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**MISSOURIAN**

## **MU's Truman School of Public Affairs announces first dean**

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BY [Celia Ampel](#)

**COLUMBIA — Barton Wechsler will be the first dean of the newly autonomous Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs.**

Wechsler has been a professor of public affairs and director of the Truman School and the Institute of Public Policy since 2000, according to an MU news release. His term as dean of the school will end Aug. 1, 2014.

Before he worked for MU, Wechsler was the founding dean of the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

The Public Affairs School was part of the MU graduate school until it was re-classified as a college on March 15.



## MU hydrogen car to compete in Eco-marathon

By JANESE SILVEY

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

**University of Missouri engineering students have a lot of faith in their third made-from-scratch hydrogen-powered street car.**

The nearly finished Tigergen III is bigger than its predecessor and has an improved fuel system.

The hydrogen vehicle team expects Tigergen III to reach the equivalent of 500 miles per gallon next week at the annual Shell Eco-marathon in Houston.

"I'm definitely optimistic about that," said senior Robert Margherio, who served as head mechanic last year. "The fuel system is a lot better, and we made a lot of improvements."

Unlike its predecessor, Tigergen III was designed and built with input from the same team members, group President Victoria Hezel said. That should prevent it from running into the same types of hiccups Tigergen II saw in its first competition.

Tigergen III also has a little more leg room, letting taller team members test it out.

"It's so much bigger," Margherio said. "It's a lot easier to get in and test the car. It's a lot more fun for us to get in the car and see what we can change from the inside."

With a front grille and more traditional doors, "it looks a lot better," too, he said.

Tigergen III will compete in the Urban Concept hydrogen class. That's the same category Tigergen II competed in for two years; last year, it took a first-place award.

The competition challenges vehicles to gain the most efficiency while completing a 6-mile stretch in 25 minutes. Most cars go about 15 miles per hour, though Tigergen II got up to 20 mph, Hezel said.

Students expect more competition in the hydrogen class this year, but they're ready for it. "That makes it more fun, to take on some other teams," Margherio said.

It has taken about \$70,000 to build the third-generation vehicle over the course of two years, Hezel said. Most of that has come through donations, but the team also got a \$3,500 bump when Tigergen I was sold in an online auction.

Margherio and Hezel are the only two students who have driven all three MU hydrogen cars. Both are seniors who will graduate this May and said their last competition will be bittersweet.

But they also credited being a part of the hydrogen car team for the jobs waiting for them after graduation. Margherio has a gig with John Deere in Waterloo, Iowa, where he interned. And Hezel, once she completes a master's degree in business administration, is headed to Boeing in St. Louis. They said having the knowledge to talk about designing and building a car helped them ace interviews.

Ben Stedem is a senior graduating next year who got involved in the hydrogen car team for the first time this year. He said he hopes it also helps him secure a future employer.

"Teamwork," he said when asked what he has gained from the experience. "Dealing with random issues that pop up. Just getting that hands-on experience."

**AP** Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**The★Star**  
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Springfield, MO

## **Distracted driving campaign goes public in Missouri**

### **MU MENTION PAGE 2**

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Public health advocates in Missouri are taking their campaign against distracted driving to the public after failing to win support in Jefferson City for a ban on driver cellphone use that goes far beyond the state's current law prohibiting people younger than 21 from texting behind the wheel.

A group that included a trauma surgeon, the superintendent of the Missouri Highway Patrol and the mother of a teen driver killed in a highway crash gathered Wednesday at University Hospital raise awareness about the dangers of using cellphones and performing other tasks — from teeth brushing to reading the newspaper — while driving.

The Highway Patrol reports that nearly 30 percent of the 139,752 crashes on state roads in 2011 involved inattention as a "probable contributing circumstance."

"Driving is a full-time job. It requires all of our attention," said Highway Patrol Col. Ronald Repogle. "Not just our physical abilities, but also our mental attention .... A texting driver is just as much if not more dangerous than a person who drinks while they're driving."

Missouri legislators approved the texting ban for drivers younger than 21 in 2009, but Repogle said he favors a full ban, noting the difficulties of enforcing it on young drivers. Thirty-five other states and the District of Columbia ban texting while driving, while nine states and Washington, D.C., bar handheld cellphone use.

But Missouri lawmakers have not supported efforts to join those other states — even as the National Transportation Safety Board cited a horrific Missouri highway wreck in pushing for an all-out ban on cellphone use by drivers. In that case, a 19-year-old pickup truck driver caused a

chain collision on Interstate 44 near St. Louis in August 2010, with two school buses packed with high school band members crashing into the wreckage. The pickup driver and a bus passenger died, and 38 other people, mostly students, were injured.

Repogle mentioned an education campaign aimed at new drivers and offered through church groups and driver education classes to discourage DWT — driving while texting.

The university's Frank L. Mitchell Jr. M.D. Trauma Center is starting even earlier, with an outreach effort targeting fifth and sixth-graders, and by extension, their parents and older siblings who drive those children.

"It gets them while they're young, so they can know what behavior to avoid," said James Stowe, trauma prevention coordinator at the Columbia hospital.

The Decide to Drive campaign is part of a larger effort by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and U.S. automakers. Students are encouraged to become Decide to Drive "detectives" and to alert adults about their risky behavior.

**Lori Popejoy, a University of Missouri nursing professor, described how her 16-year-old son Adam and a passenger died in a 2002 Columbia car crash likely caused by momentary driver inattention. A niece and nephew of Popejoy's also died in separate, unrelated car crashes over a six-year period.**

"I'm the face of a mother who buried her child," she said. "When our family gathers for holidays, it's always with the underlying sadness that our children are dead."

While her son wasn't using a cell phone at the time, Popejoy said the problem of distracted driving is exacerbated among young drivers who consider their mobile phones indispensable.

"The cellphone is just such a part of their lives," she said. "They don't even think about it."

A more modest proposal to curb cellphone use while driving remains alive in the Capitol. A bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, would make distracted driving a misdemeanor traffic offense

The bill, which has received initial Senate approval, defines the offense as failing "to give full time and attention" to the operation of a motor vehicle, failing to maintain a proper lookout; or engaging in any other activity "which causes the operator to be distracted from the primary mission of driving."

## University Hospital trauma center seeks to end distracted driving

By Abigail Geiger

March 21, 2012 | 6:21 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — The trauma center at University Hospital has plans to make distracted driving — a recent development as smartphones become faster and attention spans become shorter — a thing of the past.**

On Wednesday, trauma surgeon James Kessel described the repercussions of distracted driving as part of a brief meeting hosted by the trauma center to raise awareness of driving under nontraditional influences — texting, for one.

Lori Popejoy, a mother whose child was killed by a distracted driver, and Missouri State Highway Patrol Superintendent Ronald Replogle spoke alongside Kessel at the conference Wednesday.

Kessel said at the conference that in a matter of seconds, a car can travel 300 feet. He said that it is during these crucial moments that mistakes — often deadly ones — can occur.

"It's just not worth the risk," he said to listeners.

Currently, there is a texting ban in Missouri for drivers 21 and younger. However, Missouri Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, proposed legislation that seeks to change this law and institute a penalty for drivers who are caught texting.

James Stowe, a trauma prevention coordinator at the trauma center, said the center has brought the issue of distracted driving to the forefront and created a three-pronged approach to raising awareness, inspired by the Decide to Drive campaign sponsored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Stowe said one part of the initiative is the introduction of a curriculum for fifth- and sixth-graders designed to encourage them to keep their parents on task when they're driving. The other initiatives include hosting events and giving presentations in four major Missouri cities — St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia and Springfield.

Stowe said the trauma center's push for awareness is to get people to spread the word.

"If you can just reach a couple folks, and they talk to their friends, that's what will be really effective," Stowe said.

This week is also "Reality Week" for Columbia Public Schools, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Transportation, during which students will learn about driving habits as well as the effects of drinking and technology use in the car.

There is a workshop for young drivers for "Reality Week" from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Hickman High School's auditorium.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Washington University is No. 8 in business school ranking

BY DAVID NICKLAUS • [dnicklaus@post-dispatch.com](mailto:dnicklaus@post-dispatch.com) > 314-340-8213 | Posted: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:18 pm | (0) comments.

Bloomberg BusinessWeek thinks Washington University now has one of the top 10 undergraduate business schools in the country. The magazine's new rankings are out this week, and Wash U's Olin School of Business moved up to 8th place, from 14th last year. The school had ranked in the mid-teens every year since 2006.

A profile of Olin notes that 97 percent of business undergrads land internships, and that the school had a 98 percent job placement rate last year.

**Notre Dame led the undergrad ranking for the third straight year. The University of Illinois placed 26th, University of Missouri-Columbia 75th and St. Louis University 100th.**

The last time BusinessWeek ranked full-time MBA programs, in 2010, Washington U. placed 40th.