

## Senator shares environmental concerns



MATEEN SIDIQ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Senator Rosalind Kurita spoke to a room filled with listeners. The event had originally been postponed due to snow in January. The event highlighted many issues related to global warming and the need to increasingly move toward 'green' energy. Kurita opened up explaining what she was doing to increase energy efficiency and then went into a question and answer session with the audience.

### Senator Kurita presents green energy initiatives

By JAKE DAVIS  
Staff Writer

State Sen. Rosalind Kurita, speaker pro tempore of the Tennessee General Assembly, came to speak in the Sundquist Science Complex Fri., April 12.

Kurita, a democrat, discussed partisan politics, the future of green energy in Tennessee and at APSU and ways to fight the effects of global warming.

"Every issue really does have two sides," Kurita said.

The senator spoke for a few minutes about what she was doing to help increase energy efficiency, then allowed students to lead the discussion by asking questions.

In the question and answer session, the Tennessee state lottery excess funds were discussed.

What to do with these funds is a big question in Nashville right now; Kurita proposes that they should be used for education and green energy in schools.

Kurita wants to "create a healthier learning

environment for students and protect the environment at the same time."

Students and faculty came for a chance to talk with Kurita and enjoyed free pizza. APSU's President Timothy Hall attended, along with members of the Young Democrats and students interested in science. Those attending enjoyed the points Kurita brought up.

"She said a lot of great things; green energy is something we need to look for. It is not only something that can help us, but help consumers in the long run," said Adam Haynes, a sophomore political science major and the president of the Young Democrats.

Student Organization to Advance Renewable Energy (S.O.A.R.E.) sponsored the event. Senior Jessica Cameron, the outgoing president of the group, introduced Kurita and was very happy with how the event progressed.

"I was ecstatic about what she said; she talked about exactly what we wanted her to say," Cameron said.

Kurita encouraged all of the students present to take action for the cause of green energy.

"It's not a hope, a wish or a could you. It's a 'lets do it,'" Kurita said.

The senator also explained the differences between partisan viewpoints on the issue of lowering standards for the lottery scholarship as the "difference between a mother's love and a

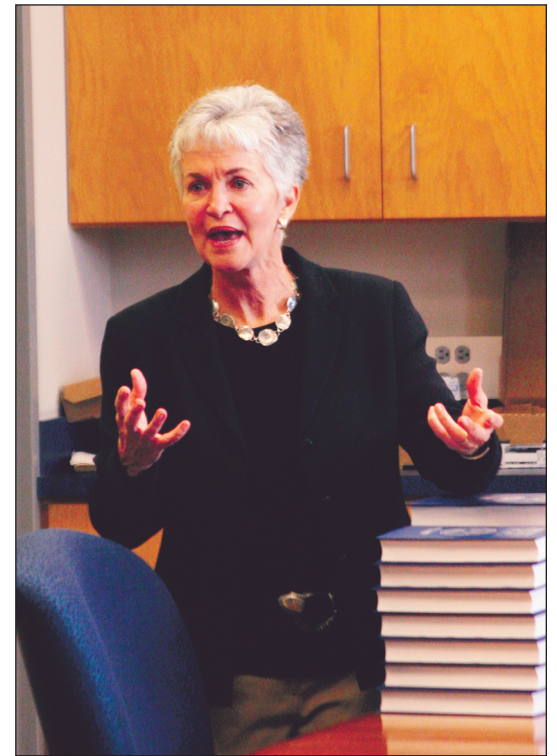
father's love." The democrats "mothers" want everyone to succeed, while the republican "fathers" want students to work hard for the money.

Many topics and issues directly affecting Tennesseans and APSU students were discussed at the event, with much active participation from the group of students and faculty at the meeting. In this time of partisan politics, Kurita made one belief very clear in the meeting: "I believe we are our brother's keepers." ♦

#### Rosalind Kurita, state senator

- Democrat from Clarksville. Represents District 22 which encompasses Cheatham, Houston, and Montgomery Counties.
- Currently the Speaker Pro Tempore of the senate.
- Graduated from the University of Arkansas with a B.A.
- She is a registered nurse and a businesswoman.
- Named the 2004 Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Human Resource Agency.

- From [www.legislature.state.tn.us](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us)



MATEEN SIDIQ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Kurita, above, is the state senator from District 22, which includes Clarksville, Montgomery, Cheatham and Houston Counties. She is currently serving in the 105th state general assembly.

## Millions reserved to renovate campus over summer

By NICOLE JUNE  
Staff Writer

This summer, APSU's campus will be the site of a number of construction projects. According to Mitch Robinson, vice president of Finance and Administration, and Manny Ballen, acting director of the Physical Plant, these projects fall into two categories: General campus projects and housing projects.

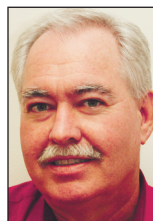
One of the major projects is campus-wide paving. Several streets are on the target list, including residential areas. The West Avenue parking lots will be paved with new permeable concrete for slopes that are prone to flooding and rainwater runoff problems. Eighth Street will get new sidewalks, and decorative light posts will be installed as well. The Foy Fitness and Recreation Center parking lot will be resurfaced. These paving projects will cost an estimated \$1.4 million.

On Castle Heights, Parham Drive, and Marion Street, several houses are scheduled to be demolished.

"They are not suitable for keeping and have many environmental and health code issues," Robinson said. These issues include lead paint and asbestos. The houses are not considered

"They are not suitable for keeping and have many environmental and health code issues."

Mitch Robinson, vice president of Finance and Administration



historic. "The cost would be astronomical to bring these houses up to code," Ballen said.

The lots will be converted into "green space," meaning they will become either gravel lots or patches of grass left open for future campus expansion. The project will cost around \$120,000.

The campus steamline will also be replaced this summer, at an estimated cost of \$2 million. "We have to finish it before the students come back after the summer," Ballen said.

Several emergency telephones, or blue lights, will be installed in parking areas around campus, similar to the one located near Blount and Harned Hall, at a cost of \$100,000. Also, three smoking shelters will be built on campus. The shelters will cost an approximate total of \$40,000.

Also, three student kiosks will be built around campus to provide bulletin board space for

students. They will be lighted for convenience and will cost around \$50,000 together. Renovations in the McReynolds building will also begin, and are expected to cost about \$1.7 million.

"We will hopefully start this summer," Robinson said, "but the project will definitely not be completed by the end of the summer."

A new building for the Fort Campbell Center is in the works and will continue construction this summer, though Robinson estimates that it will not be completed until November. The building will cost about \$4.7 million.

The Sundquist Science Complex will be receiving a new computer cluster, or "supercomputers," as described by Robinson. They will be primarily used by the physics department and will cost an estimated \$50,000.

Housing projects include an \$80,000 refurbishment of Home Court Apartments, which may not be complete by the end of summer.

Blount and Harvill Hall will undergo remediation.

Robinson said this is a continuation of improvements, mostly due to a mold problem discovered a few years ago in Blount Hall. The

project will also include mechanical alterations and will cost about \$40,000.

Architectural corrections will be made to three of the Hand Village complexes. These corrections involve removing brick to repair faulty workmanship that resulted in water leakages. The cost for the project is the responsibility of the architect and construction company who built the structures.

Housing sprinkler systems will be installed in Blount and Sevier Hall and the Two Rivers Apartments. The cost has not been calculated. Also, Meacham Apartments will undergo heating, ventilation and air conditioning replacement. This will cost about \$35,000.

Residents in Blount Hall commented on the summer construction projects.

"I like that they're doing construction on the pavement to prevent flooding problems," said Djannin Shannon, freshman biology major. "The kiosks sound interesting, but I'm worried about vandalism problems, and I don't feel that they're absolutely necessary right now. There are pros

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