

## **Spectrum**

**Volume 23, Number 5, July 1996**

### **Russell to retire by Aug. 31**



George A. Russell, President of the University of Missouri System since Nov. 1, 1991, has told Board of Curators President Fred L. Hall that he wishes to retire no later than Aug. 31, 1996.

The second year of Russell's two-and-one-half-year contract with the Board of Curators will expire June 30, 1997. Russell, however, repeated his standing offer to the Board to depart whenever it is in the best interests of the University of Missouri, even if that means leaving the presidency prior to the end of next month.

In a July 22 letter to Hall, Russell wrote, "It appears to me that if anytime prior to Aug. 31, 1996, you have selected someone to serve as interim president, it would be appropriate for me to step aside." Russell said he would withdraw on a date mutually agreeable to Hall and the interim University president.

In a letter also sent July 22 to the University's general officers, Russell wrote, "There is every indication that the Board will honor my request. I suspect some will endorse it with enthusiasm. As Clark Kerr said so nicely in leaving the University of California several years ago, he came in and went out under the same conditions, namely, fired with enthusiasm."

The last five years, Russell wrote, "have been good ones both in improving the University and in achieving what some thought would be impossible." He wrote to Hall, "The role of the Board of Curators in setting policy and supporting the University administration in implementing policy has been of the highest order.

"I said at the time I was appointed to the presidency that, if the Curators desired, I would serve as long as the work was fun. When it ceased to be enjoyable, I would depart. I believe that time has come," Russell wrote to Hall.

He praised Hall for his leadership and suggested that, "In the longer run of history, I believe your courage and patience will be recognized and appreciated."

## **Richard Wallace named interim chancellor at MU**



Richard L. Wallace, the vice president for academic affairs for the University of Missouri System, has been named interim chancellor at the University of Missouri -Columbia.

Wallace, 60, succeeds Charles A. Kiesler, whose appointment as chancellor of the UM-Columbia campus was terminated by the UM Board of Curators July 18. The Board of Curators approved the interim appointment of Wallace upon the recommendation of UM President George A. Russell. Wallace will serve until a permanent chancellor is appointed.

As vice president for academic affairs, Wallace has been responsible for the University's policies regarding academic programs, academic personnel, and academic planning, and for the promotion of quality in research and scholarship.

Wallace received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University in 1958, and earned a doctoral degree in economics from Vanderbilt University in 1965. He taught economics at Florida State University from 1961-66.

He joined the MU faculty in 1966 as an assistant professor of economics, was promoted to associate professor in 1967, and named a full professor in 1977. His research focuses on public utility regulation and health economics.

He was chairman of the Department of Economics from 1967-70. From 1972-74 he was assistant dean for research in the business school and director of the Business and Public Administration Research Center.

In 1974, he was named associate dean of the graduate school, with responsibilities for academic computing, the graduate fellowship programs, the Graduate School budget, and general administrative support to the dean. He served as interim dean of the Graduate School from January 1978 to July 1979, and associate dean from 1979-82.

In 1982-83, Wallace served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Science, where he developed a computer-based information system and an academic plan for the college. From 1983-85, he served as associate provost for MU.

He was appointed vice president for academic affairs in March 1989 after serving as associate vice president for academic affairs from 1985-89.

In a related matter, the Board decided to act as its own Presidential Succession Committee to recruit a successor to University of Missouri President George Russell, 75, who has announced he will retire on or before Aug. 31, 1997.

The Committee also includes the student representative to the Board and Kala Stroup, Missouri commissioner of higher education.

## **UM health insurance plans to change**

Most employees will be able to remain with their current primary care physician in 1997 if they wish, under a revised health insurance plan approved by the Board of Curators. Employee premiums will be announced in early Fall.

Since the switch to managed care in 1994, the University's health insurance program has undergone mostly minor changes. However, a recent review by the system-wide Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee suggested that significant revisions were appropriate for the next generation of managed care.

UM System President Dr. George Russell requested the review to help the University prepare for the next stage of managed care, which now is much more widespread, in Missouri and nationally, than it was just three years ago.

Among the recommendations approved:

- To minimize disruption to existing patient/physician relationships, the University will negotiate an extension of its contract with GenCare, now owned by United HealthCare Corp.
- United HealthCare will be required to shore up weaknesses identified by the Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee and campus groups appointed to provide medical program oversight. United must meet performance standards in certain areas, such as claims processing and quality of clinical care, or give up as much as 30 percent of its administrative fees.
- A new multi-option POS plan will be offered for 1997 for all campuses. The plan provides strong incentives to use providers who are part of the network, but allows employees willing to pay more themselves to go elsewhere for care. The plan will provide coinsurance at 100 percent for in-network care, as the GenCare HMO now does. It will replace GenCare's HMOs in Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis.

- The GenCare (United HealthCare) HMO in Columbia will continue to be offered in conjunction with University Hospital and Physicians. The Humana and Group Health Plan HMOs will continue to be offered in Kansas City and St. Louis, respectively. Discussions are underway with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City for another HMO which would replace the current POS II network there.
- GenCare's HMOs for Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis, the out-of-network area plan for active employees and the \$250 indemnity plan for active and retired employees will be eliminated. The new multi-option POS plans should accommodate persons now enrolled in the latter programs.
- General American will continue to process Out-of-Network-Area claims for retirees receiving Medicare and also for those enrolled in the catastrophic coverage plan.
- Express Scripts, Inc., will continue to operate the prescription drug program (The section titled "A New Pharmacy Vendor"; in a recent mailing from United HealthCare does **not** apply to the University.) Value Behavioral Health will continue to administer managed mental health care services. These firms, along with General American, will be subject to performance standards.

Employees and retirees will receive detailed information concerning their 1997 health insurance options in a few weeks.

## **Official Seal Replaces "UM" Logo**

The University is discontinuing the use of the "UM" logo adopted in the 1970s for system-wide use. Under new guidelines adopted by the Board of Curators July 18, campus departments are authorized to use either the University seal or the approved campus logo for official business, as directed by the appropriate chancellor.

All administrative offices of the University's System Administration will use the University seal instead of the "UM" logo. University Outreach and Extension offices should use the symbol approved by the UM-System Vice President for Outreach and Extension.

"The changes were first proposed by the University's Council on Institutional Relations and give great latitude and autonomy to the campuses and to Outreach and Extension," said UM System President George Russell.

"The 'UM' logo, created more than a generation ago, has become dated, while the historic and timeless seal has become the one official symbol embracing all elements of the University of Missouri," he said.

The new guidelines, which will be printed and distributed throughout the System and made available on the University's website, call for a gradual change from the old logo to the seal as existing supplies of forms, stationery, business cards and envelopes bearing the old "UM" logo are exhausted.

The policy also provides for licensing of the seal, payment for its commercial use and enforcement of such policies through the Licensing and Trademark Office, which has been in operation on the UM-Columbia campus since 1983.

## **UMR's A. I. Liapis receives Humboldt Award from prestigious German scientific organization**



A.I. Liapis, professor and interim chairman of chemical engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla, has received the Humboldt Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany.

The Humboldt Research Award is given to internationally renowned scholars in recognition of their achievements in research. Nominations for the award must be made by leading German scientists.

According to the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation, "only full professors and scholars of equivalent status working outside the universities may be nominated for the Humboldt Research Award. The nominee's academic qualification must be internationally recognized and supported by proven success in research work, for example a positive response to the nominee's published work and previous distinctions."

Liapis conducts research in areas including:

- Mathematical modeling of mass and heat transport mechanisms in monodisperse and bidisperse porous adsorbent particles and catalysts.
- Separation of bioactive molecules for the biotechnology-based and pharmaceutical industries.
- Mathematical modeling of the fundamental mechanisms in the freeze-drying of pharmaceuticals.

The Humboldt award will allow Liapis to conduct research for four to 12 months at a research institute in Germany. Liapis has been a member of the UMR faculty since 1979. He holds a bachelor of science degree from New York University, a master of science degree from the University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland.

## **UMC hospital consultant approved**

The UM Board of Curators, in its July 19 meeting, approved the selection of APM Management Consultants to aid UM-Columbia's Health Sciences Center in strategic planning.

The vote was 8-1, with Curator Mary Gillespie of St. Louis dissenting. Gillespie had urged the board to hire an accounting firm.

The purpose of the consultant's work is to evaluate the Health Sciences Center's current strategic plan and to advise on plans for maintaining the center's leadership position in mid-Missouri.

The business plan is needed for the Health Sciences Center to proceed with the "go it alone" strategy adopted after curators decided not to pursue a partnership with Tenet Healthcare Corp.

The board is scheduled this fall to approve more than \$100 million in bonds for expansion and other projects, including the construction of a critical care unit, the modernization of intensive care units, and replacement of equipment.

Curators have said they wish to ensure that the center has a solid plan to make enough money to pay off the debt without drawing on other campus resources.

APM Management Consultants, a New York firm, was chosen on the recommendation of Executive Vice President Jim McGill and Dean Lester Bryant of the UM-Columbia School of Medicine.

## **Stephenson appointment puts a doctor in the house**

If all that has happened this summer involving Gov. Carnahan and the UM Board of Curators could be likened to a football game, you might say Dr. Hugh E. Stephenson was called off the bench to kick the ball moments before the clock ran out. No one was more surprised than Stephenson himself who was spending a quiet weekend at home when he received an unusual phone call. It was the governor, and he asked the retired MU medical professor to accept an appointment to the Board of Curators to replace John David Collins.

Stephenson, the John A. Growdon Distinguished Professor of Surgery, emeritus, of the MU School of Medicine, said he knew joining the Board would require him to juggle commitments. In "retirement" he was already very busy doing professional service, student advising and writing but he could not pass up the opportunity, he said "if I could in any way help the University."

On June 17 Stephenson, 74, was sworn in as a member, immediately before the Board voted in a closed session to delay until July a decision on the status of then UM-Columbia Chancellor Charles Kiesler. Stephenson's appointment to a six-year term on the board must be approved by the Missouri Senate when the legislature convenes in January.

Stephenson said that although members of the Board clashed over the 5-4 Kiesler decision, he does not expect the division over that issue to affect how the Board works together from now on. He said the most important business facing the curators is finding a successor for University President George Russell, 75, who has announced he will retire Aug. 31.

"I believe as curators we are dedicated to the precept of building on the strengths left behind by President Russell and Charles Kiesler," Stephenson said. "The Board is charged with providing the University with the best possible leadership."

Aside from the dramatic events surrounding the Board as he joined it, Stephenson said his background as an MU graduate and a faculty member for 40 years can provide the curators with another perspective in the process of their policy-making. "I'm not on the Board to represent one group," Stephenson said, "but to represent the people of this state in the broadest sense."

A Columbia native, Stephenson earned two degrees from MU in 1943 before graduating from Washington University Medical School in 1945. He began teaching at MU in 1953 and was a faculty member in the School of Medicine from the time it began offering a four-year degree in 1955 until 1992. Stephenson served for 12 years as the first elected chief of staff at University Hospitals and Clinics, was chairman of the surgery department and was associate dean for clinical affairs and clinical development, as well as interim dean of the medical school.

Stephenson has been instrumental in leading the MU medical school since 1951, when the state legislature debated whether to locate the University's four-year medical school in Kansas City or Columbia.

While working as a surgical resident training at Bellevue Hospital in New York in 1951, he returned to Missouri to testify before the legislative committee as to why the medical school should be located on the campus in Columbia. "I think that was one of the most significant things in which I've been involved," he said.

"The whole thing hung on a thread. I used to call up a senator or representative almost every night from a pay phone at Bellevue. I sent out all kinds of letters giving people information I thought they ought to know about the situation. As it was, it just barely passed on a 3-2 vote."

To have a medical school as an integral part of all different areas on the Columbia campus was worth the fight, because it has created tremendous potential for allied sciences and collaborative teaching and research, Stephenson said. "There has been a lot of interaction between the medical school and other UM-Columbia programs, such as journalism, engineering, veterinary medicine, agriculture, biological sciences and law, among others.

"The land-grant mission of the University has been well carried out by our medical school as we have reached out to all areas of the state. It's one of the great resources of the state, and the decision to place the four-year medical school on the Columbia campus was so important in making that happen."

Stephenson is nearing completion of a book on the medical school's history, *Aesculapius was a Tiger; the History of Medicine at Ol' Mizzou*. Aesculapius is the Greek god of medicine.

The book chronicles the numerous accomplishments of the school's medical students, many of whom came from all over the state and sacrificed and struggled to study medicine.

Stephenson also spoke of the many examples of graduates who wanted to give back to the school, including J. Otto Lottes, from Cape Girardeau, who worked in the medical library as a student and was later responsible for donating funds to build a new medical school library and student learning center named after him.

Stephenson's work in cardiopulmonary arrest during the 1950s led to some of the advances in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. While in New York he established the first course in cardiac resuscitation in the nation. One of his textbooks, "Cardiac Arrest and Resuscitation," is considered a classic among the medical establishment. It is in its fourth edition.

As a surgeon, Stephenson performed the first open heart surgery at University Hospital in 1958. In 1962, he participated in a project with MU colleague John Schuder on the clinical implantation of an automatic internal defibrillator in a patient.

Stephenson is the first former faculty member to serve on the Board of Curators. Walter Williams, before becoming a faculty member, dean, and president of the university, also served as a curator.

Stephenson pointed out he is only the fourth physician to serve on the Board of Curators since 1919. The last doctor on the Board was UMKC medical school graduate Eva Louise Frazer of St. Louis, who in 1989 at age 33 was the youngest member to serve as president. Stephenson's fellow classmate Dr. Wallace R. Stacey was the last MU medical school graduate to serve on the Board in the 1970s.

Stephenson is currently serving on the Board's Finance Committee and University Hospital and Health Sciences Advisory Committee. At the July 18-19 Board meeting, Stephenson spoke out on the value of hiring a consulting firm to develop a strategic plan for University Hospital and the Health Sciences Center. "I'm a little suspicious of consultants," he said. "They're good for telling you what time your clock says." In the end, however, he voted to hire the consultant. "You need to be on very strong footing before you undertake a \$100 million bond issue," he said.

The rural health mission of the medical school has always been important, Stephenson said. "Being centrally located we radiate our services over the state through clinics and consultation to outstate Missouri, and our influence is becoming more evident as the telemedicine programs and area health education activities and alliances develop," he said. "For academic medical centers to survive, they have to be alert to socioeconomic changes and be responsive. To be competitive, they must form relationships with referring physicians and allied hospitals."

Stephenson is past chairman and a current member of the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association, the highest elected office in medical education in the nation. He



also is a co-chair of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which is responsible for accrediting the 124 medical schools in the U.S. He is president of the AMA Surgical Caucus, and he is chairman of the board of the 50,000-member Southern Medical Association.

Among his many honors, Stephenson received the University of Missouri Citation of Merit Award in 1973 and the MU Alumni Association Faculty/Alumni Award in 1974. He received the 1989 University of Missouri Distinguished Faculty Award and was named Physician of the Year by the Boone County Medical Society in 1991.

In 1993, MU graduate Dr. John A. Growdon bestowed a \$250,000 gift that will soon be a \$1.1 million endowed chair named the Hugh E. Stephenson Jr. Distinguished Chair in Surgery at MU. At a banquet in February where Margaret Thatcher was the keynote speaker, Stephenson was presented the 1996 Quality in Medicine Award by the Freeman Foundation.

Stephenson and his wife, Sally, are the parents of a daughter and a son. In his personal life, he has pursued a passionate interest in drop kicking and place kicking. Weighing just 120 lbs. in college, he was allowed to practice one week on Coach Don Faurot's 1941 Sugar Bowl Team team before an injury ended his career. Nonetheless, he spent 20 years writing *The Kicks That Count*, a book published in 1981 on drop kicking and place kicking, with a foreword written by Faurot.

The book is considered the most comprehensive resource written on what Stephenson calls "the nearly lost art." Readers of the book include President Ronald Reagan, who once met with Stephenson to talk about legendary football player George Gipp.

He said while serving as a curator he plans to practice the leadership style that has proven most effective throughout his career what he calls a "bubble-up philosophy."

"In every position of leadership I have held, I have considered it my job to serve those I am trying to lead, and to promote the future of the institution by encouraging faculty and staff to spread their wings and grow. The more that people expand their horizons, the greater the possibilities," Stephenson said.

## **Curators hear declaration of victory for 5-year-plan**

Early in the fifth fiscal year of the University of Missouri's five-year, self-help financial plan, UM President George Russell reported to the Board of Curators July 18 that, with 1996-97 expenditures, all objectives of the plan will be met by next June 30.

"My confidence in what can be done in higher education is greater today than when we started in December 1991," Russell said.

The plan, in a voluntary adjustment of resources unparalleled in the nation, has cost a total of \$130.8 million, including \$90.5 million in recurring funds and \$40.3 million in one-time funds.

"Thanks to the strong support of the Board, cooperation of the academic community and the support of the General Assembly and Governors," the five-year plan "is a story of success," Russell said.

Russell became president of the UM System Nov. 1, 1991. In March, 1992, the Board of Curators approved his five-year financial plan designed to address the University's most pressing human and physical infrastructure needs.

Its five system-wide goals were:

1. to improve compensation;
2. to eliminate deferred maintenance and repair and provide for an ongoing investment in physical plant;
3. to put in place a plan for equipment replacement on an average 10-year cycle;
4. to enhance academic libraries, and
5. to increase availability of student financial aid. The sixth goal was to make campus-specific quality improvements.

The philosophy underlying the plan was that the University would take the initiative to solve its own infrastructure problems and would do so with or without additional state funding. "We have been fortunate that state appropriations have, in fact, with the good increase for fiscal year 1997, kept pace with inflation during the past five years," Russell observed.

#### **The scorecard:**

1. **Compensation.** In fiscal year 1992, near the end of which the five-year plan was adopted, average faculty salaries at the University were 25 percent beneath the mean at public universities in the Association of American Universities (AAU). By making a recurring investment of \$30.7 million in compensation, including the increase planned in the FY97 budget, "we will have closed this gap. This improvement will enable us to retain and recruit top faculty," Russell reported.
2. **Maintenance and Repair.** By the end of this fiscal year, \$28.6 million will have been invested in eliminating deferred maintenance and repair projects of which there were 880 in FY92. In addition, the University is now budgeting annually 1.5 percent of the value of its facilities in ongoing maintenance and repair, adding another \$21.2 million to the investment in physical plant.
3. **Equipment.** The University has exceeded its goal of a one-time investment of \$11.7 million for equipment replacement. By setting aside funds annually, the University can shorten the average replacement cycle for teaching and research equipment from 16 to 10 years.
4. **Libraries.** With the help of the FY97 budget, the plan will also have achieved its goal of investing \$3.8 million in upgrading library technology to improve service while reducing cost. "By creating on-line access to library holdings throughout the UM System, the University's libraries are becoming the hub of a statewide higher education library system," Russell noted.

5. **Financial Aid.** During the five-year plan, the University has raised undergraduate educational fees to the mean of the public AAU universities. Meanwhile, to ensure that the University remains financially accessible to Missourians, 20 percent or \$8.7 million of the increase has been earmarked for financial aid. The campuses have invested an additional \$6.1 million in financial aid as part of their local priorities.
6. **Campus Improvements.** In addition to the five system-wide goals, each campus identified initiatives related to its mission and vision. Beyond their commitments to financial aid and compensation, the campuses have invested \$20 million in strengthening academic programs, enhancing libraries and technology and other campus-based initiatives.

The significant financial commitment for the plan came from three major sources: 44 percent from a combination of internal reallocation and cost-saving initiatives; 37 percent from student fee increases, and 19 percent from state appropriations.

Of the funds generated internally and used for recurring expenses, approximately half came from initiatives directed by UM System administration, including the Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Plan (VERIP) and redesign of employee benefits. The campuses generated approximately one-third through grants, contracts, indirect cost recovery and other income. Reallocation across the System contributed nearly one-fifth.

The one-time (non-recurring) component of the plan (to fund maintenance and repair and equipment replacement) was funded from the following sources: VERIP, 61 percent; fund balances, 33 percent, and private gifts and other income, 6 percent.

While progress on the plan has been impressive, Russell said, other achievements of the past five years, in teaching, research and outreach are worthy of note. Among them are the following:

### **Teaching**

- Generated new mission statements for each campus and Outreach/Extension.
- Started endowed chair and professorship program through permanent state funding of \$4.0 million per year and more than \$30 million in private donations. (To date 13 endowed chairs and 35 endowed professorships have been created with more in the development stages.)
- Created the Institute for Instructional Development to help faculty integrate technology in the classroom.(The IID today has a budget of \$1.1 million to fund innovative and creative faculty course development projects.)
- Adopted new admission standards, including a required set of high school courses in mathematics, English, science, social science and foreign language.
- Adopted a faculty workload policy.
- Improved faculty grievance procedures.

### **Research**

- Created a Research Board, made up entirely of University researchers, to improve the University's ability to attract external research funding and help "jump start" research of new faculty. (The Board allocates \$4.0 million annually to fund its research awards. Recurring funding has been directed to the Research Board from elimination of more than 100 positions in System Administration.)
- Increased external funding of research by 24.5 percent. "Growth in sponsored research should continue to improve as the impact of the endowed chairs program and the Research Board is felt," Russell predicted.
- Allocated \$2 million to the research endowment from the successful development of the Missouri Research Park.

### **Outreach/Extension**

- Refocused the mission of the extension and outreach programs to make them consistent and relevant to the mission of the modern day land-grant university.
- Established two telecommunication community resource centers (TCRCs) designed to extend the University's academic program offerings to areas of the state with critical educational and training needs. A TCRC will be established in each region of the state.

### **Information Technology**

- Reaching across teaching, research and outreach, "we have developed campus and system information technology plans," Russell said. The investment to implement the plans has been \$17.5 million, including \$4.4 million for a new library system. This year's investment of \$11.4 million will bring the total to nearly \$29 million.

### **Administrative**

"During the past four years, we have also been diligent in identifying opportunities for administrative reallocation, revenue generation and cost savings," Russell reported.

- System Administration was reduced by 115 positions with savings of \$2.6 million.
- Restructuring of the University's management resulted in reduction of organizational levels by 30 percent and a reduction in the "cost-to-manage ratio" by 25 percent.
- The early retirement program generated \$18.7 million in resources to finance the five-year plan and produced gross salary savings of \$23.4 million.
- Redesign of the University's employee medical insurance program generated \$5.6 million in savings.
- Consolidation of computing operations in Columbia resulted in savings of \$2.4 million.
- Debt restructuring generated \$6.5 million in interest savings.
- Assignment of bond ratings of AA+ and Aa, by Standard and Poor's, and Moody's, respectively, put the University of Missouri among the four highest rated public universities.

- Participation in the Direct Student Loan program, where wire transfer has expedited the receipt of approximately \$123 million and increased interest earned.

Russell called the five-year plan "a major accomplishment" the credit for which "belongs to the Board of Curators, the faculty, the administration, the staff, and the students. The University of Missouri has also benefited from good economic times in our state and from the support of the General Assembly and Governor Carnahan, who have helped us as we have kept our promise to help ourselves."

## **Cooperative Efforts Yield National Video Award**

"Integrated Pest Management: A Basic Concept For Better Gardening" videotape has won a 1996 Telly Award. More than 9,000 productions were submitted for judging in both TV commercial and long format length productions.

The Telly awards were created 16 years ago to showcase and honor non-network and cable TV commercials and programming. Past winners include MGM, Warner, Disney, NASA, AT&T, The Learning Channel, J. Walter Thompson, HBO, Columbia University and National Geographic.

Charlene Boyes was the principal producer, writer and content specialist for the video. She works in the Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) at the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources as an Extension Associate. She is involved in the design of environmental education programs for IPM.

The videotape will be airing on KCPT channel 19, the Kansas City PBS channel, Aug. 25 at 2:30 p.m. and Aug. 31 at 5:00 p.m.

Michael Hicks, University Outreach and Extension Film and Television Producer at the Cooperative Video Group directed and edited the program and shot a large portion of the video.

The project was funded by USDA, The College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, MU Extension and University Outreach and Extension.

The Cooperative Video Group staff worked on the production during the scripting, shooting and editing of the production.

The Cooperative Video Group is an office formed by University Relations UM System, University Outreach and Extension and MU's Extension and Agricultural Information offices six years ago to pool staff and resources to produce high-quality video and radio news and educational film.

In the past six years, the Cooperative Video Group has been honored with six major national awards, including a CINE Golden Eagle, three Tellys, first place at the Great Plains Film Festival, and the award for Creative Excellence at the U.S. International Film Festival.

## **UM departments encouraged to buy insurance for office property**

When a water pipe broke last December, causing \$50,000 damage to property and equipment at the Center for Independent Study in Clark Hall in Columbia, employees were surprised to learn the losses were not covered by insurance. The University's blanket master property policy only provides coverage for losses over \$100,000, and the deductible had not been met.

University departments are being encouraged to take advantage of insurance coverage for University-owned property. The Office of Risk & Insurance Management (RIM) administers the self-funded program that insures business "personal" property.

The program is primarily for property that is worth less than \$100,000 the deductible required by the University's blanket master property policy. The rates for the coverage were reduced 33 percent, from 45 cents to 30 cents per \$100 of value last July. There is a \$100 deductible for the "business" personal property program.

Examples of "business" personal property are personal computers, cameras, musical instruments, general office equipment, laptops, scientific, communications and other technical equipment.

For a copy of the coverage document, contact the campus representatives listed in the box.

Effective July 1 of this year, participation in the program became available based on the purchase of \$5,000 units of blanket coverage. In the past this insurance was sold for itemized property based on an agreed value. "The program is healthy," said Bill Payton, director of Risk and Insurance Management. "We were insuring 23,000 scheduled items \$33 million in property which is why we have gone to blanket coverage."

Unless otherwise instructed, Risk and Insurance Management has converted all departments enrolled in the program to the new format for the 1996-1997 fiscal year. Departments interested in enrolling in the program may direct questions to the campus contacts.

Payton said that Risk and Insurance Management also offers auto insurance for physical damage to University-owned vehicles. He said all of the approximately 900 automobiles owned by the University are insured for liability, however only 120 are insured for physical damage (comprehensive & collision). The cost for this insurance is three percent of the car's new value.

### **Risk and Insurance Management Campus Representatives**

UM System	Bill Payton	(573)882-3735
UMC	Pat Higgins	(573)882-7254
UHC	Mike Philips	(573)882-8070
UMKC	Peter Maxwell	(816)235-5357
UMR	Randy Stoll	(573)341-4122
UMSL	Gloria Leonard	(314)516-5362

### **University contract with Diners Club to be reviewed**

In May, UM Management Services conducted a survey to gather information on current use of the corporate card and how this service could be improved.

Responses to the survey were overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the corporate card program. More than 68 percent of those who responded use the corporate card for University travel expenses. Of those who do not use the corporate card, 62 percent stated they would if the card were more widely accepted. More than 64 percent of those polled wanted the University to continue the corporate card program.

One of the many benefits of the current card program is the ability to withdraw cash advances from Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) but as yet, only 31 percent of those polled actually use the card for this purpose.

The comments section of the survey indicated many employees use their corporate cards to keep their business and personal expenses separate, while others like the convenience of not carrying cash. Many wrote that they wanted a card that is more widely accepted.

The University's contract with Diners Club will expire Dec. 31. A committee of representatives from each campus is reviewing the corporate card program and is preparing a Request for Proposal.

Information on the University corporate card program, in addition to other travel information, is available on the World Wide Web (WWW) through <http://www.system.missouri.edu>. This information is also accessible on the UM Business Services home page

( <http://www.system.missouri.edu:80/busserv/welcome.htm>). Contact your campus Help Desk about accessing these information systems.