

Mizzou Weekly

Dec. 10, 2009 Volume 31, No. 15

Campus has gifts galore



The Anthropology Museum gift shop sells fair-trade gifts from all over the world including Mexico, Central and South America, India and Africa as well as Native American items. The shop manager, Jessica Boldt, says, "It's a gift that gives twice." Student shoppers Trupti Rami, Merit Myers try on some of the hats that they sell in the shop. Rachel Coward photo

Tiger Christmas

Sampling some Santa-worthy gift ideas

The holidays are just around the corner — and so are the gifts. Plenty of charming and affordable baubles can be found all over campus just in time for the season of giving. From fresh fully-cooked ham, to the pearl earrings that look great with every winter outfit, there is something on campus for just about everyone. Here's a sampling:

[Mizzou Meat Market \(http://mizzoumeat.missouri.edu\)](http://mizzoumeat.missouri.edu)

Why? Because a holiday meal is not complete without a helping of the freshest local meat. Mizzou Meat Market is offering turkeys, bone-in hams, prime rib and standing rib roasts to help anyone create a hearty holiday meal.

Hours: Wednesday and Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Inside Eckles Hall, located on Rollins Road.

Prices: Prices vary based on cut and amount. For example, T-bone steak is \$6.49 per pound, Baby back ribs are \$3.99 per pound, and lamb chops are \$6.19 per pound.

[The Museum of Art and Archeology gift shop \(http://maa.missouri.edu\)](http://maa.missouri.edu)

Why? According to Bruce Cox, the assistant director of museum operations, The Museum of Art and Archeology's gift shop offers designer jewelry and hand-blown glass pieces unlike anything else available on campus. In addition, the shop sells trinkets to please any age, including Egyptian games and books for children, and jewelry, picture frames, and printed art for adults.

Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: 1 Pickard Hall, located on the Francis Quadrangle. The gift shop is located on the second floor of the museum.

Prices: Prices ranges from \$5 to \$500. As a bonus, if faculty and staff mention this article, they'll receive 15 percent off regularly priced merchandise.

[The Museum of Anthropology gift shop \(http://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/giftshop.shtml\)](http://anthromuseum.missouri.edu/giftshop.shtml)

Why? The Museum of Anthropology's gift shop offers fair-trade treasures from around the world, including alpaca knit hats and gloves from Peru and ornate scarves from Bolivia. Check out the pint-sized shop to find handmade jewelry, ornaments and chocolate bars made from Ghanaian cacao.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: 104B Swallow Hall, located on the Francis Quadrangle

Prices: \$30 or less

[Buck's Ice Cream Place \(http://bucks.missouri.edu\)](http://bucks.missouri.edu)

Why? Made in-house, Buck's Ice Cream is offering fresh flavors just for the holidays, like peppermint, eggnog, pumpkin pie or caramel apple.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: In the back of Eckles Hall, located on Rollins Rd.

Prices: Quarts are \$3.00 for all flavors excluding Tiger Stripe, which is \$3.50. Half-gallon sizes are \$6.00 for Tiger Stripe, and \$5.00 for all other flavors.

[Tiger Garden \(http://tigergarden.missouri.edu\)](http://tigergarden.missouri.edu)

Why? A poinsettia can brighten any office or home, but for the biggest Tiger fans, the Tiger Garden is offering the gold "Tiger Paw" and blue "Dazzling" poinsettias. Tiger Garden also offers fresh floral arrangements, candies, candles and wreaths.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: 2-34 Agriculture Building, on the corner of Hitt Street and Rollins Road.

Prices: Traditional poinsettias are \$12.95, Dazzling are \$14.95, and Tiger Paw are \$15.95, and additional holiday prices can be found on the Tiger Garden Web site.

— *Claire Hanan*

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Town-gown opportunities for economic development, new media

'Economic gardening'

Mizzou Advantage seeks links with outside collaborators

A Dec. 4 forum at MU explored opportunities for community organizations and businesses to partner with the university's new media experts on projects that enhance local economic development.

It also offered an interesting initial look at how the university might use its Mizzou Advantage initiative to build interdisciplinary teams of campus researchers and outside collaborators to tackle some of society's most pressing issues.

New media is one of the five areas on which Mizzou Advantage will focus. The others are: food for the future; one health, one medicine; sustainable energy; and disruptive and transformational technologies.

The half-day forum, titled "Economic Gardening and the New Media," was co-sponsored by MU's Reynolds Journalism Institute and Boone County-based Regional Economic Development Inc. It was billed as an attempt to identify local assets that give the university and mid-Missouri a competitive advantage in the area of new media.

Finding competitive advantages is what underlies the entire Mizzou Advantage initiative, Provost Brian Foster told the gathering. The idea, he said, is to "identify areas where MU is uniquely positioned in the world of higher education, where we're positioned to do things hardly anyone else can do."

Given the international stature of the School of Journalism, the area of new media is a logical one in which MU can flex its academic muscle while it offers new opportunities to its students. Brian Brooks, associate dean of journalism, described some of the current collaborations that expand options for faculty, students and the media industry.

Brooks said he routinely gives tours of the school to prospective students and their families. It's not uncommon for parents to wonder aloud about their child's career choice, he said. "Fathers have asked me, 'Why should I send my daughter to journalism school? Isn't that a dying field?' Well, no it's not."

He pointed out that while some areas of traditional media are stumbling, others are going gangbusters. For example, some journalism students are sitting in the same MU programming classes as computer engineering students. The J-School faculty includes the world's leading expert in Internet advertising, he said.

Dale Musser, assistant professor of computer science, underscored Brooks' point. Musser, who leads the information technology program in computer science, is team-teaching a course for both computer science and journalism students on collaborative software development for iPhone applications. His fellow instructors in that course are Mike McKean, associate professor of journalism, and Keith Politte, manager of the Reynolds Institute's technology testing center.

Their experience working together on the course is outside the typical faculty experience of working strictly within one's own academic discipline. "We are built to operate in silos," Musser said, with tenure decisions and credit for teaching courses apportioned to individual academic departments.

"So let's stop thinking in silos; let's start thinking in collaborations," Musser said. "Silos need to go away or become something else."

During a question-and-answer session following the presentation, Provost Foster updated participants on campus efforts to roll out the Mizzou Advantage administrative infrastructure. He said the advisory group has been appointed that will steer the

initiative.

Foster said he has been working with the advisory group to identify individuals who could be considered for the “facilitator” positions that will guide each of the five initiative areas. In addition, Foster said, he has queried all faculty and retirees for suggestions on possible candidates. The facilitator positions should be filled by early spring 2010, he said.

In addition, he said, the provost’s office will shortly be sending out two requests for proposals related to the Mizzou Advantage initiative. The first will be for projects to bring together new interdisciplinary networks of faculty, centers and academic departments in each of the five initiative areas. These projects are not meant to provide additional funding for existing activities, but should bring together multiple campus and outside partners that do not normally work together.

The second proposal will be to identify a limited number of faculty fellowships for Mizzou Advantage initiatives. These fellowship awards are not intended to be research grants, per se, Foster said. Rather, they are intended to provide seed money to prepare for major upcoming opportunities or perhaps to conduct preliminary research that could lead to significant grants in the future.

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Study: Aspirin inhibits vaccine effectiveness

Anti-antibodies

Some drugs decrease production of infection fighters

With flu season in full swing and the threat of H1N1 looming, demand for vaccines is at an all-time high. Although those vaccines are expected to be effective, University of Missouri researchers have found further evidence that some over-the-counter drugs that inhibit certain enzymes, such as aspirin and Tylenol, could impact the effectiveness of vaccines.

"If you're taking aspirin regularly, which many people do for cardiovascular treatment, or acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain and fever and get a flu shot, there is a good chance that you won't have a good antibody response," says Charles Brown, associate professor of veterinary pathobiology.

"These drugs block the enzyme COX-1, which works in tissues throughout the body. We have found that if you block COX-1, you might be decreasing the amount of antibodies your body is producing, and you need high amounts of antibodies to be protected."

COX enzymes play important roles in the regulation of the immune system. The role of these enzymes is not yet understood completely, and medications that inhibit them may have adverse side effects. Recent research has discovered that drugs that inhibit COX enzymes have an impact on the effectiveness of vaccines. Brown's research indicates that inhibiting COX-1, which is present in tissues throughout the body, such as the brain or kidneys, could also impact vaccines' effectiveness.

These MU researchers also are studying the regulation of inflammation and how that leads to the development or prevention of disease. Many diseases, such as arthritis, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, are all chronic inflammatory diseases. Contrary to previous beliefs, inflammation is generally a good thing that helps protect individuals from infection. Many of the non-steroidal drugs that treat inflammatory conditions reduce antibody responses, which are necessary for treating infections.

"So far, we've tested this on an animal model and have found that these non-steroidal drugs do inhibit vaccines, but the next step is to test it on humans," Brown says. "If our results show that COX-1 inhibitors affect vaccines, the takeaway might be to not take drugs, such as aspirin, Tylenol and ibuprofen, for a couple weeks before and after you get a vaccine."

Brown's research, "Cyclooxygenase-1 Orchestrates Germinal Center Formation and Antibody Class-Switch via Regulation of IL-17," has been published in *The Journal of Immunology*.

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Marshall-winning student aims at Middle East reporting goal

Media match

Scholarship is MU's first in more than 25 years

Brian Pellot, a senior at the Missouri School of Journalism, has received a prestigious Marshall Scholarship for the 2010-2012 academic years.

The scholarship, which is given to up to 40 American students each year, finances students' education at academic institutions in the United Kingdom. Pellot will spend the next two years pursuing a master of philosophy degree in modern Middle Eastern studies at Oxford University.

"Oxford's modern Middle Eastern studies program is a perfect match for me," he says. "I really want to investigate and report on the region in-depth, so this background study will be crucial."

Pellot, whose hometown is Wausau, Wis., is pursuing a double major in convergence journalism and international studies. He is the first MU student to receive a Marshall Scholarship since 1983. "It's a great honor to be Mizzou's first Marshall Scholar in more than 25 years," he says. "I hope more students are encouraged to apply in future years."

Pellot was one of more than 200 applicants from the Chicago region to the scholarship program. He learned at the beginning of November that he was on a short list of 25 candidates, and he traveled to Chicago for a 30-minute interview in front of an eight-person panel. He learned the next day by phone that he had received the scholarship.

Pellot has a wealth of experience in Middle Eastern studies, as he was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and Clinton Scholar at the American University in Dubai. In 2009, Pellot monitored Lebanon's parliamentary elections and reported for Inter Press Service News Agency and Foreign Policy. He also has reported for the Huffington Post on trips to Egypt, Qatar and Jordan.

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MU programs work to improve college access

Matter of degree

Making higher education part of the picture

Less than a quarter of Missouri residents have attended college. Twenty percent of the people who do go don't graduate. Two MU programs are reaching out to prospective students across the state, encouraging low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students to attend college.

MU Access Initiatives work to change the mindset of many students who might not believe a college education is attainable. Simultaneously, the College Advising Corps provides advising and encouragement throughout the college admissions process. The Corps employs MU graduates who work full time as guides to high school and community college students across Missouri.

"Having a college degree should be an option for all Missourians," says Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management at Mizzou and a first-generation college graduate. "One of our high priorities at MU is to ensure that students be made aware of that opportunity through the extraordinary access programs that we offer."

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, the director of Access Initiatives, knows first-hand the challenges of aspiring to higher education as a first-generation college student from Kansas City. Her parents encouraged her to go to college, but they weren't familiar with the required processes.

Burns-Wallace's plans for Access Initiatives will help more students across the state realize the feasibility of higher education and explore the options available to them, instead of relying on informal networks to help them through the college application process.

"We are trying to create a college-going atmosphere across the state," Burns-Wallace says. "As the state's flagship, land-grant institution, we are a major player because of the resources and programs we have available to aspiring students."

She hopes to replicate and strengthen existing partnerships, like those with the Kauffman Scholars, a multi-year program that helps Kansas City students prepare for higher education. Access Initiatives will be a supplement to existing programs and will provide resources to increase the reach of these programs. Burns-Wallace also sees a need for programs to continue helping and motivating these students once they begin their higher education careers.

Beth Tankersley-Bankhead, the executive director of Missouri College Advising Corps, also was a first-generation college student. She grew up in the rural town of Versailles, Mo., where she didn't have much exposure to higher education options.

"Being a first-generation student, I remember that certain college application processes were overwhelming," Tankersley-Bankhead says. "I just felt lost, and my family members, though not intending to be, weren't completely supportive because they didn't understand the value of a college education."

The Missouri College Advising Corps helps Missouri students realize that higher education is an attainable goal by providing information about the application process and mentoring students.

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Ponds promise protein and profit



In late September, research specialist Ray Wright harvested prawns from a quarter-acre pond at Bradford Farm. He stocked the pond in June with juvenile prawns bought from a hatchery to find out if shrimp aquaculture could provide additional revenue for Missouri farmers. Cooperative Media Group photo

Small-scale

Research explores potential for shrimp aquaculture

Ray Wright wasn't sure what he would find several months ago when he drained a quarter-acre pond at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center 11 miles east of Columbia.

Four months earlier, at the beginning of June, the MU research specialist had stocked the pond with 4,000 juvenile freshwater prawns bought from a Texas hatchery. Freshwater prawns are a species of shrimp native to Malaysia, which has a tropical climate.

Summer and fall had been cool in Missouri this year. Raccoons and frogs were using the pond as an all-you-can-eat buffet. How many prawns had survived, and how big were they? Wright wouldn't know until the pond was more than half-empty.

"There's a tremendous amount of risk involved," he says. "Corn and beans-Missouri farmers know how to grow them. They know the risks and they know how to manage them."

When it comes to raising seafood in Missouri, however, producers are still learning what works and what doesn't. "With prawns, when the temperature goes below 60, you've lost your crop," Wright says. "You don't want to learn that after you've invested \$10,000. You want someone else to learn that, so you know that when the temperature gets in that range, it's time to get the prawns out."

“Raising aquatic species for profit is an agricultural endeavor that requires special skills, knowledge and dedication to be successful,” says Charles Hicks, aquaculture specialist at Lincoln University.

“The focus is on practical, cost-effective techniques for raising species such as prawns, bluegill sunfish and largemouth bass for food markets in the Midwest,” says Bob Pierce, MU Extension fisheries and wildlife specialist.

The United States imports more than 80 percent of its seafood. At the same time, Americans are increasingly interested in fresh, locally grown food. Can Missouri help meet the demand for domestic fish and shellfish?

The state has more than 300,000 acres of farm ponds, notes Leslie Hearne, an MU graduate student in fisheries and wildlife sciences. Those ponds could become a rich source of protein and profit, she says.

Hearne is doing research at Lincoln University’s Carver Farm, which has an aquaculture facility that includes more than 20 quarter-acre and tenth-acre ponds as well as indoor tanks for breeding and hatching fingerlings.

“We’re trying to develop a fast-growing strain of bluegill that can get to market in less than two years,” she says. Bluegill, a native sunfish common to Missouri farm ponds, typically take about three years to grow to a marketable weight of about half a pound.

Researchers also are developing diets and feeding schedules to maximize bluegill growth while minimizing the amount of food they need. According to Pierce, reducing the cost of producing marketable food-grade bluegill could make the fish a competitive local alternative to popular aquaculture species such as tilapia.

Keeping costs down was why Wright took a mostly low-tech approach to his freshwater prawn project. “We don’t want to spend \$10,000 to \$20,000 on aeration systems and meters even though it might help, because most farms are not going to have that,” he says.

Wright knew he was cutting it close with his late-September harvest, so he was relieved when prawns started gushing out of the pond’s outlet pipe by the dozen. He ended up collecting more than 2,700 prawns, which were packed in ice, shipped to the MU campus and served that night to hundreds of students who had the rare opportunity to enjoy fresh-caught Missouri seafood.

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Over the top

Mizzou's student United Way organization administered a resounding whopping to the student club at Kansas during the annual MU vs. KU Student Challenge to raise money for United Way. MU students raised \$2,169 during the 48-hour event in mid-November — far ahead of the \$287 that the Jayhawkers collected.

It must have been an omen, because several weeks later the University of Missouri United Way campaign met and surpassed the campaign goal for 2009. The goal was set at an ambitious \$620,000; as of Dec. 7, the campaign had raised \$631,205 and money was still coming in.

But there's still time to make a donation and help MU's campaign set new records. Contributions can be sent to Abby Gilpin in Business Services at 311 Jesse Hall.

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Staff pitch in on education

Are you an MU staff member trying to continue your education or complete your degree? The [Staff Education Award](http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu/awards/edaward.html) (<http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu/awards/edaward.html>), sponsored by MU's Staff Advisory Council, can help. Available to MU campus staff, the education award is intended to assist in personal development by providing funding for classes or courses at accredited institutes of higher education. Applications for study in an accredited G.E.D. program also are encouraged. Applications must be received by December 22, 2009, to be considered for the January 15, 2010, award.

With questions, call Gina Scavone in the Staff Advisory Council office at 882-4269.

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MU is bowl-bound

Mizzou is going bowling for a record fifth-consecutive season, facing off against Navy in Houston on Dec. 31. The Tigers (8-4) play the Midshipmen (8-4 with a game against Army remaining) at 2:30 p.m. at Reliant Stadium, home of the NFL's Houston Texans. The game — a rematch of the 1961 Orange Bowl, which the Tigers won 21-14 — will air nationally on ESPN.

This is the sixth bowl in seven seasons under coach Gary Pinkel, and the six appearances tie College Football Hall of Fame coach Dan Devine's record for Mizzou bowl appearances.

Tiger fans are invited to join the Mizzou Alumni Association on the official Texas Bowl Tour Dec. 30 to Jan. 1. Fans can even stay at the team hotel and take part in the alumni association's pregame tailgate. Call 888-MIZZOU-1 for details. If you need only tickets, call 800-CAT-PAWS.

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