Campus Presidential Update
October 7, 2009

Exciting things happen each day on the University of Central Missouri campus. These periodic updates share important news, recognitions, and progress reports regarding ongoing and new initiatives. Updates can be found at http://www.ucmo.edu/about/president/letters.cfm.
- Aaron Podolefsky

MOSERS Update

In the last update, I reported that there have been some discussions among state officials about possibly instituting an employee contribution as part of the Missouri State Employees’ Retirement System (MOSERS). I want to make clear that such a decision would require legislative action. According to the MOSERS staff, although they are aware of the conversations taking place at the state level, the MOSERS board has not engaged in any official discussion regarding the matter. They also mentioned that the conversations they’ve heard have been in regard to new hires rather than current employees in the MOSERS system – although they admit that amendments could be made to any proposed legislation. We will continue to monitor this issue as state officials examine the state’s pension plans as part of overall budget review and as proposed legislation is filed.

ESCO /Trane Web Site Valuable

Members of the campus community continue to take advantage of the ESCO web site to keep updated on the latest developments with the university’s energy savings initiative. The web site is managed by Trane and can be accessed through a link www.ucmo.edu/progress/esco on the UCM home page. Data compiled for the period June through September indicates that the total number of unique or first-time site visitors was 1,849. Site visitors increased as the project progressed and peaked in August as the fall semester was getting underway. Total page views were greatest in June, followed by a drop in July and increase in August. Trane plans to continue updating the site as the project moves forward. We appreciate everyone who is taking advantage of this web opportunity.
**Temporary Relocation of Administration Building Offices**

The installation of the geothermal wells that will serve the Administration Building is complete and equipment has been installed in the mechanical rooms beneath Hendricks Hall. The next step towards the completion of the new heating and cooling system in the Administration Building is the installation of new ductwork and a system of heat pumps. This will require working in areas above the ceilings throughout the building. To ensure the safety of building occupants, offices will be temporarily relocated while the work is being done. To schedule this work, the building has been divided into three work zones. Work in each zone will be completed over a specified period of time. The schedule for work in each zone includes:

- Zone 1 – North half of first floor - Sept. 24 to Oct. 15
- Zone 2 – South half of first floor – Oct. 16 – Nov. 5
- Zone 3 – All of second floor – Nov. 6 – Dec. 11
- Zone 4 – All of third floor – Dec. 14 – Jan. 8

Signage will be placed throughout the Administration Building with current information about the location of all offices in the building. This signage will be updated as work progresses through the work zones.

**Scholarships NOW Launched**

Following an unprecedented 54 percent increase in financial aid applications, the University of Central Missouri Foundation has launched a special fundraising drive, *Scholarships NOW*, to raise more private scholarship dollars to help more undergraduate and graduate students. The drive targets alumni and friends as well as corporations and foundations.

The fundraising initiative offers several giving opportunities, including the newly created Adopt-a-Mule Scholarship, which can be established through a $500 annual gift. For larger gifts of $10,000 and above, people can endow a scholarship, creating a more permanent award. Additional opportunities include planned gifts, such as bequests/will provisions, or life-income gifts, such as charitable remainder trusts. With more than 80 percent of UCM students receiving some form of financial aid, mostly loans, this gives the university an opportunity to do something more to help students that won't add to their future debt.

**UCM Continues Enrollment Growth**

UCM’s fall 2009 campus-wide census, conducted Sept. 15 by the Office of Institutional Research, shows undergraduate enrollment growth for the fifth consecutive year, as well as increases in graduate and minority student enrollment. We have a total 11,191 students enrolled at the university, up 128 students from a year ago, making this fall enrollment the fifth largest in university history. Of the total enrollment, 2,103 are graduate students, an increase of 20 students over the fall 2008 enrollment, and UCM’s largest graduate student population in a decade.
**Distinguished Alumni**

We are pleased to welcome three outstanding alumni back to campus to be honored during the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Dinner Friday, Oct. 9. The Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are Bryan Burns, who graduated in 1972 with a bachelor’s degree in communications, and is currently the vice president of strategic business planning and development at ESPN, and Robert L. Buhrkuhl, a retired Army Reserve colonel who earned a bachelor’s degree in law enforcement and political science from UCM in 1969 and a master’s degree in business administration in 1971, and most recently served as director of financial management and comptroller for the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL, in 2007. The Distinguished International Alumni Award will be presented to Charles Olaiya, who completed his master’s degree from UCM in 1993, and has been instrumental in nuclear waste research and cleanup at Department of Energy sites in Savannah, GA, and Richland, WA. We’re very proud of these outstanding alumni. Read more about them at [http://www.ucmo.edu/news/distalum09.cfm](http://www.ucmo.edu/news/distalum09.cfm).

**2008 Outstanding RiderCoach Trainer**

Neil Meyers, state coordinator for the Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program, part of UCM’s Missouri Safety Center, was recently named Outstanding RiderCoach Trainer for 2008 by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. He joined the program in 1998 as a motorcycle safety coach, teaching classes in motorcycle safety. In 2000, he was named state coordinator for the program and became a RiderCoach trainer in 2002, training the instructors for the statewide program.

The Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program is responsible for the state’s efforts in motorcycle safety education and public awareness. Under Meyer’s supervision, the program has 27 training sites across the state, utilizing a cadre of 186 trained coaches to train more than 5,000 riders annually in beginner and experienced level, hands-on courses. Since 1973, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation has set internationally recognized standards that promote the safety of motorcyclists with rider education courses, operator licensing tests and public information programs.

**Missouri Safety Center Receives Grant**

UCM’s Missouri Safety Center received a grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation Highway Safety Division to create a position to monitor the state’s new Ignition Interlock program. This position is responsible for ensuring that all state-approved providers and device manufacturers are in compliance with Missouri’s Code of State Regulations.

**UCM Speech and Debate Team Recognized as No. 1**

UCM’s Speech and Debate Team was recognized as the No. 1 team in all divisions of debate last month during a joint tournament hosted by Sterling College and Hutchinson Community Colleges in Kansas. The Talking Mules competed against 20 teams and took first, third and fourth place.
MEW Donates Bench to Ward Edwards

Students, faculty and staff now have a temporary place to wait or simply relax near the east entrance of the Ward Edwards Building. Members of Missouri Educational Workers Local No. 1, the bargaining unit employees at UCM, recently delivered a new oak bench to the facility as a donation from the MEW. The bench was built by MEW member Joe Hayes, carpenter III with the Facilities, Planning and Operations Projects Crew, and will be permanently located near Ward Edwards’ east entrance, close to the Harmon College of Business Administration. The idea for the bench came from bargaining unit president Mark Lyle, life safety technician I, who noticed students often having to wait inside with no place to sit during inclement weather. The MEW plans to place a plaque on the bench commemorating the gift. Members of the organization paid for materials needed to build the bench. Thank you MEW!