



Deaton honored by Thai university

Friday, September 25, 2009

Advertisement

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton received an honorary degree from the Prince of Songkla University in Hat Yai, Thailand, this week.

Princess Chulabhorn Walailak, representing her father, the king of Thailand, presented the degree to Deaton at the Prince of Songkla University's graduation ceremony.

Also during his visit to Thailand, Deaton gave a speech to the College of Education titled "Transforming Leadership in a Multicultural Society."

Deaton, who speaks Thai fluently, spent two years teaching vocational agriculture in Nan, Thailand, in the early 1960s as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Planning, emotions affect landing job

Published: Sept. 28, 2009 at 1:00 AM

U.S. scientists say sound planning activities and positive emotions have a large impact on success in finding a job.

University of Missouri researchers say unemployment is more challenging than ever and the process of looking for work is tiring, but it is important to expect rejections and develop a coping strategy ahead of time.

Maintaining positive emotions throughout the process can help improve the chances of getting a job, the researchers say.

"We found it most interesting that metacognitive activities -- thinking about a plan, acting on a plan and reflecting upon that plan -- were important early in the job search while having positive emotions were important later in the job search," **Daniel Turban, professor at the University of Missouri, says in a statement.**

The study, published in *Personal Psychology*, finds metacognitive activities -- including goal setting and plan development -- affect resume submission and success in first interviews, while the ability to maintain positive emotions plays a larger role during second interviews and receiving a final job offer.

"People don't have strategies, they don't assess their plans, and they don't think about their strategies and reflect on whether it's working or how to make them work better," Turban says. "They just don't do it."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU program helps children by teaching parents

By [Larissa Dalton](#)

September 27, 2009 | 5:02 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A baby changes everything: how parents eat, sleep, clean, shop and spend time in general.

Enter Connecting for Baby, an MU extension program that aims to help young couples who are either expecting a baby or have an infant three months or younger to be better parents.

Couples attend 11 monthly dinner sessions, a weekend couples' retreat, receive materials about healthy relationships and regular gift cards. And it's all free.

"The focus is so that you can create a better family for yourselves," said participant Lesli Kalleck, 22. Lesli and her husband, Donald Kalleck, 25, were married last week and have attended sessions together since May.

There are some catches, though. Couples need to enroll together, must be in a non-violent relationship, unmarried when they begin the program and meet income guidelines and other qualifications, according to [Connecting for Baby](#).

Once enrolled, couples receive training that focuses on building a lasting relationship. "We were not getting along before we went to this class," said participant Rebecca Ryan, 30. "We can actually sit down and talk a lot more. We take care of our daughter together. It's helped us out a lot."

Donald Kalleck agreed. "We learn different ways to argue. The way you act with each other, the baby sees that. We communicate better."

Behind the program

Connecting for Baby was designed to give children born into poverty a better chance of success. Its offices are housed in MU Extension's Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

People currently, or previously, on the Connecting for Baby team have written research briefs that can be viewed online. One, titled Children in Poverty, talks about **five factors** that can negatively affect children:

- poverty-related health problems,
- the home environment,
- parenting practices,
- parents' mental health, and
- living in a poor neighborhood.

Children who grow up in these conditions are more likely to repeat grades, tend to participate in fewer extracurricular activities and are slightly more likely to have developmental delays and learning disabilities.

But lack of money isn't the only culprit, and couples can help their children in other ways. Connecting for Baby teaches "parents basic principles of successful child development," according to the Children in Poverty brief.

Some of those ideas include what might seem obvious to some people: Children need to be hugged and have plenty of physical contact. They respond positively when parents acknowledge their verbal and nonverbal signals and have consistent care. Infants also need to be encouraged to explore their surroundings.

And the idea that it is important for parents to be confident in their ability to love and care for their child.

The monthly Connecting for Baby dinners address these topics and more. Program director Marnie Morgan said there are positive results. "I see a substantial impact in the couples that we work with," she said. "It's exciting to watch couples that are committed to their relationships."

Parents' excitement about the program is apparent and contagious. "Our couples in general are our biggest recruiters," Morgan said. "They believe in what we do. I was

most surprised at how excited the dads were. Once they come for the first time they are usually transformed into big advocates for us.”

Measuring success

The program is primarily evaluated through a series of interviews. Couples talk about their communication, how they resolve conflict, child care and more in an effort to see what has changed because of the program. The interviews happen before a couple attends sessions, twice during the 12 months and then again after all the sessions are completed.

Morgan said they also “regularly report the number of couples and hours completed. It’s a pretty extensive evaluation of the project.”

Dinner session facilitators are trained through the Connecting for Baby office at MU. They go through a series of observations, training, then shadow and present with other facilitators, Morgan said.

The program is funded by a five-year federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. It has operated in mid-Missouri for over three years.

“We haven’t heard yet as to the availability of funding after the five years, so we do not know what to expect,” Morgan said.

The Connecting for Baby team hopes to receive continued funding, and are already planning to expand. The project currently operates in Columbia, Kansas City, Moberly and Saint Robert. For now, couples from Jefferson City commute to Columbia.

“There are facilitators ready there, but not enough couples yet,” Morgan said. Plans are also in the works to start sessions in Lake of the Ozarks, St. Louis and in Lafayette county.

Couples can enroll in the program [online](#) or by calling 1-888-542-2230. Childcare is provided if needed.

NEWS-LEADER

September 28, 2009

Flu cases on rise at state colleges

Officials say most of the cases are likely the swine flu strain.

Columbia Missourian

Columbia -- Missouri colleges and universities reported about 370 new flu cases two weeks ago.

The Columbia Missourian reports the total numbers of cases went up from the previous week as more schools report to the American College Health Association's Pandemic Influenza Surveillance.

The survey includes five to 10 schools from Missouri, **including the University of Missouri-Columbia**.

The survey does not differentiate among flu strains, but officials say the vast majority of the cases are likely swine flu.

In its most recent FluView report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 99 percent of recently reported type A flu cases were H1N1.

The association has been collecting information since Aug. 22. Participating colleges in Missouri, which represent 83,674 students, have reported 774 cases in that period. That's more than every bordering state except Tennessee.

Survey findings are important because of the uncertainty surrounding the virus, MU Health Care spokesman Jeff Hoelscher said.

"Right now everyone's trying to understand what's going to happen this season," Hoelscher said.

The majority of cases reported to the ACHA have been mild, said James Turner, association president.

More than 21,000 incidences have resulted in 37 hospitalizations and no deaths.

What is unique is the timing. Flu season doesn't normally begin until late fall or early winter, Turner said.

"It feels like January," he said.

The possibility of mutations to the H1N1 virus has officials at the University of Missouri-Columbia concerned, but the flu is a perennial problem, Hoelscher said.

"We have an epidemic of influenza every year," he said.



Researcher seeks undergraduate input

Club would aim to market discoveries.

By Janese Heavin

Friday, September 25, 2009

Advertisement

A proposed new club at the University of Missouri would allow undergraduate students to brainstorm alongside researchers and offer fresh perspectives on ways to develop and commercialize scientific discoveries and other innovative ideas.

The Club for Innovation in Missouri Business, or CLIMB, is the brainchild of Vice Chancellor for Research Rob Duncan. He envisions it as a small network of enthusiastic young entrepreneurs who will give experienced researchers their input.

Club members would meet once or twice a month to hear from researchers working on projects, from scientific work to research in the arts or social sciences. There, Duncan said, he expects students will get excited about projects that interest them and work separately with the researchers to help them come up with ways to market an idea.

"I want to reach out to the undergraduate population to move into that region between discovery and innovation," Duncan said. "Maybe one out of 100 projects would turn into something profitable, but the difference between that one and 99 will be when a student locks onto an idea and is dedicated to making it work."

Ideally, that student would continue the work throughout his or her college career and possibly beyond.

"As a senior, instead of thinking, 'Who's going to hire me?' they might be thinking, 'Who am I going to hire?'" Duncan said.

The club likely won't be launched until later this year or next semester. Duncan first hopes to introduce the idea to community economic development officials and student government groups.

On Monday, Duncan pitched the idea to Columbia's Regional Economic Development Inc. REDI President Mike Brooks said he's looking forward to seeing it in action.

“Anything and everything that builds a stronger economic climate in Columbia and around the university is positive,” Brooks said. “We’re certainly anxious to see how we can help support this effort.”

Although not all CLIMB projects will turn into new products or companies, Duncan said the club will give undergraduates an opportunity to share their ideas and get involved in research and business earlier in their academic careers.

“A university has no better resource than its people — faculty, administrators and students,” he said. “This takes the experience of bright old people and merges it with the motivation of bright young people.”

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.



Mary Beck, a private adoption attorney, is a '2009 Angels in Adoption' award recipient.

started as nurse.

By Janese Heavin

Saturday, September 26, 2009

When **Mary Beck** learned she had a hearing impairment and it was getting worse, she left her 13-year career in nursing and decided to go to law school.

"For some reason I thought it would be better to be hearing impaired in law than in health care," Beck said.

She no longer believes that theory, but her decision turned out to be a blessing for countless families.

Beck's law career, which now spans some 20 years, will be honored next week when she receives a 2009 Angels in Adoption award in Washington, D.C.

The awards recognize individuals and groups who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need, and recipients must be nominated by members of Congress.

Beck is one of about 150 organizations, adoptive parents and

policymakers being honored this year.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, whose office nominated Beck for the honor, said in a prepared statement: "She has focused her career on the part of the law that can help create families and has inspired young lawyers to focus on work that can make a real difference in children's lives."

Past winners include Laura Bush, Bruce Willis, Muhammad Ali and Jane Seymour, according to the institute.

Beck became a private adoption attorney after she earned her law degree in 1988, and she has since placed hundreds of children in permanent homes.

She credits her interest in adoption law partly to her previous work as a nurse. Beck often would see abused children enter the clinic where she worked, and they eventually were placed in foster

care. Finding a way to bring stability to the lives of such children – who are often hard to adopt — became a priority.

Beck has worked to make adoptions easier for families, too. **Since joining the MU School of Law faculty in 1993**, she has worked with law students to improve adoption laws in numerous states.

She also was instrumental in strengthening Missouri's Putative Father Registry. That registry allows men who believe they might be fathers of children born out of wedlock protect their paternal rights. It also helps expedite the adoption process for single mothers who want to give up their child by making it easier to locate the father. That ultimately ensures children won't have to spend too much time in foster care before being legally adopted.

Thirty-six states have that registry, and Beck is advocating for a national putative father registry. That would ensure a father's rights would be protected even if the mother moves to another state.

In addition to teaching at the School of Law, Beck is the director of MU's Domestic Violence Clinic, where she supervises law students who represent abused women and children.

About 10 years ago, Beck teamed up with professors and students from the state's three other law schools — at Saint Louis University, Washington University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City — to seek clemency for 11 women serving prison time for killing abusive husbands.

The women were convicted before a Missouri law was enacted that allows domestic violence to be admitted as evidence in a murder trial.

The group, known as the Missouri Battered Women's Clemency Coalition, has been able to get all but three of those women out of prison.

Beck learned of receiving the Angels in Adoption award last week and said she's excited about her upcoming trip to the nation's capital. But don't expect her to enjoy a few days of rest and relaxation. Instead, she plans to use the opportunity to meet with the congressional delegation from Missouri "to let them know I'd be happy to help review adoption legislation."

Reach Janese Heavin at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jheavin@columbiatribune.com.

MU professor to be honored as 'adoption angel'

By The Associated Press

September 27, 2009 | 5:16 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Attorney Mary Beck will be honored this coming week in the nation's Capitol with an Angels in Adoption award.

The award recognizes individuals and groups who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need. Recipients must be nominated by members of Congress.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that Beck left a 13-year career in nursing to attend law school. Since finishing in 1988, she has placed hundreds of children in permanent homes.

Beck, who is an MU School of Law professor, credits her interest in adoption law partly to her previous work as a nurse, where she often saw abused children. She said that finding a way to bring stability to the lives of these often difficult to adopt children became a priority.

She also has worked with law students to improve adoption laws in numerous states since joining the MU School of Law faculty in 1993.