

Mizzou Weekly

March 21, 2012 Volume 33, No. 25

International experts discuss challenges of feeding the world



FEEDING THE WORLD: From left, Roger Beachy, president emeritus of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; Christopher S. “Kit” Bond, former Missouri governor and congressman; Brady J. Deaton, MU chancellor; and Dino Patti Djalal, ambassador to the United States for Indonesia took part in a lecture on worldwide hunger March 14 at the Bond Life Sciences Center. Photo by Rob Hill.

MONSANTO AUDITORIUM

“Food security is national security,” one panelist said.

Global hunger was the topic at the first Christopher “Kit” Bond Distinguished Lecture March 14 at the Bond Life Sciences Center’s Monsanto Auditorium.

Speakers included Dino Patti Djalal, Indonesia’s ambassador to the United States; and Roger Beachy, president emeritus of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

MU Chancellor Brady J. Deaton, who in 2011 was appointed by President Obama to chair the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, made opening remarks. Deaton said that feeding a global population expected to grow to 9 billion by 2050 would require a 70 percent surge in global food production.

He said he would base his food-sustainability recommendations to Washington, D.C., officials on the substance of the Bond Lecture discussion. “Clearly the panel we have today could not be more appropriate for addressing the issue on a broad basis,” Deaton said.

About 1 billion people around the world are starving, international health groups report. In 2010, there were 925 million people in the world suffering from malnutrition, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. That’s an increase of 80 million since 1990.

In Indonesia, experts grapple with how much the government should control the agricultural process, Djalal said.

Financial turmoil also impacts food prices, he said, as happened in Indonesia in 1998, causing social unrest.

In Vietnam, planned hydroelectric dams may jeopardize proper water flow and crop production, affecting regions relying on the country as a major rice exporter, said Le Thanh Binh, head of the Office of Science and Technology at the Vietnamese Embassy.

Beachy pointed out that the United States risks a similar fate to Vietnam's regarding food production if it fails to invest in agricultural resources.

About 12 percent of Americans' income is spent on food, but the cost could jump five-fold if a better sustainable approach to food production isn't achieved, he said.

"We don't support agriculture resources enough in this country," he said. "What's it going to take?"

Panelists offered a number of solutions.

Feeding the world would require stronger leaders who promote national dietary habits and food sustainability, they said. It would require long-term planning and policies addressing energy and food.

Josyline Javelosa, agricultural counselor for the Philippines Embassy, said technological intervention is necessary to make food more nutritious and better distributed worldwide.

Djalal pointed out that the stability of nations and, therefore, the world depends on a thoughtful approach to feeding the hungry.

"Food security is national security," he said.

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New council elected to advise and promote Honors College



Honors College Director Nancy West is also on the college's council. Photo by Nicholas Benner

SETTING THE AGENDA

Council members are selected every three years

Sixteen faculty were selected in January to serve a three-year term on the advisory council for the Honors College. Nancy West, director of the college, called the people chosen "superstars on campus."

Honors Council faculty come from a variety of schools and colleges on campus. Ten are new to the council, and three are from the Honors College. (See the complete list of Honors Council faculty on Page 3.)

West and Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies, chose the members. "Every single person we asked to be a part of this council said 'yes,'" West said. "That alone tells me that we have a committee that is very enthusiastic."

In making their selections, West and Spain looked for faculty with outstanding records in undergraduate education.

The Honors Council approves the Honors College's academic policies and procedures, and advises the provost's office on the college's goals.

Members strive to increase educational opportunities for talented undergraduates. They also discuss potential Honors College programs and act as college ambassadors.

Along with providing honors classes, the college offers opportunities for research work, leadership projects and study-abroad trips specifically designed for honors students.

West said council faculty will meet with their respective college or school to discuss how the Honors College's agenda might fit in to other campus programs. "We'll let them know what our plans are and find out what they need and what they want," West said.

High on the council to-do list is to create a mission and vision statement for the college.

Linda Bennett, an associate professor in the learning, teaching and curriculum department of the College of Education, said she's enjoying the "visioning process."

For more on the Honors College, go to Page 3 for a story on West's lecture to faculty on creating honors courses.

— *Josh Murray*

Honors College council members were elected in January. Below is a complete list of members, 10 of whom are new to the council.

- Linda Bennett, associate professor of learning, teaching and curriculum;
- Shari Freyermuth, associate teaching professor of biochemistry;
- Chris Hardin, professor and chair of nutrition and exercise physiology;
- Joe Johnston, professor of counseling and psychological sciences, and director of the MU Career Center;
- Lynda Kraxberger, professor and chair of convergence journalism;
- Greeley Kyle, assistant professor of radio-television journalism;
- Julie Melnyk, associate director of the Honors College;
- Etti Naveh-Benjamin, assistant professor of psychological sciences;
- Robert O'Connell, professor of electrical and computer engineering;
- Mark Ryan, director of the School of Natural Resources;
- Ines Segert, associate director of the Honors College;
- David Setzer, professor of biological sciences;
- Mary Shenk, assistant professor of anthropology;
- Alexandra Socarides, assistant professor of English;
- Dan B. Turban, professor and chair of management;
- Nancy West, director of the Honors College.

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Honors College leader encourages creativity in honors courses

THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Faculty has wide latitude in honors course creation

Working with gifted students and creating honors courses was the topic of a lecture March 7 in Gannett Hall by Honors College Director Nancy West.

West told 15 faculty and graduate students in attendance that teaching honors courses offers a chance to approach topics from fresh perspectives.

“It allows you to take a different angle in your teaching,” West said at the Preparing Future Faculty Program’s Professional Development Seminar.

She also addressed the challenges of developing and teaching honors courses, and explained that the point isn’t to add to the student’s workload. Courses could be about finding ways to maximize a student’s potential.

“You might actually shrink the content of a course when making it an honors course,” West said. “That way, you can look at fewer examples or case studies, but examine them much more intensely. You get to be more in-depth in your study.”

West suggested an interdisciplinary approach to honors courses. She gave an example of a course coming in the fall created by Noah Manning, the chair of electrical and computer engineering who holds 10 U.S. patents for innovations in the field of fluid power.

In his honors course, titled “A History of Modern Engineering Inventions,” Manning combines the disciplines of engineering and business. He’ll instruct on seven engineering inventions from an entrepreneurial perspective. “An invention can’t succeed unless you have a good business sense for it,” he told her.

West said honors faculty should be deft at facilitating classroom discussion, and she encourages faculty to allow students freedom in how the courses are conducted.

“Faculty often tell me some of their best classes are the ones where the students do most of the leading,” she said.

In addition to encouraging classroom creativity, West is committed to developing what she calls the “honors experience” — or providing learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom setting.

She said her best memories of her honors studies as a Rutgers University undergraduate were earning credit in outside-classroom programs.

West wants faculty to think outside the box when it comes to deciding how students attain honors credit. Students, after all, might take a graduate seminar, an honors-study-abroad program, or do field work or undergraduate research.

Currently, West is developing a list of extracurricular honors activities she plans to discuss with other Honors Council members in the near future.

— *Josh Murray*

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Faculty and students collaborate on upcoming play addressing body image

MIZZOU ADVANTAGE

Journalism and theater faculty partner in project

Faculty and students discussed the media's affect on teenagers' body image during a March 15 meeting sponsored by Mizzou Advantage in the Student Center. The purpose was to mine ideas for a play this spring on body image issues.

Mizzou Advantage, dedicated to increasing national and global awareness of MU, has taken an interest in the subject through its Undergraduate Research Team program., which strives to create collaboration between faculty and students.

Mizzou's theater department and journalism school have partnered in the research and production of the play.

Five students and Maria Len-Rios, an associate professor of strategic communication in the School of Journalism, have overseen the focus-group research, titled "Risking the Inside for the Outside: Nutrition, Media and Body Image Among College Students."

Len-Rios said media images that show thinner body types can have destructive consequences for children and teenagers.

"We're seeing eating disorders at a much younger age," she said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2009 Health-Risk and Behavior Survey shows that 14.5 percent of girls and 6.9 percent of boys in grades 9 through 12 have fasted for 24 hours to lose weight, Len-Rios said.

Suzanne Burgoyne, a professor of theater, said performances based on the focus group findings would be similar to those in *Difficult Dialogues*, an MU theater series started in 2006 to stimulate conversation about diversity and controversial beliefs.

Those performances were interactive — the audience sometimes conversing with the play's characters — and designed to make viewers talk past their discomfort about conflicting opinions regarding controversial topics such as race, religion and sexual orientation.

The spring performances will attempt to do the same with body image.

"We try to represent all the points of view," Burgoyne said.

The interdisciplinary project is part of Mizzou Advantage's Food for the Future and Media of the Future initiatives.

— *Lauren Foreman*

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National Doctor's Day coming

Do you have a favorite doctor at MU Health Care?

Tell the university about him or her at muhealth.org/mudoc (<http://muhealth.org/mudoc>).

On National Doctor's Day on March 30, MU will present your message to your doctor.

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Tiger Garden sale

Get ready for spring with a sale at Tiger Garden 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and Friday.

Lettuce, spinach, cabbage, pansies and snapdragons are just a few of the plants available.

The sale is at 1-31 Agriculture Building in the first-floor hallway. For more information, call Tiger Garden at 884-1191.

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Medical school receives grant

The School of Medicine received a \$500,000 grant to aid in addressing how public health issues are influenced by patients' social and behavioral histories.

The goal of the National Institutes of Health grant is to help medical students become more knowledgeable about the backgrounds of their patients.

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Three faculty receive diversity awards

The Office of Student Affairs has awarded three faculty members the inaugural 2012 MU Faculty Achievement Award in Diversity. This is an endowed award given to faculty members whose work encourages diversity and inclusion on campus.

Here are this year's recipients:

- Miriam Golomb is an associate professor of biological sciences in the College of Arts and Science.
- Treva Lindsey is an assistant professor of women's and gender studies in the College of Arts and Science. She is also a faculty affiliate of MU's Black Studies Program and has a graduate teaching appointment in the history department.
- Cheryl Shigaki is an associate professor of health psychology in the School of Health Professions. Shigaki serves on the Chancellor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities.

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