

RUTH TOFLE / *Distinguished Faculty Award Winner*



PHOTO BY AMY SANDERS

Ruth pictured with many of her Architectural Studies faculty members.

THE HIGHEST HONOR that the Mizzou Alumni Association presents to a faculty member annually is the Distinguished Faculty Award. This award recognizes a faculty member whose sustained efforts in teaching, research and service have added to the excellence of the University. The College of Human Environmental Sciences is very proud to recognize Dr. Ruth Stumpe Brent Tofle as the 2013 recipient of the MU Distinguished Faculty Award.

Just four years after joining the University of Missouri as an energetic young faculty member, Tofle was named as chair of what is now the department of Architectural Studies.

Since then, she has led the department to national recognition. One of the first-

ever accredited interior design programs, it was named a Top 10 program and “4th Most Admired Graduate Program in Interior Design in the U.S.” by *DesignIntelligence*, a publication of the Design Futures Council. Tofle led the department of Architectural Studies in developing the first and still only online doctoral program in interior design.

Her research interests include environmental gerontology, place attachment and historic preservation. Respected in academia and in practice, Tofle is a Center for Aging Fellow, National Council for Interior Design Qualification-certified, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional and a Registered Commercial Interior Designer in the state of Missouri. For 15 years, she

chaired MU’s Campus Planning Committee for Facilities and Grounds and was a constant in guiding the campus to become the beautiful, well-designed place it is today.

Among her long list of accomplishments, Tofle was recognized by *DesignIntelligence* as one of the ‘30 Most Admired Educators for 2013, she received a Franklin County Missouri 4-H Alumni Award for outstanding contributions to community and/or the Franklin County 4-H Program in 2009, and served as associate editor of the *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research* since 1991 and *Journal of Housing for the Elderly* since 2000.

Tofle and her husband, Marvin, live in Columbia. She has two children: Jessica Breed and Jonathan Brent, BA ’02; and five grandchildren: Laura, John, Mae, Jane and Mark.

