

## Mizzou Weekly

Sept. 29, 2011 Volume 33, No. 6

### **MU seeks campus partners to assist students with children**

#### STUDENT PARENT CENTER

Survey will assess needs of unique student group

It will likely be a few years before the preschoolers at MU's Student Parent Center appreciate the free yoga instruction they receive each week. But the four occupational therapy students leading the classes are already gaining real-world experience, along with credit hours for their efforts.

The yoga instruction is a collaboration of the Student Parent Center, located in University Village, and MU's School of Health Professions. Students in other disciplines, such as pre-nursing and public health, have also taken part in similar programs, earning one to six credit hours while working with the children of other MU students.

Julie Shea, director for the Student Parent Center, said she welcomes and encourages similar partnerships with other academic disciplines. She suggested agriculture students could teach the children to garden or engineering students could work on a playground.

"We are trying to increase the collaborations with faculty," she said. "They could send their students to us for different field experiences. There are a lot of different things students could do here."

Kari Eckelkamp, a career adviser for the School of Health Professions, helped set up the yoga intern program at the Student Parent Center after working with Shea on a previous project.

"We have a lot of students interested in occupational therapy," said Eckelkamp of the yoga instructors. "The student will gain the career skills for creating activity plans and exercises, and by working with children."

Like most areas of the university, the Student Parent Center faces some financial challenges, Shea said. The center's resources are meager; it hasn't been able to measure the need for day care and other programs to serve MU students with children.

The goal of the center at this point, she said, is to help student-parents take advantage of resources available through the university. But understanding the needs of this unique group has been difficult to assess; for one thing, no one knows for sure how many students on campus have children of their own.

National statistics estimate that 13 percent of students at four-year institutions are parents, but Shea said it is difficult to ask the university for additional resources for these students without hard numbers. "When you enroll, there is no question that asks if you are a parent," Shea said.

So, with the help of the College of Education, the Student Parent Center has created a survey to gather data specific to the University of Missouri. Student-parents can take the survey at [education.missouri.edu/orgs/parentlink](http://education.missouri.edu/orgs/parentlink) until Oct. 1.

Michelle Froese, Student Auxiliary Services public relations manager, said the information will help the center decide how it should allocate its resources to help students and their children. "It will help us build an organized wish list," she said.

When the survey is completed, Shea hopes to partner with marketing or business students to help the center with its goals. In the past, she enlisted an intern to help with grant writing and offers to collaborate with the fine arts and music departments. "She did the work that I didn't have time to make the rounds to do," Shea said.

Emilia Mense, a 23-year-old senior with a 3-year-old son, said she hopes other schools at MU look at the Student Parent Center for collaboration, too.

“I think it’s a really great idea,” said Mense, a sociology major who is president of MizFIT, a student-parent organization on campus. “Mizzou does have some really great resources, and we’re looking for more.”

Shea said she would welcome talks with any school, and would work with them to develop an arrangement that would be beneficial to the student and to the center.

“It helps us improve services without having to pay a consultant,” she said. “Early childhood majors, psychology majors, medical students, law students ... (any field), we’re open to it.”

—Megan Cassidy

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### **New Mizzou Audio Tour puts history just a phone call away**

#### PRIDE OF PLACE

Dialing up the past

Anyone with a little free time can brush up on his or her knowledge of the University of Missouri, thanks to the Mizzou Audio Tour. The free self-guided tour winds through the heart of campus — all that's needed is a cellphone and some walking shoes.

Started in early September and sponsored by the Mizzou Alumni Association, the tour will help faculty, staff, students and visitors get better acquainted with 16 different locations, most of them on or adjacent to Francis Quadrangle, at their own pace.

The tour is a collaboration of university departments involved in the MU Pride of Place Campus Heritage Network. The tour is the brainchild of Associate Journalism Professor Clyde Bentley. LeAnn Stroupe, director of Visitor Relations, identified the sites for the tour, while University Affairs and Campus Facilities also had a hand in the project.

"We're always looking for ways for alumni to connect and engage with the campus," said David Roloff, director of Alumni Relations, "and we saw this as a perfect opportunity to have a wider reach on campus to allow alumni and visitors to really learn more about the historical landmarks on campus, but also to learn traditions behind them. And that's the beauty of the Mizzou Audio Tour. It's right up our alley."

To take the tour, call 573-629-1364 and follow the prompts according to an accompanying sign at each site. Information about the site is relayed back in a voice message. Each message is approximately two minutes long and free; it only costs the user cellphone minutes.

The pre-recorded messages — written and recorded by Nathan G. Hurst, the convergence media manager for the MU News Bureau — include historical information and local secrets, such as student traditions, about each site.

Roloff said the tour could be expanded in the future to include more campus sites, and "there's some talk" of campus dignitaries recording some of the messages.

Printed maps of historical sites can be found in Jesse Hall, the Reynolds Alumni Center or can be downloaded at [Mizzou.com/audiotour](http://Mizzou.com/audiotour).

"We just think people will really enjoy it. We think it's a great addition to campus." Roloff said.

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### Fun on the Farm



Rachel Coward photo

**NICE TO MEET YOU TOO** MU staff member Amber Edwards shows off a Great Horned Owl at the South Farm Showcase on Sept. 24, 2011. One of the University of Missouri's most important research centers, South Farm is home to several research farms and Research Support Services, which provides equipment and labor. South Farm's annual day of science and discovery featured a sawmill demonstration, a tornado simulator, agricultural engineering demonstration and other family-friendly events. Edwards works with the Raptor Rehabilitation Project and is also the Education Coordinator for Prairie Fork Conversation Area through the School of Natural Resources.

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### **To help children, Extension project targets adult relationships**

#### CHILD WELFARE

##### Creating stable, happier households

Children are safer and healthier when the adults in their lives enjoy stable relationships. Yet most social workers are not trained to educate couples about the importance of strong relationships and marriages. Researchers at the University of Missouri are working to train child welfare professionals to help individuals and families strengthen their relationships.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Healthy Relationship and Marriage Education Training (HRMET), is a five-year project facilitated by MU Extension and David Schramm, assistant professor of human development and family studies and state extension specialist in the MU College of Human Environmental Sciences.

The purpose of the project is to develop training programs that give child welfare workers basic tools to foster positive relationships. The ultimate goal is to improve the stability and wellbeing of children by helping their parents and caregivers form and maintain strong couple and marital relationships.

“Many parents face multiple stressors that can weaken their relationships and spill over into parent-child relationships,” Schramm said. “If social workers can teach parents to be more kind, understanding and respectful in their couple relationships, the result will be safer, happier environments for children.”

HRMET’s curriculum is two-pronged: a graduate-level course for social work students at MU and online and one-day training sessions for child welfare professionals. Both courses give current and future social workers simple tools to help parents choose partners, manage conflict and remain committed in their relationships.

“Most social work graduate programs focus on helping children, so the subject of healthy relationships for parents tends to be left out,” Schramm said. “This project is exciting because the fields of human development and family studies and social work are merging for the first time to create better tools for child welfare professionals.”

The graduate course is being taught for the second time this fall; six workshops were offered in the summer for social work professionals. More than 200 social workers throughout the state have received training and the feedback indicates that it is meeting a need within the profession.

“I learned a great deal about communication within couples, different communication styles and how to teach partners to communicate positively,” said a HRMET participant. “As a child welfare worker, I can now identify problems within clients’ relationships, explain to couples how their relationships affect their children, and offer them tools to help open the lines of communication.”

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### **Leadership critical to effective use of health care technology**

#### QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Implementing changes won't be easy

Leadership, communication and teamwork are essential to successful organizations, especially health care facilities. However, how those organizations achieve improvement is not clearly understood, says a University of Missouri researcher.

Amy Vogelsmeier, assistant professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing, found that leadership is critical to supporting open communication and relationship building to generate improvement, such as enhanced safety practices and new technology adoption, in health care organizations.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include mandates and incentives to promote the use of new technology in health care. As the aging population increases, the effective use of resources and care practices is essential to enacting health care reform and ensuring patients receive quality care.

"Although technology plays a role in improving resident safety, technology alone isn't the answer," Vogelsmeier said. "The reality is that implementation is much more complicated than people realize. It's not just a bring it in and turn it on kind of thing; it will take strong leadership within organizations to implement technological systems in ways that will enhance patient safety rather than hinder it."

Current challenges for health care providers and facilities include helping patients transition to nursing homes and long-term care, managing chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease, and coordinating care from different sectors, including hospitals, community clinics and specialists.

"Not only are the numbers in health care facilities increasing, but the complexities of residents' conditions also are increasing as well," Vogelsmeier said. "We need more sophisticated ways to take care of the aging population. Strong leadership is necessary for all organizations to move toward growth and improvement."

Vogelsmeier analyzed data from an intervention study of nursing homes that implemented electronic medication systems and focused quality improvement efforts to enhance medication safety practices. Vogelsmeier compared the difference in communications and teamwork strategies in nurse leaders from the highest- and lowest-performing nursing homes.

The nurse leader from the highest-performing nursing home encouraged team members to share their perspectives and ideas for solving problems. Leaders provided accurate and timely feedback, which motivated team members to work together and establish common goals. As input and feedback occurred, improvement in the nursing home occurred. The nurse leader from the lowest-performing home didn't value the team's opinions, resulting in disengagement and lack of improvement in the nursing home.

The findings support the national push for quality health care. Notably, this month's launch of the Care About Your Care campaign, to inform citizens about health care quality and how they can become more engaged patients, by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and TV's "Dr. Oz." For more information, visit [careaboutyourcare.org](http://careaboutyourcare.org)

Vogelsmeier is a John A. Hartford Foundation Claire M. Fagin Fellow at MU. The study, "Achieving Quality Improvement in the Nursing Home: Influence of Nursing Leadership on Communication and Teamwork," was published in September in the Journal of Nursing Care Quality. It was funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

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### **Alumni association honors Forsee, Kelly**

#### PUBLIC SERVICE

Award recognizes higher-ed support

Rep. Chris Kelly and former University of Missouri System President Gary D. Forsee have been honored with 2011 Geyer Public Service awards by the Mizzou Alumni Association for their support of public policy that benefits higher education.

The association's Legislative Network Committee presents the awards at its annual Governing Board meeting to one state-elected official and one citizen who exemplify the dedication and spirit of Henry S. Geyer, who introduced a bill to establish the University of Missouri in 1839. A former state representative, Geyer believed education was the key to progress and prosperity.

"The 2011 Geyer Award recipients have made a tremendous impact on higher education in Missouri," Wally Pfeffer, chair of the MAA's Legislative Network Committee, said. "Both of these recipients exemplify commitment to higher education and their efforts are very meaningful to the future of higher education in our state."

Kelly was elected to the Missouri House of Representative in 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992 and most recently in 2008, representing District 24. Kelly has been a proponent of higher education in the state legislature and currently serves on the Budget Committee and numerous other committees. Kelly previously served as Boone County Associate Circuit Judge on the 13th Judicial District from 2000-2006 and Chairman of the MO Labor & Industrial Relations Commission from 1994-2000. Kelly received the 1998 Geyer Public Service Award as a private citizen for his support of higher education public policy.

Forsee served as the president of the UM System from February 2008 to January 2011. He is the former CEO and president of Sprint Nextel and a Missouri native. While president, he led efforts to protect the core operating budget for the institution and also enacted accountability measures in public higher education to underscore our stewardship of public funds. He was a key spokesman for the importance of higher education to economic development and job creation in the state, and spearheaded efforts to pass legislation equalizing Access Missouri state scholarships for students at public and private institutions.

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## Pizza and Projects

Mizzou Advantage Undergraduate Research Teams create interdisciplinary working groups comprised of faculty mentors and undergraduate students around a problem-based research project.

At this week's Pizza and Projects seminar, faculty mentor and English professor Elizabeth Chang will discuss The Life of the Garden: Exploring the Maturation of Gardens from Literary & Botanical Perspectives project at noon today in the Gwynn Hall lounge.

Members of the Studying Social Computing for Healthcare Organizations team will also explain how hospitals utilize social computing platforms to keep existing patients informed, generate interest in health topics and attract new customers.

Mizzou Advantage focuses on five strategic areas — Sustainable Energy; Managing Innovation; Media of the Future; Food for the Future; and One Health, One Medicine — to increase MU's visibility and stature in higher education.

Pizza will be served on a first come first serve basis. For more information on future Pizza and Projects events, contact LeAnne Stewart, at [stewartle@missouri.edu](mailto:stewartle@missouri.edu).

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### Lecture on architecture

Sarah Susanka, best-selling author and Fellow of the American Institute for Architects, will present the Carol Ann Williams Endowed Lectureship at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 4 in the Life Sciences Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

Susanka is the author of nine best-selling books including *The Not So Big House*, *The Not So Big Life*, *Not So Big Remodeling* and, most recently, *More Not So Big Solutions for Your Home*.

A book signing with follow from 10:45 a.m.-noon in the auditorium's lobby.

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### **Diverse views: abortion**

You in Mizzou, a dialogue series for students, faculty and staff, will host “Life v. Choice: What’s the Role of Government in the Abortion Debate?” at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 in S203 Memorial Union.

You In Mizzou gives MU students, faculty and staff the chance to learn about a variety of hot topics by challenging participants to discuss their differences and discover their similarities in a respectful environment. Free pizza and soda will be available.

For more information, please visit [diversity.missouri.edu/](https://diversity.missouri.edu/) or call the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative office at 882-2714.

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