

Mizzou Weekly

Feb. 21, 2013 Volume 34, No. 24

University Hospital addition combines patient comfort with the latest health technology



RELAXATION The eight-story addition to University Hospital includes 90 private patient “smart” rooms and the Ellis Fischel Gala and Brown Family Healing Garden, a place for rest and reflection. Photo by Rob Hill

TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

Technology frees up doctors and nurses to focus more on the patient

On Monday, the new eight-floor patient care tower, which includes the relocated Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, will open at University Hospital.

The gleaming tower combines state-of-the-art-technology with a comfortable atmosphere. Nearly every patient room is wired with modern electronics and bathed in natural sunlight thanks to 7-foot-tall windows.

The tower features six operating rooms, 25 pre-procedure rooms, 18 post-op rooms and 90 private patient “smart” rooms, all with technology that integrates with MU Health Care’s electronic medical records (EMR). To staff the tower, 97 positions were added, 44 of them nurses.

With a \$190 million price tag, including \$50 million for Ellis Fischel, the hospital is ushering in the future of health care.

“While we are celebrating a new building, the celebration isn’t just about bricks and mortar,” said Vice Chancellor Harold A. Williamson Jr. at the March 18 ribbon cutting. “If it weren’t for our smart doctors and our smart nurses, we wouldn’t have much need for the ‘smart’ rooms.”

The smart rooms are fitted with devices that record patients’ vital signs, including blood pressure and pulse, and beds that automatically weigh patients and wirelessly transmit the data to the EMR.

Using technology developed by the Tiger Institute, the iAware system displays the patients’ vital signs data tracked throughout the past 30 hours on a monitor above beds, making it easier for doctors and nurses to get a quick look at the patients’ status.

“The integration lets the clinician do more what they want to do — care for the patient, be at the bedside — instead of having to enter data,” said Bryan Bliven, associate CIO at Tiger Institute. “That’s been the goal of the smart room: to make the environment care aware.”

Each room is equipped with a monitor that patients can use to surf the Web, check their EMR and watch educational videos about their medical condition. This helps patients and family feel like they are part of the care team, Bliven said.

At the heart of the tower is the Ellis Fischel Gala and Brown Family Healing Garden. Featuring a waterfall, outdoor seating and greenery, the garden is a place for rest and reflection.

The patient care tower also houses Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. When Ellis Fischel opened its doors on Business Loop 70 in 1940, it was the first cancer center west of the Mississippi. Now with its outpatient services on the first and second floors and inpatient services on the eighth floor, the cancer center will be consolidated into one building for the first time in 13 years.

“In 2011, Ellis Fischel physicians treated over 1,300 new cancer patients, representing a 9 percent increase over the year before that,” said Paul Dale, interim medical director of Ellis Fischel. “Because we’ll be able to accommodate more patients, it will increase the potential for improved outcomes through timely screening, early diagnosis and treatment. And it will improve the communication and collaboration between all of the multidisciplinary specialists at University Hospital, the School of Medicine, the MU campus and Ellis Fischel.”

On the second floor across from the Ellis Fischel Gift Shop, old photos from the original facility are displayed on drawn window shades. “We tried to blend the past with our future,” said Mitch Wasden, CEO/COO of MU Health Care.

“This facility represents how tradition is meeting innovation.”

— *Kelsey Allen*

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BIFAD members discuss strategies, challenges to increasing food supply



GLOBAL HUNGER Chancellor Brady J. Deaton was appointed chair of BIFAD by President Obama in April 2011. BIFAD is a collection of experts on agriculture and the sciences dedicated to developing ways to help feed the growing world population. The March 15 event marks the first time BIFAD met at MU. Photo by Shane Epping

FEEDING THE WORLD

MU faculty panel talks about agriculture research

Mizzou hosted on March 15 a panel of agricultural experts who discussed how the United States, and particularly its universities, can do more to promote food security in the developing world.

The Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) is a group of agricultural scholars appointed by President Barack Obama to develop solutions to worldwide food challenges and advise the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Obama named Chancellor Brady J. Deaton, who holds a doctorate in agricultural economics, as BIFAD chair in April 2011.

The group held a public meeting in the Fred Smith Forum of the Reynolds Journalism Institute. The theme was globalization of agriculture and food research.

During the meeting, presenters to the board challenged U.S. universities to think about how agricultural-research breakthroughs in the lab can more often make it to the farms and fields of the developing world.

Bill Folk, professor of agricultural biochemistry in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR), urged universities to take MU's collaborative approach to science internationally. "Much needs to be done in order to provide incentives for young faculty to participate international research," he said during a Q-and-A segment. "There are huge risks and costs involved for young faculty members trying to secure tenure, and doing so with an international component is almost crazy."

During a segment on research priorities in integrated pest management and “sustainable intensification,” several presenters noted the large gap between practices in the developing world and those in the developed world.

“In Kenya and Ghana, the maize being used is mostly from the ’80s,” said Julie Howard, USAID senior adviser to the administrator on research, education and extension. “Why is that? What must we do as researchers to make sure the products of our research are known” in the developing world?

Saharah Moon Chapotin, team leader for agriculture research in the USAID Bureau of Food Security, said USAID is moving forward in its work on sustainable intensification, which encourages farmers to permanently adopt new techniques and technologies. She wants to put in place follow-ups to be sure farmers don’t abandon the new methods after aid workers have gone.

Illustrating an example of that challenge, Dale Bottrell, professor emeritus of entomology at the University of Maryland, presented a case study on Southeast Asian rice farmers whose crops were badly damaged by the brown planthopper insect in the 1970s.

Farmers battled the insect by preemptively applying pesticide, which killed the planthopper’s predators more so than the planthopper. Reducing pesticide use tamed the planthopper plague. But a generation later, farmers were back to using pesticide as they diversified their crops, and now the damaging planthopper is back.

The board also took time to review some of their successes.

Bill DeLauder, president emeritus at Delaware State University, who received an Outstanding Leadership Award from the USAID and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, reported on his October 2012 visit to Cambodia. He spent time with farmers and witnessed an Integrated Pest Management program in action. Tomato farmers are using trichoderma, a fungus added to soil that stimulates plant growth.

MU faculty and staff also highlighted their work. Bob Sharp, director of the Interdisciplinary Plant Group; Marc Linit, CAFNR associate dean for research; William Meyers, director of international agriculture programs; and Jill Findeis, chair of the MU Division of Applied Sciences, presented examples of their collaborative research during one panel session.

During a break in the meeting, Deaton praised the agriculture work at MU. “There are major challenges with the growth of global population and the need for greater expansion of agricultural production within an ecologically sustainable system,” he said. “But we have outstanding scientists who are involved in this research, and we’re going to be a vital part of the solution.”

— *Erik Potter*

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Faculty Council's ad hoc group releases report concerning Missouri Press

THE ROOT CAUSES COMMITTEE

Faculty Council formed the group last October

A report released March 14 by an MU committee on the closing of the University of Missouri Press concluded that faculty were not consulted on the decision. The committee appointed last October by Faculty Council asks in the report that in the future faculty have more input and consultation with administrators on issues that overlap faculty concerns.

The Ad Hoc Root Causes Committee interviewed 18 MU and University of Missouri System faculty and administrators. The committee also reviewed six reports by outside consultants who offered advice on the future of the press before UM President Tim Wolfe announced its closing May 24, 2012.

Though the committee was not formed to find fault, its review of the decision-making process leading to the closing was blunt. "The processes used to make these Press decisions were clumsy and opaque and could have been improved," the report says.

At the recent Faculty Council meeting, some council members applauded the thoroughness of the 19-page report. "Let's consider this document as a stake in the ground," said Craig Roberts, a professor in plant sciences.

Some highlights of the report, called "The Decisions to Close and Reopen the University of Missouri Press: A Review of Processes," are as follows:

- The president was within his authority to close the press, per the Collected Rules and Regulations section on executive order.
- A group of about 12 people, assembled by Steve Graham, UM System senior associate vice president for academic affairs, met perhaps five times between October 2011 and mid-January 2012 to discuss the future of the press. No press employees were present, and faculty consultation was not sought or obtained.
- The decision to keep the press open and move it to the MU campus, announced Aug. 28, 2012, was "probably not" the result of actions by Faculty Council and other faculty. Public outcry also wasn't the deciding factor. According to the report, the reason appears to have been economic speculation that lawsuits from existing press authors and those under contract "could reduce annual revenue by \$800,000" if the suits prevailed in court.

Wolfe, through a UM System spokesperson, declined to comment on the findings.

The committee was made up of Chair Arthur Jago, professor of management; Sudarshan Loyalka, Curators Professor of Nuclear Engineering; Douglas Wakefield, director of the Center for Health Care Quality; William Wiebold, a professor of plant sciences; and Russ Zguta, professor of Russian history.

During his Faculty Council presentation of committee findings, Jago said he hopes administrators have learned that "when in doubt, err on the side of consultation, not on autocracy. We want the university to mature in its relationship between administrators and faculty."

Provost Brian Foster was positive about the future of the scholarly publishing house.

Though he told council the press will always have to be subsidized — as are most scholarly publishing houses in America — "the press is moving forward well," he said.

Foster also said that the national search continues for a Missouri Press director.

Meanwhile, Faculty Council is considering forming an ad hoc committee to review the closure of MU's Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute one year ago.

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Parents, encourage your children to read, expert says

Parents should let children decide what they want to read

Children who read a lot sometimes end up reading less when they become teenagers and adults, studies show.

An MU human development and family studies expert says parents need to encourage their children and teenagers to read.

"It's not the [middle and high] schools' job to get kids to read," said David Schramm, an assistant professor in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences. "It's the parents' job, and schools can help supplement the skill.

"Reading starts at home," he said. "It's great exercise for the brain."

Whether children want to reread the same beloved stories over and over, thumb through comic or picture books, or pick a new title on an e-reader, parents should let their kids decide what to read, Schramm said.

He adds that parents who want their teenagers to read more might suggest that the teens read books about movies they've enjoyed.

"It doesn't matter what they're reading; it's the consistency," he said. "Freedom of choice is the key to getting kids motivated and excited about reading."

Schramm recommends that parents read with their pre-tween children 20 minutes each day; the time can also be broken up into five-minute increments.

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Aging well talks in April

Two free wellness lectures are happening April 11.

- “Nutrition Interventions for the Study of Aging in Rhesus Monkeys” is 9–10 a.m. in the Bond Life Sciences Center’s Monsanto Auditorium.

The speaker is Julie Mattison, head of Nonhuman Primate Core Facility at the National Institute on Aging.

- “Take a Hike: Physical Activity, Brain and Cognition” is 4–5 p.m. at MA217 Acuff Auditorium in the School of Medicine.

The speaker is Arthur Kramer, director of Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology and professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Illinois.

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Missouri Press book sale

The University of Missouri Press is celebrating Women's History Month by offering 40 percent off the list of books about women, including Midwest pioneers, folklorists and Mexican revolutionaries.

Some of the titles are *Not at All What One Is Used To: The Life and Times of Isabella Gardner* by Marian Janssen; *Writing the Pioneer Woman* by Janet Floyd; and *Becoming Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Woman Behind the Legend* by John E. Miller.

To check out the selection, visit press.umsystem.edu (<http://press.umsystem.edu>) and click on the Special Offers tab.

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Thank an MU physician

MU Health Care physicians put in a lot of hours helping people.

Show your appreciation to a doctor by submitting a comment at muhealth.org/mudoc.

On National Doctors' Day March 30, submissions will be given to respective doctors.

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