



A new vice chancellor directs
out-of-the-classroom
programs that give students

ROOM to grow

By JOHN BEAHLER

Students have always known that there is life outside the classroom. And that means the professionals who run MU's extracurricular programs have a delicate mission.

"What we're really doing at the University when we're dealing with young people is working with their dreams," says Dr. Dave McIntire, MU's vice chancellor for student affairs. "We know that college-age people change and grow in predictable ways. They're dealing with many of the same questions. Our job is to provide the kind of programs and opportunities that help them answer those questions on their own."

Dr. Dave McIntire, who became MU's vice chancellor for student affairs in January, believes students can learn as much outside the classroom as in the classroom.

Rob Hill photo

McIntire sees his role as an advocate to boost the quality of student life. He came to Mizzou in January from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., where he ran student development programs on the 11,000-student campus and was a professor of human development and counseling. With a doctorate and master's degrees in psychology and counseling, McIntire also has directed student programs and taught at schools in West Virginia, Alabama and Arkansas.

McIntire's office provides the wide array of programs that help students learn outside the traditional classroom. When they're wrestling with tough decisions about careers or college majors, they can get help from professional and student counselors at Career Planning and Placement Center. MU's award-winning alcohol education program helps students realize they can drink responsibly and still have fun in college. Programs at the Women's Center, the Counseling Center and in residence halls help students deal with issues of intimacy and personal relationships.

McIntire's staff also oversees the more than 380 clubs and organizations on Campus that let students explore their special interests — from photography to riding rodeo broncs. And at the University's new Student Recreation Center, the latest in athletic equipment and facilities help students sweat out the tension after long study sessions.

Those out-of-the-classroom opportunities at Mizzou are in sharp contrast to higher education philosophies in other parts of the world. As a Fulbright Scholar in West Germany, McIntire had a chance to compare different approaches to higher education.

"Europeans think that American universities coddle their students," he recalls. "In Europe the focus is much more narrow and is confined strictly to intellectual development. Here our focus is more holistic. I

think sometimes students can learn as much outside the classroom as in the classroom."

Lifestyle changes have prompted new approaches to student services. Perhaps nowhere are those changes more apparent than in the University's residence halls. Since 1978 MU has had coed residence halls. Women students are no longer required to be in at a certain time each night, and students of both sexes come and go as they please. Most residence halls allow visitors of the opposite sex in student rooms until 2 a.m. on weekdays and for 24 hours a day on weekends.

Rules and regulations are enforced, but the focus now is on education and self-discovery. Last year the residence halls sponsored 1,000 educational programs for their residents on topics that ranged from time management

and sexual awareness to leadership workshops and wellness programming.

McIntire contrasts the new approach with the atmosphere he remembers from his own college days in the early 1960s. "I sure as heck never, ever saw the inside of my fiancée's dorm room," he says. "But the same approach wouldn't work today. Students now are used to coming and going.

"Some parents would like for the University to act in their stead. While their sons and daughters are on Campus, they would like us to impose the same rules and regulations they impose at home," McIntire says. "When most freshmen come to college, they come as legal adults. We work to provide the best environment for individual growth, not a permissive environment, but one where students learn to share responsibility.

"Students are very serious today and they work very hard. There are a lot of pressures on students — many of them self-induced pressures — to make a high grade point or to pick the right major. We try to help in any way we can."

Lifestyle changes have prompted new approaches to student services.



In the right direction

A job interview can be intimidating enough without having to worry about a video camera humming away in the background, recording all the high and low points of your performance.

Yet each year, scores of Mizzou students polish up their resumes and go through that nerve-racking process during practice job interviews offered by MU's Career Planning and Placement Center. By reviewing the videotapes, they can hone their skills for the real thing.

The practice sessions are just one of the career center's innovative programs. From high-tech interactive computer systems to hands-on training in resume writing, the center eases the transition from Campus life to the working world.

The thing that sets Mizzou's program apart is the use of student career counselors. When the program began 15 years ago, it was one of the first in the nation that trained students as career advisers to help their peers work through all the tough career choices. Since then, dozens

Learning responsibility

Students at Mizzou are telling other students about responsible alcohol use through education programs that are winning national awards.

A student group, Promoting Alcohol Responsibility Through You (PARTY), is leading the way with a full week of activities each fall designed to promote responsible decisions about alcohol. In three out of the last four years MU's Alcohol Awareness Week was rated the best in the country by a national organization of college administrators.

PARTY members are working hard to get out one simple message about drinking. "If you choose to do it, do it responsibly," says Rob Rebman, PARTY president and a senior in marketing from St. Louis. "The program works because it's easier for students to get through to other students.

"College is a time when peer pressure is very important. Drinking has become a common denominator to socializing in

David Gant, a senior in human environmental science from Creve Coeur, Mo., delivers a comedy monologue at a non-alcohol night club in Pershing Cafeteria.

of universities around the country have patterned their own student career offices after MU's.

Lora Iannotti, AB '90, of Columbia went through the center's 100-hour training program and was a student career specialist during the four years she attended MU. "Students come to the center for a whole variety of reasons, from freshmen undecided about their majors to seniors who want help with resumes and job searches," she says.

Iannotti and the other student counselors are better able to help their peers sort through career options because they've been there too. "In my first two years at MU I was undecided, I was considering a lot of different majors," she says. "I think it helps if you've been at that point yourself.

"I sort of fell into working here, but it's been the best thing I've done in college," she says. "I come in here a lot of times in a bad mood and leave in a good mood because I feel I've helped someone."

Sally Williams, a career specialist at the Career Planning and Placement Center, helps fellow students Alejandra Boza, left, and James Hill develop their resumes.

college," Rebman says. "There's more of a chance to abuse alcohol in college, since people are just learning to use it."

Yet alcohol abuse is something that doesn't necessarily begin in college, says Kim Dude, BS Ed '74, M Ed '76, a program director for MU's residence halls and adviser to student alcohol education programs. "It's an inherited problem. We don't create it," Dude says. "Studies show that 92 percent of college freshmen, when they arrive on campus, already drink alcohol. It starts in junior high school."

One of PARTY's biggest successes is a designated driver program that encourages a common-sense approach to alcohol use. When a group of students goes out for a night on the town, one person agrees to be the designated driver. Instead of drinking alcohol, that person drinks free sodas provided by one of the 27 Columbia bars that participate in the program. It's been so successful that PARTY received a \$50,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Highway Safety to expand it to other Missouri communities.

Although it may be an uphill battle, Rebman says PARTY is making an impact on Campus. "The only thing we can really do is provide education," he says. "Students are going to have to decide for themselves to use alcohol responsibly."

