

MISSOURIAN

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Campuswide forum discusses progress of MU's strategic plan

Thursday, April 19, 2012 | 7:14 p.m. CDT; updated 7:26 p.m. CDT, Thursday, April 19, 2012

BY RATKO RADOJCIC

COLUMBIA — The first campuswide meeting that discussed the progress of MU's strategic plan, which is titled "One Mizzou: 2020 Vision for Excellence," was held in the Mark Twain Ballroom in Memorial Union on Thursday. More than 50 faculty and staff members attended the event.

"The large presence is indicative of the fact that you care about what is happening at the university, and that you want to have some impact," Michael Middleton said as he addressed the crowd. Middleton, who is the deputy chancellor and MU professor of law sat in for Chancellor Brady Deaton, who arrived late because of a meeting with Gov. Jay Nixon.

Patricia Okker, chair of the Strategic Planning and Resource Advisory Council, began by outlining the unique characteristics of the strategic plan on campus. She said the plan is "a living document that will undergo continuous and frequent updates," which will be available for viewing on: [the website created for the plan.](#)

The idea to implement the plan came as a way of ensuring that regular campuswide opportunities are available to discuss the plan and its progress over time, she said.

Another major goal of the plan is to encourage broad participation among faculty members, staff, students and administrators, she said.

The event was co-sponsored by Deaton, Provost Brian Foster, Faculty Council, Staff Advisory Council, Missouri Students Association, Graduate and Professional Council, and Strategic Planning and Resource Advisory Council.

Okker said the range of organizations involved was a good example of the "broad participation" that is of the plan's main goals.

She said the planning committee is dedicated to emphasizing MU's unique strengths and to making sure the plan was specific enough to MU that it would not be interchangeable with plans of other research-based universities.

The plan has three major goals, which contain a total of more than 50 specific objectives. Each objective lists the actions that are needed to be done and the actions that have been taken, Okker said.

The three main goals are to:

- Enhance all programs at the university that would improve the lives of those living in Missouri, the nation and the world.
- Build on Mizzou Advantage, a program made up of five initiatives including: food for the future; media of the future; one health, one medicine; sustainable energy and managing innovation.
- Make sure sufficient infrastructure, human and financial resources are in place to support the future of teaching, research, outreach and economic development.

Because the website provides detailed information on the progress of the objectives, members of the panel offered only brief descriptions of the progress in specific areas like diversity, staff interests in compensation and training, and Mizzou Advantage. Those areas served as examples of the work that has been underway since the plan was implemented last fall.

Xavier Billingsley, president of the Missouri Students Association, discussed the first objective of the third goal, which is "(to) build and continually strengthen, in all university programs, a diverse, safe and inclusive culture that encourages and rewards interaction across demographic, social and interpersonal differences."

"We have a plethora of resources for students of all different backgrounds," Billingsley said. "Mizzou is far ahead when it comes to its SEC counterparts with the diversity program," he said.

MU is one of the few universities among the SEC schools to have an LGBTQ Center and only one of the two that has a Women's Center, he said.

Harry Tyrer, chairman of the Faculty Council and professor of computer and electrical engineering, said he was impressed with Billingsley's presentation and his dedication to promoting diversity issues on campus.

"Students are so actively involved and we need to hear what they have to say," he said.

Marijo Dixon, the lead member of the Staff Advisory Council task force, encouraged those present to share opinions, even if it was a "germ of an idea" or just a thought, during the forum or through email. Kathryn Chval, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education, was one of the faculty members who attended the forum. She said it is important for everyone on campus to have an opportunity to get involved and voice their ideas.

She attributed the variety of organizations involved to the structure of the plan and its transparent nature, which she said motivates people to participate.

"The more transparent the process and the more you communicate, the more you increase the likelihood of people getting involved," she said. "It feels like a safe space in which we can rethink how to be more efficient and innovative."

MISSOURIAN

MU Faculty Council discusses online courses, SEC academic regulations

Thursday, April 10, 2012 7:58:01 p.m. CDT

BY CELIA AMPEL

COLUMBIA — The MU Faculty Council voted Thursday to accept recommendations that establish guidelines for online courses, focusing on the idea that a "course is a course," whether online or in a classroom.

Online courses would be listed alongside classroom courses and made available to resident students, according to the recommendations of the Online Academic Task Force to MU administrators. The approval process to create a class would be the same for online and in-person courses.

The recommendations included a note that there should be a way to provide adequate training for the use of new technologies. The Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies would be responsible for developing this training method, Faculty Council Chairman Harry Tyrer said.

The Faculty Council discussed several other issues at its meeting, including:

- Regulations used for student athletes in Missouri's new athletic conference.
- The ongoing debate about domestic partner benefits.
- Which faculty members should be represented in the Faculty Council.
- A proposal for a new on-campus veterans memorial.

Academics in the Southeastern Conference

Missouri's new athletic conference has a mandatory class attendance policy for student-athletes. Under the Southeastern Conference's policy, consequences for athletes who miss classes could include "suspension from competition," Lori Franz, NCAA faculty representative, said.

Franz said the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee is still working on setting the number of allowed absences for student athletes.

Professors would receive an email early in the semester listing the student athletes enrolled in their classes so they could keep track of the attendance of these students.

Many professors do not normally take roll, council members said, wondering if it was fair to single out athletes for their attendance.

"Are we not supposed to treat our athletes exactly the same as we treat our regular students?" council member Gordon Christiansen asked, adding, "Is this kosher?"

The absences for which student athletes would be held accountable would depend on faculty reports, and professors who do not normally take attendance would not have to do so, Franz said.

Domestic partner benefits

The debate continues over whether the University of Missouri System should provide the same benefits to domestic partners of its employees as it does for employees' opposite-sex spouses.

The Missouri University of Science & Technology Faculty Senate reached out to members of the MU Faculty Council for advice about how to handle its debate about the issue. Faculty councils at MU, University of Missouri-St. Louis and University of Missouri-Kansas City have already passed resolutions recommending that the UM System provide domestic partner benefits.

"Rolla is the only campus that has not passed it," Tyrer said.

During the council's Feb. 23 meeting, Tyrer said new UM System President Tim Wolfe told him he supports domestic partner benefits and that it would be one of the top priorities of the Intercampus Faculty Council. MU Faculty Council members Leona Rubin and Joe Parcell were in Rolla on Thursday to talk to the Missouri S&T Faculty Senate about how MU handled its decision in March 2010.

Definition of 'faculty'

The council's Faculty Affairs Committee will continue to research whether faculty on a non-tenure track should be represented on the Faculty Council by examining what other UM System campuses do.

"We are the only one (of the four campuses), apparently, who separates tenure-track and non-tenure-track," Clyde Bentley, chairman of the committee, said.

At the council's most recent meeting, Bentley said 37 percent of MU faculty are on a non-tenure track and are therefore unrepresented on Staff Council or Faculty Council. He proposed allowing such full-time faculty to serve and vote on campus faculty committees and the Faculty Council and to vote in campus faculty elections.

Veterans memorial

Plans for a new memorial for veterans who have worked for or attended MU are moving forward quickly, Craig Roberts, chairman of the council's Student Affairs Committee, said. The plans will be discussed April 26 at a meeting between that committee and the Missouri Unions Committee.

The proposed memorial would include a kiosk with a searchable database of veterans, as well as an engraved granite wall in a prominent place. It would be located in Memorial Student Union.



MU effort to stress need for civil discourse on campus

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Published: 04/12/2011

University of Missouri Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton just wants people on campus to be civil to each other. That means talking to those who are of a different race, sexuality or political affiliation without name-calling, bullying or threats — all problems flagged in a recent survey given to gauge behavior on campus, Middleton said.

"The campus climate survey indicated we have a significant percentage of students from a variety of groups having reported the climate not being satisfactory," he said. "There are instances where students say a name has been used that they found offensive to outright hostility."

Administrators plan to spend next school year teaching students, staff and faculty how to have civil conversations, Middleton told about 35 professors during a meeting yesterday.

"We're trying to make the Mizzou family behave itself like a true family should behave itself," he said.

The Office of the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative will work with departments to coordinate events that focus on two of MU's official values, respect and responsibility. Already, the MU Athletics Department and other offices have started brainstorming, Middleton said after the meeting.

The civility effort, which is yet to be named, will be an administrative charge, making it different from One Mizzou, an effort launched by students last year after back-to-back racial incidents. Having an administrative structure will ensure plans are followed through and that it can continue, if need be, after student groups graduate, he said.

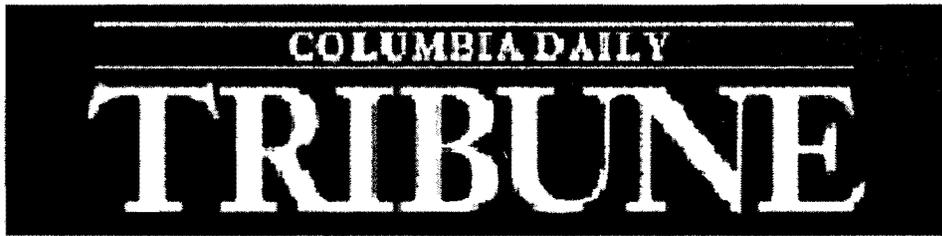
Middleton also noted that the plan was in the works "way before" the campus newspaper, The Maneater, came out with its April Fools' edition, which used negative slurs for lesbians and women.

He knows administrators have their work cut out for them. This fall, the presidential campaign will be in full swing, with pundits from all sides probably not being good role models for civil discourse.

Asked whether stressing civility might not prepare students for a real and sometimes mean world, Middleton said he understands that argument. Middleton, who is black, attended MU in the 1960s and had racial slurs hurled at him without administrators rising to his defense.

"But our students shouldn't have to go through that," he said. "There's no reason we have to treat each other that way." Calling the campus a home away from home, Middleton said he doesn't want "our students to be uncomfortable in their own home."

And that home is housing a more diverse family than ever, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton told faculty members. The percentages of black and low-income students have spiked some 60 percent in the past decade, he said, and the Hispanic population has more than doubled.



Soccer team's use of Rising Sun flag causes stir

By **JANESE SILVEY**

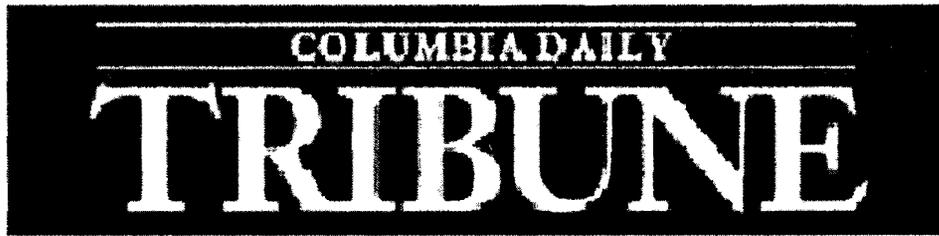
University of Missouri administrators are trying to figure out how to deal with a Rising Sun flag used on a campus soccer team uniform that has offended at least one student.

Graduate student SangKwon Woo emailed MU Chancellor Brady Deaton outlining concerns about the flag after Woo noticed it on a uniform used by a Mizzou Rec Center team called the Red Suns. "I was deeply offended," Woo wrote.

The Rising Sun flag was used by the Imperial Japanese military until the end of World War II and is considered offensive to countries that were victims of Japanese aggression, including China and Korea. After researching it, Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton said the flag would be as offensive to some as a Nazi swastika to Jewish people or a rebel flag to blacks.

Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor of student affairs, said administrators plan to sit down with the team. "Soccer is an international sport, so we can use it as an opportunity to talk about sensitivity," she said. "I don't think it's anybody's intention to use that logo for anything hurtful."

Sunshine Sushi, an independent eatery at the MU Student Center, uses a logo that looks similar to the Rising Sun flag. Scroggs said she doesn't know yet whether the restaurant sponsored the soccer team.



Woman accused of threatening doctor

By **JODIE JACKSON JR.**

A Columbia woman who threatened to shoot a doctor Wednesday was arrested on suspicion of making a terrorist threat. Sheri D. Adams, 49, of 1201 Paquin St. posted a \$4,500 bond and released from the Boone County Jail. Capt. Brian Weimer of the University of Missouri Police Department said Columbia hospitals were notified of the threat and of the woman's arrest.

Weimer said the University Hospital emergency department was notified Wednesday that Adams contacted the Family Health Center and left a message that she had a gun in her purse and was on her way to the Missouri Psychiatric Center to shoot a doctor "in the face, along with anyone who got in the way."

Columbia police picked up Adams and took her to MUPD for questioning. Weimer said Adams was taken into custody without incident at 6:27 p.m. Wednesday. He said the city's quick work to make contact with Adams avoided the need to alert the public.

Weimer said the targeted doctor works at Boone Hospital Center.

"The hospitals are aware of the situation, so they can take any other additional actions they deem necessary," Weimer said.

Officials at University Hospital and Boone Hospital said their facilities were not taking any extra security measures.

"We are operating under our regular security measures today," said Jacob Luecke, Boone Hospital media specialist. "Our Security Services Department is aware of the situation and is prepared to respond as needed."

Mary Jenkins, public relations manager for MU Health Care, confirmed that Missouri Psychiatric Center and University Hospital have not added security measures Thursday.

Making a terrorist threat is a Class C felony.



Is there a 'God spot' in the brain?

Scientists have long speculated on a 'God spot,' a distinct area of the human brain responsible for spirituality, but actually multiple areas of the organ may be linked with such experiences, says a study.

"We have found a neuro-psychological basis for spirituality, but it's not isolated to one specific area of the brain," said Brick Johnstone, professor of health psychology in University of Missouri School of Health Professions, who led the study.

"Spirituality is a much more dynamic concept that uses many parts of the brain. Certain parts of the brain play more significant roles, but they all work together to facilitate individuals' spiritual experiences," added Johnstone, the International Journal of the Psychology of Religion reports.

Johnstone studied a group of people with traumatic brain injuries affecting the right parietal lobe, the area of the brain situated a few inches above the right ear, according to a Missouri statement.

He surveyed participants on characteristics of spirituality, such as how close they felt to a higher power and if they felt their lives were part of a divine plan. He found that the participants with more significant injury to their right parietal lobe showed an increased feeling of closeness to a higher power.

"Neuropsychology researchers consistently have shown that impairment on the right side of the brain decreases one's focus on the self," Johnstone said.

"Since our research shows that people with this impairment are more spiritual, this suggests spiritual experiences are associated with a decreased focus on the self. This is consistent with many religious texts that suggest people should concentrate on the well-being of others rather than on themselves," added Johnstone.

Johnstone says the right side of the brain is linked with self-orientation, whereas the left side is tied with how individuals relate to others

MU researcher dispels notion of a single ‘God spot’ in brain

Spirituality isn't isolated to just one part of the brain, professor says.

By MARA ROSE WILLIAMS

A University of Missouri researcher has found that contrary to previous theory, there is no one “God spot” in the human brain. Rather, within the mass of gray and white matter are multiple places responsible for our spirituality.

“We found a neuropsychological basis for spirituality, but it’s not isolated to one specific area of the brain,” said Brick Johnstone, professor of health psychology in the MU School of Health Professions.

“Spirituality is a much more dynamic concept that uses many parts of the brain. Certain parts of the brain play more predominant roles, but they all work together to facilitate individuals’ spiritual experiences.”

Until now, studies have indicated that belief in a higher power is associated with decreased right parietal lobe functioning. The right parietal lobe is where our thoughts of self lie — including things as basic as “I’m hungry” or “I’m cold.”

Johnstone explained it by saying that peering at a picture of one’s self would activate the right parietal lobe. A picture of someone else activates the left parietal lobe. Johnstone said his research proved that a person with an injury to the right parietal lobe becomes less focused on self and more focused on spiritual connections.

MU researchers also determined that increased activity in the frontal lobe — the brain’s command center, where planning and coordinating are done — plays a role in spirituality, too.

While studying 20 people with traumatic injury to the right parietal lobe, the area of the brain a few inches above the right ear, Johnstone asked a series of spiritual-related questions such as how close they felt to a higher power and if they felt their lives were part of a divine plan. The participants with more significant injury showed an increased feeling of closeness to a higher power.

“This does not mean that you have to injure the brain to become more spiritual,” Johnstone said.

He also measured activity in the frontal lobe and found a correlation between increased activity in this part of the brain and increased participation in religious practices.

“This finding indicates that spiritual experiences are likely associated with different parts of the brain,” Johnstone said.

“It also supports the idea that our spirituality is based in the brain rather than given by God.”

He also said that increased spirituality, after a brain injury, would manifest itself based on how a person was raised.

For example, a Christian with a brain injury is going to feel closer to God while a person raised as an atheist might feel more spiritually connected to the earth.

The study, “Right Parietal Lobe ‘Selflessness’ as the Neuropsychological Basis of Spiritual Transcendence,” was published in the International Journal of the Psychology of Religion.



How Thinking About Death Can Lead to a Good Life

ScienceDaily (Apr. 19, 2012) — Thinking about death can actually be a good thing. An awareness of mortality can improve physical health and help us re-prioritize our goals and values, according to a new analysis of recent scientific studies. Even non-conscious thinking about death -- say walking by a cemetery -- could prompt positive changes and promote helping others.

Past research suggests that thinking about death is destructive and dangerous, fueling everything from prejudice and greed to violence. Such studies related to terror management theory (TMT), which posits that we uphold certain cultural beliefs to manage our feelings of mortality, have rarely explored the potential benefits of death awareness.

"This tendency for TMT research to primarily deal with negative attitudes and harmful behaviors has become so deeply entrenched in our field that some have recently suggested that death awareness is simply a bleak force of social destruction," says Kenneth Vail of the University of Missouri, lead author of the new study in the online edition of *Personality and Social Psychology Review* this month. "There has been very little integrative understanding of how subtle, day-to-day, death awareness might be capable of motivating attitudes and behaviors that can minimize harm to oneself and others, and can promote well-being."

In constructing a new model for how we think about our own mortality, Vail and colleagues performed an extensive review of recent studies on the topic. They found numerous examples of experiments both in the lab and field that suggest a positive side to natural reminders about mortality.

For example, Vail points to a study by Matthew Gailliot and colleagues in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* in 2008 that tested how just being physically near a cemetery affects how willing people are to help a stranger. "Researchers hypothesized that if the cultural value of helping was made important to people, then the heightened awareness of death would motivate an increase in helping behaviors," Vail says.

The researchers observed people who were either passing through a cemetery or were one block away, out of sight of the cemetery. Actors at each location talked near the participants about

either the value of helping others or a control topic, and then some moments later, another actor dropped her notebook. The researchers then tested in each condition how many people helped the stranger.

"When the value of helping was made salient, the number of participants who helped the second confederate with her notebook was 40% greater at the cemetery than a block away from the cemetery," Vail says. "Other field experiments and tightly controlled laboratory experiments have replicated these and similar findings, showing that the awareness of death can motivate increased expressions of tolerance, egalitarianism, compassion, empathy, and pacifism."

For example, a 2010 study by Immo Fritsche of the University of Leipzig and co-authors revealed how increased death awareness can motivate sustainable behaviors when pro-environmental norms are made salient. And a study by Zachary Rothschild of the University of Kansas and co-workers in 2009 showed how an increased awareness of death can motivate American and Iranian religious fundamentalists to display peaceful compassion toward members of other groups when religious texts make such values more important.

Thinking about death can also promote better health. Recent studies have shown that when reminded of death people may opt for better health choices, such as using more sunscreen, smoking less, or increasing levels of exercise. A 2011 study by D.P. Cooper and co-authors found that death reminders increased intentions to perform breast self-exams when women were exposed to information that linked the behavior to self-empowerment.

One major implication of this body of work, Vail says, is that we should "turn attention and research efforts toward better understanding of how the motivations triggered by death awareness can actually improve people's lives, rather than how it can cause malady and social strife." Write the authors: "The dance with death can be a delicate but potentially elegant stride toward living the good life."

Most of 4,000 sudden infant deaths a year are preventable, studies show

WASHINGTON — No matter whether they classify them as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, suffocation or unexplained, investigators are increasingly convinced that most of about 4,000 sudden infant deaths that occur nationwide each year can be called one thing — preventable.

Three new reports in the past two weeks suggesting most such deaths of babies under a year old happen in unsafe sleeping conditions.

The largest analysis of sudden unexplained infant deaths done to date was published online Thursday by the American Journal of Public Health, which found that only 25 percent of more than 3,100 infants who died were sleeping in a crib or on their back, as recommended.

Child-death review records from nine states between 2005-08 showed that 70 percent of the fatalities occurred somewhere not intended for babies to sleep, like an adult bed or a couch. Sixty-four percent of the deaths occurred when the babies were sharing a sleep surface with someone else, nearly half of those with an adult.

While bed sharing is a known risk, “We were surprised by the large proportion of infants in this analysis that were sleeping in an adult bed and with an adult,” said Patricia Schnitzer, an associate professor of nursing at the University of Missouri and lead author of the report.

The study is the largest and most detailed look ever taken of conditions surrounding unexplained infant deaths. It is based on a registry built from reports by state and local child death-review boards. Most previous major studies of infant deaths have relied on much less detailed death certificate data.

Another report on childhood injuries released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted infant deaths from suffocation increased by 54 percent between 2000 and 2009, mainly in sleep settings.

Dr. Julie Gilchrist, an injury prevention epidemiologist, said some of those deaths may once have been misclassified as SIDS but, with the growing awareness of the dangers of unsafe sleeping, are now designated as suffocations.

“But it’s still almost 1,000 infants a year that are suffocating in their beds and in environments that we know aren’t safe and that can be prevented,” Gilchrist said during a conference call with reporters.

The third study, published in the April issue of Pediatrics, looked at risk factors present in 568 San Diego County SIDS cases between 1991 and 2008, particularly noting differences before a 1994-95 national campaign encouraging parents to put infants on their backs to sleep, and afterward.

Infant deaths attributed to SIDS went down by about 10 percent from 1996 on, and stomach sleeping among those fatalities declined to 30 percent, according to research led by Dr. Henry Krous of the San Diego SIDS Research Project at Rady Children’s Hospital.XXXX.

But the proportion of babies found sharing a bed with someone else when they died went from 19 percent to 38 percent, and the share found in an adult bed nearly doubled to 45 percent.

Beyond the studies, evidence of bed sharing dangers is also in daily headlines. This year so far, South Carolina authorities in Anderson, Greenville and Spartan counties say nearly a dozen infants have been smothered when sleeping with their parents. Most recently, a 1-month old boy suffocated against his father’s back.

In Lufkin, Texas, a mother was recently convicted of child endangerment for sharing a bed with her husband and a 2-month old who suffocated in 2010. Charges were filed only when prosecutors realized her one-month-old son had died in similar fashion in 2009, and the couple had received extensive counseling and warnings against co-sleeping with a baby.

About half of U.S. sudden infant deaths are now classified as SIDS, down from 80 percent or more in the 1990s; the other half are attributed to accidental suffocation or from unknown causes. But as Scripps Howard News Service showed in a 2007 investigation, classification of the deaths is erratic, with many medical examiners and coroners calling virtually all mysterious baby deaths SIDS, while others never use the term.

SIDS is supposed to be diagnosed only after an autopsy and death-scene investigation, that includes in-depth interviews and doll re-enactments of the scene, rule out any apparent cause.

Infant-death prevention advocates say child death-review programs and a pilot CDC registry of the reports now underway in seven states should help bring better understanding of the threats facing babies as they sleep — and better ways to educate adults in how to avoid them.

Theresa Covington, director of the National Center for Child Death Review in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a co-author of the Public Health report, noted in a survey last year that of 37 states presenting infant safe sleep messages to new parents, all mention back sleeping, but only about half cautioned against bed-sharing.

Updated sleep guidelines issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics last fall for the first time explicitly discourage bed-sharing, ending a long impasse over concern about impeding breastfeeding.

The AAP guidelines: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/128/5/1030.full>



Awards recognize extra efforts of MU employees

By **JANESE SILVEY**

Staff Writer, *Columbia Daily Tribune*

You could say Ron Cott goes the extra mile for his students in the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine. But last year, it was more like 8,600 or so miles.

Cott, associate dean for student and alumni affairs in the college, led a dozen veterinary students on a 20-day trip to South Africa, where they worked alongside professionals who treated lions, zebras and other exotic animals. He's leading a similar tour this summer.

Yesterday, he and nine other MU employees received recognition for spending time with students outside normal classroom and office hours. The Excellence in Education Awards, sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs and the MU Parents Leadership Council, recognizes instructors and advisers who serve as student club advisers, coordinate extracurricular activities or just take time to listen to students who are having problems.

"Students are sitting out there saying, 'That person made a difference for me,' and we know they're going to continue to make a difference for others," Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor of student affairs, said during the award reception at Reynolds Alumni Center.

Students approached Cott last year and asked him to spearhead the trip, which a smaller group of students had taken years before. The tour gives MU students a chance to treat exotic animals — last year, they spayed a lion in the back of a pickup truck, Cott said. Those are experiences they don't get on campus, though there are career opportunities in zoos and for treating exotic pets, he said.

Back on the homefront, Excellence in Education Award recipient David Oliver received a nod for leading Senior Teacher Educator Partnership, or STEP. The program pairs medical students with older active adults in the community, said Oliver, who is deputy director of MU's Interdisciplinary Center on Aging.

Through STEP, the student-senior partners attend some formal events during the school year, but they also go out to eat, go to the movies or go biking together. The main goal is to show students that older people, though they might have health problems, can remain active, said Oliver, who has battled cancer, heart disease and arthritis. "It's important to us that they not have an image of aging as frail," he said.

Other award recipients were:

- Bimal Balakrishnan, an assistant professor of architectural studies who was praised for helping form the Design with Digital Media Students Association, a group that aims to better coordinate digital media experiences between graduate and undergraduate students.

- Anne-Marie Foley, director of the Office of Service Learning, who creates out-of-class learning opportunities for students such as tutoring youths, assisting disabled people and helping refugee families learn English.
- Laura Hertel, coordinator of student services in the School of Natural Resources, who serves as an adviser to three student organizations.
- Bill Horner, an associate teaching professor in the political science department who helped students coordinate a symposium on science and politics.
- Dorina Kosztin, a teaching professor in the department of physics and astronomy who was praised for helping students not only understand science but also develop leadership skills.
- Lea Ann Lowery, a clinical associate professor of occupational therapy who created a clinic to give students more hands-on experiences.
- Jill Ostrow, an assistant professor of literacy who started a writing group and was credited for restoring one student's love of writing.
- Shawna Strickland, a clinical associate professor of respiratory therapy who organizes health assessments and other opportunities for students throughout the community.



Ameren, Westinghouse partner on nuclear reactors

By **RUDI KELLER**

JEFFERSON CITY — Officials from Ameren Missouri and Westinghouse have agreed to work together to land a \$452 million federal grant to prepare the Callaway nuclear plant site to house small nuclear reactors, Gov. Jay Nixon said Thursday.

The University of Missouri would play a major role in helping with the project through the nuclear engineering programs in Columbia and Rolla, Nixon said.

In an event on the lawn of the governor's mansion with industry and legislative leaders, Nixon said he was happy "to embrace a truly transformational opportunity for our state."

If the grant is awarded to Westinghouse, which has completed its design for a reactor that would produce up to 225 megawatts of power, Ameren will seek a permit to install up to five of the units in Callaway County, said Warner Baxter, chairman, president and CEO of Ameren Missouri.

"This is an opportunity that the state of Missouri simply cannot let pass by," Baxter said.

Since 2009, Ameren has sought legislation to help it finance the early stages of building a second generating plant at the Callaway site. Opposition killed those proposals because they required higher rates before electricity would be generated.

Those efforts will be dropped for this year and any legislation needed to assist the project would be developed after the U.S. Department of Energy announces which applicants have received grant funds. The grant is designed to promote what are known as "small modular reactors" that can be operational with 24 months of the start of construction, compared to 60 months or longer for conventional designs.

A full-sized nuclear power plant typically generates 1,000 megawatts of electricity or more.

If this project meets its promise, not only would the Callaway site become the demonstration project for Westinghouse, but Nixon said it has the potential to become the site where modular components are made to be shipped to remote sites for installation.

Two groups that had been fighting over the legislation supporting Ameren announced their support for the proposal Thursday.

"There is a right way and a wrong way to finance construction of new energy resources in our state, and this is the right way," said Chris Roepe of the Fair Energy Rate Action Fund, which had opposed Ameren's plan for a second generating plant in Callaway. "The announcement today helps establish an

energy plan for Missouri that will include an ample, reliable source of electricity, while also protecting Missouri ratepayers.”

The group that had supported Ameren's proposals, Missourians for a Balanced Energy Future, praised the plan announced Thursday and said the deal had great long-term potential.

“This historic partnership positions Missouri to become a worldwide leader and exporter of energy technology and manufacturing — securing our economic and energy future for generations,” said Irl Scissors, executive director of Missourians for a Balanced Energy Future.

Not all the reactions were positive. The Missouri Coalition for the Environment sent out a news release ahead of the announcement criticizing the reactor plan. The new nuclear power installation is theoretical, said Ed Smith, safe energy director for the coalition, while the return on renewable energy is clear.

“Renewable energy and energy efficiency can create 18,000 jobs across the state and meet 25 percent of our state's electric needs starting now instead of experimenting with expensive nuclear power,” Smith said in the release. “It's maddening our state's elected officials are pursuing risky nuclear power technology when there is no plan for the safe storage of the toxic radioactive waste piling up at the Callaway nuclear reactor.”