Leader, counselor, and teacher are words often used to describe a mentor. Friend, confidant, and role model can also be included in this list of descriptions. Since the fall 2007 semester the On-Track, campus-wide program has sought to offer participating students the opportunity to be grouped with a mentor who exhibits these very characteristics.

Alex Zach, Missouri S&T Sophomore History major, has participated in the On-Track since the second half of the spring 2008 semester. During his experience he has been a part of the mentor group that is facilitated by Katie Bruce, whom he describes as “awesome”. Alex began his academic career with Missouri S&T in the fall of 2006. “I had graduated from high school early and worked full-time before coming to the campus. I had originally wanted to become a nuclear engineer and to go into the US Navy after graduation.” Since that time, Alex has changed his future plans. He is now happily completing a degree in history after finding the right fit for him at Missouri S&T.

Alex describes his initial experience at Missouri S&T as what he considers to be similar to the many new, incoming freshmen. “The math courses just seemed so much harder than I had experienced in high school. But, for those who pursue engineering degrees at Missouri S&T, this is one of the things that what makes them good, sought-after engineers.” Like many new college students, suddenly Alex was experiencing life on his own on the Missouri S&T campus. “In high school, I didn’t have to try, it all came very easily. When I started college, I suddenly realized that in being on my own everything was all up to me.”

The challenges that Alex faced started to affect his performance as a student and also began to make him question his original college plans. "I received an e-mail from an advisor that said I should attend the On-Track program as a way to help me through these challenges. At first I really didn’t want to participate. I missed the first six meetings.” Katie added, “When I first met Alex and he was assigned to my mentor group, he was very stubborn. He didn’t really want to be there. Connecting with him was a definite challenge.”

After attending Katie’s mentor meetings, Alex began to see the benefits of the On-Track program and in the information that Katie was relaying to her group. (continued on page 2)
On-Track Mentor Program (continued)

“Being part of Katie’s group, I saw that she and I actually got along really well.

I liked the fact the she was holding me accountable for the things that a student should be doing like going to class and keeping up my homework assignments. It was amazing! All of a sudden I discovered how these things changed everything for me. I began to see how much easier things became just by going to class. Just by going and keeping up, I felt good about going to class too. This has made all the difference for me.”

When asked to describe her overall experience with Alex as one of her mentees Katie says she “loves it!” “It has been amazing to see him grow right in front of me. He was very stubborn at first, but when he decided to make changes it was very exciting to see how this affected his life as a student and personally. As a mentor, it has been rewarding to be a part of that change.” Alex agreed with Katie’s comments and stated, “I now find Katie to be a good role model, confidant, and most definitely a friend.”

Katie, a junior in Business and Management Systems and a member of the Missouri S&T Cross Country Team, has been a mentor with the On Track program since the fall 2007 semester. Her advisor, Stephanie Fitch, suggested that she apply to become a mentor in the On-Track program as it is a good way for people on campus to get involved and develop their leadership skills. Initially Katie joined the program believing that the experience would look good on her resume and that becoming a leader outside of athletics would benefit her later on in her future career. She has been surprised, however, by several other benefits she has experienced.

“I love the fact that I can help people and that I can be an influence to lead others in better and more successful ways.” Katie does admit that sometimes her experiences can be like a roller coaster. “Some days are easier than others. There are days when I don’t feel like I am getting through to my mentees with the exercises we do or the discussions we have. But on the days that we do connect, it is a very positive and worthwhile experience. It’s great to share my own personal experiences as a student and in relating that while I am not perfect, the student skills that I am sharing have helped and continue to help me in my own academic experiences.”

Both Katie and Alex agree that the On-Track program is beneficial and can really be helpful for any Missouri S&T student, regardless of standing, GPA or level of student skills. Katie says, “Even as a mentor, being a part of the program my own GPA has increased just by participating in the exercises that I share with my mentees.” Alex commented on what he believes would be the most beneficial part of being in the On Track program by saying, “The mentoring. Definitely the mentoring.”

“I love the fact that I can help people and that I can be an influence to lead others in better and more successful ways.”

Katie Bruce, On-Track Mentor
Meet the On-Track Mentors

At some point in our lives, someone has made a difference to us. Whether it has been a friend, family member, respected elder or even someone you have met in your college journey, the valuable lessons that they have shared with you has made an impact upon how you view life or the choices you make. The On-Track program seeks to provide the students of Missouri S&T with this type of experience through its mentors. These mentors, who commit themselves in helping other students to learn, prepare for and demonstrate academic excellence, are a large part of what makes the On-Track program successful. The Undergraduate Advising Office would like to highlight the Fall 2008 On-Track Mentors by sharing their contributions to this semester’s program and its students.

Katherine Bruce
Katie’s vivacious spirit and willingness to help provides her mentees with a mentor who is both fun and resourceful. Her creative abilities, outgoing personality, and calm, relaxed manner help to make her mentee’s Missouri S&T and On-Track experiences productive and enjoyable.

Alexandra Goodson
Alex’s overall positive outlook on life, optimistic disposition, and calm, no-worries attitude make her a fantastic mentor as well as a great Missouri S&T role model for her mentees. Her mentees have a bright light to turn to in the midst of their academic wanderings and their quest for mastering the skills of student success through the On-Track program.

Tara Harris
Tara’s cheery smile and friendly disposition set the stage for a fun, relaxed environment for her On-Track mentees to learn new academic and personal skills. Her example of what a successful student is provides a great illustration of a positive and productive Missouri S&T college experience.

Nikolas Moesch
Nik’s fun, relevant, and open-minded approach to mentoring provides his students with a clear-cut plan for successfully navigating their way through the On-Track program. His use of humor combined with practical Missouri S&T college life applications creates a positive and encouraging environment in which your mentees gladly participate.

Matt Paradeis
Matt’s approachable and open style provides his mentees with not only a great On-Track mentor but a friendly face who they can turn to for questions and concerns about their student experiences. The enjoyment, spirit and personal success that he displays for his degree program and Missouri S&T provides an excellent example to his mentees of what college life at its best can be for them as well.

Melissa Ray
Melissa’s calm, relaxed and stable manner demonstrates to her On-Track mentees the confidence needed for achieving successful student skills. The self-assurance she displays as a Missouri S&T student in her academic abilities provides a model example of what her mentees can attain in their own college lives.

Natalie McDonald
Natalie’s solid and constant example to her On-Track mentees provides the encouragement needed for them to gain new perspectives and practices within their academic careers. Her direct yet helpful approach sets good expectations for the mentees to seek the benefits of getting the most out of their Missouri S&T experience.

Warren Vaz
Warren’s no-nonsense approach to mentoring has given his mentees a solid foundation to rely upon for a model of self-discipline, organization and confidence in the On-Track program. He provides his mentees with reliability, structure, and a mentor that they can look up to as an example of what a successful Missouri S&T student looks like.
5th Annual Undergraduate Research Conference- April 8, 2008

Attention Undergraduate Students! The Missouri S&T Undergraduate Research Conference provides opportunities for students to showcase their research efforts to the campus community and to the public. The research conference will include oral and poster sessions in the following categories.

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<th>Oral Session Categories:</th>
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<tr>
<td>I. Arts and Humanities</td>
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<td>II. Engineering</td>
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<td>IV. Social Sciences</td>
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<td>V. Research Proposals</td>
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Awards:
First ($750), second ($500) and third ($250) place prizes will be awarded in each category. Additional awards will be offered by the Missouri S&T Center for Entrepreneurship & Outreach and the Wilson Library.

Registration:
ALL ENTRIES MUST INCLUDE A DESCRIPTIVE ABSTRACT. Abstracts must include a minimum of 75, and a maximum of 150 words. All abstracts must be submitted electronically using the required abstract template.

* Students participating in the oral session are required to submit an abstract and research paper to complete their conference registration.

* Students participating in the poster session are required to submit an abstract to complete their conference registration.

* Only one entry per student will be accepted.

* Electronic registration is required.

* Registration Deadline-March 16, 2009!
Students must submit their on-line registration form and supporting materials, (including abstracts and research papers), by the above deadline. Materials will not be accepted after this date.

Download registration materials at: http://ugs.mst.edu/ugrc.html

For more information, visit the Office of Undergraduate Studies at 105 Norwood Hall, or contact us at: 573.341.7276.
Call for Nominations for Student Ambassadors-
UM System Undergraduate Research Day 2009

The Office of Undergraduate Studies is seeking nominations from faculty members for undergraduates to serve as Ambassadors to share their university research experiences with state lawmakers in Jefferson City for Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol on April 21, 2009.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate to lawmakers in Jefferson City the unique opportunities undergraduate students have to participate with faculty in research at the University of Missouri. Many lawmakers do not differentiate between regional schools and public research institutions, and we hope this opportunity to showcase our undergraduates involved in research will help make the distinction. We will also use this event to underscore higher education’s role in developing educated citizens and preparing a work force with the necessary skills to further the economic growth of the state.

We are seeking students who have been significantly involved in the research enterprise of the university either with their own project or through meaningful involvement with an on-going faculty project. Successful nominees should also be able to convey their experience and enthusiasm to state representatives, senators, and other state officials in a poster session.

The Office of Undergraduate Studies is seeking students from a broad range of disciplines. We are especially interested in projects that relate to the economic development of Missouri and issues important to the state legislature (e.g., education, health, agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, social services). Presentations that include visual demonstrations or displays beyond the typical poster are also encouraged.

Selection of Undergraduate Ambassadors will be based on geographical distribution, relevance of the project to the state, quality of the project, and distribution among the four campuses. Students selected to serve as Undergraduate Research Ambassadors will be asked to attend planning meetings with the Office of Undergraduate Studies in preparation for the event. Planning meetings will begin in January 2009, during the first week of class. Meeting topics will include presentation skills, how the event works, how to meet and greet lawmakers, and other protocol.

Select students will be asked to submit their abstracts in January 2009. Posters will be printed in March 2009.

To qualify for participation in this event, nominees must meet the following criteria:

* Students must be undergraduates at the University of Missouri during the 2008-2009 academic year.
* Students must be residents of the State of Missouri.
* Research must have been completed under the guidance of a University of Missouri faculty member.
* Research projects must follow the methodology of the appropriate academic discipline.
* The research project must be of sufficient quality to be presented at a professional academic meeting.

Nominations from the Rolla Campus are due by December 15, 2008 to:

Dr. Harvest L. Collier  
Vice Provost  
Office of Undergraduate Studies  
c/o Melissa Hutton  
105 Norwood Hall  
mhutton@mst.edu

For more information, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Studies at 341-7276 or visit: http://ugs.mst.edu/ugrdc.html.
Lost Boys Captivate Crowd at S&T

Three former "lost boys of Sudan" and their American mentor gave a powerful presentation on October 22, 2008, at Missouri S&T, in front of a crowd of more than 1,200 people. Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng and Benjamin Ajak, along with Judy Bernstein, authored, "They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys of Sudan," published in 2005. During their presentation, they showed a short documentary clip about the Lost Boys of Sudan, and then the three Sudanese authors took turns sharing stories of their lives in Sudan and in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, and of their transition to the United States in 2001. Benson Deng even treated the audience to a performance of a traditional Sudanese song on his homemade banjo-like instrument, the thom.

They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky was this year's selection for the university's "One Book" program. Incoming first-year students at S&T were expected to read the book during the summer before they arrived on campus this fall. The book was taught in all sections of English 20, the introductory composition course required of most freshmen. In addition to giving all incoming students an intellectual experience in common, the program gives students the opportunity to engage in critical thinking on a topic of social relevance, while promoting the value and importance of reading beyond the classroom.

After the Sudanese authors spoke, Judy Bernstein, their American mentor, presented awards to the three winners of the One Book writing contest. Ariel Mollhagen won first prize for her essay titled “Loss and Remembrance.” Elizabeth Studt won second prize for her essay, “When Two Elephants Fight.” Philip Arve won third prize for his essay, “Fuego.” All essays were written in response to the question: “In what ways has reading They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky changed your own personal outlook or perspective?”

A lively question-and-answer session followed the presentation, and throughout the evening the audience seemed engaged and enthralled. Afterward, hundreds of readers lined up to meet the authors personally, and the authors signed books late into the evening.

Over one thousand first-year students at S&T read They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky, as well as 75 Rolla High School students and 90 Camdenton High School students, many of whom were in attendance on Wednesday evening. Hundreds of upperclassmen, faculty, and staff members at S&T also read the book and attended the presentation. Civil and social organizations took part in the program as well, including local Kiwanis and Rotary groups, and private book clubs. Members of one book club traveled all the way from Linn, Missouri, to see the authors’ presentation.

"They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky is a powerful true story about the tragic civil war in Sudan, as witnessed by three of the tens of thousands of young children who were forced by flee their homes and walk more than 1,000 miles across eastern Africa after their villages were destroyed," says Dr. Kate Drowne, associate professor of English and co-coordinator of the One Book program. "A Washington Post reviewer described the book as "one of the most riveting stories ever told of African childhoods - and a stirring tale of courage." More information about the Missouri S&T One Book program, sponsored by the S&T office of undergraduate studies, is available online at onebook.mst.edu or by email at onebook@mst.edu.

Teacher Education Program News

♦ The Education office has temporarily moved from the 14th Street Building to room 206 of the Interdisciplinary Engineering Building, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Bonnie Bachman, Chair, Interdisciplinary Engineering.

♦ The Education site visit by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is April 10-14, 2010.
“Inspired By Writing” Art Show a Success

The Fifth Annual “Inspired By Writing” Art Show Reception was held on October 16th, 2008 in the Missouri S&T Writing Center. The reception, hosted by the Writing Center staff and funded by the Campus Art Committee, kicked off the month-long exhibit. Attendees at the reception included university faculty and staff members, students and members of the local Rolla community, as well as several of the artists whose work was displayed. The works comprising this year’s show include photography, painting in various media, 3-dimensional collage, mixed painting and sculpture, and folk-art items. Artists represent the Missouri S&T student body as well as faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University.

The Writing Center hosts the annual “Inspired By Writing” art show in an effort to enhance the intellectual and cultural climate on campus. The theme of the show helps to demonstrate the interconnectedness of art, writing, and technology, and to promote an appreciation for each. There is no entry fee for artists or admission fee for viewers. The show is open to the public as well as the campus community. For more information on the show, or the Writing Center in general, call 341-4436 or visit http://writingcenter.mst.edu.

Call for Nominations! Outstanding Academic Advising Awards

Help us to make a difference and give some well deserved recognition by nominating a great advisor! Good advising, like good teaching, publication and research needs to be recognized, so we developed the Outstanding Academic Advising awards. The goal of the awards program is to encourage wider support and recognition for academic advising at S&T and to improve advising services for students.

These excerpts from last year’s call for nominations reinforce the significance academic advising has on the Missouri S&T students and the campus as a whole.

“I especially enjoy having Dr. Sedigh as my academic advisor. She always makes sure that I’m taking classes that live up to her (and my) expectations. Even if my schedule seems too overbearing, she and I are always able to sort things out so that both of us are satisfied. I really appreciate the care she takes with my future studies. It’s something rare to find someone so sensitive to your health and well-being as she is. I’m delighted to be her advisee.”

“Dr. Murray first became my advisor in August 2007 when my emphasis shifted to industrial engineering. I grew fond of her quickly because of the way she communicated and related to me on a personal level. No longer did I feel like a student identification number, but rather a student who she cared about and wanted to succeed. I remember being so impressed the first time I had her as a professor when she already knew most of the student by name on the first day!”

All Missouri S&T students, staff and faculty are encouraged to nominate advisors for the advising award and the award winners are selected by a committee. Warm, caring, attentive and willing to help are all words that might be found in a nomination by students and colleagues to describe an outstanding academic advisor.

To submit a nomination for the 2008-09 Outstanding Academic Advising Awards please visit:

First Annual Faculty Service Learning Awards

In October 2008, the Office of Undergraduate Studies held a luncheon to recognize the nominees of the First Annual Faculty Service Learning Awards.

The purpose of the Faculty Service Learning Awards program is to recognize faculty members who involve or influence students in academic service learning in the classroom or community service activities outside the classroom.

This year, the following Missouri S&T faculty members were nominated for their work with students:

* Dr. Karl Burgher, Engineering Management & Systems Engineering
* Dr. A. Curt Elmore, Geological Sciences & Engineering
* Dr. Lance Gentry, Business and Information Technology
* Dr. Susan Murray, Engineering Management & Systems Engineering
* Dr. Daniel Tauritz, Computer Science

Congratulations to this year’s Faculty Service Learning Award winners! Dr. Karl Burgher, Engineering Management & Systems Engineering, was awarded the Academic Service Learning Award and Dr. A. Curt Elmore, Geological Sciences and Engineering, was awarded the Service Learning Award.

Burgher was recognized for his work with students utilizing real-world projects generated by the needs of nearby small communities. Elmore was recognized for his work with students to improve water quality for populations in Guatemala and for leading an effort to establish an undergraduate Global Studies minor.

“As someone who still, after 30 years of teaching at S&T, can’t wait to start each class and decide what techniques I will use with a particular class to help students learn the material, I recommend that as you search through your own “box of teaching tools” you will consider using Service Learning: in the right class it has indeed been the one best “golden tool” that has most consistently produced truly life changing learning for my students.”

-Dr. Dee Montgomery, Curators’ Teaching Professor, Psychology

Visit the Service Learning web site at: http://ugs.mst.edu/servicelearning.html
HLC Accreditation Site Visit February 23-25 2009

For the past two years, S&T has engaged in a process of self-study to prepare for re-accreditation. A draft of the university’s report, developed for The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, is available for review online at accreditation.mst.edu. Comments on the report can be emailed to Dr. Harvest Collier, at hcollier@mst.edu.

S&T will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit Feb. 23-25, 2009, by a team of reviewers representing the HLC. The university received re-accreditation for 10 years after its last review in 1998.

Fall 2008 Service Learning Highlights:

* Missouri S&T is committed to continuing its progress in engaging an ever larger percentage of its students in service learning activities. Missouri S&T plans to expand its service learning opportunities to a broader range of Missouri S&T students and enhance Missouri S&T’s mission to be the premier source of leaders for today’s society.

* During the fall 2008 semester, Missouri S&T offered 11 different service learning courses. These courses engaged 237 students in academic service learning activities in the community.

* For more information, visit: http://ugs.mst.edu/servicelearning.html

Attention Students!
ACCREDITATION OPEN FORUM
January 28, 2009
12:00-1:00 PM
125 Civil Eng.
Pizza and Door Prizes!

SPRING 2009

Academic Advising Conference Series

The office of Undergraduate Advising offers a series of developmental advising conferences for new and seasoned academic advisors at Missouri S&T. This conference series promotes advising best practices and provide critical insight on advising as it relates to student academic success. The Spring 2009 series includes the following topics:

* Campus Resources: Knowing When & Where to Refer Your Advisees
* Advising Generation Me
* Intervention Strategies for Students on Probation
* The Academic Alert System: What Does It Tell Us?
* Facilitating Personal, Academic & Career Goal Development
* Seven Habits of Success for Effective Advising

For more information please visit http://advising.mst.edu/conferenceseries/conf_series.html or call the Office of Undergraduate Advising at 341-4424
ENGR111 Students Initiate “Operation Air Drop”

ENGR111, the Experiential Design course for the Residential College, taught by Dr. Paul Hirtz of the Student Design & Experiential Learning Center (SDELC), held a project competition called “Operation Air Drop” on November 13 at 6:00 p.m. Students designed and built systems to drop a small device from the balcony of the Havener Center onto targets located on the atrium floor. Each device was designed to deploy an object upon impact intended to hit an additional target. This event was open to the campus.

Team 7 took first place with 630 points and included Adam Griffeth, Colton Smith and Evan Wammack. Team 16 took second place with 481 points and included Rocky Klabunde, Thomas McDonough, Derek Welty and Alexander Wilson. Team 13 took third place and included James Anderson, Megan Biondo, Robin Williams and Ryan Wohldmann.

The ENGR111 class will hold a poster presentation in the Havener Center atrium on December 4 at 6:00PM, where the Experiential Design class will reflect upon their semester experience.

Opportunities for Undergraduate Research Experiences (OURE)

This semester, 94 Missouri S&T undergraduate students are actively working on undergraduate research projects in their departments through the OURE program and 11 undergraduate students are actively working through the OURE Fellows program.

To learn more about OURE or download an application to participate in next year's program, visit our web site at: http://ugs.mst.edu/oure.html. Applications for the 2009-10 academic year are due April 1, 2009.

Are your students On-Track to academic and personal success?

On-Track is a personal and academic success course designed to increase a student's self-management, motivation and study skills. This program incorporates seminars, campus resources, success workshops, advising conferences and peer mentors to empower students to become self-directed and motivated learners.

73% of On-Track participants were able to increase their semester GPA in Spring 2008. These students are provided “red-carpet” services that are individually tailored to increase academic and personal success. These services include eight seminars, six student choice workshops, two additional advising opportunities and a “track coach” (peer mentor) who will meet with students once a week.

On-Track is free to all S&T students and begins on January 14, 2009!

To refer a student to On-Track, please email Kim Frazier at frazierk@mst.edu or call 341-4424.

For more information about On-Track and the services provided visit http://advising.mst.edu/ontrack.html
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
AND STUDENT AFFAIRS
Cordially Invite You to Our

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 11
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

First Floor
Norwood Hall

Holiday Refreshments
& Door Prizes
The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Studies is to improve the learning environment and enhance the learning outcomes of students by working with Missouri S&T students, faculty, staff and the public.

## Contact Us

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<th>Name</th>
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## Upcoming Events

### For Students

**December 3**
Student Success Seminar VIII-Lifelong Learning: Continuing Health Habits, 12-12:50 PM, St. Pat’s C, Havener Center

**December 3**
How to Study for Exams, Dr. Diana L. Ahmad, 4:00-5:00 PM, South Lounge, TJ Hall

**December 4**
Operation Air Drop Poster Presentation, 6:00 PM, Havener Center Atrium

**December 11**
Holiday Open House, 2:00-4:00 PM, First Floor-Norwood Hall

### For Faculty

**December 2**
Basic Clicker/Turning Point Training, 3:00-4:00 PM, 103 Library

**December 5**
Blackboard Seminar Series-“Respondus and Preparing for Final Exams”, 12:00-1:00 PM, Meramec/Gasconade Room, Havener Center

**December 11**
Holiday Open House, 2:00-4:00 PM, First Floor-Norwood Hall

[Visit us on the Web!](http://ugs.mst.edu/calendar/)