

UCM participates in international celebration of Earth Day

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This week America celebrates the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. UCM is taking this celebration to another level with one of the biggest celebrations in the region. There have been many movements throughout campus that have also pushed the campus towards becoming greener.

In addition to these initiatives throughout campus, the University has also formed many partnerships with local businesses to make this year's celebration a success. The University has partnered with Trane on a \$36.1 million project to reduce energy consumption.

"Without this partnership there would be no way that we would have been able to get the keynote speakers we were able to get," said Steven Boone, interim dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and chair of the planning committee for this year's events.

"The stage this year was set for making a bigger splash with this celebration, given the University's big green movement, and steps in terms of sustainability."

This year's theme, "Change your behavior, change our world," brings home this mission of the University in the green movement.

"The theme actually just came up on the recommendation of one of our board members in a brainstorming session," Boone said.

The festivities for the week started last Saturday with a volunteer service day.

According to Melissa Looper, who coordinated the event, there were about 129 participants in the event.

"This service project put people in the mindset for earth week," Looper said.

Looper said the main project of the day was starting a nature trail at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Warrensburg.

The participants removed a pile of debris that had accumulated over the last several years, including tons of trash, tires and furniture. This was the first Earth Day service event.

"The volunteers worked hard, but felt fulfilled," Looper said.

The day brought the campus and local communities together, he said.

In an April 13 address, Obama said that Earth Day "is about the citizens who come together time and time again to demand cleaner air, drinking water, and safer food."

He went on to say that change will "come from Americans across the country who take steps in their own homes and their own communities to make that change happen."

The week's events continued Monday with a speech by John Hess, professor emeritus of biology and earth science who led a discussion entitled "It's All Around Us."

Monday evening brought the Haute Trash Fashion Show to campus. The show had student models who displayed clothing made out of recyclable materials. Among these materials were plastic shopping bags, tires, & general trash.



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The University has one of the largest regional celebrations of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Robert Mann, founder of Bridging the Gap, spoke on Tuesday.

The lecture entitled "The options: Migration, Adaptation, or Extinction" asked the question: What are we going to do in this rapidly changing human habitat, to preserve the well being of other species?

The day concluded with the independent film "The Chances of the World Changing," about an artist who abandons his life's work to build an ark filled with endangered animals.

Wednesday brought a trade show with about 20 artifacts to campus. There was also a roundtable discussion on a green sustainable economy. A short-film festival presented by Point of View was shown, as well as "Food Inc.," a film about the waste in America's food industry. The night ended with a concert by three student bands.

Today, a green luncheon will be held on campus. The event is at 11 a.m. in Union 236 and will include a presentation via Skype by Daniel Wallach of Greensburg, Kan. entitled "Greensburg Kansas: From Total Destruction to America's Model Green Community." There will also be a lecture on "Going Green in Missouri" at 4 p.m. The lecture will be given by Chyanne Cardarella from Shook, Hardy, and Bacon LLP of Kansas City.

The day will conclude with the keynote address of the week from actor and activist Ed Begley, Jr.

Turning up at Hollywood events on his bicycle, Begley has been considered an environmental leader for many years. He has served as chairman of the Environmental Media Association, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The speech will be at 7:30 in Hendricks Hall. He is scheduled to talk about issues concerning the world's endangered wildlife.

The week will conclude Saturday morning with a Bio Blitz an annual gathering hosted by The Wildlife Society at Pertle Springs.

This event is designed to encourage involvement in conservation and wildlife related activities. The most unique aspect of the week is "the many different events" according to Boone.

For more information on Earth Day events visit www.ucmo.edu/earthday.