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## ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

# Actor Robert Loggia, writer Heat-Moon to get MU honors

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | Posted: Monday, December 5, 2011 6:52 am

**COLUMBIA, Mo. • Actor Robert Loggia and writer William Least Heat-Moon will receive honorary degrees from their alma mater, the University of Missouri.**

Both will receive the degrees and speak at the school's honors graduation ceremony Dec. 17.

Loggia is a veteran of the Broadway stage, film and television and has more than 100 movies to his credit. He's a 1951 graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism.

Heat-Moon is a Columbia resident best known as the author of "Blue Highways," which chronicled his backroads journey across America. He has earned four degrees from the university, including a doctorate in English. The author is also known as William Trogdon.

# MISSOURIAN

## Author, actor to receive honorary degrees at MU Honors Commencement ceremony

Friday, December 2, 2011 2:31 p.m. CST

BY NINA BOLKA

**COLUMBIA – MU will present two honorary degrees to author William Trogdon and actor Robert Loggia at the Honors Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 17.** Both men received undergraduate degrees from the university but are being recognized for achieving distinction in their respective fields.

Loggia, a 1951 School of Journalism graduate, has been in more than 100 movies since his first film, “Somebody Up There Likes Me” in 1956. His acting career is not strictly in film — he’s performed in television shows and Broadway musicals. Some of his most well-known work includes appearances in “Independence Day,” “Scarface,” “Gladiator,” “Big,” and “The Sopranos.”

With multiple nominations from the Emmy Awards and one from the Academy Awards for his performance in “Jagged Edge,” Loggia’s career continues to be recognized in the film industry. In a news release, the MU Honorary Degrees Committee cited Loggia as “one of the most respected and admired actors of our generation.”

As a travel and historical writer, Trogdon, better known in the literary arena by the surname Least Heat-Moon, published his first book, “Blue Highways,” in 1982. His account of country travels in his van captivated readers, and it was on The New York Times best-seller list for 34 weeks.

Trogdon’s attention to neglected areas of American culture has set him apart from other travel writers, but he has also written historical novels including “Columbus in the Americas,” which was published in 2002. While Trogdon holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in English, he, like Loggia, received a bachelor’s degree from the School of Journalism.

MU officials will present the honorary degrees at 8:30 a.m. during the Honors College Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 17 in Jesse Auditorium.

## Exercise does not worsen lymphedema

Published: Dec. 2, 2011 at 11:18 PM

COLUMBIA, Mo., Dec. 2 (UPI) -- The benefits of exercise outweigh the risks for breast cancer survivors and patients with lymphedema, a chronic swelling, U.S. researchers say.

**Jane Armer, a professor in the Sinclair School of Nursing at the University of Missouri, said patients at risk for lymphedema can exercise if they closely monitor their activities.**

"Exercise can be beneficial and not harmful for breast cancer survivors," Armer said in a statement.

"Each individual should balance the pros and cons of the activity she chooses, but keep in mind that being sedentary has risks and being active is beneficial in many ways, including possibly reducing the risk of cancer recurrence."

Lymphedema can occur any time after cancer treatment and is usually caused by the removal or radiation of lymph nodes as part of the treatment process, Armer said.

Armer found patients who exercise had no greater risk for developing lymphedema than those who do not exercise, and patients with lymphedema did not worsen their condition by exercising.

Future research is needed to determine whether exercise prevents the condition, Armer said.

"Breast cancer survivors do not need to restrict their activity as we once thought," Armer said. "If patients want to be active, they should carefully condition their bodies by increasing repetitions of resistance exercises under proper supervision."

The findings were published in the Journal of Cancer Survivorship and the Annals of Surgical Oncology.

# MISSOURIAN

## MU embarks on first nationally funded research of organic farming

Sunday, December 4, 2011 | 12:01 a.m. CST

BY SRAAVANI PERE

COLUMBIA — The use of cover crops to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases is the focus of the first nationally funded research at MU on organic farming.

**The three-year project at MU's Bradford Research and Extension Center will focus on minimizing greenhouse gas emissions from the soil, weed suppression and increase of soil fertility at organic farms.**

"I am extremely excited," Tim Reinbott, superintendent of the Bradford farm, said. "There was a huge hole missing in Missouri's efforts to do organic research."

The \$740,000 MU grant is part of \$19 million in grants to 24 institutions from U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Researchers will collaborate with the Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri Organic Association and local organic farmers.

The research aims to find out the interaction between soil tillage and cover crops. Cover crops such as hairy vetch and cereal rye are grown to enrich the soil rather than for harvest. They are known to increase carbon content in the soil. Increased carbon content leads to less emission of greenhouse gases like nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide.

"This is the first time Missouri has got national funding for organic research targeted specifically to our needs and climate," Sue Baird, chair of the Missouri Organic Association, said. "It is a very big deal for us."

The research will help increase net profit, enhance soil fertility and aid in environmental conservation, Baird said. "Not only will organic farmers benefit from this research, even chemical farmers will."

As a state, Missouri ranks 20th in the nation for the number of organic farms, according to the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture. While 38 percent of all certified organic

farmers in the U.S. use no-till farming methods, only 13 percent of the organic farmers in Missouri reported having used conservation tillage.

Kerry Clark, a research specialist at Bradford farms, believes there has not been adequate research on organic farming exclusive to Missouri.

"Farmers here do not have as much information and awareness as compared to other states and therefore have not adopted conservation methods," she said.

"Many of our neighboring states were and are doing collaborative projects that we were not involved in since we did not have an organic program started," Reinbott said. He hopes this study will bridge that gap and initiate some collaborative research with neighboring states.

Other states like Iowa and Pennsylvania have successfully used cover crops as a method of no-till organic farming.

A relatively few number of organic farmers in Missouri use no-till practices. Excessive tillage to get rid of weeds wastes energy and proves to be expensive for the farmer, Clark said.

"Soil compaction is a major problem among farmers in Missouri," Clark said. "This comes from excessive tillage. Our research on cover crops hopes to tackle this problem in Missouri."

Cover crops help reduce energy consumption, costs, herbicide use and erosion while helping improving the soil adding organic matter, Clark said.

The grant also involves seminars, conferences and webinars designed to connect organic farmers around Missouri. Field days and interactive sessions will be held for farmers without access to the Internet.

# MISSOURIAN

## New Interfraternity Council policy draws mixed reactions

Friday, December 2, 2011 • 1:12 p.m. CST  
BY RAYMOND HOWZE

COLUMBIA — Doubt and cautious optimism are emerging as reactions to a new policy that allows alcohol in MU fraternity houses.

"I think it's going to be very important to the Greek system to police themselves in order for it (the new policy) to work," said Columbia Police Sgt. Jill Schlude. "How do you allow a small percentage of people who live in a fraternity to have access to alcohol and expect that it is going to be restricted to just that segment?"

**The policy, approved in November by the Interfraternity Council, will allow fraternity members to drink alcohol on their house premises as long as they are at least 21 years old. It takes effect August 2012, and participation is optional.**

Right now, all fraternity houses are supposed to be alcohol-free. If they choose to embrace the policy and have alcohol, they must have it approved by their overseeing housing corps and alumni board. They also will have go through an accreditation process with the Office of Greek Life at MU. Otherwise, the fraternity must remain dry.

One of the houses that will stay alcohol-free is Alpha Gamma Sigma, which has been at MU since 1923.

"I don't see any way in the world it (the policy) can be successful," said Larry Schuster, an alumni adviser for Alpha Gamma Sigma. "If you've got a roommate that's 20 and sitting there watching the Tigers play basketball, what's the likelihood that you'll say, 'Sure, go ahead and help yourself?'"

Schuster has been involved with the alumni consortium of MU for three years. The alumni consortium is a group of fraternity alumni advisers who collaborate to discuss issues all the fraternities deal with, including alcohol enforcement.

"It's not really a realistic situation," he said. "I think the mistake we're making is not whether it's right or not right to have drinking in fraternities; it's how we manage alcohol consumption — and right now as a university community, we're terrible at it."

The Interfraternity Council oversees 28 social fraternities at MU. Of these, 24 have houses recognized by the council, which means they are subject to council rules about houses. The other four fraternities don't have houses recognized by the council. All social fraternities are on private property, even if they are adjacent to MU.

Under those rules, reports about the use of alcohol in the 24 fraternity houses can come from anyone — parent, visitor, police officer — and go to the Office of Greek Life and the Interfraternity Council. Sanctions can be imposed on chapters if the Interfraternity Council finds the report valid.

The hope is that under the new policy, the use of alcohol can be better monitored, said Janna Basler, assistant director of Greek Life and Leadership.

For houses that pass the accreditation process, random checks, or audits, will be carried out a possible two to three times a month by a third-party security firm. The audits will be funded through Interfraternity Council dues paid by the houses.

Enforcement won't change for the Columbia Police Department. Officers only enter a fraternity house with consent or if they think someone is in danger. If there is a large party going on, nuisance party ordinances apply, but the police will not enter without permission, Schlude said. The police then file a report with the Office of Greek Life or return to the house and issue citations at a later date.

Schlude said the department has had a "considerable number" of calls to check out fraternity houses this year. These have included calls for medical issues related to over-consumption, complaints about sexual assault, out-of-control parties and property damage, Schlude said.

"If that's the trend of things under the dry policy, it doesn't bode well for the new policy," Schlude said.

Still, she is "cautiously optimistic" about it.

Stephen Glynias, president of Beta Theta Pi, said the house will look into whether the fraternity wants to embrace the new policy.

Glynias said older members might consider staying in the house instead of moving out. With the current policy, members 21 and older can be inclined to move out because they are not allowed to have alcohol in the house. In addition, Glynias said, houses would be monitored and there wouldn't be "huge violations going unnoticed."

Pi Kappa Phi's president, Andrew Schutte, also sees the new policy as way to better monitor alcohol use in the houses.

"This is a first step to have a hand in alcohol at fraternity houses," Schutte said.

There is precedent. In 1998, the Interfraternity Council drafted a policy to ban alcohol from fraternity houses. The draft was amended before it passed in April of 2000 to allow members 21 and older to have alcohol as long as pledges did not live in the house. If the house wanted to have live-in pledge classes, alcohol would be banned completely.

That policy lasted until August 2003, when the council banned alcohol and made MU's Greek system one of the largest in the nation to have an alcohol-free policy, according to a 2003 *Missourian* report.

The first move to change this came last spring, when the Office of Greek Life created a strategic plan to assess the Greek system. Alcohol abuse and risk management were examined as part of that review.

Topics of concern regarding alcohol were lawlessness, fear of a tragedy occurring, sexual assault, destruction of property and hazing.

Given the importance of the policy change, the Office of Greek Life will reassess the new policy over the next year and again after it is implemented in August. Basler said adjustments will be made to the policy as they are needed.

As they look down the road toward next August, the Office of Greek Life and the Interfraternity Council have to determine which houses will participate, who will be the third-party security firm and what will result from the audits carried out by the security firm.

Schlude said the policy has the possibility to work.

"But if it becomes a smoke screen to get alcohol into houses, it's not going to work," she said. "It's not going to take very long for it to become very apparent it's not working."



## MU research chief wants 'cold fusion' puzzle solved

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Published: 07/11/2011 12:11 PM

Rather than squabbling over the merits of studying cold fusion or jumping to the conclusion that excess heat produced at room temperature is a nuclear reaction, the scientific community needs to back up — all the way to the top of the scientific method.

**That's the opinion of Rob Duncan, vice chancellor of research at the University of Missouri. He is in the early stages of pitching a plan to establish a national research program that would help scientists study tabletop energy.**

Scientists for years have been using different methodologies to create excess heat in the lab without using a lot of energy. Once dubbed "cold fusion" and famously observed in the 1980s by Utah researchers Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons, some now refer to the process as a low-energy nuclear reaction, or LENR.

LENR research has the potential to solve climate and energy problems, Dennis Bushnell, chief scientist of NASA's Langley Research Center, said in a June interview with EV World, a sustainability publication.

Before it can be labeled, though, scientists need a better understanding of it, Duncan said.

"The biggest problem in this whole area is that everyone is trying to say what the origin of effect is," he said. "What we've got are different camps convinced it's either fusion or LENR or some type of new enhanced chemical effect. We just don't have an understanding in the physics yet. ... We need to slow down and do careful scientific inquiry."

Duncan is proposing the federal government offer a competitive grant that would let university researchers more thoroughly study excess heat phenomena. MU likely would vie for such funding, but there are professors at several major research universities interested in the field.

"Without a nationally funded program, you're going to be limited by the scope of what you can do," he said.

Duncan is optimistic higher-ups might be willing to pay attention, even in tight budget times. At a conference in August, representatives from the Naval Research Laboratory presented findings from several experiments where excess heat was produced in a laboratory.

"It's a difficult time to start anything new, but in my opinion, it's really very compelling to try to understand the origins of these unknown effects," Duncan said. "Once we understand what's causing this excess heat, then we can know whether or not it can be engineered into larger energy systems."

Steven Krivit, senior editor of *New Energy Times* and editor in chief of the *Wiley Nuclear Energy Encyclopedia*, has written about this topic for more than a decade and thinks the fundamental question already has been answered.

"It is not a good use of public money to try to figure out the question of whether the process is fusion or not, or nuclear versus chemical. The evidence for that already exists, abundantly," he said. "It is nuclear, and it is not fusion."

There are differing opinions within the scientific community, Duncan said. "It's going to be resolved by hard and very clear data."

Krivit is supportive of using public money to "try to figure out how to bring the research forward from where it is now — a set of scientific phenomena — to practical technologies."

Private companies are trying to do just that. Energetics Technologies is an Israeli company that has been able to generate low-energy heat in some settings over the past seven years.

Company leaders in 2009 let Duncan review their work as an outside skeptic for a CBS "60 Minutes" episode on cold fusion. The company has since set up shop at MU's Life Science Business Incubator.

Not all private businesses, however, are willing to share their discoveries. Italian inventor Andrea Rossi says he has devised a catalyzer that can produce large amounts of energy. He won't let anyone investigate his research, and some have dismissed his so-called "E-Cat" technology as a scam

Regardless of the legitimacy, Duncan said the claim should highlight the need for public research.

"There are going to be more and more people like Professor Rossi popping up with empirical results that no one really fundamentally understands," he said. "Whether there's something here or not, it makes a lot of sense to systematically be working on this."



## MU should be hub of city's bus system

By RICHARD DIXON

Sunday, October 4, 2011

Columbia Transit is an antiquated system, both in actual age of equipment and in the mentality of the management. The workers who drive and maintain the buses and the managers who operate the system are hopelessly entrenched in their attitudes and thinking. The system that Mayor Bob McDavid envisions — with 30,000-plus students using city buses to commute to classes, run errands, attend events and other sundry things — does not exist and cannot exist under the current dynamic.

The part of Columbia Transit referred to as "fixed routes" operates in a "hub and spoke" setup. Travelers on major airlines know well how such a system works. Direct flights to many destinations are few and far between because airlines prefer to gather passengers from various departure points (spokes), consolidate these passengers at the hub (think Chicago O'Hare) and then fly full airplanes to destination points (spokes) with the amalgam of passengers. This works because the hub is a major destination for many travelers. A flight into O'Hare might contain a significant number of passengers who are destined for Chicago, with the remainder of the seats filled with passengers flying to the hub for connection to spoke points. The flights to the spoke points are also full with the passengers gathered from the many spokes connected to the hub and those on return flights from Chicago.

**The problem with Columbia Transit's hub and spokes is the hub is not a major destination for most riders. Located on Tenth Street in the old Wabash rail terminal, there is no major entity within a two-block walking distance that would serve more than a few riders. The obvious ideal location is a central point on the University of Missouri campus.** This would allow the thousands of MU employees who reside all around the service area to use the system without the time-consuming hassle of transfer at Wabash Station. These numerous thousands, using a revamped system, could increase ridership and revenue to the system while reducing the need for parking on campus. Factor in the reduction of morning commute traffic on clogged city streets, and the benefits are apparent.

Location of the hub at Wabash Station is not the result of logisticians determining the ideal spot. At the time of its acquisition, historic preservation was the driving force. The city acquired the historic structure in 1979 and only later established its current use. At the time, other options included using the station as an educational facility, a museum or leased office space, according to the city's application to place the station on the National Register of Historic Places. Perhaps in 1979 it seemed logical to locate a transit station in this historic structure. In today's environment, it is ludicrous to continue to turn a blind eye to such folly.

Locating the hub on the MU campus would allow for the elimination of the separate Campus Shuttle service. This department operates with its own manager, different employment classifications and uniforms and a different pay scale without the union representation that fixed-route drivers enjoy. The campus system provides the many services that are under fire as a result of misstatements and near-extortionist threats. The most recent suggestion that the Black and Gold routes, which make up a large part of the Campus Shuttle mission, could be eliminated is an example of such strong-arm tactics. The Black and Gold routes, if integrated into the fixed-route system, operating in and out of a campus hub and collecting fares on a per-use basis, could become the jewel of the transit system. Faculty and staff generally arrive before students and leave work after the students' departure, which would allow for a near seamless local convenience. Other riders not associated with the university would experience little change other than having different scenery to look at as they transfer from one bus to another.

Other concerns must be addressed, such as the unsafe practice of boarding as many as 100 or more riders at a time at certain stops near student housing complexes, which creates traffic confusion and hazardous conditions. Overcrowding of such buses and the lax, if not neglectful, regard to cleanliness and road-worthiness of current fleet vehicles also present major problems. University faculty and staff and professional people riding to other locations are not receptive to dirty buses that frequently experience mechanical problems.

The revamping of the hub-and-spoke system is essential before any of these concerns can be addressed. Columbia has the opportunity to become a leader in providing affordable, clean, efficient and safe transit services. Mayor McDavid's recent statement that the other parties in the effort are not "engaged" only reflects his lack of understanding of the issue. Perhaps the one who is not engaged is the mayor.

# Men's Fitness.

## Surprising Foods Experts Wouldn't Touch

**You'll be shocked by what common foods nutrition experts would never eat.**

by eyun on Dec 2, 2011

Using canned tomatoes to make sauce? Chilling out with a movie and a bag of microwaveable popcorn? Enjoying a glass of milk before you start your day?

Simple choices like these are potentially dangerous to your health—and we don't just mean to your waistline. According to *Prevention's* panel of experts, canned tomatoes, microwave popcorn and hormone-treated milk were amongst things they would never eat.

**Fredrick vom Saal, PhD, an endocrinologist at the University of Missouri, explained that canned tomato containers contain a resin lining that have a synthetic estrogen called bisphenol-A. Tomatoes, with their high acidity, cause BPA, which can lead to everything from heart problems to fertility issues, to absorb into the food. "I won't go near canned tomatoes," vom Saal says.**

Olga Naidenko, PhD, a senior scientist for the Environmental Working Group, chose microwaveable popcorn as off limits. She explained that chemicals in the lining of the bag including perfluorooctanoic acid have been linked to infertility. "They stay in your body for years and accumulate there."

Nonorganic potatoes and apples also made the list. Root vegetables are particularly susceptible to the chemicals they use to prevent fungus and kill off the vines. "I've talked with potato growers who say point-blank they would never eat the potatoes they sell. They have separate plots where they grow potatoes for themselves without all the chemicals," Jeffrey Moyer, chair of the National Organic Standards Board, says. Apples are another fruit that are highly treated with chemicals because they lack a resistance to pests. Studies are even finding links between pesticides and Parkinson's disease.

# Forbes®

## Thinking about the Future of Informed Communities and Journalism

12/04/2011 @ 4:57PM | 509 views

### MU mention page 2

When it comes to the state of our deliberative democracy, here's one thing we do know: There's never been a time when citizens have had more informational inputs at their disposal. But here's something we don't know: Whether citizens have access to the right sort of information — or know how to take action based upon that information — to make informed decisions about their communities and society. What steps can be taken to make sure they do?

That was the audacious mission undertaken by the *Knight Commission on the Information Needs of Communities in a Democracy*, a blue-ribbon panel formed by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the nonpartisan Aspen Institute. In 2009, the Knight Commission released a report "Informing Communities: Sustaining Democracy in the Digital Age" that included 15 recommendations to better meet community information needs.

Following the release of the report, the Knight Foundation and the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program commissioned a series of white papers to put more meat on the bones of those recommendations. During this same period, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also conducted an investigation into "the future of media and information needs of citizens and communities," which culminated in [June] with a mammoth 465-page report. The report provided a comprehensive assessment of the health of the nation's current information marketplace and concluded that while the overall information ecosystem looked encouraging, there were gaps of concern at the local level. Importantly, however, the agency also noted that "Government is not the main player in this drama, and the First Amendment circumscribes government action to improve local news."

Of course, this is not an exact science. As James T. Hamilton of Duke University has aptly noted, "The social sciences currently do not provide good answers on how much news is enough to make democracy's delegated decision making work well." No one can know with any degree of certainty what "the information needs of citizens and communities" are. Nor can we scientifically determine how much civic engagement and community interaction are needed to ensure deliberative democracy thrives.

Some critics worry that citizens still do not spend enough time absorbed in contemplation about civic affairs, but that is a long-standing lament and there is no reason to believe this situation has ever been different or will ever change. Writing in 1922, for example, famed journalist Walter

Lippmann noted that, “it is possible to make a rough estimate only of the amount of attention people give each day to informing themselves about public affairs,” but “the time each day is small when any of us is directly exposed to information from our unseen environment.”

Similar debates have raged over the extent of civic engagement during various periods of our nation’s history. Some say there is less engagement about civic and political matters today while others worry that debate has become *too vibrant* (at least in terms of the nature and tone of the dialogue).

Democracy can likely get by with less information and civic engagement than some suggest. But that doesn’t mean we can get by without any. In this regard, the Knight/Aspen reports offer constructive steps to help us strike the right balance.

In his report on “Assessing Local Information Needs: A Practical Guide,” Richard C. Harwood, President of the Harwood Institute, sketched out a framework and nine strategies that communities can utilize to assess the health of their local news and information environment. Similarly, Peter Levine of Tufts University contributed a report on “Civic Engagement and Community Information: Five Strategies to Revive Civic Communication,” which took a closer look at how to improve access to information in local communities and ensure citizens could take action upon it.

**The future of journalism was considered in reports by Michael R. Fancher, former Executive Editor of the Seattle Times (“Re-Imagining Journalism: Local News for a Networked World”), and Barbara Cochran of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, (“Rethinking Public Media”). Fancher and Cochran offered a variety of strategies to strengthen local journalism and ensure it was more interactive and responsive to community needs.**

In terms of access to information, Blair Levin, Former Executive Director of the Omnibus Broadband Initiative at the FCC, outlined steps to move toward “Universal Broadband” while Jon Gant of the University of Illinois and Nicol Turner-Lee of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies outlined “Six Strategies for More Open and Participatory Government” in their report on the importance of greater government transparency.

I also contributed a report on “Creating Local Online Hubs: Three Models for Action,” in which I explored several models for how local communities have built high-quality online hubs and discussed how other communities could emulate those models.

Finally, Renee Hobbs of Temple University authored what may be the most important installment in the series of reports. Her study on “Digital and Media Literacy: A Plan of Action” outlined strategies to ensure various “new literacies” (media literacy, digital literacy, *etc.*) were being taught in schools, libraries, colleges and universities, and other local organizations. Without such skills, citizens will not be able to properly assess and act upon all the information being put at their disposal.

The role governments should play in this process remains controversial. Some want public officials to take a far more active role in ensuring these goals are achieved through increased subsidization of news or informational resources. Others, including myself, are skeptical of direct government intervention in this arena, especially because of the profound First Amendment dangers associated with government meddling with the provision of news, opinion, and speech.

The middle-ground approach has government playing a more limited, indirect role that is primarily focused on opening up government databases, facilitating greater transparency, and ensuring citizens have the ability to easily interact with that information and do interesting things with it. Beyond that, many argue for government steps to ensure greater literacy as well as some tempered indirect support for non-commercial media enterprises.

No doubt, this debate will continue. But one thing should be settled: Citizens and democracy benefit when we increase the flow of information and ensure citizens are more fully informed about the world around them — especially their local communities. How we accomplish that will remain contentious at times, but the Knight Foundation and Aspen Institute reports offer us a constructive blueprint for studying and debating these issues going forward.

# MISSOURIAN

## Campus ministry starts backpack mission to help homeless

Friday, December 2, 2011 | 5:46 p.m. CST  
BY CHO LING NGAI

COLUMBIA — Reaching his hands into a big box full of personal care items, Zach Lynn carefully separated the soap from the lotions and placed them into respective paper bags.

Later, these items, plus non-perishable food, bottled water and basic medical supplies, would be stashed into backpacks and taken to places where Columbia's homeless congregate.

**Lynn, an MU student and a member of First Presbyterian Church's campus ministry, The Vine, participates in "Random Packs of Kindness," a new mission to distribute backpacks with a variety of items to those in need.**

The supplies were sorted by members of The Vine before Thanksgiving and distributed on Friday morning.

Preston Turley, director of The Vine, said the mission was a brainchild of his wife's friend who was already distributing similar backpacks to people in need.

"We were having a Bible study about what it means to be a Christian in the community, outside of the walls of our church," Turley said. "Zach came to me after that and said there's no reason why our group shouldn't do this, having the resources of an entire congregation of people as opposed to just one person."

Lynn, who has attended First Presbyterian with his family for 13 years, said he realized a lot of churches have ample resources that are not being used to their full potential.

Turley agreed. He said that items accumulated for a similar program, "Saturday Morning Breakfast Cafe" — which provides those in need with breakfast and other resources — usually go unnoticed and unused.

"We have these extra resources that would have just sat in the closet somewhere, but the backpack mission is putting them to good use," he said.

Turley said he hopes the mission becomes a regular program.

"It may run year-round. I don't see why we should stop collecting. We'll continue as long as there is still stuff to distribute," he said.

"We'd like to do at least through the cold season, especially in the colder months when people are sleeping outdoors."

With only one announcement and one newsletter printed, Turley said the group was surprised by the number of donations and the strong response from the church.

"It speaks to the character of the students we have here that they took the initiative to make this happen — and also to the members at large at the church," he said.

Nonetheless, Turley said he wishes other individuals in the community would get involved.

"It's obviously not a closed program," he said.

Jordan Junkermann, a Stephens College student and a member of The Vine, said it's her first time participating in a mission. She said she believes it can change how the community perceives college students.

"Of course they always see us around because we are more than half of the population, but they don't always see us as a ministry group," she said.

Turley said seeing his students proactively turning words into actions makes him proud.

"The hope of a director is that you can inspire some type of actions, more than just bringing bodies into a room once a week to read the Bible to them," Turley said.

Even though the doors to a church are almost always open, not everyone is going to come in, he said. The congregation must reach out and offer help to those in need.

"That's the biggest part of what being a Christian is," Turley said. "We leave our comfort zone to offer help with nothing expected in return."

The Vine is collecting items for future use and especially needs backpacks, bottled water and winter garments. Cash donations are also welcomed.

Items can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the church office, 16 Hitt St.

## Pinkel on MU's move to the SEC: 'This is our shot'

By MIKE DeARMOND

The Kansas City Star

Declaring that membership in the Southeastern Conference is not enough, Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel declared Sunday evening: "I want to be significant in doing this."

"The league is different than the Big 12," he said. "The commitment is different than overall in the Big 12. If you're going to make a move like this, we're going to have to invest."

**That, in fact, is what Pinkel told MU chancellor Brady Deaton and MU athletic director Mike Alden almost from the first day in September when it became apparent to Missouri officials that the school could no longer remain in an unstable Big 12 Conference.**

"To be a player in this league," Pinkel said. "I didn't want to go over and just say we're in the Southeastern Conference. Let's go try to win some games."

"The University of Missouri has got an opportunity now, they've got a chance now, to change Mizzou football forever"

"This is our shot."

Pinkel, in a question-and-answer session with Mizzou beat writers after the Tigers' acceptance of an Independence Bowl bid to play North Carolina on Dec. 26, took some shots himself, including at certain soon-to-be-former Big 12 Conference members who do not want to continue playing Missouri.

Here is a part of that question-and-answer session:

**Q:** What led to Missouri deciding to leave the Big 12 Conference for the SEC? Was the watershed moment in the first week of the season prior to the Miami of Ohio game?

**A:** "Our chancellor (Brady Deaton) took a vote for everybody, all the CEOs in the Big 12 and they said they're absolutely in. The next day we had a couple of members of our conference come out and say that they were going to look (out) for themselves ... and that they (Oklahoma was the main one) were going to consider joining the Pac-12. Is the University of Missouri going to be in the Big East? Is the University of Missouri going to be in the Mountain West? We went through this whole thing a year ago. At that time the university administration said that they had to do what's best for the University of Missouri. That was the defining moment for our chancellor. The Southeastern Conference wanted one team. That was the University of Missouri, and they pursued us."

**Q:** The move to the SEC was not received well in many places, foremost in the Kansas City area. Did you anticipate the vitriol that has come out?

**A:** "This wasn't about Kansas or Kansas State. This wasn't about Gary Pinkel. This wasn't about chancellor Deaton. This wasn't about Mike Alden. ... We all have to be professional about this. I think that as emotions calm ... to me, it's real simple. It's a choice. Do you want this to continue? The University of Missouri does. Why would we not? If they

choose not to, then we won't. That is simply a matter of choice. ... There is no reason on earth why they can't do it and no reason on earth why we can't do it."

**Q:** Some have implied you did not agree with this move. Is that true?

**A:** "The chancellor really wanted to know my views on this, and I agree with it. If we can't fix the Big 12 — I mean fix it and be assured that it's going to work — then we've got to look out for what's best for the University of Missouri. It's sad because it could have been a great league. I was asked if you want the Big 12 to fall apart. Are you kidding me? There's no hard feelings in any way towards the Big 12. But there is still a huge question mark whether it's going to work. ... Monumental problems and nothing gets fixed."

**Q:** How does your recruiting approach change, putting more emphasis on SEC territory, and does that take away from the commitment to recruiting the state of Texas?

**A:** "When I went down and shook hands with the (high school) coaches in Texas, I was from Toledo, Ohio, and I don't know if the guys know where Toledo was."

"That's the same thing when I'll be going to Atlanta two weeks from now. I'm going to be going out shaking hands. We're going to start introducing ourselves."