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Around the Columns

Bond gifts keep on giving

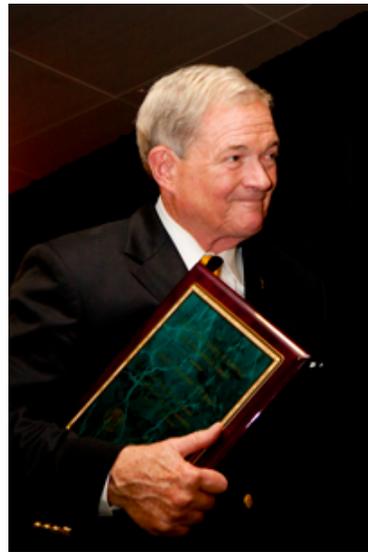
When friends asked Kit Bond how they could help him celebrate his 40 years in public life, the four-term U.S. senator, who retired in 2010, says it took no more than a “nanosecond” to decide he wanted to do something that would benefit the University of Missouri.

Many of those friends were on hand March 7, when Chancellor Brady J. Deaton announced the creation of the Christopher S. “Kit” Bond Distinguished Lecture Series. The series will provide a forum for national and international experts to discuss economics, politics, science and national security at venues across the state. It will be funded with a \$1.3 million endowment to MU.

Deaton says the lecture series is one way to thank Bond for his support of the university over the years. Bond has secured more than \$500 million in funding for research and capital projects, and Deaton noted that Mizzou Advantage, an initiative that capitalizes on MU’s competitive assets, has roots in Food for the 21st Century, a program Bond championed in the 1980s.

“It has been clear to me from the beginning,” Bond says, “that having a fully resourced state university that can be recognized as a class university is absolutely essential to the well-being of our citizens, to the growth of our economy and to our progress.”

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Former Missouri Senator and Governor Kit Bond has a new lecture series named in his honor at Mizzou. [Publications file photo](#)

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