

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL MISSOURI
HARMON COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

NEWS & EVENTS



MARCH 2021

HIGHLIGHTS & NEWS



*Pictured: (Back) **Dr. Roger Best**, UCM president, and **Courtney Goddard**, vice president of University Advancement and executive director of the Alumni Foundation, listen to remarks by **Dr. James Cicon**.*

Providing Real-Life Experience, Student Managed Investment Fund Tops \$1 Million

While providing an outstanding learning opportunity for University of Central Missouri students, the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) recently grew to more than \$1 million under management. This doubled the amount initially committed by the UCM Alumni Foundation in 2013 to create the SMIF in the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies.

The SMIF is an experiential hands-on class at UCM, which is structured like an investment company. It is led by a student executive team consisting of a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Portfolio Manager, Lead Economist, External Relationships Manager, and a Business Manager. In the current class, these roles are filled (respectively) by **Evan Anderlik, Josh Terrell, Codie Bell, Dylan Price, and Alex Martin**. The remaining students in the class fill the roles of analysts and committee members. Currently they are **Alec McClendon, Ben Goldbach, Bernardo Vasquez, Calaway McQueeney, Dillon Blain, Krysten Smith, Kyle Swope, Lion Schneider, Makyla French, Salvatore Garozzo, Tim Otto, Vincent Spalitto, Zion Vasquez, and Jeroen Holtes**, a student who is taking the class synchronously from The Netherlands. The Academic Advisor to the SMIF is James Cicon, Ph.D., J.D.

The SMIF was launched a year after the Foundation authorized its initial investment of \$500,000, and HCBPS leadership committed infrastructure, allowing students to gain course credit and a realistic experience by performing detailed investment analyses under the direction of faculty members in the HCBPS.

Experience gained by students is taking place in the “Trading Room,” officially called the Donn G. Forbes Center for Financial Services, located on the first floor of the Ward Edwards Building. This innovative facility was made possible by a gift from UCM alumnus **Donn Forbes**, who graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. It provides a state-of-the-art facility stocked with advanced finance technology and tools, foremost of which is 12 Bloomberg Professional Service terminals. Bloomberg is the industry leading platform for news data, analytical tools, and research. Taking advantage of the tools available, UCM students can gain the type of experiences employers seek when it comes to business and finance.

UCM President Roger Best was serving as dean of the HCBPS when the fund was established. He, current HCBPS dean **Jose Mercado**, and the Foundation Executive at that time, spearheaded the effort to create the fund. President Best returned to Donn G. Forbes Center recently to thank students for their good work.

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Congratulations to Our Professional Edge Inaugural Graduate!

Sarah Richardson is our inaugural graduate from the [Harmon Professional Edge Program](#). She has successfully completed all of the components associated with the program. She graduated in December 2020 and will return to UCM in 2021 to pursue her MBA degree. There are currently 25 students participating in the Professional Edge program and we look forward to growing the program next semester. Students who complete all four components receive a digital Credly Badge for their resume, formal recognition certificate from the Dean's office, a cord to wear at graduation, and a lapel pin that can be worn to graduation, networking events, and career fairs. This program is free for students and can be what gives them *The Edge* in their career. Students just need to apply on the [Harmon Professional Edge webpage](#).



UCM ROTC Earns Three Top 3 Regional Awards

A focus on excellence has contributed to [a successful Army ROTC program](#) at UCM, recently evidenced by the Battalion earning Top 3 honors in three award categories among battalions across a nine-state region.

Housed within the university's School of Public Services, UCM's Fighting Mules Battalion is part of a military brigade that includes 41 different programs. In the annual awards recognition program, UCM captured first place as the Most Improved Battalion, second place as the Best in Recruiting and Retention, and third place as Best Overall Battalion.

STUDENT FOCUS

UCM NSSLHA Activities

During the fall 2020 semester, the UCM National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) Chapter had the opportunity to host monthly events. In October, **Anna Robb**, M.S., CCC-SLP, from Quantum Healthcare presented on interview topics and finding a match with your employer. In November, **Dr. Dawn Dennis**, of EBS Healthcare, provided a virtual presentation entitled, “How to Find the Best Clinical Fellowship Experience.” A successful canned food drive was held during November donating to UCM’s food pantry. On December 3, the UCM NSSLHA Chapter hosted a Zoom Christmas party with a trivia game and an ugly sweater contest. A socially distanced graduation commencement was held on December 12 for spring and fall 2020 semester graduates.



Starting off the spring semester, UCM NSSLHA hosted a virtual welcome back event with interactive activities, including a scavenger hunt. The Stepping Stones Group hosted a virtual presentation, “Introduction to Teletherapy Webinar,” to provide an insight on the current roles of many SLPs and the newer methods of accomplishing therapy. Spring semester presenters include: **Carmen Rathert**, owner of Chatterbox Speech, **Gail Pashek**, and **Dr. Samantha Washington**. The Annual NSSLHA Banquet will be held virtually on April 26, 2021.

Fall 2020 IBE Success

Dr. Mary McCord and the faculty are very proud of our Integrative Business Experience (IBE) students, who rose to a huge challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic to create profit from creative products and service to our local charities.

During the fall semester, *Journey Can* gave 97 service hours to the Journey Home Shelter while painting the interior, landscaping and renovating the garage into a room that can house an additional eight persons. They sold out of their product - metal koozies with the UCM logo - and donated \$4,200 to Journey Home of Johnson County.

UCM Cares created and sold a COVID-19 kit that held masks and wipes inside a UCM bag. From their profit they donated \$1,614.78 to Warrensburg Main Street, and gave 71 hours to painting a mural that will be displayed downtown.

Since its inception, IBE has involved 1,968 students in 92 companies and has donated \$416,051 to local charities, plus served those same charities for 26,873 hours.

The team of IBE teachers includes Drs. McCord, **Nischala Reddy**, and **Tyler Hirlinger**. Another important mentor is **Sue Hook** from Equity Bank, who decides on and gives business loans to IBE companies.

This program was first developed at UCM by **Dr. Larry Michaelsen**, Dr. McCord, and **Dr. Larry Haase**. Drs. Michaelsen and Haase retired a few years ago. Dr. McCord has continued to be the driving force behind the IBE program's success. Mary will retire at the end of the Spring 2020 semester. Her advocacy of our students, the IBE program, and social entrepreneurship will be missed. **Keith Province** will take up the IBE torch in the next academic year. This program could not continue without all of the faculty in the past and going forward who have dedicated themselves to the success of IBE and our students, as well as the support of Equity Bank since the inception of the IBE program.

The Innovation, Quality, and Sustainability (MGT 4310) class assisted local nonprofit organizations and small businesses with research and recommendations in the areas of CRM, HR, customer feedback, and revenue generation as part of a Kaizen Blitz quality initiative during the fall semester. The students appreciated working with Warrensburg Main Street, Echo, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Old Drum Coffee Shop, Cuddle Up Pup, and Zarda BBQ.



Student-Led Group IPR Claims KC IABC Quill

2020 Award of Merit

Displaying skills they plan to employ in the professional world, students in UCM's [Innovative Public Relations](#) (IPR) program have received an Award of Merit for their entry in the Kansas City International Association of Business Communicators (KC IABC) [Quill 2020 Awards](#) program.

[KC IABC](#) is part of a worldwide organization that annually presents Quill Awards and Awards of Merit as a way to recognize outstanding work by individuals in areas such as advertising, marketing, and public relations. The awards program in Kansas City included entries from an eclectic mix of professionals as well as students, either preparing to work or currently working in areas such as internal and external corporate communications at large-scale companies, nonprofit organizations and government agencies, small agencies and one-person shops, all of whom cover the organization's membership.

The award-winning IPR entry was in the student category for communication skills. It was the fifth Quill Award IPR has received since the student-led group was established during the 2010-2011 academic year. Previous IPR entries that were recognized by KC IABC include those judged in competition with other students as well as in competition against professionals. A national panel of IABC members reviewed this year's submissions.

IPR's entry was titled "Confidence to Succeed," a communications initiative that took place in fall 2019 with Intercollegiate Athletics as their client. The IPR team responsible for the submission was led by student **Emma Honn** with other students **Shelby Bueneman, Myah Duncan, and Sam Jordison**. They created a series of videos featuring students from athletic and academic programs, as well as extracurricular clubs who were gaining "Confidence to Succeed" from opportunities at UCM. It was a campaign that was inspired by UCM's "Opportunity in Action" branding initiative. As part of their project, team members also worked with Athletics on social media efforts to help UCM sports fans get to know the athletes better. Such efforts were brought to life via social media and through videos shown at home football and basketball games, which reached current and potential students, parents, donors, and the university community at large.

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FACULTY, STAFF, AND RESEARCH

Communication Disorders Faculty News

Recently, **Dr. Bonnie Slavych** published an article titled "Designing courses in Communication Sciences and Disorders in perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups" and a second article in press in the *Journal of Voice* on patient-reported

outcome measures. Dr. Slavych also received a Phase II grant from the Parkinson Voice Project.

Dr. Klaire Brumbaugh presented at the SLP Summit, a free virtual conference for SLPs, on January 12. The presentation was titled “Applying the Code of Ethics in Speech-Language Pathology.” She also had a recent publication in the *Journal of Communication Disorders* with co-author **Ann Bosma Smit**, titled “Applying the phonological intervention taxonomy to expansion points intervention.”

Criminal Justice & Criminology Faculty Publications

In her first year at UCM, **Dr. Peculiar Awa** successfully published a study about an increase in terrorism in Nigeria (“The prevalence and nature of terrorist attacks during the presidency of Goodluck Jonathan.” *International Journal of Law and Public Administration* 3(2):50.)

[Learn More](#)

Dr. Yeok-il (Eddie) Cho and **Dr. Sherri DioGuardi** collaborated with two co-authors on a study of cyber violence and Korean youth (“Indirect cyber violence and general strain theory: Findings from the 2018 Korean youth survey.” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 121.)

[Learn More](#)

Dr. Cho is on sabbatical during the spring 2021 semester to complete additional research projects using the Korean Youth Survey.



Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies
University of Central Missouri, Ward Edwards Building 1600, Warrensburg, MO 64093

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