Most adults seek and enter committed partnerships, typically hoping that the relationship will fulfill and endure. Many couples achieve these goals, but relationship distress and dissolution are common — and costly — for the partners and for their children. Why do so many relationships falter despite partners' best intentions and greatest hopes? Bradbury will review theoretical accounts of how relationships change; present new research on four-year trajectories of relationship satisfaction; and outline the individual, dyadic, and contextual factors that discriminate among these trajectories. The implications of these results for preventive interventions are described, along with the results of a recent three-year randomized, controlled intervention for newlywed couples.

For more information, please visit events.psych.missouri.edu/lecture-series/

Thomas Bradbury is professor of psychology and a core faculty member in the Alfred P. Sloan Center on the Everyday Lives of Families at the University of California, Los Angeles. Trained as a clinical psychologist at the University of Illinois, he is a recipient of the Distinguished Early Career Award from the American Psychological Association and, with Benjamin Karney, has twice received the Reuben Hill Award for Research and Theory from the National Council of Family Relationships. An author of more than 100 articles on intimate relationships and the prevention of relationship distress, Bradbury's edited books include *The Psychology of Marriage* and *The Developmental Course of Marital Dysfunction*. His co-written textbook and video series, *Intimate Relationships*, was published by W.W. Norton in January. Bradbury also co-founded and co-directs the UCLA Relationship Institute.