NEWS RELEASE

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Foundation Grant Provides Technology Advancements for Students

WARRENSBURG, Mo. (Jan. 29, 2015) — University of Central Missouri professional photography student, Brandon Bowman, is learning about the latest developments in camera equipment thanks to the UCM Foundation Opportunity Grant program. Utilizing two grants, faculty members, Dick Kahoe and Tom Mitchell, have expanded their students’ experience in photography by upgrading equipment students use in the classroom and conducting research on the advancing technology for incoming students.

With an opportunity grant he received in 2013, Kahoe purchased a Nikon D7100 Camera, adapter and camera controller for his project “Wireless Camera Tethering.” With the equipment he went into the classroom and demonstrated the fast-paced process of wireless camera tethering, a technique that allows students to review a picture, test different settings, see the resulting image and repeat the process until they attain the best photograph. The equipment that grant purchased was used by 120 students, giving them a better understanding of the tools and principles of digital photography.

“Wireless camera tethering has prepared me for the future by placing my camera in places that I could not stick around for and captures the moment I seek,” said Bowman of St. Robert, Mo., whose dream job is to work for “National Geographic.” “Say I had a future assignment to photograph a pack of lions. Instead of being their first meal, I can use the wireless tethering to take the shot and live to see the results.”

Bowman currently is a photography intern for the UCM ROTC department and plans to study abroad in Florence, Italy.

Mitchell received an Opportunity Grant in 2014 for his project to improve student learning opportunities by testing mirrorless camera sensor technology. His hope is to find a mirrorless camera with hybrid electronic viewfinders and advance image sensors that is physically smaller, lighter and less expensive for incoming students.

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Equal Education and Employment Opportunity
Because of their efforts to bring technological advancements into the classroom, Kahoe and Mitchell were invited to the 2014 Annual Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering Conference this past November. There they presented their projects, and a video, to other active professionals in the field.

The UCM Foundation Opportunity Grant Program was established two years ago in support of faculty and staff who have ideas but insufficient funding for entrepreneurial projects that strengthen the university’s learning environment and students’ academic experience. The UCM Foundation is the university’s official nonprofit arm, founded in 1979 to help make a college degree more affordable, accessible and beneficial. To find out more about the Opportunity Grant program and other grant-funded projects, visit www.ucmo.edu/opportunity.

Caption: From left, UCM students Amanda Luttrell, Nicole Sifers, Michelle Blubaugh, Brandon Bowman and Ashlie Love surround Professor Dick Kahoe.

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