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University of Missouri-Columbia

Spreading the word

BREADTH AND DEPTH

Graduate dean says improved stipends and other benefits for graduate students are an important issue

As dean of the Graduate School and vice provost for advanced studies, Pam Benoit says that one of her roles is to spread the word about MU's top-flight graduate programs.

"Just a few weeks ago, I received notification that we had nine graduate programs that are in the top 10 for faculty productivity according to a new rating system," she says. That system, called Academic Analytics, crunched the numbers on more than a quarter million faculty members in 104 disciplines and more than 7,000 academic programs at 354 institutions.

Those rankings looked at the number of articles and books faculty members produced, how often their work was cited by other scholars, and their grants, honors and

awards. Top 10 units at MU based on faculty productivity are: animal sciences, communication, counseling psychology, educational psychology, fisheries, horticulture, nutrition forestry and nuclear engineering.

Other MU graduate programs are cited over and over again in different national rankings, Benoit says, including accountancy, biochemistry, higher education administration, nursing, clinical psychology, public affairs, human development and family studies, and others.

"But those ranking systems only tell a part of the story of our graduate programs," Benoit says. "I think we need to be a lot more proactive in getting out information about the quality of our programs and the quality of our faculty.

"I think we can do a better job of getting that information to the public and to prospective students to let them know we're competing well in graduate education. We have a number of programs that are among the very top programs in the



Rob Hill photo

Pam Benoit says that one of her important roles as dean of the Graduate School to get out the word about Mizzou's top-flight graduate programs in order to recruit the best graduate students.

country," she says. "We want to be sure that people learn about MU's well-kept secret."

Importance of graduate education

Getting out that information is important, Benoit says, because graduate education is one of the main things that distinguishes MU from other schools and colleges in Missouri. "We're

the largest producer of PhDs in the state," she says. "We're also in the top 50 of all universities in producing PhDs and one of only four Big 12 universities in that top 50."

That can be a difficult message to get across to constituents outside the academic community, she says, but it's vital that Missouri citizens understand

MU's unique role in graduate education.

"Graduate education prepares the people who are going to teach their children. It prepares the doctors who are going to help them with health-care issues. It prepares their nurses and physical therapists. It trains the researchers who are going to make the scientific

SEE Graduate on Page 7

'myZou' updates online access for student services

ACCOUNT ACCESS

New system improves service and efficiency

A new student information system at the University of Missouri-Columbia that will combine student services such as admissions, class enrollment, financial aid and student accounts into one system for students, faculty, staff and administrators will become operational this spring.

The system, named myZou, has taken approximately 18 months to implement since the November 2005 campuswide kickoff. It will initially be used for the fall 2007 term, for which registration starts March 5.

"This is a very exciting time

for the campus community," says Brenda Selman, University Registrar at MU and director of the project implementation. "The myZou system replaces a very old, and in many ways, outdated system" in use since 1975.

"The new system will provide us Web access so it is easier to register, submit grades, pay bills and complete many other functions," Selman says. "We believe that this will increase our efficiency and help students manage their enrollments, financial aid and bill payment with less difficulty. The lines students need to stand in will be reduced as well."

Users will be able to access the system 24 hours a day, seven days a week through their Web

browsers. For example, faculty submittal of grades online will replace paper forms.

Students also will not have to go to Jesse Hall for overrides. The new system provides a process that uses electronic permissions for granting exceptions to students, reducing the time that they spend on the process and standing in line. Students will be able to easily update addresses, check on financial aid and review their financial account from a variety of views.

"The new system is integrated, which is wonderful for students," Selman says. "They no longer have to go to one site for the Schedule of Courses, another site to check financial aid and yet a

third to review their billing information. In addition, the information and access are customized to that individual."

Faculty, staff and students will receive individual notification when they may access the system. Because everyone will not receive access on the same day, students, faculty and staff should review their MU e-mail accounts over the next few weeks to look for their individual notifications.

Training, which requires pre-registration, will be provided for faculty and staff. As more functionality is available, additional information and training will be provided. Training invitations will be sent via campus e-mail.

Registration start times for both fall and summer 2007, formerly referred to as "registration appointment times," will begin March 5. The start times will be staggered as in the past.

The old system will continue to be used for Summer 2007 registration, which means that students should use STARMU and PAWS to register for summer school. Only fall 2007 registration may be completed in myZou. Also, previously completed classes will not appear in the new system in March, but will be converted from the old system later in the spring. The final cost of implementation of the system is estimated to be approximately \$5 million.

International perspectives

Nearly three dozen MU faculty, staff and students are former Peace Corps volunteers who enrich the campus with their international experiences. Beginning this month, a number of returned Peace Corps volunteers will share those experiences with the University community in a series of one-hour presentations about their service in countries of the former Soviet Union.

A series of brown-bag

talks will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in S203 Memorial Union. The talk on Feb. 13 will cover Uzbekistan; the focus on Feb. 20 will be Kyrgyzstan; Armenia will be the topic on Feb. 27; and Russia will be featured March 7.

Summit of success

What do a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, the CEO of a publishing giant and Columbia's 2006 Citizen of the Year have in common? They're among the lineup of speakers at the 2007

Publishing Summit sponsored by the Missouri Association of Publications (MAP) March 1-2 at the Memorial Union. The association is a professional organization for print and electronic magazine and newsletter publishing practitioners and those in associated industries.

The summit offers an information-packed schedule with sessions on writing and editing, design and visuals, grammar reviews, photography, publishing and management. MU's Pulitzer Prize-winner Jacqui

Banaszynski, professor of journalism, will deliver the keynote speech, "Get on Your Knees and Dance: The Enduring Power of Storytelling."

The deadline for early registration is Feb. 16. For a registration form, a complete schedule of events and details about cost, speakers and topics, visit www.missouripublications.org or call 573-874-0246.

Dressing up Mizzou

A touch of Hollywood comes to Columbia Feb. 17 when journalism alumna Jann Carl, weekend anchor for Entertainment Tonight, hosts Model Citizen, a fashion show benefiting MU's Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The event at the Holiday Inn Select Executive Center will feature designer collections from boutiques in Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis in a New York-style runway show.

Spirituality plays a role in breast-cancer awareness messages

CULTURAL FACTORS

Study looks at the impact of belief that God has control over health

This year, more than 178,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will die as a result of breast cancer the American Cancer society estimates.

One way to battle these numbers is through increased information sharing and use of early detection methods. A new study by an MU journalism researcher has found that spirituality might play an important role in

achieving this, particularly for African-American women.

"Spirituality has been found to be an important cultural factor for African-American women thinking about their health, so we evaluated its impact on breast cancer information processing," says Glenn Leshner, associate professor of broadcast journalism. "We found that spirituality positively affected African-American women's willingness to talk about breast cancer, pay attention to information about breast cancer and engage in preventative measures."

Leshner worked with

Cynthia Frisby, associate professor of strategic communication; I-Huei Cheng, assistant professor at the University of Alabama; Yoonhyeung Choi, assistant professor at Michigan State University, and Hyun Joo Song, a former MU doctoral student.

The researchers studied the effects of spiritual locus of control — the belief that God has control over health — by conducting surveys in 11 U.S. cities. Then they analyzed the 446 completed surveys (240 from Caucasian women, 206 from African-American women). Results showed that

for African-American women, spirituality had a positive effect on talking about cancer and paying attention to breast cancer messages in the media. For Caucasian women, spiritual locus of control played no role in paying attention to breast cancer information.

"By embracing cultural and ethnic factors, this study helps develop a more holistic health message processing model so that we can better understand processes associated with health message rejection and acceptance, particularly with diverse ethnic groups," Frisby says. "Our results indicate that

when a breast cancer prevention message is designed for African-American women, health communicators should consider how to positively utilize the role of spirituality in the women's health message processing."

Although it is less important for most Caucasian women, this study suggests that spirituality can be an important part of learning about and coping with breast cancer for African-American women.

"African-American women in our sample likely perceived both God and themselves as important factors in their own health. This perception seems to encourage African-American women to seek more information and talk about breast cancer to get emotional support and helpful advice," Leshner says. The study was published in the journal *Integrative Medicine Insights* in December 2006.



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Shaping the Future of Journalism



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MizzouWeekly

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Check it out

As the winter semester got under way, MU Libraries launched an updated and redesigned library Web site. The redesign is based on user information gathered over the past year from testing with students and faculty.

Director Jim Cogswell says that the libraries welcome

comments on the new site. "Our new Web site will make it easier and quicker for users to get the information they need," he says. The redesign includes: improved layout of categories, links and navigation; a search box that allows users to search for books, articles, electronic reserves or library information; and highlighted news, including Web feeds, about the library.

MU Libraries also announced the acquisition of more than 460 journals through a new subscription to Sage Journals Online. With

notable strengths in social science, these journals are some of the most heavily cited in their fields. More than 8,000 online journals are now available to researchers through MU Libraries.

It's a jungle out there

Private landowners can make a big difference in improving wildlife habitat around Missouri. MU Extension is teaming up with the School of Natural Resources and the state conservation department in a program that provides landowners and wildlife enthusiasts the

knowledge and tools they can use to enhance habitat.

It's called the Missouri Master Wildlifer Program. The eight-session course is being offered through videoconferencing and interactive TV at 10 locations around the state, including MU's Heinkel Building. Sessions are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Feb. 27.

The course provides information about the biology and life history of wildlife species such as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, waterfowl,

songbirds and furbearers. Sessions focus on a variety of habitats that include forest, grassland, farms, wetlands, and ponds and streams.

"Anyone with an interest in wildlife who wants to learn more about Missouri's resources and make better land-management decisions are welcome," says Bob Pierce, Extension wildlife specialist. For cost and registration information, call the Boone County Extension office at 445-9792 or contact Pierce at 882-4337.

Lifestyle changes reduce risk of developing heart disease

HEART HEALTHY Knowledge is first line of defense in cardiovascular disease

February has been designated American Heart Month by presidential proclamation since 1963 to raise public awareness and promote prevention of heart disease.

According to the American Heart Association, more people die from cardiovascular disease and stroke in the United States than any other illness. Heart disease is also known as "the silent killer" because it often strikes without warning.

"When most people think of heart disease, they usually relate it to coronary artery disease

where the arteries leading to the heart become blocked, resulting in a heart attack," says Mary Dohrmann, associate professor of clinical medicine and director of University of Missouri Health Care's Cardiology Clinic. "But coronary artery disease is just one type of cardiovascular disease."

Cardiovascular disease includes a number of conditions that affect the structures and function of the heart, such as heart failure, heart valve disease, congenital heart disease, arrhythmias, cardiomyopathy, pericardial disease, aorta disease and vascular disease.

"There are also several risk factors for heart disease,"

Dohrmann says. "Some, like age, race, gender, and family history, are uncontrollable factors. But there are other risk factors such as smoking, uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, physical inactivity, obesity, and stress that once identified, can be changed. Making lifestyle changes is a proven method for reducing the risk of developing heart disease."

Although there are no guaranteed methods of completely eliminating the possibility of cardiovascular disease, adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle can reduce the chances of developing heart problems and improve

health in other ways. Some recommended methods that could reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease include:

- Quitting smoking. Smoking is the most preventable risk factor for heart disease. Smokers also have twice as many heart attacks as nonsmokers and are much more likely to die if they do suffer a heart attack.
- Improving cholesterol levels. Have your cholesterol checked and discuss the results with your physician to learn how you can raise your good high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and how you can lower your bad low-density lipoprotein

(LDL) cholesterol.

• Controlling diabetes, hypertension and stress. Discuss with your physician how medication, a healthy diet and exercise can make a difference.

For those with uncontrollable risk factors or who have already developed cardiovascular disease, making lifestyle changes and seeking the proper treatment is essential.

"It is very important to learn about your heart to help prevent cardiovascular disease," said Dohrmann. "And if you already have a heart condition, you can live a healthier, more active life by learning about your disease and becoming an active participant in the delivery of your health care."

Forecast: hot debate on global warming

HOT SPOT

Researcher questions international report

In a report released last week in Paris by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scientists worldwide voiced strong concerns about global warming. They concluded that changes to the earth's climate are "very likely" manmade and will continue for centuries.

Tony Lupo, associate professor of atmospheric science, reviewed the entire 800-page report. Although it's apparent that temperatures are rising, Lupo, an expert on global climate change, says the causes remain unclear — despite strong assertions in the report. "The goal of this is to nudge policy makers into action," Lupo says.

He says that previous reports by the panel, dating

back to 1996, used language such as "evidence of human contribution," "likely" and now "very likely" to describe human contributions to the problems.

The report clearly indicates the Earth has begun warming and suggests that greenhouse gasses, a by-product of industrialization, are the primary reason. The report also says the effects will remain for centuries despite human efforts to reverse the trend.

"There is no doubt the earth is warming up, and the IPCC report claims that we're likely to see a 3 degree rise in temperatures by the end of the century," Lupo says. "You can't miss the signs. We do have earlier springs, and fall weather lasts longer in the winter season. There's just no agreement on the cause of global warming. There may be more than one cause."

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**College of
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calendar

Concerts & Plays

Saturday, February 10

JAZZ SERIES: Saxophonist and clarinetist Don Byron presents a dance-concert, "Do the Boomerang: The Music of Junior Walker," with special guest trumpeter Ron Miles at 8 p.m. at the Blue Note. For ticket information, call 449-3001.

Tuesday, February 13

UNIVERSITY CONCERT SERIES: The Incredible Shanghai Acrobats will present a gravity-defying performance at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. For ticket information, call 882-3781 or order online at www.concertseries.org.

Wednesday, February 14

LITERARY ARTS READING: Deborah Eisenberg, an award-winning short story author and creative writing professor at the University of Virginia will read from her work at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Union's Stotler Lounge.

Thursday, February 15

MUSEUM FILM: The Museum of Art and Archaeology will present Anthony Minghella's 1991 film, *Truly Madly Deeply* from 7-9 p.m. in 106 Pickard Hall with a commentary about the film's significance to the current exhibit, "The Culture of Death and the Afterlife."

Friday, February 16

BLACK HISTORY EVENT: The Pan-African Film Festival will be presented from 3-10

p.m. in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

Courses & Workshops

Monday, February 12

COMPUTER TRAINING: "Access 2003 Advanced Forms, Reports & Queries" will be offered at 1 p.m. in N3 Memorial Union. Registration is required, call 882-2000 or register online at training.missouri.edu.

Tuesday, February 13

COMPUTER TRAINING: • "Flash 8 3: Buttons & ActionScript" will be offered at 1 p.m. in 4D11 East Ellis Library. • "Creating PowerPoint 2003 Presentations" will be offered at 1 p.m. in N3 Memorial Union.

Registration is required, call 882-2000 or register online at training.missouri.edu.

Wednesday, February 14

COMPUTER TRAINING: • "XHTML 1: Links, Graphics & Lists" will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in N3 Memorial Union. • "Outlook: Divide & Conquer Your Inbox" will be offered at 1 p.m. in 4D11 East Ellis Library.

Registration is required, call 882-2000 or register online at training.missouri.edu.

Thursday, February 15

COMPUTER TRAINING: • "Illustrator CS2: Shapes & Paths" will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in 4D11 East Ellis Library.

• "Excel 2003 Formatting & Printing" will be offered at 1 p.m. in N3 Memorial Union. Registration is required, call 882-2000 or register online at training.missouri.edu.

Exhibits

MUSEUM OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY:

- "The Forgotten Art of Engraving" is on display through July. It explores the history of engraving technique and displays prints by such masters as Albrecht Durer, Hendrick Goltzius and William Blake.
- "Final Farewell: The Culture of Death and the Afterlife," which explores cross-cultural themes of the afterlife and their impact on art, begins Feb. 10.

The museum, located in Pickard Hall, is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and from noon-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

BINGHAM GALLERY:

- "Printed Matter," featuring recent screen prints by local artists Ric Wilson, AWG and Bob Hartzell will be on display through Feb. 15.

The gallery, located in the Fine Arts Building, is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBITS:

- Works by Margarette Gillespie will be on display at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center through Feb. 28.
 - "Songs of My People" will be on display through Feb. 28 in Ellis Library.
- ### STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:
- "Light & Life in Missouri: Photos by Notley Hawkins" will be on display through May 12 in the north-south corridor gallery.
 - "The Stories They Tell:

Understanding Missouri History Through Maps," an exhibit of more than 30 maps organized by Walter Schroeder, associate professor emeritus of geography, is on display through June 30 in the main gallery.

Lectures & Seminars

Thursday, February 8

BLACK HISTORY LECTURE: Phyllis Chase, superintendent of the Columbia Public Schools, will present "Achievement Gap or Opportunity Gap: The State of Public School Education 52 Years After Brown" at 7 p.m. in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

Friday, February 9

LIFE SCIENCES & SOCIETY DIALOGUE: Mike Chippendale, interim director of the Life Sciences Center, and Walter Wehtje, post-doctoral fellow in fisheries and wildlife, will lead a dialogue on "the Environmental Impact of Invasive Species" at noon in N201/202 Memorial Union.

BLACK HISTORY

LECTURE: Missouri Rep. Yaphett El-Amin will present "Leaving a Legacy: Your Obligation to the Struggle" at 7 p.m. in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

Saturday, February 10

SATURDAY MORNING SCIENCE: Randy Prather, professor of animal sciences, will present "Green Eggs and (Heart Healthy) Ham" from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Life Sciences Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

Monday, February 12

CANCER RESEARCH LECTURE: Cancer researcher Fred Hawthorne, professor of radiology and director of MU's International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine, will present the annual Lloyd Thomas Lecture, "Yin, Yang and the Boron Neutron Capture Therapy of Cancer" at 8 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium.

ART HISTORY SEMINAR: Marie Nau Hunter with the city of Columbia's Office of Cultural Affairs will present "Community Arts Administration — Or What One ARHA Major Ended Up Doing After Graduation" at 4 p.m. in 106 Pickard Hall. A reception will follow.

Tuesday, February 13
BLACK HISTORY LECTURE: Robert Weems, professor of history, will present "Pacification and Profits: The Manipulation of African American Consumers Since the 1960s" at noon in 323 Gentry Hall.

Wednesday, February 14
BLACK HISTORY LECTURE: Kevin Cokley, associate professor of educational, school and counseling psychology, will present "ENOUGH With the Rising Tide of Black Conservatism" at noon in 232 Gentry Hall.

MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

SEMINAR: Jun Yan with the Tumor Immunobiology Program at the University of Louisville will present "Combined Beta-Glucan and Anti-Tumor mAb

Immunotherapy in Preclinical Animal Models" at 1 p.m. in Acuff Auditorium, MA217 Medical Science Building.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

SEMINAR: Jerry Workman from the Stowers Institute for Medical Research will present "Protein Complexes That Modify Chromatin for Transcription" at 3:30 p.m. in the Life Sciences Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

Thursday, February 15

MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

SEMINAR: Stuart Le Grice from the HIV Drug Resistance Program at the National Cancer Institute will present "Chemical Biology and HIV Enzymes — Re-Shaping Nature's Building Blocks" at 1 p.m. in the Life Science Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

Meetings

Thursday, February 8

STAFF COUNCIL: The Staff Advisory Council will meet at 1:15 p.m. today and Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, May 10 and 24, and June 14 in S204 Memorial Union, and at 1:15 p.m. April 26 in N222 Memorial Union.

FACULTY COUNCIL: The Faculty Council on University Policy will meet at 3:30 p.m. today and Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, April 19 and June 14 in S203 Memorial Union.

Special Events

Wednesday, February 7

BLACK HISTORY EVENT: The MU African Students Association will present a brown-bag luncheon for the "50th Anniversary of the Independence of Ghana" from noon-1 p.m. in 323 Gentry Hall.

Saturday, February 10

MU JAZZ FESTIVAL: High school and middle school jazz bands from around Missouri will perform from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Memorial Union's Stotler Lounge, Whitmore Recital Hall and Jesse Auditorium. The festival's finale will be a concert at 4:30 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium by the MU Concert Jazz Band with special guest artist, trumpeter Ron Miles.

Wednesday, February 14

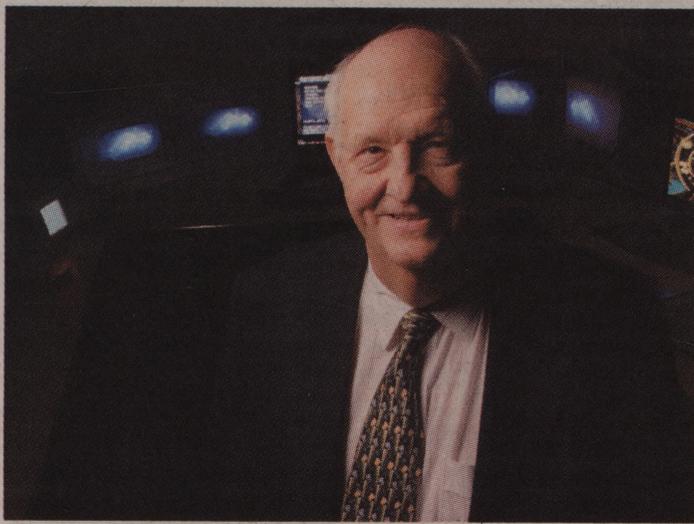
MUSEUM BENEFIT: The Museum of Art and Archaeology will sponsor a Valentine's Day benefit featuring a vocal performance by the Comeback Crooners at 7 p.m. and a reception at 8 p.m. For cost and ticket information, call 882-3591.

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Inventing support for MU



College of Arts and Science photo

CRYSTAL CLEAR James Fergason, the Mizzou physics graduate who invented some of the first commercial applications for liquid crystals, has given a portion of his prestigious prize for inventors to the physics department. He hopes his gift is a building block 'to attract students to the required discipline of a career in science.'

BUILDING BLOCK Gift from noted inventor will benefit physics department

Last summer, Mizzou alumnus James Fergason received the Lemelson-MITA Award, the nation's largest and arguably most prestigious prize for inventors. The award included a \$500,000 monetary prize, of which Fergason has given \$200,000 to the MU Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Fergason graduated from MU with a B.S. in physics in 1956 and received an honorary doctorate of science in 2001. An active inventor, he has more than 150 U.S. patents and 500 foreign patents and was inducted into the National Inventors' Hall of Fame in 1998.

He didn't discover liquid crystals, but he did become one of the first to understand what they could do. Fergason invented some of their practical uses, including digital watches, calculators, forehead thermometers and flat panel TV. Today, he continues to work as an

independent inventor and is currently working on projects with flat-panel televisions, computer monitors, and rear-projection television and presentation projectors.

His most recent gift is an addition to the James L. and Dora D. Fergason Fund for Excellence in Physics, created in 2001. Fergason said that when he accepted the award, he already planned to give the money to help others.

"Providing the opportunity to excel in the hard sciences has been difficult because of a lack of interest on the part of society and an opportunity to have the funding to attract students to the required discipline of a career in science," Fergason says. "I hope this is a building block in a physics department that excels and meets this need."

His gift will be used to benefit faculty and students studying physics. "Like all major research universities, MU is in an arms race to attract and retain the very brightest researchers and students" says Michael O'Brien, dean of arts and science. "Jim Fergason's gift will allow us to compete

Community-based treatment benefits youthful offenders

CRIMINAL IMPACT

Study finds little difference between sex offenders and other young mates in juvenile justice system

Juvenile sex offenders often are provided specialized treatment; however, an MU researcher disagrees with that approach. Charles Borduin, professor of psychological sciences, said such offenders are very likely no different than other serious offenders in the juvenile justice system. Nor do they require special treatment, which is generally too narrow in scope and delivered in institutional settings.

"Everybody assumes there's something unique about juvenile sex offenders, they have deviant sexual beliefs or something else that makes them need specialized services," Borduin says. To answer the question, 'are juvenile sex offenders unique?' — probably not," Borduin says.

Borduin and Scott Ronis, an MU doctoral student, recently completed a study which Borduin calls the most comprehensive of its kind.

It provides an overall behavioral analysis of 10- to 17-year-old males — most of whom had long histories of

arrests for serious crimes. A total of 115 youth participated and were grouped into five categories that included sex offenders, nonsexual offenders and a control group.

The study found that juvenile sex offenders and nonsexual offenders were alike in many ways. Both groups had more overall behavioral problems, lower family bonding and adaptability, higher involvement with deviant peers and more aggression toward their peers in general, and poorer academic achievement than youths without criminal records. Those commonalities, combined with similar patterns of criminal offending, strongly support Borduin's theory that sexual offenders and nonsexual offenders are more similar than different.

He proposes a more comprehensive, community-based treatment approach such as multi-systemic therapy, which focuses on the offender and social networks: family, peers and academics. Borduin says the usual treatment approaches, which include group and individual counseling, are often delivered in residential settings that aim primarily to change how sex

offenders think about their crime or its impact on their victims. There is little evidence these approaches are effective, he says, perhaps because they neglect the importance of parents, peers and teachers in the lives of the offenders.

"Juvenile sex offenders have the same problems that other kids in the juvenile justice system have — family problems, school problems, behavior problems. The sex offense is only how they got caught," Borduin says.

"When you address the broad range of problems in the lives of these youths, and do so using a community-based approach, you can then provide successful treatment. If you provide treatment in an institutional or residential setting, the kid goes back into the community, and the family situation hasn't changed, the school situation hasn't changed, the peer group hasn't changed. None of the key factors driving the offenses have changed. If you don't provide successful treatment, you pay in the long run. Then, juvenile sex offenders become adult sex offenders. If you can address all of the important factors, you can be successful with these kids."

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MU Campus Location
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Tues. & Wed. 4:30-8:00
Saturdays 10:00-1:30

January 31 – April 15, 2007

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<http://extension.missouri.edu/hes/taxed/consumer.htm>

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Roll over and say 'ahhh'

BAD BUGS Do our pets carry antibiotic-resistant bacteria?

The so-called "super bug" bacteria, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is a growing problem in the medical profession where common contact can spread the antibiotic-resistant infection from doctor to patient.

But are our dogs and cats also capable of carrying and spreading this bacteria? To find out, researchers at the College of Veterinary Medicine are recruiting 750 pet owners to determine if the bacteria routinely exists on our pets.

The resistant bacteria seem to be most prevalent in health-care settings. According to Centers for Disease Control data, the proportion of infections that are antimicrobial resistant has been growing. In 1974, these infections accounted for 2 percent of the total number of staphylococcal infections; in 1995 it was 22 percent; in

2004 it was some 63 percent.

The resistant bacteria often lives on the skin of healthy people where it causes little more than an occasional boil or pimple-or no symptoms at all. It becomes dangerous when the bacteria enters the body through a cut or puncture where it can produce a serious infection that does not readily respond to antibiotics. This forces physicians to use stronger, more expensive, or second- or third-choice medicines that may be less effective or have more side effects.

It is particularly dangerous in health-care settings where patients usually have weakened immune systems. Surgical procedures, dialysis treatment or common tests that puncture the skin can introduce the bacteria into the body where it can cause life-threatening problems, such as bloodstream and surgical site infections or pneumonia.

Staphylococcal bacteria are commonly found on human

skin and in the nasal passages, but less so in animals. Last year the federal Centers for Disease Control started looking at whether dogs and cats are potential carriers of the resistant bacteria. Scientists wonder if humans are giving the bacteria to pets, pets are giving it to humans or if the staphylococcal bacteria is cycling constantly among humans and their pets.

Early data indicates that there is a growing problem in the veterinary world. Veterinarians have reported cases of the infection among dogs who have had surgery such as limb amputation. Methicillin-resistant staphylococcal infections have been found among horses, and outbreaks have occurred in equine hospitals.

Bacteria on pets may have grown resistant to antibiotics as modern veterinary medicine routinely uses pharmaceuticals to save animals who would have died a quarter century ago.

The research study is being headed by Stephanie Kottler, a resident veterinarian, along with MU veterinary faculty members Leah Cohn, associate professor

of small animal internal medicine, and John Middleton, assistant professor of food animal internal medicine.

The MU study will evaluate 750 pets and their owners divided evenly into three groups: pets of human health-care workers, pets of veterinary health-care workers and pets of people who don't work in health-care fields. Study results will help define whether pets in households with health-care workers are a more likely to serve as reservoirs of the resistant bacteria.

Kottler says the study will take only a few minutes of participants' time. After filling out a questionnaire, a technician will use a cotton swab to touch the inside of the pet's nose and another swab to touch the inside of the pet owner's nose. The samples will be cultured to determine what kind of bacteria are present.

Results will remain anonymous, and each participant will receive a coupon for dog food or a pet-related gift. For more information, contact Kottler by e-mail at: kottlers@missouri.edu.

Underwater detectives

SEA SENSORS

Geologists study changes in the seafloor

Earthquakes and volcanic activity occur when the tectonic plates that make up Earth's surface move apart or converge. While this activity is relatively easy to observe on land, it's more difficult to observe under the ocean, where most of it occurs. An MU geology researcher will undertake a study to learn more about this process by placing sensors on a mid-ocean ridge off the coast of Mexico.

"Right now, we can only listen from land using seismometers, or in the oceans using hydrophones, and try to find out when there is activity in a mid-ocean ridge," says Marie-Helene Cormier, assistant professor of geological sciences.

In mid February, Cormier and her colleagues will place sensors on the seafloor along the East Pacific Rise southwest of Mexico to measure and record changes in the pressure of the water column above them.

She says the pressure of the water is expected to decrease during ridge activity because magma flows up between the two plates, creating new seafloor and raising the height of the sensors by a few inches. She and her team will collect data until the sensors are removed in 2009 or 2010.

"We expect there will be activity in this area while the sensors are there," Cormier says. "We'll measure, use computer models and compare data of the seascape from previous missions to this area to learn more about what's happening."

The data could help scientists better understand what happens when tectonic plates move apart. This activity can cause underwater volcanic eruptions and earthquakes that result in the cycling of large quantities of seawater through the ocean floor, creating a nutrient-rich environment for bacteria and microorganisms.

"We want to understand more about what's happening under the oceans," Cormier says. "Seventy percent of our land is under the ocean, so it's important to map out what landforms there are and understand what's happening there."

Know your numbers

Get the facts about your risk of heart disease

In recognition of National Heart Month, the heart-care specialists at University of Missouri Health Care urge you to find out your risk of heart disease and how to prevent heart attacks at a free health screening.

Saturday, Feb. 17
10 a.m. to noon
Macy's

Heart health screenings

- Blood pressure
- Body mass index
- Cholesterol*
- Percent body fat
- Weight

*Call 882-4283 to schedule your cholesterol screening. Space is limited and an eight-hour fast is required.

Heart health information and counseling

Cardiologists, registered nurses and a dietician will offer individual counseling regarding:

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Exercise recommendations
- Heart-healthy diet
- Smoking cessation

Exercise your heart

Fit for Life

Join Fit for Life's Stay Fit program for \$78.

Includes 28 sessions with registered nurse supervision and monitored exercise.

Call 882-4283 to register or for more information.

The Health Connection

Three free visits for group fitness classes and \$10 off first month's membership.*

Call 882-1718 to register or for more information.

*New members only and not valid with other discounts. Expires 4/30/07



Graduate from Page 1

advances that will improve their lives," Benoit says. "MU does have a unique mission in graduate education."

One way the Graduate School has been getting the word out is by upgrading its printed and online recruitment materials, which academic departments can then customize for students interested in their graduate programs. Benoit's office has also produced a new DVD for prospective grad students that includes profiles and endorsements from faculty advisers, current students and successful alumni.

"Graduate education allows this university to accomplish its other important missions, such as our research mission. Graduate students are research assistants, and they play an important role in helping us accomplish the research that we do on this campus," Benoit says.

"It also helps us with our undergraduate teaching mission. Graduate students are teaching assistants; there are about 1,200 graduate teaching assistants helping deliver undergraduate instruction across the campus."

The breadth and quality of its graduate education is one defining criteria for MU's membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU) and for its designation as a "Comprehensive Doctoral With Medical/Veterinary" university. "We know that being a member of the AAU is very important to this institution," she says. "It allows us to attract high-quality faculty and students; it allows us to be part of the national conversation about higher education."

Benoit also points out that graduate education also helps MU accomplish its goal of increasing diversity. "Last year, the percentage of underrepresented graduate students increased across all categories," she says. "One of the things that I'm really proud of is that both Chancellor Deaton and Provost Foster are particularly supportive of the critical role of graduate education."

National trends

MU's graduate programs are dealing with many of the same challenges and opportunities that other programs face around the country. Finding the resources to fund improvements in graduate education has long been an ongoing challenge at Mizzou, Benoit says.

"There are never enough resources. You would always like to have more resources to be able to do more for the programs," she says. "In this

day and age, because of the budget situation, we work very hard to get more resources. We also are trying to be creative so we can do more with the resources we do have."

One option for boosting graduate education funding is through private fund-raising efforts, such as the All We Call Mizzou campaign. "There are certain things that we would like to be able to expand; one of the issues is stipends. We're trying to do more with the stipends that we offer students; we're also trying to offer benefits packages so we can be more competitive with other institutions."

Graduate enrollments have grown on campus by about 10 percent over the past decade, from 3,992 in 1997 to 4,366 in 2006, with almost all the growth coming at the doctoral level — from 1,602 to 2,019 PhD students.

"National trends indicate that the master's level is the place where future growth will happen," Benoit says, "so we're looking at places where we have capacity in our master's programs. I think it's very important that we look at where student demand is and the kinds of programs our students are interested in. We're asking, 'What are the delivery modes that we need to be looking at in order to attract students?'"

That includes everything from distance and online programs to certificate programs, professional master's programs and opportunities for nontraditional students. "We want to think about different ways we can make graduate education accessible while still maintaining quality," Benoit says.

She says that more and more graduate students are looking for opportunities to do interdisciplinary work. "One of the places where we're really seeing a lot of student interest is not just study within a particular discipline, but also where there are interesting intersections between disciplines," Benoit says.

As an example, she points to the recently announced start-up this fall of a master's of public health program at MU that will bring together established strengths in nursing, medicine, veterinary medicine, human environmental sciences and health professions.

International students

One area in which Mizzou has been bucking the national trends in graduate education is in its international student enrollments. After 9/11, as student visas became more difficult to acquire, many

universities saw the number of international enrollments plummet and are just now starting to rise again.

"We did not really have those declines," Benoit says. "We either had increases or stayed about the same. I think that's largely because we streamlined our processes for facilitating international applications."

"We have an incredibly good working relationship with the MU International Center and we have good relationships with international faculty who recommend their students to attend here. Another thing I hear is that international students find this campus very friendly; it's a very welcoming environment."

The state of Missouri is 16th nationally in the number of international students and had a 1.1 percent increase in the number of all international students, both graduate and undergraduate. Mizzou last year experienced a 3.2 percent increase in all international students and 4.1 percent rise in graduate students from other countries. Benoit says that 81 percent of all international students at MU are enrolled in graduate programs.

PhD completion program

Completion rates for PhD programs is another topic in the national discussion about graduate education, Benoit says. "The reason is because, nationally, 50 percent of students who start a PhD don't finish. It varies by discipline, but across the board it's 50 percent, which is not a good percentage," she says.

"MU has a higher completion — 63 percent — but we would like it to be even higher. So the conversation has been, what kind of interventions can we do that would have some impact on students finishing, because there's a lot invested in a student when he or she begins a PhD."

Two years ago, MU was one of 29 universities selected for an initiative by the Council of Graduate Schools to find ways to boost completion rates.

Mizzou's proposal looked at two distinct time periods for attrition in doctoral programs. "We know from the literature that students leave their PhD program early for very different reasons than when they leave late in the program," Benoit says.

The PhD completion project at MU is collecting data from 10 graduate programs that represent a broad cross section of disciplines and different size programs. The study is looking at whether

factors such as undergraduate research experiences, successfully completing research methods courses and other discipline-specific factors are good predictors of higher completion rates.

Researchers have developed a number of interventions, including a mentoring program in which newer graduate students learn the ropes from more advanced students who "help them acclimate to graduate school and to have a

safe environment to get answers to the questions that they don't want to ask an adviser," she says.

Other interventions retention services for students who may be struggling in their courses, conflict resolution workshops and online annual progress reports that can alert graduate studies directors to any problems. The PhD completion project also provides funding to academic departments to improve the environment for graduate students.

UPCOMING SEMINARS FROM FACULTY AND STAFF BENEFITS



University of Missouri Retirement, Disability and Death Benefit Plan Seminar

In this 1-hour informative session, you will learn when one becomes vested in the University Retirement, Disability, and Death Benefit Plan, what benefits the Plan includes, and how these benefits are calculated. If you have you been at the University for at least 4 years this is the program for you!

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 28	8:30-9:30	146 Heinkel
April 25	8:30-9:30	146 Heinkel
June 27	8:30-9:30	146 Heinkel

Space is limited. To register, go to:

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/hr/benefits/seminars/>

Tax Deferred Annuity Seminars

Whether you are just beginning employment with the University of Missouri, approaching retirement, or somewhere in the middle, it is never too late to begin saving for retirement. The University of Missouri offers the Tax Deferred Annuity (403b) Plan and the Deferred Compensation (457b) Plan—two easy ways to save for your retirement while enjoying favorable tax benefits. Learn what these plans are, how they operate, and how to get started on your way to retirement readiness.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 28	9:30-10:30	146 Heinkel
April 25	9:30-10:30	146 Heinkel
June 27	9:30-10:30	146 Heinkel

Space is limited. To register, go to:

<http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/hr/benefits/seminars/>

Nine lives and counting



College of Veterinary Medicine photo

ONE LUCKY CAT Carolyn Henry, associate professor of small animal medicine and surgery, and David Bommarito, a resident in veterinary oncology, with their recent patient, Percy Katz, a Russian blue cat who traveled all the way from Joplin, Mo., for specialized radiation treatments to fight his cancer. The spiral CT scanner in the background is one of just a few in the country devoted to veterinary medicine.

FELINE SURVIVOR

MU veterinary oncologists successfully treat Joplin's personable pussycat

Percy Katz, a Russian blue cat who is the official greeter of the Joplin Museum Complex off Route 66 in Joplin, Mo., is a cat with a lot of friends and almost as many problems. A fixture at the museum for more than six years, he has been held in the arms of the governor of Missouri, greeted more than 100,000 visitors to the museum, and has pen pals throughout the world.

Percy's tribulations are not over. The cat, who soon will turn 7 years old, has had three surgeries to remove cancerous lesions from his abdomen and left hind leg. But the cancer, a particularly aggressive form of sarcoma, returned and Percy recently completed four weeks of radiation therapy at MU's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Percy came to the Joplin museum in the winter of 2000, an abandoned kitten left near the doorstep. Brad Belk, the museum's director,

began feeding the forlorn cat. Then, just before a blizzard struck, Belk decided to bring the cat indoors for shelter and a warm bed.

He and his staff immediately fell in love with what they later found out to be a Russian blue, a beautiful breed. "Percy seemed to want to mingle with everybody and it was an amazing thing to me. People seemed to enjoy him and the staff loved him, so it seemed like a wonderful fit," Belk says.

Percy was named after Joplin native and ragtime composer Percy Wenrich. Percy became such a hit at the museum that an oil painting of the personable pussycat by Mount Vernon, Mo. artist Harriet Cremeen is now displayed on a wall there. "We never dreamed that he would reach this sort of legendary status," Belk says.

Percy's fame caused another crisis last August when he mysteriously disappeared from the museum shortly after a Girl Scout troop toured the facility. Percy had never been known to roam outside of the building, and museum staff suspected that Percy had been

catnapped. Local newspaper and TV had Percy's puss all over the nightly news in case someone had seen him. Scores of stories were written about the search. Belk let it be known that a cat carrier would be placed at the entrance door with a "no questions asked" plea to return the famous kitty. The next morning, Percy was found in the carrier no worse for wear after his adventure.

But Percy's greatest ordeal began after two tumors appeared in the cat's deep tissue and some of his abdominal muscle. MU alumnus Steve Walstad, DVM '75, performed a surgery to remove the tumors. When Belk noticed that three or four tumors had reappeared a second surgery was performed. After a third surgery at a Kansas City area specialty clinic, tests found that cancerous cells remained and further treatment was needed.

Percy responded well to the radiation treatment at MU and the prognosis is good, says veterinary oncologist Carolyn Henry. Percy is back in Joplin and has resumed his role as the museum's official greeter. He will return to MU in several weeks for a CT scan to see if the cancer is truly in remission.

Exercise fights diabetes

One in three American children born in 2000 will develop type II diabetes, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A new study by MU nutrition researchers says that acute exercise — as little as 15 minutes a day — can have a profound influence on preventing and fighting the disease.

This research adds to the body of evidence that exercise can fight type II diabetes, one of the most widespread self-inflicted health-care struggles in the United States.

"Many people can fight type II diabetes through diet and exercise alone," says John Thyfault, assistant professor of nutritional sciences in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. "It is important to ward off diabetes early. Exercise has proven to be effective at all levels. At any stage of type II diabetes, from an obese child to a person dependent for 20 years on insulin injections, exercise could have a dramatic effect on

improving insulin sensitivity."

Type II diabetes results from a lack of insulin production and insulin resistance in skeletal muscle cells. Insulin is necessary to help drive glucose out of the blood and into the tissues of the body. As a result of insulin resistance, cells do not respond appropriately to insulin, causing more insulin to be released to have a measurable effect and ultimately causing insulin and glucose to build up dangerously in the blood.

Thyfault's study found that relatively short periods of acute muscle exercise in diabetic Zucker rats significantly increased insulin sensitivity in the previously insulin resistant skeletal muscles.

"In relation to a person with type II diabetes, this would mean that they could lessen their dependence on insulin therapy to control their blood glucose levels or potentially control glucose levels without any drug by just increasing their daily activity levels in addition to the right diet," Thyfault says.



Seeking Mizzou's next top models



Staff Fashion Show
April 12, 2007
Jesse Auditorium

We're looking for staff members — both men and women — to strut the runway in the season's latest clothing and accessories from local vendors.*

Sign up below. Entry deadline: **Feb. 16, 2007**

Please print and return form in campus mail to Mary Petty, 8 DeFoe Hall.

Yes, sign me up as a model.

No, I do not want to model but will volunteer to help with

Staff Recognition Week April 9-13, 2007, or other council committees.

Name: _____

Campus address: _____

Campus phone: _____

E-mail: _____

*Many of the stores offer models discounts on purchases.

For more information, e-mail petty990@aol.com or call 882-7211.

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