

## Mizzou Weekly

Jan. 31, 2013 Volume 34, No. 17

### **Professor emeritus in nephrology writes compelling autobiography**

THE POLAND–COLUMBIA CONNECTION

Twardowski holds 23 patents in nephrology



**THIS IS YOUR LIFE** Zbylut Twardowski, an MU professor emeritus of clinical medicine who works part time at University Hospital and Clinics, has written a book detailing his personal life, career accomplishments and world travels.

*Photo by Rachel Coward.*

**Z**bylut Twardowski will always remember September 1939 as the month World War II came to his family's home in Szopienice, Poland, the month his entire life changed and the month he said goodbye to his father.

Monumental events, to be sure, that Twardowski details in his autobiography, *Around the World with Nephrology*, published by World Scientific Publishing and available at Amazon, University Bookstore and directly from the author.

The 9-year-old boy was awakened at 2 a.m. by the Gestapo pounding on the door of his family's home and shouting in German, "Open the door!"

"I only remember I was frightened and standing," Twardowski said. His father got dressed and left with the officers, but not before saying goodbye. "We didn't kiss him, and he didn't kiss us," said Twardowski, an MU professor emeritus of clinical medicine who works part time at University Hospital and Clinics.

Following the German invasion of Poland, the country fell under Nazi control, and educated professionals such as Twardowski's father, Józef, were rounded up to be executed or imprisoned in concentration camps.

The day after Józef was taken, Twardowski's mother, Maria, negotiated for her husband's release. Twardowski assumes his mother bribed German officials to have his father transferred to Gross Rosen and other concentration camps, where he was held until war's end.

In addition to recounting his father's abduction in the book, Twardowski chronicles his becoming an expert in modern nephrology, a holder of more than 20 medical patents and his world travels.

### **From Poland to Mizzou**

It seemed a natural choice for Twardowski to study medicine. His father was a medical doctor in his childhood village in Poland. A career in medicine would allow Twardowski to combine his passion for math and science and for helping people.

Mere chance led him to his medical specialty. Essentially, he was offered a position too good to pass up. At the age of 29, Twardowski held a full-time job in a new hospital unit. The only snag was he had to teach himself nephrology, the study of kidneys.

"Nephrology did not exist as a branch of medicine in Poland at that time," Twardowski wrote in his autobiography. "There were other subspecialties of internal medicine, but in Kraków, lectures in diseases of the kidney were only rarely given."

The ever-motivated Twardowski taught himself nephrology by reading academic papers. He soon excelled in the field. His various medical positions in Poland hospitals culminated with a fellowship offer from University Hospital and Clinics. And so it was off to the Midwest.

After landing in St. Louis in 1976 and taking the Greyhound to Columbia, Twardowski realized he lacked sufficient English. Although he studied the language for years, he felt lost in a fog of foreign signs and words. To force himself to learn English, he resolved not to speak Polish for a year. He bought an American Heritage Dictionary and studied.

Twardowski was at MU for only a year when he returned to Poland for another medical position. Ultimately, however, Poland's communism and martial law lead to his accepting MU's full-time faculty offer in 1983.

But he still needed a green card, which could take years to attain. Karl Nolph, Curators Professor emeritus of internal medicine at the School of Medicine, knew what to do. "Somewhere I read that if [the National Institutes of Health] declared [Twardowski] a nationally renowned scientist, his green card could be expedited," Nolph said.

Nolph mailed boxes of Twardowski's credentials to the institute. After interviewing Twardowski, the institute declared him an internationally renowned scientist.

These days, Twardowski is known around the world by internal medicine doctors for his innovative work in nephrology.

### **Papers and patents**

In Twardowski's office in University Hospital hang 11 plaques designating patents he's attained in nephrology. He holds 23 patents altogether. He has also published 390 scientific papers and delivered 532 scientific presentations.

"He has advanced the field of dialysis as much or more than anyone in history," Nolph said.

Twardowski doesn't let his successes go to his head. He compared obtaining a patent to having an academic paper accepted by an academic journal. He isn't satisfied until the product is licensed, manufactured and available in hospitals.

"If you work as a doctor, you can help a few people," Twardowski said. "But if you invent something, you can help hundreds of people at the same time. If my invention is helping hundreds of people, I feel good about that."

Twardowski's first name in Polish means "to get rid of anger." It suits him well. He presents an amiable demeanor and likes to make jokes.

"When I even say a few words, people ask me, 'Where are you from?'" Twardowski said of his Polish accent. "I say, 'Missourah,' and they say, 'No, where are you from, really?' "

He enjoys the Russian comic Yakov Smirnoff, whom he has seen twice at shows in Branson, Mo. A picture of Smirnoff and Twardowski in Branson is included among scores of photos in the book.

### **From Mizzou to Poland**

Twardowski has lived a book's worth of a life, and, at the age of 78, there's more he plans to do. He wants to revisit advanced mathematics and physics and plans to move to Poland in two years.

When he thinks back to his start in medicine as a Polish ambulance physician, he remembers his weekends, but not for the parties and grand times of his younger days. He remembers how he worked 48-hour shifts. "Gosh, I was so strong," he said.

Twardowski thinks a moment and adds, "I still am strong."

His hardcover book, which is 715 pages, is available for \$75 by emailing [twardowskiz@health.missouri.edu](mailto:twardowskiz@health.missouri.edu).

— *Ashley Carman*

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### **Campus murder in 2005 solved, MU Police say**



MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer briefs reporters on the solving of the case of the murder of Jeong H. Im, a retired MU assistant research professor at the School of Medicine. Photo by Nicholas Benner

#### Parking Garage Killing

#### DNA evidence key to solving case

Eight years ago, the MU community was shocked by a gruesome killing of a retired research assistant professor in a parking garage in the light of day.

Despite some 300 leads investigated by the MU Police Department, the killing of Jeong H. Im, a retired MU assistant professor at the School of Medicine, went unsolved until recently. MU Police Chief Jack Watring announced Wednesday that the killer was Timothy Aaron Hoag, described as having a violent history.

Last August, at the age of 35, Hoag committed suicide by jumping off a downtown parking garage.

In a statement, the family of Im, who use the Korean surname Ihm, thanked MU police and the other law enforcement agencies involved in solving the case. "This brings closure on the tragedy to our family, as well as to the University of Missouri and Columbia communities as a whole," the statement said.

MU Chancellor Brady J. Deaton expressed his "heartfelt compassion" for the Ihm family, given the years the case went unsolved. Its resolution "is the most important news we will hear this year," he said.

The breakthrough came Dec. 21, 2012, when MU Police received a tip that Hoag had committed the murder. Investigators obtained his blood sample and sent it to a crime lab for analysis. Hoag's DNA matched that found at the crime scene.

The murder of Im on Jan. 7, 2005, was so unnerving to the community in part because it was so brazen.

At about 10:30 a.m., the 72-year-old Im is seen on grainy surveillance video leaving the School of Medicine en route to the Maryland Avenue Parking Structure. Two hours later, police and firefighters arrive on Level 3 of the garage, where Im's 1996 Honda Accord was on fire.

Im's body was found in the trunk. He had been stabbed to death, stuffed in the trunk and the vehicle set on fire, investigators determined.

The Dec. 21 tip led to another person, the name of whom police have not released, who claims to have been with Hoag on the day of the murder, MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said. He drove Hoag to the garage twice on Jan. 7, 2005, though he claims he did not know Hoag had murdered someone.

On the second drive, Hoag was left off on Level 2 of the Maryland Avenue garage and, with gas container in hand, proceeded upstairs to Level 3. When Hoag returned, the driver told police, he was wearing a particle facemask and a hood over his head. As they drove away, the driver noticed smoke billowing from Level 3.

The driver never came forward "out of fear for his family's safety," Weimer said.

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### **Gov. Nixon proposes \$34 million increase in higher ed state funding**

State of the State Address

University allocations dependent on performance

After three years of proposing steep cuts to state higher education, Gov. Jay Nixon said Monday that his 2014 budget would include a \$34 million increase to colleges and universities.

His agenda includes a \$17 million increase in early childhood education funding and \$100 million in K-12 funding.

"Education is the best economic development tool there is," Nixon, BA '78, JD '81, said in his State of the State Address in Jefferson City's House chamber.

Nixon's proposed fiscal 2014 budget is \$25.7 billion, an increase of more than \$2.5 billion over last year's. Throughout the governor's first term, his budgets were sparse in their allocations; one year ago, Nixon recommended a 12.5 percent cut to state higher education funding.

Tim Wolfe, president of the University of Missouri System, was encouraged by Nixon's 2014 budget.

"We thank him for his willingness to invest additional dollars in higher education, and his commitment to find ways to combat our ever-growing backlog of capital needs that in some cases directly affects the learning experience of students and limits enrollment growth in certain degree programs," Wolfe said Tuesday in a statement.

Nixon urges the following funding for higher education scholarships:

- \$1 million in additional funding to expand A+ scholarship opportunities for Missouri high school graduates
- \$75.1 million in level funding for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program and the Bright Flight Program

Nixon emphasized the need to keep higher education institutions accountable. The \$34 million allocation, he said, would be distributed based on performance measures.

Wolfe said the four campuses are committed to the measures and to keeping education affordable. "Higher education is the cornerstone of a healthy economy and vibrant quality of life," Wolfe said.

In other highlights of the address, Wolfe asked lawmakers to expand Medicaid to cover about 300,000 Missourians through a provision in the federal Affordable Care Act; allocate \$10 million for mental health treatment; increase funding for domestic violence shelters by 29 percent; and a plan to upgrade education and hospital infrastructure, and state parks.

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### **Athletic facilities receive \$8.3 million gift**

 Alternate text

A GENEROUS GIFT Chancellor Brady J. Deaton and Don Walsworth chat prior to the announcement of the Walsworth family's gift to Intercollegiate Athletics. The Walsworth family has had close ties to the university for generations. Photo by Rob Hill

#### INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Gift will aid in renovation of Memorial Stadium

Don and Audrey Walsworth have given an \$8.3 million gift to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Chancellor Brady J. Deaton announced Tuesday at a news conference in the Reynolds Alumni Center.

Don Walsworth, a 1957 MU graduate, is a former chairman of the University of Missouri Board of Curators. He has served on the Trulaske College of Business development board and the For All We Call Mizzou comprehensive campaign national steering committee, as well as athletic committees, including the Sports Park campaign.

He is chief executive officer of Walsworth Publishing Co., the family business located in Marceline, Mo., through which the family gift was given.

The gift will support improvements to athletic facilities, including renovations to Memorial Stadium, and a new clubhouse for MU golf teams at The Club at Old Hawthorne. The new clubhouse will house coaches' offices, team locker rooms, indoor heated hitting bays and the latest in swing instruction technology.

The Walsworth family has several connections to MU.

Audrey, a Mizzou graduate, wrote *The University of Missouri: 150 Years* (Walsworth, 1989). Two of their children — Edgar Walsworth and Lynn Walsworth Wood — graduated from MU.

"Many of you know that we are in the beginning stages of a comprehensive campaign," Deaton said at the announcement. "We have a working goal of \$1 billion-plus, and we are so grateful to the Walsworth family for this early and important investment."

— Dale Smith

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### **University of Missouri administrators to maintain nuclear institute's academic and research functions**

Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute

Council requests more information before voting on other resolutions

At the Jan. 24 meeting of the Faculty Council, Stephen Montgomery-Smith, an MU mathematics professor speaking on behalf of members of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute (NSEI), introduced a resolution that called on Chancellor Brady J. Deaton to take eight actions concerning the NSEI.

Two of the actions were approved: (1) Open admissions immediately to the graduate program in NSEI, and (2) maintain the academic and research functions of the NSEI.

Some council members asked for more information from key MU officials before voting on the other measures. Faculty Council Chair Harry Tyrer said he will ask officials involved to attend the Feb. 14 council meeting.

Last March, George Justice, dean of the Graduate School, and Provost Brian Foster announced the closing of NSEI. The institute would remain intact until currently enrolled students graduated.

Ken Dean, deputy provost, told council that numerous meetings had been held concerning the future of NSEI, and NSEI faculty had been invited to participate in these discussions. He said that the chancellor was prepared to act.

MU currently is in the process of restructuring the campus' nuclear engineering options, according to a document provided to reporters by MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken.

The idea is to have all of MU's nuclear engineering degree programs merged into the College of Engineering's Nuclear Engineering Program, including the emphasis area of power engineering.

"New emphasis areas in the broader nuclear engineering program — in materials, environment and regulatory compliance, and thermal hydraulic — have been proposed but must be approved by the Graduate Faculty Senate (GFS)," Banken said.

The GFS is scheduled to meet in February.

Current NSEI students will continue with their curriculum and advisors until they graduate, Banken said. The hope is that new students will be able to apply to the nuclear engineering options in February.

"The goal is to move toward an enhanced nuclear engineering program," Banken said.

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### **Fundraiser for children**

MU Child Development Lab will hold the fundraiser "2013 Trivia Night" beginning at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Tiger Shrine Club, 1300 Blue Ridge Road. The event is only for adults. Cost is \$20 per person.

The eight-person group that wins the trivia contest will receive gift certificates for each team member.

Registration is through Feb. 15. For more information, call Debbie at 882-4828 or email [harmsd@missouri.edu](mailto:harmsd@missouri.edu).

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