

Mizzou Weekly

June 23, 2011 Volume 32, No. 32

From safe rooms to sippy cups, MU answers the call in Joplin



EXTENDING A HAND MU Chancellor Brady J. Deaton, second from right, meets with (from left) Jay Chism, interim regional director, MU Extension; Lisa Robinson, director, Small Business and Technology Development Center in Joplin; and Kathy Macomber, business development specialist with MU Extension during a recent visit to the Business Recovery Center in Joplin. The center, along with Extension personnel and the SBTDC, has been helping Joplin businesses impacted by the recent tornado.

ONE STATE. ONE MIZZOU

Faculty, staff and students join relief efforts

Harold Noirfalise was home alone on May 22 when tornado sirens in Joplin sounded, warning that a monster twister was headed his way. He had just enough time to dash across the street to warn neighbors, then grab his dog and hurry inside “a safe room” – a steel box in his garage.

“Right when I shut the door, put the pin in and sat down in the chair, I could hear my roof leaving,” Noirfalise recalled.

As Joplin gets ready to rebuild, architect Jeff Barber, a University of Missouri Extension regional specialist based in Springfield, is working with builders, neighborhood associations, insurers and others to incorporate safe rooms into new and existing homes and businesses. Barber thinks that builders and homebuyers in tornado-prone areas are starting to look on safe rooms as a basic feature.

“When you look at the kind of devastation that we have in a community like this, you really can’t put a price tag on it,” Barber said.

Long after the first responders and relief agencies have departed Joplin, Extension specialists like Barber will remain on hand to provide training and education to communities, businesses, farms and families. MU Extension is part of the Governor’s Disaster

Recovery Partnership and works with the State Emergency Management Agency and other organizations to provide education and assistance to coordinate recovery efforts.

State and regional Extension faculty are delivering workshops and using resource centers, websites, radio, television, print media, email and social media — including YouTube, Twitter and Facebook — to distribute educational materials and timely information resources. Through Facebook alone, MU Extension has reached more than 50,000 people following and contributing to recovery efforts in Joplin.

But the response to the devastation in Joplin by the MU community goes far beyond Extension's role. Well before Chancellor Brady J. Deaton traveled to Joplin May 29-30 to discuss how the university could help, countless faculty, staff and students were raising and donating money to the relief efforts.

As of June 8, more than 18,500 "One State. One Spirit. One Mizzou" shirts had been sold resulting in more than \$200,000 for relief efforts.

Here's a rundown of how other departments and individuals across campus have pitched in to help their fellow Missourians:

MU HEALTH CARE: MUHC mobilized two ambulances and four crew members — Kevin Carmack, ambulance supervisor; Lori Ferguson, emergency medical technician; Nick McGavock, paramedic; and Eric Mills, assistant manager of ambulance services — who worked through the night and into the next day providing search, rescue and recovery assistance.

Two of MUHC's Staff for Life helicopters were placed on alert standby; and safety and preparedness coordinator, Chris Smith, activated the emergency command center at University Hospital to maintain contact with state officials.

Other MUHC employees pitched in by donating money and nonperishable food items to the Joplin area through the Columbia-based Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. The American Red Cross also sponsored blood drives at University Hospital and Women's and Children's Hospital.

MISSOURI REHABILITATION CENTER: Steve Patterson, MRC's executive director, spent the first two days after the tornado helping emergency workers with search, rescue and recovery efforts. Eric Snow, a physical therapist at MRC, also helped in the first critical days, while Eddie Racicot, MRC's fire and safety officer, and David Thiessen, associate director of support services, coordinated communication with emergency medical services members throughout the state, the MRC administrative council and staff and MU leaders. Eight patients from the Joplin area were treated for injuries either directly related to the May 22 tornado or sustained during relief efforts.

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE'S SHELTER MEDICINE CLUB: Students collected and delivered pet-related items to the Joplin Humane Society, along with at least \$875 in cash donations. The club's activities are detailed with photos on a Facebook page, Shelter Club Collection for JHS. The Class of 2014 organized a donations drive for bottled water, food and toiletries, as well as gift card and cash donations. Other monetary donations were directed to the American Red Cross. One member of that class is from Joplin and helped organize the delivery of those items.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS: Frank Haith, MU's men's basketball coach, and football coach Gary Pinkel traveled to Joplin to visit recovery shelters. Dozens of student-athletes and athletics staff helped deliver a tractor trailer loaded with bottled water, toilet paper, flashlights, cleaning supplies and first-aid supplies.

Mizzou alumnus Chase Daniel, now a NFL quarterback, came to Columbia and raised \$5,000 by signing autographs for contributions to the relief effort. Daniel also visited Joplin with the MU football team. Recent NFL first round draft pick Blaine Gabbert has signed memorabilia to auction off with proceeds benefitting the efforts in Joplin.

MU Athletics initiated conversation with Missouri Southern State University to stage the One State, One Spirit Classic Presented by Leggett & Platt men's basketball exhibition game now scheduled for Oct. 30, with all proceeds going to Joplin relief.

MIZZOU LICENSING: The Licensing Trademark Program donated 100 Truman the Tiger Build-A-Bears for men's basketball coach Frank Haith to distribute to children during his visit to Joplin.

MARCHING MIZZOU: Marching Mizzou members led by Band Director Brad Snow delivered a 26-foot truck loaded with supplies to Webb City High School. The truck was filled with items collected from various MU entities, including the Mizzou Alumni Association and the athletic department.

CAMPUS FACILITIES: University Auto Leasing donated a cargo van and gas to transport items collected for the Joplin Humane Society. Engineers Marsha Smith and Mike Cobb and architect Gerald Morgan went to Joplin with the State Emergency Management Agency's SAVE (Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation) program. Construction services employees Jerry McCowan and Rocky Coleman, their wives and friends went to Joplin to deliver donated items. They also set up grills in a church parking lot and cooked for anyone who needed a meal.

CENTER FOR FAMILY POLICY AND RESEARCH: Director Kathy Thornburg, collected items for infants and children, including infant formula, diapers and wipes, baby bottles, sippy cups, food, stuffed animals, children's books, and clothes.

DEVELOPMENT: Andrew Grabau and Sheila Wieman collected baby items and gift cards for Joplin newborns and children.

KOMU: KOMU, in partnership with Heart of Missouri United Way, raised more than \$1 million in a two-hour telethon just days after the Joplin tragedy.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Mizzou students, alumni and faculty performed at a special event on June 2 at Whitmore Recital Hall to generate donations for Joplin relief.

THOMPSON CENTER FOR AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS: The Center continues to collect money to send to the Joplin Autism Center, which was destroyed by the tornado. The Joplin center has moved to a temporary location and continues to see patients, but many of the families need financial assistance to purchase gas to travel to the temporary site.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES: Michael Goldschmidt in Architectural Studies was called up to assist the Structural Assessment Visual Evaluation (SAVE) program.

For more information on how to help, please visit [uwheartmo.org \(http://uwheartmo.org\)](http://uwheartmo.org).

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Curators approve pay raise, changes to UM retirement plan

FISCAL MATTERS

Departments will fund most of salary increase

A merit-based salary increase approved by the University of Missouri Board of Curators last week will cost the MU campus about \$10 million, most of which will be born by individual academic units and departments.

The board unanimously agreed to a 2 percent increase in the salary pool at its annual meeting in Columbia, despite Gov. Jay Nixon's decision to trim an additional \$4.4 million from the UM System's fiscal 2012 budget, which goes into effect July 1.

Tim Rooney, MU's budget officer, said the flagship campus will fund \$3.1 million of the increased salary and benefit costs. That means department managers will have to work with their existing budgets to cover the other \$6.9 million.

"The campus doesn't have the funding to cover it all," Rooney said. "So the units will be asked to cover most of it, by cutting positions and reallocating other expenses within their own budgets to find the money."

MU has been anticipating a \$12.7 million cut in state appropriations for 2012. Increases in tuition and enrollment, coupled with continuing to defer needed building maintenance and repair, were enough to cover a projected \$20 million deficit.

Rooney said it's not clear yet if the System's four campuses will have to cut their budgets further in light of Nixon's last-minute reduction in the state's allocation. Curators were presented with a list of options to consider, including capping enrollment and eliminating the Enterprise Investment Program, which supports the creation of new businesses in the state. None of the \$5 million allocated to the program has been spent.

In the end, the board charged interim UM System President Steve Owens with balancing the budget. "I hope we will find a method in which the board can stay engaged and understand what we're going to do about those additional cuts," said board Chairman Warren Erdman.

Curators also approved a proposal to create a new "hybrid" retirement plan for UM faculty and staff who are hired after Sept. 30, 2012. While details of the plan haven't been determined, it would include elements of the current defined-benefit plan, which guarantees employees some level of retirement income, and a defined-contribution plan, which requires employees to invest on their own for retirement. Current employees would not be effected by the change.

Two curators — Don M. Downing and Wayne Goode — voted against the hybrid concept. Downing said the current plan, which guarantees vested retirees a pension equal to 2.2 percent of their salary for every year of employment, remains in good financial shape.

"I don't think we have determined the viability of the existing plan, and I think we should do that first," Downing said.

Goode said a hybrid plan would shift more risk to employees, who may not have the knowledge to invest wisely toward adequate retirement income. "That risk should be minimized," he said.

Erdman said administrators and employees have had extensive discussions about the future of the retirement plan for the past two years. Those conversations, he said, convinced him that future employees should share the risk of pension investing with the university. Owens echoed that view.

"I think it's been studied thoroughly and in good faith by everybody involved, and it's been a very good example of shared governance," he said. "I think today we take a step toward moving forward."

Curators said they expect a detailed plan by fall, with a vote likely in October.

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The Weekly Staff Meeting: Mary Pixley



Name: Mary L. Pixley

Work Place: Museum of Art and Archaeology

Title: Associate Curator of European and American Art

Years at MU: 3 years, 8 months

Hometown: McLean, Virginia

Favorite Food: Pasta

Favorite Book: I love exploring the world by reading a variety of publications. Right now I am reading “The Frogs” by Aristophanes.

Favorite Quote: “Just do it.” While regarding fitness as used by Nike, the phrase captures the passion and determination that I like to bring to life and my job.

What are your current job duties?

Job duties include overseeing art collections, planning and implementing exhibitions and installations, researching, and interpreting works of art, giving lectures and tours, making acquisition recommendations and writing scholarly articles and grants in addition to other tasks.

Why are you passionate about your job?

I am passionate about my job because Museums are about education, and it is through education that we can make the world a better place. Our Museum is encyclopedic in its scope, with artworks spanning from prehistory to the present from around the

globe. Thus, the possibilities for learning are endless here, and I feel that there are still undiscovered avenues in our Museum and other museums around the globe for healing the divides that seem to exist in our world.

What is your favorite part about working at Mizzou?

I love the fact that Mizzou is a research university. The possibilities for learning are infinite and collaborations across disciplines can lead to interesting and exciting new results.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the intellectual variety of my job. One moment I might be working an ancient Pre-Columbian textile show and then another day working on a show about contemporary sculpture. I am exceptionally pleased with our latest exhibition "A Midwestern View: The Artists of the Ste. Genevieve Art Colony." Missouri was one of the few states in the country to play host to an art colony. Some of the artists who painted there were also showing in New York City in the 1930s and 1940s. The Museum is very happy to be able to show the diversity of the artists and the richness of the art produced in Missouri, as well as show the important role of Missouri to both Midwestern art and to American art in general.

How do you spend your time away from the University (hobbies, other jobs, activities, etc.)?

I like to read, study languages, spend time with family and friends, and visit Museums, galleries, and antique shops. I have recently been thinking that it would be nice to begin playing the piano again.

Is there an achievement you've been recognized for as an employee at MU or related to your outside activities that you are proud of? Please describe.

"Service Champion" for the month of January. It is a great honor to receive such an award because nominations are made by colleagues. I love my job because the people with whom I collaborate are very hard working and proactive, they go the extra mile to produce a quality product, and they are all such interesting and kind people.

What her co-workers say...

"Mary is a real pleasure to work with. She is dedicated, thorough, polite, sincere, conscientious, and just a plain hard worker. Her everyday duties involve interacting not just with her colleagues her ein the museum, but with students, faculty, docents, independent scholars, and the general public. She handles it all with class and aplomb."

— *Jeffrey Wilcox, Curator of Collections/Registrar at the Museum of Art and Archaeology*

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Program tweaks science curriculum

PHYSICS FIRST

Building a stronger foundation for learning

University of Missouri physics professors have joined a movement to encourage students to take physics courses in the 9th grade.

Physics First is a national effort to better prepare high school students for college-level science and engineering courses. The MU project is called the Academy for Teachers Using Inquiry and Modeling Experiences, or A TIME for Physics First. The project supports implementing physics courses in 9th grade instead of 11th grade, reversing the traditional biology-chemistry-physics order suggested in 1892 by a committee appointed to standardize high school curricula by the National Education Association.

“Our knowledge of science has changed dramatically during the past century,” said Meera Chandrasekhar, program director and Curators’ Teaching Professor of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Arts and Science. “Because biology courses now include elements of physics and chemistry, it’s more practical to teach physics first so students are better prepared to handle the material.”

The program trains 9th grade science teachers to teach conceptual physics as a way to increase student achievement in science coursework. Professors from the MU Department of Physics and Astronomy will share their expertise in physics instruction with 70 Missouri high school science teachers.

“Students are often shocked at the faster pace and increased demands they experience in college-level physics courses. Many struggle to keep up and become discouraged from continuing with science and engineering majors,” Chandrasekhar said.

“Arming high school students with a solid background in physics will enable them to succeed once they graduate to higher level classes and will produce more qualified science and engineering workers.”

The 70 high school teachers participating in the month-long program will attend a three-year series of summer academies, where they will engage in research-based professional development. They also will gain leadership expertise to reform science education at the secondary level.

A TIME for Physics First is funded by a five-year National Science Foundation Math-Science Partnership Institutes grant that began in September 2009. Other MU faculty members involved in the project include Dorina Kosztin, associate teaching professor; Deborah Hanuscin, associate professor; Paul Miceli, professor; and Angela Speck, associate professor, from the Department of Physics and Astronomy; and Dorina Mitrea, professor in the math department.

For more information, visit physicsfirstmo.org/ (<http://physicsfirstmo.org/>).

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New smoking rules to start

New restrictions that limit smoking to designated outdoor areas on campus, parking lots and designated parking garages go into effect July 1.

Details on the policy change, as well as a map of designated smoking areas, are available at smokefree.missouri.edu/ (<http://smokefree.missouri.edu/>). The site also has information about smoking cessation programs. The university will offer free individual and group treatment, including nicotine-replacement products, to students and employees as well as their spouses and eligible dependents. Campus health officials will also be available for group presentations about the policy and cessation programs.

The university will ban all smoking on campus on Jan. 1, 2014.

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Mizzou Advantage seeks endowed chairs

The Chancellor's Fund for Excellence is inviting proposals for three new endowed chairs that will be funded in support of Mizzou Advantage.

Endowed chair positions should align with one or more of the five principal areas of the Mizzou Advantage. Priorities include initiatives that strengthen external linkages to non-profit organizations, corporations, foundations and government agencies. A second priority is to ensure balance in the creative and performing arts and the humanities, which are central to the Mizzou Advantage area of "Understanding and Managing Disruptive and Transformational Technologies."

The new position funds are made possible by donations to the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence, which provides flexible funds to stimulate leading-edge initiatives in the university's mission.

For more information, visit [Missouri.edu/mizzou-advantage \(http://www.missouri.edu/mizzou-advantage/\)](http://www.missouri.edu/mizzou-advantage/).

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Flood assistance now on Facebook

University of Missouri Extension has created a community page on Facebook for organizations and individuals to share information related to flooding along the Missouri River.

Launched June 6, www.facebook.com/MoFloodInfo (<http://www.facebook.com/MoFloodInfo>) provides regularly updated information such as requests for volunteers, status reports on levees, road closings and river levels, evacuation announcements and educational resources. Collaborators include the United Way of Greater St. Joseph, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Kansas City District, the Missouri National Guard, Atchison County (Mo.) 911/Emergency Management and Holt County, Mo

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