The College gratefully thanks the A&S Alumni Organization for financial assistance with the production of Mosaics magazine.

Send all comments to nmoen@missouri.edu

On the Cover: Husband and wife Nadine Meyer and Blake Dinsdale are seasonal winners of poetry awards, but every one of them was stunned with two recent announcements. Photo by Karen Johnson.

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Statistics vs. Anecdotes
By Dean Richard B. Schwartz

Academic statistics are always interesting. As I began to write this introduction, I received the fall enrollment numbers. Students in the College represent nearly one-third of MU’s 27,985 record total. Since my arrival in summer 1998, the University has added more than 5,000 students—the equivalent of a small to medium-sized liberal arts college.

Unfortunately, we must restrict their number and cram them into a magazine of 44 pages.

The real stories are the stories you hold in your hand—the stories about people and the manner in which those people change other people’s lives. The stories concern distinguished teaching, incisive and innovative research, impressive student accomplishments, the fascinating career tracks of our graduates, and the great generosity of our supporters.

This issue may take the prize for stories with unique slants, with an account of Associate Professor Deb Bell’s prize-winning English toy spaniel, to visits by rock star Sting and Preston Sharp of Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. We know that we have a beautiful campus and a serious, successful academic enterprise, but it is good to know that we also have fun and that we provide students some wholly unexpected but truly memorable experiences.

Our new provost, Brian Foster, is fond of quoting former A&S Dean Milt Glick’s frequent observation that “data is the plural of anecdote.” Anecdotes have an advantage over data, however, in that because data are notoriously manipulable, their audience is inherently skeptical. The audience for our anecdotes, however, is more receptive, because everyone loves a good story.

The virtues of these stories, of course, is that they are all true as well as interesting. Unfortunately, we must regale you with only a small number and cram them into a magazine of 44 pages. This is our greatest challenge. Those of you who have recently received departmental newsletters know that we could fill Mosaics with accounts of recent doings in two or three of our 30-plus departments and programs.

To give but a single example, we have included an account of Professor Gabor Forgacs’ work. In Garbor’s department, physics and astronomy, there have been two other major grants this fall, the total value of the three being more than $10 million, and the research involved is even more interesting than the amounts of the grants. Enjoy our stories, knowing that they are representative but not all-inclusive, and enjoy your role in our wonderful community.

Statistics vs. Anecdotes

Trifecta tradition

These winners are three of a kind: A&S students won a trio of national academic titles in 2005 and elevated MU as one of only 17 institutions in the nation with Truman, Goldwater and Udall scholars in the same year.

The winners are Harry S. Truman Scholar Annie Morrison, a biological sciences and English major from West Plains, Mo., Barry Goldwater Scholar Matt Simpson, a physics major from Columbia; and Morris K. Udall Scholar Jared Cole, a sociology and environmental studies major from Lebanon, Kan.

As one of only 75 Truman Scholars nationally, Morrison received $30,000, which she plans to apply toward medical school. Morrison founded and coordinates a mentoring program that pairs college women with troubled girls and teenage mothers. The program supports young women who seek assistance with health issues and education.

Morrison says her work with women who are struggling under the health care system has challenged and inspired her.

“Good health is a real possibility in our society if we take a responsible approach to our citizenship,” she says.

Talking with Simpson about his physics research takes considerably more effort than a casual conversation. He works in atomic force microscopy. Under the guidance of Professor Haskell Taub, Simpson probes samples of alkane minerals to measure their physical structure and friction. When he’s not engaged in research or his own study, Simpson shares his talents as a tutor in the Physics Help Center.

Winning a national title is a familiar routine to Cole, who collected his second consecutive Udall scholarship in 2005 and reached the finals for the Truman award. He’s known at MU for his work as an environmental activist and his leadership in a campus recycling effort called Sustain Mizzou.

All three winners say the application process for the national scholarships can be daunting, especially when combined with regular class requirements.

A friend kept Cole on track by urging him to finish the process when he talked of quitting. Morrison just wanted to survive the six-week process of applications, written revisions and interviews. Simpson was relieved at having had the advantage of research experience.

The three winners are encouraging peers to keep the trifecta tradition intact at Mizzou in future years.

Principals and participles

In their comment cards, students praise Larry Ries’ ability to teach statistics. They refer to some of his lecture material as worthy of a stand-up comedy routine and value his clear explanations of such subjects as p-values.

Larry Ries teaches writing skills to students as he teaches statistics.
tive year, teachers such as Ries have helped put MU’s name in the U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” issue. The 2006 publication lists Mizzou’s Campus Writing Program among the nation’s best “writing in the disciplines” programs.

Ries enforces the rules of good writing by asking students to write critiques of magazine or newspaper articles that involve uses or misuses of statistics. Other times he requests written explanations of statistical procedures and concepts geared toward different audiences. In one assignment he asks his students to explain a p-value to a student who has no knowledge of statistics.

“The papers I have read on that topic have been quite interesting. It is one thing to understand something but quite another to explain it to someone who lacks context,” he says.

To qualify for teaching a writing-intensive course, Ries attended a three-day training workshop with his campus colleagues who teach similar courses in their own curricula. Ries admits that with all the rewriting and grading, these classes are a lot of work but worth the effort. As a side benefit, the experience has improved his own writing skills, too.

News in a flash

On the road and at home, Mizzou arts and science faculty members participate in national and international activities.

• Chemistry Associate Professor Sheryl Tucker won a 2005 Presidential Award for excellence in science mentoring. She accepted the $10,000 national award in Washington, D.C. Tucker’s Magic of Chemistry program encourages girls to perform hands-on chemistry experiments and exposes them to female role models.

• The Academy of Sciences in Gottingen, Germany, announced that physics and radiology Professor Kattesh Katti is the 2005–06 recipient of the renowned Gauss Professorship. Katti was selected from nominees worldwide. He is known for his innovative nanomedicine techniques to combat prostate cancer and is the principal inventor on 14 patents that deal with cancer diagnosis and therapy.

• Statistics department Chair Nancy Flournoy attended the World Academy of Art and Science General Assembly in Zagreb, Croatia, in November to discuss evolutionary challenges of the 21st century. The United Nations-sponsored assembly of 500 fellows and experts meets every five years to deal with global issues. Flournoy is a fellow of that organization and several others.

• History Associate Professor Carol Anderson has been appointed a member of the historical advisory committee for the U.S. Department of State. The nine-member committee established by Congress provides oversight on the preparation of the Foreign Relations of the United States series.

• In a first for the mathematics department, the International Congress of Mathematicians has invited an MU professor, Steve Hofmann, to deliver a lecture at its 2006 international meeting in Madrid this August. The prestigious group meets only every four years.

• Instructor of Japanese Marcy Holman and some of his MU students will appear at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., for the national Cherry Blossom Festival. Holman, a new faculty member in the Department of German and Russian Studies, involves the students as puppeteers in a Bunraku Japanese puppet troupe that he directs.

• Piano Adjunct Instructor Sara Renaud, MM ’03, won the 2005 Studio Fellowship Award of the Music Teachers National Association, the oldest professional music teachers association in the United States. The award honors her work as a piano teacher, but Renaud also maintains an active performance schedule with musicians and ensembles.

• Theater Professor Suzanne Burgyne has been appointed a scholar-in-residence at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City for the 2005-06 academic year. The foundation funds numerous programs in education and operates the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Never forget

Walter Johnson is a legend of the lecture hall. Former students remember the professor of economics, who died in 2001, for lively lectures that were stimulating and informational as well as entertaining. For nearly two decades Johnson taught Principles of Economics.

2003.

• The Modern Language Association selected John Foley’s experimental edition-translation of South Slavic oral epic The Wedding of Mustabjey’s Son Recieved by Performed by Halid Bugagic as winner of the MLA Award for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition for 2004–05. The prize represents the highest national award for scholarly editions of literature. Foley is Curators’ Professor of English and Classical Studies.

• Heading down the national highway again is a familiar route for history Professor Steve Watts as he lectures and signs books to promote his newest, Henry Ford, The People’s Tycoon. Henry Ford and the American Century. Watts has been featured on PBS, C-Span and National Public Radio.

• Chemistry department Chair Jerry Atwood received a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in May. One month later he lectured at the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, where he received the Honorary Medal of the Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences. Atwood works in nanoscale science.

• Economics Professor Michael Podgursky has been appointed a scholar-in-residence at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City for the 2005-06 academic year. The foundation funds numerous programs in education and operates the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Perhaps one of his finest — and funniest — moments occurred during a class in the 1970s when a streakee dashed across the front of the room as Johnson lectured. The students from that class remember Johnson’s swift response to the incident. An unflustered Johnson regained control with a witty observation: “There goes a perfect example of the gross national product.”

Johnson’s MU teaching career spanned more than 33 years and touched more than 40,000 students. In honor of that remarkable legacy to students, the University recently renamed its landmark auditorium in Middlebush Hall after him. On Oct. 21, 2005, Johnson’s former colleagues and students from the Department of Economics, Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman and Chancellor Emeritus Richard Wallace joined with Johnson’s wife, Mary-Angela Johnson, to dedicate the newly renovated facility. Sonja Step- toe, RA economics, BJ ’92, represented department alumni for the ceremony.

“The fully modernized Walter Johnson Auditorium...bird will be a fixture in quality undergraduate education,” says department Chair and Professor David Mandy. Just as Walter Johnson was a fixture. Alumni and friends who would like to make a memorial gift to honor Johnson may send checks to the Walter L. Johnson Alumni Opportunities for Excellence Fund in Economics. Please make the gift to the University of Missouri-Columbia, indicate the name of the fund on the memo line and mail it to 317 Lowry Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

White’s Trash plays in New York

Hillbilly love and flyin’ refrigerators hit New York for two weeks in August when a play written by David White, an MU doctoral theater student, was selected for the annual New York International Fringe Festival. The festival features 200 companies performing plays at more than...
who appeared recently on the television shows Grey’s Anatomy and House, counseled as an adviser, and Senekdjian himself played a featured role.

Senekdjian’s allegiance to Mizzou had brought him back to campus a few years ago for an emotional reunion in theater to honor Miller, who has been a mentor. “It was an experience I will carry with me for the entirety of my life and one that showed me the true family that is the MU theater department,” Senekdjian says. “As I ventured into this project in Los Angeles and people from MU kept offering their support, all of those feelings came rushing back.”

Senekdjian entered MU in 1996 with the intent of earning a law degree. He quickly discovered that the prospect of sitting behind a desk scared him to death, and he declared a theater major his sophomore year. “I’ve always had a passion for theater, television and film,” he says. “I owe a great deal to Jim Miller for keeping me sane and believing in my talent.”

Burn This is a contemporary romantic drama that premiered in Los Angeles in 1987 with John Malkovich playing the lead role of Pale. Many alumni joined the Mizzou cast and crew at a party after the final performance of Senekdjian’s production on June 26.

Think about it

At professional meetings across the nation, philosophy department Chair Jon Kvanvig frequently fields inquiries from nationally and internationally known philosophers who ask about the possibility of joining MU’s department.

Many recent department accomplishments are the reasons behind that interest. National rankings by Philosophical Gourmet 2004–05 list the department in a tie for eighth place in philosophy of religion, tied for ninth place in decision theory, and tied for 14th place in epistemology.

Strength in publishing also showcases this respected department. Associate Professors Robert Johnson and Matt McGrath received extraordinary professional recognition for their written works.

Johnson’s article, “Virtue and Right” first published in Ethics, the world’s leading journal of moral philosophy — was selected by The Philosopher’s Annual as one of the 10 best philosophy articles published in 2003. McGrath received the prestigious Oxford Studies in Metaphysics Younger Scholar Prize for 2005 for his paper “Four-Dimensionalism and the Puzzles of Coincidence.”

The future brings new potential, as well. André Ariew, whom Kvanvig calls the most prominent and promising junior philosopher of biology anywhere, will join the faculty in fall 2006. Ariew is an associate of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University and was a 2004 visiting professor at Cambridge University. He is writing a book on two models of natural selection.

“I knew we had to hire him when I saw his work cited in the writing samples of the other candidates,” says Associate Professor Andrew Melnyk, a member of the search committee.

Hobbs lives life as an adventure

A history degree and adventurous spirit have helped Mary Hobbs discover the world. As a student, Hobbs, BA ’85, prepared for an international career and fantasized about working in Italy or Greece.

The exotic location where Hobbs lives is not in or even near Europe. The place she calls home has a monsoon season that lasts from June through October, and in many parts of the country, people can travel only by boat or on raised earthen trails.

Hobbs’ mailing address is in Bangladesh.

She loves her life in a country that is known principally through images of starving children. Hobbs joined the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) five years ago and is an education team leader based in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

At the U.S. Embassy there, she manages the U.S. foreign aid that supports education and early childhood develop-
ment. Hobbs works in partnership with the international agency Save the Children and with Sesame Workshop.

She says the majority of Bangladeshi schoolchildren come from families with no literate parents, and even with an impressive 95 percent enrollment in early grade school, the dropout rate is high by second grade.

That high failure rate is predictable, Hobbs says. “There are no books in the houses and no educational toys.” Save the Children helps prepare these youngsters for school by developing tools that even illiterate parents can use to teach non-readers. One of the projects is a picture book of local folk tales that includes letter recognition and simple words. “It’s empowering to the parents,” she says.

Hobbs’ home city is roughly the size of New York with a population of 12 million people. The city has no skyscrapers, and commuters ride in bicycle-powered three-wheel rickshaws rather than cars, but Hobbs sees a veneer of the first world on the streets: “People tend to pick it up pretty easily.” Most people recognize at least a few Swahili words, such as safari and bwana, from adventure movies. During class, Odalloh encourages the new speakers to use full sentences. After just three weeks of the lecture and conversation classes, his students were already writing compositions. Their progress pleases him.

“Jameson, I’m giving a speaking exercise,” he says, “tongue twisters.” It will be a new experience for the students. Meanwhile, Odalloh himself is enjoying the new food, new friends and new experiences in Missouri.

A journey in words

What do The New Yorker and The Missouri Review have in common? Both periodicals had three nonfiction pieces selected for publication in The Best American Travel Writing 2005, a showcase of the best 20 or so travel articles of the year.

Editors of The Best American Travel Writing read items from hundreds of periodicals to establish a list of 50 to 100 finalists. Then a guest editor who is considered a leading travel writer makes the final decisions. The 2005 guest editor is Jamaica Kincaid. National Geographic’s Adventure magazine led the field with four articles selected for publication in 2005.

If travel writing is done well, it can transport readers to the farthest edges of the Earth and open minds to cultures beyond the familiar. The Missouri Review articles that met that standard include two that won other honors.

“A Vocabulary for My Senses” won author Timothy Bascom the 2004 Missouri Review Editors’ Prize for nonfiction. Bascom’s essay vividly describes his experiences as the child of Christian missionaries at a mission hospital in the Wallayta region of Ethiopia.

The 2005 Jeffrey E. Smith Prize winner for nonfiction is Tom Ireland’s “My Thai Girlfriends,” a funny collection of observations of Thai culture that Ireland pulls from his experiences after living in Thailand for a year.

Equally as compelling is Charles Martin Kearney’s “Maps and Dreaming,” an essay that recounts the author’s extended travels with a female companion through Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.

Missouri Review Editor Speer Morgan considers the high number of travel-writing pieces selected for the 2005 showcase to be “solid recognition” of The Review’s recent efforts to elevate its award-winning nonfiction record to the status of its record for fiction.

What not to wear

School uniforms. You may remember those khaki slacks and polo shirts and navy sweaters. Parents like them because they stifle student expression through clothing. Students dislike them for the same reason.

For years, conventional wisdom had held that students who wear uniforms do better in school. In a test of that theory, David Brunsma, assistant professor of sociology, researched the subject and wrote the book The School Uniform Movement and What It Tells Us About American Education: A Symbolic Crusade.

Brunsma used evidence from eight years of research to determine that school-uniform policies do not affect student achievement, attendance or behavior, including curbing violence.

Brunsma studied students from elementary, middle and high schools and found that schools with greater numbers of students who are lower-achieving, minority and poor, as well as schools with lower parental involvement, are the most likely to adopt a uniform policy. He reports that elementary schools have imple-
memented uniforms at the greatest rate. Brunsona began the study in 1996 after a push for school uniforms occurred in the early 1990s in public schools nationally. With the expanded interest in school uniforms, perhaps manufacturers will consider producing better-looking duds for kids.

Herd of this?
Soon after Cristo’s exhibit of saffron banners closed in New York’s Central Park, MU art students installed their own public art display on the lawn of the Fine Arts Building on University Avenue.

Art enthusiasts and passers-by encountered a collection of 3-D abstract shapes that resembled pine trees, an arch, basket, fountain, dome, plant, barrel and other architectural designs. Students of Assistant Professor David S. East created the pieces out of flexible wooden strips and plastic zip ties for an exhibit titled “A Herd of Puryears.”

The three-week project on public art was inspired partly by the work of Martin Puryear, a contemporary sculptor. The student artists planned their pieces to create an attractive public display suitable for the landscape and architecture of the site.

“This is a collaborative project, so the students are also dealing with the experience of proposing, planning and executing a piece as a group,” East said.

East had to do some collaboration of his own. He coordinated the display with MU Campus Facilities, whose workers tend the buildings and plan the moving schedules of green spaces on campus.

East also used the project to teach students to work with scale and incite interest.

The exhibit is the second herd of art pieces to graze the lawn on University Avenue. In spring 2002, East’s class produced several wooden cows in various poses.

East coordinates the 3-D design program with the assistance of Visiting Assistant Professor Shannon Blakey and Teaching Assistant Eric Carlson, a graduate student in the ceramics program. Students in the 3-D class generally work on four projects during the semester and are happy to exhibit their art.

That’s classic
The students in Professor Charles Saylor’s lecture on mythology in Renaissance art egged him on to tell more. Those in Assistant Professor Anatole Moret’s session were so into the lecture that they would call out the answers to her rhetorical questions.

“It’s a great honor that they chose to come here,” says Associate Dean Ted Tarkow. “The association selects locations where the classical studies are thriving. The availability of MU’s Museum of Art and Archaeology and Ellis Library helped draw the national assemblage that serves some of the nation’s finest high school students of Latin and Greek.

MU’s classics and ancient history professors enjoyed working with the lively participants. Typically these students thrive on academic discussions and fiercely competitive activities that range from quiz bowls to Latin sight-reading. They are the caliber of scholars the department hopes to attract when they reach college age.

Visiting Assistant Professor Michael Barnes attributes the increased awareness of classical studies to such pop culture subjects as movies about Troy and Alexander the Great as well as books and movies of the Harry Potter series.

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East also used the project to teach students to work with scale and incite curiosity. As the Cristo exhibit did, East hopes that activities such as Herd of Puryears give the public an opportunity to experience surprise, interest and wonder.

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The motivated scholars were among the more than 1,400 classical studies students who invaded campus for a week in August. Although they came to compete, for the most part, these graduates were seeking victory in mind games.

Students from high schools across the nation converged on the Midwest for the annual conference of the National Junior Classical League. Mizou’s Department of Classical Studies provided faculty to help lead forums, discussions and contests (carmen) on the ancient world. For entertainment, the students participated in Olympics track and field events and browsed bazaars of hand-made arts and crafts.

The writing is on the wall
The writing is on the wall in the Geological Sciences Building. The names and accomplishments of several outstanding alumni have been carved in stone — green serpentinized marble — to form a Geological Sciences Wall of Fame.

Among the honorees are geologists who served as presidents of national geoscience societies, recipients of alumni awards and honorary lifetime members of the Geology Development Board. Alumni who served as geoscience society presidents are Mike Bohorich, BS ’79, Society of Exploration Geophysicists; Richard Bishop, MA ’69, American Association of Petroleum Geologists; John Burst, PhD ’30, Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration; Earl McBride, MA ’65, Society of Paleontologists and Mineralogists; and M. Ray Thomasson, BA ’53, MA ’54, American Association of Petroleum Geologists and American Geological Institute.

Distinguished alumni award winners include Bishop, Ray Hofhief, BS ’59, MA ’64, John H. Marshall Jr., BA ’49, MA ’50, Herman Ponder, BA ’55, PhD ’59, and Thomasson.

Honorary lifetime board members are Marshall and Hugh Looney, BA ’47, MA ’48, honored posthumously.

The ceremony attracted a crowd that included students. Doyt Center student Scott Lepley of Chicago said he understands the significance of the what the alumni have accomplished and their return visits to campus.

“We look toward them,” Lepley said. “Especially undergraduates, who aren’t in tune yet with the outside world, can see what one can do with a degree.”

Lepley is one of two students who serve on the Geology Development Board, which assists the department with private support.

Three of the honorees, Marshall, Hofhief and Bishop, spoke after department Chair Kevin Sheldon read the honor roll.

At 81, Marshall says he’s having way too much fun drilling for oil to even consider retiring. There are few things he loves as much as working on oil wells or for the geology department. “I owe a debt to this department,” he said. “I could match wits with anyone when I walked out of here.” He still can. And does.

Bishop retired from Exxon-Mobil and now works as a consultant. “I went to a lot of schools,” he said, “but this one is at my heart.”

Hofhief thanked the department for its outstanding faculty, such as Raymond Peck and Walter Keller. “It was very much an honor to be adopted as a poor boy by those professors,” Hofhief said.

The alumni returned to MU for their
twice-yearly board meeting to strategize about support for the department. The goal this year is to raise $1 million for scholarships and fellowships.

Since the board’s founding in 1981, the members have raised $3 million and take pride in that tradition of fund raising. Marshall, for example, made his first gift of $5 shortly after his graduation in 1950. He’s been adding to that and encouraging gifts from other alumni ever since.

Students such as Lepley can see the writing on the wall. They’ve received help from the alumni, and their time to help will come.

**Connecting links**

Elise Link turned disappointment into triumph as a high school student searching for the perfect theater program. She applied to a college she wanted to attend, only to learn the college didn’t want her. She opted then for Mizzou, where a hometown friend from Memphis had enrolled.

At Mizzou, Link never looked back. She parlayed her superb acting ability into reaching the national finals of the Irene Ryan acting auditions at the Kennedy Center. She won an eight-state regional acting competition that clinched entry to the Washington, D.C., seminar and performance week that is considered the Tony Awards of collegiate theater. Then, at the Kennedy Center competition, Link won a three-week all-expenses-paid trip to the Sundance Playwriting Institute.

And her acting partner, Ross Taylor, who won the best acting partner award, were selected for the Kennedy Center Actors. Taylor, who is from St. James, Mo., will graduate this year.

**Inaugural issue**

The University of Missouri Peace Studies Review, a peer-reviewed journal, made its debut in summer 2005.

The publication will print articles on methods of resolving conflict in all aspects of life, developing a culture of peace and discovering the relationship of peace to social and economic justice. “Peace as a scholarly pursuit encompasses all academic areas of the modern university,” the journal’s mission statement explains.

The inaugural issue featured two essays by Nobel Prize Laureate John Hume: “The Theory and Practice of Peace Making” and “Martin Luther King Celebration Speech.”

Co-editors Charles Cowger and Daryl Hobbs envision the journal as a reflection of the scholarship of a research university. Cowger is a professor emeritus and an adjunct professor of peace studies. Hobbs is a professor emeritus of rural sociology.

MU’s Peace Studies Program and several related divisions serve as a natural extension of all U.S. victims of military conflicts. His staff of 250 is the largest and widely regarded as the foremost skeletal-identification lab worldwide. Holland himself holds diplomat status with the American Board of Forensic Anthropology, arguably the highest recognition a forensic scientist can achieve.

Holland led recovery expeditions for war dead into such areas as Iraq, China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North and South Korea and Kuwait. The lab’s 18 search and recovery teams scatter around the world to conduct searches that may require special underwater or mountain skills. Two Mizzou alumni work with Holland as jungle specialists: Gregory Fox, PhD ’92 anthropology, and Gwen Haugen, BA ’90 anthropology.

Among Holland’s most memorable solutions is the identification in 1998 of the Vietnam Unknown Soldier from Arlington National Cemetery. “How can you beat that as an intellectual puzzle?” he says.

In 2001 Holland led a team that assisted in identifying victims of the attack on the Pentagon. Routinely he assists the FBI in high-profile cases. As an expert witness and consultant, he testified in the Sam Sheppard trial.

In a current project, Holland’s researchers are trying to identify two skeletons found in the ruins of the U.S.S. Monitor, an ironclad ship from the Civil War. They need to find a maternal-relief-of-information Center in the journal Medicine in the medical school — that offer in-house resources for a journal on peaceful coexistence; and Wayne Anderson, professor emeritus of psychology, who discussed how people are manipulated by their fears.

To receive the Peace Studies Review, patrons may send a contribution to the Peace Studies Program, 53 McReynolds Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

**Puzzle master**

Tom Holland has never watched an episode of the television series CSI. It’s too much like work for him. Holland, BFA ’79, MA ’85, PhD ’91 anthropology, and his teams of forensic anthropologists solve forensic mysteries every day.

As scientific director, Holland heads the U.S. Army Central Identification Lab-oratory in Honolulu, the agency responsible for the recovery and identification of all U.S. victims of military conflicts. His staff of 250 is the largest and widely regarded as the foremost skeletal-identification lab worldwide. Holland himself holds diplomat status with the American Board of Forensic Anthropology, arguably the highest recognition a forensic scientist can achieve.

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The American government has made an effort to recover its war dead since the Civil War, so what Holland calls the Anthropology alumni Tom Holland directs the 250 experts who conduct the recovery and identification of all U.S. victims of military conflicts.
A&S is like family

Chris Stevens: “You should always be proud of your family.”

Chris Stevens’ life revolves around Mizzou. It started with his first “A,” in an art history and archaeology class, he says. Then the College’s family atmosphere reeled him in.

The outgoing Stevens, BA ’91 communication, is relationship manager for Boone County National Bank in Columbia with a Mizzou clientele that brings him to campus often. On July 1 he expanded his University ties with a new role — president of the Arts & Science Alumni Organization (ASAO). Stevens took the reins from past president Bev Yarger of Versailles. Mr. Yarger led the A&S alumni group for three years. Other members of the ASAO governing committee are Margrace Buckler, Marie Hunter, Don Laird, Marc Long, Wally Pfeffer, R. D. Ross and Lucille Salerno, all of Columbia; John Shaw of Leawood, Kan.; and Debbie Snellen of Wildwood, Mo.

The group is dedicated to supporting the College through its students and faculty. With the vision of a new president, ASAO will focus on two projects: The Heart of Mizzou Endowment and Faculty Incentive Grants.

“State money has dried up a bit, so we need to supplement that to help the College attract and retain the brightest faculty and thus the best students,” Stevens says. “The Heart of Mizzou Endowment will be used for scholarships and faculty development.”

Members of the committee have pledged leadership gifts to the fund and are heading a campaign to reach arts and science graduates. As Stevens says, it’s all about building relationships.

“I would like A&S alumni to see how far MU has come in the past 10 to 15 years,” he says. “Many alumni have lost touch. We want to bring them back to Mizzou, get in front of them and show them what’s going on. We need to build that affinity for the College because it’s like family, and you should always be proud of your family.”

Stevens is betting that alumni will want to give back to their departments and College, either through volunteerism or philanthropy.

The ASAO Faculty Incentive Grants offer funding to faculty members who need financial help in research or other academic projects. “We had a great response in the first round,” Stevens says. More than 20 faculty members applied for the financial assistance, and Stevens expects even more applications for the 2006 prizes.

ASAO earns its budget from the Alumni Association by working with the A&S Student Council as well as co-hosting A&S projects such as membership campaigns, alumni events and the alumni association. The group receives funding from the A&S Dean’s Office and through membership fees from the Alumni Association.

That’s why Stevens and the group are urging alumni to join ASAO. “If we can expand membership, we can give more of these grants,” Stevens says. (See the ASAO application form on Page 15.)

The 2005 incentive awards, ranging up to $1,500, are helping professors to hire students as assistants, cover research expenses and even rebuild a ceramics kiln, which Stevens’ says was his favorite place for help.

Also receiving support is philosophy Professor Paul Weirich for a study on the rationality of acts of groups of people, such as committees.

A R T S  &  S C I E N C E

ARTS & SCIENCE

Winter 2006
A&S Awards 2005
The College of Arts and Science began a tradition of honoring distinguished alumni in 1984. Awards for distinguished service started in 1989, and awards for honorary alumni made their debut in 2001. A&S has recognized 144 alumni and friends with the awards, which are announced during Arts and Science Week each February. The 2005 winners include the following:

Recent Alumni
• Melanie Moore Paxson, BA ’94 theatre, has built a performance career on stage as well as on film and television. She has earned starring roles at the prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago and played the role of Sarah Brennan in NBC’s Happy Family. She is recognized as the “Glad lady” in TV commercials for Glad products.

Honorary Alumni
• Vicky Riback Wilson, M Ed ’81, is a public servant who has worked for the people of Missouri since 1996, when she was elected to her first of four terms in the House of Representatives. She has shown consistent focus on issues of health, mental health and programs for low-income people, women, children and the disabled, and she gladly mentors low-income people, women, children and the disabled. She was elected to her first of four terms in the House of Representatives. She has shown consistent focus on issues of health, mental health and programs for low-income people, women, children and the disabled, and she gladly mentors low-income people, women, children and the disabled.

Distinguished Alumni
• Janet Campbell, BA ’74 Spanish, has worked with several national and international companies in investment banking, venture capital, strategic partnering and international business. Most recently she served as president and CEO of InforMedix, an investor firm in the healthcare industry. She founded Potomac BioScience Partners, an early-stage venture fund.
• Jack Fishman, BA ’71 mathematics, is an internationally recognized expert in the field of atmospheric chemistry and an advocate for ozone research. A scientist at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., he has received that agency’s Medal of Exceptional Scientific Achievement, the highest award NASA bestows on its scientists.
• Thomas D. Holland, BFA ’79, MA ’84, PhD ’91 anthropology, is scientific director of the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, the government agency responsible for the recovery and identification of all U.S. victims of military conflicts. (See story on Page 11.) The American Board of Forensic Anthropology has honored him with its highest award.
• Attorney John Shaw, BA ’71, MA ’77 English, JD ’77, is a partner with Berkowitz Staunton Brandt Williams & Shaw LLP in Kansas City, where his practice focuses on the securities industry. He has served as lead trial and appellate counsel in a variety of commercial, product liability and securities matters.

Distinguished Service
• Michael Ching, artistic director of Opera Memphis and composer of the musical drama Corpo de Discovery, serves as a mentor to students and alumni of MU’s School of Music. As he worked with the school on that original score, which MU commissioned for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Ching involved the students in the extraordinary process of shaping new music.

When the Professor Is a Pop Star
What’s not to love about a reality class?
Art students enjoyed class to the extreme when Preston Sharp, a designer with ABC’s Extreme Makeovers: Home Edition, delivered a surprise lecture.

With his television crew following every step, Sharp took over teaching duties in Mark Lenteneckert’s Drawing 4 class on the first day of the fall semester.

Sharp, who is a furniture historian and designer, offered to teach the class while he was on campus capturing background material for a show involving the family of Mizzou junior Trace Teas, a psychology major. The ABC crew was in the midst of a surprise home redo to reward Teas and his big-hearted family. Teas’ parents used their retirement funds to build a camp for disabled children.

Extreme Makeover typically features heart-wrenching stories of generosity that often leave television viewers sobbing as the stories of tragedy or triumph unfold and the makeovers emerge.

While the rest of the Extreme designers and carpenters were redoing the Teas family home in Purely, Mo., Sharp was collecting Mizzou decorative items for Trace’s bedroom and enjoying his “professorship.” Sharp introduced himself by writing “Professor Sharp” on the board and set his students at ease with the assurance that he would not spring a surprise quiz on them.

He did surprise the students, though, by asking them to gather their art supplies and accompany him outdoors for a seven-minute sketching assignment of line contour drawing. “Watch out for chiggers,” he warned.

As the students sat in the grass and sketched nature, Sharp walked among them to check their work. He reminded the students that nature has produced some of the world’s most beautiful works of art.

“Thanks for being such good sports,” Sharp said to the class and Lenteneckert. “Mizzou is a great school, isn’t it?” He wrapped up the lecture and left for a video shoot in front of the Columns. Sharp was pressed for time. He had to return to the Teas family home to complete Trace’s Mizzou-themed bedroom. The extreme carpentry crew was creating a bed with a footboard of Ionic columns. Sharp and camera crew exited the Fine Arts Building with a black and gold “welcome” mat and other MU treasures destined for Trace’s room.

The program aired Oct. 16. Details on the Teas family makeover are available online at abc.go.com/primetime/extreme/home.

The American Board of Forensic Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, the government agency responsible for the recovery and identification of all U.S. victims of military conflicts. (See story on Page 11.) The American Board of Forensic Anthropology has honored him with its highest award. Attorney John Shaw, BA ’71, MA ’77 English, JD ’77, is a partner with Berkowitz Staunton Brandt Williams & Shaw LLP in Kansas City, where his practice focuses on the securities industry. He has served as lead trial and appellate counsel in a variety of commercial, product liability and securities matters. As president of the Gertrude Marshall Society, he recruits support for MU’s Peace Studies Program.

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Freund’s piece is a dialogue between the saxophone and piano that challenges the musicianship of the artists. A school of Alarm Will Sound, a 20-member band that specializes in contemporary music and is gathering rave reviews. A *New York Times* review called Alarm Will Sound the “future of classical music.” Freund will perform with the group Feb. 16, 2006 in Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall in a concert that will feature “Unremixed,” another Freund composition. “Unremixed” made its debut July 24 in New York for the jazz at Lincoln Center Festival.
Justice

Two superb poets. Two national awards.
Life keeps coming up couplets for
this MU couple.

By Nancy Moen
Steve Gehrke answered his cell phone while on vacation in Minnesota and learned that he had won a 2005 National Poetry Series award. Then the competition representative asked to speak to Gehrke’s wife. At home in Columbia, Nadine Meyer soon heard the same astonishing news. She and her husband had won two of the five coveted prizes.

In the world of poets, the National Poetry Series is arguably the premier book contest in the nation. Distinguished national poets cull the usual 1,400 submissions to just five annual winners whose literary destinies suddenly change.

The couple reacted to the news of their honors in stunned seclusion. “We were in shock. For one person to win is like getting struck by lightning, but to be two of the five people…” Gehrke says, still unable to put the win into words.

Gehrke and Meyer are doctoral students in MU’s Creative Writing Program. “I wouldn’t be surprised if this is the first time there have ever been two from the same program in the same year,” says Professor Rod Santos, director of the Center for the Literary Arts and a mentor to the winning MU poets. Santos himself won the prize in 1982 for his first book, Accidental Weather.

HarperCollins will publish Meyer’s book, The Anatomy Theater, and the University of Illinois Press will publish Gehrke’s, Michelangelo’s Seizure. Both poets received a $1,000 cash prize.

The day before news of the double win arrived, Gehrke received notification that his same manuscript had won another significant national prize. He had to “unaccept” that award to receive the National Poetry Series prize. Earlier in the year, husband and wife both received nominations for a prestigious Pushcart Prize, which Meyer won.

Poets in motion

Gehrke hated being away from his comfortable world of fellow MU poets, particularly his wife, when he heard news of the awards. As a couple who write, Gehrke and Meyer play off each other and pick up energy, one from the other. Like rhyme and reason, they fit together in their goodness at home and in their seriousness as writers. They don’t necessarily finish each other’s sentences in normal conversation, but there’s a seamless transition of thoughts, a sort of poetry in motion, that defines their interactions. They enjoy using language to challenge themselves. Where they differ is in their writing routines. Meyer gathers her notes, computer, reference books and prints and heads to the Cherry Street Artisan, a small restaurant near campus, where she may stay for six hours at a time, completely absorbed in what she is doing. Gehrke works in short intervals, often composing as he wanders around the house. He jots notes on six different note pads to compile later and thinks about his writing constantly, even while watching television.

Meyer’s poetry changed significantly when she entered Mizzen’s program, which calls a remarkable experience. She began paying more attention to the complexity of language. “My poems are more ambitious, more intellectual and less personal,” she says. “They speak in a more complex way.”

Both poets worked diligently to understand their subject matter. Meyer researched and wrote academic papers on anatomy. Gehrke took an art history class to examine the theoretical issues of self-portraiture.

Part of their poetry-writing routine is a process that could end a less-secure marriage. Gehrke and Meyer review each other’s writing as first readers. “I would think I had finished a poem, and Nadine would be so tough on me,” Gehrke says. “I’d tell her she was wrong, then would change it to the way she wanted.”

Their poetry and egos survive that and other challenges such as critiques from students in the Creative Writing Program. Doctoral writing students often use each other as sounding boards, and it was that group that Gehrke craved when he received the phone call in Minnesota.

The final part of the writing process is passing muster with the professors, Santos and Lynne McMahon. That can be tough. “They’re critical because they want you to write well,” Gehrke says. “It’s a traumatic process to present your poem to a whole room with Rod or Lynne and other students. They don’t let you get away with anything.”

As doctoral students do, Gehrke and Meyer teach undergraduates in the typical academic method of sharing talents and shaping beginners. They teach Introduction to Poetry and occasionally Intermediate Poetry.

At home, there’s another new mind for the couple to shape as well. Their household now includes a new daughter. Baby Chloe Meyer Gehrke was born earlier in the year, finally, suffering an epileptic seizure. Her title poem paints images of Michelangelo enduring a therapeutic process.

Sample the Poetry

The award-winning poetry of Steve Gehrke and Nadine Meyer emerged from images the couple absorbed in the art museums of Paris. Gehrke became fascinated by painters and the dramatic events that changed their work. His title poem paints images of Michelangelo suffering an epileptic seizure.

From Michelangelo’s Seizure:

When it happened, finally, on the preparation bridge, where he had stood all morning grinding the pigments, gazing at his brush-tips to a fine point so that he could thread Eve’s hair like a serpent down her back, his head rocked forward on the bell-chain of his spine, the catwalks rattling as he fell, a paint-bowl splattering the ceiling, then spinning like a flying bird, to the cathedral floor …

Meyer found inspiration in Renaissance wood-block prints of anatomy lessons. With descriptive imagery and metaphor, she raises questions about how the female body is studied and objectified in art.

From The Anatomy Theater:

Do they strain to see the glimmer of a soul rise, two souls like a pair of dusty starlings? Or is it the visceral they are interested in, this great concourse of arms and legs and heads thronging toward the center of the amphitheater, where, at its vortex, a woman, the only stillness, has, like a peach dropped in boiling water, split down her gravid center? The rabble jockeys toward her womb; men press through the balcony bars, gesture largely, scrabble to touch the cloth she lies on …

The doctoral students share their expertise with beginners.

PHOTOS BY KAREN JOHNSON

Two similar phone calls changed the future of Nadine Meyer and Steve Gehrke, doctoral students of poetry who are husband and wife.
It’s not wise to argue with senior Nicholas Dudley. He’s the 2005 national debate champion.

A bit shy. Quiet. Reserved. Tried to avoid a speech class in eighth grade. Speaks only when he has something to say. Those descriptions don’t sound like they fit a debate champion.

Apparently Nicholas Dudley had a lot to say last spring at the National Forensics Association Lincoln-Douglas Debate Championship. The senior political science major talked his way to the national debate title in Akron, Ohio.

Dudley is part of MU’s team that became the first group ever to advance all five of its debaters to the elimination rounds at the national tournament.

Other members of that team were Chance Harp, sophomore in economics; Tyler Landes and Kyle Dennis, sophomores in business; and Chris Shaw, senior in business. Dudley and Shaw also finished tied for 11th in a two-person parliamentary team competition in St. Paul, Minn., and were ranked second for most of the year.

Dudley functions as a team player. He prefers to talk about the team victory rather than his individual championship. He credits the team’s two coaches, Mizzou law students Jeremy Hollingshead and Chris Banks, for leading the five debaters through hundreds of hours of preparation and then traveling with them to tournaments, all without pay.

Preparing for debates is time-consuming work. Dudley pores over electronic information and searches law reviews and other periodicals. He spends hours clipping stories and collecting quotes in search of opinions from great legal minds.

Then there are the meetings. In off-weeks with no tournaments, Dudley meets formally with the team twice a week as well as informally. As the tournaments approach, his life becomes cluttered with file folders filled with information.

“The week of nationals, we spent 20 hours cutting evidence,” he says. “We put it on pieces of paper with tag lines, citations and highlights to read it efficiently.”

Dudley estimates that team members spent 200 hours preparing the case that went to nationals — a resolution about reforming the criminal justice system. His winning argument was that police interrogations should be abolished.

There were no moments of terror for Dudley, or for that matter even stomach butterflies, during the national competition. While collecting facts, Dudley gains confidence. “I know it (the case) like the back of my hand,” he says. “You always get excited, even if it’s something you’ve argued 10,000 times.”

Dudley is sitting out the competitions for 2006. He’s working on law school applications and taking 18 credit hours of classes. Being on the debate team is an expensive hobby timewise and moneywise, he says: “I hope our victory will help the team out, get us some exposure and more financial support.”

He’s also spending some time on his other hobby — martial arts. There are pros and cons to that, as well.
As the curious 8-year-old strays toward the creek in Peace Park, Associate Professor Debora Bell, an expert in child psychology, demonstrates how to rein him in for safety. “No, Willie. Come back.” When he starts to comply, she says, “Thank you.”

Willie is not a child. He’s a dog. But the techniques that Bell uses on her English toy spaniel, Champion Eli-Fran’s Sir William, are similar to what psychologists recommend for raising well-adjusted children. They obviously work.

This silky furball in Mizzou colors of black and gold (on a white background) is a national champion. With Bell’s help as handler, Willie won Best of Breed at the 2005 Westminster Dog Show. It was their second Westminster victory in three years and an impressive feat. Just to qualify for the Super Bowl of dog shows, a canine must be in the top five of its breed in the nation.

Willie has collected six Best in Show titles nationally, a record for his breed. He, of course, knows he’s a champion. “He’s snooty,” Bell says of her combination pet and show dog. “He walks into the ring and owns it. He loves competitions.”

Judges have affirmed time and again that Willie is one pretty pooch. The obligatory grooming that show dogs must endure relaxes him, and Willie’s world gets even better if Bell sings to him. A bit larger than a big cat, Willie is blessed with a good body structure and nice head. That attractiveness, particularly the pretty face, is important for a breed that has historically served royalty as lap dogs.

Bell’s dog-showing hobby used to consume two to three weekends every month. Because Willie is now semi-retired, the twosome hits the road only about once every month. But the ribbons and trophies Willie has won are secondary to the fun the two have shared and the cup of ice cream he earns with each victory.

Willie is all business in the show ring as he works to earn praise from Bell. “You figure out how to bring out the sparkle,” she says. Sometimes Willie will play to the judges by giving a warm response to someone who handles him “adoringly.” Sometimes not.

When he’s not strutting in the show ring, Sir William does what Sir William wants to do: He’s smart, Bell says. He learned the “Sit! Lie down! Come!” set of commands in one 15-minute session but follows those directions only when he deems it necessary. Bell also confirms that Willie thinks dog tricks and toys are silly and strangers aren’t worth bothering with.

Psychology aside, someone has figured how to get the upper paw here.

Interviewing a dog divo is difficult. During a publicity visit in Bell’s office in McAlester Hall, Willie manages to ignore everyone but her. Key words and phrases such as “treat,” “outside” and “ride in the car” elicit attention only if they are uttered by Bell. His nose points only in her direction.

Furthermore, Willie is no news hound. He shows his disdain for paparazzi by squeezing behind a computer hard drive, only to emerge — after some coaxing — with dust bunnies on his freshly bathed coat. That shyness is just part of Willie’s regal personality, Bell says. She understands his reticence. As a researcher, Bell studies social anxiety in children with a focus on shy children and their thought processes.

She admits to using some child psychology on Willie and employs methods that TV viewers may have observed on Supernanny or Nanny 911. Bell’s techniques stress positive reinforcement, consistency and clarity. She’s firm but polite with Willie. She talks to him a lot, uses more words than normal for communicating with an animal and lets him know in a friendly tone of voice when he’s a “good dog.”

Willie has caught on to the psychology, too. The techniques he uses on Bell focus on positive reinforcement and repetition. He’s discovered that he can attract Bell’s attention by making eye contact and touching her knee with his paw. When he wants something, he’s polite, too, but he becomes more insistent if the response is slow. If needed, he’ll throw in the cuteness factor.

Psychology aside, someone has figured how to get the upper paw here.
The acts of kindness that you will read about here are transforming the future for students and their mentor-professors. The College of Arts and Science gratefully thanks the philanthropists whose legacies inspire and challenge us every day.

A Million Thanks . . .

... To the millionaire next door

Even her close friends and neighbors didn’t know that Mary Nell Porter, BS BA ’69, was a millionaire. She was a child of the Depression who lived a quiet and frugal life.

Shortly before she died in spring 2005, Porter made a $1 million lead gift toward building an MU performing arts center. She worked on the details with Michael Kateman, executive director for arts development and planning, in the last hours of her life. “Yeah, kid, you make some magic with this,” she told Kateman as she signed the documents.

There had been a lot of magic in Porter’s life, much of it revolving around her relationships with MU’s music and theater students. She loved attending their performances, and they, in turn, looked for her in the audience. Regularly Porter would stand in as “mom” for out-of-town parents who couldn’t attend the recitals and stage productions.

She especially loved going to New York to applaud the appearances of Mary Nell’s Groupies Performing Arts Showcase Endowment — to help pay students’ expenses for those national appearances.

In Columbia, Porter infused her life with arts projects through volunteer service and philanthropy. She served on too many boards and worked for too many causes to list them all here, but the volunteerism earned her a 2003 A&S Distinguished Service Award and recognition from the city’s arts groups in music, theater and visual arts.

Porter once said she couldn’t imagine life without the arts. Now students and faculty can’t imagine life without her. She died April 15.

... For adding this brainpower

Imagine being able to watch someone’s brain function before and after they take medication for depression, while they make a decision or solve a mathematical problem. Now students and faculty can’t imagine life without the arts. Now a $1.1 million gift in psychological sciences.

Many researchers in the Department of Psychological Sciences work in cognitive neuroscience who would benefit from the new Brain Imaging Center. The Miller Family Endowed Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience will provide the resources to hire an internationally known specialist who also will manage the department’s Brain Imaging Center, scheduled to open in 2007.

The Miller gift will generate matching funds from the state through the University of Missouri 2005 Endowed Chair Matching Program.

The initial holder of the chair will direct the study of brain activity through the use of a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) instrument. The department’s Brain Imaging Center, known for hosting spontaneous celebrations for students and alumni in her own hotel room. She’d order refreshments for the crowd and stay up until the last guest left — sometimes at 4 a.m.

On one adventure in New York with 30 MU opera students, Porter bought a ticket for any student who wanted to attend the Metropolitan Opera. “The Met,” she said, “was an opportunity not to be missed.” As you might imagine, the students were thrilled.

Eventually Porter convinced an expanding group of Mizzou friends and alumni to travel with her to applaud the students, and they became known as Groupies. Showing her wonderful sense of humor, Porter established a fund — Mary Nell’s Groupies Performing Arts Showcase Endowment — to help pay students’ expenses for those national appearances.

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Norman Rabjohn Memorial Chemistry scholarship fund in Rabjohn's name, the $1 million estate gift that will create a professional gift for undergraduate students. The donor thinks it appropriate that a fund honoring Rabjohn be used to assist promising students. "I had a tremendous respect for him," the donor says.

After coming to MU in 1948 from a position with Goodyear, Rabjohn became the chemistry department's main industrial chemist. He served the department twice as chair and played a large role on campus in support of the arts as well as the sciences through positions on Faculty Council and countless committees. But in truth, Rabjohn preferred working with students and shaping their knowledge of organic chemistry. He was the sort of teacher whose influence on a student lingers like an inner voice. "I came as a raw kid. He made me a professional," the donor says. "He was my adviser and a mentor who set a strong standard that had an influence on me." Graduate students still have flashbacks of Rabjohn's penetrating and insightful questions during oral examinations. Female students recall the respect he showed for women scientists in an era when few women were entering the field. Rabjohn retired from Mizzou and the world he loved in 1994. He died in September 2000.

The donor, who grew up in a working class family in Brooklyn, received bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from MU on the GI Bill after serving in the U.S. Air Force. He is a career chemist who started his own company that manufactures highly specialized infrared and laser-absorbing dyes. It's all organic chemistry, he says, the sort that Rabjohn taught.

... As inspiration to follow forever Feisty. Combative. Committed. Charm ing. Martha Wright Griffiths, BA '34 English, used all her political and personal savvy to champion the cause of equal rights for women. She spent 20 years in the U.S. House of Representa tives and served two terms as lieutenant governor of Michigan and two terms in the Michigan state legislature.

Joining her in the fight against sex discrimination was her husband, Hicks Griffiths, BA '34 economics, a political campaign strategist who managed her successful campaigns and those of many other politicians. The Griffiths, who are deceased, were partners in law, in their public service careers and in life.

Together, they delighted in fighting the good fight, and together they showed a deep respect for Mizzou with a personal gift. Their bequest has created the Martha and Hicks Griffiths Chair in American Political Institutions. "This is an honor for us and a fitting memory of them," says John Petrovich, chair of the political science department. "The political mark made by the Griffiths will be appropriately memorialized by the world-class scholarship of the holders of the chair." Hicks died in 1996, and Martha died in 2003.

The Griffiths returned to MU in 1990 as the inaugural William Francis English Scholars-in-Residence. During the visit, they relished sharing their life experiences with students.

The gregarious and gracious Griffiths thanked then A&S Dean Larry Clark for his support. "I won't be a token woman. I'm not going to be sent for coffee," Martha once told a Detroit Free Press reporter during an interview. The Griffiths established their own law firm in 1946. Hicks served as state chair of the Democratic party of Michigan. In 1995, he was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

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That was creepy!

Complete silence erupted in playwriting class after the first reading of Mary Barile’s new short play, The Hollow. Finally, another student spoke: “That was creepy!”

Barile had crafted an atmosphere that “creeped out” her audience with a script that used neither blood nor violence. This doctoral student and playwright observes audience reactions for feedback and repercussions when her scripts make the hair rise on the back of people’s necks.

“It’s just language,” she says of the haunting result. “Imagination takes it to the next step.”

Barile’s well-crafted language helped The Hollow win an eight-state regional competition of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Her play is one of only eight nationally in the 10-minute play category to earn a staged reading at the Kennedy Center. Entry to the festival is the college theater equivalent of the Tony Awards.

Then a few months later, judges of the Emerging Artists Theatre Festival selected The Hollow from 775 entries as a finalist in that competition. The script won a staged reading at The Wing Theatre in New York.

Barile shaped The Hollow rather like a mini-novel, set it in the Catskill Mountains and developed a story around a divorcing couple and the result of their split. She never shows the audience an end. She never shows the audience an end. She never shows the audience an end.

“I listen to hear if something is wrong rhythmically,” she says. She analyzes text as a musician examines measures, rests and beats. “The connection between music and theater is so close.”

Living history

Barile lives in a 19th century cottage near the bluffs of the Missouri River. Her cottage, although charming, resembles a servants’ quarters amid Victorian mansions. Each day after classes, she abandons Columbia to return to the Booneslick area, where she seeks comfort from land touched by a river and historically inhabited by people of the prairie.

She admits to being more than twice the age of most students, but rather than being intimidated by the age and cultural differences, she uses them to her advantage.

Barile writes from years of life experiences as a New Yorker with a career as an Army officer. She writes about what she knows, what she reads and what she gathers through volunteer work at the Boone County Historical Society, the Daniel Boone House and Boonefield Village.

She’s comfortable that her writing is 180 degrees different from that of other students. “If you listen to other people, you can’t help but take in their stories and their language,” she says.

Her appreciation for Alfred Hitchcock’s work adds color and perhaps eeriness to plays such as The Hollow, and a fascination for American history drives her research on future plays.

In a new project, Barile is gathering information about Daniel Boone’s wife, Rebecca Boone, who couldn’t read or write and left no notes for history. No portraits of Rebecca exist either, just hints of her personality through comments of acquaintances or family lore.

Barile respects Boone’s invisibility even though it makes the search for script material difficult. Perhaps she empathizes.

“I’d be perfectly happy to be like Rebecca Boone and have no one know what I look like. I’m a playwright,” Barile says. “It’s OK if I’m eccentric. If the audience loves the play, I’ve done my job.”

Mary Barile’s training in music gives her an unusual ability to shape the sounds of language in the scripts she writes.

Hitting Three New York Theaters in One Month

The Big Apple looks pretty delicious to Mizzou theater student Mary Barile, who had two plays appearing at three New York theaters in September: Leaving Hannibal played at the York Theatre for Mizzou on Broadway and at the Arclight Theatre, sponsored by the Episcopal Actors’ Guild; The Hollow, a finalist in the Emerging Artists Theatre Festival, earned a staged reading at the Wing Theatre.
Imagine a library without a card catalog or shelving system, and you’ll have an idea of what Professor Robin Kennedy encountered when she took over as curator of MU’s Dunn-Palmer Herbarium.

Rows of steel cabinets now organize and protect more than 270,000 dried plants mounted on acid-free paper in the herbarium at the Museum Support Center on Rock Quarry Road.

It wasn’t always this organized. When Kennedy took charge of the modern version of the herbarium in 1988, only about three-fourths of the holdings had been curated. Some of the unopened boxes had been stored for more than a decade.

“I thought this would be fun,” she says. “I had no idea what I was getting into.”

Kennedy accepted the project because she understood the value of the collection. For two years she worked without pay, sorting through hundreds of boxes of plant material to recover and categorize what she could. Kennedy organized the collection into a usable form and created a database with information about the date and location of plants and the collectors.

Like all major herbaria in the nation, MU’s Dunn-Palmer Herbarium helps to collect, preserve and identify thousands of plants. Much of that is because of Kennedy’s work, says John David, chair of biological sciences. “You can’t get a feel for the magnitude of the holdings unless you go there and look,” he says.

Like a librarian, Kennedy guards the collection against deterioration. Humidity and bugs remain the greatest threats. The same beetle that infests tobacco storage houses also invades herbaria. Previous attempts to eradicate the pests through microwave proved ineffective, and spraying the plants with arsenic or mercury was too dangerous for the people using them.

In 1988, the herbarium became one of the first in the nation to freeze its plants to eliminate pests. Kennedy and an assistant froze the entire collection, one cabinet at a time. Then they repeated the process.

The great freeze took four years, but it destroyed bugs, eggs and larvae. Now each specimen going out on loan returns to the freezer before being reshelved in a secure steel cabinet. Preserving the plants saved historical specimens from the 1830s, plants from areas that are now under shopping malls, samples of Missouri’s endangered species and plants from the site of the first nuclear bomb detonation in 1945. Among the treasures are important specimens collected by former curator David Dunn and noted botanist Ernest Palmer, for whom the herbarium is named.

In another aspect of her role as curator, Kennedy encourages researchers to use the plants. The facility exists mainly for scientists, particularly those who need to deposit plant samples as voucher specimens for analysis. Researchers deposit the samples as a guarantee that their research is documented and available for further study. If researchers need to examine specimens not available at MU, Kennedy can arrange loans from partner herbaria.

In other uses, the herbarium offers tours and serves organizations that include garden clubs. It assists state agencies such as the Missouri Department of Transportation, which researches the effect of new roads on native plants.

“When you work in a museum, you never think in the short term,” Kennedy says. Because she sees the value in future use of the plants, she linked Dunn-Palmer’s database to the Web site of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Now with more than 100,000 specimens digitally recorded, MU’s herbarium is the largest outside contributor of data to the St. Louis site.

Kennedy’s work on the project earned her the title of research associate with the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Growing a Museum

The MU campus is registered as a botanical garden with the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. Mizzou Botanic Garden comprises 269 acres of campus land. A curator and 48 landscapers tend more than 20 gardens and numerous plots of labeled plants. Yes, there are tiger lilies.
Nigel Kalton is a global leader in the area of Banach Space Theory. Two former MU students are gathering a group of intellectuals for an international conference to honor his work and celebrate a significant birthday. It’s a tradition and high honor in the world of math.

By Cheri Ghan

How’s That?
To know Nigel Kalton is to know that he speaks the queen’s English. When Kalton, a native Brit, taught advanced calculus at Michigan State University, he followed procedure in asking students to evaluate their research projects and is ready to talk math with anyone, anytime.

Bright beginning
When his biology teacher at a British public boys school told students the following year’s practical assignments would include “preparation” of a sheep’s skull, 13-year-old Nigel — a Harry Potter look-alike (photo above) — decided he’d do anything rather than biology.

History became his early focus. But math was by far his best subject, and at 15 he turned to mathematics. He hasn’t looked back.

Kalton spent his undergraduate and graduate years at Trinity College in Cambridge, England, where his dorm sat opposite one occupied by Britain’s Prince Charles. Kalton took the typical second-year course load as a freshman. At the end of his third year, he had earned the equivalent of a master’s degree. Two years after completing his undergraduate studies, he finished his doctoral thesis.

Not every moment of those school years was spent with his nose to the grindstone. Nigel enjoyed a few student high jinks. He recalls the time he and a friend crashed the Cambridge May Ball by using an absent couple’s tickets. To this day, Kalton wonders why he was the one chosen to be “Mrs. Olive Smith.”

Kalton taught for six years at Swansea in the University of Wales system before arriving in the United States in 1977 and at MU in 1979.

“I jumped at the chance of a job here because the conditions were so much better and allowed me to pursue my research without impediment,” he says. “I was able to participate in the building of a first-class mathematics department. The improvement of our department over the last 20 years has been quite dramatic; this is something I feel quite proud of.”

Although his work on Banach spaces has brought Kalton the most acclaim, he enjoys mathematics as a whole rather than one specific area. “When one proves a theorem, one is really saying that there is some pattern out there beyond simple randomness, or that there is a reason why things are as they are. There is a moment when one first sees the pattern (and nobody else has) when one feels like, perhaps, an explorer in the old days seeing land for the first time.”

Colleagues characterize Kalton as an irrereplaceable trailblazer. “A mathematician’s experience of another order,” Professor Peter Casazza says. “You go away feeling that you have been in the presence of true greatness.”

Future factors
It’s not until May, but Kalton already has plans for his 60th birthday. He’ll be in Ohio with hundreds of mathematicians. Former students Beata Randrianantoaina, PhD ’93, now a professor at Miami University of Ohio, and her husband, Narcisse Randrianantoaina, PhD ’93, have assembled an impressive array of speakers from around the world to participate in a weeklong conference honoring Kalton. Kalton served as Beata’s doctoral mentor. In addition to principal talks by some of the most distinguished names in functional analysis, more than 150 presentations will cover some of Kalton’s areas of interest.

In his typical low-key manner, Kalton admits to being flattered when approached about the conference but wasn’t sure he belonged in the category of mathematicians so honored before retirement. “But it was a good day, as I had just been told I had won the Banach medal, and so I agreed,” he says.

Friends admire Kalton’s humor and ability to stay grounded in view of the honorary conference. “I am, of course, looking forward to it, but it is a little bit scary because it’s almost too big,” he says. Casazza has hit upon the formula that most accurately describes Kalton’s star-quality talent and down-to-earth temperament: “He never advertises himself or acts like he is better or more important than anyone else. You feel good after talking to him. He is to my mind the perfect colleague.”

professor Nigel Kalton is one of the premier mathematicians in the world. A pre-eminent scholar in the area of Banach Space Theory, Kalton’s research with 82 collaborators from 20 different countries has set the standard for the field.

Banach spaces provide an abstract way of looking at concrete problems. They form a language useful to people such as engineers, physicists and mathematicians to describe infinite dimensional generalizations of the three-dimensional space we live in.

So highly regarded is Kalton’s work in this area that he is only the fourth international mathematician to receive the Banach Medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Yet Kalton remains an unassuming sort who colleagues say will stop what he’s doing to help on their research projects and is ready to talk math with anyone, anytime.

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Michael Porter labels his teaching style as a bit razzle-dazzle.

It plays out more like an investment of self.

By Cheri Ghan

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investing
heart and soul
for 25 years

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S
trolling across campus with Michael Porter is like walking with Bruce Springsteen. Colleagues stop to chat and students past and present call out, “Hey, Dr. P!”

After 25 years of teaching at Mizzou, Porter’s face is one of the most familiar on campus. His infectious laugh, wry sense of humor and practical view of life are legendary.

In his favorite role as teacher, Porter reaches and intellectually challenges hundreds of students every year. “I like to think I have one of the best jobs around,” he says. He’s an associate professor of communication as well as director of Special Degree Programs.

A room filled with students brings out the best in Porter. Alumni may remember the first class he taught at MU, Radio and Television in Modern Society. He’s still teaching it and, by raising issues they’ve never thought of, still setting straight students who think they’re media savvy.

He enjoys seeing them come to understand how the messages that bombard the public are created and ultimately received. One of Porter’s favorite tactics is an assignment that asks students to interview people other than students about how they watch and use television. The exercise is eye-opening as a comparison of viewers who multitask versus those who focus on the broadcasts.

To watch Porter teach is to catch a glimpse of an expert who invests his heart and soul into the profession. He’s equally comfortable leading a small discussion group or teaching a lecture class of 300.

The job of teaching two 50-minute lectures and a discussion group, combined with his other duties, should be daunting, but Porter thrives on it. His classes blend Power Point media presentations and lecture material with lively discussions and debates. “I like to break it up. It’s a little razzle-dazzle,”

Porter says about his teaching style and how lucky he’s been to get good discussions going. Actually, luck has nothing to do with it. Porter works hard to make it seem easy, and the students respond accordingly.

“The most entertaining class I’ve ever enrolled in”—that’s the thumbs-up assessment of Porter’s class from journalism major Matthew Mitchell, a senior from Rochester, N.Y. Mitchell says Porter is thoroughly approachable and works enthusiastically to get students involved while treating them with respect and never putting them on the spot.

Mitchell likes Porter’s outgoing, energetic style and the communicative atmosphere of the class. “It’s a shame everyone can’t have the chance to experience him as a professor before they graduate,” Mitchell says.

Zach Ottenstein, BJ ’05, agrees. The Chicago-area native says the size of Porter’s classes doesn’t matter because of his high-energy presentations. “Dr. P understands what keeps a student’s interest,” he says.

Then there’s the music. Porter’s trade mark lecture opener is an eclectic blend of music, everything from classical to new age to salsa. The music suits Porter’s personality and becomes yet another experience for students. “It’s not necessarily the music they like, but I want to create an atmosphere that says, ‘This is Porter’s class,’” he says. It does.

In his free time, Porter plays bass fiddle with a popular local group called Mal Art. He’s been overheard saying he’s a musician at heart and his dream job would be to perform at a posh resort near the ocean. Everyone just figures he’s kidding.

Porter is a teacher’s teacher, dedicated to his craft and finding ways to make it better. He loves the whole process, and it’s obvious from the multitude of distinguished teaching awards he has collected.

For 15 years, Porter has been involved with Wakonse, a sort of summer camp for teachers. He and his wife, Rose, the dean of MU’s Sinclair School of Nursing, spent part of the past summer as Wakonse team leaders. “We are all people who love teaching, who want to talk about it and find out how we can do it better,” he says.

As all teachers do, Porter takes on other responsibilities such as committee work that ranges from faculty council to planning the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

While mentoring students in the Special Degree Programs, he reminds them that MU is not a trade school and that their job is to create a “new and improved you.” Porter advises students to look at the world through another lens, a proven strategy in his estimation. “When they graduate, they will have more skills than they know what to do with,” he says.

Talking about retirement is something Michael and Rose do from time to time. “Teaching is so much a part of my identity,” he says. “When I retire I want to totally retire.” But then he adds: “I’m not sure what I’d do with myself.”

He jokes that he might play for sing-alongs at retirement centers. “Heart and Soul” perhaps?
A hard-working group of physics students created an endowment to honor a student who died in Iraq.

Physics student Melvin Mora died before he had a chance to carry out his goal of using science to make the world a better place. A mortar blast in Iraq cost Mora his life on June 6, 2004. He was MU’s first student casualty of the war.

The week Mora died, Yve Solbrekken entered Mizzou as a graduate student in physics and was touched by stories of Mora’s kind spirit and selflessness. An outgoing student and native of Puerto Rico, Mora was 27, a bit older than the average senior. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves and occasionally had to put his course work on hold to take a job. His student life stopped for the final time in mid-semester 2004 when the Army deployed the St. Louis 245th Maintenance Company to Iraq. Mora died in an attack near Camp Cook in Taji.

Although Solbrekken and Mora had never met, Mora’s death instilled in her a strong sense of gratitude for his ultimate sacrifice. “This young man gave up his life, his career, his degree, his future for all of us,” she says. “It devastated me that he had been killed. I was trying to think of something a person could do to make his death mean something more.”

Solbrekken set out on a course to memorialize Mora’s name while helping future students. At a meeting of the Society of Physics Students, she suggested the members make small sacrifices to honor Mora’s great sacrifice, and a core group of leaders formed: Daniel Hess, Lance Garrison, Michael Gramlich, Michael Mayo, Gregory Oelrichs, Matthew Richard, Josh Tartar, Grant Thompson, Brian Dempewolf and Karen Wilson.

The students adopted the project and began seeking creative ways to raise money for a scholarship in Mora’s name. They offered helpful services to faculty members in exchange for donations. They raked leaves and did other yardwork, painted a living room, stained the exterior of a cottage and cut down a tree. Somehow, they even persuaded Mora’s adviser, Assistant Professor Angela Speck, to cut her shoulder-length hair and shave her head for donations. Speck did it with no regrets. She walked around with what looked like a buzz cut for weeks and raised more than $1,200 by shearing her brunette locks.

Many other examples of selflessness emerged. Even before undertaking the project, the students were pressed for time. Most held jobs to support themselves and had to carefully balance work and study hours with the volunteerism. Two international graduate students who each donated $100 sacrificed money that otherwise could have improved their own frugal lifestyles.

Solbrekken felt immensely grateful to every donor and participant. She wrote each a personal thank-you note. “I have been awestruck about this university,” she says. “The people are so hard-working and considerate. I will hold the people in this department close in my heart forever.”

The Melvin Y. Mora Undergraduate Scholarship Fund exceeded the required $10,000 level and became an endowed fund in spring 2005. Now at $13,359, it will produce an annual scholarship. It is one of only four endowed funds established by MU students in the history of the University.

Mora wanted to use physics to improve people’s lives, and some caring classmates helped him achieve that goal. In summer 2004, the College of Arts and Science awarded Mora a posthumous bachelor’s degree in physics and astronomy.

Note: The students continue to accept donations to the fund. Checks may be made to the University of Missouri-Columbia with a note on the memo line directing gifts to the Melvin Mora Fund, 223 Physics Building, Columbia, MO 65211.
Rock Icon Leads a Master Class

Thousands of cheering fans greeted rock icon Sting when he performed under multicolored spotlights at Mizzou Arena on an April evening. But the real action had already occurred earlier that afternoon in a music classroom in the Fine Arts Building.

Thirty music majors and five faculty members experienced a one-hour master class they’ll never forget. Sting — whose real name is Gordon Sumner — two guitarists and a drummer strode down the stairs of the stadium-seating classroom toward the front of the room.

The rock icon sat on a black amplifier between two chairs and greeted the class with a smile.

Sting was conducting master classes in a few college towns as part of his Broken Music Tour. “I’m challenging myself, trying to articulate what I do and to understand it.”

The group opened the session with the gentle “Message in a Bottle” and Sting followed the song with a casual lecture to articulate what he does and to mimic what the biological system does.

In some form, everyone experiences the process when a cut heals or a fingernail regrows.

“Once we understand the fundamental organizing principles that control this self-assembly and the cues that are necessary to provide to the system, we can use that knowledge in our bioprinting technology,” says Forgacs.

“Print” replacement organs.

The researchers already are building tubular structures. Such constructs are important because a large part of the body is made of tubes, such as blood vessels and intestinal tubes.

In addition to the long-term goal of producing vascular tissue for building human organs, the researchers hope to produce tissue that will serve as grafts in surgeries to repair arteries and veins.
Brothers Bonded

Army brats and brothers, Mark and Patrick Wilkins grew up all over the world and grew together through their Mizzou ROTC experience.

In appreciation of the training the brothers received through MU’s Department of Military Science and Leadership, Mark, BA ’90 political science, has established an endowed fund to honor his brother. The gift celebrates the Wilkins brothers’ mutual appreciation for brotherhood, the United States military and MU’s ROTC program.

Mark is a vice president and private wealth adviser with Merrill Lynch in St. Louis. There’s unmistakable pride in his voice when he speaks of his younger brother, Maj. Patrick Wilkins, BS Ed, BA ’95 history, whose decorations include a Bronze Star.

Patrick commands a U.S. Army airborne ranger company. As a ranger, he’s one of the select soldiers called to serve in daring missions that may involve ambushing an enemy or recovering U.S. troops and equipment from hostile areas.

When they were kids, the Wilkins brothers went where their dad’s job dictated. For the most part, military life was great, Mark says. They grew up in places around the world with moves to Europe and in the United States from coast to coast. They eventually ended up at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

“There’s nothing like being raised by a drill sergeant,” Mark says. Their father completed two tours in Vietnam and won a Purple Heart.

Mark and Patrick followed his footsteps in their own ways. When they entered Mizzou, the brothers began their training through MU’s military science department and the Army ROTC Tiger Battalion.

After graduation, each joined the Army. Patrick opted for a military career and has deployed six times to Afghanistan and Iraq; Mark served four years as an Army tank officer before deciding on a career in finance. Still, his appreciation for military training and Mizzou remains strong.

“MU’s Army ROTC program gave a lot to me,” Mark says of the reason for his gift. “Alumni need to be invested forever. I couldn’t do what I do today without those experiences.”

The Mark and Patrick Wilkins Opportunities for Excellence Endowment allows department Chair Lt. Col. Kirk Wallace Jr. to use the gift where it is most needed.