

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection



NATIONAL recognition

Two advisers receive advising awards

Trista Strauch and Susan Klusmeier are in a league of their own. They belong to a community of advisers dedicated to helping students make the most of their time at Mizzou.

In early March, Strauch and Klusmeier each won awards from the National Academic Advising Association for their student advising expertise at Mizzou.

In the end, though, the students they advise are the real winners.

The small things

Klusmeier, an academic adviser in the Trulaske College of Business for five years, also serves as coordinator of the college's diversity programs and director of the Vasey Academy, a scholarship program for minority students.

While students and parents may believe an adviser's role is to tell students what classes to take, Klusmeier said there is much more to it.

"We get satisfaction out of getting to know everything about our students and helping them succeed outside of the classroom," Klusmeier said. "A lot of us work to connect with students in ways that go beyond just telling them what classes to take."

Sometimes, the small things advisers do for students have the biggest impact. One student, for example, kept sending Klusmeier emails with questions and apologies for asking. Klusmeier told her to keep the questions coming.

"I was surprised that she felt I had done a huge thing for her," Klusmeier said.

Good advisers also know when to pass the baton. “Our students, because we are their primary contact person, will come to us with many questions about financial aid or housing,” Klusmeier said. “I have to be ready to direct students to the appropriate resources. Sometimes that means making phone calls for the students or giving them tools to do the follow-up on their own.”

Getting to know you

Strauch, an assistant teaching professor in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, has been advising students since 2007.

A challenge is getting students to talk honestly about their advisory needs, she said. “No matter how much I want to assist them, I am only as good as the information they share with me. When they don’t open up, it is much more difficult to appropriately advise.”

Strauch said she tries to get to know the students before offering advice. “I believe this increases their comfort level greatly, and makes them more likely to provide the whole picture for me,” she said.

A good adviser is available, listens, understands university regulations and workforce expectations, and treats students with compassion and respect, Strauch said.

Advisers “keep students on track for graduation and assist in choosing a combination of courses that promote success,” she said. “They encourage students to grow professionally outside the classroom and make sure students do not fall between the cracks.

“They push their advisees beyond what they believe they can accomplish,” Strauch continued, “and they assist the student in finding his or her personal and professional identity.”

Though honored to receive the advising award, Strauch said her greatest reward is learning that her advisees have gone on to achieve success.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton’s World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women’s History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail: MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist



FEAR and PARANOIA: The Sowers is one of eight paintings by Thomas Hart Benton in the “Year of Peril” exhibit running through Aug. 15.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Benton’s World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time

An art show featuring paintings by the most recognized Missouri artist of the 20th century runs through mid-August in the main gallery at the State Historical Society of Missouri in Ellis Library.

Born in Neosho, Mo., in 1889, Thomas Hart Benton is best known for leading the Regionalist Movement, which emphasized representation at a time when much of the art world was in love with abstraction. Grant Wood, who painted *American Gothic*, and John Steuard Curry, known for his murals in the statehouse in Topeka, Kan., are two other artists identified with the movement.

But Regionalism is not realism. The works in the genre tend to be stylized. Many are emotive and make subtle social commentary.

Benton’s eight works in the Mizzou show take representation to a disturbing place. The show focuses on the paintings Benton created in early 1942 in response to America entering World War II. The works, done in egg tempera, show cartoonish figures in a ghoulish world of death and destruction. The style is similar to that of Salvador Dali, but rather than portray dreamy scenes, Benton opts for rendering a nightmare of fear, destruction and paranoia.

“Each one has some image of fire in the background,” said Joan Stack, curator of art collections at the State Historical Society. “It is a hellish world, a hell on earth.”

Benton created the works months after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The attack jolted Americans to the awareness that the war might be fought, at least in part, in their own back yard.

Fear tends to generate other heated emotions, and for Americans that manifested in hate and racism toward the enemy (the Germans and Japanese were expressing the same toward the Allies). Benton's 1942 war paintings transmuted these emotions into American propaganda. Stack also includes in the show contemporary editorial cartoons and war posters to show the period's tumult.

The presentation suggests "the intensity of emotion during the time," Stack said.

Cover of *Time*

Benton's path to the "Year of Peril" paintings, as the gallery show calls them, began when he was a 17-year-old drawing cartoons for *The Joplin (Mo.) American*. After stints at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Académie Julian in Paris, Benton moved to New York to become a painter. But then he was drafted into the U.S. Navy. Stationed in Norfolk, Va., during World War I, Benton spent many hours making illustrations of shipyard life. Scholars say it was a formative period of his mature style.

After his discharge, Benton returned to New York to concentrate on representational art, and years later he was famous, gracing the cover of *Time* magazine in 1934.

Benton, at age 46, returned to Missouri in 1935 to create his best-known work, *A Social History of Missouri*, a series of murals in the House Lounge in the State Capitol. The commission led to his appointment as head of the painting department at the Kansas City Art Institute. His most famous student was Jackson Pollock, a future leader of Abstract Expressionism, which, in about a decade, would make Regionalist art seem passé to the art world.

Benton's work was never as cut-and-dried as that of some other Midwestern artists. In his 1933 murals portraying Indiana history, he included the Ku Klux Klan, who had become notorious in the state about a decade earlier. His Jefferson City murals depicted scenes of slavery.

If art copies life (or is it the other way around?), it's not surprising that Benton's rendering the good, the bad and the ugly suggested his extreme personality. Biographers say Benton could be irascible, and it apparently caught up with him at the art institute in 1941 when he was fired for derogatory comments on race and the institute. Given this, it seems apt that Benton would jump wholeheartedly into some of the ugliness of World War II propaganda.

But as with most of Benton's art, there's more going on than first meets the eye.

Calm above the storm

One of the works in the gallery show is titled *The Sowers*. Benton depicts either a Japanese or German officer sowing skulls, or seeds of death, from his hip-tied bag. In the background, a vulture in silhouette watches from a broken tree as fire explodes from an apocalyptic landscape.

Stack said the work seems almost to foreshadow war atrocities like the Holocaust that came to light months and years later.

Another painting in the show is titled *Starry Night*, a nod to Vincent van Gogh's famous work. But where van Gogh sets a spiraling night sky above a tranquil village, Benton takes the opposite approach. Beneath a calm sky, he depicts a horrific scene of a seaman drowning in oily water as flames swoop around him and his ship sinks.

Is Benton employing a technique used by Leo Tolstoy in *War and Peace*, in which the beauty and detachment of nature is juxtaposed with the horrors of human battle? Is it a commentary on how the ravages of war most often take place in idle settings?

Stack hopes that Benton's paintings and the gallery exhibits give visitors a sense of the mood that pervaded America in 1942. The uncertainty that gripped the country is hard to imagine today, but it explains the sharpness of the propaganda.

"These were probably more intense to look at during World War II and soon afterward," Stack said of Benton's 1942 works. "Now we see them as historical reflections of the mood of the nation. The show is way to let us in to what people at the time were feeling."

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards

- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail: MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness

RAISING MIZZOU'S STATURE AND IMPACT

Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide

From the Reynolds Journalism Institute's testing lab to the psychological sciences department's Brain Imaging Center, innovation drives nearly every aspect of research at Mizzou.

A change to the campuswide Mizzou Advantage program will reflect the expansive role that innovation plays in interdisciplinary research.

Officials announced in January that the program's Managing Innovation initiative was integrated into the

four other Mizzou Advantage areas: One Health/One Medicine, Food for the Future, Media of the Future and Sustainable Energy.

Managing Innovation supported research that analyzes how innovation and technological change affects business, government and society. Because addressing the consequences of innovation is crucial to the four interdisciplinary areas, Managing Innovation needs to be part of the other initiatives, Provost Brian Foster said.

"From the beginning, Managing Innovation was envisioned as an overarching subject, with the other four initiatives providing virtual labs for studying the consequences of innovation," Foster said. "Over time, however, it has emerged as a theme that runs deeply through each area."

Meg Phillips, Mizzou Advantage program director,

said that though there is no longer a faculty facilitator for Managing Innovation, opportunities for research are still plentiful.

"Our focus on the consequences of technological innovation will remain a central component of Mizzou Advantage, and funding will remain available to seed grant-funded projects, sponsor symposia and to further our understanding of innovation's role in the four areas," Phillips said.

Carsten Strathausen, who facilitated Managing Innovation since Mizzou Advantage launched in 2010, returned to his full-time role as an associate professor of German and Russian studies.

Several successful research collaborations have already sprung from the Managing Innovation area, said Charles Davis, an associate professor of journalism and a facilitator for the Media of the Future initiative. More are expected now that it has been integrated into the rest of the program.

One success story is Communication Markets, a collaboration between the journalism school and the

Trulaske College of Business. The program analyzes how new media platforms have changed the newspaper business, such as through massive layoffs of journalists, the loss of advertising for print and the challenges of advertising online.

Communication Markets was one of 64 projects funded by Mizzou Advantage grants in 2010 and 2011. Murali Mantrala, professor of marketing, credits the \$20,000 grant with jumpstarting an important partnership between the journalism school and business college.

“The journalism school can provide access to newspaper companies with their vast reserves of financial data, but that data has never been plugged into economic models for analysis,” which is where the business college’s expertise comes in, Mantrala said. “Now we’re working together.”

That kind of interdisciplinary collaboration is the key to raising the university’s stature and impact, two main goals of Mizzou Advantage, Davis said.

To find out more about Mizzou Advantage, visit mizzouadvantage.missouri.edu.

— *Tara Ballenger*

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton’s World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women’s History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail: MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer

AIR TRAVEL MADE EASIER

Flights expected to benefit university, local economy

Officials see great possibilities for the city and university now that Columbia Regional Airport will have direct flights to Atlanta beginning June 7.

Mayor Bob McDavid announced March 2 that Delta Air Lines will offer daily nonstop flights between Columbia and Hartsfield-Jackson International, the busiest airport in America.

For the past five months, MU, the city, the Chamber of Commerce and the airport have worked to bring the flights to Columbia. Jackie Jones, vice chancellor for administrative services, has been closely involved.

Jones said the Atlanta flights will aid in student recruitment, research opportunities, promoting the university, and domestic and international travel by the Mizzou community.

University events will be easier to attend for people outside of mid-Missouri. "The provost has a stated goal of increasing conferences and seminars, which means bringing more people to campus," Jones said.

Robert Duncan, vice chancellor for research, said he's "delighted" by the Atlanta hub connection because it will increase visits between university scientists and those around the world.

Traveling for Mizzou sports players and fans will be smoother, as well, especially since Missouri athletics will be part of the Southeastern Conference starting this summer.

Columbia's economic development will likely benefit from the flights, McDavid said at the press conference. Several months ago, an international animal health company backed out of locating to Columbia because booking connection flights to its home office in Barcelona, Spain, was too difficult. McDavid hopes this will never happen again.

"This connection will facilitate job creators by making Columbia and mid-Missouri easily accessible," McDavid said.

McDavid considers the Atlanta flights the first step in having Columbia's airport handle 40 percent of flights for area residents by 2020.

"We want those 600 mid-Missourians driving daily to St. Louis to fly out of Columbia Regional Airport," McDavid said. "We want those 300 mid-Missourians who drive daily to Kansas City International" to do likewise.

The Delta Air Lines flights will depart Columbia at 10:10 a.m. and return at 4:15 p.m. Tickets for flights are on sale now.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide

- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri

THE CARDBOARD REGATTA

Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees

Want to race a cardboard boat to help a local organization feed the hungry? The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) and The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri are giving amateur boat builders a chance to float to victory.

Float Your Boat for the Food Bank Cardboard Regatta is happening April 21 at A. Perry Philips Park, 5050 Bristol Lake Parkway.

Registration for racers ends March 21. All proceeds go toward supplying food to needy mid-Missourians.

Float Your Boat is part of a 12-month commitment by CAFNR to boost food donations to The Food Bank. The college contributes by using its expertise, partnerships and knowledge in areas of agriculture, economics and nutrition.

For the project, CAFNR planted two acres of sweet corn at its Bradford Research Center to provide 14,000 ears to 28,000 ears for The Food Bank. Also, CAFNR students volunteered for The Food Bank's Buddy Pack Program, where each week more than 8,600 children receive food to supplement meals.

Recent statistics show that one in six adults and one in four children in mid-Missouri are "food insecure," which means they do not always know where they will get their next meal, said Peggy Kirkpatrick, Food Bank executive director.

Float Your Boat is open to individuals, families, and organization and corporate teams. "This event will bring groups together to collaborate on an innovative, team-building project, culminating with a fun, unique competition while supporting a great cause," said Kristen Smarr, director of communications at CAFNR.

A few boat construction rules are in place.

The rowboats need to be large enough for at least two people and must be made of corrugated, non-waxed cardboard. Wood, Styrofoam, rubber or other inflatable devices are prohibited. Joints and seams may be glued or taped together, and decorations and corporate logos can be included as long as they don't help the boat float.

"Teams are encouraged to get creative when building their boats," Smarr said.

Prizes will be given to teams that place in the race, have the best-decorated boat and use cardboard creatively.

Boats that don't meet construction requirements can still compete in the Pirate Race, but no prize will be awarded to its winner.

For more information about the race, visit floatforthefoodbank

[.org/index.php](http://floatforthefoodbank.org/index.php). To sponsor a boat, call Todd Pridemore at The Food Bank at 474-1020.

— *Randy Mertens*

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards

- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail: MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it

LIVING SIMPLY

Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items

On a daily basis, Lincoln Sheets carries 39 of his 86 possessions in his backpack.

Sheets can't skip laundry day, but it's not much of a chore for him anyway. His wardrobe — every shirt, sock, undergarment and pair of pants he owns — totals fewer than 25 pieces and can be washed in a single load.

Sheets, MD '11, a first-year family and community medicine resident, said that is just one of the benefits he has reaped from limiting his possessions to 100 items.

Shortly after Sheets started medical school at Mizzou, his wife showed him a 2008 *Time* magazine article about the

"100 Thing Challenge," a minimalist experiment to limit personal possessions. "She plopped it in my lap and said, 'This reminds me of you,'" he recalled. "Then she was so sorry she had done so because she wasn't expecting me to do anything with it."

When Sheets adopted the challenge as his New Year's resolution, he had no clue how many items he owned [more than 700] and gave himself a more realistic goal [reduce to 500 items]. He placed a garbage bag in his closet and started adding clothing that he wanted to give away to friends or to Goodwill. Before he knew it, he was down to about 150 items.

"The first 600 or so things were no-brainers," he said. "I had a ton of camping equipment that I only used once or twice a year, books I'd never read again and clothes I hadn't worn in two years."

Because he had come that far, he figured he'd continue whittling his belongings down to 100. It wasn't easy; what remained were Sheets' favorite, highest-quality items. He held on to a pair of \$150 boots for a while before eventually giving them to a hiker friend.

"Every decision I made required pushing past that urge to hold on," Sheets said. "As I got closer to 100 things, I felt more successful. It was like sticking to an exercise plan or a studying plan."

Sheets planned to maintain the 100-possession limit for a year, but he said he has continued the challenge because it's been surprisingly easy. He now owns 86 things, including a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff, rain poncho, jumper cables, *Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide*, bicycle helmet and toiletries. Aside from his car, bicycle, motorbike and a few other items, everything the 48-year-old owns fits into his backpack, which makes traveling easy. When Sheets realizes that he needs something for a temporary use, he tries to borrow instead of buy.

"I have a friend with whom I had done a lot of road trips and camping, and he has a garage full of man stuff. I'm always borrowing something from him, and every time I do, he teases me about my 100 things plus his," Sheets said. "But I think of that as a virtue of this project. Not everybody I know who likes to camp needs duplicate camping stoves. We won't be using them at the same time. It's kind of nice to be a little bit more dependent on other people than on things. Of course, I'm careful not to go too far. If I'm borrowing something too much, I need to buy it and get rid of something else."

He admits that deciding what items to count and how to count them can cause some controversy. One woman quoted in the *Time* article, for example, considers her entire shoe collection as one possession. Sheets is living with his mother-in-law in Columbia during his residency and doesn't count any of her furniture or possessions.

The furnishings in his Springfield, Mo., home that belong to his wife don't figure into his calculations either.

Sheets said his new lifestyle hasn't rubbed off much on his family: His mother's favorite pastime is buying antiques at the flea market, and his wife has a garage full of stuff. But for Sheets, the 100-thing limit has had lasting benefits.

"I feel like the more I prove to myself that I'm OK without a bunch of things, the more I really am OK without a bunch of things," he said.

— *Stephanie Detillier*

This article originally appeared in the Winter 2012 issue of MIZZOU, the magazine of the Mizzou Alumni Association.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say

GOING GREEN

Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal

Construction is underway on the 100 percent biomass-fueled boiler at MU's power plant. When operational later this year, the boiler could shrink the plant's coal usage by a wide margin.

The power plant might be considered the James Brown of the university. Churning up to 66 megawatts of electricity and 1.1 million pounds of steam each hour, it's undoubtedly the hardest working facility on campus.

As coal-fired plants go, MU's is more efficient than most. Because it produces thermal heat and electrical power at the same time, the plant burns a third less coal than power-only plants, resulting in about 100,000 fewer tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

The plant's coal usage could decrease by 25 percent by the middle of this year, when the new boiler goes online. At first, it will burn mostly waste from wood milling operations. Campus Facilities' Energy Management officials expect to eventually use up to 140,000 tons annually of sustainable biomass from various sources in Missouri: waste wood; corn cobs and stalks; prairie grasses, such as miscanthus and switchgrass; and fast-growing trees, such as willow and cottonwood.

"For the long term, we're looking at what some people call closed-loop biomass," said Gregg Coffin, superintendent of the power plant. "That's biomass specifically grown to produce energy."

CAFNR connection

The new boiler will feature what's called a bubbling fluidized bed. Coffin described it as a large container of sand that heats up to 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit. When hot sand becomes like fluid, the liquid acts as a thermal flywheel that consumes fuels with high moisture content. The heat is turned into steam to generate electricity and thermal energy for the campus.

Coffin and his biomass team, which includes researchers from the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) and MU Extension, have been exploring alternatives to coal since 1995, when they started burning chipped tires. Corn cobs were added to the mixture in 2006, and a year later the team tested woody biomass from mill waste, development clearing and discarded pallets.

In June 2010, the plant received an Energy Star Combined Heat and Power Award from the Environmental Protection Agency for its efficiency, which lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Three of the five new silos being constructed will be used to store biomass material.

In 2010, MU was developing plans to replace one of its five coal-fired boilers. Coffin said the university had initially considered a boiler fueled by natural gas or a coal boiler that could take a higher percentage of biomass. Despite the plant's early success with coal alternatives, there was still a lot to be learned about biomass, including figuring out what Coffin calls "the chicken and egg thing."

"No one is going to develop a biomass source unless someone builds a plant to consume it," he explained. "But once the plant is operational and consuming the biomass, there will be more and more people interested in developing those sources."

Crops to burn

One key to the new boiler's success is located across campus, at the forestry department in the School of Natural Resources and the MU Center for Agroforestry in the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building. Along with extension specialist Hank Stelzer, forestry researchers are identifying and developing viable energy crops, while scouting growing locations such as river bottoms and other land unsuitable for conventional row crops.

They also are exploring ways to tap the state's 14 million acres of forest. Stelzer has developed an interactive spatial analysis tool that screens locations that might be good sources of sustainable woody biomass. He and other forestry experts are establishing research plots to test various species of trees as energy crops, while developing guidelines that will protect the health of the forests.

"We have set a really high bar in that we will only be taking wood from the forest once there is a management plan in place," Stelzer said.

"A professional forester has to be involved not only in the development of the [biomass] plan, but also in the harvesting," he said. "Following that through and showing it can be done in a sustainable way, that's going to set a standard for other biomass projects in the state."

Back at the power plant, Coffin and his operations staff will need to answer some questions of their own. Can the boiler handle 100 percent switchgrass, or will it be necessary to mix it with an equal amount of woody biomass? What's the optimum combustion temperature?

Corn cobs and grasses have a high alkaline content compared to wood, which can cause problems with the boiler's mechanics and impair the efficiency of heat transfer. What are the costs in time and money of maintaining a 100 percent biomass boiler?

"There's very limited knowledge," Coffin said. "We'll have to learn what temperatures, the blend ratios, how often we have to change out the bed material and clean the tube surface.

"That's something we'll likely continue to partner with the academic community along with the boiler manufacturer to find out," he said. "There's the expertise to work together, to find out what types of these fuels can be consumed and what form do they have to be consumed in. There are some challenges ahead, but we'll work through them."

Reducing carbon emissions

Gary Ward, associate vice chancellor for Campus Facilities, said the decision to go with a 100 percent biomass boiler was partly the result of "reading the tea leaves."

In January 2009, Chancellor Brady J. Deaton joined 650 other higher education leaders in signing the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. MU's pledge is to reduce carbon emissions by 20 percent from 2008 levels by 2015, a goal that largely depends on reducing the amount of coal burned at the power plant.

Ward noticed that sustainability was becoming more important to students, faculty and staff. The university announced an official policy in March 2010 that strongly encourages departments to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. And in the past few years, student organizations have launched recycling and composting projects, as well as a program that awards small grants for student projects that demonstrate environmental stewardship.

"The biomass boiler fell right in line with the campus wanting to become a greener campus," Ward said. "We were starting to see a lot of change within stakeholders of the university and society in general of trying to get away from coal and find some other fuel sources."

Although it will be some time before other energy sources, such as solar and wind, are viable on a large scale, Coffin and Ward say Campus Facilities is willing to explore those options through demonstration projects. The department has accepted bids to install solar panels on the sloped side of a building at the power plant, and a small windmill is being considered for the grounds of the old Beef Barn at the corner of Stadium Boulevard and Champions Drive.

"As an energy provider, we need to learn how these technologies work because they will get more efficient and may at some point make more economic sense," Coffin said. "So we need to educate our staff, as well as our students and faculty."

This article originally appeared in the Winter 2012 edition of MIZZOU, the magazine of the Mizzou Alumni Association.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Women's History Month events

March is Women's History Month, and this year's theme is "Women's Education, Women's Empowerment."

The Women's Center is overseeing about 15 women-themed events this month.

Here's a sample of two upcoming free events:

- 19th annual Women in the Arts Gallery, 4 to 6 p.m. March 4 through 30, Craft Studio Gallery, N12 Memorial Union.
- 16th annual Women's Poetry Night, 6 to 7 p.m. March 6, Women's Center, G108 Student Center.

For a complete calendar of Women's History Month events, visit womenscenter

.missouri.edu.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the University of Missouri. All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions

MU Health Care has eight retail pharmacies in Columbia where eligible faculty and staff can fill prescriptions, usually at a lower cost than at a pharmacy not affiliated with the university.

Eligible employees also receive a 10 percent discount on nonprescription medications and some supplies.

For information on prescriptions, call Faculty and Staff Benefits at 882-1246 or email benefits@umsystem.edu.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14

A panel discussion on the science, economics and politics of global food production sustainability will take place 4 to 6 p.m. March 14 in Monsanto Auditorium at the Bond Life Sciences Center.

The inaugural event is called the University of Missouri Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Distinguished Lecture. Bond, a former Missouri senator, is event moderator.

Scheduled to speak are Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesia's U.S. ambassador; and Roger Beachy, president emeritus of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis. Chancellor Brady J. Deaton will make opening remarks.

The event is hosted by the Bond Lecture Series, created to provide a forum for national and international experts to discuss economics, politics, science and global security.

For more information, call the Student Affairs at 882-6776.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail: MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](http://www.mizzou.edu). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Soybean symposium coming in April

The eighth annual Soybean Biotechnology Symposium will take place 9 a.m.

to 6 p.m. April 11 at the Bond Life Sciences Center.

The symposium will focus on what the latest soybean research promises for food, health and energy concerns worldwide.

The event is free and open to everyone, though online registration is required at soybiotechcenter.org. Click Symposium, then Registration.

Lecturers include Thomas Carter, professor of crop science and research at North Carolina State University; and Scott Jackson, professor of plant genetics and functional genomics at the University of Georgia.

Sponsoring the event is the University of Missouri's National Center for Soybean Biotechnology.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.

Mizzou Weekly

March 14, 2012 Volume 33, No. 24

Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers

Nearly 30 members of the 2011 Mizzou football team went to Jefferson City Feb. 21 to meet lawmakers and fans.

The players joined Coach Gary Pinkel and Athletic Director Mike Alden for a session to sign posters and footballs for senators and representatives in the House Lounge.

Afterward, the players met with staff and fans, who saw the 2011 Independence Bowl trophy, won by the Tigers after defeating North Carolina last December.

The day marked the first trip to the Capitol for

UM System President Tim Wolfe, who visited with the team and lawmakers.

Wolfe began his official duties Feb. 15.

March 14, 2012 Issue

- [Advisers offer students expertise on more than course selection](#) Two advisers receive advising awards
- [Tumultuous year of 1942 depicted by revered 20th-century Missouri artist](#) Benton's World War II-era paintings show fear, paranoia of the time
- [Mizzou Advantage consolidates initiatives to increase effectiveness](#) Innovation plays role in interdisciplinary research campuswide
- [Columbia Regional Airport offering direct flights to Atlanta starting this summer](#) Flights expected to benefit university, local economy
- [Floating your boat helps feed mid-Missouri](#) Creativity is encouraged in boat entrees
- [Medicine resident gets by with less, and likes it](#) Lincoln Sheets limits his possessions to 100 items
- [Biomass-fueled boiler to be operational this year, Campus Facilities officials say](#) Biomass is a cleaner alternative to coal
- [Women's History Month events](#)
- [Faculty and staff can save on medical prescriptions](#)
- [Global food sustainability subject of discussion March 14](#)
- [Soybean symposium coming in April](#)
- [Tigers, coaches visit Jefferson City lawmakers](#)

[More in the archive »](#)

Published by Mizzou Weekly, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-7357 | E-mail:

MizzouWeekly@missouri.edu

© 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](http://www.mizzou.edu). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/access/affirmative action/pro-disabled and veteran](#) employer.