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## Deaton appointed to international board

By **JANESE SILVEY**

President Barack Obama on Thursday announced his intent to appoint **University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton** to an international board.

Pending U.S. Senate confirmation, Deaton is in line to become the next chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. The primary role of the board is to advise the U.S. Agency for International Development administrator on agricultural development priorities and issues.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill nominated him for the job, and his selection is based on his work experience "since he was a Peace Corps volunteer in the late 1960s," said MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken.

The appointment won't affect Deaton's role as chancellor, a position he's held since 2004. He's also served as provost, deputy chancellor and chair of agricultural economics.

Deaton already serves on a number of boards, including as vice chairman of the Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri. He's served as chairman of the Academic Affairs Council of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and currently serves as the chairman of the Big 12 Conference's board of directors.

Banken said Deaton, who was out of town late this week, is excited about the new opportunity but is holding off on further comment until the appointment is official.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **Obama to appoint MU Chancellor Deaton to administrative position**

By [Shea Roll](#) April 22, 2011 | 2:31 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — President Barack Obama announced Friday his intent to appoint MU Chancellor Brady J. Deaton as the chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, according to a White House news release.

The primary role of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development is to advise the U.S. Agency for International Development administrator on agricultural development.

Mary Jo Banken, director of the MU News Bureau, said Friday she will release more information about the honor when the appointment comes through.

“He will, of course, continue to lead our university as chancellor,” Banken said.

Deaton has a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a master's degree in diplomacy and international commerce from the University of Kentucky. He also has a master's degree and a doctorate in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin. Since 2010 he has served as vice chair of the Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri.

**Bloomberg**

**BusinessWeek**



## **Dogs' DNA May Aid Research on Hereditary Parkinson's**

### **Gene mutation that affects both Tibetan Terriers and humans could lead to treatment advances**

FRIDAY, April 22 (HealthDay News) -- The same gene mutation that causes a fatal neurological disease in Tibetan Terrier dogs also causes a hereditary form of Parkinson's disease in humans, a new study reports.

**This finding, which was aided using the DNA of a Tibetan Terrier named Topper, could one day lead to a treatment for early-onset Parkinson's, according to the University of Missouri researchers.**

When Topper reached the age of about 5 years, he began to show signs of behavioral changes, such as increased shyness. Soon after, he began to lose muscle control and then developed what his owner described as "terrible" seizures. After Topper was euthanized, his DNA was studied.

The investigators were able to use Topper's DNA to identify the gene mutation that causes adult-onset neuronal ceroid-lipofuscinosis (NCL) in Tibetan Terriers.

While the mutation causes NCL in these dogs, it also causes a hereditary form of Parkinson's disease in humans, the researchers say.

The findings mean that Tibetan Terriers can be tested for the gene mutation to prevent them from passing it to the next generation. It also may be possible to use dogs with the gene mutation to test experimental treatments for Parkinson's disease in humans, the researchers pointed out in the report published in the June issue of the journal *Neurobiology of Disease*.

"Dogs and people suffer from the same diseases, and it's much easier to discover gene issues in dogs because of the unique genetics of pure-bred dogs," Dennis O'Brien, a professor in the veterinary medicine and surgery department, said in a university news release. "Because we have a medical school and veterinary school near each other, we can find the genes in the dog and then find out if they cause a similar disease in people."

Other symptoms that show up in Tibetan Terriers with the gene mutation, usually around age 5, include dementia, vision problems, loss of coordination and unprovoked aggression.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **MU researcher finds religion continues to affect voting**

By [Rachel Krause](#) April 22, 2011 | 7:23 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Results of an MU study show continued ties between religion and politics internationally.

Chris Raymond, an MU doctoral candidate studying political science, has spent more than two years comparing national election studies in Great Britain, Germany and the United States from the 1960s and early 2000s, and he found religiosity has played a persistent role for voters.

"Religious people tend to favor the right and secular individuals tend to vote for the left," Raymond said. "Literature has previously argued this is no longer the case, but in fact, it still is."

Raymond initially became interested in the topic after being raised in a politically active and religious household.

Raymond said literature had originally indicated British voters tend to vote along class lines, not along religious lines. Although class is still number one, he said religion is a close second.

"The fact that religion was at the top or near the top level of importance among social groups was a bit surprising," Raymond said.



## MU Law School upgrades career services

### Dean seeks to boost school's rankings

After dropping in U.S. News' national rankings the past two years, MU's School of Law is working on the career placement of its graduates, a category that has needed improvement.

By JON HADUSEK

April 21, 2011 | 12:00 a.m. CST

**The MU School of Law continues its descent down the U.S. News rankings, but Dean R. Lawrence Dessem hasn't been sitting idly. Disgruntled students, spurred by the fear of a less valuable law degree, have looked to Dessem for reform.**

He has answered by tripling the Law School's career services staff since last fall. "We don't wait for the U.S. News ranking each year to determine how we can build a better law school," Dessem says. "It's an ongoing procedure."

Placed at 93 in last year's U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate School rankings, the MU School of Law fell to 107 out of the 190 institutions ranked in the 2012 report released last month. Two years ago, MU placed at 65.

The rankings consider four general categories: quality assessment, selectivity, faculty resources and placement success. The employment and career data of the placement category represent a major area of concern for the School of Law, but a turnaround isn't out of the question.

"If the reason for the drop is because of the career data, which was predominantly the case with the University of Missouri, then there is some likelihood that they'll bounce back, at least to some significant degree," says Robert Morse, director of data research for U.S. News.

A recent slew of hires and a complete makeover of the career services staff were made in hopes of a bounce back. Brought on as career services coordinators last year, Erika Fadel and Jennifer McGarr boast experience in practicing law in Dallas and New York City firms. The duo has helped enhance student ties with legal employers by hosting networking events and recruiting alumni to serve as mentors.

The school added another fresh face last month when Lisa Key, a former partner for a Kansas City law firm, took over as assistant dean for admissions, career development and student

services. Key made it her goal to talk one-on-one with graduates and gather feedback regarding career services.

“The first steps are to find out where the problems lie because there are things that need to be improved,” Key says.

Dessem says the increased efforts should result in more job opportunities for students in the months ahead, thus improving employment placement data. Outlined by the American Bar Association, the employment figures count all legal or nonlegal jobs held by graduates at the time of graduation and nine months after.

The method of reporting job placement counts anyone who is working at any job, even those employed by their own law school. Dessem says the School of Law, unlike other institutions, doesn't hire its own students on national reporting dates just to pad employment stats. He supports the ABA revising the employment definition to weed out individuals employed part-time or by their own school.

Law student Zach Kluesner hopes his fellow graduates note the arbitrary nature of the job-placement data and consider it when assessing the rankings' credibility.

“Somebody who doesn't know anything about Mizzou law will probably just flip to the page with the rankings,” Kluesner says. “People put the rankings on a pedestal when I don't think they should.”



# MU prof pitches full-time pedestrian campus, veterans' monument

By **JANESE SILVEY**

A **University of Missouri professor** wants some campus streets permanently closed to vehicles and is also pitching the idea of creating a new veterans monument near Memorial Union.

Bill Wiebold told the MU Faculty Council yesterday the ideas "are coming from my brain and not any committee."

Right now, portions of Hitt, Ninth and Rollins streets are closed to public vehicles from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those hours won't make sense if more courses are scheduled in the evening hours in coming years, Wiebold said

Last year, Faculty Council members asked MU to do away with Mizzou in the Evening as a separate program. Provost Brian Foster supported that decision. Details of how that program might be eliminated are still being hashed out

Closing those streets temporarily creates the illusion of separate day and night/weekend campuses and counters the goal to create "one Mizzou," Wiebold said.

He also pitched it as a safety issue. "Maybe because I almost got run over out here," he told the council, which meets at Memorial Union off Hitt Street.

Faculty Council members didn't express much opposition to the idea, although April Langley, an associate English professor, said forcing students to walk farther to their cars at night creates different safety problems, such as the threat of rape.

Clyde Bentley, an associate journalism professor, is chairman of a campus traffic committee and said he'd take the proposal to that group for review.

Wiebold also is asking that the council approve a resolution supporting a new veterans tribute on campus. Right now, Memorial Union honors MU students killed in World War I, and those who walk under the arch are asked to tip their hats or salute in honor

"World War I, the war to end all wars," Wiebold said. "It didn't happen."

There's also a plaque inside Memorial Union thanking those who serve, but it's generic, Wiebold said

His original proposal was to honor Missouri residents killed in Afghanistan, Iraq and possibly Desert Storm.

One idea, Wiebold said, is to use bricks along the sidewalk that would include names and hometowns.

Art Jago, a professor of management, said any new memorial should also honor those who have given their lives in other combat.

"Between World War I and Desert Storm, there were some other significant wars," he said.

Others said they liked the idea and suggested the project become an educational opportunity, working with the various veterans organizations on campus.

"I love the idea," said Harry Tyrer, an engineering professor. "I think we ought to pursue it."

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STREET TALK

By **JACOB BARKER**

## BYE, BYE BIG MAC

The McDonald's on the University of Missouri campus is closing.

MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said the university will not renew the lease at the end of May for the McDonald's located at 909 Lowry, across from Ellis Library. The restaurant will close May 13, and the university will use the space to expand the adjacent Student Success Center. Banken said it was always the intention of the university to convert the space for use by the Student Success Center.

Mark and Kate Mehle have owned the franchise since 2006. They own two others in town and five more in other Mid-Missouri cities.

"It is a mutually agreeable decision not to renew and is not a reflection of business trends," Lili Vianello, a spokeswoman for the Mehles, said in an email. The Mehles have expected to move out since they signed the short-term lease, she wrote.

In 2008, the Mehles almost didn't renew the lease for the McDonald's, which has operated on campus since 1978. But they later decided to renew the lease because of the closure of Brady Food Court during the renovation of the student center.

MU has owned the building since 1999, when it bought it from MBS Textbook Exchange.



Everything New Orleans



## Personal email written by public officials need not be disclosed, attorney general says

Published: Saturday, April 23, 2011, 12:00 PM

Personal email messages written by government officials on government computers are exempt from public disclosure, Louisiana Attorney General **Buddy Caldwell** has ruled.

His legal opinions do not carry the force of law, but are generally followed unless a court rules otherwise.

This one was requested by Robert Barham, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Caldwell said Thursday that the state public records law does not cover "emails of a purely personal nature" that have "no relation to any function of a public office."

Court in eight other states have ruled that personal emails are exempt from public disclosure, he said.

**"It seems to me that the presumption of openness in Louisiana has been turned topsy-turvy," said Kenneth F. Bunting, executive director for the National Freedom of Information Coalition at the University of Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, Mo.**

Over the years, Louisiana attorneys general have issued opinions that carve out exceptions to the state's Public Records Act, such as working papers, drafts and handwritten notes, Bunting wrote in an email to **The Advocate** after he reviewed Caldwell's opinion.

"And now, any writing or communication that some public official might claim to be purely private can be hidden from public view." Bunting said.

Caldwell's spokeswoman, Sharon Kleinpeter, said it was the attorney general's policy not to comment on opinions.

Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the **Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press**, said more and more states are starting to take Caldwell's position. But she said it is not good law.

"If you don't want people to know your private business, don't put it on your publicly owned computer," said Dalglish.

State Sen. Robert Adley, R-Benton, agreed.

"If it is paid for by the taxpayers and you're using it, then that's it: it's public." Adley said.

A number of government employees recently have been fired or reprimanded for using their work computer for personal reasons, Adley said. Caldwell's opinion probably would undermine some of the decisions, based on circumstances, he said.

No additional comment could be obtained Friday because of a state holiday.