AS I LOOK AT THE ARRAY of Vanguard stories in this issue, I cannot help but think of one word – connections. In the College of Human Environmental Sciences, we connect our faculty and students to the ever-changing and challenging world around us in so many ways. In doing so, we strive each and every day to live our mission of making a difference in the lives of others – developing and nurturing human potential at every turn. For example:

- The School of Social Work is connecting students and faculty to military families through our evolving military social work program, making a difference in the lives of those affected by post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, family stress and violence and other military related influences on veterans and their families.

- The Department of Architectural Studies is connecting students to the contemporary world of three-dimensional visualization with its iLab, giving them the tools necessary to compete and succeed in the rapidly changing world of interior design.

- The Department of Textile and Apparel Management is connecting students and faculty to the global soft goods market by hands-on training experiences with companies in El Salvador, India and elsewhere.

- The Department of Personal Financial Planning is connecting students with practicing professionals in the financial planning industry through its annual symposia, and connecting its faculty and students to the rapidly growing financial planning industry in China.

- The Department of Human Development and Family Studies is connecting students and children in the newly renovated Red Door classroom, recently opened in Stanley Hall.

- The Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology is connecting to the public with its research and outreach in the obesity-prevention arena, with HES Extension programming reaching every county in the state of Missouri.

With this issue of the Vanguard, we are also connecting with our alumni and friends who are eager to learn of progress and planning towards continued excellence in our contributions to the society around us. I urge you to read the letter from Suzanne Rothwell, president of our dynamic and active HES Alumni Board, and connect with us by letting us know how you are doing and how we can make further strides in our efforts to address human needs and make a difference in the lives of others. I look forward to hearing from you.

Stephen R. Jorgensen
Dean