

## Mizzou Weekly

Sept. 20, 2012 Volume 34, No. 5

### **One hundred campus trees lost to heat and drought**

#### LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Plans are to replace trees over the next two years

North of Reynolds Alumni Center, a circle of new grass marks where a 25-foot spruce once stood. The spruce, along with about 100 other campus trees, died this summer.

From June through August, the state of Missouri experienced its worst drought in a generation. The lack of rain and string of 100-degree days took their toll on the 705 acres of developed MU land.

Automated irrigated areas on the two acres of gardens and select lawns, like Kuhlman Court and Francis Quadrangle, were mostly unscathed. But non-irrigated areas — the lawns of the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center, McAlester Park, Dairy Lawn — were reduced to scorched earth.

During a normal summer, 60 percent of labor involves watering. But last summer, Landscape Services staff watered 90 percent of the time, said Pete Millier, director of Campus Facilities–Landscape Services and Mizzou Botanic Garden.

Though Millier noticed drought signs as early as fall 2010, he wasn't prepared for the ravage. "It's been a tough summer," he said.

Even the squirrels and rabbits suffered, though Millier believes no animal deaths were due to the dire conditions.

Environmental stress on trees meant fewer acorns for squirrels, and dead grass meant reduced food for rabbits, he said. Many tree trunks were wrapped for protection from the gnawing creatures in search of food.

Millier said the department will invest in additional watering equipment and plant more trees resilient to heat and drought, such as Chinese pistache and crape myrtle.

About 150 new trees will be planted over the next two years.

"We are optimistic for an improved landscape," Millier said.

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### **Law professor warns of potential problem in the Affordable Care Act**

Constitutional Quandary

Individual mandate may be undoing of legislation

The Affordable Care Act is doomed.

That was the takeaway point offered Monday by University of Missouri law professor Thom Lambert at a panel discussion about the recent Supreme Court ruling on the controversial health care legislation.

Lambert was one of four panelists to speak at the hour-long discussion in the Hulston Hall Courtroom. Also taking part were Josh Hawley, associate law professor; Phil Peters, law professor; and Stan Hudson, associate director of the MU Center for Health Policy.

The event took place on the 225th anniversary of Constitution Day, which honors the signing of the U.S. Constitution by the Founding Fathers.

In upholding the requirement for everyone to buy health insurance — the central feature of the 2010 law overhauling the nation's health insurance system — the Supreme Court this summer said that Congress could not force everyone to buy insurance based on its power to regulate commerce, but it could tax people who chose not to buy insurance.

That's a distinction with a big difference, Lambert argued to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 people.

Taxes are constitutionally different than penalties, Lambert said. Penalties, such as a speeding ticket, are relatively large sums; they are designed to alter behavior. Because the Affordable Care Act's penalties for not buying insurance are relatively small sums, the court ruled that they're not penalties but taxes.

The impact of basing the mandate's constitutionality on that argument, Lambert contended, is that to be constitutional, the enforcement of the individual mandate must forever be too weak to be effective. Without an effective mandate, the law's provisions for requiring health insurance companies to cover people with pre-existing health conditions at the same cost as their healthy peers fall apart.

Crunching the numbers, Lambert concluded that families with incomes of \$45,000 or more would save money by not buying insurance until they really needed it. Economists call that adverse selection. Lambert called it the "What would young, healthy people do?" approach.

If healthy people remove themselves from the insurance rolls (because they know they can return if they need medical care), the cost of providing insurance to everyone else goes up fast, making it likely healthy people will drop their coverage. "It's a really pernicious cycle," Lambert said.

— *Erik Potter*

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### Thompson Center gets new leader

Stephen Michael Kanne began Sept. 1 as executive director of the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. He will also serve as the William & Nancy Thompson Endowed Chair in Child Health and as a tenured associate professor in the Department of Health Psychology in the MU School of Health Professions.

Kanne previously was director of the Texas Children's Hospital Autism Center and an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

Earlier in his career, Kanne was an associate professor in the MU School of Health Professions. "I can't tell you how excited I am to return," Kanne said. "I look forward to being a part of shaping autism research, training and clinical programs in one of the nation's leading autism centers."

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### **Former athletics department worker returns to MU**

This past summer, Doug Gillin started as deputy athletic director in the Department of Athletics, where he will oversee external operations.

Over the last 12 years, Gillin worked in various roles with IMG College, a collegiate branding and marketing company. Since September 2010, Gillin was a senior vice president for college properties at IMG College.

This is Gillin's second stint at Mizzou. He worked in the athletics department from 1995 to 1999, where for the final three years he was general manager of Mizzou Sports Properties.

"I've personally enjoyed watching his career path since he left over a decade ago, and always entertained thoughts of getting him back here in some fashion," said MU Director of Athletics Mike Alden.

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### Student enrollment up

The official number of students enrolled for the fall semester is 34,748, the Division of Enrollment Management announced Tuesday.

There were 33,318 students enrolled for fall 2011.

The record-breaking freshman class was 6,501, up from 6,168 the previous year, records show.

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### Positive Facebook profile sways visitors, MU study finds

Saving Face

First impressions matter on the social network site

Facebook comments and pictures matter.

That's the conclusion of a Facebook study by Seoyeon Hong, a doctoral student, and Kevin Wise, associate professor, at the School of Journalism.

The study, published last month in *Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking*, found that negative comments made by people on a person's Facebook profile had greater impact than the page owner's positive comments about himself or herself on the page.

"Opinions of other people matter more than the target person's own self-presentation," Hong said. "Thus, for social networking users concerned about forming a desired impression, being aware of other-generated information about oneself is paramount in the goal of achieving a positive self-presentation."

Moreover, profile pictures that showed the page owner doing an activity, such as mountain climbing or playing a musical instrument, registered more positive responses than headshots, Hong said.

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