

Nov. 11, 2010 Volume 32, No. 12

# MU breaks new ground with academic hall renovations



INSIDE JOB Until the new concrete floors and support columns are installed, Switzler Hall is being supported by a complex system of cables and struts. Renovation of Switzler, on the northwest corner of Francis Quadrangle, is scheduled to be completed in time for classes next fall. The building will be outfitted with new mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems, and a small addition on the southwest side of the building will provide four additional classrooms. Photo courtesy of Campus Facilities - Communications

### **CAMPUS PLANNING**

Sustainability, stewardship will guide future projects

For the past couple decades, American colleges and universities have been engaged in something of an arms race by constructing new, state-of-the-art residence halls, student centers and research facilities to attract the best students and brightest faculty to their campuses.

Those days are over, says Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor for facilities at the University of Missouri. The next building boom in higher education, he says, will be tackling buildings that are at the heart of the public university's academic mission but, because of budget constraints, have been neglected for years.

"It's not going to be the new big buildings," Ward says. "It's going to be taking care of the existing space."

At MU, more than 30 core academic buildings are in need of renovation, at a projected total cost of \$507 million. Work on two of those buildings, Tate and Switzler halls, began this year, thanks to \$19 million in bond revenue approved by the UM Board of Curators in June 2009.

Both buildings have been gutted and will be outfitted with new mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems, along with new fire and security systems. The projects will also address the university's critical need for more educational space. A total of 270

classroom seats and 30 faculty offices will be added in the two buildings, which should be ready for classes next fall.

The Tate and Switzler projects clearly excite Ward, who has been at MU since August 2005. Switzler Hall, a four- level brick structure built in 1871, is the second oldest building on campus — only the Chancellor's Residence is older — and MU's oldest classroom building. The four-story brick-and-stone Tate Hall, built just east of Jesse Hall in 1927, is named for Lee H. Tate, a graduate of the MU Law School who died in World War I.

Under most circumstances, the best approach might have been to tear down both aged buildings. Ward says that was never an option. "This is Mizzou," he says, "and we have to preserve the iconic structures we have."

For that reason alone, Tate and Switzler might represent the two most important projects of Ward's tenure at MU. But he also saw an opportunity to establish a new model based on sustainability and financial stewardship that will guide future renovations.

He started by asking architects to submit their qualifications electronically. That lowered the cost of preparing a proposal and shortened to two weeks a selection process that typically took about nine months. Ward also brought in a construction manager to work closely with the architect and to build a team that could deal quickly with any challenges that might arise.

That strategy has paid off in Switzler, which, according to construction manager Robert Young, involves "building a building inside of a building." The \$7 million project required tearing out the wood floors, joists and beams that, in essence, kept the building from collapsing on itself. Until the new concrete floors and supporting columns are installed, the 130-year-old building is held together by an intricate system of cables and struts that make the interior resemble something from the drawing board of M.C. Escher.

"That system of tension rods is something I have never seen in my career, and no one around here has done that before," Ward says. "There was no way that building could fall down, so it was great to have the contractor working with the architect and the structural engineer to come up with that idea."

When deciding how to finish the buildings, Ward thought like a taxpayer — or a tuition-paying parent. He chose the same color and design schemes for both projects, opting for simple building materials that can be purchased at any big-box, do-it-yourself store. That lowered the cost of the materials, as well as the cost of transporting them to campus. As Ward put it, "I didn't want anything from Europe or that had to be put on a boat to get here."

Indeed, the only hint of ostentation will be a little terrazzo in Tate, to make the floor more durable. Otherwise, the materials symbolize Ward's overall goal with the Tate and Switzler renovations — to maximize scarce resources and deliver buildings that, above all, further MU's academic mission.

"These will not be the type of buildings that will win design awards," he says. "What we want is for our faculty and staff and students to say, 'This is a really cool building, it's really good to be in here.'

"But they are not going to be on the cover of Architectural Digest."

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# Sidebar: Building for the future



ROOM WITH A VIEW Switzler Hall was built in 1871 and is the second oldest building on campus, next to the Chancellor's Residence, and the oldest classroom building at MU. Named for William F. Switzler, editor and publisher of the Missouri Statesman, the building houses the Department of Communication and College of Arts and Science Special Degress Programs. Photo courtesy of Campus Facilities-Communications

Meeting MU's infrastructure needs.

From new residence halls and <u>major renovations (../mu-breaks-new-ground-with-academic-hall-renovations-/index.php.html)</u> to the massive underground steam tunnels that heat and cool the campus, work crews have been tackling MU's growing infrastructure needs at a steady pace.

Here's a look at the major projects that have been completed, projects that are well underway and some that are still on the drawing board.

#### RECENTLY COMPLETED

Missouri Orthopaedic Institute

Project cost: \$52.5 million

#### • New Steam Tunnel

Project cost: \$22 million

### •MU Women's and Children's Hospital

Project cost: \$12 million

#### IN CONSTRUCTION

### Power Plant Upgrade

Project cost: \$75 million

Completion: Late 2012

#### •Tate Hall and Switzler Halls - Renovation

Project cost: \$15.9 million

Completion: June 2011

## •Gymnastics & Golden Girls Practice Facility

Project cost: \$5.6 million

Completion: August 2011

### •Rollins Group Renovation

Project cost: \$39 million

Completion: Hudson and Rollins were completed fall 2010; Gillett should be completed June 2011

#### **IN DESIGN**

### •MU Health Center Patient Care Tower

Project cost: \$203 million

Completion: December 2012

## •University Hospital 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Renovation

Project cost: \$15.6 million

Completion: March 2012

#### Animal Resource Center

Project cost: \$7.1 million

Completion: Spring 2012

#### **IN PLANNING**

### •Mark Twain – Renovate Residence and Dining Halls

Estimated cost: \$19.9 million

Targeted start: December 2011

Targeted completion: May 2013

#### •Pershing Hall - Interior and Exterior Renovation

Estimated Cost: \$5.2 million

Targeted start: July 2011

Targeted completion: July 2012

### •Gwynn Hall - Renovation

Estimated cost: \$8.5 million

Targeted start: Summer 2011

Targeted completion: June 2013

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# **Budget forecast prompts 'proactive' realignment of MU Extension**

FISCAL CHALLENGES

Changes will end TeleCenter partnership

In anticipation of cuts in state funding for higher education next year, the University of Missouri has announced a major realignment of MU Extension, including ending the extension's 15-year partnership with the statewide TeleCenter Network.

The realignment, announced Monday by Chancellor Brady J. Deaton and Provost Brian Foster, will result in the elimination of 19 TeleCenter positions and save the extension about \$815,000.

In a meeting with extension employees that was broadcast via teleconference Tuesday, Michael Ouart, vice provost and director of MU Extension, said there is a "possibility, but no guarantee" that the affected workers will be moved to other positions with MU or the extension. "But we will do everything we can to help them find jobs," he said.

Ouart said the extension's role as managing partner of the TeleCenter Network, which was created in 1993 to provide continuing education to teachers and nurses around the state, will end by Nov. 8, 2011. TeleCenters are located in Mexico, Salem, Jefferson City, Nevada, Kirksville, Poplar Bluff, Portageville, Reeds Spring and Mineral Area. More than 30 school districts, businesses, cities, educational institutions and other entities have served as partners with MU Extension in supporting the network.

Extension administrators will meet with their TeleCenter partners in the next few weeks to determine how the network's assets will be dispersed and how MU will conclude its role in the partnership. Ouart said ending extension's role makes sense given how technology, and especially the Internet, has evolved. There has been a "blurring of the lines" between distance learning and Internet-delivered coursework, and that should be looked at, he said.

"The kinds of things we are doing are now being delivered by the Internet," he said.

The university also announced Monday that the extension's e-learning programs be placed under new leadership, although who will take over the programs has not yet been decided. Ouart said Tom Henderson, former director of MU Extension and former assistant to the provost for economic development, will lead the realignment.

MU Extension offers courses during the academic year through Mizzou Online, as well as online graduate-level coursework to nurses and teachers. Another extension program, the Center for Distance and Independent Study, offers online classes for students who want to study at their own pace.

Other changes announced Monday will transfer KBIA, KKTR and KAUD — the university's mid-Missouri public radio stations — and the University Concert Series to MU's Office of Administrative Services. The Missouri Film Office, which brings filmmakers to the state, will join the Office of the Vice Provost for Economic Development.

Ouart said the realignment is in anticipation of a \$2.7 million cut in the extension's general operating budget for fiscal year 2012, which starts July 1. He said it was "no accident" that the realignment is occurring now, less than two months before the next session of the Missouri General Assembly.

The extension's role has been the subject of discussion in Jefferson City in recent years, Ourta said, and the "proactive" changes announced Monday could head-off talk of additional cuts.

"We have been front and center the last two years, and it would be nice not to be for a year," he said. "This is an opportunity to take charge of our future to benefit the people we serve."

In a statement, Deaton said the realignment is part on ongoing examination of MU's programs and operations to assure the most efficient use of resources.

The realignment will not effect several locally delivered extension projects, including FastTrac NewVenture, created by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs; the Old North Partnership and Community Grocery in St. Louis; My Activity Pyramid to reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers; 4-H science, engineering, math and technology projects for Missouri youth and teens; and on-the-job professional training for firefighters, union workers, law enforcement officers and others who want to update their skills while remaining employed.

"MU Extension will continue its long history of providing local programs to Missouri's citizens that help create healthier families, more businesses, better communities, stronger agriculture, and an overall better quality of life," Deaton said.

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## Clarification

On supporting employees with disabilities

The lead story in the Nov. 4 edition of Mizzou Weekly, <u>"Advocates renew commitment to improving "disability culture at MU," (.../../32-11/advocates-renew-commitment-to-improving-disability-culture-at-mu/index.php.html)</u> might have left some readers with the impression that the Office of Service Learning had failed to offer the necessary support for an employee with a disability.

The employee, Barbara Willis, coordinator of the civic leaders internship program, has a closed-head injury and requires the assistance of a specially trained service dog. The story, which quoted Willis and other advocates for employees with disabilities, noted that Willis "enjoys the full support of her supervisors."

However, that point could have appeared higher in the story, where it would have made clear for readers that Willis' concerns about accommodations for employees with disabilities at MU are more general and do not apply to her situation.

In an e-mail, Willis said the Office of Service Learning is "a great place to work" and that her supervisor, Anne-Marie Foley, has been "outstanding" in accommodating her needs.

"The university as an institution can do better, but my employer has gone above and beyond in supporting my employment," Willis said.

Foley said the impression that her department has been less than supportive of employees with disabilities is "profoundly unjust." She said campus administrators, including Associate Provost Jim Spain and Barbara Hammer, director of the MU Office of Disability Services, "have witnessed the consistent advocacy and support demonstrated by this office for staff and students with disabilities."

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# Certificate program targets needs of veterans and military families

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Combat, long deployments can lead to serious problems

In June, researchers at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research reported that about one in 10 veterans of the Iraq war develop serious mental health problems, including violent behavior and alcohol abuse, that worsen once they return home.

Other research suggests that one third of returning soldiers from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan are diagnosed with mental health issues, most commonly post-traumatic stress disorder or depression, and that diagnoses have doubled since the start of the Iraqi invasion in 2003.

The unique needs of returning military personnel have been a growing concern among social workers, who offer a variety of services to veterans and their families. Now, the University of Missouri School of Social Work has created a graduate certificate in military social work to equip social workers to help the nation's armed forces personnel, veterans and their families deal with the pressures of military service and the sometimes difficult adjustment to life after active duty.

"I felt it was important that the School of Social Work step up and train our students to be better prepared to meet the needs of not only our veterans but their families who also have to cope with the stresses of military life," said Marjorie Sable, the school's director.

The idea for the new specialization stemmed from daily news reports about the problems veterans experience, stress associated with multiple deployments in combat zones, extended separations and blast-related traumatic brain injuries. Post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety can lead to substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect and suicide.

MU is one of about 25 schools of social work nationwide responding to the increased demand for trained social workers to work with the physical and behavioral health needs of returning veterans, Sable said. MU worked closely with social workers at the US Army Post in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and at Truman Veterans Hospital in Columbia to develop the certificate program.

The 12-credit hour graduate-level program is restricted to professional social workers who want additional training in the area of military social work and to current clinical master of social work students with interest in this area. The first courses will be offered in fall 2011. Students will be expected to complete the certificate requirements in two years.

Beyond the course requirements, students will take a series of classes on military culture and practicing social work in military settings. They will also learn about trauma practice and crisis intervention, addiction prevention and treatment, disabilities, family caregiving and domestic violence.

Graduates with military social work training will be able to better counsel deploying and returning soldiers, help individuals cope with various mental and physical disabilities and boost life skills related to parenting, stress management and suicide prevention.

To further its commitment to meeting the needs of military personnel, veterans and their families, the school will host a summit, "Meeting the Needs of Veterans & Military Families: A Summit for Health & Human Services Professionals." The event is at 8 a.m. Nov. 12 in the Hilton Garden Inn at 3300 Vandiver Drive. Attendees will hear from national and statewide speakers as well as participate in two panels on various topics.

"We hope this will become an annual event," Sable says.

With questions about the graduate certificate in military social work program or the summit, call Sable at 882-0914 or e-mail sablem@missouri.edu.

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# Remembering Jerry Litton: CAFNR gift honors native son



WHEN JERRY MET HARRY In 1966 Jerry Litton visited with President Harry S. Truman to extend an invitation to the former president to speak at the FFA convention. Jerry remembers that instead of his original 15-minute appointment, Mr. Truman devoted nearly two hours to "selling" him on the importance of people participating in politics and running for public office. Photo courtesy of the University of Missouri Archives

#### **GIVING BACK**

Late congressman fought for farmers' rights

Jerry Litton, who tragically died in an aircraft accident in 1976 after winning a Democratic primary bid for United States Senator, will be honored by his alma mater, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, with a \$250,000 fund to promote agricultural education.

The Jerry Litton Fund for Agricultural Leadership, announced in October, was endowed by the Jerry Litton Family Memorial Foundation, which supports agricultural, educational and athletic activities in memory of the Litton family.

"MU and CAFNR played a very important role in shaping Congressman Litton's career," said Edwin S. Turner, a former UM curator and vice president of the Jerry Litton Family Memorial Foundation. "His unparalleled leadership skills were developed as he participated in many on-campus activities. The resources offered by MU were equally invaluable to the incredible success of the Litton Charolais Ranch. Even though Jerry's life tragically ended at a very young age, he became known both nationally and internationally as an innovative spokesman for agriculture. It is only fitting that The Jerry Litton Fund for Agricultural Leadership be established at CAFNR."

The Litton fund will have several components: the Litton Lectureship will bring interesting speakers to campus; the Litton Fellowship will support faculty entrepreneurial activities; the Litton Scholarship will encourage top students to develop their leadership potential; and the Litton Agricultural Leadership Fellowship will help students to gain farm policymaking experience.

Jerry Lon Litton was born in a farmhouse without plumbing or electricity near Lock Springs, on May 12, 1937. During his youth, an accident disabled his father, so his mother supported the family by selling milk from the family's 11 cows. While a student at Chillicothe High School, Litton served as president of both the National Honor Society and the Chillicothe Chapter of Future Farmers of America. In 1956-57 the FFA elected him as national secretary.

Litton graduated from the College of Agriculture in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism and a minor in economics. He returned to Chillicothe and joined his parents in a highly successful cattle-breeding business and became active in promoting youth involvement in leadership in agriculture and rural communities.

In 1972, Litton was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he advocated the rights of farmers and hardworking citizens. Often referred to as a "breath of fresh air in Washington," Litton impressed his colleagues with his honesty and his political incorruptibility. House Majority Leader Thomas "Tip" O'Neal claimed that in his 22 years in Congress he had never been more impressed by a freshman congressman than by Jerry Litton.

The Congressional Club, which Litton conceived and organized in his district, sponsored a monthly television program, "Dialogue with Litton," that aired statewide. Open to the public, these meetings offered voters a chance to ask questions and state their concerns about political issues. For each show Litton invited a guest, including such prominent political figures as Minnesota Sen. Hubert Humphrey and Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, who said that he thought Litton would be president one day.

Litton decided to seek the seat of retiring U.S. Senator Stuart Symington in 1976. He handily defeated the incumbent's son, James Symington, and former governor Warren Hearnes in the Democratic primary on Aug. 3, 1976. That same evening, Litton, his wife, Sharon, and their two children, Linda and Scott, along with their pilot and the pilot's son, died in a plane crash just after takeoff from Chillicothe Airport en route to a victory celebration in Kansas City.

"Jerry Litton embodied what CAFNR would like to see in all of its graduates — a commitment to personal integrity, a strong work ethic and a passion to serve the community," said Thomas Payne, vice chancellor and dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

- Randy Mertens

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# University getting closer to 2010 United Way goal

The university's 2010 United Way campaign is moving closer toward its goal of raising \$650,000 to help support the 31 central Missouri social service agencies that receive funding through the Heart of Missouri United Way chapter.

This year's community campaign goal is \$3.3 million and donations from university students, faculty, staff and retirees make up about 20 percent of that goal.

As of Nov. 5, the university's campaign had raised \$557,708.66, or 86 percent of its goal. That's slightly ahead of last year at the same time, when the campaign had raised \$552,912.65. "We are getting very close, but we want to finish strong," says Richard Oliver, dean of health professions, and one of three chairs of this year's MU/UM campaign.

Oliver believes the campaign's goal will be met during Live United Week, Nov. 15 through 19. Even in the midst of challenging economic times, he says, university employees are cognizant of the needs of others. "They are willing to step up to help these agencies. A lot of our own employees use some of the services and people are sensitive to the fact that the community's needs are quite dramatic."

Contributions to Heart of Missouri United Way provide services such as shelter, domestic violence intervention, crisis counseling, education, food, medical care, disaster relief, child care comfort, and more to the 31 agencies as well as more than 60 community programs. Historically, only about one in five university employees donate to United Way, yet one in three throughout the central Missouri area benefit from United Way agencies.

Oliver encourages all employees to turn in their pledges to their unit chairs by Nov. 19. No donation is too small, he says. "Every dollar helps. Even if you think it is a very modest donation, it can yield big results."

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# MU public health program receives accreditation

**HEALTH CARE** 

Growing program is a strategic priority

The University of Missouri Master of Public Health program has received accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health, becoming only the second accredited program of its kind in Missouri and the only accredited program at a public university.

Kristofer Hagglund, director of the Master of Public Health, or MPH, program and associate dean of the School of Health Professions, said the accreditation will allow the MU program to provide high-quality coursework, research and community service in Missouri and beyond.

"I am delighted, but not surprised that the MPH program was awarded full accreditation," Hagglund said. "The program's students, faculty and staff are dedicated to learning and to enhancing the health and well-being of our community. The program has outstanding support from the university and from its many community partners."

Chancellor Brady J. Deaton has identified public health as a strategic priority for MU. The MPH program was initiated in 2007 with a total enrollment of 58 students. Stakeholders from multiple schools and colleges have worked to diversify and build the program, and today, there are more than 143 students studying public health at MU.

The mission of the MPH Program is to advance the health and well-being of the citizens of Missouri and elsewhere through excellence in teaching, discovery and service in public health. The program incorporates academic strengths of the university in veterinary medicine, policy analysis and development to address the needs of underserved populations and prepare public health leaders at local, state and national levels.

Dual degrees are offered in conjunction with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Truman School of Public Affairs. The program will add a dual MPH/ journalism degree in the near future.

The program has attracted students from across the country, as well as from India, China, Libya, South Korea, Haiti, Georgia, Zimbabwe, the Bahamas, Colombia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Nepal. Students are trained to plan, implement and evaluate programs aimed at enhancing health in human populations. Graduates of the program have gone on to careers at local, state and federal public health agencies, private think tanks, research universities and non-governmental organizations that work to improve the public's health.

"The accreditation process reflected the unique structure and strengths of MU's MPH program, including the commitment to excellence in research, teaching and service." said Lise Saffran, associate director of the program. "This exciting news was the result of the interdisciplinary team work and collaboration that is at the heart of public health."

The Council on Education for Public Health is an independent agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit schools of public health and graduate public health programs. The MU program was awarded the maximum five-year term, through December 2015.

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Nov. 11, 2010 Volume 32, No. 12

# Pumping iron can make up for failed diets

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION** 

Resistance training can reduce risk factors

**A**lthough obesity is a major risk factor for disease, much of the threat may be associated with a cluster of risk factors related to diabetes and heart disease.

Losing weight can improve health and reduce many of these risk factors. Still, many people struggle to keep the weight off over longer periods of time.

Now, researchers at the University of Missouri have found that people who perform resistance training while regaining weight can help maintain strides in reducing their risks for chronic disease.

Shana Warner, a doctoral student in nutrition and exercise physiology, said the research suggests that following a consistent exercise program can help maintain certain aspects of metabolic health, even in those who experience weight regain.

"Long-term weight loss maintenance is uncommon without regular exercise," Warner said. "It is very important to address other things that can be done to maintain health as opposed to focusing solely on body weight."

The study consisted of two phases, meant to simulate real-life weight loss and regain. In the first phase, overweight and obese participants lost 4 to 6 percent of their initial body weight by following an eight to 12-week regimen of diet and aerobic exercise. In the second phase, participants regained 50 percent of the weight they had lost. During the regain phase, participants performed 45 minutes of supervised resistance training three times each week.

Researchers found that weight training during weight regain has a positive effect on health, which can reduce the risk of diabetes, heart disease and other diseases. Participants maintained improvements acquired through weight loss in cardiorespiratory fitness, body fat percentage, systolic blood pressure and other factors. In addition, participants significantly increased strength and lean body mass. However, they did not maintain reductions in visceral abdominal fat: the fat deposited around internal organs.

This study furthers research completed earlier this year, in which MU researchers found that participation in aerobic exercise while regaining weight counters many of the risk factors associated with chronic diseases. These studies are some of the first to consider the effects of exercise on people's health who regain weight they recently lost.

The study, "The Effects of Resistance Training on Metabolic Health with Weight Regain," was published this year in The Journal of Clinical Hypertension. Researchers from the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology (part of the College of Human Environmental Sciences, the School of Medicine and the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources) completed the study in conjunction with MU scientists in the Department of Internal Medicine, the Department of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology, and Truman Veterans Hospital.

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# Progress reported on cystic fibrosis cure

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Study recognized for significance

**A** University of Missouri researcher believes his latest work moves scientists closer to a cure for cystic fibrosis, one of the world's most common fatal genetic diseases.

The Journal of Biological Chemistry, in its Sept. 22 issue, published findings by TzyhChang Hwang, a professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Medical Pharmocology and Physiology and the Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center. The publication was cited as the "paper of the week" for the journal, meaning Hwang's work is considered to be in the top 1 percent of papers reviewed annually in terms of significance and overall importance.

Hwang's work, which could potentially provide information useful for drug design and therapeutic intervention for cystic fibrosis, focuses on the two most common genetic mutations among approximately 1,500 mutations found in CF patients. These two mutations cause specific chloride channels in the cell, known as the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) chloride channels, to malfunction. This ultimately leads to repeated pneumonia, the primary cause of most deaths associated with cystic fibrosis.

"The normal function of a cell is to pass chloride ions across the cell membrane at a very fast speed," Hwang said. "We know some signaling molecules elicit this reaction, much like a hand signals an automatic water faucet to dispense water. But in the case of cystic fibrosis, that signal is no longer detected by the mutated channel protein. Through some mechanisms we still don't quite understand, malfunction of this channel protein eventually leads to bacterial infection in the lung, which is believed to be responsible for the most severe symptoms of cystic fibrosis."

The most recent study found that manipulating the sensor of the channel protein can significantly rectify the malfunction of the mutated channel, thus opening the door to a drug design that may eventually be a "real cure," Hwang said.

"We could help a lot of patients if we can utilize the power of computer simulations and structure-based drug design to discover new therapeutical reagents for cystic fibrosis, but it's very expensive to do this kind of research in an academic institute," Hwang said.

The publication is titled, "Optimization of the degenerated interfacial ATP binding site improves the function of diseases related mutant cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator channels."

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# MU creates cyber-source for lymphedema data

## APPLIED INFORMATICS

Project will merge sources on chronic condition

The 10 million breast cancer survivors around the world are at lifetime risk of developing lymphedema, a chronic condition that causes swelling of the limbs and affects physical and mental health. Second only to breast cancer recurrence, lymphedema is the most feared effect of breast cancer treatment.

Now, University of Missouri researchers are developing a place in cyberspace where relevant and timely information on the condition can be easily stored, searched and reviewed from anywhere online.

Chi-Ren Shyu, principal investigator for the project and director of the MU Informatics Institute, said researchers throughout the world are continually learning about lymphedema and how it can be treated. The cyberspace project will bring researchers, medical professionals and care providers together with the goal of improving health care through the availability of up-to-date, evidence-based research.

"Merging all of the data into one virtual space and discovering clinically significant knowledge from the haystacks of data will make cutting-edge research and treatments available to patients sooner," Shyu said.

The percentage of breast cancer survivors who develop lymphedema is not precisely known, although it is conservatively estimated that as many as half of survivors may experience lymphedema during their lifetime. Currently, people looking for information about lymphedema treatment have to visit dozens of medical websites or consult a best practices document, which has not been updated since 2006.

The new system will enable immediate access to data, best practices, literature and research from around the world as it is posted online, all in a single, searchable online database.

"The cyber-infrastructure, once complete, can be applied to other diseases and chronic conditions, such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease," Shyu said. "Potential users include researchers, medical professionals, social workers, patients and their families."

Shyu and his informatics team from the College of Engineering are working with Jane Armer, professor in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing and director of the American Lymphedema Framework Project, housed at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Their research is funded by a three-year grant awarded by the National Library of Medicine Applied Informatics Program.

In three years, Shyu and Armer plan to complete a system that automatically will pull research findings and new information from scientific journals and association websites through an automated data mining procedure. Shyu has an agreement with selected health care facilities from throughout the country to provide real-time, anonymous patient data so practitioners can understand how patients in different areas of the country are affected by lymphedema and its treatments.

"The development of an informatics depository for a data set holding key information for all patients with lymphedema of any cause offers enormous potential for answering research questions that are difficult to study with small data sets with varying criteria for lymphedema," said Armer. "This cyber-database will help us unlock the door to more immediate access to the latest information on evidence-based treatment and risk-reduction."

Faculty members and clinicians participating in the program include those at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, University of Chicago and Kenny Rehabilitation Institute's Virginia Piper Cancer Institute in Minneapolis, as

well as specialized lymphedema practices. Shyu plans to add international sites before the system becomes available to the public.

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# **Building healthy policy**

The One Community Network, a growing network of Missouri communities, MU Extension faculty and health care systems researchers, will host a workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 12 at Old Alumni Center, 1105 Carrie Francke Drive.

The One Community Network received an eight-month Mizzou Advantage grant in April 2010 to build MU's internal infrastructure to conduct community-based participatory projects to address health issues in Missouri.

There is no registration fee, however pre-registration is required for planning purposes and space availability. Please call 882-5412 or visit <a href="https://healthpolicy.missouri.edu/projects/onecommunity.shtml">healthpolicy.missouri.edu/projects/onecommunity.shtml</a>)

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# **Teaching with Wimba**

Since it became available in May 2010, nearly 1,000 MU students have interacted with classmates and instructors using Wimba Classroom, a live, virtual classroom environment that incorporates audio, video, application sharing and content display, and MP4 capabilities.

A training session for instructors interested in introducing Wimba Classroom to their students will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16 in Room 266 of the Heinkel building.

Wimba Classroom can be used for anything from conducting full real-time class to review sessions to virtual office hours that allow students or instructors to remote in from home.

The session can also be viewed remotely. For more information, call Charles Rigdon at 882-7454 or email wimbahelp@missouri.edu.

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# Private shopping — and Santa too

Enjoy an evening of special discounts, refreshments, photos with Santa and a coloring contest for kids at the University Bookstore's annual Faculty, Staff & Retiree Appreciation Night from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16.

The event is a private shopping experience for faculty and staff. Invitations will be sent in campus mail. Bring it with you for entry. For more information visit <a href="mailto:mubookstore.com/http://mubookstore.com/">mubookstore.com/</a>).

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### 2011 wall calendars now available

University of Missouri faculty and UM System and University Hospital employees with a Columbia address can receive a free 2011 calendar, produced by Printing Services and KOMU.

Calendars can be preordered online at ps.missouri.edu/cal by Nov. 30. One per employee please. If you are a supervisor with employees without access to a computer, please contact Joanne Rotert at 882-4210 for additional copies. Extra copies will also be available at the Digiprint Center in Ellis Library.

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# Alcohol study needs volunteers

The Social Cognitive Neuroscience lab at MU is looking for participants for a research study on the effects of alcohol on cognition.

If you are between the ages of 21 and 35, have no history of substance abuse problems or other major medical conditions and consider yourself to be a "social drinker," you may be eligible to participate. Participants must be available for an appointment that lasts approximately four to nine hours. A telephone interview is required to determine eligibility for the study. Eligible individuals will be paid \$12 an hour for participating.

If interested, please contact Alcohol Research at 882-4405 or email at loerschc@missouri.edu for more information.

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## Call for teaching proposals

ET@MO is now accepting proposals for its TeAchnology! Conference, scheduled for March 8-9, 2011, in Memorial Union.

The conference will feature discussions, training sessions and showcases on how to effectively incorporate educational technology into the classroom.

The conference committee invites proposals on topics related to:

- effective integration of centrally supporting teaching technologies;
- · innovative uses of technologies for class management and logistics;
- · online program planning and development;
- · best practices and quality assurance.

Deadline for submission is 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19. Proposals will only be accepted electronically and will be evaluated by the conference committee according to interest to conference attendees, content of presentation and relevance to the conference's focus.

For more information, visit etatmo.missouri.edu (http://etatmo.missouri.edu/).

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# Poetry reading at Reynolds

Bruce Bond, whose poetry collections include *Independence Days, The Anteroom of Paradise, Radiography, Blind Rain* and his latest, *Peal,* will read from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in Room 208 of the Reynolds Alumni Center. Bond, Regents Professor of English at the University of North Texas, has received numerous awards and fellowships.

The reading will be followed by a reception and book signing.

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