

**Wildlife Spectacle**

Agricultural journalism students will view migration of sandhill cranes.

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Teacher Quality

Low-income U.S. families caught in education 'opportunity gap.'

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Feb. 14, 2008

University of Missouri-Columbia

In the know

MIZZOU 101

Employee orientation is a what's what of MU

When faculty and staff join the Mizzou family, they all must get to know the University and all the intricacies of its family tree first. To do this, new employees must complete an orientation conducted by Human Resource Services. It's a literal who's who and what's what of the University of Missouri.

The goal of the three-and-a-half-hour sessions is to equip new employees with the knowledge they need to know about the University and its programs. Sessions are conducted twice a month; the first a morning session on the first Wednesday of the month and the second an afternoon session on the third Wednesday of the month. A full schedule of orientation dates, times and locations is available on the Human Resource Services Web site at mujobs.missouri.edu.



Rob Hill photo

GETTING STARTED New MU employees receive training on their job duties and department culture from their own specific department, but for the big picture on working at Mizzou they turn to the regular employee orientation sessions coordinated by Bonnie Gregg for Human Resource Services.

"We get around 20 people on average per session," says Bonnie Gregg, coordinator for new employee orientation. "It varies by time of year though, we had as low as seven one month and as high as 74."

The importance of new employee orientation can't be understated. "New employees to campus receive training from their departments on department culture and on their specific job duties," Gregg

says. "Our training covers laws and human resource policies so employees know where to go for policy information, who to go to and their rights while working at the University."

The new employee

orientation agenda is divided into five different sections. First is a discussion on the University of Missouri mission, values and history. This gives new employees a brief introduction to the organization they have been hired to work for.

Next is an explanation of the organizational structure of the University, providing information about who works for who, what department is where, and where to go with specific questions regarding issues throughout the University.

Once the University introductions are done, the human resources portion of the presentation begins. As the human resources mission states, they are "committed to advising, educating, and consulting with management, staff, and applicants to encourage fair and equitable employment."

The human resources portion of the session informs new employees about their rights, restrictions and expectations. It reviews statutes such as sexual harassment law, equal employment practices, the Americans with Disabilities Act,

SEE Orient on Page 5

Freshman Interest Groups help steer undergraduates to success

FINDING A NICHE

Participants can choose from 103 focus areas

Mizzou boasts a large program with a little name: FIGs. It's short for Freshman Interest Groups. Each FIG consists of 15 to 20 students with similar interests who take three core classes together, are housed in the same residence hall and participate in special programs and seminars designed to make the jump from high school to college as smooth as possible. Along the way, seasoned upper class students known as peer advisers and faculty or staff members who serve as co-facilitators help freshmen get their feet on the ground.

MU officials started the program in the mid 1990s, and

it is more popular today than ever, says Jeff Wiese, program coordinator. "Roughly a third to 40 percent of our freshman class participate in a FIG," he says.

Students who join FIGs typically do better academically and socially at Mizzou than those who decide not to take advantage of the program, Wiese says. For example, Fall '06 freshmen who were in FIGs had a higher GPA (2.96) than those not in FIGs (2.79). The most recent six-year graduate rates — Fall '01 freshmen — show that FIGs' participants had a higher graduation rate (72 percent) than those not in FIGs (65.9 percent).

"Also, our most recent four-year graduation rates (Fall '03 freshmen) show FIGs students had a higher graduation rate (49.8 percent) than those not in FIGs (40.4 percent)" Wiese says.

Mizzou is not the first school to tender such support for freshmen, but it is ahead of the pack in its offerings. "We are one of the few universities that combine both academic and residential components to our FIGs program," Wiese says. Blending the two helps one particular group of students succeed in college life, he says. "We see that students who get the greatest impact out of our program are students who are having some academic struggles coming into the University such as those with lower ACT scores or lower high school GPAs."

Each FIG is based on a theme, and freshmen can choose from 103 topics that range from business to science. For instance, students who are unsure of what they want to do after they graduate and just want to

explore majors or probe career options enroll in the Exploring Majors and Careers FIG.

Rachael Cobb, an academic adviser in academic exploration and advising services, serves as a co-facilitator for this group. She works closely with the FIG peer adviser, creating the syllabus and topics to include in the proseminar course that she helps teach.

Students enrolled in her section are assigned to her for advising. "It is a good opportunity to interact and to get to know the students I advise," she says. "In the FIG, I see them on a weekly basis, whereas many of my other advisees I only see one or two times a semester."

Students have opportunities to learn from Cobb outside the classroom while sharing experiences and interests over

dinner, at cultural events or just hanging out together in the residence hall. Students value the interaction and guidance from faculty and staff as key components to creating a valuable learning experience at MU. Of the students enrolled in a FIG last fall, 60.4 percent said their co-facilitator helped them feel more connected to their academic field.

"It's exciting to welcome students their first semester at MU and see how they change over just one semester," Cobb says.

The experience, she says, spans more than just that first semester. "I still advise several students I met in the FIG two years ago. Because I have the opportunity to get to know those students better, it's exciting to see them find their niche at MU."

A global grasp

A group of MU students, faculty and staff traveled to the Jefferson City Feb. 5 to support of a resolution being considered by state legislators that acknowledges the importance of international education to the state of Missouri.

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, encourages students and faculty at Missouri's higher education institutions to participate in international education programs, including foreign language instruction and study abroad. The resolution

also recognizes contributions that international students offer to Missouri's economy and cultural landscape.

The MU delegation included international students and Mizzou students who have studied abroad. They joined students and educators from across Missouri at the resolution's first hearing before the House Committee on Higher Education. David Currey, director of International Student and Scholar Services and assistant director of MU's International Center spoke on behalf of the resolution.

"This resolution represents an important milestone in

Missouri's effort to support international opportunities for our students and for our citizens," Currey says. "The heart of international education is a two-way exchange of ideas that not only promotes much needed cross-cultural understanding, but also provides our citizens with access to critical skills and resources." If it is passed, Missouri will join 13 other states that have already adopted similar resolutions.

Show-Me the history

MU history emerita Professor Susan Flader has long been recognized as a pioneer in

the field of environmental history. During her years at Mizzou she has mentored a new generation of environmental historians.

A two-day conference that honors her many accomplishments will be held Feb. 22 and 23 in Memorial Union. Many of the speakers at the Susan L. Flader Conference on Missouri's Environmental and Cultural History are her former doctoral students or colleagues.

The luncheon speaker Feb. 23 will be David Thelen, professor emeritus of history at Indiana University and an MU history faculty member

from 1966 to 1985. The keynote speaker that evening will be Donald Worster, professor of American history at the University of Kansas who has written extensively about environmental history and the history of ecology and of the American West.

A complete list of speakers and cost and registration information is available online at www.history.missouri.edu/news or call Melinda Lockwood at 882-0250.

Keeping roses rosy

If you haven't bought flowers for your sweetie by now, you're probably already in deep doo-

Thompson Center joins national autism research consortium

DISTINCT DISORDERS

DNA study focuses on families with one affected child

The University of Missouri's Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders is now part of a groundbreaking international effort to search for the causes of autism. A \$1.6 million grant from The Simmons Foundation makes the Thompson Center one of 12 university-based clinics to be part of the Simmons Simplex Collection project — the largest effort at gathering DNA samples from patients with autism and their families.

According to The Simmons Foundation — a New York based philanthropic organization — the Simmons Simplex Collection is a new initiative to

search for the causes of autism by collecting DNA samples at 12 sites from families with just one child with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This initiative is different from past projects because it is focused on families with just one child with

autism spectrum disorders, yet there is a great deal of variation in the behaviors and level of functioning among children and adults with some form of the disorders.

"Autism is a collection of often quite distinct disorders

"When we discovered childhood leukemia was a number of different disorders requiring different treatment strategies, the cure rate improved to 90 percent. This is what we want to do with autism."
— Judith Miles, principal investigator

autism, called simplex families.

Recent scientific findings suggest that there may be many forms of autism. There are core disorders that define

that people have just lumped together in the past," says Judith Miles, William S. Thompson Chair in Autism and principal investigator for the project.

"In the 1970s, every child with leukemia was treated the same way and very few survived. However, when we discovered childhood leukemia was a number of different disorders requiring different treatment strategies, the cure rate improved to 90 percent. This is what we want to do with autism."

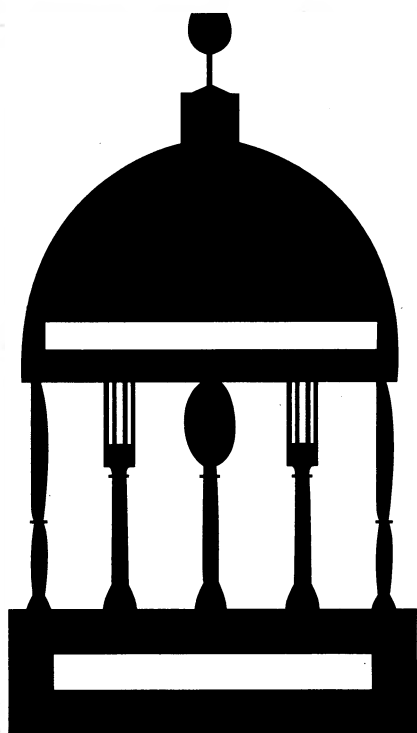
According to Miles, there has never been a comprehensive database that provides so much uniform data. The DNA gathered through the Simmons Simplex Collection will be stored at a central repository and distributed to qualified investigators throughout the world. It will include data collected on more than 3,000 families from across North America.

"Using state-of-the-art, gold-standard measures in a very rigorous assessment will

help us accurately characterize these children and will assist quality research regarding the mechanisms and causes of autism," says Stephen Kanne, co-investigator for the project and assistant professor of health psychology in the MU School of Health Professions.

The grant requires the Thompson Center to provide 100 DNA samples to the Simmons Simplex Collection each year for three years. The other sites involved in the project are: Baylor University, Columbia University, Emory University, Harvard University, McGill University in Montreal, the University of California-Los Angeles, the University of Illinois-Chicago, the University of Michigan, Vanderbilt University, Washington University and Yale University.

"We are thrilled to be part of the Simmons consortium, which brings together the best autism research centers in North America," says Janet Farmer, co-director of the Thompson Center. "Each center was chosen because it brings a special area of expertise. This is the kind of cooperative research that is needed to comprehend autism."



DINNER WITH
TWELVE
TIGERS

GET TO KNOW THE MIZZOU FAMILY

Open up your home by hosting a meal attended by **six alumni** and **six students**.

On **MARCH 4** or **MARCH 5**, you can either host a dinner or decide to attend one.

It's a great way to get to know students and **reconnect with your Mizzou experience**, whether you are a graduate, faculty or staff of this great university.

Get your friends together to allow six students to walk away with a memorable experience and the feeling that they are apart of a family.

For more information on how to take part in this new Mizzou tradition, contact: Adam Hickey, ach6y9@mizzou.edu



MizzouWeekly

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doo. But MU's Horticulture Club can offer you one last chance to stay out of the doghouse. Club members are holding their annual rose sale, and you have until 5:30 p.m. today, Feb. 14, to latch onto a bouquet in the lobby of the Natural Resources Building.

If you want to keep those roses in the pink of health, some lemon-lime soda could breathe extra life into the beautiful bunch, says an MU horticulturalist. Rose lovers can make their own preservative for long-lasting, sweet-smelling roses by mixing 12 ounces of lemon-lime soda (regular, not diet), 12 ounces

of water and half a teaspoon of bleach or mouthwash. For hard water, a drop of dishwashing liquid should be added to the solution.

"The soda has sugar that feeds the plant and acid that works to lower the pH level," says David Trinklein, associate professor of horticulture. "The bleach or mouthwash works to kill bacteria. One drop of dishwashing liquid is enough. It works to break down the polarity of the water — to make it slicker so it translocates inside the tissue."

"There is a limit to how long any cut flower will last," Trinklein says, "but you can

extend that time by providing roses with proper care."

Online resolution

New Year's resolutions can be easy to make but harder to keep. A new goal-pursuit and social networking Web site, GoalHub.com, helps goal-setters stay motivated and focused throughout the year. The site, developed with input from Ken Sheldon, professor of psychological sciences, provides practical goal-setting tools that are based on solid psychological research.

After users set a goal, the site prompts them to

develop realistic plans and strategies, and provides tools for tracking their progress. It also encourages them to involve others in their quests. "The network helps make you accountable," Sheldon says. "It's one thing to say my New Year's resolution is to lose 20 pounds this year. It's another thing to say it to 10 people who are going to follow up with you. You get both encouragement and a public proclamation, two factors that research shows help people achieve goals."

GoalHub users can also send automatic e-mails to friends when

they set or achieve a goal, or send themselves an encouraging e-mail in the future. Other useful, research-proven features are under development as the site evolves from its current early stage.

"This is supposed to make goal setting fun," Sheldon says. "The site is designed to lead people through a process where they can work toward their dreams in a way they have not before with the help and support of friends and family members."

Low-income U.S. families caught in education 'opportunity gap'

TEACHER QUALITY

Other countries promote equal distribution of educational resources

MU education researchers have found that children from low-income families in the United States do not have the same access to qualified teachers as do wealthier students. Compared to 46 countries, the United States had the fourth largest opportunity gap — the difference between students of high and low socioeconomic status in their access to qualified teachers.

Comparing eighth grade math teachers from around the world, the MU study defined highly qualified teachers as ones who have full certification,

a degree in math or math education and at least three years of teaching experience. The study found that high-achieving countries have a larger percentage of students taught by highly qualified teachers than low-achieving countries.

"When students are not taught by highly qualified teachers, their opportunity to learn is considerably lower," says Motoko Akiba, assistant professor of educational leadership and policy analysis. "Previous studies have shown that students with similar backgrounds achieve significantly higher when taught by highly-qualified teachers."

The study also found that:

- 29.7 percent of U.S. eighth grade math

teachers did not major in mathematics or mathematics education; the international average is 13.2 percent.

- 60.3 percent of U.S. eighth graders are taught mathematics by teachers with full certification, who were mathematics or mathematics education majors and had at least three years of teaching experience; nearly 40 percent of U.S. eighth graders do not have access to highly qualified teachers.

- In the United States, 67.6 percent of high-socioeconomic status students are taught by highly qualified teachers, compared with 53.2 percent of low-socioeconomic status students. This opportunity gap of 14.4 percent is significantly larger than the international

average of 2.5 percent.

The study supports No Child Left Behind's (NCLB) requirement of full certification and subject-specific preparation. However, Akiba says the federal law's requirements will not be enough to close the opportunity gap without providing equal and continuous learning opportunities and resources for instructional improvement.

"The intention of teacher quality requirements in NCLB is good, but it is not enough," Akiba said. "There is a gap in learning opportunities for teachers. In order to close the opportunity gap in the United States, teachers should have equal opportunities to learn and to expand their knowledge in their field."

Many countries in this study ensure equal student access to highly qualified teachers through equal distribution of educational resources. In the United States, however, there is a major funding gap between low-income and high-income districts. In high-poverty areas, districts may not have resources or the capacity to recruit highly qualified teachers.

The study "Teacher Quality, Opportunity Gap and National Achievement in 46 Countries," was published in the Educational Researcher. The study was conducted by Akiba; Gerald K. LeTendre, professor-in-charge of educational theory and policy at Penn State; and Jay P. Scribner, associate professor of educational leadership and policy analysis at MU.

Thinking about loss diminishes regret

FINDING MEANING

Researcher examines impact of 'What might have been'

There are two guarantees in every person's life: happiness and sadness. Although lost opportunities and mistaken expectations are often unpleasant to think and talk about, these experiences may impact personality development and overall happiness.

A seven-year study conducted by Laura King, an MU psychology researcher, indicates that individuals who take time to stop and think about their losses are more likely to mature and achieve a potentially more durable sense of happiness.

"People are generally in a hurry to be happy again, but they need to understand that it's okay to feel bad and to feel bad for a while," says King, professor of psychological sciences. "It's natural to want to feel happy right after a loss or regrettable experience, but those who can examine 'what might have been' and be mindfully present

to their negative feelings, are more likely to mature through that loss and might also obtain a different kind of happiness."

Drawing on samples of adults who have experienced significant life-changing events, including parents of children with Down syndrome, women who have experienced divorce after marriages of more than 20 years, and gay men and lesbians, King examined the participants' written accounts of their current best possible selves and unattainable best possible selves that they may have once cherished.

Answering questions like, "How great would your life have been if only..." King found that those who could acknowledge a past characterized by loss were more likely to show personality development over time.

The study — "Whatever Happened to 'What Might Have Been?'" — also found that those who might consider themselves complacent or happy but simple tend to diminish regret

by focusing on goals that are still available. One participant said, "All of these goals are still attainable, even though we have a child with Down syndrome."

In contrast, those who scored high on both well-being and personality development were able to acknowledge a challenging life experience, as one gay man who wrote vividly about the difficulties of a gay person in a homophobic society, while maintaining his commitment to his current life dreams.

"People change after potentially tragic events; it is unrealistic to think that you can go right back to the way you were before the event," King says. "It might be best to try and make meaning out of what has happened and start a new life that is tied to what you have learned from the change. Being happy is not about forgetting the past, but forming a life that is founded on what you had before, or who you used to be."

Hey, lighten up

BRIGHT IDEA

Fluorescent light bulbs can save money and energy

Consumers may feel sticker shock when paying \$4 to replace that burnt out 50-cent incandescent light bulb, but that pricey new bulb can last for years. "While compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) cost more than incandescent bulbs, they last up to 10 times longer and use about one-fourth the energy. CFLs are the kind of light bulbs people take with them when they move," says Barbara Buffaloe, University of Missouri Extension associate.

Efficiency standards under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 will require a phase-out of sales of conventional incandescent bulbs beginning in 2012. By 2014 those bulbs will no longer be sold, giving way to fluorescent and other more energy-efficient bulbs.

Compact fluorescent bulbs can not only lower your electric bill, their longer lifetime should more than make up for the higher price. Government cost-comparison figures indicate a 167-day lamp life for a 100-watt incandescent bulb, compared to a 1,642-day lamp life for CFL bulb. Including the lower electricity usage, that translates into an estimated \$63 savings.

One thing to consider when buying a CFL is its light output. "You should compare the wattage of incandescent lamps with CFL wattage that provides similar light levels," Buffaloe says.

For example, a 25-watt CFL bulb compares with 100-watt incandescent bulb in light level. Retailers should have charts to make such comparisons.

Check to see if your light switches are set for dimming. If so, be sure to buy CFLs with dimming indicated on the packaging to avoid an early burnout.

calendar



Concerts & Plays

Saturday, February 16

WOMEN'S CENTER EVENT:

The Vagina Monologues will be presented at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. The event is organized and presented by MU students as part of the Valentine's Day Foundation's college campaign. Proceeds benefit local organizations serving survivors of violence.

FACULTY RECITAL:

Clarinetist Paul Garritson and pianist Gaura Garritson will perform at 8 p.m. in Whitmore Recital Hall. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Monday, February 18

GUEST ARTIST RECITAL:

Richard Rulli will perform on trumpet at 6 p.m. in Whitmore Recital Hall. A \$5 donation is suggested.

UNIVERSITY CONCERT SERIES:

The Broadway musical *Annie* will be performed at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. For ticket information, call 882-3781.

Wednesday, February 20

LITERARY ARTS READING:

Award-winning poet Terrance Hayes, a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University, will read from his work at 7:30 p.m. in the Reynolds Alumni Center. A reception and book-signing will follow.

Thursday, February 21

MSA/GPC CONCERT:

Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Dwele will perform in concert at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. Tickets

are available at the Brady Commons box office.

STUDENT ENSEMBLE:

The University Philharmonic Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Courses & Workshops

Tuesday, February 19

GRANTSMANSHIP TRAINING:

The MU Office of Research presents "Grant-Related Resources at MU" will be held from 12:45-1:30 p.m. in N222/223 Memorial Union.

WOMEN'S CENTER WORKSHOP:

The "White Privilege Workshop" will include definitions and examples of white privilege and will focus on ways to be more multiculturally sensitive at 7 p.m. in 229 Brady Commons.

Exhibits

BINGHAM GALLERY:

"Vantage Points," an exhibit of works in various media by five visiting art faculty members, will be on display from Feb. 11-28. The gallery, located in the Fine Arts Building, is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

BRADY GALLERY: MUSEUM OF ART & ARCHAEOLOGY:

- "Daumier's Paris: Life in the 19th Century City" features lithographs by France's most famous printmaker and caricaturist. The exhibition, to be shown in three installments, runs through June 2008.
- "Before Columbus: Iconography in the Ancient Americas"

will feature iconography forms found throughout the pre-Columbia New World. 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.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

- "Picturing Native Americans in the Nineteenth Century: Lithographs from McKenney and Hall's *History of the Indian Tribes of North America*" features hand-colored lithograph illustrations through March 15 in the main gallery.
- "Missouri Cities: Images from the Permanent Collection" through April 18 in the north-south corridor gallery. The main gallery is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday. The corridor galleries are open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday-Friday; 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday; and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Lectures & Seminars

Thursday, February 14

WRITING PROGRAM SEMINAR:

Alex Barker, the director of MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology, will present "Talking Back to Art: Ekphrasis as a Form of Writing Across the Curriculum" at noon in 101 Conley House.

ARTS & HUMANITIES SALON:

Betty Winfield, professor of journalism, will present "Love? Let Me Count the Ways: Three American Women in Politics" at 5:30 p.m. at the Conley House.

Saturday, February 16

SATURDAY MORNING SCIENCE:

Frank Schmidt, professor of biochemistry, will present "Darwin in a Test Tube: Combinatorial Biotechnology" from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in

the Life Science Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

Monday, February 18

SOIL SCIENCES SEMINAR:

Rob Jacobson from the U. S. Geological Survey's Columbia Environmental Research Center will present "Sediment Regime Constraints on River Restoration — An Example From the Lower Missouri River" at 4 p.m. in 123 Natural Resources Building.

BLACK HISTORY LECTURE:

Local hip-hop artist W-A-R-R-I-O-R will present "The History of Hip-Hop" at 7 p.m. at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center.

Tuesday, February 19

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES SEMINAR:

Michael Murphy from Portland State University will present "Parentage, Parental Behavior and Clutch Size in the Eastern Kingbird" at 3:30 p.m. in the Life Science Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

FOOD FOR 21st CENTURY SEMINAR:

Xudong Cao, assistant professor of chemical engineering at the University of Ottawa, will present "Tissue Engineering Approach to Nerve Regeneration after Spinal Cord Injuries" at 4 p.m. in 105 Agricultural Engineering Building Room.

Wednesday, February 20

LITERARY ARTS READING:

Award-winning author Terrance Hayes will a reading of his work at 7:30 p.m. in Reynolds Alumni Center.

Thursday, February 21

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE SEMINAR:

Catherine Peterson, assistant professor of nutritional sciences, will present "Vitamin D Status of Tanning and Non-Tanning Women" at 4 p.m.

in Acuff Auditorium, MA217 Medical Sciences Building.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEMINAR:

Andrew Twaddle, professor emeritus of sociology, will present "Thinking About Globalization" at noon in S203 Memorial Union.

ARTS & HUMANITIES SALON:

Arthur Mehrhoff, associate coordinator of MU's Museum of Art and Archaeology, will present "Cultural Property, Ethics and the Future of the Past: Museums and Antiquities in the 21st Century" at 5:30 p.m. at the Conley House.

BLACK HISTORY LECTURE:

Wilma King, professor of history, will present "The Essence of Liberty: Free Black Women During the Slave Era" at 7 p.m. at the Missouri State Archives, 600 W. Main St. in Jefferson City.

Saturday, February 23

SATURDAY MORNING SCIENCE:

Jack Jones, professor of fisheries and wildlife, will present "Lake Water Quality: The Conflict between Fish and Transparency" from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Life Science Center's Monsanto Auditorium.

Films

Wednesday, February 20

MSA/GPC FILM SERIES:

Spartacus, the epic directed by Stanley Kubrick, will be shown at 8 p.m. in Memorial Union's Wrench Auditorium.

Thursday, February 21

MUSEUM FILM SERIES:

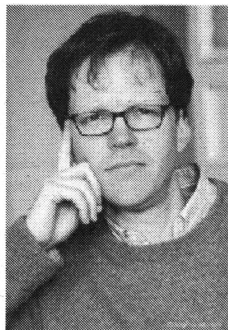
Roman Holiday, directed by William Wyler, will be shown at 7 p.m. in 106 Pickard Hall.

The History Department, the History Graduate Student Society, the European Union Center and the Department of German and Russian present:

PAUL HOCKENOS

who will speak on

"Making Germany Liberal:
Joschka Fischer, the Greens and the Protest Movements"



Tuesday February 19th 7:30-8:30 pm
Neff 204

Paul Hockenos is a Berlin-based journalist and political analyst. His most recent book is *Joschka Fischer and the Making of the Berlin Republic* (Oxford 2007)



Parking & Transportation Services

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Level 2

882-4568

There will be an increased number of visitors and guests on campus February 15 - 18, 2008. Please be helpful.

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Poodle skirts and 'passion pits'

RULE CHANGES

Previous policies might puzzle today's students

Mizzou grads of a certain age – and that spans several decades into the early 1970s – probably remember a campus curiosity known as the “passion pits” that convened outside women's dorms most weekend nights.

Girls and guys would linger until the last possible moment, smooching and sharing sweet nothings. A few minutes before the appointed hour, the dorm lights flashed discreetly on and off, and a stampede of young ladies hurried in before the doors slammed shut for the night, locked tight to ward off the advances of any male intruders.

Woe to any female student who got in late; excuses didn't matter. Talk to today's Mizzou students about the rock-ribbed conduct rules of yesteryear for women and their response is likely to be perplexed bemusement.

After all, MU students think nothing now of living in a coed dormitory. And men and women students routinely share off-campus apartment as platonic roommates. At Mizzou, just as at most colleges and universities, the separate set of rules that once put women in a cloister have gone the way of pet rocks and polyester. But here are

some blasts from the past.

•In 1910, the University Women's Council made its own housing rules: Men and women shall not room in the same houses. No woman shall make more than four engagements in one week. Doors will be locked at 10:30. No woman may go driving after dark, and there will be no strolling after 9:30 p.m. Strolling may only be in frequented places.

•The 1938 M Book said, “No woman may change her living quarters during a semester without the consent of the director of student affairs for women. No woman student shall leave town without notifying a chaperone or housemother and filling out a blank in duplicate.”

•In the 1950s, regulations by the Association of Women Students laid down this dress code: “Students are expected to dress in good taste.” Dresses, suits, skirts and sweaters or skirts and blouses were the rule for campus wear, although “shorts and slacks are appropriate for picnics and active sports. In extremely cold weather, slacks are considered appropriate for campus attire in classrooms.” How cold? The guideline said 10 degrees.

•If women students returned late from dances or other events they were assessed “late minutes.” Too many of these demerits would mean the student



Photo from MU's Savitar yearbook

BLAST FROM THE PAST Today's students would probably be perplexed to learn that decades ago strict rules regulated the hours that female students could be out of their housing units. The policy led to impromptu “passion pits” outside women's dorms on weekend nights.

had to “serve a campus” – stay in her room with no visitors or phone calls from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. A publication for dorm

counselors in 1955 suggested they synchronize their clocks to “radio time” to be fair to the late arriving girls.

•According to rules from the Association of Women Students in 1968, the doors of

women's dorms were locked at 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights, and 11:30 a.m. on other nights. Women could revel until the wee hours on Homecoming, when the doors weren't locked until 2 a.m.

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ORIENT from Page 1

violence in the workplace, and labor standards among others. Also included are workplace practices such as paid-time off, paid holidays, sick leave and vacation time.

Following the human resources presentation, a member of the MU Police Department presents a session about MUPD and safety on the MU campus. The officer explains what MUPD is, what they do and where they are as well as programs that they offer. A brief synopsis of crimes on campus and crime prevention concludes the University Police presentation.

The final installment of the session involves a presenter from Faculty and Staff Benefits, who describes University benefits. They present the options for health insurance and life insurance and assist new hires with paperwork and questions they may have

about Mizzou benefits.

A few additions to the program include handouts on several departments throughout the University and a presentation by the Wellness Center on a variety of wellness issues ranging from alcohol and drug abuse to stress management.

New employees are allowed to ask questions whenever they may arise throughout the presentation, and many of the same questions always come up. “We get a lot of questions about vacation, sick leave, personal days and holidays,” Gregg says. “As well as educational assistance, educational fee reduction and when they need to sign up for benefits.”

Following the session, new employees get the opportunity to evaluate the presentation and the presenter. Human Resource Services pays close attention to the evaluations and tries to manage and revamp the sessions accordingly.

Killer tornadoes don't mean similar weather woes in Missouri

A BIG BLOW

Show-Me State familiar with dangerous twisters

An outbreak of devastating tornadoes killed dozens in Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky on Feb. 5, but this episode of unusually deadly winter tornadoes doesn't mean Missourians are necessarily in for a rough storm season, according to a University of Missouri climatologist.

"The Feb. 5 outbreak presents no indication of what the future storm season may be like for Missouri," says Pat Guinan, an Extension climatologist with the MU Commercial Agriculture Program. "Fortunately, the conditions that favor tornado outbreaks occur infrequently and are typically short-lived—generally, a day or two."

While the Feb. 5 outbreak looks to be the deadliest in the U.S. in more than 20

years, Guinan said, winter tornadoes in that region are not uncommon. "Winter tornadoes are most likely to occur in the southeastern United States, where moister and warmer temperature environments reside."

Guinan also notes that because the jet stream — a high-altitude air current that steers storm systems — tends to flow across the southern U.S. in the winter, "unstable scenarios are

more likely to emerge across this part of the country when cold frontal boundaries sweep into the region and interact with warm, moist surface conditions."

Guinan says that while most tornadoes appear in the four-month period running from March through June, tornadoes can and do appear during any time of year under the right conditions.

According to Guinan, Missouri sees an average of 32 tornadoes each year, with 70 percent of them appearing between March and June.

The deadliest tornado outbreak in Missouri history killed 152 people in central and southwestern Missouri when eight tornadoes struck on April 18, 1880. The state's deadliest single tornado, a category F-4 with wind speeds up to 260 mph, killed 137 people and injured 800 in St. Louis on May 27, 1896. The state's deadliest February tornado also struck St. Louis, killing 21 and injuring 345 on Feb. 10, 1959.

In March 1925 a tornado touched down in southeastern Missouri and traveled 219 miles through Illinois and part of Indiana. The "Tri-State Tornado" left almost 700

confirmed fatalities in its wake, making it the single deadliest tornado in U.S. history.

While it may be too early to forecast what Missouri's 2008 storm season will have in store, MU Extension emergency management specialist Eric Evans tells people that it's never too early to prepare for the worst.

To avoid being caught by surprise, Evans recommends that households purchase a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio, which provides timely and frequent alerts during severe weather conditions. If a weather radio is not an option, Evans advises people to stay informed of weather conditions by tuning into local radio and television stations, and to take all severe weather watches and warnings seriously. "People just need to be aware of what's going on," he says.

For more information on tornado preparedness, visit extension.missouri.edu/cemp/tornado/tornado101.html. For information on disaster preparedness and emergency response in general, see outreach.missouri.edu/cemp/.

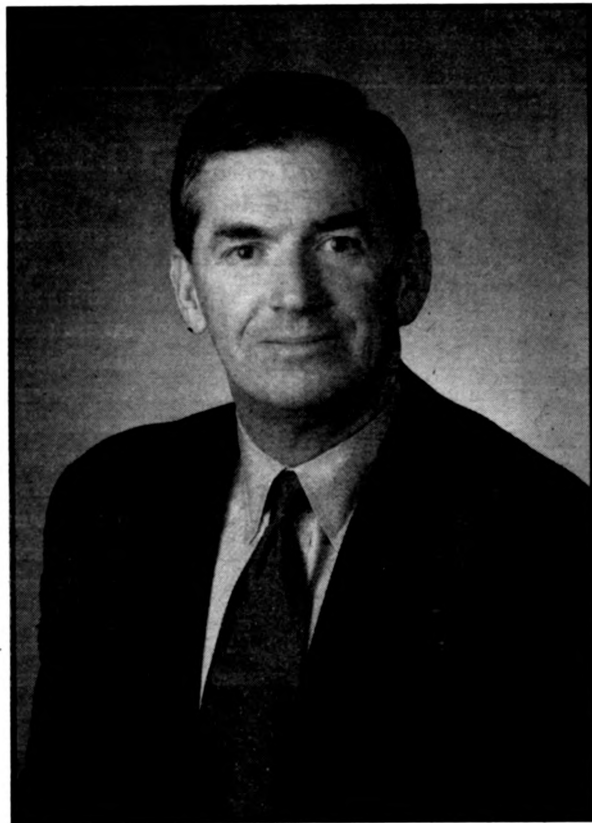


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Tuesday, February 26, 2008
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The second time around

GOLDEN YEARS

More grandparents are raising their grandchildren

Going to Grandma or Grandpa's house for the holidays means staying home for thousands of children. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 4.5 million children are being raised by grandparents or other relatives. Grandparents who find themselves as parents for the second time around need to know they are not alone, says an MU family expert.

"It is an issue that totally surprises people, including those who find themselves raising young children during their golden years," says Elizabeth Reinsch, human development specialist for MU Extension. "The issue is much more prevalent than in the past."

MU Extension works to raise community awareness of the issue and aid support groups for people who raise their grandchildren. "Many of the people we deal with are retirees who are looking forward to those enjoyable years in life only to find out that all of the sudden they are responsible for the care of a six-month-old baby," she says. Support groups are vital so

caregivers can realize they are not alone. They can learn from others, share ideas, lend and receive emotional support, and find answers to important legal questions. Many grandparents need answers to questions about custody, guardianship, adoption issues, public benefits, legal services and problem solving.

"In order to get the support and assistance that many caregivers need, they have to take the legal avenue and many people are leery of getting involved in the system," Reinsch says. "It can be an extremely emotional issue because you are asking people to go in front of a judge and call their own children unfit parents."

In Missouri, more than 45,000 grandparents reported to the U.S. Census Bureau that they are responsible for raising their own grandchildren.

"I've seen grandparents attend a support group for the first time and be in tears because they thought they were alone until that moment," Reinsch says. People with any type of parenting question can get help by calling ParentLink at 1-800-552-8522 or ParentLink En Espanol at 1-888-460-0008 or visit extension.missouri.edu/parentlink.

Flights of fancy



Julia Shuck was one of a group of MU agricultural journalism students who made the trip to central Nebraska last March to view migrating sandhill cranes while they stopped over along the Platte River on their journey north.



Katie Barnes photos

The annual migration of hundreds of thousands of sandhill cranes along the Platte River in Nebraska is one of the greatest natural spectacles on Earth. In spring, the big birds — with a wingspan of up to five feet — head north to nesting grounds in Canada and Siberia.

JOURNALISTIC JOURNEY

Students receive hands-on reporting experience in the field

The thousands of migrants passing through central Nebraska early next month come from as far away as Cuba, and their destination is farther still: the plains of Canada and Siberia. Every spring some 600,000 sandhill cranes take a break from their journey to rest and feed

along the banks of the Platte River.

About the same time, another group of travelers will arrive at the same location, but their journey won't be quite as long. A group of agricultural journalism and other MU students will make the trip from Columbia March 7 to 9 to observe the migratory spectacle.

This will be the third year that a Mizzou contingent will be on hand. The MU students

will watch from river-bank viewing blinds as thousands of the big birds explode off the Platte River at dawn after spending the night sleeping while they stand in the shallow water. Mizzou visitors had to hike to the blinds in the dark to avoid spooking the big birds.

The three-day trek to Nebraska has become one of the hands-on highlights of MU's agricultural journalism program. Although the crane

migration might be a focus of their journey next month, it also gives participating students a chance to discuss such topics as endangered species, river ecology, agriculture and water management issues in the Platte River-Ogallala Aquifer region.

Class participants are required to do some advance reading, and they attend discussion sessions before they leave for the Platte River and after they return. Those who

take the course for one hour of credit also are required to produce a piece of journalism.

The crane-watching trip is one of several hands-on experiences, the ag journalism program offers its students. Each fall, the program provides an in-the-field reporting program that lets students delve into such issues as intensive crop production and Missouri River management and ecology.

Study finds media cross-ownership boosts local news programming

MARKET SHARE

Research also looked at political 'slant' in news coverage

The recent decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to loosen restrictions on cross ownership of newspapers and broadcast television stations in the same market has met with some criticism.

Consumer advocates and members of Congress worry that a cross ownership would diminish the quality of local news coverage. However, the effect may be just the opposite, according to an MU study, which found that cross-owned television stations produce a greater percentage of local programming news content when compared to other network-affiliated stations in the same market.

"Local television newscasts for cross-owned stations contain on average about one or two minutes more news coverage overall, or 4 percent to 8 percent more than the average for non-cross-owned stations," says Jeff Milyo, an economics professor at MU's Truman School of Public Affairs and a senior fellow at the

Cato Institute in Washington D.C. "Cross-owned stations also show 7 percent to 10 percent more local news and offer about 25 percent more coverage of local and state politics."

Milyo also evaluated the political slant of the news coverage and found that overall cross ownership had no consistent or significant effect on local news. "All local newscasts in a market have the same political slant, regardless of ownership; this is broadly consistent with other research on political slant in newspapers," Milyo says. "We do see a difference across markets, but not within. "In general, a market that is serving more consumers that are Democrat leaning is going to give a slant or 'flavor' to the news that tends to be a little more Democratic and similar for Republican markets.

Commissioned by the FCC's chief economist, Milyo's study compared broadcasts from 29 cross-owned stations located in 27 U.S. markets to those of major network affiliated competitors in the same market. A total of 312 recordings from 104 stations were compiled from the week prior to the November 2006 elections.

"To study whether cross ownership lead to political bias, I chose measures of political slant that were easily quantifiable in the broadcasts," Milyo says. "For instance, I compared if there were more Democrat or Republican candidates interviewed or discussed and if more of one party's issues were mentioned than the other. The broadcasts from cross-owned companies showed little difference when compared to those of other major networks.

No previous study has examined the local news content and slant of every cross-owned station, nor have they appropriately controlled for differences in market characteristics such as the salience of current events and local preferences for news coverage, making this the most comprehensive analysis to date, Milyo says.

The study, "The Effects of Cross Ownership on the Local Content and Political Slant of Local Television News," was published in a report by the Federal Communication Commission. It's available for download at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-3470A7.pdf.

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It takes more than talent to carry a tune

SOUND RESEARCH

Scientist studies mechanics of making music

Voice production is much more complex than opening the mouth and letting out a sound. Some singers sound good enough to compete on American Idol; others can't carry a tune and some people deal with even more problematic issues such as chronic vocal problems. Nandhu Radhakrishnan is researching the mechanics of making music at the Laryngeal Physiology Lab he created at MU with a room full of tubes, wires, computers and

instruments.

Radhakrishnan plans to explain scientifically what great singers do physiologically, and using that knowledge, create therapy for people who have chronic voice problems due to health issues. He also hopes to help other singers sing better and teach people who use their voices professionally, such as teachers, how to do so without harming their voices over time.

Radhakrishnan uses a set of non-invasive instruments — a band around a person's neck and another mouthpiece to speak into — to record physically how

individuals make themselves heard. Different organs and muscles that constitute someone's voice, such as the lungs, larynx, vocal tract and articulators (lips, tongue, palate) all work together to produce sound.

Instruments in the lab can take voice measurements at a multi-signal level and display exactly which organ or muscle is working and at what level when someone speaks or sings.

If someone has an uncommonly weak voice, the lab will be able to pinpoint the problem, such as someone not providing enough air pressure

from the lungs. Not every person uses organs and muscles to produce sound in the same way.

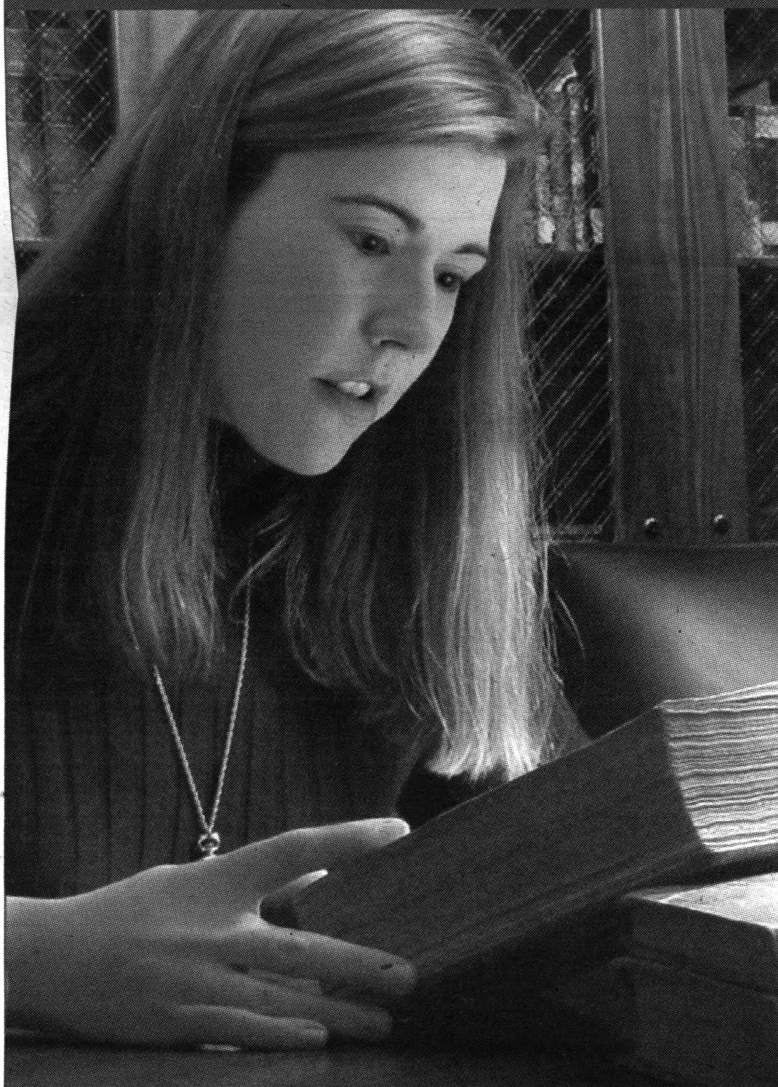
"If the lung pressure is really high and airflow is very low, we can tell that the problem is somewhere at the valve level or the vocal chord level," says Radhakrishnan, assistant professor of communication science and disorders. "Once we know the source of the problem, we can correct it with different voice therapy techniques."

Producing sound is actually a very intricate process that uses several systems of the body. Lung pressure is a major contributor to the way someone's voice sounds. Lung pressure can change with volume. A softer voice would

have less lung pressure and as a voice becomes louder, more pressure must be put on the lungs to increase airflow.

"People with Parkinson's disease have issues with vocal projection and loudness because their muscle power decreases as the disease progresses," Radhakrishnan says. "When we can see physiologically how a great voice works, then we can create exercises to improve breathing and vocal aspects of voice production for people with vocal problems. Regular practice may help people speak in a louder voice and overcome vocal issues despite the progression of Parkinson's disease."

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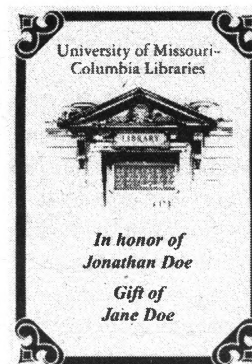


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