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## COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

# Inaugural MU Christopher S. Bond Distinguished Lecture features panel on worldwide food security

By [Jessica Clark](#)

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COLUMBIA — Sharing innovations in technology and agriculture production can help people in developing countries get the food they need at affordable prices.

Ensuring food security for those living in countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines is possible, said panel members at a forum held Wednesday in the Bond Life Sciences Center.

**Partnerships with academic institutions like MU that conduct research in food-related areas can assist these countries through technology transfer and new production methods.**

**The panel on achieving worldwide food security was brought together for the inaugural MU Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Distinguished Lecture.**

The panel, moderated by former Sen. Bond, included Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesian ambassador to the United States; Roger Beachy, president emeritus of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton.

Djalal said food security could be improved by empowering women through education, promoting aquaculture, providing access to credit to Indonesian farmers and resolving disputes over natural resources diplomatically.

In Indonesia, more than 50 percent of the population lives on less than \$2 a day, making the simple need to eat an unaffordable luxury for many, according to [a 2007 report from the United Nations World Food Programme](#).

The exchange of students and faculty and the development of joint research between Indonesia and MU is beneficial to Missouri, Deaton said.

"This is a big opportunity for Indonesia," Eka Putra, an Indonesian native, said. He said the country's relationship with MU is "like a bridge for Indonesia so Indonesia can in the future have more imports and exports."

Kenneth C. Schneeberger, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources said during the discussion that every country is concerned with the diet of its people because the better nourished a population, the less likely citizens are to rebel.



## Students critical of Nuclear Science Engineering Institute closure

By Janese Silvey

The dean of the University of Missouri's Graduate School tried to assure nuclear science engineering students yesterday that closing their academic institute won't affect their education.

"There's no reason" why scholarship funding, partnerships or research will go away when the Nuclear Science Engineering Institute is dismantled, George Justice repeatedly told the roughly 55 students at a meeting.

Students aren't buying it. Afterward, a group told the Tribune they don't think administrators understand the implications.

Justice announced Monday that NSEI would be dismantled tomorrow and would transition by July 1 into an interdisciplinary graduate-level nuclear science program. Current students will still receive a nuclear science engineering degree and will continue to receive the same curriculum under the same instructors, Justice said.

"Nothing goes away because of this in relation to the educational program," he said this morning. "I understand why they're frustrated and concerned about any change in the administrative structure, but they'll get the same degree they applied for and will work with the same faculty members."

But students said they came to MU specifically for the institute. Those students include Naphtali Mokgalapa, a doctoral student from South Africa. He worries that if NSEI doesn't exist, there's nothing to point to when trying to impress future employers.

"When we go home, employers are going to question how strong a program was if it was dismantled," Mokgalapa said.

Doctoral student Shawn Campbell said he knows he still is going to get his degree. "But what is a piece of paper if it's not backed by a program that is successful? ... I truly believe they have cut the legs off my degree."

Justice also is adamant that grant funding will continue to come to the faculty members for research with which students are involved. But students say they can't envision the grant dollars given specifically to the NSEI team will continue to flow when the institute doesn't exist.

Last year, NSEI's graduate program in medical physics became accredited, a significant accomplishment, said Jenny Schutte, a doctoral student involved in the process. She is worried how the restructuring will affect that accreditation, which was based on NSEI's existence. "Do they think" the accrediting body "is not going to notice?" she asked.

NSEI was formed in 2002 when a group of professors was split from the College of Engineering and placed under the Graduate School. Justice said his office isn't set up to manage faculty. Most graduate-level courses are taught by professors whose tenure homes are in specific colleges.

The four NSEI faculty members have two years to find new academic homes. Justice said he will make sure they continue to have labs and offices within the College of Engineering.

"They're being asked to be treated like any other faculty on campus," he said.

Students said they are not oblivious to the internal politics at play: NSEI professors have had rifts with the College of Engineering and administrators in recent years.

"They say when two elephants fight, the only thing that dies is the grass," Mokgalapa said. "We are the grass."

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## **CID board lends support to Tiger Town concept**

By Jacob Barker

The Downtown Community Improvement District board gave its support yesterday to the Tiger Town concept, provided it can work with the committee on the final structure of the event.

Organizer Greg Steinhoff told the board he didn't want to let volunteers begin marketing and organizing the event "and have something blow up because the downtown businesses weren't supportive of it."

CID representatives to the Tiger Town steering committee held meetings Monday and yesterday to gather input and feedback from business owners on the plan's preliminary concept. Downtown proprietors were told they would continue to have a say in the process and that the goal was to give them some sort of vote on the specifics that come out of the steering committee.

Already, the plan's initial outline has changed. Organizers now envision closing Eighth Street between Broadway and Elm Street to provide a central location that will draw people downtown and then allow them to disperse throughout the area to watch the game, shop and eat. Although there will be some vendor tents, organizers want downtown business owners to have a strong hand crafting the policies that will govern them.

Mike McClung, a downtown bar owner who serves on the CID and the Tiger Town boards, said that after some initial reservations, he got the sense after the meetings this week that business owners are comfortable with the plan as long as they have a say in specific policies as they emerge. Steinhoff said the plan will proceed.

"I think we are to the point where ... we have a pretty good consensus from the downtown interests," Steinhoff said. "The biggest concerns have been addressed."

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**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

## **CDC launching graphic anti-smoking ad campaign**

### **MU mention page 2**

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA -- Tobacco taxes and smoking bans haven't budged the U.S. smoking rate in years. Now the government is trying to shock smokers into quitting with a graphic nationwide advertising campaign.

The billboards and print, radio and TV ads show people whose smoking resulted in heart surgery, a tracheotomy, lost limbs or paralysis. The \$54 million campaign is the largest and starkest anti-smoking push by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its first national advertising effort.

The agency is hoping the spots, which begin Monday, will persuade as many as 50,000 Americans to stop smoking.

"This is incredibly important. It's not every day we release something that will save thousands of lives," CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden said in a telephone interview.

That bold prediction is based on earlier research that found aggressive anti-smoking campaigns using hard-hitting images sometimes led to decreases in smoking. After decades of decline, the U.S. smoking rate has stalled at about 20 percent in recent years.

Advocates say it's important to jolt a weary public that has been listening to government warnings about the dangers of smoking for nearly 50 years.

"There is an urgent need for this media campaign," Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a statement.

The CDC was set to announce the three-month campaign on Thursday.

One of the print ads features Shawn Wright from Washington state who had a tracheotomy after being diagnosed with head and neck cancer four years ago. The ad shows the 50-year-old shaving, his razor moving down toward a red gaping hole at the base of his neck that he uses to speak and breathe.

An advertising firm, Arnold Worldwide, found Wright and about a dozen others who developed cancer or other health problems after smoking for the ads.

Federal health agencies have gradually embraced graphic anti-smoking imagery. Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved nine images to be displayed on cigarette packages. Among them were a man exhaling cigarette smoke through a tracheotomy hole in his throat, and a diseased mouth with what appear to be cancerous lesions.

Last month, a federal judge blocked the requirement that tobacco companies put the images on their packages, saying it was unconstitutional.

**Graphic ads are meant to create an image so striking that smokers and would-be smokers will think of it whenever they have an urge to buy a pack of cigarettes, said Glenn Leshner, a University of Missouri researcher who has studied the effectiveness of anti-smoking ads.**

Leshner and his colleagues found that some ads are so disturbing that people reacted by turning away from the message rather than listening. So while spots can shock viewers into paying attention, they also have to encourage people that quitting is possible, he said.

The CDC campaign includes information on a national quit line and offers advice on how to kick the habit, CDC officials said.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## MU aims to reduce emissions by 30 percent

By Celia Ampel

March 14, 2012 | 6:06 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA – The university aims to reduce campus carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2016, MU master planner Linda Eastley said Wednesday.**

A new wood-burning boiler at the MU Power Plant and solar panels on a new building at the plant will help decrease emissions this year, according to the 2012 Campus Master Plan. A wind turbine will also be installed on campus by this fall. The 30 percent reduction goal is based on campus emissions measurements from 2008. As of July, MU had reduced carbon emissions by about 9 percent from that year, according to the second annual Climate Action Plan. Eastley presented the two plans at an open forum Wednesday.

### Key goals

The climate plan outlines several sustainability goals for the next five years, including:

- Composting more waste using MU facilities, which are currently under construction, with a long-term goal of not putting any campus waste into landfills.
- Moving forward with plans for a sustainable community garden near Curtis Hall, east of the Sears greenhouse.
- Increasing the percentage of locally-procured food from 14 percent to 20 percent.
- Continuing to work on improving mass transit to fit students' needs.

Renewable energy projects — including the wood-burning boiler, solar panels and the wind turbine — will all be in place this fall, according to the climate plan. The turbine will be installed at the southeast corner of Stadium Boulevard and Champions Drive. Eventually, it will power the Beef Barn located there. The Beef Barn serves as shop space and a storage facility for the university.

The small-scale wind and solar power projects are mostly demonstrative and will allow faculty and students to give input on how renewable energy should be used on campus in the future, Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor of facilities, said at Wednesday's forum.

"Both wind power and solar power are something we're very interested in, but it's not quite where it needs to be," he said.

### **Keeping track**

Starting this year, MU plans to measure its progress using a sustainability tracking system called STARS. The Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System is a relatively new point-based system used by many colleges and universities, Eastley said. Campuses can share their sustainability statistics with other schools using the system.

"You have the opportunity to benchmark yourself against your peers, which is valuable," Eastley said.

The university plans to use LEED principles for several new building projects, which certifies that the projects are energy efficient and sustainably constructed. Proposed LEED-certified projects include the University Hospital ER expansion and Patient Care Tower, the Animal Resource Center and renovations of Gwynn Hall and Wolpers and Johnston residence halls.

MU is also trying to obtain certain LEED certifications on a campus-wide basis, including certifications for water-efficient landscaping, on-site renewable energy and environmental tobacco smoke control.

### **Progress in recent years**

This year's climate plan also shows several sustainability efforts that have made progress in recent years:

- MU's recycling rate increased by 5 percent in the past year.
- Campus water use per student is down 57 percent from 1990 to 2011, from 28,000 gallons per student to 12,000 gallons per student.
- MU reduced the number of student commuter permits issued by 6 percent, from 5,462 permits in 2007 to 5,156 permits in 2011, despite an increase in enrollment.
- Greenhouse gas emissions decreased from 40 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per 1,000 square feet in 1990 to 29 metric tons per 1,000 square feet in 2008.

The first MU Climate Action Plan was published in January 2011 after Chancellor Brady Deaton signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2009. The plan is updated every year, when goals are set for the next five years.



## Nixon pushes to keep benefits for blind

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Gov. Jay Nixon had a message yesterday for the House committee that has proposed restoring funding for higher education in part by cutting a \$30 million health care program for blind Missourians.

"Not one college or university president has asked for more funding at the expense of needy, blind Missourians," Nixon said during a late-morning event outside the office of Services for Independent Living, 1401 Hathman Place in Columbia.

Nixon was joined by SIL staff and board members and several other advocates, and many of the more than 100 people at the outdoor event were accompanied by service animals.

The state budget Nixon proposed in January called for a 12 percent cut to funding for higher education, though a later amendment restored \$40 million in funding. The Republican-led House Appropriations Committee on health, mental health and social services proposed cutting services to residents who receive assistance through the Missouri Blind Pension, which provides health care to more than 2,800 blind people who earn too much to qualify for the Medicaid program for the poor.

In a joint statement of the Missouri Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, officials said the Blind Pension Fund includes Medicaid MO Healthnet coverage. People who receive services through that program do not qualify for typical Medicaid coverage.

The committee proposes a new, smaller program at a cost of \$6 million to replace the Medicaid MO Healthnet coverage.

House Budget Committee Chairman Ryan Silvey said education funding is his top priority for the 2013 budget that takes effect July 1. In a letter to Nixon sent yesterday, Silvey said the governor's cuts to education have been "unsustainable and counterproductive to our state's economic recovery."

"When you have finished with your press conferences and campaign rallies and decide that you would like to show me where else we can make cuts in your administration so you can fund both education and welfare, I am ready and willing to have that conversation," wrote Silvey, R-Kansas City. "Continuing the assault on education unabated, however, is not an option."

But Nixon said yesterday he believes the program benefiting blind residents should be restored "fully, not in part."

"The lives of more than 2,000 Missourians hang in the balance," Nixon said as a voice in the crowd shouted, "Thank you."

"This is just plain wrong," Nixon said, telling the crowd that funding for the health care program for blind people "is now in great danger." He said the targeted program was established 40 years ago to provide "an efficient and compassionate program" for blind residents.

SIL board President Homer Page thanked the governor for helping take the lead in the legislative and budget battle.

Gretchen Maune, chairwoman of the Mid-Missouri Advocacy Council, said advocacy groups had heard that House members might aim their budget ax at the targeted program. We "thought we had this headed off," Maune said. "We're going to keep fighting."

Maune, who is blind, is a graduate student at the Truman School for Public Affairs at the University of Missouri.

"I definitely understand how important higher education is," she said. "But there are other sources for that funding."

Maune said Nixon was correct when he referred to the endangered program as a lifeline. "I wouldn't be able to live independently without Medicaid," she said. "We need this health care. It's not an exaggeration that the blind are the most needy of all out there."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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## NASA official details efforts to excite kids about science

By Janese Silvey

The federal government is starting to find more creative ways to get kids interested in science, technology, engineering and math, a NASA administrator told a University of Missouri group yesterday.

NASA is starting to collaborate with video gamers, said Alan Ladwig, deputy associate administrator for communications at NASA headquarters, noting that he recently watched his nephew play an online game with strangers from around the world.

"We need to find a way to tap into that with an educational component," he said.

The science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, education panel discussion was part of a daylong symposium, Connecting Politics & Science, on campus that also included opening remarks from former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond.

STEM education has been a buzzword for years as labor experts warn that most career areas will be in those fields by 2018, even as U.S. math and science scores lag behind global peers.

The White House has gotten on board, sponsoring science fairs where young scholars are treated like professional athletes, Ladwig said. And NASA is teaming up with unlikely partners, including will.i.am from the Black Eyed Peas, to talk up STEM to young fans.

Columbia Public Schools is trying to better incorporate STEM into its curriculum, making Benton Elementary School an official STEM school that offers twice-a-month after-school science and math camps for students, said Anna Waldron, director of MU's Office of Science Research in the College of Education. She has been working with the school district to help establish the program and said she expects it to expand.

At Jefferson Junior High School, engineering is the third top career choice among students, with medicine ranking first, said Craig Adams, who teaches the engineering classes there.

He said he has been trying to develop clearer pathways to help kids fulfill those dreams.

"Somewhere out there, there's a kid who wants to be an engineer who doesn't know how to get there," he said.

Yesterday's program included workshops on sustainable energy policies, federal funding for research and how the media facilitate the interaction between politics and science.

The event was sponsored by Mizzou Advantage, the colleges of engineering, education and arts and science, and several student groups.

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