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Cerner talks confirmed by officials

MU Health IT workers uneasy over prospects.

By **JANESE HEAVIN**

Special Contributor 2009-09-19

ADVERTISEMENT

University of Missouri Health Care is now negotiating with the Kansas City-based Cerner Corp., administrators have confirmed.

However, it does not appear an agreement with the company has been reached, according to a statement that Harold Williamson, vice chancellor for health sciences, and James Ross, CEO of MU Health, released to the Tribune late Friday.

MU Health information technology workers have been worried for months that their jobs could be outsourced to Cerner, considered one of the leading health information technology providers.

Several employees have said supervisors told them different Cerner-related stories, but mostly workers have been kept in the dark.

Williamson and Ross said employees would be notified "promptly" if a Cerner agreement is made.

"We have a talented information technology workforce at the health system with unique skills that are critical to the success of future initiatives we may undertake with Cerner," they wrote. "The retention of our talented workforce is one of the principal points of our discussions, and we are committed to providing a favorable employment opportunity for each employee."

MU Health IT workers saw Williamson's and Ross' statement Friday but weren't reassured. Talk of favorable employment opportunities "pretty much confirms to us that we are gone," one health system IT worker said, asking to remain unidentified.

Some staff members also were surprised that UM System President Gary Forsee's name wasn't mentioned in the statement. He is thought to have initiated the negotiations.

Forsee has several business and personal ties to the company. He previously served as CEO of Sprint, which works closely with Cerner. Forsee and Cerner CEO Neal Patterson serve together on at least two boards of trustees, and online records indicate Forsee's son-in-law, Brandon Bell, works for Cerner.

The university has a longstanding relationship with Cerner. The company provides hardware products for the hospital and has an educational partnership with the MU School of Medicine.

Current discussions would "result in a significant investment in our health information technology and identify ways that we can collaborate on a range of new initiatives," Williamson and Ross wrote. "If an agreement is reached, it will accelerate the integration of a comprehensive, cutting-edge electronic health record across our entire health system."

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SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

Man hurt after falling under bus Incident occurred during a visit to Rocheport winery. □

□ *Mike Penprase* □ *News-Leader*

Springfieldian Brian C. Lindsey, 22, suffered serious injuries when he fell under a bus shortly after 1 a.m. Friday during a visit to Les Bourgeois winery at Rocheport, according to a Missouri Highway Patrol accident report.

Lindsey is a student at The University of Missouri. Rocheport is located about 15 miles east of Columbia.

The accident occurred when Lindsey ran toward and fell under a moving bus driven by Thomas G. Hoehn, 44, of Jefferson City.

The bus stopped on Lindsey, then backed up, according to the patrol.

Lindsey was taken to University Hospital in Columbia for treatment.

An MU spokesman said Lindsey is enrolled as a business management major.

Christian Basi said he had no information on whether the event Lindsey was attending was connected to the university or was a private gathering.

A statement issued by the winery Friday offered its sympathy to Lindsey and his family.

Winery marketing director Rachel Mills said the winery would have no other comment.

There were indications Lindsey was with a group, but the patrol has declined further comment until an investigation is finished, Lt. Darewin Clardy said.



Student hit by bus in good condition

Saturday, September 19, 2009

The condition of a University of Missouri student who was run over by a bus early yesterday at Les Bourgeois Vineyards in Rocheport improved last night to good condition at University Hospital.

Brian Lindsey, 22, of Springfield was among a large group of college students at the vineyard.

After many of the students boarded the bus driven by Thomas Hoehn, 44, of Jefferson City, it began to move. Lindsey, who had not boarded with the others, tried to stop the vehicle but was struck at about 1 a.m.

Lindsey earlier yesterday was listed in serious condition.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol is investigating the incident.



Moberly, MU ease transfers

Program will help align coursework.

By **JANESE HEAVIN**

Friday, September 18, 2009

Students who want to transfer to the University of Missouri after obtaining an associate degree at Moberly Area Community College should have an easier transition in the future.

The two schools have teamed up to launch the Mizzou Connection Program. Through that program, students at MACC will work closely with MU advisers to make sure they're taking the coursework needed to continue their education at MU.

In the past, some larger universities seemed to have roadblocks in front of students hoping to continue their education after community college, said Terry Barnes, MU's assistant provost for community college partnerships.

"Mizzou is working hard to make those roadblocks go away," he said.

"Rather than competing" for freshmen, "this allows students to get basics out of the way. And students who have earned an associate's degree have proven themselves ready, willing and able to come over the University of Missouri and finish up."

MACC President Evelyn Jorgenson said the partnership will benefit students who aren't sure they want to earn a bachelor's degree but want to "test the waters" at a smaller, less expensive school.

"These students are capable of completing an associate's degree, and they're also capable of earning a bachelor's and, perhaps, a master's," she said. "Many" Moberly "students will be very successful at Mizzou."

To participate, students at MACC would have to apply by November of

their freshman year and earn a C or better in a certain number of core classes.

The program is available to students pursuing any of more than 50 degrees in the colleges of agriculture, arts and science and human environmental science. MU's more selective academic programs, such as journalism, education and health professions, are not eligible under the program.

Each semester, the MU admissions personnel and transfer coordinator will host a "Mizzou Connection Day" that will showcase the benefits of the program and resources. Students will be able to meet with an appropriate MU academic adviser who will assist in making a transfer plan.

Although the program will likely increase the workload for MU's existing staff of advisers, Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment manager, said she doesn't expect the partnership to require new staff.

MU Provost Brian Foster touted the program as "interesting and important" to area residents.

"It is critical that we serve the needs of Missourians with such transfer options," he said, "and it's important that transfer students receive the highest level of advising and other kinds of support."

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri and Moberly CC sign admissions pact

By The Associated Press

September 20, 2009 | 4:38 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri and Moberly Area Community College want to make it easier for graduates of the two-year school to transfer down the road.

Leaders of the two schools signed an agreement last week called the "Mizzou Connection Program." The pact provides Moberly graduates with added resources, such as early registration and individualized attention.

Three of the community college's seven campuses will initially participate: Moberly, Mexico and Columbia.

Missouri Provost Brian Foster said that roughly 1,400 students at the school come from community colleges.

NEWS-LEADER

Farewell Pepper: Mid-Missouri TV host signs off

By: The Associated Press | 18 Sep 2009 | 10:59 AM ET

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Associated Press Writer

The Associated Press

| 18 Sep 2009 | 10:59 AM ET

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The kids' corner will soon be kid-free. The dogs in the adopt-a-pet segment will bark no more. The cooking demos, musical interludes and interviews with community leaders? Kaput.

For 27 years, central Missouri television viewers turned to "Pepper and Friends" for a daily dose of small-town miscellany. On Friday, the morning variety show — a dying breed in the digital era — bids farewell for good, the victim of a cost-cutting move at KOMU-TV, a commercial station owned by the University of Missouri.

From Moberly to Montgomery City, Lake of the Ozarks to Sedalia, the show served as a community beacon for small-town community groups, social clubs and civic organizations.

The decision, announced in May, has been greeted with a flurry of protests by Pepper's loyal legions. Demonstrators marched on the Jesse Hall office of university Chancellor Brady Deaton. Program sponsors vowed to yank their advertising dollars.

On Monday, 15 Pepper supporters held a mock funeral on campus, reading the names of hundreds of past guests from a "death scroll."

"I think they had no idea how this show was a community network," said Missouri geography instructor Larry Brown, a local activist and frequent guest. "Again and again, people have thought of this show as 'our show,' not Paul's show."

Paul Pepper, 63, joined KOMU 40 years ago as a booth announcer. He spent several decades as the station's weatherman but has focused exclusively on the morning show since the early '90s.

Along with his on-air sidekick, James Mouser, Pepper's TV persona radiates a sunny disposition with a casual familiarity. At a recent taping, a producer's hearty laugh could be heard off-camera as the co-hosts joked with their stage-prop mascot, a disembodied mannequin head.

Pepper has grown more combative in the weeks leading up to the cancellation, openly challenging his university bosses and station general manager Marty Siddall.

"This was a good way to hide, with the economic downturn, to get rid of the show," said Pepper, a Jefferson County native born Paul Urzi who embraced the stage name bestowed for his fiery personality. "It's not the money. They just don't want the show. And that's closing out the entire community."

Siddall says the program costs about \$222,000 annually but generates \$74,000 less in advertising revenue. A pair of tabloid entertainment shows — "Access Hollywood" and "The Insider" — will replace "Pepper and Friends" in the time slot.

Pepper said he offered to help reduce the show's costs by \$55,000 and accept a \$25,000 salary (he earns \$67,458 annually in wages and benefits), with Mouser taking a 35 percent pay cut. The appeal was ignored.

Pepper and Mouser said they were asked to provide supportive comments to be used with a public statement explaining the university's decision. Both refused.

The station, an NBC affiliate, serves as a teaching lab for students from the Missouri School of Journalism, who serve as reporters and producers on KOMU news broadcasts while working alongside industry professionals. Its operations are self-supported through advertising income, with no state or university money used.

"It is KOMU's continued financial viability that allows us to provide the necessary technology and learning opportunities for these students," the statement noted.

Among the alternatives proposed by Brown and others was a hybrid program that would combine the hometown approach of "Pepper and Friends" with a more news-driven look at university research and newsmakers.

Siddall, who joined the station a decade ago, said he was surprised by

the vociferous objections to the decision. He noted that rather than pull the plug on the show without warning, he allowed Pepper and Mouser an extended farewell after the announcement so they can pay a "respectful goodbye."

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URL: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/32913668/>

'Pepper' fades to black

Hosts, fans look back at 27 years.



Photo by Don Shrubshell

"Pepper & Friends" co-hosts James Mouser, left, and Paul Pepper wave goodbye to the camera Friday at the end of the taping of the show's final episode. More than 100 people attended the taping, which featured segments from the community variety show's 27 years on the air.

By Janese Heavin

Friday, September 18, 2009

Paul Pepper turned to the more than 100 people crowded into the KOMU studio this morning and asked for help.

"I'm counting on all of you to give us strength," he said just before the cameras began rolling.

But by the end of the hourlong taping, there was hardly a dry eye in the room as "Pepper & Friends" ended its 27-year television run.

Today's finale was dedicated to looking back at the program's history and Pepper's 40-year career on television.

Featured were clips of him as KOMU's dark-haired, dark-eyed weatherman, a segment from the first show and interviews with special guests over the years. Among those guests was Regis Philbin, who ribbed Pepper for the name of his program, saying "I guess we're the friends."

Pepper's occasional cameo appearances on soap operas such as "The Doctors" and "General Hospital" and a segment of on-air bloopers over the years also generated laughs from an otherwise somber studio audience.

During a prerecorded interview, co-host James Mouser praised Pepper for his television talents. "It was like he was born to do this," Mouser said.

As for the so-called Uncle James, "he's been the wind beneath my wings," Pepper said.

Today's program ended with a brief shot on Pepper and Mouser's empty red chairs.

Fans of the community-centered show have known for months that the station was pulling the plug on "Pepper & Friends." General Manager Marty Siddall made the announcement in May and has since said he wanted to give audiences and the co-hosts plenty of time to say goodbye. Instead, fans used that time to protest the decision, gathering thousands of signatures on a petition and holding rallies in an attempt to save the program.

Siddall and the University of Missouri, which owns KOMU, have repeatedly claimed that the show was canceled because of financial problems. In a statement, the university estimated that the program was some \$74,000 in the red last year.

Pepper told the audience this morning that he and Mouser offered to slice their salaries by more than \$58,000 and that one advertiser agreed to make up the rest of the supposed shortfall.

"We know they're lying," one audience member shouted, referring to administrators' statements.

Asked earlier this week if any offer to fund the program would keep the program on the air, Siddall said no.

"At this point, the decision has been made," he said.

Outside the studio before the taping this morning, MU Police Chief Jack Watring and two non-uniformed officers lingered in the lobby.

The officers reappeared afterward, sitting in two chairs by the door.

Capt. Brian Weimer later said they were there because of the crowds that have rallied on behalf of "Pepper & Friends."

"We just wanted to make sure everything went smoothly," Weimer said.

After the taping, Pepper blasted the station and university for "thumbing their noses" at community members who have tried to save the program.

"The show shouldn't have ended like this," he said. Siddall "has thrown me and James and all of the people on the show out like we're trash."

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU professor to discuss effects of printing press

By Lindsay Moser

September 21, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A. Mark Smith realizes that many people think reading medieval manuscripts is difficult, but he hopes to prove them wrong Wednesday when he delivers this year's 21st Century Corps of Discovery Lecture at MU.

"I'm going to try to show people that it's not true, that anybody can do it," Smith said. "It takes a little concentration, a little time and a little effort, but it's a human thing."

The 21st Century Corps of Discovery Lecture is an annual event where a professor who has made a significant contribution to their field presents a topic to the academic community. It is sponsored by the College of Arts and Science.

Smith, curators' professor of History, will talk about the effect the printing press had on the way texts were read and understood in the late 16th century.

"The whole technology of print and movable type and presses is fascinating," he said. "The inks, the paper, all of that stuff I find extremely interesting."

The printing press was responsible for providing the public with greater access to standardized texts, allowing information to be shared in a timelier manner.

Smith said technology has changed people's reading habits beyond the easy answer of computers and the Internet. He said it's the far older, far smaller things such as eyeglasses that had just as much of an impact on society.

"It's a very small technology, but it's a technology that had absolutely revolutionary consequences," he said.

Smith said the main thing he hopes people take away from his lecture is that all things are possible.

“It may not be simple in details, but conceptually it’s extremely simple,” he said. “All things worth doing are that way.”

Posted on Sun, Sep. 20, 2009

Recession's impact felt less in campus coffers

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

Despite the down economy, area universities continue to bring in lots of donation dollars, and one school — the University of Kansas — even set a fundraising record.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, four schools — KU, the University of Missouri, Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City — received cash, pledges and deferred gifts totaling more than \$350 million.

"I have always said that those of us (fundraisers) in education have the easiest job because education still gets 14 percent of the charitable giving dollars in this country, and the gifts just keep getting bigger," said Murray M. Blackwelder, the president of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Foundation.

UMKC raised \$1 million more in fiscal 2009 than in the previous year.

One donor said that for him, the decision to give was "fairly simple."

"I think higher education is one of the most important ingredients we have to have in quantity and quality for a successful population. Giving to higher education is going to make our economy better," said Hugh Zimmer, a longtime donor to UMKC and the chairman of the Zimmer Cos., a commercial real estate firm.

At KU, more than 45,180 donors gave \$106.4 million, and the school received \$9.6 million more in pledges and deferred gifts.

University officials said they thought the big donations arrived in part because of KU's efforts to be designated a national cancer center, as well as student and faculty research in life sciences.

"The generosity of alumni and friends of the University of Kansas is truly remarkable, particularly during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression," said Dale Seufferling, the president of the KU Endowment.

KU received \$20 million from Annette Bloch toward cancer care at the University of Kansas Hospital. The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation gave KU \$8.1 million to establish the Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation.

Giving to K-State totaled \$81.5 million. That was down from the previous year but still was the fifth-largest total in the 65-year history of the K-State Foundation, the school's independent fundraising arm.

MU ended the fiscal year with contributions and pledges of \$122.6 million. That was down from the \$160.5 million raised the previous year, but it topped the university's 2009 goal by \$2.6 million.

Half the money MU raised came late in its \$1 billion "For All We Call Mizzou" campaign, which ended Dec. 31.

The second half of the fiscal year was "after we had closed out many of our big gifts, because that is what you do in a campaign," said Beth Hammock, a spokeswoman for MU's fundraising arm. "We made a lot of connections with people during the campaign, and after the campaign the money keeps coming but not at the same rate."

Hammock said MU received several big gifts, including \$15 million from the Reynolds Foundation to the School of Journalism and \$5 million from Tom and Nell Lafferre to the College of Engineering.

"How you get the big totals is you get big gifts," she said.

It was the smaller gifts that may have been most affected by the economy, she said. At MU, gifts of \$1,000 or less decreased 13 percent.

UMKC ended the fiscal year with \$34.6 million in contributions from nearly 24,000 donors.

"We are a city school, and a lot of students are commuters," Blackwelder said. "They don't have the same experience or the same loyalty you find on residential campuses."

But Blackwelder said he expects big jumps in fundraising over the next five to 10 years. UMKC just launched its fundraising foundation this year. It also has a new student union under construction, it opened a soccer stadium last month and it has opened three dormitories in the last four years.

"It's going to have a huge impact," Blackwelder said. "Students who live on campus are more loyal to their alma mater."

Nationally, private contributions to U.S. colleges and universities increased 6.2 percent in fiscal 2008 to a record \$31.6 billion, according to the most recent report by the Council on Aid to Education.

As fiscal 2009 fundraising reports continue to trickle in to the council, experts said they expected overall giving to decrease this year.

"I've made some calls, and anecdotally people are saying it got darn hard to raise money in this economy," said Ann Kaplan, the director of the Voluntary Support of Education Survey, which tracks fundraising by educational institutions.

	Fiscal year	Cash received (in millions)	Pledges, expected gifts (in millions)	Total (in millions)
UMKC	2007-08	\$21.9	\$19.3 \$11.7 \$15.3	\$33.6 \$34.6
	2008-09			
KU	2007-08	\$94.0	\$11.1 \$9.6	\$105.1 \$116.0
	2008-09	\$106.4		
K-State	2007-08	\$60.4	\$56.1 \$39.1 \$25.4	\$99.5 \$81.5
	2008-09			
MU	2007-08	\$50.9	\$38.5 \$109.5* \$84.1*	\$160.5 \$122.6
	2008-09			

BY THE NUMBERS

* MU's pledges and expected gifts include private grants to specific academic programs.

Sources: Information came from the fundraising foundation or department of each university.

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