

Griffiths News



MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - GRIFFITHS LEADERSHIP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2008

Spring Forward to the April Griffiths Conference

The weekend of April 11-12 will be your chance to reconnect with your mentee or mentor... enrich your personal and professional development... learn the winner of the prestigious Spirit of Martha Award... and just enjoy yourself at the Spring Griffiths Leadership Society Conference.

Among the highlights:

Friday, April 11:

At 4 p.m., register at the Reynolds Alumni Center and take part in sessions about how to make healthy choices and finesse personal introductions.

At 6:30 p.m., enjoy dinner and honor the 2008 Spirit of Martha Award winner. Topping off the evening will be a toast on Tiger Plaza.

Saturday, April 12:

At 8:00 a.m., discuss *The Tortilla Curtain*, the Griffiths Book Club Selection over breakfast. MAA President Titus Blackmon will share a campus and Association update with our members following breakfast.

Throughout the day, enjoy stimulating sessions on personal finance, women in politics, hidden health risks, negotiation, and mentoring.

Over lunch, hear a presentation on the effects of advertising on body image by Dr. Cyndi Frisby, a popular assistant professor in the Missouri School of Journalism. Also take part in recognizing outgoing seniors.

End the day by unwinding at a closing reception at the Museum of Art & Archaeology at 4:00 p.m. The museum will remain open for our members to tour until 5:30 p.m.

Need a hotel room? A block of rooms is being held for \$89 per night at the Courtyard Marriott in Columbia. Call (573) 443-8000 and use the room block code GLS.

Ready to register? Do it today at www.mizzou.com (click on event registration). Have questions? E-mail [Carin Huffman Grinch](mailto:Carin.Huffman.Grinch@mizzou.edu) at the Mizzou Alumni Association. See you there!

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Griffiths Announces New Online Book Club

To stimulate both connection and conversation, a new program kicked off during the fall conference: the Griffiths Book Club. Prior to each conference, one book will be selected for members to read and discuss online, via e-mail, or in person among Griffiths members who live near each other.

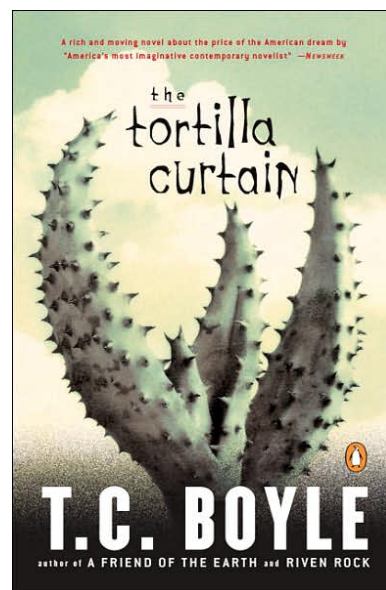
The first book chosen was T.C. Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*, which was selected for the 2006 Freshman Reading Program at Mizzou as well as the One Read for Columbia. On Saturday morning during the upcoming spring conference, you're welcome to take part in an optional discussion of *The Tortilla Curtain*. If you haven't had a chance to read this book, members may still participate in the small group discussion.

Our next book is the short story collection *The Bones of Garbo* by Trudy Lewis, whom one

critic calls "a deliciously original stylist" whose humor is evocative of Grace Paley. Lewis, an MU English professor, will attend the fall 2008 Griffiths conference to discuss her book with us. Copies of *The Bones of Garbo* will be available for purchase at the spring conference.

Getting involved is easy. Visit the Griffiths Web site and click on the link marked Book Club for information about selections and details about whom to contact to participate in an online or local discussion. Members may also download a discussion packet. The Web site also contains a recommended reading list from Griffiths members and previous conference speakers.

Suggestions? Questions? Contact [Ellie Miller](mailto:Ellie.Miller@mizzou.edu) or [Tuck VanDyne](mailto:Tuck.VanDyne@mizzou.edu) and share your thoughts and ideas. Happy reading!



Pick up a copy of T.C. Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain* today and join us for a discussion at the upcoming conference April 11-12.

Fall Program Highlights

Conference Keynote - Learning Secrets to Career Success

College students learn subject matter in the classroom, but where can they find out about career development and the social side of work life? In the MU Trulaske College of Business, they learn it from a leadership program that gives them both the contacts and the poise to become well-rounded professionals.

Keynote speaker **Mary Beth Marrs**, assistant dean of undergraduate programs and strategic initiatives, described workshops on job interviews and work-life balance; forums where students can meet personally with corporate CEOs; and “mocktail” sessions for learning business etiquette. The programs enrich current students and also attract highly qualified students to MU.

Cookin' Up Group Dynamics

It was the perfect ending to a great Griffiths Leadership Conference day. Alumna member Melodie Powell shared her cooking expertise at a “tailgate” cooking class just before the Networking/Game Watch party. Effortlessly whipping up three appetizers at once, Powell showed how simple it can be to serve guests with style and taste. Mouths were watering as everyone watched her make the menu du jour—

White Rotel dip, Bombay Cheese, and Spicy Grilled Shrimp—while sharing her personal secrets to culinary success. After the cooking class, all three recipes were available for “sampling” during the watch party—although this crowd did more than just sample! The recipes appeared in the conference program book, but in case you're hungry now, clip the recipe below and add it to your collection!

Bombay Cheese

8 oz. room-temperature cream cheese (use the bar kind, not whipped)
4 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated
1/2 t. curry powder
1/3 cup mango chutney (“Major Grey” type)
2 T. flaked coconut

1/4 cup chopped pecans
1 T. finely chopped green onion (include some of the green part)
1 to 1-1/2 T. currants or chopped raisins
Plain crackers, such as Carr's water biscuits

Combine the cream cheese, cheddar, and curry powder in a food processor and mix until well blended (or use an electric mixer). When well blended, pat into a disc 5 to 6 inches in diameter and 1 inch high. (Note from Melodie: I wrap mine in wax paper.)

Place in refrigerator until firm. When ready to serve, place the disc on the serving tray and spread chutney on top. (You may have to chop some of the large chutney bits.) Sprinkle coconut, pecans, green onions, and currants on top of the chutney.

Serve with crackers.

Islam Through the Eyes of the West

Before Americans can understand why many Muslims feel the way they do about the United States, it's useful to examine the negative messages many Americans send about Muslims, said Gulden Ilhan, associate professor of philosophy at St. Louis Community College.

To make her points, Ilhan cited everything from opinion polls from *USA Today* and Cornell University to anti-Muslim signs in front of restaurants and churches. She also quoted Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, who said, “Unless we safeguard the liberties of all our citizens, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Declaration of Independence mean about as much as a plastic flag bumper sticker.”

Shear Fellows Share Lessons on Leadership and Policy

Women may make up half the population, but they're under-represented in the political and policy world. Networking is valuable because many things in life come down to who you know and what impression you've made on them. Success for a woman does not come easy—and may come in disguise.

These were some of the key lessons that MU's Shear Fellows learned during the week-long 21st Century Leadership Academy in St. Louis last May. Four women represented MU and then shared what they learned at the Griffiths Society meeting: Griffiths member Anne Case-Halferty and Lauren Ryan, Kelley Robinson, and Traci Harr.

The women's personal lessons ranged from the maximum number of accessories you should wear in a business setting (13, including buttons and buckles) to the realization that there is so much to do in Missouri that “it makes you want to stay and make it better rather than leave and hope someone else will step up.”

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring 2008 Conference:
April 11 & 12

Fall 2008 Conference:
September 25 & 26

Fall Program Highlights

Student Spotlight: The Lessons of Denim Day

After the Saturday night Networking Dinner, Griffiths members heard how students in the MU Textile and Apparel Management Department combined classwork with personal commitment to step forward and take a stand against rape.



As part of a computer-assisted design class, students created a Denim Day logo to act as an empowering symbol for rape education and awareness. They also designed bookmarks, fliers, and posters for Denim Day, which is commemorated annually

Day, which is commemorated annually on the fourth Thursday of April each year.

Griffiths member Tuck VanDyne plays a leadership role in Denim Day efforts as chief of the Office on Women's Health within the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. According to VanDyne, Mizzou started something special. At least 15 colleges and two states have adopted the program. [Click here](#) to learn more about Denim Day and download a promotional toolkit.



Tuck VanDyne explains the Denim Day toolkit information following a presentation by students in the MU Textile and Apparel Management Department.

Sticky Situations, Teachable Moments

Through a unique session led by MU's Interactive Theatre troupe, Griffiths attendees explored ways to understand and respect others' perceptions.

"Difficult Dialogues" was a 10-minute sketch in which five student actors portrayed a class encountering diversity issues they didn't know how to handle.

After the scene, the actors remained in character and discussed the issues with the audience. The actors then re-enacted the scene, this time with Griffiths members stopping the performance and inserting themselves on stage to attempt a new approach to the difficult dialogue.

Staying Connected: Special Activities Events Taking Place Around the State

Want to stay involved with Griffiths friends in between the fall and spring conferences? Then take advantage of the new mini-events being planned by the Special Activities Committee. If you live in Kansas City, St. Louis, or Columbia/Jefferson City, look for a Griffiths event to come your way this spring. We're sending

details to members in each area via e-mail, or you can check the Griffith Web site for updates.

In addition, the committee plans to organize and host a trivia game night at the fall 2008 conference!

Want to get involved? Contact [Tuck Van Dyne](#) or [Ellie Miller](#).

Snapshots from the Fall Conference



Before sampling her incredible appetizers, the group enjoyed a cooking demonstration by alumna Melodie Powell.



Collegians Jennifer Holland and Janet Sipes network with each other between sessions.



Pam Benoit proposes a toast to Griffiths members.



Alumna Ann Looby with her mentee Angela Cain following the toast.

2007-08 Griffiths Executive Committee

[Tracey Mershon](#) - Chair
[Jill Brown](#) - Vice Chair
[Melodie Powell](#) - Past Chair
[Debbie Snellen](#) - Past Chair

Collegian Membership Committee
[Pam Benoit](#) - Chair
[Anne-Marie Foley](#) - Vice Chair

Communications Committee
[Karla Taylor](#) - Chair
[Emmy McClelland](#) - Vice Chair

Awards and Recognition Committee
[Dee Esry](#) - Chair
[Jaimie Pfeifer](#) - Vice Chair

Programming Committee
[Sarah Dawson](#) - Chair
[Kellie Bray](#) - Vice Chair

Special Activities Committee
[Tuck Van Dyne](#) - Chair
[Ellie Miller](#) - Vice Chair

Alumnae Membership Committee
[Jackie Clark](#) - Chair
[Sheila Oliver](#) - Vice Chair

Staff Liaison
[Carin Huffman Grinch](#)

Questions? Ideas? Contact a member of the Executive Committee with program ideas, potential members, or to suggest a special activity!



Griffiths Leadership Society for Women

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Contributors to the Spring Newsletter

Kellie Bray, Carin Huffman Grinch, Emmy McClelland, Ellie Miller, Vicky Riback Wilson, MeLinda Via Schnyder, Debbie Snellen, Karla Taylor, and Tuck VanDyne.

The Griffiths Leadership Society for Women is the catalyst for global connections among diverse and distinguished MU collegian leaders and alumnae. Through lifelong learning, leadership development, and mentoring, members stimulate their potential and that of other MU women, while supporting the best interests and traditions of Missouri's flagship university.

The Griffiths Leadership Society for Women is named for Martha Wright Griffiths (1912-2003), a 1934 MU economics graduate.

Representative Griffiths practiced law and presided as a judge before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for 10 terms. She is remembered as the woman most responsible for including women in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and for influencing the ERA movement more than any woman in the modern era.

Griffiths Member Class Notes

Alumna **Judy Baker** received a 2008 Service Award from the University of Missouri Alumni Alliance for her work on behalf of Mizzou.

Alumna **Kellie Bray** has been appointed to a two-year term as an at-large member of the Mizzou Alumni Association Governing Board.

Alumna **Kristie Bray** is now a homeowner near the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, thanks in part to sound knowledge gained from alumna **Suzie Nichols'** financial planning session at Griffiths.

In January, collegian **Carrie Bien** was elected as the board chair of the Association of Student Advancement Programs, a national organization of student advancement programs. Bien was elected District 6 representative in February 2007 and will serve the district through May 2009.

Collegian **Anne Case-Halferty** was crowned 2007 Homecoming Queen. She is a past president of the Alumni Association Student Board and was a 2007 fellow at the Sue Shear Institute for Women in

Public Policy. Her husband, Christopher Ruff, was deployed to Iraq in November 2007 and is due to return in March 2009.

Collegian **Sarah Dawson** was recently promoted to the position of grant administrator and communications officer at the Missouri United Methodist Foundation in Columbia.

Collegians **Linden Fornoff** and **Nicole Niewald** were selected to be members of Mizzou '39. Established in 2005, this program recognizes 39 outstanding seniors for their academic achievement, leadership, and service to the University and community. Each recipient selects a faculty or staff mentor who has made an impact on them. Alumna **Vicky Riback Wilson** was honored by one of the recipients as a Mizzou '39 mentor. Alumna **Jackie Clark** presented recipients with their pins on behalf of MAA.

In fall 2007, alumna **Debbie Jones** completed her second Breast-Cancer Three-Day. It's a 60-mile walk sponsored by Susan G. Komen for the Cure to raise funds for breast cancer research and education.

In August, EDNA **Liz Lidgett** moved to Los Angeles to pursue a master's degree at the University of Southern California.

EDNA **Erica Lindner** accepted a new position in the procurement department at Boeing in St. Louis. Lindner will make her cross-state move in mid-March.

Collegian **Laura Merritt** has been named a Truman Scholar Finalist by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, which recognizes college juniors committed to careers in public service.

EDNA **Maggie Meyer** accepted a position as a graphic designer with *Better Homes & Gardens*. Meyer relocated to Des Moines in June to begin her new position.

Alumna **Ellie Miller** will complete her term as Co-Chair of the Mizzou Alumni Association Young Alumni Ad-Hoc Committee in June. The committee has worked to create new activities and programs for graduates of the last ten years. EDNAs Kristen Hornberger and Angie Benassi also serve on the committee.

EDNA **Alexia Norris** wed Nathaniel Dulle on November 17, 2007, in Kansas City.

On August 29, 2007, Alumna **Jaimie Pfeifer** and her husband, Scott, welcomed a son, William Kieran.

Alumna and Griffiths co-founder **Melodie Powell** received the 2007 Missouri PRIDE award from the Mizzou Alumni Association for more than 20 years of outstanding volunteer service to MAA and the university.

After nearly a decade as a communications consultant, alumna **Karla Taylor** has accepted a job as publications director of the Graduate Management Admission Council in suburban Washington, DC. She loves the paid benefits but misses her beloved late-night consultants' hours.

Do you have some good news to share?

Send us your personal and professional achievements for inclusion in the next newsletter!

[Click here](#) to email your class note.