



University Relations
Administration 302
Warrensburg, MO 64093
Office 660-543-4640 FAX 660-543-4943
ucmpr@ucmo.edu
www.ucmo.edu

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For more information contact:

Mike Greife

News Bureau Manager

mgreife@ucmo.edu

660-543-4640

UCM and Trane Bring Sustainability Expert Robert Kobet to Warrensburg Feb. 23

WARRENSBURG, MO (Feb. 15, 2010) – Robert Kobet, one the country’s foremost authorities on sustainable building design and environmental education, will bring his expertise to the University of Central Missouri and the Warrensburg community as he presents “Inspiring Change for a Greener Tomorrow” at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in Elliott Union 237A.

UCM and Trane, the energy services contractor for the ongoing UCM construction project that will result in future energy savings for the university, have partnered to bring Kobet to Warrensburg as UCM finalizes plans for a week-long Earth Week celebration in April. Kobet’s public presentation will follow a day interacting with UCM students.

Kobet is president of *Sustainaissance* International, a multi-disciplined architectural consulting firm. His individual impact on the built environment spans several decades, and his green building and sustainable community development projects range from small non-profit endeavors to multi-million dollar developments.

Kobet is known for his ability to combine a deep understanding of the subject with the passion and ability to explain complicated and complex issues in simple, usable terms. Nationally recognized in design for the chemically sensitive, he authored the first continuing education unit in allergy-free, nontoxic design featured by the American Society of Interior Designers in 1989. He has since conducted several versions of this workshop around the United States and Canada.

He also wrote the curriculum for the build environment track of the Master of Science in Sustainable Systems, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pa., the first program of its type in the United States. Kobet’s work received the first Three Rivers Award for Environmental Education in 1997, and he is the

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principal author of “Pennsylvania's Guidelines for Creating High Performance Green Buildings” and the “Guidelines for Sustainable Development,” published by The Heinz Endowments.

The project portfolio of *Sustainaissance* International includes individual buildings and sustainable communities in the United States, Haiti, Eastern Europe, Africa, United Arab Emirates, Argentina and China. In Beijing, Kobet provided consulting services to Lawrence Berkley Laboratories and the Department of State in collaboration with the Beijing Olympic Committee and private developers for the Minimum Energy Building, an Olympic athlete housing and operations center that later was transformed into a mixed use and kindergarten school.

For more information about Kobet’s presentation, contact Steven Boone, associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences and professor of inorganic chemistry, at 660-543-4750, or at sboone@ucmo.edu.

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