

MIZZOU WEEKLY

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI: CELEBRATING 175 YEARS IN 2014

March 6, 2014

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Chancellor Loftin addresses issues during first month on the job

Lessons from boyhood help shape Loftin's leadership approach

R. BOWEN LOFTIN owns more than 400 bow ties, including black-and-gold variations he's worn to many university events since starting as MU chancellor Feb. 1.

For decades, his favoring a bow tie over a long tie made him visually distinct among his colleagues. But that's just surface stuff. What really distinguished him was his personality and accomplishments. Growing up dirt poor in Texas, Loftin found his passion in math and science, received scholarships, became a tenured physics professor at age 33, did pioneering research that included classified NASA projects, and became president of Texas A&M at College Station in 2010. Through it all, he never forgot the lessons of his upbringing.

Loftin, 64, has the ability to relate to people of different ages and backgrounds. During basketball games in Mizzou Arena, he descends to the bleachers to chat

with students. Before the start of a recent Faculty Council meeting, he spoke with each press member attending.

His father, Richard Loftin, had the same personable qualities. "He could connect with anyone in a very short time," Loftin said. "He could find some common element with someone he just met and use that element to build a relationship."

Loftin is also impressing staff and faculty with his higher-education knowledge. Following a meeting with the chancellor, Faculty Council Chair Craig Roberts marveled at Loftin's grasp of campus issues.

"He's already up on so many things," Roberts said. "You start the sentence, and he'll finish the paragraph."

Loftin's first month as chancellor has been high profile. In response to the case involving freshman swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, Loftin on Feb. 14 announced his appointment of

Deputy Chancellor Michael Middleton to examine MU's relevant rules and practices involving student mental health issues and sexual assault reporting. He fielded questions during the month from local and national media about Michael Sam, a former Ti-

'He's already up on so many things,' Faculty Council Chair Craig Roberts said of Loftin. 'You start the sentence, and he'll finish the paragraph.'

gers football player and soon to be the first openly gay athlete in an NFL draft. And on Feb. 22, Loftin called for inspections of every building owned or leased by MU in response to the death of Columbia firefighter Lt. Bruce Britt at a university-owned apartment complex.

For Loftin, it's all in a day's work.

TEACHER AND RESEARCHER

Richard Bowen Loftin was born June 29, 1949, in Hearne and grew up in Navasota, both pinprick farm communities in eastern Texas. "I grew up riding horses and chasing cows," he said. His father, who only had a sixth-grade education, worked 10-hour days for the Texas Department of Transportation. His mother, Dorothy, was a homemaker. Both parents wanted their only child to be the first Loftin to go to college.

As a teenager, Loftin was a reader and a farmhand who had a vague notion of becoming a college professor. He excelled at Navasota High School and found a mentor in math teacher Milton Schaefer. Given the socioeconomic status of the family, tuition for Loftin's education would have been out of reach if not for scholarships. Loftin got two from Texas A&M, 20 miles north of

See LOFTIN on Page 4

More than half the titles tainted by mold at off-campus site might be restored

MU Libraries asks for faculty input on which books, journals and documents to save

YOU SHOULDN'T JUDGE a book by its cover. But sometimes, even after turning its pages, the book's merit, be it historical, scholarly or as a reference tool, remains cloudy.

Of the 600,000 university books, journals and documents damaged by mold while stored in an off-campus site, MU Libraries staff so far has identified 120,000 titles worth the cost of restoring.

But the search continues. Maybe there is a 20th-century book on Jim Crow laws or an 18th-century health sciences document that has value only a scholar could discern.

On Feb. 27, James Cogswell, director of MU Libraries, met with Faculty Council to ask for faculty expertise in identifying titles worth salvaging. Libraries hopes to salvage between 300,000 and 400,000 titles, depending on available funding, Cogswell told *Mizzou Weekly* in an email.

But the focus of the council meeting was not on how to mobilize experts to sift through a mountain of moldy materials.

Instead, council members

asked why faculty was not told of the mold damage last October when it was discovered? Why were the titles housed in a budget storage facility rather than one with adequate climate control? And why have so few faculty been consulted for their expertise four and a half months after the catastrophe was discovered?

"It would be nice to have a say in what is being treated [for mold] and what is not being treated," said Nancy Monnier, an associate teaching professor of Russian. "It feels like there should be more faculty making decisions."

Faculty Council Chair Craig Roberts said, "We have a problem we should have been informed about."

SUBTERA STORAGE

MU Libraries uses two offsite storage facilities: the University of Missouri System Library Depository (UMLD) on Lemone Industrial Boulevard, and Subtera Underground Warehousing off of North Stadium Boulevard, where

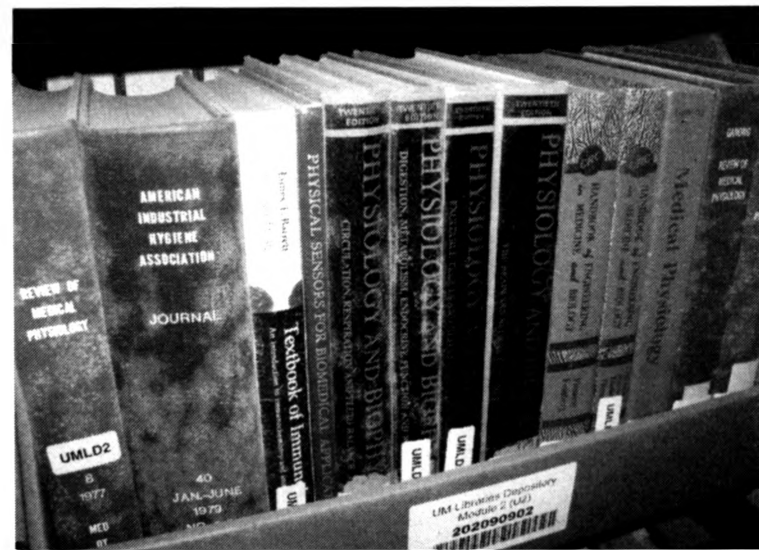
the 600,000 titles were damaged. Opened in 2001, Subtera offers more than 1 million square feet of subterranean space carved out of limestone by mining machines. Wall-sized steel doors lead to 50-foot wide storage rooms leased to clients.

Since 1998, MU Libraries has sought UM System funding to build a sister facility to UMLD designed for long-term book storage. Building the site would cost millions and funding has not been available. Consequently, space is leased to store the overflow from UMLD. Subtera has been used since 2006.

Libraries administrators learned of the Subtera mold bloom Oct. 17, 2013, after receiving a report from book borrowers, according to a news release by Libraries Nov. 4, 2013.

Among the entities to which the news release was sent was MU's Library Committee, which includes eight faculty members, Cogswell said in an email.

During storage at Subtera, MU never inspected the books for in-



COURTESY OF MU LIBRARIES

Damaged Books

MU Libraries intends to make a formal request to the UM System to proceed with a plan to build a storage addition to the UM System Library Depository.

festation. "There was no protocol to do sampling of the collection," Cogswell told council members. "We relied on the owners of the caverns to supply a safe environment [of regulated temperatures and low humidity], and they didn't."

Cogswell said faculty was not told formally of the bloom early on because Libraries didn't have "enough information to answer questions about it."

See MOLD on Page 3

Concerts & Plays

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

MU School of Music: Student Ensemble: Concert Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m. at The Bridge.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

"We Always Swing" Jazz Series: Sean Jones Quartet will perform at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Murry's. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster or by calling 449-3001.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

University Concert Series: Vince Gill, the CMA- and Grammy-winning country star, will perform at 7 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium. For ticket information, call 882-3781.

University Theatre Series: *The Blue Lights and Other Stories*, a collection of folk and fairy tales told for all ages, is at 7:30 p.m. through March 15 at the Corner Playhouse and at 2 p.m. March 16. For ticket information, call 882-7529.

Courses & Workshops

Registration is required online at training.missouri.edu or call 882-5000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Computer Training: "LeadIT Budget/Finance Power Hour" will be offered at 1 p.m. in 205A Locust Street Building.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Computer Training: "Photoshop CS6 1a: Introduction

to Photoshop" will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in 18 Arts & Science.

"HTML5 & CSS: Links, Graphics & Structure" will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in 25 Arts & Science.

"Photoshop CS6 1b: Layers and Style" will be offered at 10:30 a.m. in 18 Arts & Science.

"Webinar: Budgeting with Excel" will be offered at noon online.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Computer Training:

"Excel 2013 1a: Introduction" will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in 25 Arts & Science.

"Excel 2013 1b: Introduction" will be offered at 10:30 a.m. in 25 Arts & Science.

"Introduction to HTML5 & CSS" will be offered at 1 p.m. in 18 Arts & Science.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Computer Training:

"Access 2013: Fields & Tables" will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in 18 Arts & Science.

Exhibits

Museum of Anthropology:

"Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms: An Ethnohistoric Perspective from Across the Globe" will be on display through May. The museum, located at 100 Swallow Hall, is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.

The Grayson Archery Collection will be on display in the exhibit hall and the Museum Support Center on Rock Quarry Road through July 10.

State Historical Society:

"The Missouri Conference on History" brings together teachers of history and other professional historians to share research, curriculum and to promote interest in history March 17 and 18 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City. For more information, visit shs.umsystems.edu/mch.

"James Otto Lewis' Aboriginal Portfolio: Native American Portraits from the 1820s to the '30s" will be on display through May 31.

The gallery, located in Ellis Library, is open 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Lectures & Seminars

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Biochemistry Seminar Series:

Timothy Durrett, assistant professor of biochemistry at Kansas State University, will present "From Burning Bush to Chocolate Vines: Using Sequence Diversity to Explore MBOAT Substrate Specificity" at 1 p.m. in Monsanto Auditorium.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Saturday Morning Science: Frank Booth, professor of biomedical sciences, will present "If We Know Exercise Is Good for Us, Why Don't We Do It?" at 10:30 a.m. in Monsanto Auditorium.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Interdisciplinary Plant Group: John Boyer, professor of biochemistry/biophysics emeritus at the University of Delaware, will present "Molecular Mechanism Linking Cell Enlargement to Wall Biosynthesis in Plants" at 3:30 p.m. in Monsanto Auditorium.

Decoding Science Symposium: Rebecca Skloot, author and award-winning science reporter, will present at 7:30 p.m. in Jesse Auditorium.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Biological Sciences Lecture: Tom Zoeller, professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, will present "Thyroid Hormone, Brain Development and Endocrine Disruptors" at 3:30 p.m. in Monsanto Auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

Diversity in Action Seminar Series: Yong Volz, associate professor of journalism studies, will present "What Does It Take for Woman Journalists to Gain Professional Recognition: A Research Report on Gender Disparities in the Field of Journalism" at noon at Memorial Union.

Plant Sciences Seminar: Jason Weirich will present a talk on plants at 3:30 p.m. in the Monsanto Auditorium.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Distinguished Lecture Series in Psychological Sciences: Irving Kirsch, professor emeritus at the University of Hull-United Kingdom and the University of Connecticut, will present "The Emperor's New Drugs: Medication and Placebo in the Treatment of Depression" at 3:30 p.m. in Jesse Wrench Auditorium.

Decoding Science Symposium: James Surowiecki, author of *The Wisdom of Crowds*, will talk about how he distills complex human behavior in a short weekly column that appears in *The New Yorker* at 7 p.m. in Bush Auditorium in Cornell Hall.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Biochemistry Seminar Series: Andrew Goodman, a professor at Yale's School of Medicine, will present "Cooperation and Competition in the Human Gut Microbiota" at 1 p.m. in Monsanto Auditorium.

Teaching and Technology: Find out from instructors what teaching

tools they couldn't live without — and can't wait to share with others at "My Digital Teaching Toolbox" at 2 p.m. in 2206B & C Student Center.

Economics Seminar: Mo Xiao, associate professor at the University of Arizona, will be present a talk on economics at 3:30 p.m. in Middlebush.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Saturday Morning Science: The presentation by Bill Nye, scientist, engineer, comedian, author and inventor, called "Decoding Science" at 10 a.m. in Jesse Hall is sold out.

However, overflow seating for those without tickets will be available via monitors at Bush Auditorium in Cornell Hall and Monsanto Auditorium in the Bond Life Sciences Center.

Special Events

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

E-Week: Join the engineers for the kickoff of E-week with the seventh-annual dome lighting and festivities starting at 5:30 p.m. on the Francis Quadrangle. For more information about the dome lighting and E-week, visit engineers.missouri.edu/eweek.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

A Taste of Arts and Science: The College of Arts & Science presents a day of good food, fantastic professors and topics as diverse as the world around us. Check in begins at 8:15 a.m. in Jesse Wrench Auditorium. For more information, visit coas.missouri.edu/events/taste.shtml, or contact Amanda Schlink at 884-4482.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

MU Life Sciences & Society Symposium: The 10th annual symposium focuses of "Decoding Science: Bridging the Gap, Engaging the Public" through March 16. For more information, visit issp.missouri.edu/decodingscience.



2013/2014 Season "We Always Swing" Jazz Series



Photo Credit: Jimmy & Dena Katz

Purchase Newport Now "4-Pack" and Save! Single Tickets Available!

College of Arts & Science Signature Concert
"NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL: NOW 60"
 Thursday, March 20 • 7 p.m.
 Missouri Theatre

AN ALL-STAR ENSEMBLE:
 Anat Cohen (cl./ts, ss), Randy Brecker (tpt),
 Karrin Allyson (vcls), Mark Whitfield (g),
 Peter Martin (p), Larry Grenadier (b),
 Clarence Penn (dms)

TICKETS / INFO
JAZZ SERIES BOX OFFICE
 21 N. Tenth St. • 573/449-3009
 Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 MU Students: Charge tickets at
 MSA/GPC Box Office, Student Center

"SUNDAYS @ MURRY'S"
 3:30 p.m. | 7 p.m.
 Doors: 1 Hr. Earlier
Sean Jones Quartet [3/9/14]
Catherine Russell [4/13/14]
Brad Mehldau Trio [4/20/14]

Logos: KANSAS MISSOURI PBS, TRIBUNE, MeM, COMMERCIAL DAILY, Commerce Bank, Missouri Arts Council, Mediacom, CAFNR, Socket, University of Missouri, Stephens College, School of Music

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

Income Tax Assistance: MU alumnus with large university employee clientele will assist you with your income taxes. Evening appointments also available. 573-442-7856

For a limited time, and while space allows, classified ads are FREE for MU faculty, staff and retirees, and \$9 for the general public, for up to a 30-word line ad.

- Home phone number or email address required.
- Deadline: Noon Thursdays.
- No refund given for cancelled ads. To submit ad, call 884-1278 or email mizzouweekly@missouri.edu

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IN BRIEF

➔ Teaching technology

The Excellence in Teaching with Technology awards recognizes staff, faculty and teaching assistants who use technologies effectively and demonstrate excellence in instruction at MU. Nominations will be taken through March 30.

Nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- Undergraduate Teaching (1 award)
- Graduate & Professional Teaching (1 award)
- Staff Support (1 award)
- Graduate Instructor/Teaching Assistant (1 award)

For more information, visit etatmo.missouri.edu/programs/awards.php.

➔ Proposal for teaching session

Submit your proposal for a concurrent session in the 2014 Celebration of Teaching May 20-22.

The celebration includes workshops and discussion sessions and is open to faculty, staff and graduate instructors.

Learn more at celebration.missouri.edu.

➔ Mizzou Advantage faculty funding

Mizzou Advantage offers funding to faculty for faculty professional development. The \$2,000 award is intended to help faculty better position themselves for interdisciplinary endeavors in Mizzou Advantage four initiatives: One Health/One Medicine, Food for the Future, Media for the Future and Sustainable Energy.

Proposals should demonstrate an attempt to bridge disciplines and explain how the project will result in new interdisciplinary scholarly or creative activity.

Learn more at mizzouadvantage.missouri.edu/opportunities/faculty-staff.

➔ Recyclemania

MU is taking part in Recyclemania, a competition through March 29 involving 600 universities and colleges dedicated to minimizing waste and increasing recycling.

Mizzou recycles cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and glass.

Learn more at sustainability.missouri.edu.

Animal lovers make \$2.5 million estate gift to vet med

Endowment will support 50 percent scholarships for as many as 10 students

GARY SAVILL and Barbara Stampfli-Savill were looking for an animal welfare group to support when they read a *St. Louis Business Journal* story last year about a Town and Country, Mo., couple who made a \$5 million estate gift to MU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Impressed by the animal care the college provided and the medical breakthroughs described in the story, they decided to find a veterinary college to support through their growing estate. Gary, a retired executive with Dell computers, and Barbara, a human resources executive, had no children — no human ones anyway. Their "kids" are a black Labrador retriever named Shelby and a chocolate Lab named Abby. Both are rescue dogs from Florida.

With no ties to Mizzou, they talked to veterinary schools across the country but felt an immediate connection with the people at MU.

A year later, standing in the great room of the Reynolds Alumni Center, the St. Louis couple announced their \$2.5 million estate gift to support vet med student scholarships. Their endowment will pay half of the tuition and fees for as many as 10 veterinary students. Prefer-

ence will be given to those with financial need and those from underrepresented ethnic groups. Recipients will be required to perform 120 hours of animal-related volunteer work annually, extending the benefits of the endowment into the community.

Barbara's father died two years ago from cancer. Her mother had already passed. As executor of her dad's estate, she was confronted with her own mortality, which prompted their search for a worthy cause.

"If there's something our endowment can do to further find [cancer] treatments..." she said at the announcement before breaking down in tears.

"It's very close to home," Gary said, stepping in. "It meant a lot personally to us."

The couple, born four days apart, are 44 years old. Having an end goal in mind has given them greater focus in spending their money, Gary said.

"We used to be very good at going out and spending money on stuff," he said during his remarks. "We just came back from vacation last year, and every time we purchased something, we weren't purchasing it just for the enjoy-



PHOTO BY ROB HILL

A Generous Gift

Barbara Stampfli-Savill and Gary Savill researched a number of veterinary colleges across the nation before settling on making the gift to MU's.

ment we got from looking at the stuff, we're thinking, What is that going to be worth to the estate when we pass to build the estate bigger, to benefit more?"

Gary was also impressed with the efficiency of creating an endowment at MU versus giving to an animal welfare charity that might spend only a small percentage of the money on animal welfare. "What we're doing, someone is going to be directly impacted,"

he said. "I'm going to give a dollar to these people, and that student is going to get a dollar."

The couple also donated a handcrafted "chopper" — a modified motorcycle — that Gary made at his Silver Wraith Choppers bike shop to be raffled at the College of Veterinary Medicine's annual Gentle Doctor Benefit April 5. Tickets are \$100 and can be ordered online at tr.im/4wpws.

— Erik Potter

From MOLD on Page 1

The challenge for Libraries staff was deciding how to proceed given the enormity of the collection, Matthew Gaunt, director of development for MU Libraries, said in a phone interview. "This is not an easy task to work through 600,000 books and bound journals to find out what to do with each title," he said.

THE COLLECTION

To restore the complete collection would cost an estimated \$1.8 million, or \$3 a book, library administrators said. But the money isn't available. And storage space for the entire collection outside of Subtera is limited.

Of the damaged books, 64,000 are overstock from the law library, 30,000 from the engineering library and 47,000 are from the health sciences, according to the Libraries website. A small number covers geology, journalism and math.

About 250,000 — or more than one-third of the collection — are "infrequently used" monographs, federal and state documents and pre-1990 bound journals, the website said.

A consideration in leaving some titles off the salvage list was that they were available in duplicate prints or electronic format at UMLD, at an MU library or through interlibrary loans.

Spending restoration money merely to duplicate content available elsewhere in digital or print was deemed financially wasteful, Gaunt said. Even so, the money will be spent to restore titles considered important.

The UM Risk and Insurance Management office is trying to reach a settlement with Subtera. For now, funds for restoration are coming through a self-insurance fund with a balance of about \$870,000.

But administrators don't want to deplete the balance because the funds also insure other collections in the Libraries system. "We need to preserve as much of that fund as we can," Gaunt said.

In response to people wanting

to donate, Libraries created in February the Collection Enhancement Fund with a goal of raising \$50,000.

LEAVING THE CAVERNS

MU Libraries intends to make a formal request to the UM System to proceed with a plan to build a storage addition to UMLD, Cogswell said in an email. The space might hold up to 150,000 titles of the Subtera collection.

Meanwhile, bids from contractors to treat the titles are being accepted, and a complete list of Subtera materials is being assembled. The list will likely be organized by subject and soon be available for faculty, Cogswell said.

By April, the Subtera collection will be stored at a provisional site until a permanent one becomes available, Cogswell told council members. Several sites in the area are being evaluated.



2014 Monroe-Paine Distinguished Lecture in Public Affairs

Sponsored by the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs

"Achieving Possibility in Impossible Dreams: Cross-Sector Collaboration and Integrative Leadership"

Presented by



Thursday, March 6 - 1:30PM
N206 Memorial Union

For more information, please visit our web page
truman.missouri.edu/Calendars.html

**Professor John Bryson Ph.D. and
Professor Barbara Crosby Ph.D.**

Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

From LOFTIN on Page 1

Navasota. The experience led to his career-long championing of university scholarship offerings.

Graduating in three years, Loftin earned his physics degree from A&M in 1970. He received his master's in 1973 and doctorate in 1975 from Rice University in Houston. By fall 1977, Loftin was an assistant professor at the University of Houston–Downtown. He loved teaching. “I really enjoyed the fact that you could see a light bulb come on, and a student would make [an intellectual] leap,” he said.

Not long into his academic career at Houston, a policy made

‘He believes what matters is people,’ said Chris Dede, a professor of learning technologies at Harvard University. ‘He treats people the same, from the graduate student to the Nobel laureate.’

it mandatory for male professors in the physics department to wear ties. Loftin exploited a loophole in the official language. As his colleagues donned long ties, Loftin wore a bow tie. “Faculty are independent people,” he said, explaining his rebellion. “They resent people telling them what to do.” In time, Loftin discovered advantages to dressing differently (bow ties had been out of fashion since the 1950s). “People remembered who I was. They connected my name to my appearance,” he said. “It was the beginning of my personal branding.”

Loftin flourished at Houston, receiving tenure in 1982 and engaging in cutting-edge research. He directed the NASA/University of Houston Virtual Environments Research Institute and was chair of the computer science department. In the 1990s, Chris Dede was an education and information technology professor at George Mason University who collaborated with Loftin on research projects. “Bowen was a fabulous collaborator,” Dede said. “He was the physicist who

brought that expertise to the [education] field.”

The professor also earned teaching awards. “He was not a pomp-and-circumstance type of person,” said Dede, now a professor of learning technologies at Harvard University. “He was a terrific resource for my and his graduate students. He believes what matters is people. He treats people the same, from the graduate student to the Nobel laureate.”

ADMINISTRATOR AND LEADER

By the late 1990s, Loftin was juggling a host of teaching, research and administrative duties, including fundraising. At one point, he made a decision to take on more administrative tasks; he could help more students by managing and leading, he reasoned. In 2000, he joined Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., where along with teaching he directed the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center.

Then his alma mater called. In May 2005, Loftin became the chief executive officer of Texas A&M’s branch campus in Galveston. He managed 1,600 students and 400 faculty and staff with a fiscal budget of \$45 million. He brought stable funding and increased research to Galveston, said Mike McKinney, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System from 2006 to 2011.

But a storm was brewing — literally. On Sept. 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike struck Galveston with 110 mph winds and a 22-foot storm surge. More than 80 people died on Texas’ Gulf Coast. Days before Ike’s landfall, Texas authorities prepared for the storm. But Loftin’s preparation began years earlier. Back in 2005, he and then-A&M President Robert Gates formulated a hurricane evacuation plan for the Galveston campus. Loftin evacuated the campus community to A&M’s College Station campus 145 miles north. Logistically, it was like moving a town, McKinney said. Students resumed classes at College Station and lost only nine class days. All of the students graduated on time. “It was 24/7 to get it done,” Loftin said.

After the waters receded and the skies cleared, Loftin led reconstruction and worked with the state and federal governments on disaster relief. The experience

brought the College Station and Galveston faculty and administrators closer, sparking a collaboration that continues today, McKinney said. “He does a whole bunch of things and gives others the credit,” he said.

His leadership at Galveston led to his being named interim A&M president June 15, 2009. Eight months later, Loftin became president of A&M, with its \$1.3 billion budget and fall 2012 enrollment of 50,627 students. A&M, like Missouri, is a public land-grant research university and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Southeastern Conference. Both schools have endured severe cuts to state appropriations for higher education.

Loftin has had a lot of experience balancing budgets. In 2011, Texas sharply cut higher education allocation, and the A&M System board chose not to raise tuition to help make up the deficit. From fiscal 2011 to fiscal 2013, A&M lost about \$60 million of its general operating budget, records show. Loftin put together a task force of staff, faculty and students to examine how best to reallocate money. One strategy was giving senior faculty the option of retiring early, and 105 did so, saving A&M \$32 million in payroll over the two-year period. The winnowing meant a larger workload for some faculty and loss of many stellar researchers and instructors, but no tenured faculty were laid off, Loftin said. Budgets got balanced.

As for fundraising, A&M kicked off its latest campaign Jan. 1, 2012. Between Sept. 1, 2012, and Aug. 31, 2013, A&M raised \$740 million, a record for the university. Loftin now is involved in the One Mizzou fundraising campaign, scheduled to go public in 2015–16. It has a goal of more than \$1 billion.

“The key to fundraising, as in most endeavors, is relationships,” Loftin said in a late December 2013 interview. “I have already begun developing relationships with MU alumni and friends.”

FROM A&M TO MU

Last summer, Loftin announced his resignation as A&M president. He wanted to return to teaching and research, or so he thought. On Oct. 1, 2013, Bowen and wife Karin, an associate biosafety officer in A&M’s Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety, bought a home in Bryan, Texas. Meanwhile, Karin had retired. The closing chapters of Loftin’s academic career appeared to have a firm outline.

But days later he was contacted by Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, an executive search firm hired by the University of Missouri System to help find the successor to Brady J. Deaton. Over the next few weeks, Loftin interviewed by Skype with MU’s 18-member Chancellor Search Committee and spoke in person with UM System President Tim Wolfe and, finally, members of the Board of Curators.

“He was forthright, thoughtful and smart,” said Dean Mills, dean of the School of Journalism and co-chair of the search committee.



Living on Campus
Karin and Bowen Loftin are settling in to The Residence on Francis Quadrangle.

“Best of all, he seemed to like Mizzou as much as we liked him. And, of course, it didn’t hurt that he wore a black-and-gold bow tie for his video interview.”

Loftin said there aren’t too many schools he would consider at this stage of his career. But MU “fit all the pieces,” he said. He saw an opportunity to affect the lives of thousands of students as a top executive rather than as an A&M professor teaching a few dozen students in a lab. Loftin expects to hold the position at least five years.

Loftin planned to spend much of his first few months building relationships with faculty, staff,

‘He was forthright, thoughtful and smart,’ journalism school leader Dean Mills said of Loftin at his interview with the search committee.

alumni and students. A social media dynamo, he personally manages his Twitter and Facebook accounts, and is delving into Instagram. His MU handle is @bowtieger.

As for changes he might make, Loftin said in December it was premature to suggest possibilities. “I’ve got a lot to learn beforehand and want to work from good data,” he said. “Change is good, but it must be done carefully.” Even so, being an outsider, rather than rising through the MU ranks to chancellor, has advantages. “It’s very difficult to be objective when you’ve been somewhere a long time,” he said. “I will see [at MU]

what others haven’t seen.”

As was Anne Deaton, Karin Loftin will be involved at MU. “I see my role as supporting Bowen’s goal to promote MU in academics, sports and in the community,” said Karin, who holds a doctorate in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas Health Center at Houston’s Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Her personal goals involve promoting cultural exchange internationally and supporting the historic preservation of The Residence on Francis Quadrangle, where the Loftins live.

Asked to describe her husband, she said, “He appears to have endless energy, is a quick study on any topic and has the ability to socialize with everyone.” He is so driven that sometimes he “doesn’t know when to quit and take a rest, although he does try to keep Sunday relatively free from work.”



LOOKING FORWARD

During the announcement Dec. 5, 2013, in Reynolds Alumni Center of his being named the 22nd top executive of the University of Missouri, Loftin spoke of his parents, whom he considers role models. Throughout life, he has tried to live by their values. He explained how they mirror MU’s core ideals of respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence.

“You have a lot to be proud of at Mizzou,” he told the hundreds gathered in Reynolds Alumni Center’s Great Room. “It gives me great comfort that I match you and you match me. Karin and I look forward to merging here as your family.”

This article was based on a Loftin profile that appeared in MIZZOU magazine’s Spring 2014 issue.

— Mark Barna

BY THE NUMBERS		
		
Opened	1876	1839
Fiscal 2014 budget	*\$1.6 billion	**\$2.1 billion
AAU member	2001	1908
SEC member	2012	2012
Student enrollment, fall 2012	50,627	34,704
Research expenditures, fiscal 2012, reported to National Science Foundation	*\$782 million	\$239.8 million
Gift income, fiscal 2013	\$254.6 million	\$103.9 million

Sources: TAMU Division of Marketing and Communications; TAMU Finance; MU Budget and Research offices; Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System; and Council for Aid to Education Voluntary Support of Education. *Includes Galveston branch campus and Texas A&M University Health Science Center. **Includes MU Health Care.

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