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MU goal: Increase college-going rate



As a high school student, DeAngela Burns-Wallace attended several Mizzou summer programs that introduced her to the possibilities of attending college. Now, she helps organize those programs as the new director of MU's Access Initiative office. Rob Bratney photo

Access initiatives

Mizzou job brings DeAngela Burns-Wallace full circle

Burns-Wallace began her career as a diplomat with the State Department. Working jobs that varied from staffing visa lines to orchestrating press conferences for presidents and secretaries of state in the continents of Africa and Asia, she was executing foreign policy on an international level. More recently she worked on legislative issues for former Secretary of State Colin Powell on Capitol Hill.

But something was missing in Burns-Wallace's global line of work. "I realized that I wasn't having a direct impact on people," she said.

So Burns-Wallace departed from the world of policies and briefings to embark on a mission to bring the ivory towers of higher education — the towers that served as a pathway for her own career — to students who see college as an unattainable goal.

And for Burns-Wallace, the new director of MU's Access Initiatives office, the mission is personal.

A first-generation college student from the inner city, Burns-Wallace had parents who vowed that their children would graduate from college. Her father, Jerome, a telephone repairman, and her mother, Mary, an accounting clerk, both attempted going to college before personal injury and inaccessibility forced them to find careers without degrees. Jerome had his football scholarship revoked after being injured in a game his sophomore year, and Mary found college-level art departments inhospitable to black women in the 1970s.

"Even though my parents didn't finish college, they knew the power of it," Burns-Wallace says.

She spent weeks of her summers at Mizzou during high school, participating in everything from cheer camps to the Missouri Business Week. That kind of exposure to college and what it can offer is exactly what she now oversees as director of Access Initiatives.

Through various outreach programs to underrepresented high school groups across the state of Missouri and the Midwest, Access Initiatives strives to instill a college-going attitude among students who may not have considered a college education attainable. Access Initiatives offers programs such as the Minority Achievement Committee Scholars — in conjunction with the Columbia Public Schools — and the Kauffman Scholars Program to offer opportunities for engagement and exploration of college as a feasible destination for all students.

"It's a question of how do we expose students from all kinds of backgrounds to college," says Burns-Wallace, "and to this institution in particular."

Burns-Wallace, director of Access Initiatives as of Oct. 1, 2009, is a native of Kansas City, Mo. She left the Midwest for the West Coast after graduating high school. At Stanford University, she earned a bachelor's degree in international relations and African American studies. She then set out to earn her master's degree in public affairs on the East Coast from Princeton University.

The timing of Burns-Wallace's hire coincided with the departure of Jeff Williams, her predecessor who was director of Access and Urban Outreach, and her moving back to Missouri after working in admissions at her alma mater, Stanford. Burns-Wallace holds a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

During her first months at MU, Burns-Wallace has conducted what she terms a "listening tour" to gather the baseline information of current programs being offered throughout the state and greater Midwest region. As soon as that's complete, she will assess which access initiatives are working, which ones can be replicated and where the need for new programs exists.

"I have lots of ideas, and I can't wait to hear those of other people as well," she says.

The Division of Enrollment Management is proud to have snagged such a qualified candidate. "It's a commentary on the work environment that we have at Mizzou," said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for Enrollment Management. "[DeAngela] has really been a catalyst for our thinking about new initiatives."

Burns-Wallace is now back in her home state after carving a large-and-full-circle professional career. In her new role, she is fulfilling her desire to work with people instead of policies. And it's that work that brings the next generation of students — many of whom thought college out of their reach — through the Columns on Francis Quadrangle. — *David Wietlispach*

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Mizzou Weekly's online edition

Reader response

Faculty and staff paper launches electronic edition

Mizzou Weekly, the faculty and staff newspaper for the University of Missouri, has been a print-only periodical since its inception in 1978. That's about to change. Without fanfare, last week's edition was quietly posted online for the first time.

This week, we'll toot our own horn a bit. Over the next year, Mizzou Weekly will come out in both print and online editions. Then, through reader research, we'll ask the university community which format they are reading.

The move online was prompted in part by suggestions from the university community. Faced with serious budget uncertainties, campus leaders asked faculty and staff for money-saving suggestions in 2008. Several employees suggested that an electronic version of Mizzou Weekly could save both printing costs and trees.

Such a change has been discussed in recent years, but we stuck with the print-only version for a number of reasons. More than 1,000 MU employees, primarily staff members, do not have ready access to a computer at work. Mizzou Weekly covers printing costs through advertising sales.

There also was a question of whether many or most of our readers would prefer a print version. Several peer universities have gone to online-only campus newspapers only to return to print because of complaints from dissatisfied readers. We hope to find out our readers' preference from a readership survey in 2010.

The new online edition of Mizzou Weekly was designed by staff from the MU Web Communications office. They designed it to be flexible in handling the kinds of content we can post on the site, so let us know what you think and what you'd like to see. You can e-mail your comments to mizzouweekly@missouri.edu (mailto:mizzouweekly@missouri.edu).

One thing that won't change is our deadlines. Mizzou Weekly is published every Thursday when classes are in session. The electronic version will also go online Thursday mornings, and the online edition could be updated throughout the week. Our deadline for calendar submissions is noon Thursday the week before publication. — *John Beahler*

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Asking for advice

On target

Advisory board will provide outside expertise on expanding research

Mizzou has some new partners in its efforts to expand research opportunities at the university. The group includes bankers, attorneys, researchers at national laboratories and research centers, distinguished military leaders, venture capitalists and business executives. They all got together Nov. 6 at the Reynolds Alumni Center to hear about current research efforts and to suggest ways the campus could ramp up those efforts.

MU's Office of Research has established the Research and Development Advisory Board. Members who attended the first meeting last Friday received a detailed briefing about the new strategic initiative that is called Mizzou Advantages.

Those initiatives come "at a time when our university is reformatting everything we are doing and grappling with some changes," Chancellor Brady Deaton told board members. "This reflects a transformation of the way we do business here." He asked the board for the "frankness, candor and innovation that you can bring to the discussion."

Rob Duncan, vice chancellor for research, told members that as Mizzou Advantages go forward, smaller groups of board members will be invited back to MU to advise campus leaders on specific issues. He said that especially valuable would be advice on "how to intersect the cultures" of the business world and academic research.

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Quickening the pace of graduation

Intersession option

Three year undergraduate degrees can be a reality

Chancellor Brady Deaton's idea for reducing graduation time as an option that might save students and families tuition money finds a partner in courses already offered at the University of Missouri.

By taking advantage of intersession courses, students at MU might shave time off of the traditional four-year degree. Intersession courses for 2010 meet every weekday for two weeks beginning Jan. 4 and ending Jan. 15.

With the current economic climate driving discussions on a national level about the need for a more rapid undergraduate education, intersession, summer and extended (online) courses are three of the options MU provides students seeking to graduate early — or keep pace while taking advantage of internship and study abroad opportunities.

"I think advisers need to put this on the list of things that as professional staff they know," says Ted Tarkow, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science. "Knowing that three-year degrees are an increased reality for some students, our advisers are going to be equipped to address that."

This intersession's College of Arts and Science courses include:

- Anthropology 1002: Topics Our Origins, a Survey of Human/Primate Behavior and Biology
- Art History and Archeology 1005: Topics Impressionism
- Biological Sciences 2002: Topics How the Brain Works
- History 2004: Topics The Legacy of the Greeks
- Music 1618: Basic Music Skills
- Political Science 2004: Topics The Politics of the "War on Drugs" Past and Present
- Psychological Sciences 3020: Research Methods in Psychology II
- Religious Studies 2005: Topics Gods, Dwarves and Dragons, Introduction to Old Norse Mythology
- Religious Studies 2005: Topics Foundational Jewish Ethics
- · Sociology 2103: United States Human Rights
- Statistics 2200: Introductory Statistical Methods

"The key will be helping [the student who chooses an accelerated pace] make good choices so that they can balance the academic load and be successful learners," says James Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies.

With more students arriving at MU with dual credit and advanced placement credit, combining that advanced standing with intersession and summer courses may prove to be the pathway toward a three-year undergraduate degree. — David Wietlispach

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A mission of service



Amy Byergo, left, director of MU's Adult Day Connection, and her staff and volunteers help make the center a home away from home for its clients, like Wilma Owenson, right. Originally called Eldercare, the center provides therapeutic activities, exercise and nursing care and supervision.

Quality care

University community provides expertise for adult day care program

For 20 years, MU's Adult Day Connection has served as a home away from home for the frail, elderly, individuals diagnosed with various forms of dementia and people who have mental and developmental disabilities or have had strokes.

In response to community demand for adult services, the School of Health Professions opened the center in 1989 on the first floor of Clark Hall. Formerly known as Eldercare, it was the only state-licensed adult day health care program serving families in Columbia.

Four years ago, the name was changed to better reflect the mission of serving all ages and all diagnoses. "Not everyone who attends this program is an elder," says Amy Byergo, director. "Some folks are younger with senior type issues."

A second location opened a couple of years ago at 2400 Bluff Creek on the lower level of the Mid Missouri Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, and since then the center has served about 70 individuals a year.

The Adult Day Connection is a self-supporting program. The university provides space, utilities, insurance, human resources and technology and housekeeping. It is one of 31 agencies supported by the Heart of Missouri United Way and also depends on fees and other community support to continue the adult day care services. "We try to make sure that every one can come as often as they need to and that no one is turned away because of their inability to pay for the service," Byergo says.

MU kicked off its annual United Way campaign Sept. 25 with a goal of reaching \$620,000 in eight weeks. As of Nov. 2, donations totaled \$477,384.84, or 77 percent of the goal.

"Without support from United Way, the city of Columbia, churches and the community, individuals with low incomes would not be able to attend this program," Byergo says. Additionally, other United Way agencies like the Alzheimer's Association, Boone County Council on Aging, OATS and Services for Independent Living work with the center to provide services for the center's participants.

Adults who need social and medical support in a supervised setting are eligible to join the program. They attend one to five days a week and the daily fee includes a noon meal. Therapeutic activities, exercise and nursing care and supervision are provided.

"Being part of the School of Health Professions allows us to provide occupational, speech and physical therapies," Byergo says. "We have trained professional staff from multiple disciplines who provide consistent quality care in a comfortable environment as well as about 50 student volunteers each year who log more than 4,000 contact hours."

Both the members and their caregivers experience rich benefits from participating in adult day care, Byergo says. Not only does the program help aging men and women enhance their quality of life, be involved in activities throughout the day and be able to live at home longer, it also helps families cope with the demands of care giving, have time for themselves, or go to work with peace of mind, knowing their loved ones are well cared for.

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Flu risk factors

Pandemic

Expert updates campus on H1N1 flu outbreak

Pregnant women, young children and people with chronic medical conditions are among those considered at greatest risk of having complications after becoming infected with the 2009 H1N1 influenza A virus, infectious disease expert Michael Cooperstock (http://askdrc.missouri.edu) said Oct. 29 at a noon Lunch and Learn presentation sponsored by University Health System.

This high-risk group should be "top priority for getting the limited supply of novel H1N1 flu vaccine, along with persons in contact with an infant under 6 months of age and health care workers in contact with people who have these risk conditions," said Cooperstock, professor of child health. "People who are close contacts of any of the risk groups, such as family members and health care workers, will be the next priority as additional H1N1 vaccine becomes available."

Novel H1N1 flu, originally called swine flu, first surfaced in early 2009 in Mexico and quickly spread throughout the United States since it arrived here in April. By early summer, the virus had spread to so many countries, the World Health Organization deemed it a flu pandemic.

"This action reflects the spread of the virus and does not refer to the severity of illness caused by the virus, which appears not to be more severe than ordinary seasonal influenza," Cooperstock said.

Swine flu is a human disease, he said. People get it from other people, not from handling or eating pork, even though it contains genes from flu viruses found in swine as well as genes from bird and human flu viruses.

Unlike seasonal influenza, 2009 H1N1 is "a new or mutated strain of influenza virus to which the human population has little or no pre-existing immunity, giving pandemic potential," Cooperstock said.

Symptoms of H1N1 influenza, like regular flu symptoms, include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. It may cause vomiting and diarrhea in some people. "Currently, available lab tests are not fully sensitive to this virus, so the decision to treat the flu must be based primarily on the symptoms," Cooperstock said. "Only lab tests can confirm whether a person has the H1N1 virus."

So far, there have been hardly any cases of seasonal flu this year, he said. "Almost all of the viruses identified lately have been the 2009 H1N1 virus. A piece of good news about this virus is that most adults over age 65 have some previous immunity and are spared the infection more than 90 percent of the time. This age group usually has the most hospitalizations and deaths from flu."

The 2009 H1N1 flu virus spreads in much the same way as the seasonal flu virus spreads, mainly from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing, Cooperstock said. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something — such as a surface or object — with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouths, noses or eyes.

Illness with the 2009 H1N1 virus has ranged from mild to severe, he said. "Even though most people who have been sick have recovered within a couple of days without needing medical treatment, hospitalizations and deaths from infection with this virus have occurred."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people with influenza-like illness remain at home except when necessary to seek required medical care, he said. They should remain at home until they have been free of fever exceeding

100°F [37.8°C] for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Cooperstock said that by taking precautionary measures such as getting vaccinated, washing hands, covering one's cough, staying home from work or school if sick, and standing 3 feet to 6 feet away from an infected person can help prevent the spread of infection to others while protecting yourself, too.

Flu vaccines are the best protection against both seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 flu, Cooperstock said. The new H1N1 strain requires a separate vaccine. He advises people to get in touch with their health care providers and local and state health departments to learn when and where the novel H1N1 vaccines will be available. "The more people know about planning and prevention, the more they can be ready if an emergency happens," Cooperstock said.

At Mizzou, there are plans for handling pandemic flu and for keeping students, faculty and staff informed (see MU Alert (http://mualert.missouri.edu). With questions about seasonal and the new H1N1 influenza viruses, e-mail cooperstockm@health.missouri.edu (mailto:cooperstockm@health.missouri.edu).

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Parents: An integral part of Mizzou family

Columbia and campus parents felt welcome, not shunned, at the Student Affairs second annual reception for faculty-staff-Columbia parents Oct. 20 in Memorial Union's Stotler Lounge. An a cappella student group called The Naturelles sang numerous songs, and complementary hors d'oeuvres were served.

That wasn't the case several years back, says Vice Chancellor Cathy Scroggs. In the age of the "helicopter parent" — a mother or father who hovers over their child — the message was, "No, parents, don't get involved. Just send us your students and go home."

Times have evolved. Now, universities realize parents have a role to play as their children move through college. Parents can partner with faculty and staff at universities as coaches, mentors, guides. "Letting go" doesn't happen overnight, but over years of a college career. It's a process.

"We see the role of parents as encourager, coach, affirmer," Scroggs says. "A parent can say, 'Run for MSA Senate; you can stand up in front of a crowd and give a speech.' "They can also encourage their students to take advantage of MU's services and programs.

"When they were younger, we parents took our children to appointments and activities," Scroggs says, "Now it's time for students to do it on their own."

Faculty or staff members with five years of full-time service qualify for MU's educational assistance program. It means that an eligible dependent child or spouse receives a 50 percent discount on educational fees, or tuition. "Fifteen hours times \$300 a credit hour divided by two adds up," Scroggs says. See http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/hr/manual/309.shtml).

Scroggs introduced Student Affairs staffers in attendance: Diane Dahlmann, director of Recreation Services and Facilities; assistant vice chancellor Jeff Zeilenga; director of student affairs development Terri Gray; coordinator for parent relations Laura Page; and Julaine Kiehn, Campus Dining Services director.

Scroggs told parents that Student Affairs staffers were there to help their children. She encouraged parents to eat in dining halls with their student. If a student has a meal plan, he or she can bring parents in and have a meal with them, and mom and dad can use meals on their child's meal plan.

"We realize parents are entrusting their most prized possessions with us," Scroggs says. In so doing, "parents are very important stakeholders in the University of Missouri." To faculty and staff parents, she says, "We appreciate you sending your children here."

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Newsy works to bust bias

'Video-snacking'

Newsy's iPhone application strikes a chord

In early October, Columbia-based Newsy.com launched their Apple iPhone application — what the wired world calls an "app" — which has been steadily climbing the rankings for most popular free news applications, peaking at fifth place. Among its competitors are the Wall Street Journal's application, the New York Times', and The Huffington Post's.

Max Carratura, Newsy's vice president of finance and business operations says, "For us, it's recognition of what we're trying to do: the quality of content we're trying to put out and the coolness of our app."

Last year, Jim Spencer, MA '91, launched Newsy.com to address journalistic bias in video news. The site analyzes news videos from national and international outlets and combines them with in-depth analysis to form short video packages, which represent multiple views on a particular story. In addition, Newsy offers two classes through the journalism school in which students can hone their video editing and marketing skills, working alongside the Newsy team.

Alexandra Wharton, the vice president of marketing and community, calls Newsy's service "video-snacking," because both the Web site and the mobile application serve up news-video compilations, most of which are perfectly bite-size at around three minutes in length.

"We definitely struck a chord," she says. "Newsy is in the right space at the right time to benefit from increased demand for online video and mobile news."

Carratura says that the launch of the iPhone application was part of a three-pronged strategy. The next two phases of this plan include an application for Android (a mobile operating system owned by Google), and a mobile site that can be accessed by mobile web browsers. Additionally, he says the company is looking into developing an application specifically for BlackBerry phones.

The original Newsy iPhone application was developed by Tony Brown, an MU senior majoring in journalism, and Peng Zhuang, a computer science graduate student. Both students were part of the last year's winning team in the Reynolds Journalism Institute's Student iPhone Development Competition. For the competition, their team developed an iPhone application, NearBuy, a real-estate application that shows listings on a map and has currently received more than 120,000 downloads.

Brown says he worked with Jim Spencer, the company's president and founder, to help Newsy in "taking the next mobile step." He then recruited his teammate Zhuang to help create the application.

"We're still very closely involved with all of their mobile strategy," Brown says. — Claire Hanan

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Gardens are now at ground zero

It's not too soon to start thinking about next year's garden. "A good garden starts with good soil," says horticulturist David Trinklein, associate professor of plant science. "Fall is an ideal time to work on garden soil improvement."

In both new and established gardens, one of the best ways to improve soil structure and productivity is to add organic matter during fall plowing, he says. Ideal garden soils contain about 5 percent organic matter, but amounts as low as 1 percent to 2 percent are typical in Missouri.

Inexpensive sources of organic matter include compost, well-rotted manure and leaf mold. Peat moss is excellent but can be expensive, Trinklein says. Adding up to 4 inches of organic matter on a yearly basis to garden soil is a best-management practice, he said. Thorough incorporation to a depth of 6 inches gives maximum results.

If soil tests indicate the need, fall also is an ideal time to add lime or phosphorous, which react slowly and will not leach out of the soil during winter, he said. Planting cover crops such as wheat, rye or vetch is another way to build good garden soil. Cover crops decompose into the soil in the early spring before the planting season arrives.

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Sen. Bond will sign his new book

Christopher "Kit" Bond, U.S. senator, will be signing copies of his new book, The Next Front: Southeast Asia and the Road to Global Peace with Islam, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 at the MU Bookstore.

Co-written with Lewis Simons, Bond discusses Southeast Asia and the opportunity the United States has to create a peace with the Muslim world by changing the approach to this region. The authors also discuss the situation in the Middle East and what lessons could be taken to improve relations with Southeast Asia.

With fundamentalist Islam starting to make gains in Southeast Asia, the authors of the book note an opportunity for the United States and outline a plan to establish credibility and, potentially, stop global terrorism. The book represents a new theory in fighting global terrorism and makes suggestions such as replacing forces in combat boots with "smart power" individuals in civilian clothes.

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Award not critical of MU critical care

University Hospital's Medical and Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit has won the Beacon Award for Critical Care Excellence given by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The award recognizes the top hospital intensive care units in the country. Until this fall, no hospital in Missouri had ever received the prestigious Beacon Award.

"The Beacon Award puts University Hospital in select company among the best acute care hospitals in the country," said Stevan, ICU medical director. "The award shines a light on the experience and skill with which we take care of critically ill patients 24-7, 365 days a year."

There are an estimated 6,000 intensive care units in the United States. The AACN has given approximately 200 Beacon Awards since the award's inception in 2003.

To receive the award, intensive care unit staff demonstrated how the ICU at University Hospital meets more than 40 rigorous criteria that measure excellence and quality in seven areas.

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A global vision

Like many higher education institutions around the country, MU will celebrate International Education Nov. 13 to 20. The event, sponsored by the U.S. departments of education and state promotes programs that prepare American for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

Activities at Mizzou will include a film, lectures, a study abroad photo contest and a seminar and legal clinic on immigration for postdoctoral fellows. One highlight of the week will be the latest in a series of the Chancellor's Global Issues Forum from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Nov. 19 in Chamber Auditorium of the new MU Student Center.

At the forum, four Mizzou faculty members who have received Fulbright grants — Denice Adkins, David O'Brien, Brick Johnstone and Michael Urban — will discuss their experience abroad and describe the impact it has had on their work at MU.

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Workplace satisfaction

The Scientist magazine has just released its <u>annual survey (http://www.the-scientist.com/article/display/56068)</u> of the best places to work in academia, and Mizzou once again is in the top 40 institutions. For 2009, MU was ranked 30th, up from 33rd in 2008. According to the Web-based reader survey, the strengths listed for this institution were teaching and mentoring, and tenure and promotion. The weaknesses listed were peers and pay.

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