Presidential Update
September 25, 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. - Aaron Podolefsky

General Counsel Search Update

The search for a new general counsel is well under way. The search committee held its initial meeting on Sept. 3 and will meet again this week. The position was advertised nationally and several applications have already been received. The deadline for application submittal is Oct. 6.

Vice President for University Advancement

I am currently in the process of establishing a search committee for the Vice President for University Advancement and am now contacting individuals to invite them to serve on the committee. Once the membership is established, the committee will commence with its work. Nantucket Coaching Network, LLC has been retained as a search consultant to assist the committee with its work.

Project Updates

Skyhaven Airport - UCM has obtained all the necessary permits to begin the grading project at the airport. Work will begin once the ground dries.

Child Development Lab (CDL) – A new location is needed for the Child Development Laboratory, which is currently situated in the Art Center. The location of the CDL has become an accreditation issue with both the lab and the Department of Art and Design. Space has been identified in the Lovinger Building, which will not only accommodate the CDL but also allow continued utilization by the CDL of classroom and gymnasium space in Lovinger and the nearby playground area. The identified space was originally the University High School music room, and has been most recently utilized by the Department of Psychology. Other classroom space has been identified for that use. The UCM Projects Shop began work on the space this fall, and interior demolition is complete. The project is on schedule, and it is anticipated that the CDL will move into its
new location over the winter holiday break. This move will allow the recapturing of much-needed space in the Art Center for utilization by the art and design programs.

**Morrow-Garrison** - Earlier in the month, a contract was approved for asbestos abatement in Morrow-Garrison. Asbestos abatement is scheduled to begin around Oct. 1, with the interior demolition to follow through the end of the year.

**Keth Memorial Golf Course** – The Keth Memorial Golf Course driving range will reopen on Saturday, Sept. 27. Features of the new range include: zoysia turf tee, artificial turf tee, putting green, chipping green, three bunkers and indoor heated stalls for winter use. Unfortunately, the chipping green and practice bunkers will not be complete by Saturday; however, artificial turf will be used for the remainder of the season. Several free clinics and lessons will be offered over the next month.

**Outreach Initiatives - Kansas City**

In the last update, I mentioned that on Friday, Sept. 19, UCM would host a gathering of UCM administrators/staff and representatives from the different constituencies within the Hispanic community at the Guadalupe Center in Kansas City, Mo. The meeting was well attended and included a good dialogue about the future course of UCM’s relationship with the Kansas City Hispanic community and possible collaborative initiatives.

Also, as previously noted, UCM participates in key community events in Kansas City as part of its outreach initiatives. Plans are now underway for participation in the Urban League of Greater Kansas City’s 51st Annual Difference Makers Awards Day Luncheon. The Urban League of Greater Kansas City was founded in 1919 to address the myriad of challenges facing black immigrant workers and black soldiers returning from the war. Today, the Urban League is a community based not-for-profit organization governed by a volunteer interracial Board of Directors with an agenda that focuses on four program areas: education, employment, race relations, and leadership development.

**2008 MOBIO Life Sciences Summit & Annual Conference**

As a member of the Missouri Biotechnology Association Board (MOBIO), I am attending the 2008 MOBIO Life Sciences Summit and Annual Conference in Branson, Mo., Sept. 25-26, during which time I will introduce the keynote speaker to conference participants. For those who are not familiar with MOBIO, the organization is focused on maintaining the growth of the biotechnology industry generated by the research and development communities of Missouri. MOBIO firmly believes that it is up to Missourians to grow our biotechnology industry through research, scholastics, new laws and government.

**Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day**

UCM’s Department of Mathematics and Computer Science hosted Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Day this week. Research shows that, although girls do just as well as boys in the classroom, they tend to score lower on standardized tests. Young
women are also less likely than young men to choose careers in mathematical sciences or careers that involve mathematics.

As part of the day, area female high school students and their teachers were invited to campus for a day of mathematics enrichment activities. The day’s activities are designed to encourage the girls to continue their study of mathematics, expose them to positive role models, and inform them about the wide variety of careers that involve mathematics. The event included workshops for the students and their teachers, a team problem-solving competition, lunch, and a career panel discussion.

**Industry Roundtable**

I also hosted the Johnson County, Missouri Industry Roundtable in the Elliott Union this week. UCM personnel and industry leaders from Johnson County met over lunch and exchanged dialogue relevant to industry needs. They also explored collaboration opportunities between UCM and the industrial community.

**Reception Honoring Benoit Wesly**

In my Aug. 26, 2008, Presidential Update, I noted that prominent European businessman and good friend to UCM, Benoit Wesly, would visit UCM Sept. 22-25 as a guest lecturer. During a recent visit I made to Maastricht, The Netherlands, Mr. Wesly signed a Memorandum of Understanding that established two UCM Maastricht Medallion International Awards to be given annually over the next 10 years. A more formal signing ceremony and reception took place in the Ward Edwards Building Atrium Sept. 23. Mr. Wesly also conducted a book signing during the event for his new publication, *Nothing New*.

**Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) Strategic Communications Committee**

Earlier this month, I attended a CBHE meeting. During the meeting there was discussion about establishing a Strategic Communications Committee for the purpose of advocating and marketing higher education.

**Johnson County Economic Coordinating Board**

Last week, I attended the Johnson County Economic Coordinating Board meeting. While there are a number of items on the Board’s 2008 agenda, one that remains a priority is the upcoming 2010 census. Regular reports are given monthly.