Presidential Update
October 28, 2008

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. These campus updates can be found at http://www.ucmo.edu/about/president/letters.cfm. - Aaron Podolefsky

Progress at UCM

UCM’s Office of University Relations recently established a “Progress at UCM” web site designed to help keep the campus updated on key capital projects, their status, and what to expect in the near future. To view the site, please go to http://www.ucmo.edu/progress.

UCM Master Planning Committee Meeting

UCM’s Master Planning Committee and President's Cabinet will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 5 to review a final draft of the master plan before it is presented to the Board of Governors in November for review and discussion.

Missouri Department of Transportation Signage

In my last campus update, I advised that the Missouri Department of Transportation notified UCM that the signs reflecting UCM’s new name were finally completed and should be installed soon. New signage has been installed on Highway 50 and signage on I-70 will follow this week. Accompanying this update is a photo of the signage.

Pine Street Visits

On Oct. 16, Rich Morrell and Michelle Hendricks, co-chairs of Warrensburg Area Partners in Prevention (WAPIP), along with Bruce Howey, Warrensburg chief of police and member of WAPIP, visited several key business owners/operators in the Pine Street entertainment district. They discussed efforts related to maintaining a safe and welcoming entertainment atmosphere, and progress made since the passage of city ordinances related to alcohol sale, consumption and service. Visits with other key business owners/operators in other parts of Warrensburg are being planned. WAPIP has also scheduled a public
meeting Nov. 6 at White Rose Pavilion to talk about important issues related to alcohol and to honor establishments for good business practices.

**Articulation Agreement**

UCM and Missouri University of Science and Technology (MS&T) in Rolla recently entered into an articulation agreement that provides students the opportunity to begin coursework at UCM and complete a Bachelor of Arts/Science at MS&T. All UCM students are guaranteed that MS&T will accept all college-level UCM credits and will apply such to the Bachelor of Arts/Science degree in a manner consistent with the treatment of in-state students. Transfer guides will outline coursework at UCM that will meet specific Missouri S&T degree requirements. The transfer guides will be available to students, faculty, and advisors at UCM.

**Drilling at Morrow Garrison Complex**

On Oct. 7, a geo-thermal test was conducted on the east side of the Morrow Garrison Complex to determine the conductivity rate of the soil in preparation for the geothermal heating system that will eventually be installed in the new facility. The testing concluded that 90 wells will be needed for the system. The energy reduction for LEED standards is still under design and will be determined at a later date.

**General Faculty Meeting**

Twice each year, UCM’s Faculty Senate holds a General Faculty Meeting and invites me to speak. The next General Faculty Meeting is scheduled for 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12 in Elliott Union 240.

**Searches**

At last week’s meeting of the Board of Governors, the board discussed the Vice President for University Advancement search. The board president asked that the search be suspended until further notice. The campus will be notified when the search resumes.

The General Counsel search, which is well underway, will proceed as planned.

**Ninth Annual Saudi Arabia Day**

On Friday, Oct. 17, UCM celebrated Middle Eastern culture when it hosted the ninth annual Saudi Arabia Day. Honored guests for the event were Paul and Colleen Nance, longtime friends of the university and donors of the Nance Middle East Collection, which they gifted to the university in 2003. UCM is home to the most extensive private collection of Middle Eastern art and artifacts in the United States. I would encourage employees who have not had an opportunity to see those materials to visit UCM’s Arthur F. McClure Archives and University Museum in the James C. Kirkpatrick Library. The collection is located in this area.
Alternative Fuel Project

Scott McKay, UCM professor of chemistry, and Harvey Buhr, general manager for Hitec, LLC were notified by the Leonard Wood Institute (LWI) that a collaborative alternative fuel project for the conversion of tires to fuel for forward Army operating bases, will be funded by the LWI over two consecutive years for $498,000 and $742,000, respectively. The project collaboration will enable students to work on current and pressing energy problems with industrial partners.

Distinguished Alumni

Michael Quimby, a longtime Warrensburg resident who is nationally recognized in the pipe organ industry, and Asenath J. Sigot, a successful university professor and administrator from Kenya, were honored during the Distinguished Alumni Dinner Friday, Oct. 24. Quimby received the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award and Sigot was presented the Distinguished International Alumni Award. To learn more about their accomplishments, go to http://www.ucmo.edu/news/releases/.

Recognitions

- The Honors College celebrated its 50-year anniversary this past weekend. When it was first established, it was named the “Honors Program” and consisted of 12 of the brightest incoming freshmen. Today, the Honors College has 600 students and continues to place a strong emphasis on critical thinking, oral and written communication skills; innovation and flexibility with regard to curriculum matters; honors-only colloquia and research devoted to interdisciplinary inquiry in the natural, applied and social sciences, as well as the humanities, fine and performing arts.

- The Department of Aviation also celebrated an anniversary of 40 years this past weekend and held a reception and dinner Saturday evening.

- For the past several years, UCM has been invited to send delegates to the annual National Conference on Ethics in America at West Point. The invitation is extended to approximately 50 public institutions across the country and is in its 23rd year. The theme for this year’s conference is “Serving with Integrity.” This conference provides college junior-level students with demonstrated leadership an opportunity to address this critical issue as it pertains to higher education. Congratulations to UCM’s delegates Nicholas McDaniels, Karen Muller, Timasha Haliburton, and Katelyn Wharton.

- Congratulations also to Michael Wright, dean of the College of Education, following his recent appointment to the Project Lead the Way National Advisory Board. Approximately one year ago, UCM became the second university in the
U.S. to meet certification requirements for the internationally acclaimed secondary engineering organization, Project Lead the Way. Dean Wright was appointed to the post indefinitely and is the only representative of this 12-member group who is dean of a college of education.

- Jamie Vance, a marketing graduate assistant in the Office of Union/Meeting and Conference Services at UCM, was selected as the 2008 Stephen H. Petersen Graduate Student Award recipient. The award was given to Vance for outstanding performance in her graduate program. The award is named for Stephen H. Petersen, vice president emeritus for Student Affairs at UCM, who currently serves as assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations at Washington University. Nominees for this award must have demonstrated superior support of student-related services and programs that have proven to enhance the student experience, benefit the work environment of colleagues, and overall advanced the mission of the university.
University of Central Missouri
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