Announcer ([00:03](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap ([00:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

It’s official! On July 1st, the [Reynolds College of Arts and Letters](https://rcoal.missouristate.edu/) and [College of Humanities and Public Affairs](https://www.missouristate.edu/CHPA/default.htm) at Missouri State University combined to create a new college – the Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (RCASH).

RCASH will be a destination campus for the arts, social sciences and humanities. I’m Emily Yeap.

RCASH Dean [Dr. Shawn Wahl](https://search.missouristate.edu/people/shawnwahl) joins me today to share highlights of the new college.

Shawn Wahl ([00:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The new Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities is really exciting. We have a number of new schools. One example is School of the Arts. The School of the Arts has three accredited arts programs, one being the Department of Music, which is the home of our All Steinway School, the Department of Art and Design that's based at our downtown arts campus at Brick City and the Carolla Arts Exhibition Center and of course the Department of Theatre and Dance that has a rich legacy of John Goodman, Tess Harper and so many alums.

We have the School of Communication and that school houses two departments being the Department of Communication, Media Journalism and Film, and the Department of English. We also have the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Really exciting school structure that houses history, political sciences and philosophy, sociology, anthropology, gerontology. A lot of disciplines within that school that we're really excited about investing in, in terms of looking at artificial intelligence, humanities labs and the notion of the digital humanities, which we believe investing and uplifting in those sorts of programs that helps Missouri State be a trendsetter in humanities and social sciences education.

A few of the other schools that we're really excited about in terms of profile, in terms of what makes Missouri State unique compared to other institutions is we have the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. That is an incredible profile cuz the school name places Missouri State up in a higher tier. Another school that we're really proud of is the School of Defense and Strategic Studies that's actually based in Virginia under the leadership of Dr. John Rose. The School of Defense and Strategic Studies houses our professional doctorate. That is just an incredible opportunity for so many students across the world.

Emily Yeap ([02:34](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Wahl explains why the two colleges were combined.

Shawn Wahl ([02:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The Reynolds College has an incredible story that's based upon the legacy of Judith Enyeart Reynolds. I love to tell the story that during the pandemic it was in 2020, I worked with President Smart and Vice President Brent Dunn, and we named the college with a tremendous historic scholarship gift. So that's part of what I refer to as the turning point for the college. And of course there's a rich history when you look at the former College of Arts and Letters, when you look at the former College of Humanities and Public Affairs. But when you look at the opportunity to invest and protect humanities programs, social sciences programs, one of the best ways to do that is to place those programs within a named college. And so we're really proud of that. And when we talk about Missouri State being a trendsetter in academic affairs, it's about making decisions to protect and invest in programs, and the activity and the future directions of the Reynolds College is just one snapshot of the work we're doing across academic colleges at the university.

Emily Yeap ([03:43](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The new combined college is now one of the largest colleges at Missouri State.

Shawn Wahl ([03:48](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

When you look at all of the schools, all of the departments, the Reynolds College serves over 3,000 majors. When you look at general education, really important classes in writing and speaking in political science, other really important core classes, those are just a few highlights of the college.

Emily Yeap ([04:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

With the new school, come naming opportunities.

Speaker 3 ([04:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

All the schools we've talked about, there's naming opportunities and that's one of the things I love about the Reynolds College story is historic scholarship gift, tremendous growth in the number of endowed professorships and just incredible progress has been made when you look at the multimillion dollar renovation of Ellis Hall, our investment in becoming an All Steinway School, our investment in our downtown arts campus at Brick City and the Carolla Arts Exhibition Center.

But when you look at sort of the next chapter of the Reynolds College and the next chapter of Missouri State University, we have more work to do. So there's more naming opportunities for the schools. We have donors, alums and friends across the community that may have a special connection to humanities. That's what's exciting about it because naming opportunities, it helps affordability with scholarships, it helps recruit and keep some of the best faculty in the world and it also helps us improve our facilities.

Emily Yeap ([05:08](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

That was Dean Shawn Wahl from the Reynolds College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at Missouri State. I’m Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

Announcer ([05:18](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/LzM6dgJ79d9-zxst3M1Ihe_kt9oG1AmNS0YU4M9SQC_8WxhZ20Lj9IVlCBozS-oCJIyA3946-S4oFejMsr42bqmbwjY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.