

Mizzou Weekly

Oct. 2, 2014 Volume 36, No. 6

Deaton Given Missourian Award

The chancellor emeritus was honored for his 24 years of service.



It takes a special kind of Kentuckian to be given [The Missourian Award \(http://www.themissourianaward.org/\)](http://www.themissourianaward.org/).

Kentucky native Brady J. Deaton received a 2014 Missourian Award Sept. 27 in a ceremony at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. The award recognizes Chancellor Emeritus Deaton's academic and administrative career at the University of Missouri, which spanned nearly a quarter century, from 1989 to 2013.

Created by Ralph and Corrine Slavens, The Missourian Award honors outstanding citizens who were born in Missouri or became famous in Missouri.

Born in rural Kentucky to a family of modest means, Deaton rose through public schools and universities to become MU's chancellor from 2004 to 2013. Previous roles at MU included provost, deputy chancellor and chair of the agricultural economics department.

In 2011, President Barack Obama appointed him chair of the [Board for International Food and Agriculture Development \(http://www.usaid.gov/bifad/\)](http://www.usaid.gov/bifad/), an advisory group to the U.S. Agency for International Development, a position he still holds. He also serves as executive director of the Anne and Brady Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development housed at MU.

— Erik Potter

This story first appeared at [MIZZOU \(https://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2014/09/deaton-wins-missourian-award/\)](https://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2014/09/deaton-wins-missourian-award/) magazine online (<https://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2014/09/deaton-wins-missourian-award/>).

Oct. 2, 2014 Issue

- [School of Music's presence felt at Chancellor Loftin's inauguration](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer touts Thomas Jefferson and higher education](#)
- [Eligible employees can receive free flu shot](#)
- [Panelists discuss insufficient funding for university research](#)
- [Nominate a staff member for great work](#)

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[More in the archive »](#)

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Eligible employees can receive free flu shot



iStock photo

Shot earns points in Wellness Incentive program

Employees enrolled in the myOptions Health Plan (renamed Healthy Savings Plan for 2015) or the myChoice Health Plan (renamed PPO Plan for 2015) are eligible for a free flu vaccine. If an employee is not enrolled in a University of Missouri System health plan, the vaccine costs \$20.

Clinics are operating at various campus sites from Oct. 1 to Nov. 6. See a complete list of MU vaccine sites [here](http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/2014_flu_shots#mu) (http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/2014_flu_shots#mu).

Be sure to bring:

- Your completed [online flu shot consent form](https://uminfopoint.umsystem.edu/sites/hr/Benefits/Wellness/FluCampaign2014-Form-Web-Pharmacy%20Event.pdf) (<https://uminfopoint.umsystem.edu/sites/hr/Benefits/Wellness/FluCampaign2014-Form-Web-Pharmacy%20Event.pdf>).
- Your Coventry ID card or, if not enrolled in a system medical plan, payment of \$20 in cash or by check

As an incentive for employees to get healthy and participate in preventive care, such as by getting a flu shot, the system is offering up to \$450 in a [two-tiered program](http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/2015_wellness_incentive) (http://www.umsystem.edu/curators/wellness/2015_wellness_incentive):

- **Tier 1 “Educate Yourself”:** Earn \$150 for completing a wellness pledge, a personal health assessment and health screening.

• **Tier 2 “Invest in Yourself”:** Earn an additional \$300 by participating in healthful activities and behaviors and documenting your completion. Activities include getting a flu shot, walking, biking, remaining tobacco-free or completing tobacco cessation program, and taking an online wellness workshop. For more, click [here](https://uminfopoint.umsystem.edu/sites/hr/Benefits/Wellness/wellnessincentive-tier2activities.pdf) (<https://uminfopoint.umsystem.edu/sites/hr/Benefits/Wellness/wellnessincentive-tier2activities.pdf>).

The 2015 Wellness Incentive program kicks off Oct. 1, and a flu shot counts 50 points toward Tier 2.

For more information, contact the Human Resource Service Center at (573) 882-2146 or hrservicecenter@umsystem.edu.

Oct. 2, 2014 Issue

- [School of Music’s presence felt at Chancellor Loftin’s inauguration](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer touts Thomas Jefferson and higher education](#)
- [Panelists discuss insufficient funding for university research](#)
- [Nominate a staff member for great work](#)
- [Deaton Given Missourian Award](#)
-

[More in the archive »](#)

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Nominate a staff member for great work

The [Staff Advisory Council \(http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu/\)](http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu/) is seeking nominations for its Service Champion Award. The monthly award is given to an outstanding staff member who goes above and beyond what is expected of them, whether it's seeing a special project through to completion or performing duties with an outstanding work ethic and attitude.

If you know someone who matches this description, nominate him or her for the award. Nominations are accepted throughout the year. Click [here \(http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu/awards/muchamp.html\)](http://staffcouncil.missouri.edu/awards/muchamp.html) for more information and a nomination form.

Oct. 2, 2014 Issue

- [School of Music's presence felt at Chancellor Loftin's inauguration](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer touts Thomas Jefferson and higher education](#)
- [Eligible employees can receive free flu shot](#)
- [Panelists discuss insufficient funding for university research](#)
- [Deaton Given Missourian Award](#)
-

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Panelists discuss insufficient funding for university research



During the weeklong celebration of MU's 175th anniversary, the university welcomed, left, the American Council on Education Presidential Adviser for Leadership Kevin Reilly and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities President Peter McPherson. Photo by Kyle Spradley.

The United States is in danger of losing its competitive economic edge among nations, warned two leading educators Wednesday at a panel discussion about the ripple effects of insufficient funding for university research.

Panelists Kevin Reilly, presidential adviser for leadership and leadership programs for the American Council on Education, and M. Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, spoke to a crowd as part of MU's weeklong 175th anniversary celebration. Moderating was Hank Foley, executive vice president of academic affairs for the University of Missouri System.

A new report from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences cites recent data that the United States has dropped to 10th place among nations in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development for investment in research and development as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). This is a key feature of the so-called innovation deficit. Falling short of investing 3 percent of GDP in research and development, as the U.S. has of late, will mean losing ground to other nations, several of which are ramping up such investments to stimulate economic growth McPherson said.

Public land-grant universities, McPherson said, must provide access to education, grant degrees, conduct research and solve societal problems. Since World War II, he said, at least 50 percent of U.S. economic growth has come from research, particularly from universities.

"Sixty percent of federal dollars for research are received by public universities," he said. "People don't realize what a big player we are. If [public land-grant universities] could not play this role, the country's economic future would look very

different.”

Reilly credited extension programs at land-grant universities for their key role in building agricultural productivity by providing university-generated research to farmers. In contrast, he said that universities generally could do more to transform lab-based innovation into marketable products. “We’re not as good as we should be at commercializing intellectual property and returning profits to investors.”

The discussion also covered how universities need to innovate in the classroom. McPherson said land-grant universities must find new ways of helping students get a college education inexpensively. Nationwide, he said, “lamentable” tuition increases “almost dollar for dollar reflect cuts in state appropriations.”

Tuition increases are unsustainable, so universities must invent ways of reducing educational costs while maintaining quality. For instance, students regularly take courses that don’t count toward graduation, and freshmen often take 13 credits per semester instead of 15. Averaging 15 hours a semester adds up to graduation in four years.

Reilly said universities should innovate in teaching, as well, pointing to modern ways of collecting and analyzing data that could customize students’ education in ways that help them succeed and graduate. “We are not doing enough of that,” he said. “I like to think of the gaming industry.

They get kids playing games, and they really want to solve the problem of getting to the next level. They get there by repeatedly failing. They go back time and time again until they get to the next level. Wouldn’t it be great if we could take that paradigm and put it into the way we teach remedial math. One of the next big waves has to be in the way we deliver knowledge, skills and learning to students.”

— Dale Smith

This story first appeared at [MIZZOU \(https://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2014/09/innovation-deficit-defined/\)](https://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2014/09/innovation-deficit-defined/) magazine online (<https://mizzoumag.missouri.edu/2014/09/innovation-deficit-defined/>).

Oct. 2, 2014 Issue

- [School of Music’s presence felt at Chancellor Loftin’s inauguration](#)
- [Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer touts Thomas Jefferson and higher education](#)
- [Eligible employees can receive free flu shot](#)
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-

[More in the archive »](#)

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Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer touts Thomas Jefferson and higher education

Meacham's talk kicked off a week of 175-year anniversary events



Jon Meacham. Photo by Lizz Cardwell.

Thomas Jefferson holds an important place in the lore of the University of Missouri.

His granite tombstone resides on the east side of Francis Quadrangle, and its [marble epitaph \(../2013/34-19/tombstone/index.php.html\)](http://www.missouri.edu/2013/34-19/tombstone/index.php.html), recently restored, is being displayed at various sites; both were gifts from Jefferson's family. At his [inauguration last month \(../36-4/inuguration/index.php.html\)](http://www.missouri.edu/36-4/inuguration/index.php.html), Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin was presented with the Jefferson medallion, to be worn at ceremonies and formal occasions. MU's [Corps of Discovery Lecture \(../36-4/corps/index.php.html\)](http://www.missouri.edu/36-4/corps/index.php.html) series is named after Lewis and Clark's expedition, championed by Jefferson in his first term as president. And MU's core values of discovery, excellence, responsibility and respect align with the Virginian's ideals.

During his Sept. 15 lecture at the Missouri Theatre, Jefferson biographer Jon Meacham spoke about Jefferson's reverence for higher education and his belief that an educated citizenry is the engine of a democratic government. He connected

Jefferson's values to those of MU.

"Jefferson balanced the inspirational and the pragmatic," said Meacham, whose lecture kicked off a week of events celebrating MU's 175th anniversary. "He believed in the possibilities of humanity."

The American republic, with its embrace of freedom of speech and democratic elections, was founded as a rebuke to the top-down governing style of the British monarchy. "Universities were important in this shift to the horizontal," said Meacham, explaining Jefferson's view. "Universities offer us a way of knowing and thinking.

"If you don't have an educated citizenry, your republic won't work," he said.

Meacham is an American historian with a solid background in journalism. He was editor-in-chief of *Newsweek* from 2006 to 2010. Among his books is *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize. In 2012 he published *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*.

The book was popular in part because it portrayed Jefferson as reaching across the aisle to overcome political gridlock, which resonated with an audience yearning for bipartisan decision-making in Washington, D.C. "Jefferson understood a timeless truth," Meacham wrote, "that politics is kaleidoscopic, constantly shifting, and the morning's foe may well be the afternoon's friend."

Meacham is not blind to Jefferson's foibles. The founding father was an awkward public speaker and a slave owner who fathered children from at least one slave. Unlike Abraham Lincoln, who grew up poor with no ladder in sight for upward mobility, Jefferson was born into a well-heeled aristocratic lifestyle he thoroughly embraced.

But historians also consider the Virginian the father of American democracy, penning at age 33 most of the Declaration of Independence. He upheld education at every turn, even founding the University of Virginia, and wrote of the importance of individual rights.

His Louisiana Purchase in 1803 generated the momentum for an America that stretches, as the song says, "from sea to shining sea." Jefferson's family gifted MU the tombstone and plaque in part because MU was the first public land-grant university founded within the Louisiana Territory.

"Jefferson created the most precious of things," Meacham said. "Possibilities."

Oct. 2, 2014 Issue

- [School of Music's presence felt at Chancellor Loftin's inauguration](#)
- [Eligible employees can receive free flu shot](#)
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-

[More in the archive »](#)

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School of Music's presence felt at Chancellor Loftin's inauguration



Singer Brandon Browning and pianist Jenna Braaksma, both graduate students in the School of Music, practiced together only twice for their performance Sept. 18 at Chancellor Loftin's installation ceremony in Missouri Theatre. Photo by Rob Hill.

Professor emeritus composed original piece for event

Brandon Browning first met Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin Aug. 28 on National Bow Tie Day. Browning was dressed casually, sporting a Mizzou shirt and baseball cap, and the chancellor was wearing a *Dr. Who* bow tie. They snapped a selfie to commemorate the moment.

The second time they met was following [Loftin's installation ceremony Sept. 18](http://www.missouri.edu/news/2014/09/18/loftin-installation-ceremony-sept-18) ([../36-4/inuguration/index.php.html](http://www.missouri.edu/news/2014/09/18/loftin-installation-ceremony-sept-18)). Their attire was a bit different from what they wore Aug. 28. Browning was in a tuxedo, dress shirt and bow tie, while Loftin was in full academic regalia and wearing the Jefferson medallion.

"I don't think he recognized me from [our first meeting]," Browning said.

Browning, a graduate student in the [School of Music](http://music.missouri.edu/) (<http://music.missouri.edu/>), sang in front of nearly 1,000 people in the Missouri Theatre during Loftin's installation as the 22nd chief executive officer of the University of Missouri. Browning was part of the school's conspicuous presence at the event.

Julia Gaines, director of the School of Music, said the school's integration into the ceremony was part of an effort to involve as many MU units and students as possible.

Loftin said Wednesday that the music touched him, especially the aria and fanfare performances. "Those two pieces stick out in my mind as things that were very special to me" about the ceremony, he said.

Browning and pianist Jenna Braaksma, also a School of Music graduate student, were selected to perform "Shannon's Aria" from *Corps of Discovery*, an opera co-commissioned by the University of Missouri that premiered in 2002. The aria was originally intended for a tenor, but the key was changed to fit Browning's baritone voice.

In the aria, the character George Shannon, the youngest member of Louis and Clark's Corps of Discovery Expedition, sings about what he learned during the three-year adventure. Shannon looks to the past to help glean a brighter future.

Likewise, the installation ceremony, Browning said, "looked at where we are, where we've come from and where we are going." The two-and-half-minute aria suited the event perfectly, he said.

At the beginning of the fall semester, Browning and Braaksma began preparing for their performance. The duo practiced individually with Christine Seitz, an associate teaching professor of voice and opera. Browning and Braaksma practiced together only twice.

"There weren't too many challenges," Braaksma said. "We've known each other for a while and performed together, so we know how each other work."

Braaksma and Browning weren't the only MU musicians who took the stage at the inauguration. The Mizzou Wind Ensemble Brass played John Cheetham's "Proclamation."

"Cheetham is well known internationally as an excellent composer of fanfares," Gaines said. "He has a few pieces that are standard in the repertoires of brass musicians."

His credentials become apparent by simply typing "Scherzo" into YouTube and scrolling through the hundreds of quartets that have performed his composition. Besides being a world-class composer, Cheetham was chosen for his Missouri connection: He taught music theory and composition at MU for 34 years.

"Proclamation," his newest short-and-sweet fanfare specially written for the event, took two months to compose. "The fanfare is a proclamation announcing that Mizzou has a new chancellor," Cheetham said.

"I was thinking of the chancellor when I wrote it," he said. "I tried to visualize the complete piece beforehand and then work out the details."

After the ceremony, Cheetham spoke with Loftin. "He said he was honored," Cheetham said. "It was the third time he had been installed as [leader] at an institution but the first time he had anything written about him."

Browning also met Loftin after the ceremony.

"He was moved by the message my song was delivering," Browning said. "The music came out of something that Mizzou sponsored, something that would've otherwise never have been. At that moment, we were both feeling a lot of school pride."

— Alaina Lancaster

Oct. 2, 2014 Issue

- [Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer touts Thomas Jefferson and higher education](#)
- [Eligible employees can receive free flu shot](#)
- [Panelists discuss insufficient funding for university research](#)
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-

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