

Mizzou Weekly

Oct. 21, 2010 Volume 32, No. 9

In time for Homecoming, MU dedicates new Student Center



FINISHING TOUCHES Louis Kreutzberg, kneeling, and Andrew Meister of ASI Sign Systems install a photo mural in The Traditions Lounge in preparation for Friday's dedication of the new MU Student Center. The mural, which depicts traditions celebrated throughout MU's history, was designed by MU alumna Wendy Gray. The project is a collaboration of University Archives, Business Services, the Mizzou Alumni Association and Publications and Alumni Communication. Rob Hill photo

A NEW TRADITION

Construction on \$64 million building began in 2007

This weekend's Homecoming celebration will mark the official dedication of the new MU Student Center, formerly called Brady Commons.

All MU employees, alumni and the public are invited to the ceremonies, which begin tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. with the opening of The Traditions Lounge, inside the new center at the corner of Hitt Street and Rollins Road. The official dedication of the Student Center starts at 3 p.m. in front of the main entrance on Rollins Road.

The Traditions Lounge showcases MU's most treasured traditions, old and new, such as Homecoming, Tiger Walk, Francis Quadrangle and Memorial Union. The black-and-gold-carpeted lounge features a limestone fireplace and artifacts from Mizzou history, exhibited by University Archives.

Other events Friday include a “Welcome to Your Student Center” tailgate lunch, sponsored by the Homecoming Steering Committee and the Missouri Student Unions, and a book signing by MU alumnus Mort Walker, creator of the Beetle Bailey comic strip character. Walker is also the inspiration for Mort’s Grill, a first-floor restaurant in the new center.

The new center was built in phases so students could access services throughout construction. Phase 1, which opened in 2009, began in 2007 and involved new construction to the east of Brady Commons. A major portion of Phase 2, which required demolition and renovation of the original Brady Commons, opened a couple of months ago. The remainder will be completed later this semester — almost six months ahead of schedule.

The 230,000-square-foot project cost \$64 million. In 2005, students overwhelmingly passed a referendum to increase their student fees to fund nearly half of the construction. Revenue from auxiliary services, such as the University Bookstore and Campus Dining Services, covered the remaining 52 percent of construction costs.

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Not just another GameDay

Joy Millard has worked for the University of Missouri for 27 years, so she doesn't wake up Saturdays during football season wondering which team to root for.

But this weekend's Homecoming game between the undefeated Tigers and the University of Oklahoma will be a little different for Millard, the director of the MU Conference Office. Her son, Trey, is a freshman running back for the Sooners, who also come into the game undefeated.

"Sure I went to MU and I work for MU and I root for MU all the time," Millard says. "Except for this weekend. It's definitely a mixed bag."

A tight end and running back at Rock Bridge High School, Trey Millard has made the successful transition to fullback at Oklahoma, where his teammates have dubbed him "The Load" for his punishing blocking and running style. Millard scored the deciding touchdown, his first as a college player, on a five-yard pass in the Sooners 31-29 victory over Cincinnati on Sept. 25. The following week against Texas, he carried the ball five times for 15 yards, including two important third-down conversions during the Sooners first touchdown drive. He also caught two passes for nine yards to help the Sooners beat the Longhorns 28-20.

Naturally, Joy Millard hasn't missed an OU game this fall. Although she won't have to travel to catch her son play the Tigers, that doesn't mean the weekend won't have its logistical challenges. With 35 to 40 relatives and friends expected to be in Columbia for the game, she's been busy working out an entertainment and lodging schedule.

She's also trying to figure out what to wear to the game.

"I was wondering if I should get Mizzou and OU T-shirts, cut them down the middle and sew them together," Millard says. "But I just don't think I have time for that."

What to wear shouldn't be a problem for anyone else this weekend. MU officials are urging students, faculty and staff, alumni and fans to break out the gold for the arrival of "College GameDay," ESPN's popular college football pregame show.

This will be the first time GameDay, which ESPN started taking to college campuses in 1994, has come to MU. The network's crew is expected to arrive Wednesday night and begin building the GameDay set Thursday morning just south of the circle drive at Eighth Street. With iconic views of the Columns and Jesse Hall as the backdrop, ESPN will tape a SportsCenter broadcast from 9:20 to 11:45 a.m. Friday.

For Saturday's live GameDay broadcast, from 8 to 11 a.m., campus officials are preparing for as many as 20,000 people to pack Francis Quadrangle. To date, the GameDay attendance record is held by the University of Nebraska, which reported a turnout of more than 15,800 people.

Access to the quad will begin at 3:30 a.m. Saturday. Activities will be planned to occupy fans until the broadcast begins.

Campus Facilities personnel are also preparing for the network's arrival. ESPN is considering brief campus shots, possibly as lead-ins to commercial breaks, featuring student-driven sustainability efforts, such as Tiger Tailgate Recycling and Mizzou Dashboard, an online energy-usage system in place in several campus residence halls.

In an e-mail to MU faculty and staff, Chancellor Brady J. Deaton said that, coupled with a full slate of Homecoming activities and the dedication of the MU Student Center, this weekend's national spotlight will present a "unique challenge" to the campus. He noted in particular that parking would likely be more difficult Saturday afternoon than on typical home football dates.

"I ask your patience, understanding and support as we welcome ESPN and alumni and celebrate our students' outstanding leadership in staging our Homecoming tradition," Deaton said.

For a schedule of the weekend activities, visit mizzouwire.missouri.edu/stories/2010/gameday/ (<http://mizzouwire.missouri.edu/stories/2010/gameday/>). Updates will also be posted at [mutigers.com/gameday/](http://www.mutigers.com/gameday/) (<http://www.mutigers.com/gameday/>).

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MU to collect data on policy that prohibits partner benefits

EQUAL ACCESS

Proponents say policy change is overdue

Diversity officials at the University of Missouri are asking faculty and staff to help them determine whether the lack of health and other benefits for domestic and same-sex partners has hurt the university's ability to recruit and retain employees.

The MU Equity Office and the Diversity Enhancement Committee of Faculty Council will attempt to verify, through online surveys, anecdotal evidence that employees have resigned or that job candidates have refused employment offers because the university only extends benefits to an employee's domestic partner if they are married.

"What led up to this is that we did have people say, 'I know somebody who didn't come, or I know somebody who refused an offer,'" said Noel Ann English, director of MU Equity. "So, I said let's collect that and use it, if it can be helpful."

Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, said partner benefits would help her recruit and retain a more diverse staff. She said she has lost two members of her staff to institutions that provide partner benefits. Other staff members feel "disenfranchised" because their partners aren't eligible, she said.

"We want the composition of our staff to reflect the composition of students we work with everyday," Scroggs said.

Concern over the lack of partner benefits at MU has been growing. A 2004 report for the MU Campus Climate Study found that partner benefits was a "major issue" for the campus' lesbian and gay community. Last spring, the MU Faculty Council approved a resolution calling on the UM System to extend benefits to same-sex domestic partners, citing the more than 300 universities — including 55 of the 63 schools in the Association of American Universities — that have done so.

However, data from the recent pay and benefits survey of UM employees suggest that, in an era of limited resources, support for same-sex partner benefits is less widespread. One in three respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the benefit was a priority if resources were available — the same percentage who disagreed. More than 1,250 of the survey's 7,000 respondents declined to answer the question.

Diane Bartley, chair of the Staff Advisory Council, noted that support for partner benefits is greater among faculty than staff. She said the Staff Council declined to add its support to the Faculty Council's resolution. "The Staff Council did not see it as an initiative that the majority of staff at large would be supportive of at that time, nor that it would have any impact on staff recruitment," Bartley said.

According to estimates from the UM Human Resources office, adding partner benefits, a policy change that would require approval by the Board of Curators, would cost the System about \$2.2 million a year. But proponents such as Candace Galen, professor of Biological Sciences, argue that extending benefits to domestic partners is a matter of treating all employees equally.

"For my family, it costs us about \$5,000 a year that my colleagues down the hall don't have to pay," said Galen, a 20-year employee of MU.

Roger L. Worthington, assistant deputy chancellor for diversity at MU, said the debate over partner benefits is more "ideological" than fiscal. He said "the university is shooting itself in the foot" when so many of MU's peer institutions offer the benefit.

"If you look at this from a business model, which more and more universities are already doing, it becomes obvious that offering partner benefits makes sense," he said. "The stories we have heard from department chairs, division heads and other employees

about experiences they've had suggest the negative outcomes are real for the university. I believe that the relatively small amount of money it will cost to change the policy will be offset by the benefits.”

To participate in the survey, go to equity.missouri.edu/form/survey-ssresignations-2010.php (<http://equity.missouri.edu/form/survey-ssresignations-2010.php>) or equity.missouri.edu/form/survey-sslh-2010.php (<http://equity.missouri.edu/form/survey-sslh-2010.php>).

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Power plant's biomass boiler is a study in campus collaboration

SUSTAINABLE MIZZOU

Shift to renewable fuel could help landowners

The dome of Jesse Hall and the spires of Memorial Union may be the most iconic structures at the University of Missouri. But without MU's Power Plant, neither could be illuminated in all their glory. With the university's plans to install a biomass boiler, several groups — Campus Facilities-Energy Management, Forestry, Agricultural Engineering and Extension — have teamed up to make the campus icons' glow not only picturesque, but sustainable as well.

Right now, the university buys coal and natural gas from out of state to fire its boilers. But, when the new boiler goes online in 2012, MU will have taken a large step toward an in-state renewable energy source.

"The more I heard about the university's move to biomass, the more I wanted us involved in the process," says Hank Stelzer, associate professor of forestry.

Stelzer learned about the biomass boiler through an informal group of faculty interested in sustainable agriculture engineering. After meeting with power plant Superintendent Gregg Coffin, Stelzer — along with others — set out to put MU on the map.

"We're certainly not the first university to do something like this," Stelzer says. "But we're one of the largest."

The power plant has been using about 5,000 tons of biomass — a renewable energy source composed of living or recently living organisms — per year since 2007. More than 100,000 tons will be necessary to fuel the new boiler.

To determine which form of biomass would provide the best value, the power plant was transformed into a make-shift laboratory. With support from researchers, the plant staff began mixing in different biomass substances with the regular coal-fuel supply. They settled on woody biomass, which is plentiful and available at a price that's competitive with the cost of coal.

Wood waste from sawmills and urban development will likely be the primary source for the first few years, Stelzer says, but landowners interested in thinning their forested acreage can also provide fuel for the boiler. He and the forestry department are starting to sow the idea of cultivating a dedicated energy crop on lands devastated by the 1993 and 1994 floods.

"Willow, silver maple and cottonwood trees thrive in sandy soil and can withstand flooding," Stelzer says. "Farmers who have lost the ability to grow traditional crops on that land can now plant and harvest trees."

Coffin says that because Missouri lacks a more traditional fuel source, the forestry department's effort to develop sustainable sources of biomass is an economic opportunity for Missouri.

"As more of MU's fuel budget is shifted to purchasing Missouri biomass fuel," he says, "Missourians will benefit."

— *David Wietlispach*

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Annual conference offers development opportunities for staff

HUMAN RESOURCES

Keynote speaker will address perception of MU as a workplace

Reduced budgets have made it difficult for the University of Missouri to send employees off campus for personal and professional development. However, for several years now, MU's Human Resource Services division has organized a two-day conference on campus that offers a full range of training opportunities for staff.

This year's conference, Nov. 3 and 4 at Memorial Union, will feature nearly 50 concurrent sessions on everything from accounts payable and the do's and don'ts of social media, to stress management and how to take charge of your personal finances. The speakers are primarily MU staff and faculty who are experts in their fields, said Bonnie Gregg, manager of Human Resource Services Support Services.

While the conference is intended for UM System and Extension staff, university faculty are invited to the keynote speech by Betsy Rodriguez, the System's vice president for Human Resources.

Rodriguez' speech, "The University of Missouri as an Employer: What Does it Take to be a Great Place to Work?" will challenge faculty and staff to think differently about their work environment, how they interact with coworkers and their role in moving the university forward. Gregg said Rodriguez also plans to talk about opportunities and challenges for making the university an inclusive and productive work place, and how factors such as compensation, workplace efficiency and leadership can influence faculty and staff perceptions of the workplace.

Also open to everyone is a demonstration of a new online learning tool from SkillSoft. The software supplements traditional training methods to provide employees with more opportunities to develop their skills while minimizing the demands on the campus' limited training resources. Courses include business and desktop publishing skills, legal compliance, environmental, health and safety, IT issues and leadership skills. SkillPort, which will be available on System campuses in early November, also puts thousands of training-related books at your fingertips, Gregg said.

Information about the conference, course descriptions and registration forms are online at hrs.missouri.edu (<http://hrs.missouri.edu>). Click on the training tab, then on HRS training conference in the menu list.

Gregg encourages staff members without access to computers to check with their division or department fiscal office for help in completing and sending paper forms to her office.

There is no registration deadline. For more information, contact Gregg at 882-4840 or greggb@missouri.edu.

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Staff Council to hear retirement plan briefing

Betsy Rodriguez, UM System vice president for Human Resources, will talk about possible changes to the university's pension plan at a meeting of the MU Staff Advisory Council at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, in Jesse Wrench Auditorium, S107 Memorial Union.

Rodriguez will discuss the purpose and scope of the ongoing review of the System's retirement plan and gather feedback from council members. The UM Board of Curators's are scheduled to consider recommendations, including whether to switch from the current defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan, when it meets in St. Louis in December.

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Healthy for Life sets flu shot schedule

The T.E. Atkins University of Missouri Wellness Program will offer free flu vaccines for employees, dependents and retirees enrolled in the UM Choice Health Care Program at these locations:

- October 25, 10 a.m.-noon, RADIL multipurpose room
- October 25, 2-4 p.m., Printing Services, 2800 Maguire
- October 27, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Reynolds Alumni Center
- November 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m, General Services Bldg., Room 25
- November 9, 2-4 p.m., Animal Science Research Center, Room S119/120

The shots are free for enrollees in the UM Choice Health Care Program. If you are not enrolled, the cost is \$25.00, cash or check only.

Only children 9 years and older enrolled in UM Choice Health Care Program, accompanied by a parent or guardian, may receive the vaccine.

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Seeking the Mizzou Advantage in art

Mizzou Advantage is looking for artistic interpretations of the initiative's five interdisciplinary areas.

The contest is open to MU students, staff and faculty. All work must be original and address one of the five Mizzou Advantage projects: Food for the Future; Sustainable Energy; Disruptive and Transformational Technology; One Health, One Medicine; and Media of the Future.

Each artist may submit up to two pieces for consideration. Works must be three-dimensional and should be framed or created on a gallery wrapped canvas ready for hanging.

The jurors will select five winners, one from each Mizzou Advantage initiative area. Winner of the \$500 grand prize will be selected from the five area winners, each of whom will receive a \$250 award. The winners will be recognized at a reception in Memorial Union and the artwork will be hung in the Mizzou Advantage office.

Work should be submitted via e-mail to mprovostmizzouadv@missouri.edu.

For more information, visit [missouri.edu/mizzou-advantage/art-contest/index.php](http://www.missouri.edu/mizzou-advantage/art-contest/index.php) (<http://www.missouri.edu/mizzou-advantage/art-contest/index.php>).

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