

Mizzou Weekly

Feb. 14, 2013 Volume 34, No. 19

Thomas Jefferson's marble epitaph to receive makeover at the Smithsonian Institution in D.C.



MOVING ON Artex Fine Art Services movers, Matts Gurmudssen (left) and David Gadol, direct a cart carrying the marble epitaph for Jefferson's tombstone to a truck on Conley Avenue. Phillip Temple, facility attendant for Jesse Auditorium, walks alongside them. On Feb. 6, the slab arrived at the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be restored. Photo by Rachel Coward

TALES OF THE TOMBSTONE

Charred and broken, the epitaph slab was stored for decades in Jesse Hall's attic

On Feb. 1, two men directed a cart carrying a 160-pound slab of marble encased in wood to a truck parked on Conley Avenue. The slab, bound for Washington, D.C., had sat in Jesse Hall's attic for decades.

Engraved in the blistered and chipped marble is an inscription by Thomas Jefferson, created to complement his granite 9-foot tombstone marker, standing on the east side of Francis Quadrangle. The movers were transporting the marble to a truck headed for the Smithsonian Institution, where it would get a makeover.

"Unless you knew where it was, you didn't know it was up there," said Kee Groshong, an MU vice chancellor emeritus of administrative services. "Really, there wasn't any reason for people to know about it."

The obelisk tombstone and epitaph have a long and complex history. Their paths to Columbia are said to be the result of Jefferson's interest in public education and Missouri.

A complicated past

Before his 1826 death, Jefferson planned his memoriam. He sketched out and instructed his descendants to build a granite obelisk and have it inscribed with his self-written epitaph. However, the obelisk's tough granite couldn't be carved, so a marble plaque was engraved instead.

Once finished in 1833, the monument sat in Jefferson's Monticello graveyard in Charlottesville, Va. But vandalism, weathering, and familial fighting took its toll, according to a pamphlet by historian William Peden. A new monument was erected in the graveyard. Though the Monticello estate was sold several times in the 1800s, the Jefferson family maintained ownership of the graveyard.

The family wanted give the old tombstone marker and marble to any interested party. The University of Virginia was interested, but MU got it. Virginia might still hold a grudge. "I can tell you, the University of Virginia would give their right and left arms to get [the tombstone]," said Gary Smith, a director emeritus of admissions and registrar.

The decision by the Jefferson family to give the tombstone to MU was due to Jefferson's championing of state-supported education. In 1839, MU was the first public university west of the Mississippi; in 1862, the university became a public land-grant institution as part of the Morrill Act. According to Groshong, Missouri was important to Jefferson because it was within the vast region of the Louisiana Purchase, which Jefferson orchestrated in 1803 while president.

On July 4, 1885, MU officials unveiled the tombstone at a dedication ceremony, Peden wrote. Although the obelisk sat outside Academic Hall, the tombstone plaque was put inside the building for safekeeping. It stayed there until the 1892 fire that consumed the building, eventually leaving only the iconic Columns. Students ran inside to save the plaque, but not soon enough to save it from smoke and heat damage, Peden wrote.

Charred and cracked, the plaque was placed in storage until completion of a new building in 1895, which in 1922 was named Jesse Hall. For decades the slab was displayed in the cashier office's vault. At some point later it was moved to the attic and made public appearances on Jefferson's birthday and Tap Days.

Groshong, who attended MU during the early 1960s, remembers first seeing the stone on Tap Day. It sat on Jesse Hall's north stairs facing the columns, he said. But it wasn't until Groshong started his university job in 1965 that he became emotionally invested in the artifact and its condition. "I was aware of the stone's existence and always thought I would like to see it restored," he said. "I hated that it was in the attic of Jesse Hall."

Marble Makeover

When in 2009 it was announced that the Academic Hall cornerstone would be restored, Groshong decided the same should be done to Jefferson's marble slab. He contacted Alex Barker, director of MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology, and Barker contacted a Smithsonian Institution curator.

On Sept. 25, 2012, Carol Grissom, the senior objects conservator at the institution, came to Columbia to assess the damage. When Grissom walked into Jesse Hall's attic, she saw the tombstone plaque in its wooden box. She saw it broken into three pieces and mortared back together. She saw how its left side was slightly higher than its right. She saw its sugaring marble, ragged corners and blistered surface.

It wasn't pretty, but it was the perfect Smithsonian project. "It's an American icon," Grissom said. "From our standpoint, it presents an interesting challenge in terms of treatment."

Marianne Marti, president of Russell-Marti Conservation Services Inc., prepped the tombstone for shipment using Cyclododecane, a wax-like material. Working in stages over a few hours, Marti gently placed coated tissue paper on the stone's fragile areas to help keep the plaque stationary during the trip to Washington. While finishing her work on Jan. 31, Marti was visited by Groshong and Smith. They thanked her for her efforts.

The Smithsonian received the artifact on Feb. 6. In addition to giving the stone a facelift, Grissom hopes to discover where it was quarried. She thinks it was either Vermont or Italy.

Other revelations occurred. Beneath the marble slab was a June 1891 Cleveland newspaper, *Jung Amerika*, written in German. Surrounding the slab was paper stuffing. One crumpled wad was an MU catalog from 1888 listing semester happenings; a page stated that campus schools and colleges would open Sept. 10, 1888. The dates are consistent with the epitaph being stored in its wooden frame following the slab's rescue from the 1892 fire, Grissom said.

The plaque is scheduled to return to Missouri in about a year, and will probably be displayed in Jesse Hall. The Smithsonian is paying for the cost of restoration, while MU paid for the shipping and initial stabilization treatment.

After a tumultuous life of being passed from owner to owner, surviving a fire, breaking apart and being put back together — and now getting a facelift — the tombstone epitaph will soon, for the most part, rest in peace.

— Ashley Carman

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Nixon's Medicaid proposal could benefit University Hospital and Clinics



Gov. Nixon visited the University of Missouri Feb. 7 to stress the importance of his proposed Medicaid expansion, which is part of his fiscal 2014 state budget agenda. Photo by Rob Hill

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Without the expansion, University Hospital might lose millions each year, official says

Gov. Jay Nixon took his statewide campaign for expanding Medicaid to the Trulaske College of Business on Feb. 7.

As first outlined in his State of the State Address in January, Nixon wants to accept the Affordable Care Act's option of extending Medicaid coverage, which could mean health coverage for an additional 300,000 Missourians, he says.

Those receiving coverage would be low-income residents who can't afford health insurance and who earn less than 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, according to a budget summary posted on the governor's website. In 2012, a family of four living at the Federal Poverty Level made \$31,809, the summary says.

In the first three years of implementation, Nixon's Medicaid proposal could bring \$5.7 billion to Missouri, all funded by the federal government with no cost to the state, Nixon said. The state would begin to pay a percentage of the cost after that, topping out at 10 percent in 2020.

"It would be a big win for our economy," Nixon said.

Without the Medicaid expansion, said Hal Williamson, vice chancellor for MU Health System, University Hospital and Clinics could lose up to \$6 million a year in federal payments due to reimbursement reductions in the Affordable Care Act.

"We would have to curtail some of the services we provide now," Williams said in an interview.

Missouri hospitals are required by law to treat uninsured patients.

Many Missouri Republican leaders are skeptical of Medicaid expansion.

House speaker Tim Jones, R-Eureka, in his Jan. 28 response to Nixon's State of the State, said the expansion would be a step toward Missouri becoming a "welfare state" and could cripple its economy. Republican leadership will provide a plan that transforms state Medicaid, Jones said, and offers "opportunity to those who are truly in need."

Even so, an MU study for the Missouri Hospital Association found advantages to the proposed expansion.

According to the study, done last November by the School of Medicine's Department of Health Management, the plan would provide health insurance to 160,000 more residents in 2014, create 24,000 jobs and bring \$1.1 billion in federal spending to the state.

Nixon has made expansion a top priority. He is collecting endorsements from medical, business and economic development groups.

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Veterinary college receives more than \$5 million gift



A GENEROUS GIFT Carolyn Henry, professor of veterinary oncology and Mizzou Advantage facilitator of One Health One Medicine, and Chancellor Brady J. Deaton applauded the donation of more than \$5 million to the College of Veterinary Medicine by Cottrell Fox (middle) and his wife, Kay. Photo by Nicholas Benner

One Health One Medicine

Gift goes toward comparative oncology research at MU

At about 50 pounds, English springer spaniels aren't typically considered lap dogs. But in 2001, when Kay Fox and her father, Bob, drove Molokai home to St. Louis from the MU College of Veterinary Medicine after the canine's cancer treatment, she let the pup snuggle up.

"That's a no-no after the radiation she had," Kay said of the radioactive drug Samarium 153 developed for dogs at MU. "[My dad] kept wondering, 'Why is she so concerned with this dog?'"

When Bob's cancer reappeared in 2007, he received the human version of Samarium 153, marketed as Quadramet. The family had a new appreciation for Mizzou's comparative oncology research.

With an estate gift of more than \$5 million, announced Monday, Cottrell, BJ '71, and wife Kay will support MU comparative oncology research, which seeks to develop therapies and cures for people and animals with naturally occurring cancers.

The gift also will support an endowment in companion animal medicine in honor of their family veterinarians, Fred Bendick, BS Ag '68, DVM '70, and James Schuessler, DVM '82.

"This gift recognizes the important intersection between human and animal health," says Carolyn Henry, professor of veterinary oncology and Mizzou Advantage facilitator of One Health One Medicine. "What we do is unique in that we have collaboration between scientists, veterinarians and MDs. The story of Samarium 153 is an example of a drug that was developed at MU, tested in animals, and now marketed and used in humans."

The Foxes now own two English springer spaniels, Rufus and Panda. Their love of the breed helped them conceive of MU's Perpetual Pet Care Program in 2010, which provides comfortable homes for pets whose owners are temporarily incapacitated or who have passed away.

"The Foxes are the best client you could have," says Schuessler, a veterinarian at Kirkwood Animal Hospital for 30 years. "They take care of their animals, they want them cared for and they want the best treatment for them."

— *Marcus Wilkins*

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MU invests \$2.5 million for 16 online degree and certificate programs

MIZZOU ONLINE

University online degrees have more than doubled in recent years

Earning a University of Missouri degree or certificate from home is getting easier as MU continues to expand its online offerings. The university will launch 16 online programs in response to the demand for increased online learning opportunities and a more highly educated citizenry.

On Feb. 8, MU officials announced a \$2.2 million investment intended to increase access to higher education and enhance the number of graduates in specific industries.

Areas of study covered in the new initiative include hospitality management, public administration, nursing, education, energy efficiency, geospatial intelligence, public health, interactive media and health communication. The programs will be developed and taught by MU faculty.

“We are pleased to begin offering online programs in these in-demand subject areas,” MU Provost Brian Foster said. “Producing graduates with the skill sets and preparation needed to advance these industries is at the core of our mission at the University of Missouri.”

MU also is investing in more than 25 new undergraduate online courses that will make it possible to earn a bachelor’s degree from a distance with little or no transfer credit.

The additional undergraduate online courses and degrees come from the College of Arts & Science, College of Education and College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

The new programs will increase the number of online degree offerings to nearly 90, said Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies and interim vice provost for e-learning.

Demand for online learning is at an all-time high among students of all ages, Spain said. Mizzou will continue to invest in online offerings by accepting another round of proposals from its schools and colleges. Those awards will be announced in 2014.

“Mizzou has been offering distance education for more than 100 years as part of fulfilling our land-grant university mission,” Spain said. “Our offerings have more than doubled and our enrollments have grown 78 percent in the last five years.

“These new online programs will not only help students be more globally competitive, but also help meet our state leaders’ goal of having a more highly educated Missouri,” he said.

For additional information, visit online.missouri.edu (<http://online.missouri.edu>).

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Healthy for Life



School of Health Professions student Robert Montgomery, left, reviews health information with Vince Chandler, an MU employee in Campus Facilities, during a Healthy for Life personal health screening Feb. 7.

Employee assessments to qualify for a 2013 wellness incentive will be held on campus through April 26. To schedule a free screening, visit umsystem.edu/curators/wellness (<http://umsystem.edu/curators/wellness>).

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Excellence in Advising Award nominations

Do you know an MU adviser who deserves recognition? Nominate them by Feb. 22 for an Excellence in Advising Award.

There are two ways to get a nomination form.

- Pick one up at the following locations:

107 Lowry Hall, The College of Arts & Science

2-64 Ag Building, College of Agriculture

111 Cornell Hall, Trulaske College of Business

76 Gannett Hall, School of Journalism

101 Hill Hall, College of Education

- Go online at advisorsforum.missouri.edu/awards.shtml (<http://advisorsforum.missouri.edu/awards.shtml>)

For more information, call Adrienne Fink 882-7073.

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Free health screenings

MU Health Care cardiovascular specialists will offer free heart screenings 10 a.m.–noon Feb. 16 at Macy's, 201 N. Stadium Blvd.

Body mass index measurements and blood-pressure and cholesterol screenings will be offered. An eight-hour fast is required to conduct a cholesterol screening and must be scheduled. Space is limited.

Health care professionals will also be available for questions. For more information, contact the Fit for Life staff at 882-4283.

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Missouri Press book sale

The University of Missouri Press is offering 40 percent off on select books that explore race relations, civil rights and social justice through February, Black History Month.

Visit press.umsystem.edu (<http://press.umsystem.edu>) and click on Special Offers.

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Eating Disorders Awareness happening next week at Mizzou

EATING AWARENESS

Some events include special happenings as part of “Operation Beautiful”

Sometimes it can be difficult to admit or become aware that you have an eating disorder.

The University of Missouri is offering Eating Disorders Awareness Week Feb. 18–22 at various campus locations to aid those with questions and concerns.

The event, held nationally for 26 years, aims to reduce the stigma surrounding eating disorders, improve access to treatment, and work toward preventing eating disorders and body image issues.

MU’s Counseling Center, Women’s Center and Love Your Body Committee are hosting events on campus.

Some events include “Operation Beautiful.” These involve:

- People posting positive messages on the mirrors of public restrooms in the Memorial Union and the Student Center
- A public showing of the film *America the Beautiful*, a documentary focusing on self-image in the United States, with a discussion to follow

A free online eating disorder screening can be taken at psychcentral.com/quizzes/eat.htm (<http://psychcentral.com/quizzes/eat.htm>). All events are free and open to the public.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit womenscenter.missouri.edu (<http://womenscenter.missouri.edu>) and search Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

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