



UCM



LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

2023-2024



UCM

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Roger Best
Shari Bax
Phil Bridgmon
Lindsay Chapman
Courtney Goddard
Bill Hawley
Matt Howdeshell
Monica Huffman
David Pearce
Susan Smedley

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

President's Council Members

Corey Bowman
Tim Castilaw
Kelly Waldram Cramer
Tim Crowley
Jim Graham
Laurel Hogue
Jackie Jackson
Janette Klein
Chris Lang
Ann McCoy
Brenda Moeder
Jeff Robertson
Sandra Savage-Moore
Michael Sawyer
Mark M. Suazo



ROGER J. BEST, Ph.D.

President of the University of Central Missouri

An experienced academic and administrative leader with years of college-level teaching experience, Roger J. Best, was named the 16th president of the University of Central Missouri by the Board of Governors on Nov. 5, 2018. He had served as UCM's interim president since Aug. 1 of the same year.

Best joined UCM in August 1995 as an assistant professor of finance and was promoted through the faculty ranks to become a professor in 2005. He was named chair of the Department of Economics and Finance in 2003; associate dean of the Harmon College of Business Administration in 2008; and dean of the college in 2010. Following extensive restructuring of academic programs, Best became dean of the newly formed Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies in 2011. His strong business acumen contributed to him becoming Interim Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration in August 2017, and concurrent with a university administrative reorganization, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer in January 2018.

Throughout his UCM service, Best has shared his financial and administrative expertise to the benefit of the University and has supported innovative programs that enrich the student experience, often imbuing their education with real world experience and perspectives. As president, he helped guide UCM through one of the most challenging financial times in the institution's history; led the University through a global pandemic; provided leadership in a campus-wide strategic planning initiative to serve as a blueprint for the University's future; and worked to secure donor, state, and federal funding for a number of capital projects and infrastructure upgrades on campus.

The first in his family to earn a college diploma, Best graduated from Georgia College in Milledgeville, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in management. Advanced study led to a Ph.D. in finance from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



SHARI BAX, Ph.D.
Vice President for
Student Experience and Engagement

Shari Bax was appointed Vice Provost for Student Experience and Engagement (SEE) on Aug. 1, 2011, and Vice President for Student Experience and Engagement in July 2019. Bax came to UCM in 1997 as Associate Professor of Political Science, and was promoted to Professor in 2011. Her previous administrative responsibilities include serving as the campus coordinator for the American Democracy Project, the academic consultant and curriculum coordinator for Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State, and as the coordinator for Political Science. As a faculty member, Bax advised multiple student activities and helped organize a wide array of programs and activities.

She received several awards including Advisor of the Year from the Office of Student Activities; Greek Advisor of the Year (twice) from Fraternity and Sorority Life; Faculty Achievement Award and Meritorious Service Award from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; and the Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of the South, and a Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy in Political Science from the University of Tennessee. In her current role, she reports to the President and works with the directors of departments and offices within student services, student auxiliaries, student activities and recreation, the Center for Multiculturalism and Inclusivity, and Dept. of Public Safety. The Student Experience and Engagement division's mission is to facilitate student success by providing student-centered programs, facilities and services that promote educational, professional, and personal development.

Among its many goals, SEE seeks to help students locate and receive the assistance they need to be academically and personally successful, and have a safe and supportive collegiate experience that promotes their personal growth.

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ADM 214



PHIL BRIDGMON, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs;
Professor of Political Science

Phil Bridgmon is the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Political Science. His prior leadership appointments include serving as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at Arkansas Tech University; Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Northeastern State University; and founding Chairperson of the Department of Politics, Justice and Law at the University of North Alabama. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Alabama; B.S. in Psychology from the University of North Alabama; and a certificate in financial management from Cornell University. His teaching and scholarship have focused on criminal justice policy and administration, state court judicial selection, and impeachment politics and congressional elections. He has completed summer fellowships at the University of Michigan, Harvard University, and Vanderbilt University.

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ADM 105



LINDSAY A. CHAPMAN, J.D.

General Counsel

Lindsay Chapman has worked with UCM since 2016. She was named General Counsel in July 2018. Chapman holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, secondary major in Industrial and Labor Relations, and a minor in French from Kansas State University; a Certificate of European Union Law Studies from the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium; and a Juris Doctorate from Saint Louis University. Prior to joining UCM, Chapman clerked for a federal judge, worked for firms in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Kansas City, Missouri, and served in house at an R-1 university. She is a frequent lecturer on higher education and employment law matters, having presented at more than 20 conferences. She currently serves on the Virtual Programming Committee for the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

As General Counsel, Chapman reports to the Board of Governors and serves on the President's Council. The GC team represents the University and anyone acting on its behalf, giving legal advice with a focus on preventive law. They also provide vigorous representation of the University in matters that enter litigation or other dispute resolution processes, select and manage outside counsel, handle insurance and risk management issues, as well as play an active role in policy development and coordination. In addition to the Office of General Counsel, UCM's offices of Environmental Health and Safety and Accessibility Services fall under Chapman's oversight. Chapman and her husband, Justin, reside in Warrensburg with their two children.

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ADM 208



COURTNEY E. GODDARD, J.D.

Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement;
Executive Director, UCM Alumni Foundation

Courtney Goddard joined the UCM Alumni Foundation administrative team following a two-decade career practicing law in the area of higher education. Goddard represented over 40 higher education clients in a nationwide private legal practice. She then spent 11 years at Park University as legal counsel and then as Vice President and General Counsel prior to joining UCM. Goddard has a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Florida State University and a Juris Doctorate from University of Missouri - Columbia.

Goddard also has experience in the areas of higher education development, special events, alumni programming, external relations and philanthropy. In her current role, Goddard works with the President and Alumni Foundation Board of Directors to raise, manage, and distribute resources to benefit the University of Central Missouri. She also oversees alumni programming, university events and external engagement and partnerships.

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Smiser Alumni Center

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



BILL HAWLEY

Vice President for Finance and Operations

Hawley joined the University in August 2018 as Interim Chief Financial Officer and was named Vice President for Finance and Operations in April 2019. Hawley has more than 30 years of experience in finance, primarily in healthcare organizations, both for profit and not-for-profit. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration with an Accounting concentration, both from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

As the Vice President for Finance and Operations, Hawley provides oversight of Accounting Services, Budget and Finance, Human Resources, University Analytics and Institutional Research, Office of Technology, and Facilities Planning and Operations. In addition, he serves as treasurer for the Board of Governors. Hawley, and his wife, Toni, reside in Warrensburg.

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ADM 201



MATT HOWDESHELL, Ed.D.

Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics

Matt Howdeshell joined the University of Central Missouri as its new Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics in June 2023. Howdeshell comes to Central Missouri after an impressive 12-year tenure at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., most recently serving as the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Administration and Capital Projects.

During his stint at Northern Arizona, Howdeshell helped oversee all aspects of a \$25 million operating budget, led \$60 million of capital projects, coordinated capital fundraising efforts, served as the sport administrator for football, and supervised the athletics business office, strength and conditioning and video staffs.

Howdeshell, who hails from Cuba, Mo., also has a proven ability to generate revenue beyond traditional fundraising. He worked collaboratively with student and university leadership to pass NAU's first-ever athletic student fee, generating more than \$3.1 million in incremental revenue its first year. Howdeshell also helped secure the renewal of the department's apparel contract, the largest in the Big Sky Conference at the time, and NAU's first-ever multimedia rights partnership with Learfield, which has enhanced NAU Athletics' visibility, branding, and corporate sponsorship revenue.

In addition, he spearheaded several strategic financial initiatives and was involved in many student-athlete welfare projects relating to gender equity and the student-athlete experience.

Howdeshell previously served NAU as the Associate Athletic Director for Administration and Capital Projects, Assistant Athletic Director for Administration, and as the Director of Football Operations. He began his athletics career as a student manager and video coordinator at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo.

The son of two first-generation, non-traditional college students, Howdeshell earned a bachelor's degree from Missouri State in history education (2010), and a master's degree in educational leadership (2013) and Doctor of Educational Leadership (2020), with distinction, from NAU.

Howdeshell and his wife, Hiliary, have three sons: Peter, Benjamin, and Max.

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MULTI 203



MONICA HUFFMAN

Executive Assistant to the President/
Assistant Board Secretary

Monica Huffman has served as Executive Assistant to the President/Assistant Board Secretary at the University of Central Missouri (UCM) for more than 23 years. Prior to entering higher education, Huffman worked 12 years for Kansas City's public transit system as Staff Assistant to the General Manager and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Commissioners. Huffman is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces having served more than 22 years, four of which were active duty. She transferred to the Army's Retired Reserve system in 2008 as a Master Sergeant and fully retired from her military career in 2020. Huffman earned both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Business Management degrees from Baker University.

In her position at UCM, Huffman serves on the President's Council and in her role as Assistant Board Secretary serves as the University's liaison with the institution's governing board and as UCM's Custodian of Records.

Huffman, and her husband, Jim, reside in Lee's Summit.

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ADM 202



DAVID PEARCE

Executive Director for Governmental Relations

A longtime Warrensburg resident who has served both his community and his home state, David Pearce joined UCM on Oct. 7, 2019 as Executive Director for Governmental Relations. In this capacity, he works closely with the university president and senior administrators to craft legislative priorities and communicate them. He helps identify state and federal fiscal resources for which UCM may be eligible; provides legislative reports to the Board of Governors; summarizes legislative bills and potential impact on UCM; and coordinates responses to legislators' and governors' office inquiries.

Pearce's long record of public service in Missouri government includes eight years in the Missouri Senate, where he represented constituents from the 21st and 31st senatorial districts. He also served for six years in the Missouri House of Representatives before becoming a senator.

His political work included chairing the Senate Education Committee, and while he was serving as a state representative in 2003 he was appointed as a commissioner to the Missouri Higher Education Compact (MHEC). He was reappointed in 2011, 2013, and 2015, and held leadership posts that include serving as vice chair, treasurer, and chair of the Compact. Governor Parson appointed Pearce to serve on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact again in June 2022 for a four-year term.

Prior to joining UCM, Pearce served from January 2017 to September 2019 in the office of State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick and his predecessor, Eric Schmitt. His duties included working on the legislative agenda and helping promote the MOST 529 Education Savings Plan and MO ABLE, a savings plan for persons with disabilities.

A graduate of the University of Missouri, Pearce has worked in the local banking industry, and also served as a former executive vice president of the Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

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ADM 106

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL



SUSAN SMEDLEY

Vice President for Integrated Marketing
and Communications

Susan Nelson Smedley joined UCM in August of 2019 as the University's Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications. Smedley has over 20 years of higher education experience as well as executive-level experience in private industry. As a UCM vice president, she is a member of the President's Council and oversees both the Office of Integrated Marketing and Communications and KMOS-TV, the University's public television station.

Prior to UCM, Smedley served as Director of Marketing and Public Affairs at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. She successfully led the first phase of the college's development and implementation of an integrated enrollment management plan. She also led the development of the college's new website.

Other experiences in higher education include serving as Director of Communications and Marketing at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma and as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Executive Director of the Foundation, Director of Institutional Advancement and Campus Director of two satellite campuses at Coastal Bend College in Texas. Another stint in Oklahoma saw her serving on the executive board of the Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board and logging time as an economic developer and communications liaison for the Deputy Secretary of Workforce Development, Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

Smedley is an award-winning writer, art director, and civic leader. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Advertising within UT's nationally top-ranked Creative Portfolio Sequence and minors in history and English. Her post-undergraduate work includes American studies, focusing on American literature and history.

Smedley resides in Warrensburg with her son, Joshua, and their dog, Baxter.

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ADM 302

UCM's Strategic Leadership Team is comprised of all members of the President's Council and the following individuals.

Corey Bowman, Ed.D.

Associate Vice President for Student Services, Title IX Coordinator

Before coming to UCM, Dr. Corey Bowman worked as a hall director and academic advisor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Since 1996, Dr. Bowman has worked at UCM in a variety of areas including Residence Life, the University Union, and Meetings and Conference Services before assuming his current role in 2005. He was appointed as Title IX Coordinator in 2011. Dr. Bowman has over 30 years of experience in educational policy, crisis management and student success. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Masters of Science in College Student Personnel Services from Miami University and earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri - Columbia.

In his current role, Dr. Bowman's primary responsibility is to oversee student services, student support initiatives and behavioral intervention, the university's emergency and crisis response, and Title IX coordination. He works closely with students, parents and faculty to promote student success. Dr. Bowman and his wife, Teri, reside in Warrensburg; they have 4 children.

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ADM 214

Tim Castilaw

Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Management

Tim Castilaw joined the UCM leadership team as the Associate Vice President for Capital Planning and Facilities Management on May 8, 2017. Dedicated to the students we serve each day, Castilaw is an innovative and transformative leader responsible for campus facilities and operations. Responsibilities include professional design development, construction, renovation of campus facilities and maintenance of same, as well as other vital campus services. Additionally, Castilaw is a champion for change – both supporting change at the institutional level and constantly looking for opportunities to improve operations within the Facilities Planning and Operations unit. He holds degrees in Technology, Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Strategic Leadership, and a Master of Science in Human Resources and Training. In addition, he holds Educational Facilities Professional Certification.

The mission at Facilities Planning and Operations is to provide a quality service that is safe, reliable, efficient, clean and inviting. The facilities team always strives for a customer and community service approach, demonstrating this daily by creating a learning and working environment that supports the University's world-class education.

Tim and his wife, Ann, have two grown sons and currently reside in Warrensburg.

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SE 101A

Kelly Waldram Cramer, MBA

Associate Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications

Kelly Waldram Cramer has served in the Office of Integrated Marketing and Communications since March 2015. Waldram Cramer came to the University of Central Missouri from the private sector in 2000 as the Marketing Manager for Student Life and has worked in various marketing roles throughout her more than 20 years at the University. Waldram Cramer earned a Master of Business in Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in marketing from UCM.

Waldram Cramer reports to the Vice President for Integrated Marketing and Communications. As the associate vice president, she oversees strategic planning and execution of all University marketing and promotional/communication efforts including advertising, public relations, media relations, publications, digital marketing channels, social media, University website, and alumni and foundation communications.

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ADM 302

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Tim Crowley, DMA

Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research

Tim Crowley joined UCM in April 2022 after 22 years of service at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) in Hays, KS. An academic utility player and living proof of contemporary life design principles, he served in multiple administrative roles at FHSU including department chair, graduate dean, assistant provost for internationalization, assistant provost of academic programs and student success, and associate provost for academic affairs. He also served as tenured Professor of Music. He began his academic career at Texas A&M University as a Visiting Professor of Music and began his first tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Music at Cameron University. He completed his Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of North Texas and his Bachelor of Music degree from Bradley University. Today, at UCM, he works with people, resources, and ideas every day help make the institution better; he no longer works with music. However, the musical training he was fortunate to receive provides much of the foundation for his work today – discipline, creativity, initiative, collaboration, and the ability to reframe problems and develop solutions.

The Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate Studies and Research, a title too long for one door plate, is responsible for coordinating university programs and services related to accreditation, assessment, program review, analytics, academic leadership development, curriculum management, general education, student success, and strategic planning. Offices that report to the Vice Provost include: the Registrar, Graduate Studies, International Student Services, Testing Services, Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity, Success Advising, Career and Life Design, and the Learning Commons. This position is Tim's dream job, and he hopes his talented team can help the multiple constituents that interact with UCM find their success in the coming year and the resultant joy from that journey. Tim and his wife Ann have two grown sons and currently live in Warrensburg.

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WDE 1924

Jim Graham, Ed.D

Associate Vice President for Information Systems and Chief Information Officer

Jim Graham reports to the Vice President for Finance and Operations and came to UCM in May, 2000. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Newman University, a Master of Science in Communications from Fort Hays State University, and a Doctor of Educational leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri. Jim has over 40 years of experience in the technology field with most of those years in higher education.

The Office of Technology has the responsibility and duties to leverage and support technology resources for academic and administrative activities and functions that directly and indirectly support student success at many different levels across the UCM campus environment. The Office of Technology provides the general oversight and support of technology resources on campus, which includes, but is not limited to, workstations (desktops, laptops, tablets, etc.), enterprise and departmental applications, data and voice network infrastructure, servers, storage arrays, network connectivity, identity management, multimedia/audio-visual equipment, cybersecurity, and technology resources utilized by faculty in delivery of instruction. With ever-changing developments in technology resources and how technology resources are deployed and put into a production environment, a fine balance exists between cutting-edge technology and the ability to provide a stable and robust technology environment for campus constituents.

Jim and his wife, Carol, reside in Warrensburg, have three sons, three daughter-in-laws, and seven grandchildren.

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WDE 0800

Laurel Hogue, Ed.D

Vice Provost for Online and Learning Engagement

Laurel Hogue has worked for UCM since 2003, serving as vice provost for Extended Studies for the past six years before being recently named vice provost for online and learning engagement. In her role, she supports the university's vision for enrollment and retention, leads marketing and promotion efforts, and directs fiscal operations for entrepreneurial and off campus programs. Duties also include budget planning and resource allocation, conducting cost analyses to ensure revenue-generating operations for distance learning, dual credit, workforce development, and UCM - Lee's Summit operations at the Missouri Innovation Campus. Additionally, she is responsible for the Honors College, Digital Learning and Instructional Innovation, the Center for Global Education, and service learning and community engagement. She holds a BSBA and an MBA degree from UCM, and a Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership and policy analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Hogue serves as the chair for the Lee's Summit Medical Center Board of Trustees and as chair of Gradforce KC. She also serves as a board member of the Greater Lee's Summit Healthcare Foundation and a member of the Lee's Summit R7 School District Business Roundtable, the Standing Committee for the Keystone Innovation District, and KC Rising's People Driving Committee.

Laurel and her husband Preston have been residents of Lee's Summit since 2000. Their two children attend Lee's Summit schools.

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Jackie Jackson

Associate Vice President for University Advancement

Jackie Jackson began serving as Associate Vice President for University Advancement in April 2020 after serving as the Director of Annual Giving since April 2018. The UCM Alumni Foundation's mission is to cultivate, manage, and distribute resources in support of the University of Central Missouri. In her role, Jackson oversees Foundation financial operations, database management, prospect research, annual giving and donor relations. She reports to the Vice President of University Advancement/ Executive Director of the UCM Alumni Foundation.

Jackson enjoys being involved in the community through participation in UCM Staff Council, Rotary, PEO, Warrensburg Main Street, Northside Christian Church, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She has earned two degrees from UCM; a BS in Hotel and Restaurant Administration in 2009 and a MS in College Student Personnel Administration in 2012. She is currently pursuing an EdD in Organizational Leadership in Higher Education at Abilene Christian University, conducting research on the philanthropic motivations of alumni that earned their degrees online.

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Smiser Alumni Center

Janette Klein, Ph.D.

University Librarian

Janette Klein joined UCM in 2017 and has served as University Librarian since December 2020 following her appointment as Interim University Librarian from February 2020 - November 2020. Prior to her appointment as University Librarian, Klein served as Collection Management Coordinator and Acquisitions Librarian, in addition to supporting UCM students, faculty, and staff as the Business and Technology Library Liaison. Prior to coming to UCM, Klein was engaged in the corporate sector as an internal auditor and regional account manager for an international hospitality firm for over 10 years.

Klein holds a Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of North Texas, a Master of Science in Library Science, a Master of Business Administration in Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management, and Graduate Academic Certificates in Advanced Management in Libraries and Information Agencies and Digital Content Management.

The James C. Kirkpatrick Library is committed to fostering a dynamic learning environment by providing information resources, services, and instruction to the University of Central Missouri community. The James C. Kirkpatrick Library serves as a primary academic destination for all UCM students, faculty, and staff and continues to cultivate relationships and collaborate with partners across campus to support creativity, teaching, learning, equity, inclusion, and scholarship to promote individual and group successes. As University Librarian, Klein ensures that JCKL remains a responsible steward for our curriculum-focused collections and works collaboratively to meet changing and emerging university needs.

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STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chris Lang

Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics

Chris Lang is the Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics and provides leadership to the Undergraduate Admissions office as well as providing recruitment analytics for the university. Prior to becoming the Assistant Vice Provost, Chris held different leadership positions in the Admissions Office including Director of Admissions, Interim Director of Admissions, Associate Director, Assistant Director, and other positions.

As Assistant Vice Provost for Admissions and Analytics, he supports the University's vision for undergraduate enrollment and recruitment by working closely with senior leadership to set enrollment goals, providing strategic analytics to other enrollment offices, directing fiscal operations of the Admissions Office, and working collaboratively with various offices to provide strategic data and analytics to drive enrollment goals and success.

Chris holds both a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree from UCM. Chris, his wife, and daughter reside in Lee's Summit, MO.

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WDE 1400

Ann McCoy, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor of Elementary Mathematics, College of Education

Dr. Ann McCoy serves as the Dean of the College of Education. Prior to her appointment as Dean in 2021, she held the UCM leadership positions as Associate Dean of the College of Education, Chair of the School of Teaching and Learning, and Chair of the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Before coming to UCM, she taught for 22 years in the Clinton School District.

McCoy is a two-time graduate of UCM earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri – Kansas City with a focus in mathematics education. While at UCM, McCoy has taught mathematics education courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her research has focused on the preparation and impact of elementary mathematics specialists.

The College Education includes:

- Department of Career, Technical, and Special Education
- Department of Counseling and Educational Leadership
- Department of Early, Elementary, Middle and Physical Education
- Department of Educational Foundations and Literacy
- Department of Educational Technology and Library Science

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LOV 2190

Brenda Moeder, Ed.D.

Senior Director of Housing

Brenda Moeder is the Senior Director of Housing. Moeder joined the university in July 1996 and has worked in various capacities within housing for over 26 years. As Senior Director, Moeder oversees all on campus housing inclusive of residence hall and university apartments. Prior to working at UCM, Moeder worked for four years at the University of Wisconsin - Stout. Moeder holds a Master of Education in College Student Personnel degree from Kansas State University as well as a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri.

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Ellis L23

Jeff Robertson, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor of Astrophysics, College of Health, Science, and Technology

Dr. Jeff Robertson came to UCM from Arkansas Tech University where he started his academic career in 1997, progressing through the faculty ranks to professor. He served in administrative roles that included Department Head of Physical Sciences and Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences, a role in which he served for 11 years. During that time he also served double duty as Interim Dean of the College of Business and then Interim Dean of the Graduate College before eventually serving as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and then Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs before joining UCM in January 2022.

He holds a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from Indiana University, an M.S. in Astronomy from San Diego State University and a B.S. in Physics and B.S. in Astronomy from the University of Kansas. He is a member of the Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Corps, served as President of the Arkansas Dean's Association and twice served as the President of the Arkansas Academy of Science. More recently he completed the American Academic Leadership Institute's Becoming a Provost Academy.

His research spans the universe (literally), involving interacting binary stars, exoplanets, and potentially hazardous asteroids.

The College of Health, Science, and Technology includes:

- School of Nursing
- School of Industrial Sciences & Technology
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Biological & Clinical Sciences
- Department of Computer Science & Cybersecurity
- Department of Mathematics, Actuarial Science, and Statistics
- Department of Nutrition, Kinesiology, and Health
- Department of Occupational Risk & Safety Sciences
- Department of Physical Sciences
- Department of Psychological Science

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NM 100

Sondra Savage-Moore

Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration

Sondra has served as the Associate Vice President of Finance and Administration since October 2021. In this role she oversees the Budget, Accounting Services, Payroll and the Student Accounts and Loans Functions for the University. Areas of responsibility include planning, overseeing, and leading in the development of the University's \$193 million operating budget, preparation of legislative and governance reports related to budgetary and accounting matters, oversight of banking relationships, and financial statement preparation and external audit.

She came to the University in January 2016 as the Director of Accounting and then served as the University Controller prior to moving into the Associate VP of Finance and Administration. Sondra holds a BSBA in Accounting and a MA in Accountancy, both from the University of Central Missouri.

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Admin 316

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Sawyer, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Michael Sawyer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and English from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a Master of Arts in Romance Languages and Ph.D. in Spanish from Texas Tech University. He began his career at the University of Central Missouri as an Assistant Professor of Spanish in 2001. He served as Chair of the Modern Languages Department, and subsequently of the Department of Government, International Studies, and Languages. Before beginning his term as Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, he served as Associate Dean and later Interim Dean of the College. Sawyer founded the Missouri Foreign Language Consortium, which includes five universities in Missouri and whose structure and principles govern all online academic collaborations in the state under the umbrella of the Missouri Alliance for Collaborative Education. He is the co-author of two college-level Spanish textbooks, with UCM Professor Julie Stephens de Jonge.

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences is composed of the following units:

- School of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA), which includes Studio Art, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Dance, Theatre, and Music. With Welcoming hundreds of non-Music majors in its Choir and Marching Band large ensembles, VPA is the cornerstone of UCM's community. All of its programs are nationally accredited.
- Department of Communication and Digital Media Production, which is the home of the internationally-recognized Talking Mules Speech and Debate Team, founded in 1888, as well as the nationally-awarded student newspaper, The Muleskinner.
- Department of English, which in addition to Literature and Composition also offers Philosophy, Technical Writing, and Teaching English as a Second Language. The Creative Writing program is home to the internationally-acclaimed Pleiades Magazine, a premier forum for new poets.
- Department of History, which is home to undergraduate and graduate programs in History. The department hosts active student organizations, internships with Missouri State Archives, and nationally award-winning student research.
- Department of Modern Languages and Interdisciplinary Studies, which offers Chinese, French, German, and Spanish. The department is also home to the Center for Africana Studies and the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
- Department Political Science and International Studies, which offers programs in Middle Eastern Studies and Global Security Studies. The department is home to an outstanding Model United Nations team, as well as a nationally-ranked Mock Trial team.
- Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Studies, which houses three distinct but interrelated disciplines that prepare students to study current and past cultures, and to educate future teachers.
- The McClure Archives and Museum, which curates a general collection that ranges from prehistoric archaeological specimens to modern artworks. It is best known for five collections: the Nance Middle East Collection, the Haymaker Guatemalan Collection, the Rohmiller Shell Collection, the Schmidt Mesoamerican Collection, and the McClure 20th Century American History Collection.

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Martin 126

Mark M. Suazo, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor of Management, Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies

Mark Suazo joined UCM in 2022 as the Dean of the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies. Prior to that he served as Chair of the Department of Business Management, Director of MBA Programs, and Director of the Online Undergraduate Management Program at Springfield College. As a scholar he has served as a professor of management at Springfield College (Massachusetts), Wright State University (Ohio), University of Texas at San Antonio, and Bryant University (Rhode Island). His research is in the areas of leadership and management with a focus on psychological contracts and human resource management. In addition to his academic experience, he worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico) as a project and program manager, and at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Tennessee) as a project engineer, project manager, and program manager. Suazo earned a PhD in Business with a concentration in Leadership/Organizational Behavior from the University of Kansas, a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Management from the University of Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Mexico.

The Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies includes:

- Department of Accountancy, Big Data Analytics, and Computer Information Systems
- Department of Economics and Finance
- Department of Management
- Department of Marketing, Public Relations, and Sport Management
- Department of Aviation
- Department of Human Services – which also includes the Welch-Schmidt Center for Communication Disorders and the Marriage and Family Therapy Clinic
- Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Department of Military Science
- The Missouri Safety Center – which also includes the Central Missouri Police Academy

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