Deaton departs

By Crystal Duan

“So — can you explain to me what it is that my Brady does at the university?”

This was the question that agricultural economics professor Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes remembers hearing from Arnold Deaton, the father of Chancellor Brady Deaton.

Smoking a cigarette outside his grandson’s wedding reception in Indiana, Arnold Deaton wanted to know about the job his son had apparently never described.

Kalaitzandonakes was taken aback.

The man closest to “Brady” did not know his son made decisions that affected more than 15,000 employees and 34,000 students, numbers that had both increased since the start of his chancellorship.

He did not know that Brady, in his role as head of a land-grant university, had enhanced the quality of both the physical infrastructure and the faculty.

He did not know that Brady continuously used his international influence to extend MU’s reach, increasing both international student enrollment and research opportunities.

When Kalaitzandonakes told Arnold Deaton the responsibilities about which his son had never felt the need to speak, tears welled up in Arnold Deaton’s eyes as he whispered, “My Brady … my Brady.”

The man retiring

After calling MU his own for 24 years, Brady Deaton is on his way out.

On Nov. 15, Deaton will formally retire from university duties, ending more than two decades of service that have inspired colleagues and friends alike.

Achievements from his nine-year run as chancellor include increasing student enrollment by almost 30 percent — the biggest enrollment so far being 34,704 in the fall of 2012 — and doubling grant aid through the billion-dollar “For All We Call Mizzou” fundraising campaign, which ran from 2000-2008.
Brady Deaton also made strides in procuring research grants and expenditures, reducing MU’s carbon footprint and moving MU into the Southeastern Conference.

Despite his accomplishments, Deaton’s modesty is readily apparent in his often-uttered motto: “Pull yourself up by your bootstraps.”

It is a phrase that rightfully applies to a man who grew up laboring on a family farm that lacked plumbing and electricity.

Born Aug. 25, 1942, in London, Ky., young Deaton was responsible for helping his father lay bricks and milk cows in the mornings before he went off to his one-room schoolhouse.

A lack of electricity did not make his experiences any less empowering.

“My father has never described his childhood as poor,” daughter Christina Deaton DeMarea said in a speech at the chancellor’s Nov. 4 retirement reception. “My father would cringe at the suggestion that his success is in spite of that childhood. His achievements are in honor of that childhood.”
**Early Career**

Having grown up observing the farming industry’s influence on the economy, Brady Deaton decided to study agricultural economics at the University of Kentucky. He obtained a bachelor's degree in the subject in 1966.

While in school, Brady Deaton put his passion for agriculture into action and joined the Peace Corps in 1962 to teach vocational agriculture in Nan, Thailand, for two years. He still describes the experience as life-changing.

Another of Deaton’s personal milestones was marrying Anne Simonetti in 1967. The two met through a Young Men’s Christian Association service trip to Ecuador and have since been inseparable in both career and outlook.

“Brady and I have always felt like a team, since the first day we met and became acquainted and shared values of community and public service,” Anne Deaton said at her husband’s retirement reception.

Bea Smith, dean emerita of the College of Human Environmental Sciences and longtime colleague, agreed.

“The two of them are so very joined at the hip in the way they approach life and in their sharing of experiences and in the same interpersonal qualities,” Smith said.

With wife Anne at his side, Brady Deaton graduated from Kentucky in 1968 with a master’s degree in diplomacy and international commerce. He received a second master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1970 and a doctorate in agricultural economics there in 1972.

Later that year, Brady Deaton took his first faculty position at the University of Tennessee teaching agricultural economics and sociology. He also became staff director of the Special Task Force on Food for Peace at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1975.

Deaton moved on from Tennessee to take a professorship at Virginia Tech in 1978, where he also served as coordinator of the rural development research and extension program.

He spent his last four years there as associate director of the Office for International Development before receiving an offer to work at MU.

At the time, the Deatons’ longtime friend, Daryl Hobbs, was a professor of rural sociology. He took it upon himself to persuade the Deatons to join the MU faculty.

“(Hobbs) called me as Brady was being interviewed to come to the University of Missouri, and he said, ‘Anne, you and Brady come to the University of Missouri. It will be great for both of you,’” Anne Deaton said. “Well, that’s the underestimation of our lives. Nothing could’ve been greater than the move to Missouri for both of us.”
**Initial years at MU**

Brady Deaton was no less satisfied with the range of experiences MU provided him.

“The 24 years I’ve been here at the University of Missouri, with Anne at my side always, has been certainly the most thrilling aspect of my life,” the chancellor said in his speech Nov. 4.

Those years began when he came to MU in 1989 as the new chairman of what is now called the department of agricultural and applied economics.

Kalaitzandonakes was his first hire in September 1990.

“I remember that when I walked in, he gave me a key to the office, and he said, ‘Here’s your office, and there’s a small funding allocation for your research. Go do good things,’” Kalaitzandonakes said. “Brady was always a very positive, very encouraging person. He gave you much freedom to do your work.”

Michael Cook was on the agricultural economics faculty at the time and felt the same effects of Brady Deaton’s mindful nature.

Cook, professor of agricultural and applied economics and the Robert D. Partridge chairman in cooperative leadership, said the chancellor’s leadership style has been consistent over the years.

“His interests were very broad, but he was always interested in whatever you do, to make sure that it helps people,” Cook said. “His interest is in solving problems. He’s very solution-oriented in a very civil way.”

Whether it is a department or the entire campus, Deaton has always been able to communicate with everyone, Cook said.

“He’s instilled that culture into his leadership of the university,” Cook said. “I think if you were wanting to know what he’s left, it would be this civility.”

**From faculty to administration**

Building a thoughtful rapport also characterized Brady Deaton’s later relationships. When he became chief of staff to then-Chancellor Charles Kiesler in 1993, Deaton worked closely with Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education David Russell with topics such as strategic planning and governing board relations.

Russell said Brady Deaton continues to advocate for public higher education today.

“During the last three years, I have had occasion to work closely with Dr. Deaton on statewide initiatives in higher education,” Russell said. “He has positioned the University of Missouri-Columbia to continue making a critical contribution to public higher education well into the future. We are all in his debt.”
After four years as chief of staff, Brady Deaton became deputy chancellor in 1997 and served shortly as interim provost in January 1998. He officially became provost in October 1998.

Law professor Michael Middleton served as deputy chancellor during Brady Deaton’s provost years and was asked to stay on when he became chancellor.

The two worked on matters ranging from revising the faculty grievance process to resolving issues with the athletic department when the university joined the SEC. They also shared a passion for diversifying and internationalizing the campus that resulted in an ongoing effort to enact diversity initiatives, Middleton said.

“He’s got such great experience and perspective,” Middleton said. “Economists approach issues somewhat differently than lawyers do, so it was just a great experience to work that closely with someone who brought that perspective to the decisions they make. I think I learned a lot from Brady, and I think he appreciated the input I was able to give him. It was a good relationship, and we will miss him greatly.”

Smith, the longtime colleague of the Deatons, met the future chancellor when she hired Anne Deaton as a member of her faculty in 1989.

“I liked both of them immediately,” she said. “They are a couple who inspire awe for their academic abilities.”

Smith said the Deatons have built careers around serviceable ways to reach out to fellow humans and embody the concept of “servant leader,” citing their appreciation for students as one example.

“(I) had the chance to work with lots of administrators at the system and campus level,” Smith said. “The thing that stands out with the Deatons is the very human warmth of these people. The Deatons have remembered that the students come first. You watch Brady Deaton or Anne Deaton go in a setting where there are students, and they always stop to talk with them. I’ve seen the academic leaders who don’t do that.”

Professor of philosophy and longtime colleague Bill Bondeson agreed.

“Not only are they good academics, but they have taken their role in the community very seriously,” he said. “They’ve acted in all kinds of ways of connecting the university with Columbia, with the state, with the nation, and I think that’s as admirable as it could possibly be.”

**Chancellorship and national recognition**

In addition to his provost position, Brady Deaton took on the additional role of executive vice chancellor for academic affairs in 2001.

On Oct. 4, 2004, his hard work paid off when he was selected to succeed Richard Wallace as chancellor.
During his chancellorship, Brady Deaton also served as chairman of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities’ Commission on International Initiatives and as a member of both the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center board and the International Committee of the Association of American Universities.

He was also appointed chairman of the seven-member Board for International Food and Agricultural Development by President Barack Obama in 2011 and reappointed in 2012 for a four-year term.

The BIFAD conducts research and recommends policies affecting the global war on hunger, and Deaton’s selection as chairman is significant, Smith said.

“I know from my own Washington, D.C., experience — committee experience — what a very big deal BIFAD is,” she said. “It is a very much esteemed and huge international responsibility.”

Russell said being on BIFAD further qualified Brady Deaton to give input on international affairs.

“The presidential appointment affirmed Dr. Deaton’s international reputation as a thought leader in global agricultural economic policy,” he said.

*Legacy*

After his term expires, the chancellor and his wife will head the new Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership and International Development. The institute will be housed in Ellis Library and open Jan. 1, 2014.

“Our Board of Curators honored my wife and me by establishing the Institute for University Leadership and International Development, which will give me the opportunity to analyze our university relationships and others around the nation so that Missouri can choose the components of an optimal model for moving forward from here,” Brady Deaton said. “So I’ll continue to be involved in some of those important moments of the university as we go forward. And that fits my lifestyle right now very nicely.”

As chairman of the BIFAD, Deaton wanted to give more time to his international work and have more time and flexibility to spend with children and grandchildren.

That added up to retirement, he said.

“For me it was a very natural time,” he said. “I’ve become very involved in public policy issues that I started out in my career working on and international food security issues. I’ve been able to build on that from my background in agricultural economics and social sciences and do work with many parts of the university. I feel good about where we are…. The programs we’ve worked so hard on are maturing nicely.”
Brady Deaton said he hopes to work with other campuses of the UM System and become familiar with all aspects of the campus that concern food security issues, linkages with journalism, business development and engineering to see how it adds up in the world.

First, however, the Deatons plan to break up the busy schedule by enjoying the winter holidays with their family.

Brady Deaton said that the many people he has worked with over the years are what have made his tenure as chancellor most enjoyable.

“Knowing you, working with you, being able to provide a leadership role and lift you up… it’s that inspiration we have felt throughout the time we’ve been here,” Brady Deaton said on Nov. 4. “That’s meant so much to us. That makes the role of chancellor the most wonderful thing you can do.”
MU, KU rank among best schools for veterans

November 13

The University of Missouri and the University of Kansas are among the top 25 best colleges in the country for veterans, according to U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine on Tuesday released its inaugural rankings of the best national schools for veterans. It ranked MU at 12, tied with Drexel and Binghamton universities, and KU at 15, tied with North Carolina State and St. Louis universities.

A total of 234 schools were listed. The rankings consider whether a school recognizes certain federal programs designed to help veterans pay for college, stay in college and transfer college credits, among other criteria.

Among the 20 top-ranked colleges, 15 are public institutions and five are private schools.

“This indicates that public institutions are more likely to offer benefits to students with military experience,” U.S. News stated in its report.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/12/4616163/mu-ku-rank-among-best-schools.html#storylink=cpy
Meeting to focus on expanding Missouri training model

No MU mention

KANSAS CITY — Government, business and education leaders will meet this week to discuss a Missouri program that helps students complete their degrees sooner and land jobs in high-demand fields.

The meeting, called the National Convening on Higher Education Innovation, is scheduled Wednesday and Thursday in Kansas City. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon and acting U.S. Education Department Deputy Secretary James Shelton are expected to attend.

The meeting will examine ways to expand and replicate "Innovation Campuses," which allow businesses to employ students as apprentices and help pay the cost of their education — either by paying them or contributing money for their tuition.
Editorial: GOP proponent of Medicaid expansion issues strong challenge

November 12, 2013 6:00 am • By the Editorial Board

The most important number to remember when the Missouri Legislature returns to the Capitol in Jefferson City in January is 42.

As in $42 million.

That’s the amount of money that eight years from now could be saved in the 2021 general revenue budget if Missouri makes a few changes to its Medicaid system. To save that $42 million, the state would have to approve expanding Medicaid to cover people making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. The new analysis comes from state Rep. Jay Barnes, R-Jefferson City.

Under the federal Affordable Care and Patient Protection Act, states that expand their Medicaid programs (half already have done so) would have the costs fully paid by the federal government for the first three years. The federal share would decrease slowly until 2021, when it would reach a low of 90 percent.

Missouri has balked at Medicaid expansion, with GOP legislators professing to be worried about having to pick up 10 percent of the tab down the road. Mr. Barnes, a thinking Missourian’s Republican, estimates that even after the state is picking up its 10 percent share of the cost, the state’s budget will still be $42 million better off than if it did nothing at all.

To proponents of Medicaid expansion, this number isn’t a shock.

In fact, when Gov. Jay Nixon proposed Medicaid expansion as part of his budget proposal this year, he, too, projected an actual savings to the state budget over the next several years, including that all important 2021 year when the state’s 10 percent cost of the expansion kicks in.

Mr. Nixon’s analysis showed a more modest $4 million savings that year, in part because he didn’t propose several of the changes Mr. Barnes is now suggesting, including a reduction in the number of children covered by the state’s Children’s Health Insurance Program.

But Republicans ignored those numbers. Mr. Nixon, after all, is a Democrat. Surely those numbers came from some evil Obamacare computer. Surely they couldn’t be right.

Those same Republicans ignored a study by the University of Missouri that showed that the influx of $8 billion in federal aid over the first three years of the program would create thousands of health care jobs, both in hospital-rich St. Louis and rural areas with high...
Medicaid populations. Still, some Republicans suggested, with no evidence, that the federal money would dry up and that the state would go bankrupt when it had to start paying its 10 percent.

So Missouri did nothing related to Medicaid expansion last year. And what happened?

Hospitals across the state started bleeding jobs, as the Affordable Care Act kicked in, and changes to the law that relied on adding the working poor, uninsured population to Medicaid had a negative effect on states such as Missouri that blindly ignored the facts.

So here comes Mr. Barnes with his shot across the bow for his fellow Republicans. Look at these numbers, he says. Argue the facts, not the anti-Obama-care theology that is paralyzing the national GOP.

The facts in Mr. Barnes’ plan are clear:

The math says that Medicaid expansion is good for the state of Missouri. Indeed, it might be better in Missouri than in any other state considering the fact that a higher percentage of uninsured Missourians qualify for federal subsidies for free, private insurance offered through the exchanges than any other state.

While we would quibble with some of Mr. Barnes proposals, what he does is expand Medicaid in some areas, while cutting in other areas. The net effect is a savings to the state budget because some of the populations he cuts (children and the blind, for instance) should qualify for subsidies on the federal exchange.

In moving people from a purely government program to private insurance subsidized by the government, he would implement the same kind of plan then-Gov. Mitt Romney in 2006 signed into law in the state of Massachusetts.

What continues to get lost in the ongoing GOP angst-fest against Obamacare is that many of its proposals are purely Republican in thought and execution. Fact is, most Democrats would rather the nation go to a single-payer system. Eventually rising costs will demand that, but in the meantime, there is Obamacare.

The reality of the Affordable Care Act, and the state-based modifications to it like Mr. Barnes is proposing, is that they aren’t much different than the proposals made by Republican governors in the years before Barack Obama won the presidency.

The idea of expanding the number of working poor covered by Medicaid while pushing others with more means to a state-subsidized exchange was the very essence of Missouri Republican Kenny Hulshof’s health care strategy when he ran for governor against Mr. Nixon in 2008.

It was the basis of Texas Gov. Rick Perry’s request for a federal Medicaid waiver in that same year. Mr. Perry even proposed covering people at a higher poverty level than the president and Congress ultimately approved. But now, of course, Mr. Perry and most other Republicans have turned their backs on the same ideas they once championed, all in the name of petty politics.

Those conservatives who care about the state’s financial future should read Mr. Barnes’ plan and study its numbers. The savings aren’t magical, but then again, they never have been.
Putting more people on insurance pumps more money into the health care system. It improves the efficiency of the health care system. Done right, it will save the state of Missouri money on its bottom line while improving the health of its citizens.

Don’t take our word for it. Read Mr. Barnes’ plan. Forty-two million is a serious number. It deserves a serious debate.
McCaskill, Blunt seek to reform military sexual assault proceeding law

By Covey Eonyak Son


The Article 32 Reform Act would limit the scope of Article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice proceedings to probable cause questions. It would also prevent victims from being forced to testify at the pre-trial hearings.

Additional provisions also require that a military attorney of higher rank than the trial and defense counsel preside over the proceedings and that a recorded transcript of the proceedings be made available to all parties upon request.

“These aggressive, commonsense reforms will ensure that the process does not discourage survivors from coming forward and that survivors’ rights are also strengthened and solidified,” McCaskill said in a news release. “I’m delighted to have Sen. Blunt’s help as we move to institute these historic reforms.”

In its current state, Article 32 requires a pre-trial investigation before a sexual assault charge is referred to a general court martial for trial.

The code also empowers the defense counsel to cross-examine witnesses for an undefined amount of time.

“Sexual assault in the military is simply intolerable, and there’s no reason these victims should be revictimized during pre-trial investigations,” Blunt said in a news release. “This legislation will help to ensure that Article 32 hearings focus on determining whether there is probable cause as originally intended, while protecting alleged sexual assault victims from becoming the target of unwarranted and abusive questioning.”

Reps. Jackie Speier, D-Ca., and Patrick Meehan, R-Penn., will introduce companion legislation in the House.

Outside of Congress, some legal analysts voiced concerns about a bill that seeks to reform the military justice system.

“I think the legislation is a terrible idea and would undermine some of the best aspects of the military justice system — provisions that are in place because of the unique nature of how trials are brought to being in the military system,” said Troy Stabenow, an adjunct professor at the MU School of Law and an assistant federal public defender.

Organizations advocating for the rights of soldiers, such as Protect Our Defenders, welcome the reform bill.

A midshipman was subjected to nearly 30 hours of cross-examination with little rest by 12 different defense attorneys who interrogated the midshipman about her sexual history and denied her the right to counsel, Protect Our Defenders spokesman Brian Purchia said.

“Article 32 hearings were originally designed to function as a probable cause hearing. However, they have been transformed into a ‘mini-trial’ before the actual trial — where the victim’s credibility and character are attacked,” Protect Our Defenders President Nancy Parrish said in a news release.

According to a Department of Defense survey of active duty members of the military, there has been an increase in the number of sexual assaults since 2010, many of which go unreported.

The survey reported that 6.1 percent of female soldiers indicated they experienced “unwanted sexual contact” — higher than the 4.4 percent of women in 2010.

Approximately 67 percent of those who were attacked did not report the incident to a military authority, 66 percent of which “felt uncomfortable making a report” and 51 percent “did not think their report would be kept confidential,” according to the survey.

In the first three quarters of 2013, however, the Pentagon observed a 46-percent increase in reported incidents, McCaskill said in a news release.

“These numbers, while a comfort to no one, represent progress — and hopefully show that with new protections in place and historic reforms on the way, victims will have the confidence to come forward, without removing all accountability from commanders,” McCaskill said in a news release. “However, real progress will require a sustained effort, and today’s data in no way detracts from the urgency I feel in passing into law those reforms.”