



# 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards

## *59th Annual Distinguished Service Award*



### **Harvey P. Eisen, BS BA '64**

Chairman, CEO and Director, Wright Investors' Service Holdings, Inc.  
Chairman and Managing Partner; Bedford Oak Advisers, LLC  
Chairman and Director, GP Strategies

Harvey P. Eisen is Chairman, CEO and Director of Wright Investors' Service Holdings, Inc. (WISH), formerly National Patent Development Corporation. He has also served as Chairman of Bedford Oak Advisers, LLC, an investment partnership since 1998, and Chairman and Director of GP Strategies since 2004.

He was previously Senior Vice President of Travelers, Inc. and held various executive positions with Primerica, SunAmerica Corp., and Integrated Resources Asset Management. Mr. Eisen was president and portfolio manager of Eisen Capital Management for 10 years. He began his career as an analyst with Stifel, Nicolaus & Co. and Wertheim. Mr. Eisen has served on the Strategic Development Board for the Trulaske College of Business, University of Missouri since 1995 where he established the first accredited course on the Warren Buffett Principles of Investing. He also serves on the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board for Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the Carey Business School Board of Overseers and the Hopkins Parents Council.

Mr. Eisen is widely recognized as one of the country's leading portfolio managers. With over three decades of investment experience, he is often consulted by the national media for his expert views on all phases of the investment marketplace and is frequently quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Pension World*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Financial World* and *Business Week*, among others. Mr. Eisen also appears regularly on various television programs on CNN, CNBC, Bloomberg TV and Lou Dobbs Tonight on Fox News. He also served as a regular panelist on Wall Street Week with Louis Rukeyser for over 20 years.

Harvey Eisen graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Economics, and has also received a Master of Science in Commerce from St. Louis University. He is a former Trustee of The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, the Rippowam Cisca School, Bedford, NY, and the Northern Westchester Hospital Center, Mount Kisco, NY. Mr. Eisen is married, has two children and resides in Westchester County, NY.



# 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards

## *55th Annual Distinguished Faculty Award*



### **Marilyn Rantz**

Curators' Professor of Nursing

Marilyn Rantz is a Professor of Nursing who has been affiliated with the MU Sinclair School of Nursing (MUSSON) since 1992. She holds the named position of University Hospital Professor of Nursing, has an appointment as Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine in the MU School of Medicine, was designated as a Helen E. Nahm Chair with the School of Nursing in 2008, and was awarded the prestigious University of Missouri Curators' Professor Title in 2010.

Dr. Rantz's pioneering work in nursing home care quality spans thirty years, first in practice then as a leading researcher in the Midwest, and establishes her as a premier international expert in quality measurement in nursing homes and research programs to improve quality of care of older people. In late 2012, she secured a \$14.8 million grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for their Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents; the largest ever received across the entire University of Missouri-Columbia campus.

She has served as Principal Investigator on grants funded from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), MO Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), the Administration on Aging (AOA), among other associations and foundations. In her role as Associate Director for the MU Interdisciplinary Center on Aging, she also served as Principal Investigator for "Building Interdisciplinary Geriatric Health Care Research Centers," which was funded in 2007-2009 through the Hartford Foundation. Dr. Rantz and her interdisciplinary research teams have been funded for nearly \$60 million to conduct research in long-term care, new delivery models of care for older adults, and most recently, for technology development to enhance aging in place of community-dwelling elders. Much of this research is conducted at TigerPlace, a new model of independent housing to enable older people to age in place through the end of life, maximizing independence and function. A joint venture between the MUSSON and the Americare Corporation, Dr. Rantz was part of the

MUSSON team who worked on the original design for TigerPlace, and today is the School's Director for the facility. TigerPlace provides both an independent living environment for the area's seniors and an opportunity for students from a variety of professional areas to interact with older adults.

At both local and national levels, Dr. Rantz's professional contributions most recently include election to the Institute of Medicine in 2012. In 2005, she received both the MUSSON Faculty Award for Excellence in Research and the National Gerontological Nursing Association Lifetime Achievement Award. She was awarded the MU Alumni Association Faculty Alumni Award in 2006 for outstanding contributions to her profession, community, and MU; was inducted as a Fellow into the Gerontological Society of America in 2007; and her Aging in Place Project won the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Edge Runner Award in 2008. In 2010, she received the Midwest Nursing Research Society's Distinguished Contribution to Research in the Midwest Award and was awarded the 2011 AAN Nurse Leader in Aging Award. November 2012, she became the only individual to be twice named as an Edge Runner for two different innovations, securing her second for her long-running Quality Improvement Program for MO (QIPMO) project. Most recently in April 2013, she received the UM System President's Award for Economic Development.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Denny Alberts, BA '71, BS BA '71, MBA '72**

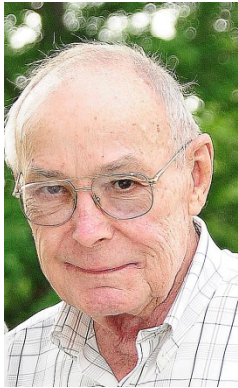
President and CEO; Silverstone Healthcare Company

Denny Alberts is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Silverstone Healthcare Company, LLC. Silverstone is an owner/developer of high quality senior housing that provides state-of-the-art assisted living and memory care services to seniors in Texas, Florida, Virginia and Maryland. Prior to joining Silverstone, Mr. Alberts served as President, COO and Trustee of Crescent Real Estate Equities, Inc., a NYSE publicly-traded REIT. Mr. Alberts was responsible for the company's office, residential, hotel and resort properties. Crescent was sold to Morgan Stanley in 2007 for \$6.5 billion. Prior to joining Crescent, Mr. Alberts served as Founder, President and CEO of Pacific Retail Trust, a privately-held REIT. Over a seven-year period, Mr. Alberts built the company into a preeminent neighborhood grocery-anchored shopping center company in the western United States with 80 shopping centers. Pacific Retail Trust was sold to Regency Centers (NYSE:REG) in 1999 for \$1.5 billion. Mr. Alberts has also served as the President of Rosewood Property Company, a luxury office and hotel company as well as President and Managing Partner of Trammell Crow Residential Company, the largest multi-family development company in the United States. Upon graduating from the University of Missouri in 1972, Mr. Alberts joined InterFirst Bank in Dallas and ultimately became Executive Vice President of the Real Estate Division.

Mr. Alberts has been involved with MU's Trulaske College of Business serving on the Strategic Development Board. He has frequently hosted "Mizzou Tigers to Dallas" students, faculty and alumni in his home. In 2009, Mr. Alberts received both the Alumni Citation of Merit Award and the Alumnus of the Year Award from the Trulaske College of Business. Mr. Alberts graduated cum laude with a BS BA degree in 1971 and an MBA degree in 1972 majoring in finance and real estate. He also played on MU's baseball team from 1969 -1971 serving as captain in 1970 and 1971 under legendary Coach John "Hi" Simmons. Incidentally, his father, Elliott Alberts, played for Coach Simmons twenty years earlier. Mr. Alberts is married to Cynthia Comparin. He has two children, Laura Mountjoy and John Alberts and two grandchildren, Mary Katherine Mountjoy (Sophomore at Texas A&M) and Brendan Mountjoy (High School Senior). Mr. Alberts' civic and philanthropic activities in Dallas have included the ATT Performing Arts Center, Baylor Healthcare Foundation, the Crow Asian Art Museum, the Oak Lawn United Methodist Church and Leadership Scholarships for underprivileged North Dallas High School students.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Morris F. Burger, BS Ag '57**

Chairman of the Board; Burger's Smokehouse

Morris Burger is Chairman of Burger's Smokehouse in California, Missouri. He received his bachelor of science in agriculture from the University of Missouri.

Under his leadership, Burger's Ozark Country Cured Hams Inc. has grown from \$70,000 in sales in 1959, to more than \$50 million in sales, 325 employees and a seven-acre plant today. The company mails three million catalogs annually, packs under private label to other mail-order companies such as Omaha Steaks and to national restaurant chains including Bob Evans, Waffle House and Cracker Barrel. A leader in product development and automation, Burger was granted a patent on his reduced-sodium country ham process in 1995. He is currently writing his biography, titled The Trail of MFB, for his great grandchildren.

His civic involvement includes the State 4-H Foundation, and numerous efforts at Mizzou. He has previously been awarded the CAFNR Alumnus of the Year. Morris and his wife, Dolores, have three children and five grandchildren.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Margaret Duffy**

Professor and Chair, Strategic Communication Faculty; Missouri School of Journalism

Margaret Duffy teaches courses in strategic communication, research methods and media management and chairs the Strategic Communication Faculty at the Missouri School of Journalism. She also directs the School's online masters program. Her new book, co-authored with Esther Thorson, is *Advertising Age: The Principles of Advertising and Marketing Communication at Work*. It offers students and professionals insights into research-based strategies with highlights from *Advertising Age*. She is CEO of Mojo Ad, a student-staffed advertising agency specializing in the Youth and Young Adult market (YAYA) serving national clients such as AOL, Redbox, Hallmark and U.S. Bank. She is also CEO of AdZou, a student-staffed agency serving national, regional and not-for-profit clients.

Her research focuses on new and interactive media, especially with regard to advertising and the news. Her recent research involves pass-along political emails, and perceptions of advertising ethics. Duffy is the co-developer of the Media Choice Model that identifies how and why consumers choose different media for in accessing news and entertainment.

Duffy is a founding board member of the Institute for Advertising Ethics in partnership with the American Advertising Federation, the Reynolds Journalism Institute and the Missouri School of Journalism. Duffy has extensive professional experience and was an executive for GTE (Verizon) in marketing, advertising and public relations. In 1995 Duffy earned her PhD in mass communication with an emphasis in organizational behavior from the University of Iowa. She consults frequently with clients as diverse as the U.S. Army and the Estee Lauder Corporation. Duffy was selected as a member of the first group of Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellows in 2008-09. She has presented research and conducted training with agencies and news groups in the U.S., China, the U.K., Thailand, Australia and South Africa.





## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Stephen Paul Ferris**

Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research

Director, Financial Research Institute

J.H. Rogers Chair of Money, Credit and Banking and Professor of Finance

Dr. Stephen Ferris is the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, the James Harvey Rogers Chair of Money, Credit and Banking, and the Director of the Financial Research Institute at the University of Missouri. Dr. Ferris served as chair of the department of finance at the University of Missouri from 1993 to 2003 and has been director of the Financial Research Institute since 2002.

His research interests include capital markets and their regulation, corporate governance, bankruptcy, and legal analysis of corporate activity. Dr. Ferris is co-author of *Dividend Policy across Countries and Temporal Depth, Age, and Organizational Performance*. Additionally, his articles have been published in *Journal of Finance*, *Financial Analysts Journal*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Journal of Financial Services Research*, *Financial Review*, *International Review of Economics and Business*, *Pacific Basin Finance Journal*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and *Journal of Business Finance and Accounting*. Dr. Ferris was the editor of *The Financial Review* from 1997 to 2003.

Prior to his appointment at MU, he was a member of the finance faculty at Virginia Tech. Dr. Ferris received his undergraduate degree from Duquesne University and his MBA and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. He also holds an MSS from the U.S. Army War College and is a retired Commander, U.S. Navy.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Wanona S. Fritz, BSN '68**

Senior Vice President, Operations and Clinical Services; HCCA Management Company

Winnie Fritz has held positions as a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Clinical Officer, and Chief Nursing Officer in a variety of U.S. hospital and healthcare organizations including Ascension, Vanguard, and Quorum. Her experience also includes serving as the Director of International Healthcare Operations for HCCA, where she worked in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. She was employed by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan as the Dean of a School of Nursing and later as the network Clinical Operations Officer for 28 hospitals. For her success in strategic and financial planning and in improved clinical performance in Jordan's hospitals, she was awarded His Majesty's Medal of Honor. Winnie was also recognized as a Chief Clinical Officer of the Year by Vanguard Health System, Nashville.

During her tenure as a nurse in the US Army, Winnie earned her pilot's wings and held leadership positions in the U.S., Thailand, and Vietnam where her commendations included the Bronze Star. She has taught at institutions such as Georgetown University, University of Maryland, University of Missouri, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Currently, Winnie is the Sr. V.P. of Clinical Operations and Services for HCCA Management of Nashville. She works with international hospitals' & health systems' leadership to build and operate facilities; AND to improve patient care outcomes, operational efficiency, and financial performance.





## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Jerry Dale Kennett, MD '73**

Senior Partner, Cardiovascular Specialist; Missouri Heart Center

Dr. Kennett, a founding member and Senior Partner of Missouri Cardiovascular Specialists, has been in practice since 1979 as an interventional cardiologist. He is a graduate of Westminster College in Fulton, MO and The University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine. He is a Past-President of the Missouri State Medical Association and previously served on the Board of Trustees of the American College of Cardiology where he continues to chair several committees including Chair of the Delegation to the American Medical Association where he also serves on the Council on Legislation. Dr. Kennett is also Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer at Boone Hospital Center. He was recently appointed to the National Commission on Physician Payment Reform. In March of 2012 Dr. Kennett was awarded the designation of Master of the American College of Cardiology.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Mitchell S. McKinney**

Professor and Chair, Department of Communication

Dr. Mitchell S. McKinney is Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri. He received B.A. degrees in Speech Communication and Government from Western Kentucky University, his M.A. in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas. McKinney began his academic career in the Department of Communication at the University of Oklahoma in 1996, and in 2000 he joined the Communication faculty at MU.

Dr. McKinney is one of our nation's leading scholars of presidential debates, having served as an advisor to the U.S. Commission on Presidential Debates where his work was instrumental in developing the presidential Town Hall debate and other innovations in the structure and practice of televised presidential debates in the U.S. He also has served as an advisor to the national election commissions in other countries, including South Korea and Germany, as these nations developed and implemented their own televised presidential and party leader debates. Additional research interests include political campaigns, media and politics, and presidential rhetoric. McKinney is the author or co-author of 8 books, and numerous journal articles and book chapters. He has received awards from the University of Missouri for his teaching, graduate mentoring and service, including the Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2009, the University of Missouri's Graduate Faculty Mentor Award in 2011, and the Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies Award from the MU Graduate School in 2014.

Dr. McKinney has combined practical political experience with his training as a political communication scholar, having served as a staff member in the U.S. Senate and at the White House. McKinney is a frequent commentator for state and national media, and has provided expert political commentary for such national media as the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, CNN and NPR. From 2006-07 Dr. McKinney served as Associate Director of the National Communication Association in Washington, D.C., and in 2012-13 he served as President of the Central States Communication

Association. In 2012-2013 Dr. McKinney was named a Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute Research Fellow, and he holds a courtesy faculty appointment with the Missouri School of Journalism. Dr. McKinney is the founder and Director of the Political Communication Institute at Missouri ([pci.missouri.edu](http://pci.missouri.edu)). He shares a home in Columbia with his partner Bryan Pepper of Overland Park, KS, and with Abby, Albert and Oscar.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Donna C. Otto, BSN '72, MS '81**

Emerita Teaching Instructor; Sinclair School of Nursing

Donna Otto holds the BSN and MS(N) degrees from the University of Missouri and began her professional career as a Staff Nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the Med Center (now known as the University Hospital and Clinics) in Columbia. She was appointed Head Nurse in 1974 and has continued to assume increasing responsibilities and administrative roles since then.

While serving as chief nurse, Otto also held a joint faculty appointment with the MU Sinclair School of Nursing and has enjoyed mentoring students. She has served as a preceptor for many students who have chosen to focus their studies in the area of nursing leadership and management.

In the spring of 2001, Otto joined the faculty at the School of Nursing and has been associated with the RN-BSN program. When she is not teaching, she serves as project coordinator for Tiger Place and as the Director of Alumni Relations. Otto has received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Friend of the School of Nursing Award, the Faculty Award for Excellence in Service, and the Leader of Leaders Award from the National Student Nurses Association.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Vicki S. Russell, BJ '72**

Publisher; Tribune Publishing Company

Vicki Russell is publisher of the Columbia Daily Tribune. A native of Chillicothe, Missouri, Russell is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, where she taught as an assistant instructor.

Prior to joining the Tribune as associate publisher in 1990, Russell was publisher of the Fulton Sun. At the time, she was the youngest woman publisher of a daily newspaper in the United States. As publisher, she won three Missouri Press Association awards for editorial writing and directed the paper toward winning several national and statewide press awards, including recognition for general excellence, community service, news and investigative reporting, photography and special projects. The Fulton City Council recognized her in 1986 for "conscientious and valuable service to the community" for her role in assisting the community to develop and adopt a new form of government.

Russell was elected as president of the Missouri Press Association board of directors in 2009. During a time when the newspaper industry was in upheaval, Russell was trusted with a mandate to help the organization and Missouri newspapers move forward. She has also been a recipient of the Callaway County Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Community Service Award as well as Missouri Press Association editorial writing awards. Russell's civic involvement includes service on numerous corporate and charitable boards in Columbia and elsewhere.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Jeremy F. Taylor**

Curators' Distinguished Professor of Genetics and Wurdack Chair of Animal Genomics

Taylor is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and received the 2014 President's Faculty Award for Sustained Career Excellence from the University of Missouri System. He is also the 2011 Frederick B. Mumford Outstanding Faculty Member and the 2008 Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Researcher in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. Taylor is the American Society of Animal Science's 2013 Rockefeller Prentice Memorial Awardee in Animal Breeding and Genetics and a member of the Missouri Quality Beef Team which was awarded the NIFA Partnership Award for Mission Integration of Research, Education, or Extension in 2013. He is a member of the Bovine Genomics Consortium which developed the Illumina Bovine SNP50 assay for which the team won the 2008 USDA Technology Transfer Award, the 2009 FLC Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer and the 2010 USDA Secretary's Honors Award.

Taylor has received more than \$40 million in competitive research funding as PI or co-PI, and has mentored 54 postdoctoral fellows, M.S. and Ph.D. students. Along with his co-investigators and graduate students he has authored 195 peer reviewed research articles, 5 book chapters, 6 patents and has edited one book. Jerry has served on the Scientific Advisory Board for several biotechnology companies. Prior to joining the University of Missouri in 2002, he was Director of Genomics at RTI International in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Prior to this, he was cofounder, board member and a senior executive of GenomicFX an agricultural biotechnology company located in Austin, TX where he participated in activities including merger and acquisition, product and business development and intellectual property management. From 1986 to 2000, he was an Associate and then full Professor in the Faculty of Genetics and Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University where he was the recipient of the Texas A&M Vice Chancellor's Awards for Teaching and Team Research in 1996 and 1997, respectively. He began his academic career as an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Tropical Veterinary Science at James Cook University in Townsville. His postdoctoral research was in the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University where he studied the genetic bases of fertility in male and female Holstein cattle. Jerry received a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics and a B.Sc. Honors degree in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Adelaide and a Ph.D. in Quantitative Genetics from the University of New England in Australia.





## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **James Garrett Thorne, Sr., BS Ag '60, DVM '61**

Associate Professor Emeritus of Veterinary Pathobiology

James Thorne earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture in 1960 and Doctor of Veterinary medicine in 1961 at the University of Missouri. He went on to complete a PhD in physiology at the University of Georgia and earn a Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of California-Davis.

Thorne began his professional career in 1961 at the Green Hills Animal Hospital in Marceline, Missouri. He also worked as the director of veterinary services for the U.S. Veterinary Corps at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas, and in general veterinary practice at the Wellsville Animal Clinic, in Wellsville, Missouri. He became an instructor at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Medicine and Surgery in 1969 before being named a research associate in the department of Physiology and Pharmacology, and in 1972, a veterinary medical resident in physiology and pharmacology.

In 1974, he returned to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine as an associate professor in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. He served as the director of Veterinary Continuing Education and Extension from 1982 to 1988 while concurrently earning his MPMV at UC-Davis. Since 1988, he has served as a clinical epidemiologist at the CVM, where he is also an associate professor. Thorne is also well-known for his role as an advisor and sponsor of the CVM Mule Club. He has spent countless hours traveling the state with the club, driving the mule team and serving as a goodwill ambassador for the College.

Thorne's service extends to his community. He has been an active member of his church, is involved with the Missouri River Steam Engine Association, is an amateur radio operator, and has volunteered in numerous capacities with the Boy Scouts, including as a scoutmaster, Wood Badge course director, and National Jamboree Health officer. He received the Boonslick District Award of Merit in 1983 and the Silver Beaver Award in 1993 from the Great Rivers Council.



## 2014 Faculty-Alumni Awards



### **Michael Anthony Williams, AB '95, JD '98**

Principal Attorney and Practice Manager; Williams Dirks LLC

Michael A. Williams received his B.A. in 1995 and his J.D. in 1998 from the University of Missouri. At the prestigious law firm of Lathrop & Gage, Williams specialized in Labor and Employment Law, litigating discrimination and retaliation claims before local, state and federal courts for large and medium size corporations throughout the United States. In 2002, he became one of that firm's youngest lawyers in history to serve as first chair at a federal trial. In 2004, he became the first African-American to serve on the Kansas Bar Association Board of Governors, and he was elected to partnership at Lathrop & Gage effective January 1, 2006.

In 2010, Williams established his own firm to pursue his passion for defending the rights of individuals denied their civil and equal employment rights. Williams Dirks Dameron LLC brings Mr. Williams' past experience as an employer representative to the side of the individual who has been wronged.

Williams is very active in the Kansas City legal community, serving as a mentor for disadvantaged youth through Higher M-Pact (a non-profit group that works with at-risk inner-city youth) and on the board for the United Way Young Leaders Society. He cites "helping young people transcend their environment and develop into productive and positive members of their school, community and family" as one of his greatest achievements...and ongoing goals. Williams has won many awards at Mizzou and beyond, including the Distinguished Recent Alumni Award by University of Missouri School of Law, University of Missouri Arts and Science Distinguished Recent Alumni Award, and Young Lawyer of the Year by Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. He lives in Kansas City with his wife and daughter.