

Mizzou Weekly

June 13, 2013 Volume 34, No. 31

Retirees honored at annual awards event

Retired MU employees encourage people to be active throughout life

For the faculty and staff winners of the Retiree of the Year awards, retirement doesn't look like sitting on a beach holding a drink with a tiny umbrella. It looks like working part time, volunteering in the community and supporting the university.

Nearly 300 university retirees and friends gathered June 7 at the Reynolds Alumni Center to honor the accomplishments of faculty winner Bob Stewart and staff winner Jack Miles.

Stewart retired in 2002 as a professor and chair of the Department of Practical Arts and Vocational-Technical Education, but he continues to work part time for the university.

"It's humbling to be recognized for something that just seems like it's the right thing to do," Stewart said in an interview. "I'll always remember what my grandfather said to me when he was climbing up the barn loft and feeding cows at 88. He said, 'Oh, those guys that move to town and sit on the porch, they just die.' He worked up until the day he went to the hospital."

Influenced by his grandfather's warning and his late wife's battle with cancer, Stewart volunteered to review literature, manuscripts and grant proposals for Sinclair School of Nursing research to improve the outcomes for breast cancer survivors. In 2005, he was named to the adjunct clinical faculty at the nursing school. He has also volunteered as a patient advocate for oncology research clinical trials.

"These contributions in the area of cancer survivorship following his retirement represent a 'second professional career,' " his nominator wrote. "His generous volunteer efforts at the Sinclair School of Nursing and Ellis Fischel Cancer Center have significantly impacted the well-being of cancer survivors locally and nationally through research and education."

When not working, he enjoys visiting his grandchildren. But the best thing about being retired, Stewart said, is that he doesn't have to wear a tie every day.

Miles, former coordinator of the Missouri State Senior Games, hasn't handed off the baton, either. Since he retired in 2005, he has remained active with the state games, serving as a board member of the senior games. He also volunteers as an official at MU Track and Field events.

As former executive director of the Missouri State High School Activities Association and one of the founders of the state games, fitness has always been important to Miles, especially as it relates to the aging population.

"The Missouri State Senior Games was a situation where I was involved with people who were participating for the right reasons," Miles said. "They were there to maintain physical fitness and a good quality of life."

He practices what he preaches. He enjoys playing golf and riding bikes with his grandchildren. He also works as a handyman for people in need.

"There is one lady who is 90 who lives by herself in a home she and her husband built more than 50 years ago," Miles said. "I do anything she needs done, from repairing her door to odds and ends around the house. That's been rewarding."

Miles and his wife, Darlene, have both received Retiree of the Year awards.

Darlene retired as an administrative assistant at the Mizzou Alumni Association in 1998 and received the staff award in 2005.

June 13, 2013 Issue

- [Retirees honored at annual awards event](#)
- [Deaton announces retirement](#) Chancellor Deaton plans to remain involved at MU
- [Celebration of Teaching speaker encourages balance between digital and classroom learning](#) Digital tools can enhance the education experience, speaker said
- [Redesigned MU home page premiered Wednesday](#) More MU news and social media links are new to site
- [Diversity event Friday, June 14](#)
- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
- [Grilling for health](#)
- [Heads up, it's only a drill](#)
- [Renew Mizzou building project will address necessary campus repairs](#) Planning, coordination keys to a smooth move of employees, administrator said

[More in the archive »](#)

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Deaton announces retirement



FAREWELL Chancellor Brady J. Deaton announced his retirement Wednesday to about 250 people in the Jesse Hall Rotunda. “I focused on making this a destination university,” Deaton said. Photo by Nicholas Benner

Chancellor Deaton plans to remain involved at MU

After 24 years at MU, including the last nine as chancellor, Brady J. Deaton announced Wednesday his retirement from the University of Missouri effective Nov. 15.

Deaton presided over a period of dramatic reductions in state higher-education funding. Yet under his leadership, MU cemented itself as a research university with a global reputation that attracts the highest caliber faculty, including members from the National Academy of Sciences.

MU has experienced significant increases in overall student enrollment, minority enrollment, research grants and expenditures, patents and licenses, and fundraising.

“It’s been a good time,” Deaton told about 250 people gathered in the Jesse Hall Rotunda, some peering down from Jesse’s second floor. “I’ve had a blessed career.”

UM System President Tim Wolfe said that Deaton has been “a gracious adviser and an even better friend.”

Deaton grew up on a farm in Kentucky’s Appalachian Mountains, living in homes that had neither plumbing nor electricity and studying at a two-room schoolhouse. He credits 4-H as his gateway to higher education.

Deaton joined the MU faculty as a professor and chair of the agricultural economics department in 1989. He was appointed chief of staff in the Office of the Chancellor in 1993, deputy chancellor in 1997 and provost in 1998. He has served as MU’s chancellor and its 21st chief executive officer since 2004.

In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed Deaton chair of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

Deaton and his wife, Anne, plan to stay in Columbia and remain involved with the university.

After speaking for about 20 minutes, during which he praised his staff, Deaton took his seat on the podium. But not for long.

Twice he stood to acknowledge the thunderous applause.

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- [Retirees honored at annual awards event](#)
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- [Redesigned MU home page premiered Wednesday](#) More MU news and social media links are new to site
- [Diversity event Friday, June 14](#)
- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
- [Grilling for health](#)
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Celebration of Teaching speaker encourages balance between digital and classroom learning



EDUCATION IN DIGITAL AGE Mark Milliron, chancellor of Western Governors University, an online education institution, lectured May 21 in Jesse Hall Auditorium on using digital technology in the learning experience. He cautioned that technological advances should not replace the interaction between student and teacher. Photo by Rachel Coward.

FUNDAMENTALS OF INSTRUCTION

Digital tools can enhance the education experience, speaker said

Balancing digital and traditional instruction has been a challenge for 21st-century educators. Tilt education too much toward digital, and the human element is lost. Tilt toward classroom instruction, and lose out on the tremendous opportunities in digital learning.

In 2011–12, MU offered 66 online degrees and nearly 700 online courses. Many of the 9,155 online learners were also enrolled in on-campus courses. Given the growth potential of Mizzou Online and e-learning in general, MU's Celebration of Teaching in May devoted a handful of sessions to online instruction.

The two-day celebration was sponsored by the MU Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, led by Jim Spain. Kicking it off was a presentation by a Texan named Mark Milliron, recently named chancellor of Western Governors University, an online institution based in Salt Lake City with 35,000 students across the United States. Milliron argued for a Goldilocks-like balance — not too much, not too little — of digital and traditional instruction.

“If you do this right, it is education at its best,” he told about 250 people in Jesse Hall Auditorium.

Milliron cut his teeth in education at the well-regarded Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he led efforts to help teenagers from low-income families get accepted to college. He currently serves on the board of Civitas Learning, a Texas-based learning analytics company.

Dressed in an oversized tan suit, Milliron eschewed the MU-logoed podium to stand stage center with a large power-point screen behind him. He was at ease, funny and insightful as he spoke for more than two hours without notes about his family, professional background and higher education in a digital age.

Milliron acknowledged the saturation of digital media throughout all age demographics. As is well known, children, teenagers and young adults are awash in e-communication. But Milliron pointed out that Twitter is becoming more popular with 30- to 50-year-olds. The average age of digital gamers is 30. And studies show that more people over age 50 are embracing electronic media.

But using social media and playing an online video game are quite different than utilizing digital technology for degree programs in higher education. The best educators say the teacher–student connection is crucial, and that’s hard to establish when students are sitting in front of a glowing screen instead of in a classroom with an engaged instructor.

Though a zealot for online education, Milliron said it doesn’t work too well when teaching squishy skills such as writing. Students rank writing second only to public speaking as something to be feared, he said. Teaching it online is problematic because critiques, which students can take personally, are devoid of the human touch.

But Milliron may have found an alternative in an app that gives the writing instructor’s critique a voice. Literally. Students at a Texas college who tested the app loved hearing the instructor’s taped audio, he said. They felt the humanity of the critique through the instructor’s critical but encouraging words.

“It felt like you were talking over my shoulder the entire time,” a student said of his virtual instructor, according to Milliron.

During his lecture, Milliron invoked tales of his wired four children, ages 4 to 14, to bring home points. He spoke of the hours they devote and seriousness they bring to playing video games. How can educators harness that focus and commitment? Milliron said the answer is to make online learning as engaging as digital game playing.

“Activity connects people to learning in affective ways,” he said.

Finally, Milliron argued for shortening the feedback loop on the success or failure of online teaching and student study habits. He noted how Amazon bombards buyers with instantaneous recommendations for future purchases based on prior purchases. Similarly, faculty and students should know within a short window if they are on the right track to success.

It’s possible through analytics, Milliron said. For example, teachers can track study patterns of students and eliminate the digital materials not used by the best students. Students, meanwhile, can learn where they fall short in study habits when their analytics are compared to past successful students.

Feedback doesn’t need to wait till midterms or, worse, months or years till administrators and faculty committees sign off on a substantive scholastic change, Milliron said. Like Amazon recommendations, feedback can be nearly instantaneous and go directly to those who need it — the teachers and students.

“We need a transformation of getting the data to the front line,” Milliron said.

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- [Redesigned MU home page premiered Wednesday](#) More MU news and social media links are new to site
- [Diversity event Friday, June 14](#)
- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
- [Grilling for health](#)
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[More in the archive »](#)

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Redesigned MU home page premiered Wednesday

MISSOURI.EDU

More MU news and social media links are new to site

The redesigned [missouri.edu \(http://missouri.edu\)](http://missouri.edu) site made its premiere Wednesday, featuring more campus news and social media links on a platform that is easier to navigate.

The new site is responsive to all media formats, meaning that regardless of device used — be it iPhone, desktop or Android — the screen size and content will adapt and be compatible, Web Communications assistant director Jason Rollins said.

This makes the revamped site an ideal outlet for its role as a campus news source by offering links to MU News, MIZZOU magazine, *Mizzou Weekly*, CAFNR News and other campus publications.

“We have been wanting this change for a long time,” said Lori Croy, director of Web Communications. “The way the world uses the Web has changed. We can now supply the most useful content in the most usable way.”

Relying on years’ worth of user statistics and analytical data, Web Communications has reimagined the placement of links, content and search results to make them user-friendly.

“We used larger clickable areas and fonts since people are using touchscreens,” said lead project designer Josh Nichols. “We relied on color and visuals, like fonts, to let the design be bold and work efficiently.”

A story banner will open the site by highlighting a single story with thumbnails following. This is contrary to the old four-story scrolling banner. Extensive analytical tracking showed that most visitors were clicking on the first image and story and ignoring most of the remaining scroll, Rollins said. This meant readers might be missing the most important story among the four.

“When a user is presented with too many choices, many times they make no choice at all,” Rollins said.

Part of sharing information is using social media. The homepage’s footer will link to a social media site that combines trending Mizzou topics on outlets such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

The final product is a one-stop MU online platform.

“We want to share information and promote Mizzou as a whole,” Rollins said.

— *Lauren Steele*

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- [Redesigned MU home page premiered Wednesday](#) More MU news and social media links are new to site
- [Diversity event Friday, June 14](#)
- [Bookstore gets new name](#)

- [Grilling for health](#)
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Diversity event Friday, June 14

The coordinator of MU's LGBTQ Resource Center will lead a discussion on [LGBTQ workplace \(http://lgbtq.missouri.edu/\)](http://lgbtq.missouri.edu/) issues 12–1:30 p.m. Friday in S204 Memorial Union. The event is free and open to all.

For more information, email Struby Struble at strubles@missouri.edu, or call 882-7909.

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- [Retirees honored at annual awards event](#)
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- [Celebration of Teaching speaker encourages balance between digital and classroom learning](#) Digital tools can enhance the education experience, speaker said
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- [Diversity event Friday, June 14](#)
- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
- [Grilling for health](#)
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Bookstore gets new name

The bookstore in the MU Student Center is now called [The Mizzou Store \(http://www.themizzoustore.com/\)](http://www.themizzoustore.com/).

The name change reflects the fact that, besides carrying a wide selection of books, the store also carries Mizzou paraphernalia, such as Tiger clothing, mugs, artwork and decorations.

In celebration, the store's TigerTech is offering a \$50 discount on MacBook Air and MacBook Pro computers through Saturday while supplies last.

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- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
- [Grilling for health](#)
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Grilling for health

Learn how to make healthful meals on the grill.

From 12 to 1 p.m. on June 18, a dietitian will be in the General Services Building breakroom offering tips for grilling healthful meals. The event is free and open to all.

For more information, email Kate Walker at walkerja@missouri.edu, or call 882-6701.

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- [Retirees honored at annual awards event](#)
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- [Celebration of Teaching speaker encourages balance between digital and classroom learning](#) Digital tools can enhance the education experience, speaker said
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- [Diversity event Friday, June 14](#)
- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
- [Grilling for health](#)
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Heads up, it's only a drill

A simulation of a disturbance at the MU Research Reactor will be conducted sometime Monday, June 17, said MU spokesperson Christian Basi. Emergency vehicles are expected to be part of the drill.

Earlier this year, a simulated attack by a gun-wielding man was performed at University Hospital as a drill for first responders.

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- [Bookstore gets new name](#)
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Renew Mizzou building project will address necessary campus repairs

MOVING FORWARD

Planning, coordination keys to a smooth move of employees, administrator said

Moving some 600 MU employees to temporary offices as part of the Renew Mizzou buildings renovation is not a simple task. But with planning and coordination, the effort should proceed without problems, said Heiddi Davis, Campus Facilities director of space planning and management.

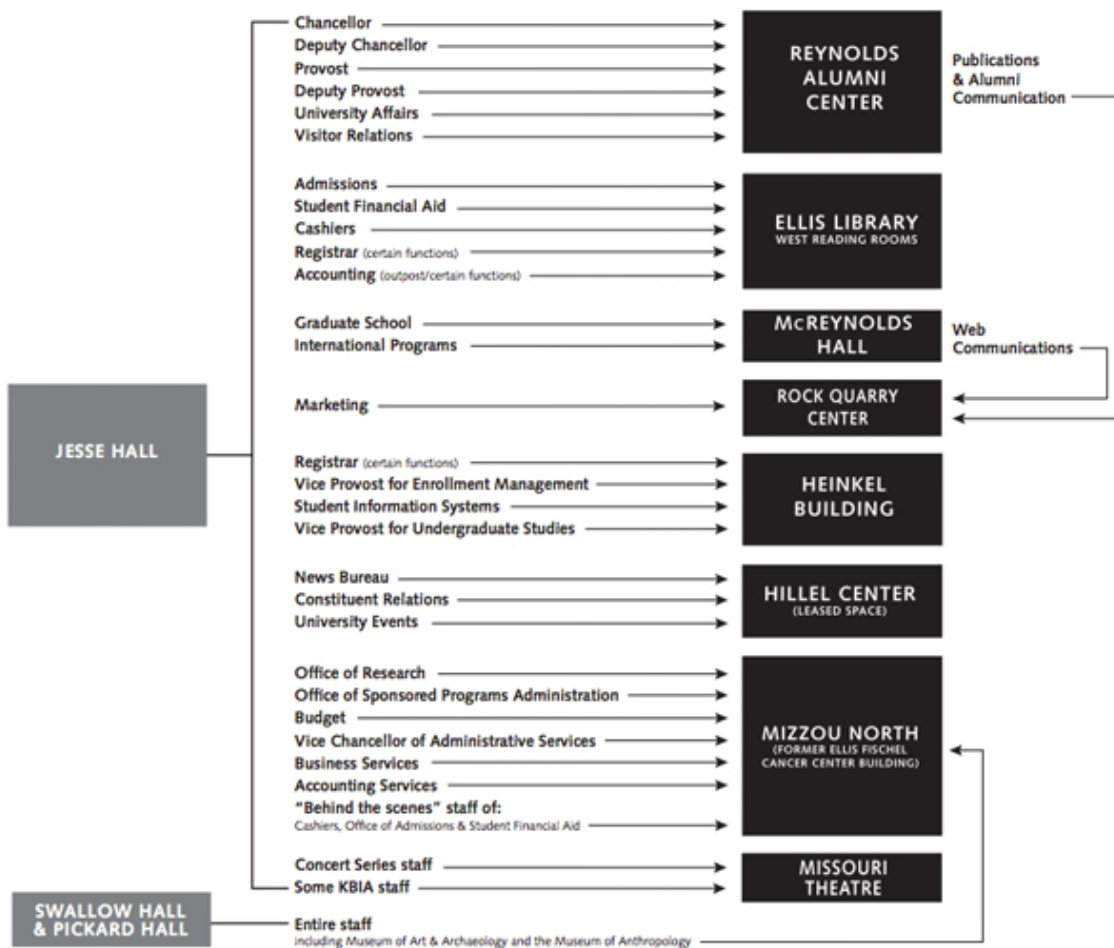
Pickard Hall is scheduled to close by year's end, and Jesse and Swallow halls will close between March and July 2014, pending Board of Curators approval. Faculty and staff in those buildings and others will be relocated.

"It's always challenging for the people who are being moved," Davis said. "We try to recognize that and keep an empathetic mind. We will try to accommodate them so that they can continue to be successful."

But while no one is questioning the need for building repairs, some faculty are questioning the communication process leading to the announced closings. At a [Faculty Council \(http://facultycouncil.missouri.edu/index\)](http://facultycouncil.missouri.edu/index) meeting June 6, several council members asked administrators why the faculty being relocated weren't included in the planning discussions. Others worried about the fate of the Pickard and Swallow museums.

Construction Timetable

On May 23, MU administrators announced that the historic Jesse and Swallow halls had been scheduled for renovations and Pickard Hall will be decommissioned per Nuclear Regulatory Commission codes. Staff and faculty in the halls shall be moved to unused campus offices and some, such as Jesse administrators, will displace employees in other departments, who will be moved to unused space. Plans are to relocate the Pickard and Swallow museums to the old Ellis Fischel Cancer Center building, now called Mizzou North.



[A flowchart illustrates the offices and departments of relocating workers and the buildings to which they are headed \(renew_mizzou.pdf\).](#)

Jesse Hall, an administrative building that includes the chancellor’s office, is expected to receive new sprinkler and fire alarm systems, upgraded heating and cooling systems, and a second elevator. Renovation of Swallow Hall, home of the anthropology department and the Museum of Anthropology, will create an additional 5,000 square feet for offices, classroom and lab space.

Work in Pickard Hall, site of offices and the Museum of Art & Archaeology, will continue to remove radioactivity in the hall’s currently unused portion. The radioactivity was caused by chemical experiments in the early 20th century.

The \$22.85 million Renew Mizzou project will eliminate the need for more than \$14.3 million in deferred-maintenance costs associated with these buildings, administrators said. Funding will come from campus savings (\$14 million) and Campus Facilities’ deferred maintenance budget (\$8.85 million).

Renew Mizzou will follow the Mizzou Stewardship Model, created four years ago to address the backlog of more than 30 buildings on campus needing repairs. Maintenance was delayed because funds were lacking due to state budget cuts, Jackie Jones, vice chancellor of administrative services, told Faculty Council last week.

The stewardship model scraps the old model of doing ad hoc maintenance repairs. It shuts a building for a top-to-bottom renovation, Jones said. This is a money saver because of the prohibitive maintenance costs old buildings require and the upgrades installed that make the buildings energy efficient. Moreover, the buildings make better use of space and create a safer and more effective academic learning environment, Jones said.

A few years ago, Tate and Switzer halls were renovated under this model, and Gwynn Hall is undergoing the process with completion scheduled for fall.

Swallow and Jesse employees are expected to move back to their halls in early summer 2015. For those in Pickard, their return is dependent on radioactive testing results.

Some Faculty Council members said the faculty displaced due to Renew Mizzou should have been involved in relocation planning rather than learning about the move last month. The council members said it was another example of faculty being out of the loop on important decisions affecting faculty; previous incidents were, in their view, the announced closings of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute in March 2012 and the University of Missouri Press in May 2012.

“Sharing and trust cost nothing in money or time,” said Clyde Bentley, an associate professor in the School of Journalism. “If you are going to move faculty, you probably better talk to them first.”

Mike Urban, an associate professor of geography, told administrators and council members that the museums needed to remain on the main campus because their absence “limits student and public access to the arts.” He also asked for a timeline for when the museums would return to Pickard and Swallow.

Faculty Council Chair Harry Tyrer announced plans to stage a public forum in several weeks to address concerns about Renew Mizzou and related matters.

Coordinated Move

Meanwhile, as building planners and designers map out the work, administrators are creating a plan to move faculty and staff smoothly. Davis said each department affected will have a designated leader appointed in July to help with moving logistics. An IT employee shall be identified to lead the coordination of moving electronics for each relocated worker, she said.

That the move announcement came many months in advance suggests a careful approach being taken, administrators said.

“We first looked to see if we had a workable plan,” Davis said of the moving process. “Now we are getting into the details.”

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