Campus Presidential Update  
December 1, 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

Johnson County Community College and University of Central Missouri Sign Articulation Agreement

Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS, and the University of Central Missouri signed an articulation agreement Nov. 13. The agreement allows for a seamless transfer of JCCC students who earn an associate of applied science degree from the college’s hotel and lodging management program into UCM’s bachelor of science degree program in hotel and restaurant administration. The agreement gives JCCC students assurance that the credits they earn toward their associate’s degree will transfer into UCM’s baccalaureate program. A measure adopted by UCM earlier this year now permits the university to accept the associate’s degree from appropriately accredited out-of-state colleges and universities in a manner similar to the agreement stated in the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education’s Transfer and Articulation Policy. Students transferring from the associate program into a baccalaureate program must meet certain general education program requirements.

Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee Meets on Campus

The Missouri Senate Educated Citizenry 2020 Committee convened on campus Nov. 5 to hear public testimony about the future of education in Missouri. Senator David Pearce serves as chairman of the committee, which was established this year under Senate Resolution 304 and is responsible for creating long-range plans for improving the state’s educational system.

At Senator Pearce’s invitation, I led off the testimony and was followed by Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education Robert Stein; Missouri Department of Elementary and
Secondary Education General Counsel Mark Van Zandt; and Missouri Alliance for Arts Education representative Deb Fisher, among several others. The public testimony focused on answering specific questions such as what it will mean to be an educated citizen in the year 2020, what employers will require from their employees by the year 2020, what principles will anchor the state’s decisions about education, and how to best balance the needs of Missouri students.

Serving on the committee with Senator Pearce were Senators Jane Cunningham, Chesterfield; Kurt Schaefer, Columbia; Wes Shoemyer, Clarence; and Robin Wright-Jones, St. Louis.

**Four Directors-at-Large Appointed to Foundation Board**

Through a nomination and election process, the UCM Foundation Board of Directors has named four new directors-at-large. The new board members who were selected during the group’s annual meeting in October are Raymond Burton, Warrensburg, MO; Linnette McClure Garber, Laguna Niguel, CA; Randall Harbert, Clabasas, CA; and Greg Hoffman, Nevada, MO. Each will serve a three-year term.

**MLK Scholarship Dinner Keynote Speaker**

UCM will hold its annual MLK Freedom Scholarship Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19 in the ballroom of the Elliott Union. The keynote speaker for the event is Brigadier General Arnold Gordon-Bray, a 1978 alumnus of UCM and former member of the Mules basketball team. Brig. Gen Gordon-Bray was commissioned in the Infantry as a Distinguished Military Student through the U.S. Army ROTC Program at UCM in 1978. He received a bachelor’s degree from UCM and a master’s degree in International Strategic Studies from the United States Air War College and the Naval War College.

Proceeds from the ticket sales and table sponsorships for the dinner support Freedom Scholarships, which were awarded to nine students last spring. The 2009 class of recipients, all of whom are currently enrolled at UCM, will be recognized at the dinner.

**General Faculty Meeting Rescheduled**

The General Faculty meeting previously scheduled for Nov. 11 will now be held Dec. 2. It begins at 3:15 p.m. in Elliott Union 240.

**UCM Criminal Justice Students Win Awards**

UCM’s student chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association-Lambda Alpha Epsilon recently captured their eighth consecutive regional competition title. The region covers nine states. The students captured 61 of the 94 potential competition awards. The group is now preparing to compete for their eighth consecutive national title in Portland, OR, in March 2010.
UCM Talking Mules Successes

UCM sophomore Gabriella Stark-Dorr won the Novice Parliamentary debate title at UCM’s Missouri Mule Debate Competition. This was no easy feat. Gabriella teamed up with a student from Kansas City for the opening round. Debating for the first time together, the team won six consecutive rounds in parliamentary debate before qualifying for the final out rounds. After winning their quarter final round late Friday, Gabriella’s team mate was unable to participate in the Saturday out rounds due to a prior commitment. Gabriella had the option of forfeiting or taking the unusual step of “running mule,” wherein she would complete the competition on her own. She chose running mule and in the end was named tournament champion.

Three other Mules also won awards at various competitions. Zack Dodson, a UCM junior won second place in Open Lincoln Douglas debate and was awarded seventh best speaker; Sophomore Adam Blood finished second in Impromptu and third in After Dinner Speaking, an event that uses humor to make a serious or moral point; and freshman Tim McCormick was a semifinalist in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate and won fifth best speaker. Congratulations to all of these students!

Gallery of Art and Design Features Fall Senior Exhibitions

UCM’s Gallery of Art and Design will feature the talents and achievements of UCM’s senior art and design students as it hosts the fall semester Senior Exhibitions I and II through Dec. 11. The exhibit features the works of illustration and design majors, as well as a variety of media and disciplines, including studio art, graphic design, interior design and illustration.