

Spectrum

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Stephenson recounts Board accomplishments for 2000



In his last report to fellow curators as president of the UM Board of Curators Dec. 14, Dr. Hugh E. Stephenson, Jr., recounted the Board's major achievements in 2000.

He urged Board members to continue emphasizing two priorities he stressed during his term as Board President—increasing the number of Rhodes Scholars from the University of Missouri and taking steps to preserve the University's history by placing commemorative plaques on historic buildings.

He also thanked and commended Board members for the many hours of service they gave to the University in 2000. In addition to their time at Board and committee meetings, he said curators attend numerous dedications and special events on the four campuses, provide oversight of University investments and solicit funding from government and private sources.

In addition to awarding approximately 11,000 graduate and undergraduate degrees this year, Stephenson said six new degree programs were established to meet the state's needs. The Board also approved a number of enhancements to physical facilities on the four campuses.

As Board president, Stephenson established the ad hoc Health Sciences Committee. He said he took the action "because almost one-fifth of our entire budget is related to Health Sciences, and because of the many unique aspects of academic medical centers today."

"We note with much enthusiasm that progress is being made toward the designation of Ellis Fischel Cancer Center as a Comprehensive Cancer Center," Stephenson said.

He also thanked the ad hoc Information and Technology Committee, which was appointed to advise the Board on the impact of higher education technologies and the integration of technology and instruction.

Stephenson said in October the Board established the Governor Mel Carnahan Memorial Scholarship. "Donations for the scholarship fund are already coming in and the active phase of the fund raising campaign will begin soon," he said.

"I want to thank my colleagues on the Board for helping to make 2000 a productive and worthwhile year," he said. It is the first year we have really seen the influence of the Strategic Plan and related Resource Plan adopted by the Board in September 1999. This 'living' document lays out how we will manage our resources and archive our goals. Our future is brightest when we act as one major University. We believe the University of Missouri is a priceless treasure. The people of Missouri can lay claim to no more important asset."

Federal initiatives getting results



UM President Manuel Pacheco updated the Board of Curators at their Dec. 14 meeting on the University's progress in securing federal appropriations for fiscal year 2001.

FY2001, which began July 1, 2000, marks the third successful year of the UM System's efforts to boost initiatives to secure funding from the federal government. Since beginning the initiative, UM has received \$138 million in federal funding for individually-sponsored projects.

In fiscal year 1998, the System received just \$11.5 million from individually sponsored projects. The number more than doubled to \$28.3 million in fiscal year 1999. Funding again increased substantially in fiscal year 2000 to \$54 million. This year the University will receive federal appropriations of approximately \$56 million.

UM has made a concerted effort during the past year to build the needed capacity for University research.

This year, federal funding was secured for 31 different projects in the University System.

President Pacheco thanked Senator Kit Bond for his support in securing nearly \$30 million in federal funding during the last two years for the Life Sciences Building on the UM-Columbia campus. "Together with another \$30 million in state support approved by the late Governor Carnahan and the state legislature, this world-class facility will soon become the focal point for achieving our aims in the rapidly growing area of Life Sciences research," Pacheco said.

Pacheco credited Bond with raising more than \$130 million of the University's total federal appropriation during the last three years. "Senator Bond's commitment to life sciences research and this institution dates back to his days as governor of Missouri," he said. "We extend our sincere appreciation to Senator Kit Bond for his continued support and trust in the University and its vision for the future."

Pacheco said much of the University's federal funding success was due to the faculty and staff throughout the University of Missouri who "developed proposals that hold great promise for the advancement of science and the continued prosperity of the State of Missouri."

Pacheco also praised the work of Assistant to the President for Federal Relations Steve Knorr, who has served as the University's point man in Washington, D.C.

While hoping for continued federal support, Pacheco cautioned against measuring success solely in terms of appropriations raised by the University's federal initiative.

"In the future we must gauge our success in terms of how those dollars are used to enhance the quality of our academic programs and the boldness of our scientific enterprise," he said.

Paul Steele, John Mathes elected Board officers for 2001



Paul W. Steele, of Chillicothe, was elected president of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators at the Board's meeting Dec. 14. John A. Mathes, of St. Louis, was elected vice president. Both will assume office Jan. 1, 2001.

Steele was appointed to the Board of Curators in 1997 by Gov. Mel Carnahan. He is Chair of the Executive Committee and a member of the Academic Affairs and Physical Facilities committees.

Steele received his bachelor's of science degree in business and public administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1962. He was an accountant at Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company and a manager for the Alton Box Board Company.

Steele has operated a grain and livestock farm since 1965. In addition, he is a co-owner of T & R Soil Service and S & S Construction. He formerly was a co-owner of radio stations KMZU and WHB.

Steele has been a member of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council's board of directors since 1991. He also served on the Missouri Ag Industries Council Board of Directors, the Missouri Commercial Agriculture Policy Board and the Chillicothe State Bank's Board.

Steele was a member of the Chillicothe R-II Board of Education from 1978-1992 and served on the board of the Missouri School Boards Association. He also was a trustee for the Missouri 4-H Foundation. He is a member of the MU Jefferson Club and was named an honorary member of the Ag Alumni Organization in 1995.



Mathes, of Sunset Hills, was appointed to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators in 1997 by Gov. Mel Carnahan. He chairs the Information and Technology Committee and is a member of the Executive Committee and the Physical Facilities Committee.

Mathes received bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1967 and 1968, respectively. Between 1968 and 1975, he was a geotechnical engineer at Layne-Western Co., Inc., in St. Louis.

In 1975 he founded John Mathes & Associates, Inc., a consulting engineering firm in the applied earth sciences. He subsequently founded Mathes Geotechnical Services, Inc. and Mathes Asbestos Services, Inc., which together became known as the Mathes Companies. Mr. Mathes led the firms, which were acquired by Burlington Environmental, Inc., in 1988, until he retired in 1992.

A registered professional engineer, Mathes has served as president of the Institute for Professional Practice. He and his wife created the John and Susan Mathes Professorship in Environmental Engineering at UMR.

Board considers UM-Columbia Residential Life Master Plan

The University of Missouri Board of Curators heard a report at their Dec. 14 meeting on the status of a residential life master plan for the UM-Columbia campus. Administrators have outlined a 15-year plan to spend about \$290 million to build new residence facilities and demolish or renovate existing ones.

Representatives from firms commissioned to design the report presented the plan to the Board. Consultant Mike Evans, of Hanbury Evans Newill Blattas, said UM-Columbia's national reputation for quality residential life attracts many students to the campus but that attraction may suffer if steps aren't taken to update facilities. Evans said UM-Columbia's peer institutions across the country are facing similar housing challenges. There are currently 19 residence halls on campus, all 35 to 65 years old.

Evans said today's students look for more in living situations. Student focus groups held on the MU campus showed a desire for more privacy, more space and rooms better equipped for electrical equipment.

The Columbia campus currently houses nearly 5,500 students in 19 residence halls, with 30 percent of undergraduates living on campus. Residence halls are near full occupancy, and enrollment is expected to rise in coming years. The plan would add approximately 1,000 beds during the next 15 years and modernize existing facilities. The plan was designed with four separate phases, or cycles, in order to remain flexible. Cycles will be periodically examined and adjusted. Cycle one calls for two buildings to be demolished and two new construction projects on the Virginia Field site to be finished by 2004. Six residence halls would be partially renovated. The entire plan calls for renovation of Hatch, Schurz, Graham, Hudson, Defoe, Gillette, Stafford, Cramer and McDavid Halls.

The consultants said student housing fees must increase to meet the cost of the plan. If the plan is approved, rates would increase 15 percent above the average cost for newly renovated buildings and 20 percent for newly constructed buildings. Rates would vary depending on which facilities students choose to occupy.

UM Assistant Vice President for Management Services Dennis Cesari said UM-Columbia officials are considering a proposal to raise housing fees beginning in January 2001 to begin generating a reserve to fund the initial construction of "swing space." The new space will house students while the University renovates other halls.

The plan calls for residential housing projects to be paid with revenue bonds. Curators asked that more funding and building options be included in a report at the next Board of Curators meeting to be held Jan. 19 in Columbia.

UM student success rates show positive trends



At the Dec. 14 Board of Curators meeting at UM-Columbia, UM Vice President for Academic Affairs Stephen Lehmkuhle reported on freshman enrollment data for fall 2000. The report included the number of applications, the number of students admitted and the number who enrolled for each campus. The report also showed the percentage of students admitted who did not meet all of the UM admission criteria, with comparisons for 1997, 1998, and 1999.

Students applying for admission to the University of Missouri in 2000 must meet two criteria: (1) an ACT score of at least 24, or a combination of high school percentile rank and ACT percentile rank of 120 or higher; and (2) completion of core high school courses including four years of English, four years of mathematics, three years of social sciences, three years of natural sciences, two years of a foreign language and one year of fine arts.

At UM-Columbia, the number of students applying for the fall semester has shown a steady increase since 1997. There were 8,927 applications in 1997, which increased to 10,507 in 2000. Eighty-one percent of the students who applied were admitted (acceptance rate) in 2000. Fifty percent of admitted students actually enrolled in 2000 (yield rate). Primarily because of the increase in the number of applications and a slight increase in their yield rate, the number of first-time, full-time freshmen increased on the Columbia campus by 295 students since last year.

At UM-Kansas City, there was a slight increase in the number of applications and the number of students admitted in 2000 as compared to 1999. The percentage of admitted students who actually enrolled dropped slightly. As a result, fall enrollment is almost identical for the last two years, with 716 new students enrolled.

On the UM-Rolla campus, the number of students who applied and the number who were admitted increased slightly in 2000 from 1999. However, students who were admitted and actually enrolled decreased from 46 percent to 42 percent. The net result at UMR is a constant fall enrollment for first-time, full-time freshmen for the past two years of 697 and 696, respectively.

Applications at UM-St. Louis increased slightly, but admissions declined from the previous two years. However, because of a higher yield rate in 2000, there was only a small drop of 15 students in 2000 to 630 students.

"As you know, we admit some students who do not meet all the admission criteria," Lehmkuhle said. "We refer to these as exceptions." The numbers of admission exceptions and the exception rates rose compared to last year for UM-Kansas City and UM-Rolla, and dropped for UM-Columbia and UM-St. Louis. The exception rates for 2000 are 16 percent at UM-Columbia, 31 percent at UM-Kansas City, 26 percent at UM-Rolla and 36 percent at UM-St. Louis.

Lehmkuhle said there are three types of deficiencies in the students' records that cause them to be admitted as exceptions — deficiencies in the ACT and class rank criterion, deficiencies in meeting the 17-unit high school core criterion, and deficiencies in both core course and ACT/class rank criteria.

"Sixty percent of the deficiencies are due to students not completing the high school core courses, with 60 percent of core course deficiencies related to not completing four years of mathematics," Lehmkuhle said. "It is important to keep in mind that 91 percent of the students who enrolled had completed four years in mathematics."

Lehmkuhle said the most important statistics are the success rates of UM students.

In 1999, there was a 90 percent success rate for those students meeting the admission criteria. In 1999, 21 percent of the students were admitted as exceptions, and 73 percent of those students had an academically successful year. These student success rates are higher than for fall 1998, which was a year with a lower exception rate — 17 percent.

"These are positive trends that will increase our student retention and graduation rates," Lehmkuhle said.

University Outreach program helps communities curb teen pregnancy



A University Outreach and Extension program in place in 13 Missouri counties is helping pregnant teens stay healthy, meet the challenges of parenting and avoid repeated unplanned pregnancies. The Missouri Volunteer Resource Mothers program is a community-based mentoring program that matches volunteer mothers with pregnant or parenting teens.

Lynn Blinn Pike, University Extension Human Development and Family Studies specialist, said Resource Mothers was piloted, field tested and evaluated by MU Extension in three counties in Missouri from 1994 to 1997.

Pike said the project was developed to address a need identified in 75 percent of Missouri counties to provide parenting and, specifically, teen parenting support services. She said a survey of Missouri teenagers showed that 59 percent of respondents were sexually active, but only 25 percent reported their parents had talked to them about preventing pregnancy.

The pilot program matched 96 pregnant teens with volunteer mentors. A second group of 80 pregnant teens had no mentors.

"The results indicated that compared to non-mentored teens, MVRM participants showed a significant reduction in child abuse potential, a significant reduction in parenting stress and a greater commitment to breastfeeding," Pike said. Mentored teen mothers also demonstrated an increased knowledge of health practices for themselves and their babies, fewer hospital visits during the baby's first year and no repeat pregnancies — compared with 10 repeat pregnancies in the non-mentored group.

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After the pilot the program was expanded to 13 counties and now includes site visits, mentor training and support. Communities are encouraged to set specific goals that relate to local needs, including increasing school completion rates, reducing low-birth-weight babies, reducing smoking and substance abuse and supporting adolescent fathers.

Resource mothers matches pregnant teens with trained volunteer mentors who agree to spend time each week providing information, support and friendship until the babies are at least one year old. Teens are referred to the program by various organizations and service providers in the community.

Once referred to Resource Mothers, teens receive a home visit by a MVRM staff member in order to assess their interest in the program and their specific needs. Potential mentors are recruited by word of mouth and through media reports on the pro-gram. Teens and mentors are interviewed separately and then matched — based on their interests, preferences, lifestyles and schedules.

Pike said teens and mentors plan their own activities based on each individual situation. They may attend parenting classes, access community services, prepare for childbirth or participate in recreational activities, for example. In addition, the pairs are invited to periodic group meetings

that provide educational information and social support through group bonding and individual



friendships among teens and among mentors.

Pike said the many teen mothers who have succeeded at parenting and achieving educational and career goals underscore the effectiveness of the program.

One teen participant wrote to Pike, "With the help of my mentor I overcame fear, regret, sadness and the other emotions that hit you like a brick after pregnancy. My mentor helped me see that the most important part of my life would always be my children, and to care for them, I must be sure to take care of myself."

For Pike, the greatest reward of working with the program is the increasing number of teens who have voluntarily returned to the program to serve as mentors.

As part of the program, Pike paired a 17-year-old who was living in a tiny apartment, struggling to support premature twin babies, with a mentor who was also raising premature twins. Now the teen mom is in college, considering becoming a doctor. "A testimony to the need for the program was evident when this young woman returned to the program as a volunteer mentor at 21 years of age," Pike said. "And her mentee is 16 and expecting twins!"

Wireless technology demonstrated for Board

UM Vice President for Information Technology Ralph Caruso Jr., updated the Board of Curators Dec. 14 on wireless technology, network convergence and research computing — new technologies in use throughout the University of Missouri System. Wireless technology is currently being piloted at UM-Columbia, UM-Rolla and in the University Health Care emergency room at UM-Columbia. Information Technology staff were at the Board meeting to demonstrate wireless devices.

The Board also was updated on the findings of Eduprise, a higher education consulting company retained in April to assist in planning and implementing learner-based, technology-enabled courses and programs. The Eduprise report will assist the University of Missouri in developing a learner-centered environment, a main goal of the strategic plan.

Specialized Ph.D. in business approved

The Board of Curators approved a proposal to implement a Ph.D. program in Business Administration with an emphasis in Information Systems at UM-St. Louis. The program, scheduled to begin in Winter 2001, will admit as many as five Ph.D. students each year.

The national demand for individuals seeking an Information Systems (IS) doctorate is high compared to the supply. Based on applications to IS doctoral programs at other institutions, the program is expected to attract a large number of applicants.

Hutchinson named to prestigious academy



R. Kenneth Hutchinson, UM Vice President of Human Resources, has been elected as a Fellow by the National Academy of Human Resources.

The National Academy of Human Resources is considered the nation's foremost professional human resources organization. The group recognizes individuals and institutions of distinction in the field of human resources achievement. Candidates are nominated by their peers and elected by the full body of Academy Fellows.

Hutchinson's selection marks the first time that a chief human resources officer from higher education has been elected as a Fellow.

Presentations sought for higher ed conference to be held in March

More than 450 higher education participants are expected to attend the 2001 Higher Education Learning & Information exchange (HELIX) Conference, March 22-23, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. The conference is sponsored by Missouri Research & Education Network (MOREnet), Missouri Education and Research Consortium (MERC), Educational Technologies at Missouri (ET@MO), and Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE).

Proposals for presentations are presently being accepted online until January 15, 2001, at www.more.net/projects/members/helix2001/presenters.html.

HELIX is designed to bring together higher education faculty, administrators, library and technical personnel charged with supporting the application of technology for instruction and the learning process.

The theme for this year's conference, *Converging Technologies: Effective Approaches in Distributed Learning*, reflects the rapid growth of distributed and distance learning programs and the need for higher education stakeholders to keep current with the latest developments in the field.

Keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Mary Beth Susman, CEO of Kentucky Virtual University, whose topic is *The Orbital Shift in Education*. Susman recently received the Bellwether Futures Award for Innovations in Higher Education for the planning, finance and organization of the Colorado Electronic Community College. Her research has focused on the innovation and implementation of technology.

The two-day conference will feature approximately 25 unique breakout sessions in five tracks:

IT management and policy issues — How administration and staff have adapted their instructional and technical support services, faculty development services, operations, and organizational structures to contend with the explosion of distributed learning initiatives.

Digital library services — How library staff have adapted their support services to meet the growing demand for digital library services and dealt with accompanying issues such as authentication, intellectual property, and copyright issues.

Developments, trends, and best practices for combining instruction, learning and technology — An opportunity for faculty and instructional design staff to showcase projects and discuss the tools and techniques they are using to maximize learning in distributed education environments.

Serving digital-age students — A forum for introducing and discussing innovations such as Internet2, wireless networking, streaming video and audio, and other recent technology developments, and how they will impact distributed learning.

Innovative applications of technology — Focus areas might include (but are not limited to) topics such as bandwidth, security, e-commerce, firewalls, proxy servers, web course management tools, H.323 videoconferencing, networking and voice-over IP.

For additional conference information, call Nancy Piringner at MOREnet at 573-884-5094 or piringern@more.net.

UMKC's George J. Thomas, Jr. named a fellow in prestigious science association
Honor will help turn attention to Kansas City Life Sciences Initiative



George J. Thomas, Jr., Ph.D., a scientist at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Biological Sciences, has been named a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The AAAS is the world's largest federation of scientists and publishes the prestigious journal, *Science*.

Thomas, a University of Missouri Curators' Professor at UMKC, was one of 251 members selected in this year's election.

Thomas is the only professor from a public university in Kansas or Missouri to be elected to the AAAS this year.

"This is an honor to Dr. Thomas. It recognizes him for his contributions to research and it supports our efforts to direct national attention on UMKC and the Kansas City Life Sciences Initiative," said Marino Martinez-Carrion, dean of the UMKC School of Biological Sciences.

Thomas was recognized for his work in the School of Biological Sciences' Raman Spectroscopy facility, which he directs. Laser Raman Spectroscopy is a sensitive measure of biophysical and biochemical information used to better understand the function and structure of viral infections, from the common cold to hepatitis. Thomas' work focuses on protein-DNA interactions and gene regulation.

Thomas joined UMKC in 1988. He is a native of New Bedford, Mass. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Boston College and his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in physical chemistry.

2001 Board meeting schedule

January 19 — UM-Columbia

March 22-23 — UM-Kansas City

May 24-25 — To be determined

July 19-20 — UM-St. Louis

September 20-21 — UM-Columbia

November 15-16 — UM-Rolla