COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Community honors Deaton at retirement reception

By Molly Duffy
November 4, 2013 | 9:43 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — There were a lot of tears.

At MU Chancellor Brady Deaton's retirement reception Monday afternoon, his wife, Anne, dabbed her eyes. His daughter, Christina Deaton DeMarea, choked up. Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton sniffl ed. The audience also showed its share of sadness.

It was hard to tell if Brady Deaton himself cried; after so many years in the public eye, he's become adept at maintaining his composure. He's retiring on Nov. 15 after serving nine years as chancellor.

Several prominent speakers, including university officials and local politicians, spoke in celebration of Brady and Anne Deaton. They told different versions of the same story: the couple has been a warm presence at MU.

"I'm guessing most of us came to honor a great academic leader, who is first and foremost known for his warmth, his kindness and his integrity," Middleton said.

Missouri Students Association President Nick Droege called Anne Deaton an inspiration — and a reliable source of food. He said he always left their weekly morning meetings with Ziploc bags full of muffins and pastries.

"I cannot count the times I've looked at them and thought, 'Wow, I need to be a little bit better,'" Droege said. "In my opinion, that is the sign of true leadership. Someone who challenges you everyday without having to say a word."
For nursing professor Marilyn Rantz, Brady and Anne Deaton were cheerleaders and friends. She said a rumor went around that Brady Deaton did cartwheels after hearing about her induction into the Institute of Medicine.

Brady Deaton was a strong leader who guided MU through recent economic hardship, Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said.

"Brady was captain of the ship in the worst economic times this state has seen in modern times," Schaefer said.

DeMarea joked that she too has "lived under the leadership of Anne and Brady Deaton."

"The truth is, their philosophies at home are not different than their decisions in the world at large," she said. "Our lives revolved around their work in the best of ways."

Brady Deaton grew up in poverty, she said, but he never felt poor because of his family's "richness of beauty and love." He became the first of the family to attend college.

"The lesson that they taught us the most was that education means nothing and will achieve nothing, if it is not coupled with action that is guided by the deepest compassion, integrity and a courage to stand up for what is right," DeMarea said.

Brady and Anne Deaton won't be leaving MU completely. They are forming the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development, which will be based in Ellis Library.

Middleton revealed that a bench near the Residence on the Francis Quadrangle will be dedicated to the couple, and he presented Brady Deaton with a portrait of himself wearing the Jefferson medallion that he received during his inauguration as chancellor in 2004.

"I know I speak for Anne and me in telling you how honored we are by what you have done today," Brady Deaton said. "This is just very, very touching and it's been an experience for us."

The program ended with a surprise performance of "Make Our Garden Grow" from the operetta Candide by members of the Show-Me Opera.
Supervising editor is Richard Webner.
MU's new strategic plan to address enrollment, graduation time

By Emily Donaldson
November 4, 2013 | 4:52 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU will spend more than $300 million in the next five years to carry out a strategic plan to increase its ranking among the Association of American Universities.

The university is planning to hold public meetings about the five-year plan on Nov. 14 and Nov. 18.

The MU Strategic Operating Plan: Providing Focus to 'One Mizzou' will devote the most funds, $162.3 million, to recruiting new faculty and staff.

Other goals are:

- increasing interdisciplinary and hands-on learning experiences for undergraduate, graduate and professional students;
- strengthening the diverse culture surrounding faculty and staff, which means trying to recruit from outside Missouri;
- providing facilities capable of accommodating innovative MU research;
- freeing up revenue to allow for new investments.

The funding for this plan, called MUSOP, will come from a variety of sources such as student fees, private sources and new state funds. But the largest portion of funding, at more than $183 million of the total $300 million, is coming from budget reallocation.

This is money that now is being distributed to the deans of different colleges, said Tom Phillips, co-chairman of the planning committee. Over time, MU will take some of the money back and give it to people, such as researchers, with plans in place that match the strategic operating plan, he said.
"It is moving money around to be sure it is used in the most important areas," Phillips said.

The plan targets an increase in enrollment to 36,000 students from the current 34,658 and decreasing the average time it takes a student to graduate. It also aims for an increase in scholarly citations of work by tenured and tenure-track faculty to 100 per year by 2018 from the current 74 per year.

Phillips said if these goals are not met, MU will reevaluate where money is being spent and how to continue progress in the future.

This strategic plan is not MU's first. In 2011, MU created a plan called "One Mizzou: 2020 Vision for Excellence" to be achieved by 2020. Its purpose was to outline specific goals for the university after three years of input and discussion by administrators, faculty, staff and students.

The 2011 plan focused on expanding programs for all Missouri citizens, building on the Mizzou Advantage and ensuring resources were available to support growth in research and economic development.

The new plan does not replace the 2020 plan, but it is intended to provide a narrower set of goals. The 2020 plan is more global, Phillips said.

"It is the hottest focus of the moment," he said.

Marijo Dixon, member of the MU Strategic Planning and Resource Advisory Council, said that after Tim Wolfe became the new University of Missouri System president, he asked each campus to revisit its strategic plans and create an update.

In June 2012, MU's Strategic Workgroup started drafting the five-year plan by collecting feedback from stakeholders at the university. Dixon represented MU staff on the Strategic Planning and Resource Advisory Council and voiced their concerns as the plan was being written. She said her main input was for the staff to be remembered.

"We like for them to remember that there are individuals that keep the school going even though they are not working in an academic capacity," Dixon said.
The new strategic operating plan was published on Oct. 15. Its website says the plan will continue to grow and work as a living document in the future, adapting to future needs of university stakeholders. That is one of the reasons for two public meetings that will be held Nov. 14 and Nov. 18. Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
Council votes to continue fluoridation of water supply

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 5:42 am

By a 7-0 vote, the Columbia City Council on Monday night agreed to continue fluoridating the city’s water supply.

The longtime practice has been criticized by some residents who have expressed concerns that fluoride lowers the IQ of children, among other health-related issues. More than 20 people, many of whom were dentists, spoke in favor of continuing fluoridation during Monday night’s public hearing. They argue that critics’ concerns or any risks were outweighed by the benefits of fluoridation.

Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser, who previously argued against continuing the fluoridation, said during the meeting that she had spoken with many constituents while gathering signatures for her re-election campaign and found the majority wanted to continue fluoridation. Because of that, she voted “no” on the resolution, which sought to end fluoridation.

Many council members said even before the fluoride vote that they were grateful for the public discussion.

In other business, the council voted 7-0 to amend the air service agreement with American Airlines to add an additional daily flight to Chicago. Beginning in April, the new flight would give travelers a morning connection to Chicago, complementing an existing afternoon flight to O'Hare International Airport, as well as two daily flights to Dallas.

City Manager Mike Matthes said the addition of the flight was driven by community interest. He said for people who need to travel on business to the Chicago area for just a day, this gives them that option.
The initial revenue guarantee for American Airlines was put together with the help of private sector partners, Boone County, Cole County, Jefferson City and the University of Missouri. The city paid the airline $22,562 after seat demand stayed low during the first two weeks of service in February, but it has not paid anything since.

The amended agreement rolls the additional flight into the existing guarantee. But that two-year guarantee expires in February 2015, so the new flight is guaranteed with an existing $500,000 for an additional year, to February 2016.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Speakers to discuss renewable energy Wednesday at Middlebush Auditorium

By Jordon Shultz
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COLUMBIA — Two speakers will discuss sustainable energy and the hazards of nuclear power at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Middlebush Auditorium on MU.

The event, which is open to the public, is titled "Poison-Free Power." It will include speeches from S. David Freeman, former head of the Tennessee Valley Authority, and John Rachow, chair of the Radiation and Health Committee at Physicians for Social Responsibility, according to a press release from the Osage Group, one of the event’s sponsors.

Rachow will speak about the danger of waste from nuclear reactors, including that of the Callaway Nuclear Plant near Fulton, according to the release. Freeman will discuss the need for the U.S. to increase its renewable energy sources.

The event is sponsored by several advocacy groups, including the Osage Group, Missourians for Safe Energy, the mid-Missouri Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Missouri Coalition for the Environment and MU Peace Studies.

Supervising editor is Richard Webner.