Forsee: Cigarette tax could go a long way toward boosting budget
By Rudi Keller

Friday, October 15, 2010

LAKE OZARK — Increasing the cigarette tax to the national average could bring $700 million in new revenue to the state, University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee said today, and he said the idea deserves a thorough review.

Speaking at a Missouri Press Association breakfast, Forsee said UM is studying the tobacco tax as a potential source of new revenue. Missouri imposes a tax of 17 cents per pack on cigarettes, the lowest in the nation, Forsee said. The national average is around $1.50 per pack.

The issue capped Forsee’s remarks, which focused mostly on the university’s role in the state economy and the efforts on UM campuses to control costs and deal with record enrollments. He said the university contributes to higher incomes and job growth and provides research that will spur new industries and products that will boost the economy. And while tuitions have increased 73 percent on the campuses in the past decade, the university is operating with state appropriations at the same level as in 2001, he said.

Asked afterward if he or the university will lead a call to increase cigarette taxes, Forsee said the issue needs more study to determine public attitudes. “We don’t want to get ahead of where the citizens are,” he said.

Higher education isn’t the only area that could benefit, Forsee said. Money from an increased cigarette tax could be used to help smokers quit and other health care needs.

When the General Assembly convenes in January, there will be 67 new members of the Missouri House. Many candidates are running on a pledge that they will not support new taxes.

A tax increase will be an issue for the legislature but probably not in the coming session, Forsee said after his speech.

In 2006, Missouri voters narrowly rejected an 85-cent per pack increase that would have funded Medicaid services.

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.
ESPN College GameDay Is Coming to Mizzou!

Wildly-Popular Show Makes Its Mizzou Debut This Weekend

Oct. 17, 2010

Columbia, Mo. - The University of Missouri is pleased to announce that ESPN's College GameDay show is coming to the Mizzou campus for the first time ever this week, in conjunction with Mizzou's Homecoming game against Oklahoma.

Many details will follow throughout the week, but Tiger fans of all ages are encouraged to come show their support for the show during their stay in town.

MU officials are working with ESPN on location details, which will be announced as soon as they're available. The show will run from Mizzou on Friday from approximately Noon to 2 p.m. (central time), as well as the Saturday show which runs from 8-11 a.m. (central time). Fans are invited to come out to the activities on both days.

Stay tuned to www.mutigers.com for more details and updates on this exciting development!
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri to host College GameDay

By Missourian staff
October 17, 2010 | 9:49 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — For the first time, MU will host ESPN's College GameDay, according to football team spokesman Chad Moller. The 6-0 Tigers will host the 6-0 Oklahoma Sooners in Missouri's Homecoming game on Saturday.

College GameDay will air live from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday and then later the game will be televised. Game time is 7 p.m. ESPN's crew will also record segments of the show on Friday from noon to 2 p.m.

In the BCS standings released Sunday ranked Missouri at No. 11 and Oklahoma at No. 1.

Moller said that MU officials are currently working with ESPN on location details for the show's set.
Faculty worry about state’s degree review

Nixon called for the evaluation.

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, October 17, 2010

University of Missouri faculty members remain concerned about a state charge to review degree programs that graduate few students annually.

Members of the MU chapter of the American Association of University Professors yesterday criticized the state for turning first to academics when looking for efficiencies in higher education.

"Why is it always that faculty and students are an option whenever we go to cut?" chairwoman Victoria Johnson questioned, adding that academics are the “heart and soul” of a university.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education has instructed public colleges to review “low-producing” degree programs — undergraduate units that graduate, on average, fewer than 10 students a year, master’s programs that graduate fewer than five and doctoral programs that graduate fewer than three students.

The state’s Coordinating Board for Higher Education does not have the authority to force an institution to eliminate those programs, but it can encourage an institution to consider whether low-producing areas are a valuable use of resources, said board chairman Lowell Kruse.

He said the degree review stems from a charge Gov. Jay Nixon issued the higher education community in August. Nixon pointed to the fact that new academic programs created in 2009 outpaced discontinued programs by a ratio of five to one, a pace he said is not sustainable.

MU has 75 so-called “low-producing” degree offerings, most of which are graduate-level. Administrators have until Thursday to submit details of each of those departments to the state, explaining why those units are needed. For instance, while fewer than 10 MU students, on average, have earned bachelor’s degrees in statistics over the past three years, most students take statistics courses for other majors. But if the state is looking for efficiencies in higher education, the board could look elsewhere, faculty members say.
“Personally, I think we should look at all expenses we have at the university and not just those that go into academic programs,” said Sudarshan Loyalka, chair of MU Faculty Council’s faculty affairs committee.

AAUP members questioned why administration expenses and programs aren’t being reviewed. For instance, the UM System recently created a $5 million economic development fund, and MU has set aside $6 million for Mizzou Advantage to promote cross-campus collaboration. And coordinating board members already have administrative salary data at their fingertips: The base pay and perks of all presidents and chancellors are available on the higher education department’s website.

Kruse has heard these questions. He said he’s received recent letters from professors asking why academics are being reviewed before administration or athletics.

“We can’t look at everything at once,” he said, stressing that the degree review stemmed from Nixon’s request. That program evaluation “will lead to second- and third-level questions.”

The fact remains that higher education has suffered significant cuts and faces more. he said.

“One step at a time, we’re trying to figure out a way to survive and thrive in this new reality,” he said, adding “we’re all in this together.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Deaton is ready for evaluation

Chancellor’s review was scheduled for last year.

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, October 17, 2010

University of Missouri faculty members this year will have a chance to grade Chancellor Brady Deaton for the first time since he took the helm in 2004.

Brady Deaton: To face faculty evaluation

MU’s top administrators are supposed to be up for evaluation every five years, but last year Deaton’s review was postponed. That means his evaluation this year falls at the same time faculty members will also be asked to review Provost Brian Foster.

The task of putting the evaluation process together falls to Clyde Bentley, vice chairman of MU Faculty Council and an associate professor of journalism. Bentley said faculty members can expect an online survey next semester.

Bentley said it’s too early to say what the questionnaire will include and that both administrators will have a chance to review questions before they go to faculty.

Bentley also indicated he’s not looking for controversy.

“I don’t believe evaluations should be a confrontational process,” he said. “I’ve always used them as a positive process helping both sides explore areas for possible improvement.”
But that shouldn't mean the evaluations will shy away from gleaning accurate feedback, said Sudarshan Loyalka, a curators' professor of nuclear engineering and chair of Faculty Council's Faculty Affairs Committee.

"These reviews only occur every five years or so, so they need to be very thorough rather than superficial," he said. "This is our chance. We get one chance in five years through a regular process."

Although faculty members do not hire the chancellor — that task falls to the UM System president and, ultimately, the Board of Curators — that administrator needs support from everyone, Loyalka said.

"Certainly a chancellor cannot continue if faculty loses confidence in him or her," Loyalka said, speaking in general terms. "An academic administrator cannot be effective if he or she loses the confidence of either party: the board or faculty."

Deaton said he's looking forward to faculty feedback. "This exercise is very useful and helpful for the institution," he said. "It gives faculty a chance to express what they're thinking and feeling about the quality of leadership being provided by the chancellor, and it gives me feedback about what faculty is thinking. ... I'd like to know that their thinking and understanding of what we're doing as a university is consistent with mine."

Deaton said his goal as chancellor has been to make the campus a "destination university" for faculty, staff and students. He can check the latter off his to-do list: Enrollment on his watch has reached all-time highs. Deaton also made diversity a priority and has seen minority student enrollment increase, although he admitted there's still work to be done to improve the diversity of the faculty and staff.

The evaluations come at a time when employee morale is low. Most faculty and staff haven't received raises in two years and have seen benefit costs increase. An employee survey earlier this year revealed that most faculty members don't feel engaged on campus.

Those sentiments could show up in the survey results, Bentley said.

"Anytime you have a situation that's unusual, that's going to have some effect on opinions," he said. "But you can often get accuracy by the way you write the questions. Surveying is never a simple process, and the key to surveying is writing the questions."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
MU faculty get to evaluate chancellor

Posted: Sunday, October 17, 2010 1:44 pm

Faculty at the University of Missouri will get their first chance to evaluate Chancellor Brady Deaton's performance since he took over in 2004.

The university's top administrators are normally evaluated every five years, but Deaton's review was postponed last year. His first evaluation then will also be held the same year faculty members will be asked to review Provost Brian Foster.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that faculty members can expect an online survey next semester.

The evaluations come at a time when most faculty and staff haven't had raises in two years. An employee survey earlier this year revealed that most faculty members don't feel engaged on campus.
MU faculty considering policy to revoke degrees

Posted: Saturday, October 16, 2010 3:00 pm

Faculty council groups from the University of Missouri system are in the early stages of considering formalizing a policy to revoke degrees.

Leona Rubin, chairwoman of University of Missouri’s Faculty Council, said she mentioned the need for a degree revocation process during a general faculty council meeting earlier this month.

Rubin told The Columbia Daily Tribune that the discussion about formalizing the procedure is just beginning and likely will be handled first within the Intercampus Faculty Council, the body that represents all four campuses.

Bill Wiebold, a University of Missouri professor who chairs the Intercampus Faculty Council, said the group will first need to get information from the university system’s academic office and seek legal advice.

"It's important," he said. "It's not a trivial process."
Faculty seeks process for revoking degrees
Campus council broaches topic.

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Faculty council groups from both the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus and the four-campus system are starting to discuss the possibility of formalizing a policy to revoke degrees.

Leona Rubin, chairwoman of MU’s Faculty Council, said talks started after two cases of cheating garnered local attention. “Certainly there was a concern about Paige Laurie, and what if that had been a student at MU,” Rubin said.

Laurie, daughter of Columbia’s Bill and Nancy Laurie, voluntarily surrendered her degree to the University of Southern California in 2005, after a roommate claimed to have been paid $20,000 to do Laurie’s homework. The scandal had local ramifications when Paige Laurie’s name was stripped from what’s now Mizzou Arena — a building funded with donations from the Laurie family.

Rubin also pointed to the 2007 case where an MU postdoctoral researcher, Kaushik Deb, manipulated research images to draw false conclusions. Although Deb’s fraud happened during post-graduate activities, not when Deb was a student, Rubin said it highlighted another form of academic dishonesty. Rubin mentioned the need for a degree revocation process during a general faculty council meeting earlier this month, saying MU doesn’t have a way to revoke degrees. She’s since learned that’s not the case.

“We have in the past revoked them,” said Brenda Selman, director of the registrar’s office.

Selman said there are no written guidelines, though, and she said the office handles revocations on a case-by-case basis. She said she didn’t know specifics of what degrees have been revoked in the past, only that those graduates were found to have not met degree requirements.

Rubin said the fact degrees have been revoked without written policies is even more reason for faculty groups to develop written guidelines. “Without a formal process, it might leave the university open to litigation if it’s a questionable case,” she said.

Rubin stressed that the discussion is in infancy and that it likely will be handled first within the Intercampus Faculty Council, the body that represents all four campuses.
Bill Wiebold, an MU professor who chairs Intercampus Faculty Council, said the group will first need to get information from the UM System’s academic office and seek legal advice from the general counsel. “It’s important,” he said. “It’s not a trivial process.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Allan Purdy, 1914–2010


Services will be held at a later date.

Allan was born July 26, 1914, in Macon County to Alfred Lee and Susan Luella Walker Purdy. He married Vivian Creech on June 23, 1945, and she survives.

Allan served with the U.S. military from 1942 to 1945 during World War II in the Mediterranean Theater. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri. He was a member of the First Baptist Church since 1934.

Allan was well known in Columbia for his community involvement his entire life.

He was recognized nationally as an advocate for university students.

He worked for the University of Missouri in 1946 for the state horticulture extension, retiring in 1979 as director of student financial aid. He was a founding force in the formation of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in 1962.

In addition to his wife, Vivian, of Columbia, he is survived by three sons, Raymond H. Purdy of Madison, Wis., George A. Purdy of Seattle and Robert A. Purdy of Renton, Wash.; a daughter, Christina P. Purdy of Seattle; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Allan was preceded in death by his parents, five brothers and sisters.

Memorials may be given to University of Missouri College of Food and Natural Resources Advancement Office, 2-4 Ag. Bldg., Columbia, Mo., 65211; or to First Baptist Church.

Online condolences may be left at www.parkerfuneralservice.com.
Financial aid expert Allan Purdy dies at 96
By Janese Silvey

Published October 14, 2010 at 4:12 p.m.
Updated October 15, 2010 at 1:39 p.m.

Allan Purdy, best known for his efforts in helping college students secure loans and scholarships, died yesterday after suffering a stroke on Sunday. He was 96.

Purdy worked in the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture before becoming the campus's first director of scholarships and student financial aid. He was the founding president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and helped create the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, spending 20 years on MOHELA's board of directors.

"He is the epitome of the heart and spirit of agricultural education at the University of Missouri and throughout this state," said Thomas Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. "Moreover, he touched more lives than most people by his commitment to helping students find loans to go to college."

Purdy was born in 1914 in Macon County and grew up active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America, according to Tribune archives. He graduated from Macon High School.

In 1938, he earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's degree the next year. Purdy then joined the Navy, where he served as a PT boat captain during World War II.

He returned to MU to work as an Extension horticulturist and became an advocate for the agricultural school to provide scholarships for more students, working alongside the College of Agriculture dean.

His efforts got noticed. In 1957, then-MU President Elmer Ellis put him in charge of all MU scholarships, student loans and jobs, the first position of its kind on campus. He would spend the next 21 years in the office.

In 1982, then-Gov. Kit Bond called on Purdy to help students from across the state obtain student loans, resulting in the creation of MOHELA.

Later in life, Purdy was an outspoken critic of former Gov. Matt Blunt's plan to sell MOHELA assets for funding for construction projects. Purdy unsuccessfully attempted to bring the issue to voters before Blunt enacted the so-called Lewis and Clark Initiative.
“MOHELA was never started as a moneymaking entity,” Purdy said in a 2007 interview with The Associated Press. “It started as a service organization to help students who had to borrow money to get a higher education.”

Gov. Jay Nixon, who also opposed Blunt’s MOHELA initiative, yesterday released a statement praising Purdy’s devotion to making college affordable.

“I was privileged to work with Mr. Purdy on education issues in recent years,” he said. “Well past his 90th birthday, he still demonstrated the wisdom and insight that made him a leader in education for many decades. Mr. Purdy leaves a legacy in Missouri that everyone who values higher education should honor.”

Payne said he’ll remember Purdy as a positive person who always wanted to help others. He also had a knack for remembering people, Payne said. Anytime someone would mention a former colleague, “Allan would comment: ‘Ah, yeah. I raised him from a pup,’ ” Payne said. “He’s raised a lot of us, whether we were his students or colleagues, and we’re all better for it.”

Purdy is survived by his wife, Vivian, and four children and their families.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Grad student unsuccessfully cc's other students; dean left holding the bag

By Janese Silvey

Posted October 15, 2010 at 4:16 p.m.

Here's a tip for MU students who don't want other students to know about their personal situations: Don't include other students' e-mail addresses on your e-mails to administrators.

According to The Maneater, a graduate student sent an e-mail to Chancellor Brady Deaton, cc'ing other administrators and, apparently, the entire graduate student body. The only reason that initial e-mail didn't land in the inboxes of other students is because that student didn't have permission to send list-serve type e-mails.

So graduate school Dean George Justice is essentially left holding the bag. He tried to forward his thoughts to the administrators the graduate student originally included but -- because he does have permission to send bulk e-mails -- his response went to the graduate student body. The e-mail included some personal information about the student and Justice has since apologized, The Maneater reported.

"We understand that some students and others have expressed distress that an e-mail from Graduate School Dean George Justice was accidentally distributed more broadly than he intended," MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said in a prepared statement. "The university deeply regrets any distress caused to anyone as a result of this e-mail. The dean made an inadvertent mistake when sending an e-mail that included personal information about a student; it was intended to be a private communication expressing concern for a student.

The dean has apologized for the error. Unfortunately, this error in electronic communication should serve as a reminder to all of us that we need to exercise extreme care in the use of electronic communication and that the message can become public.

We plan to review our training for handling sensitive information to ensure that the occurrence of such errors is minimized."

Of course, to ensure this doesn't happen, students need to pay attention to who they try to include on their original messages.
Hospital gets 3 YouZeum exhibits

Officials plan to pursue others...

By Janese Silvey

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Maureen Snelling joked that she'd like to take the Phun Physiology sculpture in the main lobby of the YouZeum back to Denver with her. With its rolling balls and bells and rattling bones, the 16-foot tall exhibit had enthralled her 3-year-old daughter when the family visited the interactive museum yesterday during a trip to Columbia.

In reality, the audio kinetic sculpture belongs to Landmark Bank and is one of dozens of pricey YouZeum exhibits in need of new homes after the museum closed its doors for good yesterday.

So far, three of the exhibits have landed in the lobby of the new Women's and Children's Hospital, part of University of Missouri Health Care. A videogame featuring healthy food superheroes, a touch-screen memory game and an interactive map of Columbia are now being enjoyed by patients and their families, said Keri Simon, the hospital's executive director.

Although she lamented the loss of the YouZeum, "the timing was really beautiful for us," Simon said. The Women's and Children's Hospital, formerly Columbia Regional, opened last month after renovations. Simon said administrators had wanted to include something interactive and entertaining in the lobby. "We wanted something that had a health focus and be educational while still fun for kids," she said. The YouZeum exhibits "are a beautiful fit."

The interactive map — which originally highlighted where YouZeum visitors could go to get exercise — will be updated to benefit out-of-town hospital guests, Simon said. She envisions the map being programmed to include restaurants, grocery stores and hotels, places families look for when in town for a hospital stay.

So far, the exhibits have been a hit, Simon said. "It's fun to walk through and see people playing on them," she said.

Simon said the hospital is eyeing some of the remaining exhibits. "There are a few others we'd love to have but don't know yet," she said.

Boone Hospital Center also is expected to take some of the YouZeum exhibits.
“We’re trying to find the best use for everything we have left and also honor the commitment folks in the community have made to us,” said YouZeum board member Lyle Johnson. Johnson said he could not provide more details because he’s not attended recent board meetings.

The YouZeum had three levels of exhibits. In addition to the sculpture, the museum’s main floor included a statue of a skeleton drinking milk and lifting weights, a talking vending machine, virtual versions of the MKT and Hinkson Creek trails and YouNewz, which let participants practice being news anchors. Downstairs, visitors had a chance to explore a real ambulance and experiment with diagnosing patient symptoms.

“I think the YouZeum was wonderful,” Simon said. “But if it’s not going to be in existence, we’re grateful to receive some of those displays.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Work on 3M solar project starts small
Plant expansion is creating jobs.

By Kris Hilgedick

Friday, October 15, 2010

A team of Columbia 3M employees is living temporarily in Minnesota to learn how to manufacture a new protective material — a thin film — used in solar energy panels.

Columbia 3M Plant Manager Bill Moore said a six-person team from his plant is working with a group of engineers and scientists on a pilot project in St. Paul.

"They are manufacturing the product for the marketplace right now," he said. "Our challenge is to take the small pilot and turn that into commercial-scale production. We're able to do that, but how do you do it in the most efficient way possible?"

Ultimately, the expansion is expected to create 120 new 3M jobs at the Paris Road plant, but not all the positions are related to the solar project. Already, 3M has hired four new employees and assigned two plant engineers.

Moore hasn't developed a plan to hire the rest yet.

"It will probably be six months before we understand what that's going to look like," he said.

The majority of the facility expansion is scheduled to be completed in 2011, 3M said in a news release. Moore wouldn't confirm a timeline, though.

"We want to try and drive it faster than that," he said. "But we have to figure out what are all the constraints."

The new product is called 3M Ultra Barrier Solar Film, a product designed to support the growing demand for high-efficiency, flexible photovoltaic panels.

Scientists are searching for other ways to generate solar electricity, but silicon still remains the highest-efficiency material for collecting the sun's power. Silicon, however, is brittle and expensive, and must be protected from the elements.

3M's new solar film acts as a replacement for glass because it transmits light efficiently, acts as a moisture barrier for the silicon, and it weathers well.
“It’s very lightweight and totally flexible,” Moore said.

He said a standard solar panel might weigh 50 pounds, making it difficult and expensive to bolt to a roof. The new product will reduce installation costs.

“It’s a raw material people can use in a lot of different applications,” Moore said, noting the film will be sold in rolls. “It’s now up to the entrepreneurs to take the product and figure out ways to use it. We’re not going to dictate that ... the potential is hard to imagine. It’s a game-changer in the solar industry.”

Scientists are searching for a way to replace expensive silicon with a new semiconductor material called CIGS, which is short for copper indium gallium diselenide. CIGS has been gaining in efficiency and nearly matches silicon now.

“It’s finally at the point where it looks really promising,” said Shubhra Gangopadhyay, a professor at the University of Missouri’s College of Engineering. “But the cost has to come down far enough so that people are thinking about making panels out of it.”

Moore said the marriage of CIGS with 3M’s film technology is “the change that’s happening right now.”

The goal is flexibility — the flexibility to mount a solar panel on a curved roof or the top of a vehicle or a remote barn.

The new 3M material was displayed at the Solar Power International Conference in Los Angeles this week.

Moore said 100,000 people are working on renewable energy there.

“What’s going to come out of that is solutions,” he said.

Reach Kris Hilgedick at 573-815-1722 or e-mail khilgedick@columbiatribune.com.
Parents, children turn out for fun at Tiger Family Fest

By Michelle Markelz
October 16, 2010 | 8:24 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Parents bobbed for resources while kids bobbed for apples on Saturday at the first Tiger Family Fest.

Spread across the field behind the ParentLink office, more than 14 family-friendly businesses handed out free pamphlets and snacks to attendees and hosted activities. All gathered in an effort to promote family and community development. Health and safety advocates provided information and guidance for parents while kids played in haystacks and decorated pumpkins among other things.

ParentLink is a statewide, grant-funded program through the MU College of Education, with an emphasis on helping mid-Missouri parents.

Carol Mertensmeyer, director of ParentLink, said it held the event to raise funds and community awareness of the program's services and to celebrate Make-A-Difference Month, a national effort geared towards volunteerism and community engagement.

The event kicked off with a 5k race. One runner, Elise Huey, 8, played in the kids' area with her brother after crossing the finish line.

"I was having lots of fun," she said of the race. "I wish I could do this again some day."

Vendors such as New York Deli Restaurant and Catering Service, Smokin' Chick's BBQ and The Gold Nugget Popcorn Company, sold their products to benefit the program.

Meg Roodhouse, the ParentLink project manager, said 15 percent of all vendor sales went directly to ParentLink.

"We had quite a few people who couldn't exhibit," she said, "So they offered items for
the raffle.” These included music, food and gift certificates.

Safe Kids Columbia, a branch of Safe Kids Worldwide, donated booster seats, and My Life Clinic set up a diaper-changing station and rest area for parents, Roodhouse said. Attendees could also buy Scholastic Inc. books on sale in the ParentLink building.

Parents, such as Annette Jostes, 46, of Columbia, came to let their children play, and stayed to gather the parenting resources. Jostes' original plan was to “keep the kids busy on a Saturday,” she said. Although she has never used ParentLink, she said she might use its resources in the future.

Kids could take their pick among several activities including:

- Arts and crafts sponsored by Andrew Stone Optometry.
- Free books donated by Columbia's Finest Child Development Center.
- Hayrides supported by the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.
- Kids corral sponsored by EDC, an electronic design corporation.
- Bounce houses sponsored by First Midwest Bank and Century 21.
- Face painting by the Foundation for the Higher Good.
- Apple bobbing and pumpkin decorating provided by Fahrmeier Farms.

Members of the Columbia United Football Club, a recreational youth soccer team, personalized pumpkins for a contest whose proceeds will benefit an orphanage in Nepal.

“I just feel like helping out people and being with my friends and having a good time,” said Alex Wimer, 10, as he took a break from decorating. Wimer and his teammates agreed they enjoyed helping others.

“It feels good,” he said. “I get this fuzzy feeling in my stomach.”

ParentLink opens its doors to every parent in need, Mertensmeyer said.

"Outreach and service are part of the mission of a land-grant university, and we were glad to help fulfill that," she said.

MU students can work as interns and volunteers for ParentLink. MU student Laneé
Bridewell, 23, who is a member of the Cub Hub staff, attested to the benefits of the program's resources.

The Cub Hub is a ParentLink program that offers student-parents free childcare so they can study on Monday and Wednesday nights. MU students watch the children as a form of service learning.

For Bridewell, seeing the people she helps is what she enjoys most.

"It's so tangible," Bridewell said. "You don't have to go through any red tape. It's a lot easier to see the results of their work when they're not asking people to fight through bureaucracy."

Attendees go nuts for the eighth annual Missouri Chestnut Roast

By Brooke Shunatona
October 16, 2010 | 8:44 p.m. CDT

NEW FRANKLIN — In the middle of a field in New Franklin, farmers roasted chestnuts they brought from all over the Midwest on open fires.

They also boiled them. And made them into soups. And cooked them in ways that many folks would never have thought to do.

The farmers sold their chestnut products at the eighth annual Missouri Chestnut Roast on Saturday, hosted by the MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center's chestnut research program. Attendees sampled the different chestnut recipes, watched cooking demonstrations and cracked open information on what farmers and researchers called the "un-nut."

"Chestnuts are something we're introducing to Missouri growers," Michelle Hall, the research center's information specialist, said. "You always hear the song, but most people have never had a chestnut, so it's fun to introduce people to this new crop that doesn't taste like any other nut."

Here's what participants had to say about the mysterious nut:

Vida Cownright, executive chef at MU Campus Dining Services

Position at the festival: Chestnut cooking demonstration instructor

Samples: Carolina chestnut pork, jalapeño chestnut bread, chestnut hummus and coconut lime chestnut wontons.
Favorite chestnut recipe: "I really like the hummus," Cartwright said. "I've done the hummus before, but the three others are new. It's fun to have a forced inspiration, like chestnuts."

Fact about chestnuts: "The biggest thing is it's the 'un-nut.' Most nuts are high in fat, but this nut is low in fat and high in starch. You also can't just crack the shell and eat it like any other nut. You have to cook them."

Tommy and Teresa Capps, owners, Capps Chestnut Orchard

Sold: Colossal, large, medium and small chestnuts, along with chestnut chili to sample and buy.

Favorite chestnut recipe: "I like them roasted better," Teresa Capps said. "But chili is my second favorite."

Fact about chestnuts: "We've found that a chestnut is actually a fruit and will mold, but we'll just throw ours in the freezer."

Charlie and Debbie Milks, owners, Chestnut Charlie's

Sold: Roasted and raw chestnuts.

Favorite chestnut recipe: "Oh my gosh, Wolfgang Puck's braised chestnuts," Debbie Milks said. "Actually, can I have two favorites? There's a chestnut bisque I really like, too."

Fact about chestnuts: "It's the only nut with vitamin C in it."

Describe the taste of chestnuts: "It's most like a sweet potato. But I've heard chicken and hard boiled eggs before, too."

Ken Hunt, research scientist at MU Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center

Position at the festival: The self-described answer man helped with roasting and took questions about chestnuts.
Favorite chestnut recipe: "I make a hearty soup that I like with chestnuts, carrots, parsnips, leaks and paprika flavoring," Hunt said.

Fact about chestnuts: "They're not a regular nut. They're starchy instead of oily like other nuts are — more like brown rice."

Amber Gaddy, banjo player for Nine Mile Band

Position at the festival: live musical entertainment

Experience at the festival: "We've never been before and wanted to go," Gaddy said. "It's just a really laid-back atmosphere, and now we get to go walk around and try things."

Favorite chestnut recipe: "I make an awesome mushroom chestnut stuffing."

Describe the taste of chestnuts: "I think they taste a little eggy. It's an egg flavor."

Natalya Shlyakhtina, Columbia resident

Experience at the festival: "I wanted to go and try a chestnut because I've never tried one before and know very little about them," Shlyakhtina said.

Favorite chestnut recipe: "I just like the boiled chestnuts."

Describe the taste of chestnuts: "I really can't explain. Maybe a little bit potato — definitely not something I eat every day."