# Building Collaborations for Advocacy

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George Justice

Interim Vice Provost and Dean

University of Missouri
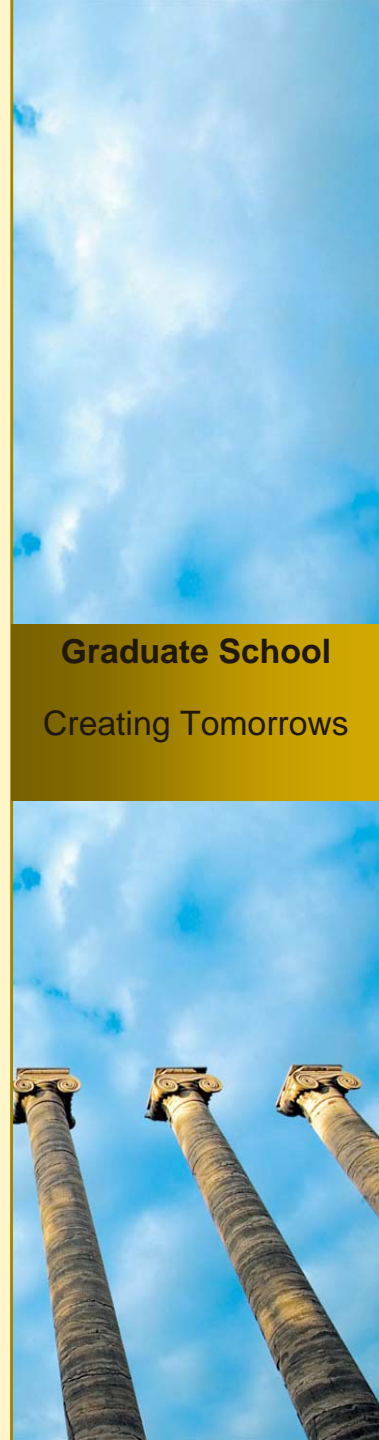
# What kind of advocacy?

- Advocacy for "graduate education"
- Advocacy for the "Graduate School"
- Both are important, but focus should be on "graduate education" first, but with an implicit (or even explicit) nod to the added value provided by a graduate school
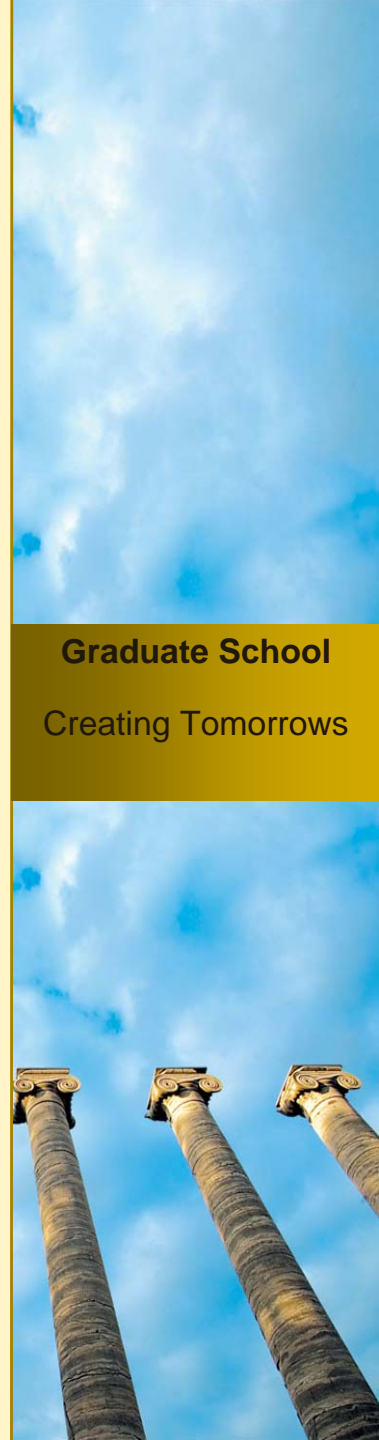
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# You against the Universe (and University)

- Graduate deans are both connected with and separated from the rest of the university
  - Strive to break down isolation
  - Build working relationships with deans, chairs, directors of graduate studies
  - Speak "with" rather than "for" graduate education, graduate faculty, and graduate students on campus
- Advocacy is what we do: and we should integrate a component of advocacy with the "service" mission that is so crucial

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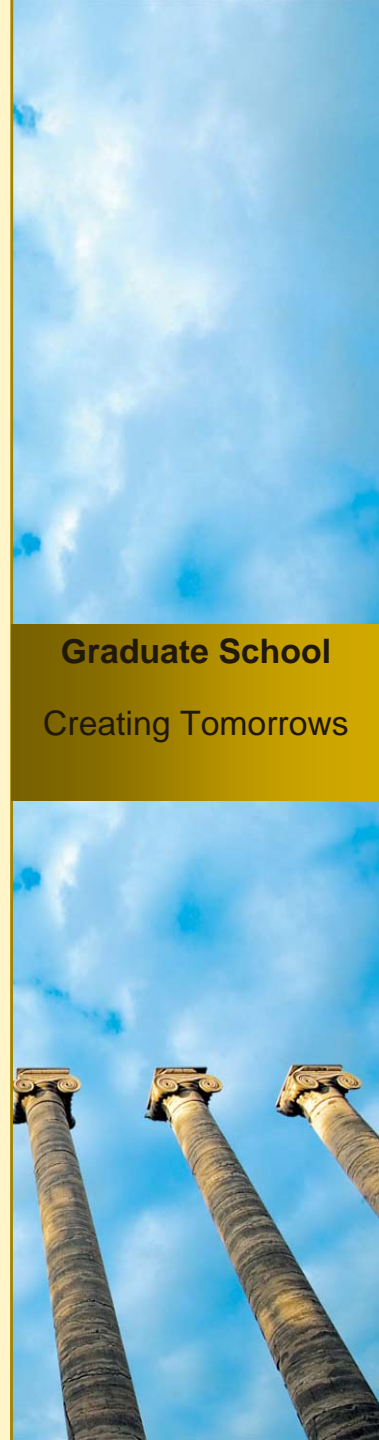Creating Tomorrows

# Campus-wide collaborations

- Students
  - "Amazing students" database
    - pocket-sized brochures for administrators
    - Bies fellowship brochure
    - Web site: http://gradschool.missouri.edu/about-us/profiles/
  - Fellowships community
    - reception and pins
    - "breakfast with the dean"
    - use of logo in presentations
  - Student groups
    - relationships with Student Life
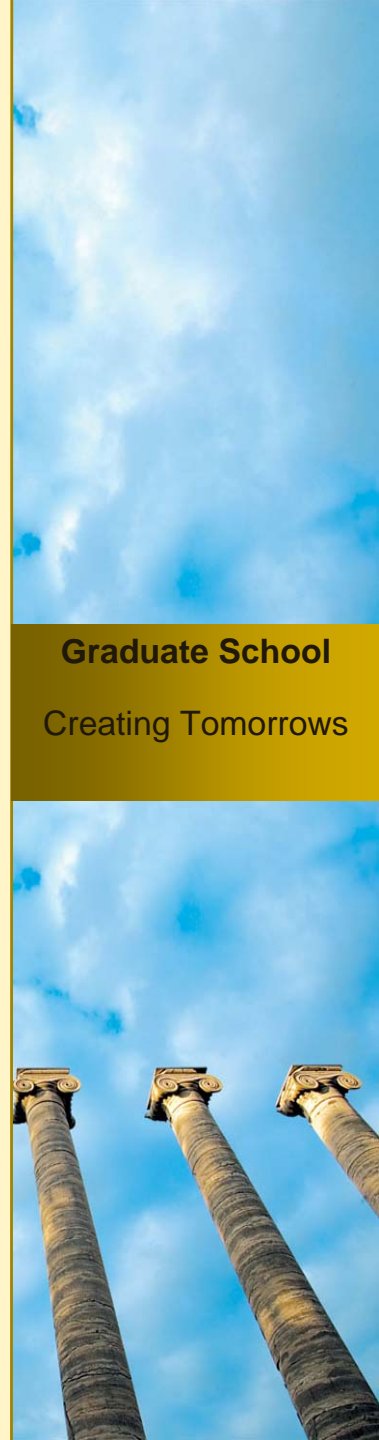    - making students true collaborators in programs

# Campus-Wide Collaborations, Part II

- Deans
  - proving that you "add value" to their work
- Faculty
  - DGS Summit and Network
  - NRC response
- Fundraising
  - working with other colleges and regional development
- Corporate relations
  - career explorations
- Athletic Department

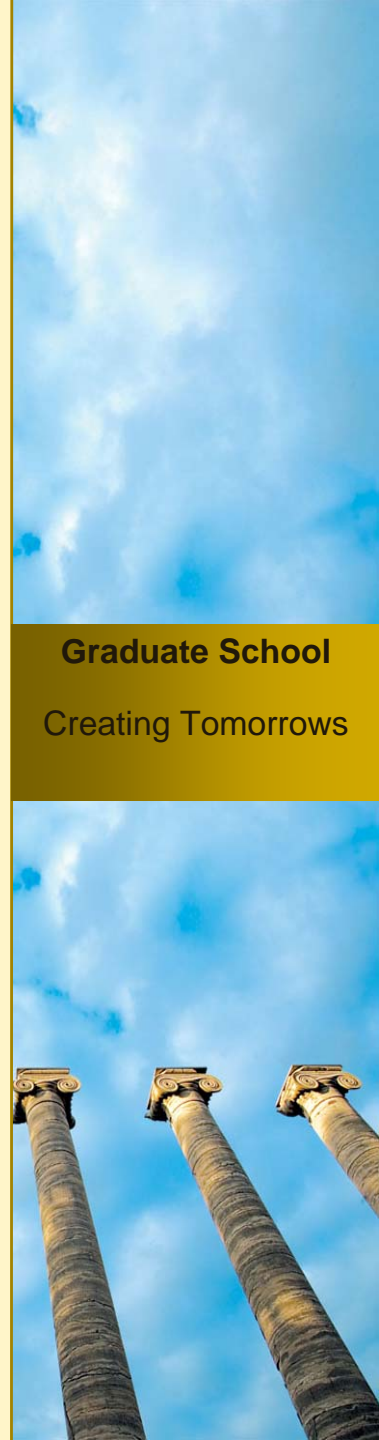**Graduate School**

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# University-Wide collaborations

- UM System monthly meetings
  - problem solving on campus
  - aid in advocacy to the UM System administration
  - will lead to educational collaborations

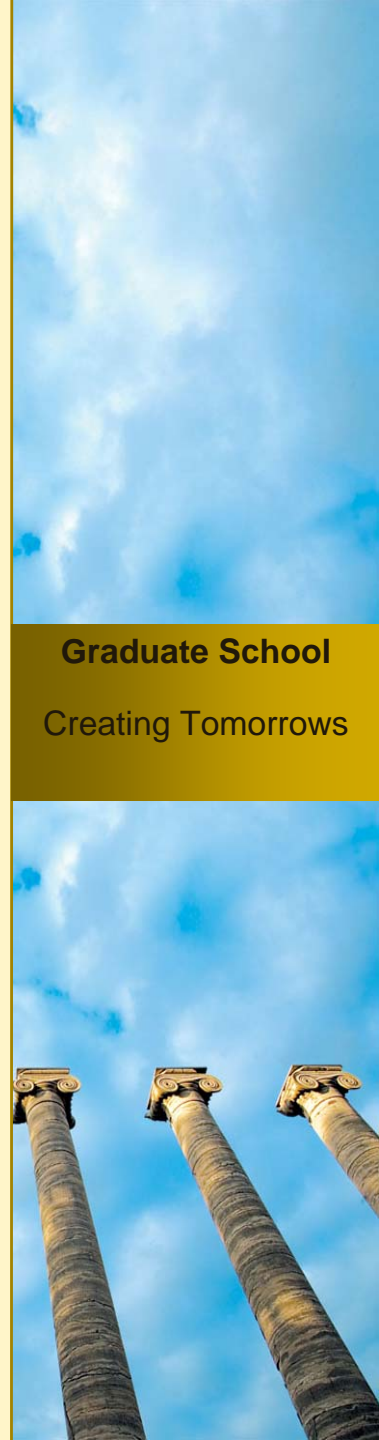**Graduate School**

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# State-wide collaborations

- McNair Scholars program
- Alumni relations
  - homecoming
  - fundraising
  - guest lecture opportunities
  - nominations for university-wide awards
- Graduate education week
  - Adventures in Graduate Education
  - workshops for the public
  - legislator recognition event

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University of Missouri Graduate School

# UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI GRADUATE SCHOOL

# MU GRADUATE STUDENT

## *Research Matters*

This special edition of *Graduate Research Matters* focuses on how interdisciplinary research benefits the lives of all Missourians.

### *In This Issue:*

## Interdisciplinary Approach Hopes to Improve Eldercare with Technology Advancements

Missouri, like much of the United States, is faced with an aging population and associated health issues. By 2025, the total number of Missouri seniors ages 65 and older will be approximately 1.2 million, or 19% of the population, according to the 2008 Missouri Senior Report. Currently, an estimated 13.4% of Missouri's population are seniors.

Electrical and Computer Engineering doctoral candidate Derek Anderson

With this looming increase in the state's senior population, the University of Missouri is performing research to help meet the upcoming challenges of an aging population.

One such research project is being conducted by Derek Anderson, a doctoral student in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Anderson is honing his research skills on a project that will hopefully lead to seniors living longer, healthier, and more independent lives. Anderson has been working with gerontology nurses at MU to develop a system that will help nurses recognize falls in elders' living quarters.
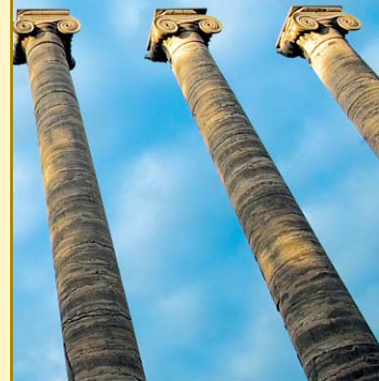
Once this system is fully developed, it can be tested at TigerPlace, a specially designed elder housing project in Columbia that was initiated by the MU Sinclair School of Nursing (SON) and designed by MU faculty working with the Americare Corporation of Sikeston, Missouri.

"Derek got us thinking about the use of voxel space for capturing physical movement of frail elders. He worked on fall detection, which has huge implications for helping elders to stay safely at home," said Marjorie Skubic, an associate professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering
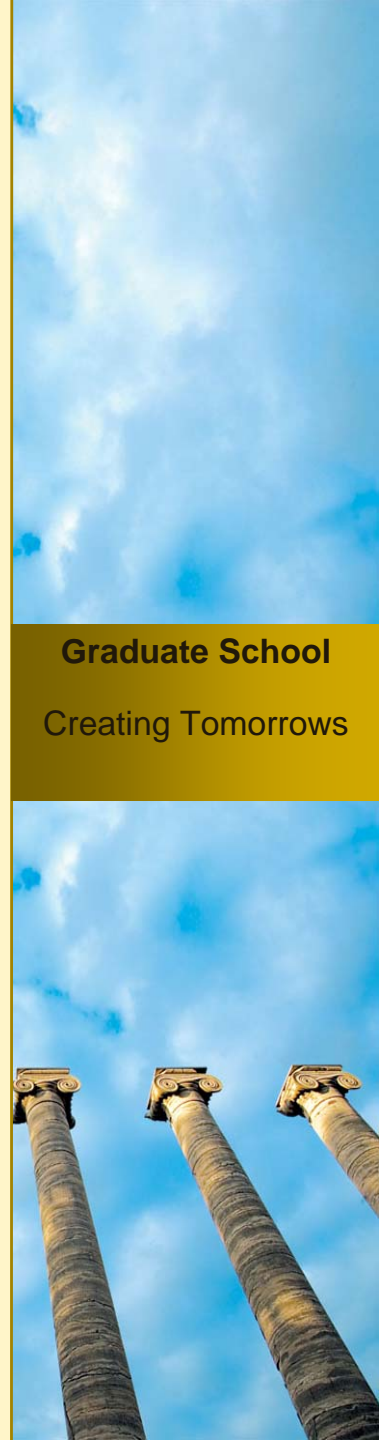
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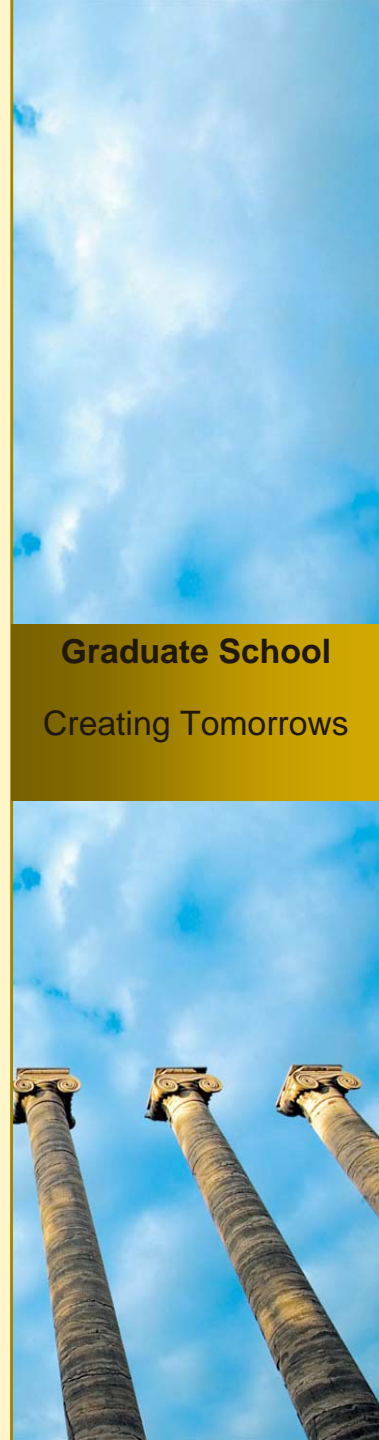# Beyond the campus

- Web
- Social networking

# Advocating for Graduate Education

- CGS publication co-written by myself and Pam Benoit

- Will outline the theory of advocacy and some best practices

- We are still collecting "best practices" so please send your ideas to us

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