ALUMNI AND FRIENDS of the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Missouri remember with great fondness attending classes in Gwynn Hall, one of the grand old buildings on our campus constructed in the early- to mid-1930s. They remember the days of studying in our historically beautiful Gwynn Lounge, working in the many nutritional sciences and textile production laboratories, or just passing through on their way to Memorial Union.

Starting in September 2012, the interior of Gwynn Hall will be entirely gutted. Following that demolition project, we will rebuild the entire building from the ground up through the third floor with modern offices, state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms, and first-rate conference rooms and public areas. Funding for this $11-million project will come primarily from MU campus renovation resources, along with money that HES has on reserve and donations from our wonderful supporters. Among the special features of the renovated structure, scheduled to be completed in fall 2013, will be:

• MU Nutritional Center for Health (MUNCH), which will include a state-of-the-art metabolic kitchen to support research in the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology (NEP) targeting obesity prevention. This facility will focus on improving diet and combating the obesity epidemic by integrating the metabolic kitchen, an observational food choice laboratory, and a teaching kitchen to translate research findings for the public good.

• Human Subjects Research Laboratories will allow researchers in NEP to measure changes in body fat composition and metabolic indicators among individuals participating in dietary and exercise interventional studies.

• A modernized climate-controlled facility to house the Josephine Margaret Holik Conservatory of the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection, a treasured part of our Department of Textile and Apparel Management.

• A renovated Gwynn Lounge that will also serve as a conference room.

• Modern offices for faculty and staff in the Dean's Office, NEP, and Human Environmental Sciences Extension.

As a part of the total renovation project, the Green Door classroom of our Child Development Laboratory (CDL) will be moved to the ground floor of Stanley Hall, so that all offices and classrooms for the CDL will be housed together in that building. Completing the changes will be the moving of our Office for Financial Success and the State Farm Financial Counseling Room, an important part of the Department of Personal Financial Planning, to the first floor of Stanley Hall for greater access and visibility to the public.

On page 24 of this issue of Vanguard, you can learn more about the history of Gwynn Hall and its significance to our college. You can also learn how you can participate in supporting this renovation project by making contributions to the project expenses that we anticipate—including opportunities for placing your name on one or more of the areas that will be renovated. We are excited about this new chapter in the 111-year history of HES at the University of Missouri. We can't wait to show off the “new Gwynn Hall” two years from now!

STEPHEN R. JORGENSEN
DEAN