



Rules on patents assessed

iPhone app led to policy review.

By Janese Heavin Monday, October 5, 2009

A contest that challenged students to create iPhone applications this spring has University of Missouri administrators rethinking patent policies.

Mike Nichols, vice president of research and economic development, is drafting a policy that would more clearly define how profits are split when students commercialize products. He's soliciting input from faculty and students at all four UM campuses and hopes to have a policy in place by summer.

Current policies say the university keeps two-thirds of the profits when researchers on campus develop products that are commercialized. However, the language wasn't clear enough to apply to the iPhone applications created during a Reynolds Journalism Institute contest last semester, Nichols said.

RJI's contest resulted in the creation of Near Buy, an interactive real estate guide created by journalism major Tony Brown with the help of three computer science students. The iPhone application, which took first place, lets users sift through real estate listings based on price or style, allowing them to see photos, maps and amenities of homes and neighborhoods.

Brown had hoped to charge real estate agents to manage their listings, but he wasn't keen on the idea of splitting future profits with the university. Brown argued that he wasn't told in advance the product would fall under university patent policies, and he said he wouldn't have created it for the contest had he known.

The university ultimately waived rights to the Near Buy application.

"We determined from all of the data, the university did not have a claim on the intellectual property," Nichols said. "We want to do what's right. We're not out to steal anything from anybody."

Turns out, the university hasn't lost out on anything. Near Buy is still free, and the creators don't expect to charge for it, Brown said last week. Instead, the young men are using the application to show other companies what they're capable of creating to get other work.

Brown, who graduated in May, said the university's policy change is needed. "There needs to be some kind of policy that applies to contests where development happens and what happens to that" intellectual property, he said.

Nichols said contests haven't been an issue in the past because they didn't lead to marketable products. "We're finding more and more that colleges want to hold these kinds of contests to spur innovation, and that's a good thing," he said. "We want students to go out with knowledge of what entrepreneurship means."

At the same time, he said, a policy should apply fairly to employees and students who use campus resources to create products.

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Interpreters step up for better health

By Harry Jackson Jr.

Thursday, Oct. 11, 2009

Honduran immigrant Carlos Galeano took his 15-month-old son Carlito for a checkup at the Rodgers Health Center in Kansas City.

But Galeano doesn't speak English and the pediatrician, Dr. Colette Fleming, doesn't speak Spanish.

Erika Bredée, a specially trained interpreter in St. Louis, arrived via live Internet video to help them speak the same language. Bredée watched and listened as the doctor examined the child. The doctor and dad watched Bredée on their screen.

Before translating Fleming's English words to Galeano's Honduran ear, Bredée clarified certain words, phrases and instructions with the doctor. Only when she and the doctor agreed they were clear did she translate instructions to Galeano.

After several exchanges, Carlito was deemed healthy. He protested his vaccinations and got an appointment for the next visit.

The scenario is an expansion of services by the **Missouri Telehealth Network**.

The Network, since 1994, has linked specialists from large, urban medical centers to patients and doctors in rural and remote parts of Missouri.

While monitoring the service about a year and a half ago, the sponsors found that immigrants and refugees increasingly arrived in Missouri unable to speak English well enough to converse with their doctors.

Clinics were recruiting relatives, friends and even children to translate for them.

That's risky, said **Rachel Mutrux, director of the Telehealth Network**. Untrained interpreters could misunderstand medical words.

Seeking a solution, Telehealth sponsors learned of the Language Access Metro Project in St. Louis. For more than a decade, LAMP has maintained a pool of interpreters that has grown to 120 people who offer 35 languages, said Nikki Lopresti, LAMP director.

LAMP interpreters are trained in medical interpretation, then make house calls to clinics and hospitals in the St. Louis area.

"They don't only interpret verbatim, they watch for cultural signs," Lopresti said. "Someone may say she's being punished by the spirits, for some (sort of misbehavior) and our interpreters are prepared for that.

"They can look at body language, hear cultural differences that the (medical people) might miss."

Catholic Family Services in St. Louis created the program a decade ago to interpret medical information for immigrants and refugees in St. Louis, St. Louis County and parts of St. Charles County, Lopresti said.

So about a year ago, LAMP accepted the invitation to blend with the Telehealth Network to create the Missouri Telehealth Interpretation Project.

A two-year grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health supports the fledgling project.

The grant runs out in October of 2010.

SLOW START

The program has taken off slowly. While LAMP serves about 2,200 appointments a month in the St. Louis area, only 60 people from outside the area have used the service since May.

Dana Hughes, with the **University of Missouri Institute of Public Policy**, hopes that will accelerate as more equipment is installed and more people know about the program.

About 48 of the state's 114 counties are connected, said Mutrux of Telehealth. That will expand to 58 by the end of the year, she said.

Meanwhile, the system is a hit in Kansas City.

"We're so happy with this," said Fleming of the Rodgers Health Center. "Access to interpreters gives us more time with families, more time with disease and wellness."

Says Bredée, from Mexico and an interpreter for 12 years including a year with LAMP, "I just enjoy helping people."

CAMPUS CHATTER
JANESE HEAVIN



Event celebrates Cerner partnership

By Janese Heavin

Posted October 5, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

The University of Missouri System spent \$1,300 from non-restricted gift funds on a reception last week celebrating the new Tiger Institute.

UM President Gary Forsee and his wife, Sherry, hosted the event at their home off Providence Point. Such receptions are customary whenever a donor makes a significant investment in the university, UM Chief of Staff David Russell said.

The Tiger Institute is a partnership between UM Health System and Cerner that is expected to generate new dollars for both entities and improve electronic medical records at University Hospital and other UM medical clinics.

The appreciation reception began at 5:15 p.m. Monday, immediately after the press conference where Forsee and Cerner CEO Neal Patterson unveiled the partnership. The invite was sent about a week earlier.

On the guest list were UM Curator Bo Fraser and administrators from the health care system. Executive administrators, including Russell, UM HR vice president Betsy Rodriguez, General Counsel Steve Owens and Chancellor Brady Deaton also were invited. Some Cerner executives were on the guest list, as were two staff members from Stinson, Morrison Hecker, a KC law firm, and two from Hagerty Peterson, a consulting firm.

Russell said Hagerty Peterson provided consulting services during negotiations. Apparently, those services were key in making Tiger Institute a reality. In an email to consultant Bill Hagerty, Forsee wrote that the Cerner partnership would not have happened without his participation and leadership.

I obtained the chain of emails through a Sunshine Law request. Emails and documents pertaining to specifics of the Cerner deal are still considered closed records because a contract has not been executed.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Condominium donated to MU athletics department

By Joan Niesen

October 6, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Bruce Mills, a former basketball, baseball, and football player at MU, is donating a condominium to the university's athletics department.

Mills, who is the founder and CEO of Mills Properties, and Hank Pieper, the company's executive vice president, both graduated from MU and decided to donate the condominium at Boulder Springs of Columbia, south of the university off of Providence Road.

“Giving back to the university and the athletic department has always been a goal of mine. The years spent at the University of Missouri were very influential in my life. My friendships and business relationships that emerged from MU have been extremely important to my success.” Mills said in a press release.

Mills, who was a starter on the Missouri basketball team during the 1961-1962 season, also played on the Tigers' baseball team that year. He joined the football team under head coach Don Devine but was sidelined when he broke his leg before the beginning of the 1962 season.

The two bedroom, two bathroom condominium will serve as a resource for the athletic department when new coaches or visitors come to Columbia.

“It's for directors, or coaches, or people who the athletic department would bring in who would need an interim place to stay,” Jenny Sprague, a Mills Properties agent, said. “It's not like hotel-type use, but more for temporary housing. It could also be used for meetings if they don't want to do it at the basketball arena or stadium.”

The athletic department also added that the condominium may be used to serve the needs of the university as a whole.

“It can also potentially house other visiting dignitaries, either athletically related, or even related to campus administration,” said Chad Moller, the assistant athletic director of media relations.

The official donation will take place on Thursday, when Mike Alden and other representatives from the athletic department attend a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony at Boulder Springs.



KOMU, press group take home Emmys

Monday, October 5, 2009

A Columbia-based group's documentary on newspaper history and local NBC affiliate KOMU were among the winners this weekend at a regional Emmy awards event.

The Columbia-based Missouri Press Association was honored in the historical documentary category for its "Trustees for the Public — 200 Years of Missouri Newspapers." The hourlong documentary competed against five other films, which covered subjects including Martin Luther King Jr. and Kansas City's Federal Reserve Bank.

KOMU, owned by the University of Missouri, took home seven Emmys. Its honors included awards for news and feature reports, including the "Sarah's Stories" series; community service; editing; photography; and writing.

The 33rd annual ceremony took place Saturday in St. Louis, honoring winners from the Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.