

## Mizzou Weekly

July 11, 2013 Volume 34, No. 33

### **Disability Services expands campus program for the deaf and hard-of-hearing**



ONE-ON-ONE Angela Graves, MU's deaf services coordinator, counsels student Maxwell Murch in the Disability Services in Memorial Union. Photo by Rob Hill

#### HELPING STUDENTS

MU plans to hire part-time on-staff interpreter for the fall semester

**When** Angela Graves converses with her students, there is no sound. There is only mouthing of words and movement of hands.

They communicate by their own language — sign language.

Graves is the [Disability Services \(http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu/\)](http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu/)' first deaf services coordinator, starting her position in July 2012. Plans are to hire another interpreter for the fall semester.

As a certified sign language interpreter, Graves works with deaf and hard-of-hearing students registered at the office. Before the position's creation, the office contracted with an interpreter each time a student needed interpreting support. The new position reduces the office's cost and offers better support for students, Graves said. "Deaf and hard-of-hearing students will find [MU] a more friendly place to come," she said. "There is somebody on staff that's specifically for them."

Graves has always been fascinated by sign language, even though she wasn't raised around anyone who was deaf. Her curiosity and passion led her to study deaf communication at St. Louis Community College in Florissant, Mo., after earning a bachelor's in psychology at Truman State University. After earning her state certification in 2001, she worked in positions in St. Louis and Jefferson City as an interpreter.

At MU, Graves performs sign language in classrooms, coordinates services for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and fulfills special requests for her skills from departments. She works with about 20 students.

Graves doesn't have time to sign for every deaf student, so the office also works with two local interpreting agencies.

Maxwell Murch is an MU senior working with Graves. Born deaf, Murch started receiving the necessary services when he came to the university more than two years ago. He is currently being helped in classes by a note taker and an interpreter. He has had an interpreter for almost every class at MU. During exams, he usually has an interpreter in the same room in case he has questions for the instructor.

“My college life would have been really different without these services,” Murch signed. “The services I get are fantastic. I definitely recommend getting help from [the office].”

Sign language isn't all Graves does for hearing-challenged students. She also works with visual communication methods, such as a captioning system.

Captioning is usually used in classrooms for students unfamiliar with American Sign Language. Graves said that if a student prefers captioning to sign language, she and the student discuss what type of captioning works best for him or her.

The real-time captioning process is called CART, or Communication Access Realtime Translation. In a classroom, CART works by having instructors fitted with a microphone paired to a deaf student's laptop. A certified stenographer working remotely connects to the audio stream and creates the captions, which appear on the student's computer screen.

“It's a fluid process,” Graves said.

Captioning is also provided for large audiences, such as at ceremonies and lectures. In May 2012, captioning was used for the first time at an MU graduation ceremony. Two widescreens left and right of the stage showed the black-lettered captions.

The Disability Services is hoping to hire another part-time interpreter for the fall semester. Graves said that the office wants to grow the “pool of interpreters” to cover the needs of not only students, but also the university's departments and programs, such as services for University Hospital.

“Personally, I'd also like to see the graduation ceremonies routinely captioned or interpreted,” she said. “Having more interpreters would provide [better] access for graduates and their families on their big day.”

“With the creation of my position and the existence of our entire office, there is a support system here as well as the accommodations available for students to be successful,” Graves said.

— JeongAn Choi

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### **Governor restricts \$400 million from budget**

HOUSE BILL 253

Gov. Jay Nixon announced June 28 that he would restrict \$400 million of the state's new budget due to his vetoing that month a tax cut bill he claims would significantly harm allocations, including to higher education.

Nixon is withholding 4 percent of the general operating appropriation for the University of Missouri System, said John Fougere, the system's chief communications director. The governor did not withhold funding for financial aid programs. But he has held back the \$10 million earmarked to expand the MU School of Medicine in Springfield, Mo., and \$1 million to MU's College of Veterinary Medicine, Fougere said.

[House Bill 253 \(http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB253\)](http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB253) is a complex package introduced last January that includes cuts to personal income and corporate income tax. Nixon has said the reductions to state revenue would substantially limit appropriations to state services, colleges and universities for fiscal 2014. State revenue would drop by about \$800 million, according to Nixon.

On June 14, UM System President Tim Wolfe told the Board of Curators that, if the bill became law, the decrease in state funding to the four campuses could mean tuition increases, layoffs, decreased wages and enrollment caps.

Supporters of the Republican-sponsored bill say the tax cuts would grow Missouri's economy. In a statement following Nixon's withholding announcement, Tom Dempsey (R-St. Charles) characterized the governor's move as "overstepping" and holding Missourians "hostage with their own money."

Republicans may attempt to override Nixon's veto during the annual veto session Sept. 11. To do so, both chambers would have to pass a motion by at least a two-thirds majority. Although the Senate passed the tax cut bill by a wide margin early this year, it did not pass in the House by the required 109 votes that would be needed for a veto override in September.

In other legislative news, Nixon on July 2 signed [House Bill 542 \(http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB542\)](http://www.house.mo.gov/billsummary.aspx?bill=HB542) into law. The legislation gives MU Extension county councils the option to work with one or more other councils to form extension districts. The district option could help counties increase efficiencies and reduce costs by working together.

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### Thoughtful approach needed for recommendation letters

#### PRAISING WITHOUT FEIGNING

Solid tips offered for writing letters of recommendation

A letter of recommendation can excite or bore prospective employers or university administrators about the potential of an applicant. Writers need to take the task seriously and do their homework, advisers say. Writers also need to know when it's in the best interest of the student to decline the letter-of-recommendation request.

Shari Freyermuth, director of undergraduate advising in the biochemistry department, can testify to the power of a strong recommendation. When an advisee graduated with a less than superb GPA due to a stressful personal life, Freyermuth was still able to help the student get accepted to a medical school.

"I wrote a letter of rec explaining that the student was hard-working and smart, despite what the GPA reflected," Freyermuth said. "That letter helped so much because I knew what was going on in his life and could turn the negative into a positive."

Freyermuth and Tim Parshall, director of the Fellowships Office, attribute a personal relationship and working knowledge of a student as the golden ticket to a tailored letter. Carbon copy, fill-in-the-blank recommendations don't cut it. The less you know about a student, the harder it is to write about them.

Parshall suggests that writers talk about more than job or scholastic performance, and platitudes should be avoided. "If all you can do is write a bland letter, that won't help the student," he said.

"Spend time with the students, interview them, have them provide information so you can create a context," Parshall said. "Look at their transcript, resumé, statement of purpose so you can give specific examples."

Freyermuth put a positive spin on a perceived fault. But advisers caution against going too far. Honesty is important to maintain institutional and personal integrity, Parshall said.

In instances when you must decline writing a letter, he suggests that you simply tell the student that someone else would be better for the job.

As the old saying goes, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

Telling a student that you aren't right for the job is both a favor to him or her and yourself in this case, Parshall said.

— *Lauren Steele*

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### **Construction of medical park under way**

#### UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS SOUTH PROVIDENCE CLINIC

Ground was broken June 26 on the construction on the University Physicians-South Providence clinic at South Providence Medical Park.

With more than 50 physicians and 100 staff, the facility is expected to receive more than 100,000 patient visits each year. Construction is expected to be complete in two years.

The two-story, 85,500-square-foot clinic will house pediatric primary care services currently provided at the [University Physicians Green Meadows](http://www.fcm.missouri.edu/Clinics/GreenMeadows.aspx) clinic, family medicine services currently offered at the Green Meadows and [University Physicians Woodrail](http://www.muhealth.org/body.cfm?id=199) clinics, and expanded outpatient behavioral health services.

The clinic will be on 25 acres at 551 E. Southampton Drive, near the intersection of Providence Road and Southampton Drive in Columbia.

“By offering these services in one location, we can offer all-around care to the whole person and the whole family,” said Mitch Wasden, chief executive officer and chief operating officer of MU Health Care.

#### **The new facility will have:**

- 30 rooms dedicated to pediatric patients, each with in-room height, weight and vital sign measurement stations
- 15 rooms dedicated to outpatient behavioral health care
- two conference rooms for group behavioral therapy
- 48 rooms dedicated to family medicine patients
- a 2,000-square-foot pharmacy with drive-through service
- radiology services that will include magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), ultrasound, X-ray and mammography, and
- an onsite laboratory for medical testing.

“This expanded facility will allow us to accommodate increased demands for outpatient services,” said Harold Williamson Jr., vice chancellor of the University of Missouri Health System.

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### **Insects in CAFNR museum will be coming to a browser near you**



DIGITAL BUGS Kristin B. Simpson categorizes butterflies recently donated to the Enns Entomology Museum. Simpson is the collection manager and helps oversee the lab assistants and museum events. Photo by Emily Kaiser

#### ENNS ENTOMOLOGY MUSEUM

Project expected to take three to five years

Soon you'll be able to study more than 7 million insect specimens from the [Enns Entomology Museum](http://www.museum.insecta.missouri.edu) ([http://www.museum.insecta.missouri.edu/](http://www.museum.insecta.missouri.edu)) from any place in the world with Internet connection.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) and 13 other Midwestern colleges and departments are digitizing their collections through a grant from the National Science Foundation's Advancing Digitization of Biological Collections Thematic Collections Network. The grant is to help create a national resource of digital data documenting existing biological collections, said Kristin B. Simpson, collection manager at Enns Museum.

The grant allows 160 years of accrued collections to be integrated into one central searchable collection. Simpson said specimens are already being posted in a rudimentary fashion on the network site at [invertnet.org](http://invertnet.org) (<http://invertnet.org>).

The project is expected to take three to five years, Simpson said. When completed, standardized and curated digital photos of specimens will be available to scientists, researchers, educators and the public, Simpson said. Photographs will use modern technology, including optical 3-D imaging and reconstruction.

Graduate and undergraduate students at the Enns Museum are photographing and labeling more than 3,400 drawers of pinned insect specimens, 272,720 vials and 60,000 microscope slides, Simpson said.

Simpson is working on the project with representatives from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kansas State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, South Dakota State University, University of Wisconsin, Ohio State University, Carnegie Institute, Purdue University, Iowa State University and North Dakota State University.

The Enns collection began in 1874 and is the primary source of insect and arachnid specimens representing the Ozark Plateau. The museum is used by research and extension staff and faculty as a resource for identifications and confirmations.

The museum is located in 3-38 Agriculture Building on the MU campus. It is open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Group tours are available by appointment.

— *Linda Geist*

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### **Mizzou undergraduate certificate program in digital global studies going strong**

#### GLOBAL CONNECT

Program's advisory committee includes 19 faculty

In an effort to help students gain the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the global job market, MU is offering MU Global Connect (MGC), an interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate in digital global studies. The first introductory seminar was offered last spring.

The certificate is designed to prepare students in any discipline for a new global reality, said Monika Fischer, the program's facilitator. Fischer is leading the MGC advisory committee, which includes 19 faculty members from a variety of disciplines.

Requirements for the 15-credit hour certificate include an introductory seminar, two elective courses, experiential learning and a concluding seminar. The two core seminars serve as the framework for the certificate and provide a common basis for students from various disciplines. Electives are selected from a list of approved course options, representing two different disciplines that call attention to global and digital components.

An emphasis is being placed on the experiential learning element, said Fischer, an associate director of the [Honors College \(http://honors.missouri.edu\)](http://honors.missouri.edu) who has taught in the German and Russian Studies Department since 2005. That component will include a hands-on learning experience that will vary, depending on the student's field of study and interests. The experiences can be studying abroad, service learning or internships at MU or with a local, national or international organization.

"Our goal is to expand learning on an experiential level," Fischer said. "We want this certificate to be project-oriented, which means students get applied experiences that will give them a personal view of globalization and how digital technologies are playing a role in the interconnected world in which we now live."

Unique collaborative projects, surveying of digital media use in developing countries and analysis of global trends in communication are part of the certificate.

"I believe strongly in providing students an opportunity for a global learning experience so they can be committed citizens in the global community," Fischer said. "It is more than just learning about global issues. It is about experiencing them."

The certificate is administered by the MU Center for the Digital Globe (CDiG) and funded through a two-year Mizzou Advantage grant. For more information, call the center's office at 882-4991.

— *Josh Murray*

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### Free skin cancer screening

[Ellis Fischel Cancer Center \(http://www.muhealth.org/newellishomepage.cfm?id=74\)](http://www.muhealth.org/newellishomepage.cfm?id=74) at One Hospital Drive is offering free skin cancer screenings for people age 18 and older 1–3 p.m. on July 26.

Appointments are necessary and space is limited. To reserve a spot, call 882-5456 or email [fritschiek@health.missouri.edu](mailto:fritschiek@health.missouri.edu).

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### **Walking groups forming**

Get fit through regular walking.

[Healthy for Life \(http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/\)](http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/), the University of Missouri System wellness program, and Ultramax Sports in Columbia are hosting group walks through Aug. 11.

Walks are 12:30–1 p.m. and begin at the following locations:

- Mondays at Memorial Union
- Tuesdays at south entrance of the Student Center
- Thursdays at the Columns on Francis Quadrangle

Walking is free and all are invited. For more information, email [amy@ultramaxsports.com](mailto:amy@ultramaxsports.com).

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### Gender in the workplace

Learn about the dynamics of men and women in the workplace at a free session led by Heather Eastman, MU's sexual health program coordinator.

Participants will learn gender terminology and engage in discussions about the topic. The free session is noon–1:30 p.m. Friday in S207 Memorial Union.

[The Chancellor's Diversity Initiative \(http://cdi.missouri.edu/\)](http://cdi.missouri.edu/) is event sponsor.

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### Assisting employees

The [MU Employee Assistance Program \(https://counseling.missouri.edu/employee-assistance-program/index.php\)](https://counseling.missouri.edu/employee-assistance-program/index.php) provides no-cost counseling and referral services to faculty, staff and their immediate family members, and MU retirees.

To schedule an appointment or learn more, contact a program administrator at 882-6701.

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