

# Experts from A to Z

A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SUCH AS MU IS LIKE A SMALL TOWN POPULATED WITH EXPERTS ON EVERY CONCEIVABLE TOPIC. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW? HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF MU'S FACULTY EXPERTS.

STORY BY  
DALE SMITH

## A [Alzheimer's]

With a \$5 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, biochemist **Grace Sun** leads three Alzheimer's research projects devoted to understanding the molecular mechanisms that contribute to neuron cell death brought on by stroke, alcoholism and Alzheimer's disease.

([sung@health.missouri.edu](mailto:sung@health.missouri.edu))

## B [Booze]

Psychologist **Ken Sher** is an expert on alcohol-use disorders across the life span. He served on an NIH task force that issued a 2002 report documenting problem drinking among college students. The report recommended targeting not only at-risk individuals but also the student population as a whole and its surrounding community. ([sher@missouri.edu](mailto:sher@missouri.edu))

## C [Campaigns]

Ranked as one of the 50 most productive scholars in communication, **Bill Benoit** studies political campaigns and debates. He has served as an expert source in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*. ([benoitw@missouri.edu](mailto:benoitw@missouri.edu))

## D [Diabetes]

Physiology researcher **Mike Sturek** studies how exercise prevents diabetes-induced cardiovascular complications. He has won a series of large grants from the NIH and the American Diabetes Association. ([sturekm@missouri.edu](mailto:sturekm@missouri.edu))

## E [Ethics]

Philosopher **Bill Bondeson** has influenced thousands of health care providers statewide through his legendary medical

ethics course, which covers withdrawing and withholding treatment, advance directives, informed consent and refusal, stem cell research, cloning, and genetic issues. ([bondesonw@missouri.edu](mailto:bondesonw@missouri.edu))

## F [Family Medicine]

Physician and Institute of Medicine member **Jack Colwill** helped pioneer the academic discipline of family medicine, which is now a key specialty. At MU he led one of the nation's strongest departments for 25 years.

([colwillj@missouri.edu](mailto:colwillj@missouri.edu))

## G [Genetics]

Plant geneticist **Ed Coe** likens a corn plant's life to an epic symphony taking 50,000 musicians (genes) weeks to perform (grow). Just a fraction of the genes are programmed to perform the music by heart; the rest wait for cues and join in a few at a time. Coe's research charts the harmonious genetic developments that make a productive plant and the mutations that can ruin it. ([coee@missouri.edu](mailto:coee@missouri.edu))

## H [Heart Surgery]

Pediatric cardiologist **Zuhdi Lababidi** pioneered an alternative to open-heart surgery called balloon aortic valvuloplasty, which is performed through a catheter. After this procedure, which requires no blood transfusions or general anesthesia and leaves no scars, patients go home the next day and resume normal activities.

([lababidiz@missouri.edu](mailto:lababidiz@missouri.edu))

## I [Inactivity]

In his book *Exercise*, **Frank Booth** points out that 14 percent of Americans die from conditions caused by inactivity. The biomedical scientist says that being more active saves tax dollars going to health care and reduces the risk of chronic diseases. ([boothf@missouri.edu](mailto:boothf@missouri.edu))

## J [Journalists and Information]

In his work at MU's Freedom of Information Center, **Charles Davis** helps journalists nationwide report on the government. The center houses a collection of more than 1 million articles and documents about access to information at the state, federal and local levels.

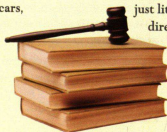
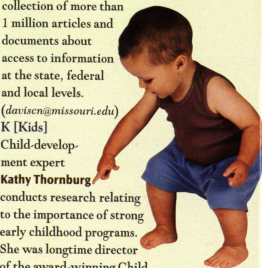
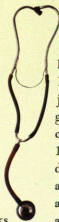
([davisncn@missouri.edu](mailto:davisncn@missouri.edu))

## K [Kids]

Child-development expert **Kathy Thornburg** conducts research relating to the importance of strong early childhood programs. She was longtime director of the award-winning Child Development Lab, an on-campus child-care center where students learn this vital field. ([thornburgk@missouri.edu](mailto:thornburgk@missouri.edu))

## L [Litigation vs. Problem Solving]

Today's lawyers must be more than just litigators, says **Timothy Heinz**, director of the law school's Center for the Study of Dispute Resolution. The highly rated center teaches



students a range of methods for settling issues out of court. ([heinszt@missouri.edu](mailto:heinszt@missouri.edu))  
M [Math Education]

**Barbara and Robert Reys**, a formidable husband-wife duo of reformers in math education, have won millions in grant funding from the National Science Foundation to help teachers learn to use standards-based curricula. They strive to help students become mathematically literate. ([reysb@missouri.edu](mailto:reysb@missouri.edu); [reysr@missouri.edu](mailto:reysr@missouri.edu))  
N [Nursing Homes]

**Marilyn Rantz** is an author, nursing researcher and expert on quality issues in the care of elders. She wrote *The New Nursing Homes: A 20-minute Way to Find Great Long Term Care*, a consumer guide to choosing a nursing home. ([rantz2m@missouri.edu](mailto:rantz2m@missouri.edu))  
O [Old Age]

After decades of teaching and research on memory and aging, psychologist **Don Kausler** is bringing his expertise on growing older to the masses. He co-wrote *The Grayning of America: An Encyclopedia of Aging, Health, Mind, and Behavior*, and he writes a weekly column on aging for Scripps Howard News Service. ([kauslerd@missouri.edu](mailto:kauslerd@missouri.edu))  
P [Plastics]

Biologist **Fred vom Saal** shook up the plastics industry when he discovered that extremely low doses of certain man-made plastic chemicals found in the environment can harm fetal development. He advises Congress about environmental health topics. ([vomsaalf@missouri.edu](mailto:vomsaalf@missouri.edu))  
Q [Quality of Health Care]

**Linda Headrick**, an expert in health care quality and medical education, uses quality improvement principles and methods not only to improve care and education but also to teach the next generation of physicians how to improve care. ([headrick@health.missouri.edu](mailto:headrick@health.missouri.edu))  
R [Reproduction]

Veterinary clinician and researcher **Robert Youngquist** studies reproduction in domestic animals, primarily cattle. His

work helps ranchers and consumers by leading to more efficient milk production and improved treatment for diseases such as ovarian cysts in dairy cattle.

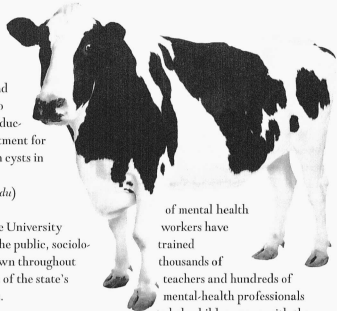
([youngquist@missouri.edu](mailto:youngquist@missouri.edu))  
S [Sociology]  
Always striving to make University research accessible to the public, sociologist **Daryl Hobbs** is known throughout Missouri for his studies of the state's changing demographics. ([hobbsd@missouri.edu](mailto:hobbsd@missouri.edu))  
T [Time]

"Time is money," the old saying goes, but no student of **Allen Bluedorn's** teaching or writing would ever leave it at that. The professor of management's latest book, *The Human Organization of Time*, discusses the ramifications of how various peoples conceptualize time. ([bluedorna@missouri.edu](mailto:bluedorna@missouri.edu))  
U [Uncertainty]

In this time of corporate consolidation, communications expert **Michael Kramer's** work on employee transitions is particularly pertinent. His article exploring how airline pilots reacted to their company's merger will appear in an upcoming issue of the journal *Human Communication Research*. ([kramerm@missouri.edu](mailto:kramerm@missouri.edu))  
V [Violence]

Engineer **Sam Kiger** conducts research toward better structural designs and protection strategies. To aid anti- and counter-terrorism programs, he develops analytical models that calculate potential damage from car bombs and other explosives. ([kigers@missouri.edu](mailto:kigers@missouri.edu))  
W [War]

Psychiatrist **Arshad Husain** has traveled overseas dozens of times to work with war-traumatized children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Palestine and (Afghan children in) Pakistan. He and a team



of mental health workers have trained thousands of teachers and hundreds of mental-health professionals to help children cope with the tragedies of war. ([husains@missouri.edu](mailto:husains@missouri.edu))  
X [Exercise Prescription]

A pioneer in the study of how aging and exercise affect skeletal muscle, physical therapist **Marybeth Brown** is also exceptional for her use of basic research on animal tissues to inform clinical practice. Based on work with rats, she can now prescribe exercise to elderly patients before elective surgery so they'll recover faster from the effects of bed rest. ([brownmb@missouri.edu](mailto:brownmb@missouri.edu))  
Y [Youth Sports]

**Douglas Abrams**, a law professor and author of three leading books on children's issues, is a national spokesman for a positive approach to youth sports. Each morning, he assembles the prior day's newspaper and magazine articles about sportsmanship and e-mails them to youth-league coaches and parents throughout North America. To receive the e-mails, contact Abrams at [abrams@missouri.edu](mailto:abrams@missouri.edu).  
Z [Zip]

Trouble zipping up those new jeans? **Karla Simmons's** expertise in 3-D body scanning made MU one of 10 U.S. sites where the SizeUSA study collected data in 2002. This research will help replace outdated sizing systems and create clothes that fit and feel better. ([simmons@missouri.edu](mailto:simmons@missouri.edu))

