-private partnership is nothing new for us,” said Brooks.

MURR has created isotopes for two other cancer drugs in its 52-year history. The reactor is also the sole producer of the radioisotopes necessary to create Quadrimet, a drug used to treat bone pain associated with cancer, and TheraSphere, for liver cancer. MURR produces weekly batches of isotopes to support both drugs.

“If it wasn’t for the research done at the University of Missouri, cancer patients wouldn’t be receiving these drugs,” said David Robertson, director of research at MURR.

In the next several years, Columbia is set to become home to more research on radioactive isotopes. Oregon-based Northwest Medical Isotopes went before the Nuclear Regulatory Committee on Jan. 23 for an hearing on its proposal for a new facility at Discovery Ridge in Columbia. CEO Nick Fowler said his company has been collaborating with MURR throughout the planning for the new facility.

Northwest Medical Isotopes aims to produce an isotope known as “moly-99”. The isotope is used in medical imaging tests to detect cancer and other dangerous diseases.

“There’s no domestic supplier of moly-99, so we’re looking forward to being the first producer and having Columbia as our home base,” Fowler said.

The company hopes to get final regulatory approval for the Columbia facility in the next three months and start production immediately after that.
Horseback riding therapy eases veterans’ PTSD

Posted by Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri

Generated by News Bureau press release: Therapeutic riding programs help veterans cope with PTSD

Military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder may have significant decreases in symptoms just weeks after taking part in therapeutic horseback riding (THR), a new study shows.

Veterans are often prescribed THR as a complementary therapy, but until now, little has been known about how effective it is.

“PTSD is an anxiety disorder that occurs after exposure to life-threatening events or injuries and is marked by flashbacks, avoidance, and changes in beliefs and feelings,” says Rebecca Johnson, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and professor of gerontological nursing in the Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri.

“Estimates are that more than 23 million military veterans experience PTSD symptoms each year. While counseling and behavior therapies often are prescribed, sometimes clinicians will encourage complementary therapies, such as therapeutic horseback riding. We wanted to test whether THR could be a useful complementary therapy in the treatment of PTSD.”

Previous research has demonstrated that the interaction between horses and riders increases riders’ confidence, self-esteem, sensory sensitivity, and social motivation while decreasing stress.

For the new study, which appears in Military Medical Research, researchers assessed 29 military veterans from a nearby Veterans Administration (VA) hospital for eligibility. The researchers invited those diagnosed with PTSD or PTSD with traumatic brain injury to participate in a therapeutic horseback riding program once a week for six weeks.

The researchers measured symptoms at three weeks and six weeks into the program using the PTSD Checklist-Military Version (PCL-M) assessment, a 20-item self-reporting survey that
clinicians use to gauge PTSD symptoms. The researchers also used other measurement instruments to assess improvements made in the treatment of the anxiety disorders.

“Results showed that participants in the program experienced a significant decrease in PTSD scores, almost 67 percent, after just three weeks of THR. After six weeks, participants experienced an 87 percent drop in PTSD scores,” Johnson says.

“Interestingly, the veterans who self-identified for the study all were from the Vietnam War era meaning that some of these military veterans had been experiencing PTSD symptoms for 40 or 50 years. It may be important for health care systems to support THR as a viable complementary therapy.”

The Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital supported the work.

KFVS-TV (CBS) – Cape Girardeau, MO

MU study uses horseback riding to help veterans with PTSD

Saturday, February 10th 2018, 11:44 pm CST
Sunday, February 11th 2018, 5:57 pm CST
Written by Jake Day, Content Specialist

The University of Missouri has conducted a study to better understand the affect post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has on United States Military Veterans.

To the regular civilian, symptoms of PTSD can be hard to detect. For war veterans, discussing the life-threatening events in their military careers is even harder. In an effort to treat these terrible symptoms of extreme trauma, veterans are being prescribed therapeutic horseback riding (THR).

Therapeutic horseback riding is a leisurely activity that has often been prescribed to military veterans. This therapy is known to improve a rider's self-confidence, sensory sensitivity and most importantly decrease their stress level. Veterans may also gain a sense of trust and friendship from the horses as a result of THR.
In this particular study, 29 Vietnam War Era veterans participated in a six-week THR program. During this period their PTSD symptoms were closely monitored at three and six weeks using a PTSD Checklist-Military Version (PCL-M) assessment.

“Results showed that participants in the program experienced a significant decrease in PTSD scores, almost 67 percent, after just three weeks of THR,” said Rebecca Johnson, a professor in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Millsap Professor of Gerontological Nursing in the Sinclair School of Nursing.

"After six weeks, participants experienced an 87 percent drop in PTSD scores.”

This complementary therapy is a step in the right direction; helping war heroes overcome their mental illness.

MU study finds fracking substances may cause tumors in mice

Generated from News Bureau Press Release: Exposure to chemicals used during fracking may cause pre-cancerous lesions in mice, MU study finds

Nonprofits raise alarm about tax change

By Anna Kohls / Columbia Daily Tribune

**Generated from News Bureau Direct Contact**

Fighting hunger and homelessness and helping abused and neglected animals are some of the causes not-for-profit organizations address across the country. In Missouri alone, there are more than 40,000 such organizations.

They rely on funding and donations to provide services for those in need. Those donations vary year to year for various reasons, including changes to tax law.

Now not-for-profit organizations are raising alarms about a major change to the federal tax code meant to reduce individuals’ tax burden which might lead to a reduction in charitable giving.

Federal tax reform passed last year nearly doubled the standard deduction from $6,300 to $12,000 for individuals, from $12,600 to $24,000 for married couples and from $9,350 to $18,000 for heads of households.

The tax code maintained the deduction for donations to charities, but taxpayers must itemize their deductions in order to take advantage of it. Charities worry that more people will now take the increased standard deduction rather than itemizing.

“When you pull that nice thing away, that tax deduction ‘thank you,’ it may affect the money that’s given,” said John Baker, executive director of the Community Foundation of Missouri. “That’s what they’re predicting is going to happen, it’s going to take a number of months to actually know, but predictions are negative.”

Those predictions come from research commissioned by the [National Council of Nonprofits](http://www.ncn.org), which estimated itemized deductions will drop by $95 billion nationally in 2018 because of the increased standard deduction. That translates to a possible $13 billion loss or more to not-for-profit organizations each year, which is a 5 percent reduction in overall giving to charities.

If these predictions are accurate organizations would lose almost $170 million in charitable donations from Missourians in 2018.

The new tax law also doubles the amount automatically exempt from the federal estate tax, to $11 million for individuals and $22 million for married couples. Wealthy individuals use charitable giving to reduce or eliminate the tax levied on their estates after their deaths.
percent of all donations charities received in 2016 were from bequests. According to the NCN, doubling the exemption could reduce donations by as much as $4 billion per year.

“There may be a reduced incentive for families to create tax-advantaged estate plans that would benefit non-profit work,” Baker said.

Changes to the tax law include raising the limit on cash donations for those who itemize deductions from 50 percent to 60 percent of adjusted gross income and repealing the “Pease limitation” that limited the number of itemized deductions for upper-income individuals. Although these changes could be helpful, they are estimated to affect only 5 percent of the taxpayers who will continue to itemize deductions.

What charities are most worried about is losing money they used to get from modest donors — the kind who might increase their charitable giving just to itemize their deductions.

“We are possibly creating an elite class of donors,” Baker said. “The nonprofit sector has thrived for years from small donors. While the nonprofit sector appreciates larger donors, it also highly values the modest donor and doesn’t want to lose them. We just are concerned that there will be fewer of the modest donors.”

Even large institutions such as the University of Missouri could feel the pain. Vice Chancellor for Advancement Tom Hiles mentioned four main concerns the university has with the new tax law; the increased standard deduction estate tax exemption, elimination of some deductions for athletics and a tax on endowments of more than $1 billion.

The University of Missouri has received an average of $165 million in donations in the last several years. Although the university does not rely on private donations for most of its funding, Hiles said MU could still feel an impact, particularly in athletics.

“Given that we play in the SEC, that could definitely affect us,” Hiles said.

Areas referred to as “margin of excellence” would be the areas most affected, Hiles said, which include scholarships, capital projects and endowments such as the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. Although the tax on endowments does not include public institutions, Hiles worries that may change.

Smaller to moderate-sized not-for-profit organizations rely even more heavily on private donations to run their operations and provide services.

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri distributes more than $30 million in food annually to more than 140 partner agencies in 32 counties around the state. The Food Bank is also one of the few in the country that does not charge for any of the food it distributes.

Executive Director Lindsay Lopez said it is too early to tell how tax changes will affect The Food Bank. A 5 percent reduction in donations could have a major effect because about 43 percent of The Food Bank’s budget comes from private donations.
“Because we charge nothing for the food that we distribute and because we are such a large organization, we are really reliant on the generosity of those funders who choose to invest in our mission,” Lopez said.

Any changes would trickle down to The Food Bank’s partner agencies, she said.

One of those partner agencies is Rainbow House, a local children’s shelter in Columbia. Rainbow House temporarily houses children in foster care and provides four programs to help homeless youth in Columbia.

Rainbow House receives about 41 percent of its budget from private donations. Jeff Nichols, director of safety and security at Rainbow House, said as a smaller organization, there are fewer places to turn to for financial support.

Though the effect of tax reform on giving is still uncertain, the Heart of Missouri United Way suggests not-for-profit organizations speak with current and potential donors about the impact of these changes, as well as community stakeholders. The United Way is also encouraging its partner agencies to tell their members of Congress about their concerns.

U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Harrisonville, voted in favor of the tax reform bill. Hartzler spokeswoman Anna Swick said in a statement that the new legislation is designed to jump-start the economy and Hartzler is hopeful that as Missouri families have larger disposable incomes and better economic opportunities, the increase will be reflected in their charitable donations.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

New battle over hogs heats up

By Rudi Keller

CLARKSBURG — The location of a proposed pig breeding operation in southern Cooper County was chosen very carefully, Steve Menke, director of Missouri development for Pipestone Veterinary Services, said Thursday night.

About 80 people filled the pews in the modest wooden building that houses the Oakland Baptist Church and and more than 20 others were standing or conversing in small groups when Menke was given the microphone. Fred Williams, a leader of the opposition group that called the meeting, said before it began that he wasn’t sure if anyone from the Minnesota-based company would be there.
Pipestone applied Jan. 31 for a Department of Natural Resources permit for a concentrated animal feeding operation that would put 7,700 sows, gilts and pigs in barns on a 25-acre site along Renshaw Drive, about five miles northeast of Tipton. The site is in Cooper County, about a quarter-mile north of the Moniteau County line.

The submission ignited in Cooper County a debate raging in other parts of the state over the development of swine breeding farms and the influence of the corporations that promote it.

The site wasn’t a random selection, Menke said. Instead, he said, it was chosen with the help of Swine Focus Group from University of Missouri Extension that includes veterinarians, animal scientists, agricultural engineers and environmental engineers.

“The Swine Focus Group has been in your county and they’ve studied it,” Menke said. “They’ve studied our location. They’ve studied the elevation. They’ve studied the terrain. They’ve studied the water. They’ve studied the specific location where we proposed to build and came to the conclusion that was one of the best locations that could be had. That’s why we’re here.”

That description overstates the findings of “preliminary odor modeling” done with computers, said Teng Lim, the associate Extension professor of agricultural systems management who performed the work. In an interview Friday, he said Pipestone’s representatives brought him a map showing the location and he did not visit the site. Two faculty did so as part of the evaluation, he said.

“I would say this is a fairly reasonable site,” Lim said. “I wouldn’t say it is the best site.”

Lim said his work estimated how far and where winds would carry odors based on the size of the operation. He uses available data on wind direction, speed and changeability, combined with topography and land features such as windbreaks, to perform the calculations.

He said the odors from a farm the size being proposed would generally be dispersed within half a mile of the barns. Few neighbors live that close, he said, basing the estimate on available maps.

“I would say that probably is enough distance but if I would say I want the best site, no residents within a mile radius, then that would be a really good site,” Lim said.

He did not do an evaluation of the watershed or wells in the area, he said, although there appears to be enough land with soil suitable for land application to be successful.

Opponents of concentrated breeding farms have used the courts and administrative processes to obstruct the permit process. Friends of Responsible Agriculture, foes of a similar proposed breeding operation in western Callaway County, have successfully delayed construction for almost four years. They have won judgments that the department violated the Sunshine Law and overturning actions that would have resulted in final approval of the permit.
Nineteen of Missouri’s 114 counties have adopted health ordinances regulating emission concentrations at the boundary of the farms and distances between farms and residences that are stricter than state guidelines.

Williams lives about a half-mile north of the proposed site. His mother also has a home on the land, and he wants to persuade Cooper County commissioners to adopt a health ordinance. A meeting to discuss an ordinance is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the Cooper County Health Department.

“I want to keep it clean,” Williams said Thursday. “I want my water to stay clean. I want my air to stay clean. If you want to raise hogs, go up north where they are already sick. Don’t bring it down here.”

There’s a family angle to the issues — Williams’ mother is sister to Dean Gibson, who will sell the land to the limited liability company that will be established to operate the farm. One of the irritants, he said, is that no one in the area who wasn’t selling land or manure disposal rights to Pipestone knew what was being planned until notice letters required by state regulations arrived in mailboxes.

“What bothers me and all my neighbors is that we rely on each other,” Williams said Friday during a visit to the site. “Some people care more about money than the people who are here.”

Gibson, who runs a crop insurance company in Tipton, did not return a call seeking an interview.

The permit being sought would allow construction of three barns, one for the sows actively being bred, one for gilts growing to breeding age and one for composting animals that die. Waste would be stored in underground tanks and pumped out twice a year through hoses for injecting into adjacent farmland.

Because the waste will be injected on land under easements from landowners willing to accept it, Williams said, there are no restrictions on how close to adjacent properties it can be applied. If Pipestone’s operating company leased the land, state regulations on setbacks would apply.

A health ordinance would protect adjacent property owners by requiring the company to lease land for application, he said.

**The fight in Callaway County**

While they have been successful delaying a permit in Callaway County, opponents of Iowa-based Eichelberger Farms Inc.’s plan for a 10,000-hog operation have not persuaded the county commission to adopt a health ordinance. A committee formed to draft an ordinance was wracked by divisions, including the resignation of three members in early January, before the commission dissolved it.
Callaway County Presiding Commissioner Gary Jungermann said the committee wasn’t reaching an agreement when the members resigned and that there were loud voices on both sides of the issue.

“This is not an easy issue, an issue you don’t take lightly and you just don’t overreact, either,” Jungermann said.

Jungermann said he’s not convinced the county needs an ordinance regulating the farms known as CAFOs.

“I’ve done more homework than I ever thought I would do about CAFOs,” he said. “I just can’t find anything you can wrap your hands around that we have a huge problem.”

**Breeding state**

The Pipestone proposal is part of a trend of moving piglet production to Missouri, then transporting the swine to Iowa and Minnesota to feed to slaughter size.

“Missouri has traditionally been a sow operation state; not like Iowa, which tends to have more finishers,” Lim said.

During the meeting, Menke explained how the farm would operate and what it would consume.

Pipestone has 75 farms in the United States, including six in Missouri, he said. Five families will own the livestock in partnership, one family will own the land and the facility will employ about 20 people with an annual payroll with benefits of $1.25 million.

“Our goal is to keep generation after generation after generation on the farm, provide good jobs and provide income for farm families,” Menke said.

The pigs will consume 180,000 bushels of grain annually and the facility will pump 25,000 gallons of water per day from wells, he said.

That prompted some to question whether they will have to dig deeper wells if the aquifer is depleted.

“My concern is that if my well goes dry in two years, who is going to build me a well?” Scott Hurst asked.

At the meeting, representatives of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center and the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project urged people to check the water level in their wells and have the water tested so future tests can show whether contaminants have entered the aquifer.

Tim Gibbons of the crisis center warned that people must take charge of protecting their quality of life.
“The farther that control gets away from these operations, the less they care about the people next to these operations,” he said. “They care about extracting money from the community and leaving their effluent here.”

Pa. School to Change Logo After University of Missouri Complaint

BLOOMSBURG (AP) - A central Pennsylvania school district is giving its tiger-head logo a face-lift after a complaint from the University of Missouri that the feline face was too similar to its own image.

The (Bloomsburg) Press Enterprise says university officials sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Southern Columbia Area School District in November.

Superintendent Paul Caputo says the emblem is on the Columbia County district's marquee, the new gym floor and various booster and sports-affiliated websites and gear.

He says the two institutions have come to an agreement under which Southern will tweak its logo enough that it's not infringing on the University of Missouri's copyright.

And the changes will be phased in slowly instead of changing everything at once, although apparel will no longer be made with the emblem.

The logo on the left in the picture is the district's old logo. The one on the right is the new and updated version.
Boone County Fire Protection District welcomes explosive detection K-9

By ELIZABETH DUESENBERG

BOONE COUNTY, Mo. - The Boone County Fire Protection District announced on Friday that a new team has been added to help with explosives detection.

The new team, K-9 Luke and Captain Martina Pounds, joined K-9 Brass and Officer Joan Haaf from the University of Missouri Police Department as an explosives detection team.

The teams will work closely with the local bomb squads doing sweeps of many local venues before fans and visitors arrive.

K-9 Luke was trained by the Boone County Sheriff's Department and the Boone County Fire Protection District. He is a 3-year-old German Shepherd mixed breed and has been conditioned to detect multiple different explosives compounds and residues.

Pounds and K-9 Luke completed the basic K-9 training course with the sheriff’s department's K-9 training program and became certified in tracking and explosives detection through the Missouri Police Canine Association in September 2017.

K-9 Luke and Pounds have been assisting local and regional law enforcement partners during events on the MU Campus, venues in Jefferson City and other events around the county.
Veterinarian says flu season bites dogs, too

By GARRETT BERGQUIST


COLUMBIA — Dog owners on Friday said they were unaware dogs face an influenza virus of their own.

Aly Savala said she takes her dog, Luna, to the vet for monthly checkups. She said she wasn't aware dog flu existed.

"We've always taken our dogs to the vet to make sure that they're doing okay," she said.

Dr. Leah Cohn, a professor of veterinary internal medicine at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine, said mid-Missouri hasn't had a problem with dog flu, but veterinarians have recorded large outbreaks in Illinois, Kentucky and California. Cohn said more than 300 dogs have been sickened in California within the past 45 days, which is unusual. She said the biggest risk for dog owners here is if their dogs come into contact with pets that have traveled through the affected areas. Dogs that spent a lot of time in boarding kennels or at dog parks were at the most risk.

Cohn said dog flu is caused by two viruses. Researchers first identified the H3N8 virus in 2004 and have since developed a vaccine for it. The second virus, called H3N2, is the culprit in this year's outbreaks. It was identified in 2015 and can also be prevented with a vaccine.

Persistent coughing is the most common symptom, though Cohn noted this can be a symptom of other ailments as well. Neither virus had ever been transmitted to humans.
Cohn said treating dog flu was much like treating flu in humans. Sick dogs should be given lots of rest and water. Your dog usually will recover fully, but Cohn said you should bring the dog to your vet if symptoms are severe.

"The idea is for the dog to recover at home where it's comfortable," she said.

Savala said she'll keep an eye out for flu symptoms in her dog. In the meantime, she said dog owners should make sure their pets eat a healthy diet and get their required vaccines.

MU students react to proposed bill that would allow faculty members to carry guns

Providence Bowl Changes Venues

By AMANDA WESTON


COLUMBIA - The Providence Bowl rivalry game between Hickman High School and Rock Bridge High School has a new location this year. Instead of Faurot Field, the football game will be played at Hickman Friday night.

Rock Bridge coach AJ Ofodile says the venue change is due to the Arkansas State team wanting to have a walk through on the field before the MU game Saturday. Ofodile says he doesn't believe the location change will affect player performance.

"The issues are with construction and [MU] joining a new conference," Arnell Monroe, Hickman coach, said. "Mizzou has been a gracious, gracious host. They've done everything they could to support our community."

Monroe says he still believes the community will come out to watch the game regardless of the shift. The Providence Bowl will be played at Hickman High School Friday at 7 p.m.
The search committee for MU’s next provost held a search forum Wednesday for undergraduate students to share their thoughts and ideal qualities for a potential candidate.

Tim McIntosh, UM System director of executive initiatives, and Missouri Students Association President Nathan Willett facilitated the forum at the MU Student Center, prompting students to provide their opinions on the search process and qualities of candidates.

MU has set up a search committee consisting of 21 students, deans, faculty and staff members. The committee will choose candidates, according to a statement made by Chancellor Alexander Cartwright on Dec. 20.

Willett said he was there as a student representative and that he wanted to hear from other students about how the student body perceives the role of the provost.

“I want what’s best for this campus and what’s best for the students,” Willett said.

Junior Jennifer Sutterer said she would like to see more interaction between undergraduate and graduate students because she hasn’t seen much in her time at MU. She said it could be beneficial for the university because it would direct undergraduates to MU’s graduate program, as opposed to students attending somewhere else for their degree.

Willett also said his role in MSA involves a lot of working with the provost regarding potential policy changes or introductions.

For example, in 2012, MSA worked with the president to incorporate the MU Religious Observance Policy. The policy states that “faculty is encouraged to excuse students who have a conflict with a class period, test or activity because of these obligations.”

The provost is expected to work directly with students in a variety of ways, such as traveling office hours, McIntosh said. He referenced 2014 discussion sessions held by former Provost Garnett Stokes that were open for faculty, staff and students “to talk with the provost about any topic of interest,” according to the Office of the Provost website.

Willett said he hopes to work with the next provost more directly on student issues such as course evaluations. He said last fall, he didn’t fill out evaluations because he didn’t see where his opinions would be taken and who would review them.
“I think that with the upcoming [provost], we’ll be seeing that and things like that take more priority,” Willett said.

McIntosh also explained how the search committee chooses and narrows down candidates. First, the committee hosts listening sessions, including public forums, to hear from students and staff on who they want representing and working with their campus.

From there, it’s a lot of “interrupting people’s lives,” McIntosh said. The committee will email current provosts working at other schools, as well as other people holding prominent academic positions, such as deans and chancellors, to ask if they would consider applying or know someone who might want to.

McIntosh said the university will contact between 400 and 500 people, most of which will decline the offer. About two or three dozen people will apply and the search committee will then narrow down those applications to eight to 12 people, he said.

“We need a team who will be able to take wide-angle lens on a group of candidates and be able to choose the best,” McIntosh said.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright will look at the committee’s choices and narrow that down to three or four final candidates. At this point in the search process, McIntosh said the search committee will also do what is called candidate vetting, in which they will call references and other people the candidates have worked with to gauge how they work with other people.

The final candidates will then present to MU students and staff on potential acts they would plan to carry out if hired. Cartwright and a few select others from the search committee will then decide who is hired, McIntosh said.

McIntosh said the final candidates should be announced by spring Reading Day. The person hired as provost would then be hired for the 2018-19 academic year.
Free tax prep services offered to students, faculty and community members by MU Extension

Generated by MU News Bureau release: Free tax preparation help available at Mizzou

By TASHFIA PARVEZ

MU Extension is running Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites to help students, faculty members and Columbia residents prepare their tax return forms for free. This year, the VITA services are being offered in the MU Office for Financial Success, Trulaske College of Business and the MU Family Impact Center.

The free tax prep services do not require prior registration; all sites allow walk-ins only on a first-come, first-served basis.

According to Andrew Zumwalt, assistant Extension professor and associate state specialist for financial planning, VITA is a partnership sponsored by the department of personal financial planning and the MU School of Law. It pulls student volunteers from those areas to help clients prepare their tax returns.

“It’s a great service for people who may not want to pay several hundred dollars to get their taxes done or who feel uncomfortable doing it on their own,” Zumwalt said. “For student volunteers, it’s a huge experience looking at the refund and explaining to clients why their situation might be different from the prior year or the refund is lower than they expected. It’s a great experience to talk about money so when [students] go to an employer they stand out versus other candidates.”

Michelle Gregory-Rives, a student volunteer majoring in personal financial planning, said client interaction helps students develop customer service skills, especially those who want to go into finance-based careers.

“The tax season is already stressful and a lot of people get nervous when they are filling out their tax forms, and just having someone to help them is really cool,” Gregory-Rives said.

Zumwalt said in the future, he wants to start a site at Ellis Library where people can use a software to get their taxes done for free, and if they have any questions, they can seek help at the front desk.
“What we realize is that the market is shifting a little bit,” Zumwalt said. “People feel comfortable entering their information online, but they may have specific questions about the tax aspects or a question their software is asking them.”

One thing the program is struggling with is advertising and reaching out to more students, Zumwalt and Gregory-Rives said.

Zumwalt said he has talked to different media outlets about the VITA program, but even then enough students do not know about it.

“It seems like there’s so much information bombarding students, and so I would be open to conversation about how to better reach students,” Zumwalt said.

The VITA sites will remain open until April 17 but will not operate during spring break.

Forbes®

Why Aspiring Entrepreneurs Should Put Their Education First
By WILLIAM ARRUDA

There is a growing misconception that higher education is not needed for — and may even inhibit — entrepreneurial success.

Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, and Bill Gates have shown that you do not need a diploma to succeed in your business, but they are well-known outliers in a sea of college-educated founders. A Kauffman Foundation study revealed that over 90% of American tech company founders hold a bachelor’s degree, and those with MBAs are able to start and build their companies faster.

Even for those who maintain that a college education isn’t essential to successful entrepreneurship, alternative educational programs are well worth considering. Such programs are able to teach skills and provide resources to both experienced and new entrepreneurs that cannot be accessed when working all by yourself.

Beyond networking with other passionate people, educational programs offer a great place to start learning practical skills that can reduce the learning curve for running your company. Consider these three ways continued education remains a crucial opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs:

1. By Providing Access To Valuable Relationships

Many universities and educational institutions are contributing to their local startup ecosystem through incubator and accelerator programs. These programs connect young entrepreneurs to real
startup resources that are harder to come by when you are starting out on your own — in some cases, leading to job opportunities and access to funding for student-led projects.

**Ameren Accelerator**, a program powered by the University of Missouri System, UMSL Accelerate, and Capital Innovators, is intentional about its approach to this collaboration. The accelerator focuses on energy technology startups and allows entrepreneurs to glean valuable industry knowledge from mentor partners at the university level. UMSL students selected as interns learn in an experiential setting as they participate in the program alongside the startup founders, benefiting from this access to mentorship and, in some instances, gaining job offers with the companies they intern for.

International programs offer similar resources. The **Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST) incubator** in Africa provides training, seed investment, and mentorship opportunities in an intensive 12-month program for outstanding students from across the continent. Finding mentors and other leaders who can assist you with specific issues is key to entrepreneurial success, and programs like these are designed to help you find those people faster.

2. By Growing Your Ability To Work With People Of Various Backgrounds

To be successful as a business leader, you will need to be able to work with a wide range of people. Employees come with all different personalities, and the more diverse the set, the better at problem-solving they are. Educational programs offer the opportunity to both work with different personalities on projects and interact with individuals from different cultures. Learning how to manage groups of people who don’t always agree will be key to creating a positive work environment in your company.

And what better way to understand the international business landscape than to go visit other countries? Study abroad programs allow you to observe local practices firsthand, while foreign language classes can give you a leg up in the increasingly global business environment. Classes in international business or foreign affairs can help you identify and overcome obstacles to international business transactions.

Taking advantage of these opportunities in college or through programs such as **IES Abroad** will make you a better business manager and provide more growth options in the future.

3. By Teaching Leadership Skills Critical To Success

Half of all businesses **fail by their fifth year**, and only 80 percent make it past the first. You will need sharp leadership and management skills to avoid becoming one of these statistics.

The good news? Business majors are required to take introductory management courses that teach skills like leading others in a business setting. Most programs also offer courses in problem-solving, how to establish SMART goals, and how to build quality relationships with your employees and clients.
Programs such as Operation JumpStart or LaunchU — which often partner with colleges and universities — allow you to work with a certified facilitator to develop your business plan. This will help you determine whether the plan will be feasible before you put any money into the business. Half of leading is knowing where you are going and communicating that clearly to those working with you.

Entrepreneurs are good at identifying ways to make the most of opportunities, and continued education is no exception. With their concentration of resources and growing emphasis on providing entrepreneurial experiences, colleges, universities, and other educational programs are primed with possibilities just waiting for you to exploit for success.

An effortless way to improve your memory

By DAVID ROBSON

When trying to memorise new material, it’s easy to assume that the more work you put in, the better you will perform. Yet taking the occasional down time – to do literally nothing – may be exactly what you need. Just dim the lights, sit back, and enjoy 10-15 minutes of quiet contemplation, and you’ll find that your memory of the facts you have just learnt is far better than if you had attempted to use that moment more productively.

Although it’s already well known that we should pace our studies, new research suggests that we should aim for “minimal interference” during these breaks – deliberately avoiding any activity that could tamper with the delicate task of memory formation. So no running errands, checking your emails, or surfing the web on your smartphone. You really need to give your brain the chance for a complete recharge with no distractions.

An excuse to do nothing may seem like a perfect mnemonic technique for the lazy student, but this discovery may also offer some relief for people with amnesia and some forms of dementia, suggesting new ways to release a latent, previously unrecognised, capacity to learn and remember.

The remarkable memory-boosting benefits of undisturbed rest were first documented in 1900 by the German psychologist Georg Elias Muller and his student Alfons Pilzecker. In one
of their many experiments on memory consolidation, Muller and Pilzecker first asked their participants to learn a list of meaningless syllables. Following a short study period, half the group were immediately given a second list to learn – while the rest were given a six-minute break before continuing.

When tested one-and-a-half-hours later, the two groups showed strikingly different patterns of recall. The participants given the break remembered nearly 50% of their list, compared to an average of 28% for the group who had been given no time to recharge their mental batteries. The finding suggested that our memory for new information is especially fragile just after it has first been encoded, making it more susceptible to interference from new information.

Although a handful of other psychologists occasionally returned to the finding, it was only in the early 2000s that the broader implications of it started to become known, with a pioneering study by Sergio Della Sala at the University of Edinburgh and Nelson Cowan at the University of Missouri.

The team was interested in discovering whether reduced interference might improve the memories of people who had suffered a neurological injury, such as a stroke. Using a similar set-up to Muller and Pilzecker’s original study, they presented their participants with lists of 15 words and tested them 10 minutes later. In some trials, the participants remained busy with some standard cognitive tests; in others, they were asked to lie in a darkened room and avoid falling asleep.

Story continues.
UW's new diversity head praises university efforts, says specific plan is on 'homestretch'

By SETH KLAMANN

The University of Wyoming’s chief diversity officer has been busy since she was appointed in May.

Two months after Emily Monago joined UW from Bowling Green State University, the school’s board of directors approved a five-year strategic plan that included diversity goals. She took the reigns with the mandate to craft her own blueprint to hit those specific targets by pulling comments from the campus, from the community and from a diversity council that she’s also developing.

“We’re actually down the homestretch,” she said of the university’s diversity, equity and inclusion plan. “There are a lot of components that went into it. We looked at historical documents that we have at the University of Wyoming.”

Those documents included the university’s 2007 diversity statement, which committed to advising and assisting “in the creation of an environment free of discrimination, further enhance the university’s appreciation for the contributions of diversity to teaching and learning, and secure a climate of acceptance and mutual respect for different opinions, cultures, experiences, and lifestyles.”

“There were some campus-wide meetings that happened before my position,” Monago continued, referring to other things she’s examined.

One of those meetings — in November 2015 — ended with an abrupt mass walkout of students and staff. A member of organizing group BreakthrUWYO told the officials holding the forum — including then-UW President Dick McGinity — that “it is not the responsibility of marginalized students to educate you.”

The UW walkout occurred as discussions and protests roiled college campuses across the country. The University of Missouri garnered national attention when a student went on a
A hunger strike and its football team refused to play over diversity issues on campus. High-level officials at the university eventually resigned.

“I think as a campus community, these are things that we need to be talking about,” Monago said recently. “These are very difficult conversations. What happens in society at large, we’re going to see them happening on our college campus.”

Wyoming has not been immune to alleged acts of bigotry. At UW, Holocaust-denial fliers were left around campus in November. At Sheridan College, at least three Native American students were the targets of racist threats.

Monago praised Sheridan College’s response by holding campus conversations and instituting quick changes.

“It helps raise awareness to campus communities at large,” she said. “As an institution, we definitely need to provide support that our students need to be successful.”

Currently, UW’s student population is 6.39 percent Hispanic, 1.14 percent Asian, 0.52 percent American Indian or Native Alaskan, 1.03 percent black, and 0.15 percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. More than 3.5 percent of students are two or more races.

Monago said the university hopes to grow its enrollment by about 4 percent per year. Its overall goal by 2022 is 13,500 students. The hope, Monago said, is minority student growth will mirror that 4 percent jump. She said she has the support from the (also recently appointed) associate vice provost for enrollment, Kyle Moore.

The university’s strategic plan calls for the number of “underrepresented students” to increase from its current level of 13 percent of campus to 17 percent. UW hired its first Native American program adviser late last year.

“We have our own working plan to provide some of the detail that will help us move forward,” Monago said. “It’s still in draft so I’m not ready to go into a lot of detail without getting the OK to go public.”

She did say that she hopes to have demonstrable indicators to give officials an idea of how their diversity efforts are progressing. She said she’s had conversations with a number of organizations, students and staff. One hundred and twenty-five people responded to an online survey.

The university will also host diversity workshops next week for students, faculty and staff. They’ll be available to “UW faculty, staff and students” via a live-streaming service, Monago said.

“It’s really to look at ways that we can create more inclusive classroom environments,” Monago said of the workshops. “Getting some of our faculty support. When classroom conversations go into topics such as homophobia, racism, sexism, just difficult conversations, helping them have some tools to facilitate those conversations.”
Harvard University has chosen for its 29th president a veteran leader of elite colleges. Lawrence S. Bacow, a former president of Tufts University, will succeed Drew Gilpin Faust in July, the university announced on Sunday.

Before he became president at Tufts, Bacow spent 24 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where was chair of the faculty and then chancellor, a senior academic post. And today Bacow holds the Hauser Leader-in-Residence position at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government’s Center for Public Leadership.

“The Harvard I have known has always stood for at least three things: the pursuit of truth, an unwavering commitment to excellence, and opportunity,” Bacow said in a university news release. “In a nation divided, these guiding ideals have never been more important.”

In a video announcing his selection, Bacow makes prominent mention of the fact that both his parents were immigrants to the United States, “actually both refugees.” He adds that his mother was a survivor of Auschwitz, and the only member of her family who survived World War II.

Bacow’s selection comes in a moment when college leaders have been more vocal in speaking up against some of the priorities of the Trump administration, which was swept into power on a wave of anti-intellectualism that many in higher education found troubling.

This is not the first time a Harvard presidential search committee has focused on Bacow. During its last search, Bacow was among 30 academics the university identified as targets — a list of the names was leaked to the media. That time, however, he did not talk to the search committee.

“If I had not been at Tufts, I am sure I would have talked to the search committee. Would I have taken the job if offered? Hard to say,” he told The Chronicle at the time.

“I think any potential president of Harvard has to ask what they hope to accomplish in the job. Harvard is a great place and will be regardless of who is president,” Bacow continued. “This is another way of saying that the marginal return to leadership may be greater at other institutions.”
Hard to Say No

During his decade-long tenure at Tufts, Bacow was credited with helping the institution come into its own as a leading research university.

Under his leadership, Tufts announced that it would help pay off the loans of its students who sought public-service jobs, including public-school teaching and social work. The university also doubled its annual budget for financial aid, and replacing loans with grants for low-income students in that time.

In an exit interview with The Chronicle following the announcement that he would be leaving Tufts and returning to teaching, Bacow threw cold water on the idea that he would seek another presidency.

“It's one and done for me. I've enjoyed it and loved it,” he said. “It's difficult to imagine going through a process of getting to know an institution again and getting a good team in place.”

But the Harvard presidency is tough to turn down. “Those of us privileged to lead this University are invested with a precious trust,” Bacow said in the news release. “I promise to do everything within my power to prove worthy of it.”

And Bacow has big shoes to fill. Faust was the university’s first female president, and pushed the institution to do the messy work of coming to grips with its complicated past. Most recently, she sought to effectively ban single-gender groups on campus, most notably the university’s elite final clubs.

“I could not be happier contemplating Harvard in his hands,” Faust said of Bacow in Harvard’s release, “and I look forward to his many successes as president.”

The N-Word in the Classroom

NO MU MENTION

By COLLEEN FLAHERTY

It’s one of the most loaded words in the U.S. To many professors, especially white ones, that makes the N-word completely off-limits in the classroom. To some, it makes the N-word fertile pedagogical ground.
Two professors in the latter camp, both white, used the N-word last week for two very different purposes, and with two very different outcomes.

“The values of free speech and inclusivity are central to Princeton University’s mission and critical to the education we provide to our students, including in Anthropology 212, Cultural Freedoms: Hate Speech, Blasphemy, and Pornography,” Michael Hotchkiss, a Princeton spokesman, said via email when asked about Lawrence Rosen, the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Anthropology on campus.

Rosen, who did not respond to a request for comment, used the N-word in an introduction to his class to make students think about cultural and linguistic taboos, according to student and faculty accounts. He asked, for example, what students thought about a student wiping her feet on the American flag, or what they thought was worse -- a white man punching a black man or calling him the N-word? (Rosen used the term in full, repeating it multiple times during the class, students said.)

In response to the latter example, one student reportedly asked Rosen if he intended to keep using the N-word. Rosen said yes, if it was necessary. Several students walked out or officially complained about Rosen.

In response, the university has backed Rosen, saying that the “conversations and disagreements that took place in the seminar” are “part of the vigorous engagement and robust debate that are central to what we do.”

At the same time, said Hotchkiss, "we will continue to look for ways to encourage discussions about free speech and inclusivity” with the students in the class and on campus, including setting up a meeting with them.

Meanwhile, at Southern Connecticut State University, Eric Triiffin, an adjunct professor of public health, was suspended after using the N-word while singing along to a song a student played in class. Tiffin, a longtime instructor, is known on campus for opening classes by asking a student to play a song and dancing to it. But one particular song used the N-word, and now some students are asking the university to punish Triiffin for not knowing that singing that word in class would offend.

The president of the Black Student Union, for example, posted a video on Facebook in which he said that "students of color should not be subjected to faculty and staff using racial slurs during the process of their education."
Joe Bertolino, university president, has announced plans for an open forum on the matter and told students and faculty members via email that Southern Connecticut State is "investigating the matter fully and will take appropriate action as a result of the findings."

As “a public institution dedicated to the values of social justice, our university abhors the use of racist or hateful words and actions and we will confront these incidents if and when they occur,” Bertolino wrote. “I ask you again to join me in promoting a campus environment based on acceptance and understanding -- one in which every member of our community feels valued and is treated with dignity and respect.”

*Story continues.*