

Spectrum

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President Forsee delivers first report to board of curators



Gary Forsee has let no grass grow under his feet in the three months since he became the 22nd president of the University of Missouri System. In fact, he started preparing for the job weeks before he started—and he’s been going ever since.

In his first report to the board of curators April 3-4 in Rolla, Mo., Forsee provided an overview of his activities since assuming the role, which have included initial orientation sessions with faculty, students, alumni and friends on each campus. He also has visited lawmakers in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. to promote the university’s budget priorities and to discuss the future of higher education in Missouri.

His messages, Forsee said, have remained consistent. He continues to focus on positioning the university as an economic growth engine and is actively supporting increases in faculty compensation.

He also is exploring issues of access, retention and graduation rates of students, is initiating a comprehensive review of distance education programs with an eye to expanding the university’s role, is looking at various funding models for higher education, and is promoting the importance of public higher education around the state. He is preparing for a planning retreat this summer for senior leaders to develop a clear strategic direction for the University.

Forsee said he understands what is at the heart of the university.

“Faculty, staff and students are the lifeblood of this institution,” Forsee said. “My opportunity to meet with them is going to be a very important part of my role.”

Forsee discussed how colleges and universities across the country come to be ranked by magazines and other media. Using the U.S. News and World Report college rankings as an example, Forsee explained how performance measures, indicators and weights influence where a particular institution lands on such lists.

He said the rankings raise several important questions, including whether the university should use the same performance measures and to what extent the rankings should be considered when making decisions about the university's own unique goals and objectives. He told the curators that such factors as access, affordability and accountability are central to the mission of the public research university, and changing policy in one area can affect the interaction of all these factors.

University of Missouri increases tuition and fees 4.1 percent

The University of Missouri Board of Curators voted April 4 to increase tuition rates for undergraduate and graduate students 4.1 percent beginning with the 2008 summer session.

Tuition increases at the University of Missouri

FY2000: 3.2 percent

FY2000: 3.2 percent

FY2001: 3.2 percent

FY2002: 3.4 percent

FY2003: 14.8 percent

FY2004: 19.8 percent

FY2005: 7.5 percent

FY2006: 3.5 percent

FY2007: 5.0 percent

FY2008: 3.8 percent

FY2009: 4.1 percent

The tuition increase is based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index and represents an annual adjustment in base tuition of \$291 for an undergraduate student enrolled for 15 hours per

semester before any related enrollment fees. Base tuition for a full-time Missouri undergraduate student would increase to \$7,368, from \$7,077.

Tuition increases for professional school students will range from zero to 4.1 percent, with the exception of Veterinary Medicine on the Columbia campus, which will increase by 5.1 percent. The additional funds for Veterinary Medicine will be used to support the maintenance of teaching and research facilities and faculty to remain competitive with comparator schools.

“We are pleased to hold our tuition increases to the rate of inflation,” said UM System Vice President for Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz. “A survey of tuition by the College Board of public four-year colleges and universities showed an average increase of 6.6 percent in academic year 2008 and 6.2 percent in 2007. In those same years, the University of Missouri had tuition increases of 3.8 percent and 5 percent, respectively.”

Supplemental and other enrollment fees for undergraduate, graduate and professional students also will increase 4.1 percent. Separate fee rates will be established for the LLM program at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. There will be no increases in the course fee for the School of Education and the nursing course fee for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Base tuition, as approved by the board of curators, is often thought of as the sticker price, Krawitz said. To get a clear understanding of the actual cost to Missouri resident undergraduate students, it is important to factor in scholarships, or grant aid. The most recent data from the university’s fiscal year 2006 financial aid study showed full-time Missouri resident undergraduate students attending the University of Missouri received on average \$3,952 in grant aid. Assuming grant aid continues to increase at the same rate as it has the last three years, a comparable level of grant aid to be applied to the FY2009 tuition would be \$4,642. When this grant aid is applied to the FY2009 tuition base, the amount a student would pay on average is \$2,726.

Rodriguez appointed vice president of human resources



Elizabeth "Betsy" Rodriguez has been appointed vice president of human resources for the University of Missouri System. She will begin in July 2008.

Rodriguez, 49, has served as interim associate vice president of human resources at the University of Colorado system since June 2007. In that role, she provides human resources leadership for a multi-campus system with about 14,000 employees. From 1998 to 2007, Rodriguez held progressively responsible management and leadership roles for the University of Colorado at Denver and its associated Health Sciences Center campus. She also has served the state of Colorado as a top human resources administrator and the University of Missouri System as a staff associate for labor relations.

"Betsy has a great record in human resources leadership, especially dealing with the special responsibilities and strategic alliances of a complex, multi-campus public higher education system," said UM President Gary Forsee. "I am pleased to welcome her to the University of Missouri leadership team."

Rodriguez received her master's degree in psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University.

"I am honored to accept this leadership role at my alma mater, and I appreciate the confidence shown by President Forsee and the board of curators," Rodriguez said. "For my family, this is particularly exciting because coming to Missouri feels like coming home."

Responsibilities of the vice president for human resources include labor and employee relations, compensation matters, faculty and staff benefits, recruitment, professional development, affirmative action and human resources information systems.

Rodriguez is replacing R. Kenneth Hutchinson, who retired in December. Dr. K. Blake Danuser has been serving as interim vice president.

October 2007 research board awards announced

A previous article listing the October 2007 research board awards was incorrect. The correct information is below. We apologize for any inconvenience.

The University of Missouri Research Board, a universitywide panel composed of 22 faculty members, has awarded more than \$1.1 million to support 42 research projects across the University's four campuses.

The board has established a network of UM experts in each discipline and addresses specific criteria in evaluating a request before considering the recommendations of the peer reviewers. Ann Miller, the Cynthia Tang Missouri Distinguished Professor of Computer Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, chairs the research board.

In October, researchers from UM filed 125 requests for grants, totaling more than \$4.6 million. Approximately 34 percent of the requests were approved and approximately 25 percent of the total dollar amount requested was awarded.

The board granted seven engineering requests for a total of \$182,683; 11 in humanities and fine arts for a total of \$211,077; 10 in life sciences for a total of \$395,703; six in physical sciences and mathematics for a total of \$257,083; and eight in social and behavioral sciences for a total of \$138,987.

University of Missouri-Columbia

- **Breton Barrier**, OBGYN: \$40,000
- **Carlos Barriuso**, Romance languages: \$10,000
- **Emek Basker**, Economics: \$20,460
- **Shi-Jie Chen**, Physics: \$37,425
- **Jianlin Cheng**, Computer Science: \$28,000
- **Ye Duan**, Computer Science: \$20,000
- **Francisco Gomez**, Geological Sciences: \$32,180
- **Qing Hao**, Finance: \$2,000
- **David Konisky**, Public Affairs: \$15,000
- **Johanna Kramer**, English: \$16,518
- **Bo Lei**, Veterinary medicine and surgery: \$39,014
- **Devoney Looser**, English: \$11,718
- **Anne Myers**, English: \$17,525
- **Mihail Popescu**, Health management and information, \$29,000
- **Cynthia Russell**, Nursing, \$36,000
- **Francis Schmidt**, Biochemistry, \$33,673
- **Shramik Sengupta**, Biological engineering, \$28,023
- **Qisheng Song**, Plant sciences, \$44,000
- **Maureen Stanton**, English: \$17,836

- **Roger Stich**, Veterinary pathobiology, \$44,000
- **Cuizhen Wang**, Geography, \$25,660
- **Ping Yu**, Physics, \$29,625

University of Missouri-Kansas City

- **Henry Frankel**, Philosophy: \$6,480
- **Simon Friedman**, Pharmaceutical science: \$42,000
- **Viviana Grieco**, History: \$19,446
- **Jin-Mo Kim**, Finance and information management: \$4,000
- **Donald Priour**, Physics: \$30,000
- **Melisa Rempfer**, Psychology: \$26,000

Missouri University of Science & Technology

- **Charles Chusuei**, Chemistry: \$15,778
- **Jun Fan**, Electrical and computer engineering: \$24,000
- **Serhat Hosder**, Mechanical and aerospace engineering: \$28,000
- **Katie Shannon**, Biological sciences: \$36,500

University of Missouri-St. Louis

- **John Brunero**, Philosophy: \$10,000
- **John Dalton**, English: \$10,000
- **Louis Gerteis**, History: \$75,000
- **Elizabeth Kellogg**, Biology: \$46,921
- **Jingyue Liu**, Nanoscience: \$124,500
- **Bette Loiselle**, Biology: \$32,170
- **Eric Majzoub**, Physics and astronomy: \$25,000
- **Robert Northcott**, Philosophy: \$20,000
- **Miles Patterson**, Psychology: \$16,081
- **Jeffrey Sippel**, Art and art history: \$16,000

University of Missouri begins podcasts

Have you wanted to learn more about University of Missouri programs, initiatives or projects? Are you curious to learn more about the people at the helm of the university or the great work the university does?

Then tune in to a University of Missouri podcast!

Each Monday the Office of Strategic Communications at the University of Missouri System will post a podcast for current and retired staff and faculty. The podcasts will include a variety of guests discussing subjects and issues important to the university.

Recent guests have included Associate Vice President of Benefits Mike Paden, who discussed the university's change to Coventry Health Care from United Health Care; Director of the TE Atkins Wellness Program Laura Schopp, who discussed the importance of health and wellness; and UM System Chief of Staff David Russell and Director of Information Technology Terry Robb, who discussed the university's safety efforts and emergency alert notification system.

The University of Missouri podcasts provide listeners the opportunity to learn more about university news at times and locations that are convenient to them.

Podcasts can be accessed on the UM System homepage at www.umsystem.edu. You also can subscribe to the Podcasts, enabling them to be downloaded to your computer, iPod, iPhone or other devices.

Podcasts are a growing trend in communications. There are currently more than 90,000 podcasts available on a wide range of topics. Currently, more than six million people have downloaded podcasts from the Internet with expectations that podcast audiences will top 18 million by 2011.

Questions for guests and suggestions for future podcast topics are welcome through the site.

UM gives Alumni Alliance Awards for outstanding service

The University of Missouri Alliance of Alumni Associations and Extension honored six individuals for outstanding service to the University of Missouri at its 2008 Outstanding Alumni Service Awards dinner March 4 in Jefferson City.

Congressman Kenny Hulshof, Outstanding Alumni Service to the University of Missouri System

First elected to Congress in 1996, Kenny Hulshof is serving his sixth term as the U.S. Representative for the 25 counties in northeastern and central Missouri that make up the ninth Congressional district.

Hulshof holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a law degree from the University of Mississippi.

After beginning his public service career with the Cape Girardeau County Public Defender's Office and the Cape Girardeau County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Hulshof joined the Missouri State Attorney General's Office as a special prosecutor.

Among other honors, he is a recipient of the Lon O. Hocker Award for Trial Advocacy from the Missouri Bar Association and the Distinguished Non-Alumnus Award from the University of Missouri School of Law.

Representative Judy Baker, Outstanding Alumni Service to MU

Rep. Judy Baker was first elected in 2004 to represent part of Boone County, District 25, in the Missouri House of Representatives. Baker received a bachelor's degree in educational

psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She also received a master's degree in divinity from Southern Seminary and a master's of health administration degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Baker is an adjunct professor of managerial economics at Columbia College and a health care consultant and managing partner at Cura Advantage, a health care consulting firm.

She has been recognized as an Emerging Health Care Leader by the National Council of State Legislators. She also received the Committed Statesperson Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and A Better Missouri for Children Award from the Missouri Parent Teacher Association.

Freda Mendez Smith, Outstanding Alumni Service to UM-Kansas City

Freda Mendez Smith has been executive producer and host of her own cable television program and a radio show highlighting the news and achievements of the Hispanic community. She received a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Mendez Smith serves as president of the UMKC Women's Council and as a member of the Agapito Mendoza Scholarship Committee to support ethnic minority students. She has served on the UMKC Alumni Association Board and on the search committee for the chancellor in 2005, and has helped to establish a new Hispanic Advisory Council at UMKC. She is the recipient of the Bill French Alumni Service Award from UMKC.

She also is active in the community, serving MANA de Kansas City, a national Latina organization, as a board officer, president and national board member. She is the recipient of many honors for her work, including MANA's National Service Award and the Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service.

Representative Steven Tilley, Outstanding Alumni Service to UM-St. Louis

Rep. Steven Tilley represents part of Perry, St. Genevieve and St. Francois counties, District 106, in the Missouri House of Representatives. Elected to the House in 2004, Tilley serves as the majority floor leader and as chair of the Ethics Committee.

He received a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a doctorate of optometry from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Tilley is a member of the Missouri Optometric Association, which has recognized him with a Young Optometrist of the Year Award and a Distinguished Service Award. He also serves as a CHAMPS mentor and is a member of the Perryville Optimist Club and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

Representative Bob May, Outstanding Alumni Service to Missouri S&T

First elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2000, Rep. Bob May represents part of Phelps County, District 149. May received a bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Illinois.

May is a Navy veteran and retired forester who spent nearly 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service as a district ranger and forest staff officer.

He has been named an Area Volunteer Honoree by the Meramec Regional Planning Commission and the Man of the Year by Rolla's Good Life magazine and K-Day Radio. He also was named an Honorary Knight of St. Patrick in recognition of his service to the Missouri University of Science and Technology. May is active in the community, having served as the past president of the Rolla Optimist Club and of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of South Central Missouri.

Senator Frank Barnitz, Outstanding Alumni Service to University of Missouri Extension

Sen. Frank Barnitz was first elected to the Missouri Senate in 2005 to represent the 16th District, which includes Crawford, Dent, Gasconade, Maries, Montgomery, Osage, Phelps and Pulaski counties. He previously served in the Missouri House of Representatives from 2000 until his election to the Senate.

Barnitz attended Southwest Missouri State University and is a graduate of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow program. He is the manager of Barnitz Farms Inc. in Lake Spring, Mo.

He serves on the University of Missouri Wurdack Farm advisory committee and is a member of the Dent County Cattlemen's Association and the Farm Bureau.

Among other honors, he is a recipient of the Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award. Barnitz is a longtime supporter of Extension 4-H, agriculture and business development programs.

University of Missouri briefs

The University of Missouri Board of Curators approved the appointments of three curators' professors April 3 in Rolla

Ronald Olson, the Missouri University of Science and Technology Curators Professor of Physics, was named curators' professor emeritus; University of Missouri-St. Louis Professor and Fellow in Public Policy David Robertson was name curators' teaching professor; and University of Missouri-St. Louis Professor of English Joseph Carroll was name curators' professor. Each will receive a \$10,000 annual stipend as long as they hold their respective positions. The appointments are effective Sept. 1.

UM moves forward on several construction projects

The board of curators voted to move forward on several university construction projects at its April meeting. The board authorized the employment of The Clark Enersen Partners Inc. of Kansas City, Mo., for design services for the Pharmacy and Nursing Building shell space completion at the University of Missouri-Kansas City for a lump sum fee of \$527,500 and a programming fee of \$75,000.

The initial construction of the building was completed in summer 2007 with shell space to be completed as the funds became available. This new construction will create space for classrooms, a clinic laboratory and research laboratories. It is being funded by the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative.

The curators also approved authorization to begin a design-build project for a new student union at UMKC. The \$38.4 million project will be funded through \$1 million in private funds, \$500,000 in campus reserves and \$36.9 million in revenue bonds. The debt will be serviced through student fees. The existing University Center was built in 1959. The new union will significantly expand space for student organizations and government, student-related services and activities, meeting space and a UMKC bookstore.

Schematic designs for three utility system projects at the University of Missouri-Columbia also moved forward, including an upgrade to steam and condensate lines to Conley and Maryland avenues for \$22.2 million; utility extensions for \$16 million; and the power plant cooling towers for \$13.5 million.

Consulting contract for academic medical center approved

The board of curators approved a consulting contract with Pitts Management Associates Inc. for \$800,000 for facilitation and preparation of a strategic plan for the university's academic medical center, including the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, University of Missouri Health Care, University Physicians, Sinclair School of Nursing and School of Health Professions. A comprehensive strategic plan will allow these entities to function as collaborators with an aligned mission and vision, which will help guide the system in the future.