My window to the world now looks out to the north — toward the Memorial Union and the hundreds of students making their way to classes on a beautiful early spring day. For the better part of four years, we have been eagerly awaiting the completion of the major renovation that has given us world-class classrooms and laboratory facilities. Future issues of Vanguard will highlight the exciting changes that we have experienced in Gwynn, which we re-occupied in December 2013. HES faculty, staff members and students are ecstatic about the improvements made. We invite you to visit us for your own personal tour of Gwynn whenever you make your way to the MU campus. There is much to show off!

This issue of Vanguard provides its own window to the world in so many ways that feature the accomplishments of faculty, students and alumni. But one story, in particular, I wish to highlight — and that is the story of our alum Dr. Robert R. “Bob” Rice. Bob was serving as director of the then-named School of Home Economics at the University of Arizona in Tucson when I was hired in 1976 for my first academic position following graduation with my Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. For the entirety of my six years on the Arizona faculty, Bob supported my teaching and research career in ways that new faculty members can only hope to achieve. In a sense, he was my first administrative mentor — a career upon which I embarked in 1982 and have continued in ever since. I owe so much to Bob for that career-launching support and I am delighted to have this opportunity to feature him in his alma mater’s magazine. And apart from the fact that he has accomplished so much in his professional career as a scholar and as an artist, Bob Rice could hit a racquetball harder than just about anyone I ever knew! My hat is off to you, Bob!

Steve Jorgensen
Dean