

Mizzou Weekly

Feb. 7, 2013 Volume 34, No. 18

New MU center to examine emotional aftermath of terrorism, disasters



HELPING SURVIVORS J. Brian Houston, standing outside Switzler Hall, is co-director of the Terrorism and Disaster Center. Houston wants to help and learn more about victims of natural disasters and human-caused tragedies. The center is supported by a \$2.4 million grant. Photo by Rachel Coward

UNDERSTANDING SURVIVOR PSYCHOLOGY

The MU Terrorism and Disaster Center hopes to establish a statewide presence

Dozens of people were killed when Hurricane Sandy swept through New Jersey and eastern New York in late October. Damage to New Jersey alone is estimated in the billions of dollars.

Though the storm has passed, the survivors must deal with its aftermath, both financial and mental. Relief efforts will provide for victims' immediate needs, such as housing, food and water, and federal aid will help residents and officials clean up the region and rebuild. But the emotional consequences for disaster survivors will remain.

A University of Missouri disaster communication expert is using a \$2.4 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to explore ways to help disaster victims. J. Brian Houston, co-director of the Terrorism and Disaster Center (TDC) and assistant professor in communication, said center staff will focus on mental and behavioral health preparedness. The center will examine the long-term emotional repercussions on victims of natural disasters and violent rampages, such as the Dec. 14 elementary school shooting in Newtown, Conn.

Center staff will also study the resilience of people affected by these calamities.

In an age when extreme weather and mass shootings are not uncommon, the creation of the Terrorism and Disaster Center is timely.

Prior to joining Mizzou's communication department in 2010, Houston worked with Betty Pfefferbaum, a child psychiatrist at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Pfefferbaum, a leader in the field of child disaster mental health, is co-director of

the TDC at MU. The center's four-year grant is the largest ever for the Department of Communication.

Houston said TDC researchers from multiple disciplines at MU will investigate the impact of social capital, which is the quality of community relationships; communication among peers and their leaders; economic resources; and community competence, which is the ability to solve problems.

The center will train school teachers, counselors and mental health practitioners in Joplin, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., St. Louis and New Orleans to develop, implement and evaluate crisis interventions and resources that help communities prepare for natural disasters and human-caused calamities.

"People will move on from Hurricane Sandy, but storm victims will be recovering for a long time," Houston said. "People in Joplin, New Orleans and the Gulf Coast are still recovering today."

Houston also said that there are needs that exist that we don't understand from a scientific or psychological perspective.

"With this grant, we want to figure out what is needed at that stage and what we can develop to address those needs," he said.

Houston also hopes to examine why some survivors remain mentally strong in crisis.

"A lot of people faced with challenges figure out how to deal with them and are able to recover from them," he said. "They don't necessarily get back to where they were before the crisis, but they are able to function and go on about their lives. We are interested in understanding what makes people resilient. What makes them be able to deal with challenges without getting derailed? At the same time, when people aren't resilient for whatever reason, we want to recognize that and intervene then, as well."

He is also closely following the discussion in America about gun control.

"Often, people want to talk about a crisis and then move on, but the victims directly affected will be recovering for a long time," he said. "We need to have effective conversations that result in action."

TDC is working closely with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, the Department of Health & Senior Services and the Ozark Center, a Joplin mental health facility. Houston hopes to work with schools in St. Louis and Kansas City, as well.

"We want to have real presence in the state so that we are fulfilling one of our purposes of this university of serving the citizens of Missouri," he said.

— *Kate McIntyre and Sue Richardson*

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Board of Curators approves 1.7 percent tuition increase for fiscal 2014

TUITION INCREASE

MU Budget Office crunching numbers to determine effect of increase

The University of Missouri System will raise tuition on its four campuses 1.7 percent for fiscal 2014, the Board of Curators announced Jan. 31.

Tuition rates will take effect with the 2013 summer session.

Rhonda Gibler, MU budget director, said Wednesday her office has been preparing budget models since last fall based on a 2 percent tuition hike. "The reduction to 1.7 percent reduced our projected tuition and fee revenue for fiscal 2014 by about \$1 million," Gibler said.

The less-than-projected tuition rise means MU has to "dig a little deeper to balance the budget," Gibler said.

On average, the UM System has raised tuition the past five years 2.3 percent annually, compared to 6 percent by comparable institutions in surrounding states, MU System President Tim Wolfe told curators Jan. 31.

Wayne Goode, chair of the Board of Curators, said that setting tuition cost is a "balance between keeping education affordable for our students and providing the resources necessary for the university to remain a quality academic institution."

On Jan. 28, Gov. Jay Nixon recommended in his 2014 state budget \$34 million to all Missouri colleges and universities. The UM System could receive additional funding up to \$16.9 million.

Nixon announced Monday the release of \$8.5 million for Missouri higher education for the remainder of fiscal 2013. From those funds, MU could receive an extra \$4 million toward its 2013 budget, which runs through June 30.

In other curator news, the state Senate confirmed Ann Covington of Columbia and John Phillips of Kansas City as the newest Board of Curators members.

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New primate species discovered by university doctoral student



ENDANGERED Slor lorises are many times abused by owners and killed for their properties for use in traditional Asian medicines. Courtesy of the International Animal Rescue

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Slow lorises are taken as pets even though they can't be domesticated

A venomous primate with two tongues would seem to make for a terrible pet. But the big-eyed, teddy-bear face of the slow loris (*Nycticebus sp.*) has made them a target for illegal pet poachers throughout the animal's range in southeastern Asia.

A University of Missouri doctoral student and her colleagues recently identified three new species of slow loris. The primates had originally been grouped with another species.

Dividing the species into four distinct classes could help efforts to protect the unusual primate.

Rachel Munds, MU doctoral student in anthropology in the College of Arts and Science was the lead author of "Taxonomy of the Bornean Slow Loris, with New Species *Nycticebus Kayan*," published in December in the *American Journal of Primatology*. The

paper described the physiological and habitat differences that justified dividing the three new species of slow loris (*N. bancanus*, *N. borneanus* and *N. kayan*) from the original species of slow loris *N. menagensis*.

Slow lorises cannot be domesticated and are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. But that hasn't stopped people from keeping them as pets.

Nearly all the primates sold as pets are taken from the wild, breaking the bonds of the lorises' complex and poorly understood social structures. The venomous teeth are ripped out. Many of them die in the squalid conditions of pet markets. Once in the home, pet keepers tend not to provide the primates with the social, nutritional and habitat requirements they need to live comfortably. Pet keepers also tend to engage the nocturnal animals during the day, disrupting their sleep patterns.

Keeping them in zoos is also problematic. Zoos typically have difficulty meeting their nutritional needs for certain insects, tree gums and nectars. Slow lorises rarely breed in captivity.

The newly identified species hail from the Indonesian island of Borneo. Munds and her colleagues observed that the original single species contained animals with significantly different body sizes, fur thickness, habitats and facial markings. Museum specimens, photographs and live animals helped primatologists parse out four species from the original one.

As a result of the work, instead of one animal listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, there may be four endangered or threatened species. This potential change in conservation status may serve to draw attention to the plight of the primates and increase legal protections.

"YouTube videos of lorises being tickled, holding umbrellas or eating with forks have become wildly popular," said MU graduate Anna Nekaris, a study co-author and a primatology professor at Oxford Brookes University.

"CNN recently promoted loris videos as 'feel good' entertainment. In truth, the lorises gripping forks or umbrellas are simply desperate to hold something," Nekaris said. "The arboreal animals are adapted to spending their lives in trees clutching branches. Pet keepers rarely provide enough climbing structures for them."

The pet trade isn't the only threat to the creatures. They also are used in Asian traditional medicines. The methods used to extract the medicines can be exceedingly violent, Nekaris said. For example, in order to obtain tears of the big-eyed lorises, skewers are inserted into the animals' anuses and run through their bodies until they exit the mouth. The still-alive animals are then roasted over a smoky fire and the tears that stream from their eyes are collected and used to supposedly treat eye diseases in humans.

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Hoag had violent past, MU Police report



Timothy Aaron Hoag in 2006. Courtesy of the Columbia Police Department

Over the past week, more information has emerged about the killer of a retired MU research assistant professor in 2005. But the killer's motivation for the brazen crime and details of much of his life remain a mystery.

On Jan. 30, MU Police announced that Timothy Aaron Hoag murdered Professor Jeong H. Im eight years ago in the Maryland Avenue parking garage, thereby solving the most perplexing crime on campus in recent history. Investigators matched DNA retrieved from the crime site to Hoag's, obtained after Hoag killed himself last summer at the age of 35 by jumping off a downtown Columbia parking garage. He left no suicide note.

Court records reveal that the Columbia resident was in and out of trouble for years, the most serious being a third-degree assault conviction in 2001. In that case, Hoag was described in a document as being 6 feet 7 inches tall and weighing about 230 pounds.

An MU Police Department investigation suggests Hoag was a quick-tempered, aggressive man. "Witnesses that we spoke to about Hoag described him as very violent," Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Even so, Hoag apparently never had a brush with campus police. Hoag is not in the department's system, Weimer said.

At the time of his death, Im was working in Kim Wise's microbiology lab in the School of Medicine. The majority of his research was with Dr. H.D. Kim, chair of the pharmacology department.

After leaving the School of Medicine Jan. 7, 2005, Im headed to Level 3 of the Maryland Avenue parking garage, where Hoag stabbed him to death, MU police say.

Following the incident, MU installed video cameras in all garages to aid in identifying people engaged in criminal activity, Weimer said.

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Award-winning advising continues at Mizzou



GREAT ADVISING In the last four years, MU advisers, from left, Susan Klusmeier, Wayne Brekhus, Trista Strauch, Aaron Cook and Kathleen Kerr have each been honored with Excellence in Advising Awards. Photo by Josh Murray

NATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION

Kathleen Kerr joins list of MU advisers to earn NACADA honors

Academic advising at Mizzou is more than guiding students through their class work. Advisers answer questions about financial aid, assist students in identifying internships and help them with housing or other issues affecting college students.

For the fourth-consecutive year, the work of MU advisers has been recognized by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

Kathleen Kerr, an adviser with Academic Exploration and Advising Services (AEAS), has been awarded the 2013 NACADA Region 7 Award for Outstanding Adviser in a Primary Role. NACADA Region 7 includes institutions in Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Kerr aids students in developing and accomplishing academic and life goals by finding a fit between their interests and abilities and what MU has to offer. She works mostly with freshmen and sophomore undeclared students as well as pre-journalism and pre-communication students.

"I feel my role is to serve as a guide for students as they begin their academic career," Kerr said. "I also try to help students find positive solutions when challenges or issues arise that may impede their academic progress. It's a big transition for a lot of students when they come to college. They are doing a lot of things on their own for the very first time and that can be overwhelming. I try to help them through that."

Each year, Excellence in Advising awards are given by each region of NACADA in three categories: Primary Role, Faculty Role and Advising Administrator. Mizzou has had a least one winner in each of the last four years. A total of five MU advisers have claimed awards during that span.

“Our vision for advising at MU is to be a recognized institution for excellence in advising. It’s exciting to see that realized,” said Rachael Orr, senior academic advisor for AEAS. “We know great advising takes place in many offices and departments across the MU campus and it is important that it is recognized.”

The run of NACADA award winners from the University of Missouri began with sociology associate professor Wayne Brekhus, who earned a National Certificate of Merit in 2010. Aaron Cook, an adviser in the Trulaske College of Business was the Primary Role honoree in 2011 and also earned a Certificate of Merit that year.

In 2012, Trista Strauch, an assistant professor in the School of Natural Resources and Department of Animal Sciences, won the Faculty Role award and Susan Klusmeier, a former adviser in the Trulaske College of Business and now MU’s assistant director of College Access Initiatives earned the Primary Role award. Both Strauch and Klusmeier were also presented the Certificate of Merit from NACADA.

“What is great about advising students is the one-on-one relationships and following students through their career on campus,” Brekhus said.

Academic advisers work with students on their journey through the university, serving as a support person and a resource. They help students explore the university, discover their strengths and create an individualized plan to help achieve their goals.

“The most obvious role is to navigate students through their courses,” Strauch says. “But I like to encourage them to think well beyond that. I try to get them to think about activities they can be involved in, about what job it is they want in the future and then we plan to work toward that.”

“I think the advisers here go above and beyond every single day to make sure students succeed,” Kerr says. “It speaks to how much advisers care about students and how much this university cares about student success.”

Kerr will be recognized at the Region 7 annual conference on Feb. 28 in San Antonio.

“Since day one, Kathleen always had my best interest in mind and led me in the right direction,” says Fatima Kahn, an advisee of Kerr, in a letter of nomination. “Kathleen is an amazing adviser and it shows through her successful students. Their priorities become her first priorities and their best interests become her best interests.”

For advisers at Mizzou, it is about helping students thrive while in college.

“What is really special,” Strauch said, “is watching students succeed.”

— *Josh Murray*

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Be earthquake prepared

“The Great Central U.S. Shake Out!” is 10:30 a.m. today, and MU staff and faculty are invited to participate.

The “Shake Out!” involves people on their own or in a group practicing the well-known drop, cover and hold maneuver in the event of an earthquake: Drop to the ground, cover your head, seek cover under a desk, table or something else, and hold the position.

“The idea is to be prepared for an emergency and to start a dialogue about what to do in case of an earthquake,” said Rebecca Bergfield, an MU training and development coordinator in Environmental Health and Safety.

University administrators encourage the MU community to participate.

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Submit now for Celebration of Teaching

The planning committee for the Celebration of Teaching, which will happen May 21–22, is soliciting proposals for consultations and concurrent sessions at tlc.missouri.edu/celebration (<http://tlc.missouri.edu/celebration>).

Deadline for submission is Feb. 11. The conference committee will notify all selected participants in March.

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Taxes prepared for free

Taxes prepared for free

Have your taxes prepared for free by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance through April 15.

• 162 Stanley Hall,

4:30–8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 10 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. Saturdays

• 005 Cornell Hall, 4:30–8 p.m. Mondays

Closed during Spring Break.

The service is for students and families with incomes less than \$50,000 per year.

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New chief of staff of medical staff

On Nov. 1, James Kessel started as chief of staff of medical staff at University Hospital.

Kessel, a professor of clinical surgery in the School of Medicine, has been with MU since 2003.

As vice chief of medical staff, Kessel is a liaison between hospital administration and its medical staff.

"I am excited to be working with a great crew, including the medical staff, dean, CEO and chief medical officer," Kessel said.

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