THE NEW HES FACILITIES might be state-of-the-art, but its costume collection is a thing of the past. We mean that in a good way. Traditionally, selections from the collection are displayed during the MU Campus Gallery and Museum Crawl in Gwynn Hall. However, because the building is undergoing renovations, the annual event was held across campus at the Journalism School. Sponsored by Art-i-Fact, a collaborative consortium of MU campus art, science, culture and history organizations, the new location allowed a different – and larger – audience to view the collection.

Under a “That’s So ’70s” theme, 12 items were displayed in the high-ceiling rotunda of Lee Hills Hall. “The most challenging part was having to limit the number of artifacts for the event; there are only so many that can realistically be featured in an exhibit that lasts only four hours,” recalls Nicole Johnston, manager of the Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection. “Researching, dressing, transporting, setting up and taking down the 12 we selected was challenging enough; it’s quite easy to get carried away when you have such a fun treasure chest like the Collection at your fingertips!”

Faculty and staff from across campus attended on the afternoon of Sept. 8, many of them sharing memories of wearing similar fashions back in the day. “The ’70s music we selected helped create a fun, inviting atmosphere, especially when you saw kids, parents, faculty and students of all ages singing and dancing along,” Johnston says. “The decade of the ’70s wasn’t that long ago, which helps make the clothing so much more relatable to both younger and older generations.”

“It’s successful when you can make history interesting and enjoyable to today’s youth and community,” Nicole Johnston says, “and I would say we accomplished that.”

A variety of students, faculty and those from the Columbia community stopped by to visit the “That’s So ’70s” exhibit during the MU Campus Museum and Gallery Crawl in September 2012.