

Newest Curators' Professor is physics specialist

Laird Schearer, professor of physics at the University of Missouri-Rolla, was named a University of Missouri Curators' Professor last week at the UM system Board of Curators

meeting in Columbia. The appointment is effective Jan. 1, 1984.

The professorship is awarded to outstanding scholars who have established repu-

tations in their profession. Previous UMR recipients are Stig Friberg, chemistry; David Summers, mining engineering; Delbert Day, ceramic engineering; and Wei-Won Yu, civil engineering.

Schearer is an internationally recognized atomic physicist whose work has centered on understanding the properties of electrical discharges in gaseous media. Much of his work at UMR has been long-range exploratory research involving the interaction of atoms with optical radiation and other atoms in a gaseous electrical discharge.

Schearer joined the UMR faculty in 1971. In 1980, he was awarded UM's second annual \$10,000 Presidential Research Award. In 1982, an intercampus research project involving Schearer and Jacob Leventhal of UM-St. Louis received support from UM's research award program. Both awards are supported by UM's Weldon Spring Endowment Fund.

Schearer received a B.S. degree in physics from Muhlenberg College in 1954, an M.S. degree in physics from Lehigh University in 1958 and a Ph.D. degree in physics from Rice University in 1966. He was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Muhlenberg College in 1980.

Prior to coming to UMR, Schearer served as a test engineer with Hughes Aircraft Co. and was a member of the technical staff and a senior scientist at Texas Instruments. He held academic positions at Lafayette College and

Rice University and was a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin and a visiting scientist at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, University of Colorado.

He also has served as a program associate with the National Science Foundation and is currently a member of the National Research Council's Subcommittee on Basic Army Research.

For Schearer the attraction of research remains "the intellectual excitement of treading where no one has gone before." His current research involves an investigation of dissociative collisions of metastable atoms and molecules with molecular systems. In an unrelated research program he is investigating spectral line shifts of Rydberg levels of alkali atoms resulting from collisions with electrons and dense buffer gases.

In addition to his research, Schearer teaches undergraduate and graduate physics courses each semester. The key to teaching, he believes, is "communication."

"Teaching forces you to think along fundamental lines and in a very logical way," he says. "You must constantly reorder your thoughts so that they will be understandable to your students as well as to yourself."

Schearer is a fellow of the American Physical Society and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Missouri Academy of Science, the Missouri Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi.

Among the honors he has received during his career are a Hughes Aircraft Co. Fellowship Award, the H.A. Wilson Award from Rice University and selection as a Texas Instruments Fellow and a NATO Senior Fellow.

He is the author of many technical and scholarly publications.

Search committees seek nominations

Nov. 1 is the deadline for submitting nominations to campus search committees for the next president of the University of Missouri. The campus committees must submit a list of eight to 15 nominees to the Board of Curators' Presidential Screening Committee by Dec. 1.

Nominations may be sent to the office of the secretary of the Board of Curators, 316 University Hall, Columbia, or to the chairmen of campus search committees. Chairmen are:

Columbia—Roger Mitchell, dean of the College of Agriculture, 2-69 Ag. Building
Kansas City—Donald Sorby, dean of the School of Pharmacy, 101 Katz Pharmacy Building

Rolla—A. Glen Haddock, professor of mathematics, 212 Parker Hall

St. Louis—Thomas Jordan, dean of the Graduate School, 341 Woods Hall.



Laird Schearer

Olson's testimony urges support for 84-85 funding

A 23.4 percent increase in state funding is needed for 1984-85 to shore up the University's quality, which is eroding because of insufficient funding, UM President James Olson told the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in a hearing last week.

"Our request (which totals \$206.4 million) represents a most conservative estimate of our needs, especially considering we have gone four years without an increase in state support," Olson told the board at its Fiscal Affairs Committee's hearing. "In fact, if our budget of just four years before were only inflation adjusted, our request would equal \$207.6 million."

The board's staff has developed a recommendation for UM of \$201.4 million for fiscal

year 1984-1985, a 20.4 percent increase over the current level of \$167.3 million.

"Quality is our most precious commodity in the University," Olson said. "It has to be present in our libraries, in our faculty and staff and in our equipment. First and foremost, this request is intended to shore up the University's quality."

Olson said \$10.1 million is needed to cover the state share of inflation and \$29 million is needed to maintain and improve quality. The University is requesting approximately \$750,000 more than the CBHE's recommendation of \$13.4 million for the University Hospital and Clinics.

"The UMC Hospital and Clinics has been seriously impacted by inflation and the erosion of Medicare and Medicaid reimburse-

ment while seeking to carry the burden of the cost of the residency program and indigent services," Olson said. "If the state support were adjusted to cover inflation for the last four years alone, the state investment would need to equal \$16.2 million."

The University is also requesting more than the CBHE staff has recommended for the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry, the State Historical Society, the Missouri Kidney Program and the Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

Olson stressed the importance of the University to the state and the danger of allowing UM's quality to erode.

"I firmly believe that Missouri's future rests in part at least on its willingness to invest in that future through the University, and I would say to you that we have not been making adequate investments in recent years," he said. "We have not had an increase in state support for four years. During that time our enrollments have increased and our costs have gone up. We have made up some of the shortfall by asking students to pay record-level increases in fees. We are in danger of pricing the University out of the reach of the people it was established to serve."

Expected enrollment drop seen in tally

As anticipated, final enrollment figures for the fall semester at the University of Missouri show a decrease from the fall 1982 enrollment.

The 1983 fall enrollment is 55,153, compared to 1982's 56,012, a decline of 859 students or 1.5 percent.

This is the second consecutive year for an enrollment drop, but the decrease was expected in light of statistics that show the number of 1983 Missouri high school graduates was down by more than 4,000 students from the 1982 figure. In fact, the decline in total enrollment at UM can be attributed principally to a decrease in the number of first-time entering freshmen. The number of entering freshmen this fall—6,812—is 723 fewer than the 1982 figure, nearly a 10 percent drop.

UM President Olson says that despite the decline, enrollment remains higher than in 1980-81, when state appropriations were \$170 million, nearly \$3 million higher than the current year.

The only campus recording an increase in enrollment is the Kansas City campus.

The record-high enrollment for UM was 56,801 students in 1981.

The enrollment breakdown by campus, and the decrease from Fall 1982, is:

Columbia—24,275, down 488 students (2 percent)

Kansas City—11,496, up 77 students (.7 percent)

Rolla—7,566, down 229 students (2.9 percent)

St. Louis—11,816, down 219 students (1.8 percent)

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Planning committee prepares mission statement

The October meeting of the University of Missouri's long-range planning steering committee concentrated on drafting a proposed statement describing the mission of the multi-campus University.

The committee spent much of last Wednesday and the morning of last Thursday synthesizing suggestions from campus and extension liaison committees, ideas contained in the University's revised Academic Plan adopted by the curators in 1980 and ideas contributed by steering committee members during discussion.

The result was the drafting of a proposed mission statement (see below) prepared by Richard Wallace, the board's staff associate for long-range planning. This draft will be distributed to the liaison committees for study and comment before being recommended to the curators. Faculty and staff members with comments about the mission statement should contact members of their liaison committees.

The steering committee delayed discussion of campus mission statements suggested by the liaison committees until at least its Nov. 10-12 meeting, when it is scheduled to take up the questions of clientele and goals and objectives. Some steering committee members indicated that the liaison groups may wish to review their campus statements in light of the proposed system mission document.

The steering group members suggested the campus statements should: 1) be descriptive statements that can stand alone, 2) be checked against consultant Robert Shirley's list of issues to be considered in forming a statement of basic mission, 3) focus on unique features of each campus and 4) reflect broad disciplinary areas within which the campuses will offer programs.

The steering committee also heard Missouri Commissioner for Higher Education Shaila Aery discuss problems in higher education as they are perceived by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

She characterized as a major problem the lack of diversity among Missouri institutions as articulated by their mission statements. She suggested that this sameness has had a "leveling effect that has more impact on quality than lack of funding."

She indicated she is "very encouraged" that the University of Missouri, the state's primary institution of higher education, is engaged in a planning process and considering its mission. She predicted that the CBHE would be supportive of the University's long-range plans, "within reasonable limits."

The proposed mission statement:

"The University of Missouri is and will continue to be a single public institution of higher education with responsibilities for teaching, research, extension, and the provision of other direct services which are supportive of students, byproducts of instruction and research, or needed as the result of the University's unique knowledge base. The University will continue to offer a wide range of high-quality baccalaureate, professional, graduate and extension programs designed to serve students who, upon completion of

formal study, are prepared to assume positions of leadership and responsibility in a changing world. In the public sector of higher education in Missouri, the University is the only institution offering doctoral and advanced professional programs.

"The University shall provide the best possible education for those who meet its admission requirements, which are designed to insure a reasonable probability of achieving appropriate educational goals.

"As the major public research institution in the state, the University has prime responsibility for the generation and expansion of knowledge.

"As a land-grant institution, the University is responsible for using its educational resources to extend knowledge to the people in order to improve the quality of life for Missourians.

"The degree programs of the campuses are deliberately diverse to take advantage of historical strengths and to meet regional as well as state and national needs. Each campus has and must maintain a strong arts and sciences program, essential to the University's commitment to provide liberal education. However, each campus also has some unique teaching responsibilities, particularly at the professional and graduate levels. Each campus also has, as a part of the total University of Missouri, a responsibility for research and extension and such public services as are appropriate to its particular educational responsibilities. The University is committed to cooperative efforts among its individual units to provide the optimal contribution by the total University to the citizens of the state.

"The University has a major and expanding commitment to research, scholarly work

and creative activity. This commitment not only produces new knowledge and new understanding which benefit the people of the state, but it also enriches and supports teaching and extension educational programs and makes available to students the intellectual excitement and challenge found only at the frontiers of learning. In its research and creative activities, the University will seek and respond to opportunities for cooperative projects with external organizations where such projects are consistent with the University's basic educational missions and objectives.

"The University is responsible to the state and its various constituencies for providing high quality instruction and other services in an efficient manner. To insure achievement of these objectives, the University will regularly and systematically assess the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of its programs and services.

"In meeting its responsibilities to its students and society, the University is committed to the important principles of academic freedom and equal opportunity. Academic freedom and its related responsibilities protect the free search for truth and its free expression, which are indispensable to the success of the University in fulfilling its missions. The University of Missouri is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, and qualified disabled."

Next liaison meetings set

The next campus and extension liaison committee meetings, and the critical issues to be discussed, are:

UMC—Oct. 20 (clientele and goals and objectives)

Nov. 17 (programs and services and comparative advantage)

UMSL—Oct. 20 (clientele)

Oct. 26 (goals and objectives)

Nov. 9 (programs and services and comparative advantage)

UMKC—no future dates set (met Oct. 17 to discuss clientele and goals and objectives)

UMR—Oct. 26 (clientele and goals and objectives)

Nov. 21 (programs and services and comparative advantage)

Extension—Oct. 20 (clientele and goals and objectives)

Nov. 18 (programs and services and comparative advantage)

UMKC recreational building plans approved

The Board of Curators last week approved preliminary architectural plans for a proposed multipurpose recreational building at UM-Kansas City.

Approval of the preliminary plans allows the architect to proceed with preparation of final plans and specifications.

The structure, expected to cost \$10,580,000, would be attached to the present Swinney Gym and located south of the Performing Arts Center and near University Center.

The multipurpose facility would be funded with \$6 million state appropriations and \$4.4 million in revenue bonds which would be retired over a 20-year period with funds collected from users. A \$180,000 appropriation for planning was made by the state for fiscal 1983-84.

The building would contain a swimming pool, exercise courts, an exercise track and facilities for racquetball and squash. Six new handball courts would be added in Swinney Gym. The existing outdoor track and soccer field would be retained.

The new multipurpose building and renovated Swinney Gym would contain a total of 127,195 square feet. In addition to the athletic facilities, the building would contain general purpose classrooms and administrative offices.

In other matters pertaining to the University of Missouri physical facilities, the curators:

- awarded a construction contract for renovating the Department of Anatomy in the School of Medicine at UM-Columbia. Kidwell Construction Inc. of Fulton submitted a bid of \$222,500 for the work. It was the lowest of nine bids received on the project. The area to be renovated contains 4,300 square feet of office and laboratory space and was built in 1957.

- rejected all bids for expanding and renovating the press box at Memorial Stadium on the Columbia campus. All bids received were substantially above the architect's estimate for the work.

- awarded a contract to the City of Columbia for the pickup and disposal of solid waste refuse materials on the Columbia campus, including the UMC Hospital and

Clinics. The City of Columbia submitted a low bid of \$185,809 to perform the work the first year of the contract, which extends from Dec. 1, 1983, through Nov. 30, 1988. Subsequent annual adjustments tied to the consumer price index are permitted in the contract. One other bid was received for the work.

UMC has previously handled the refuse pickup with its own employees. Contracting

out the service is expected to save the University \$43,000 the first year. Eight UMC employees will be displaced. Those employees will be given opportunities to fill other jobs in the campus facilities department. Also, the City of Columbia will add five new positions, and the displaced UMC employees will be able to apply for those jobs with the city.

Jobs

The following administrative/professional and academic vacancies were listed with *Spectrum* as of Oct. 14. Anyone interested in a position should contact the appropriate department or personnel office.

UMC: assoc./full professor, medicine, and director, pulmonary diseases; research associate, engineering experiment station, microbiology; asst. professor, medicine, business administration, radiology, child health (3), geology (2), entomology, history, marketing (2), microbiology, philosophy, romance languages (Spanish); asst./assoc. professor, finance, child health, medicine, surgery; asst./assoc./full professor, industrial engineering, veterinary microbiology, ophthalmology; assoc./full professor, pathology, psychology; postdoctoral fellowship (4), psychiatry; assoc. professor, history; instructor, news-editorial; instructor/asst. professor and state 4-H specialist, extension education; librarian II or III; instructor/coordinator, Conference and Short Courses; director, Office of Research and Patent Development; coordinator, publication/advertising; food service supervisor; manager, elevator services, energy engineering; staff physician; asst. supervisor, custodial services; assoc. director, residential life; computer programmer/analyst II; research specialist.

UMC Hospital: administrative nurse I; clinical nurse I; computer project manager; manager, occupational therapy, patient referral services; nurse anesthetist; occupational

therapist; staff chaplain; child life activity therapist; physical therapist, sr. systems programmer; therapeutic recreation specialist; training coordinator; asst. director, nursing; computer programmer/analyst II; pharmacist.

UMKC: grader, business and public administration; research assistant, biology, chemistry, UMKC Institute; professor, banking; director, computer science programs; asst./assoc. professor, accountancy, chemistry, X-ray dentistry, computer science (3), operative dentistry (2), orthodontics, prosthodontics; visiting professor, theatre; adjunct faculty, biology; research associate, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, biology; assoc./full professor, direct marketing; instructor, communication studies; coach, tennis; senior research assistant, UMKC Institute; theatre assistants, Professional Repertory Theatre.

UMR: sr. research aide/materials research, chemical engineering; research aide/materials research, physics; research asst. professor/materials research, ceramic engineering, chemical engineering; asst./assoc. professor, physics (2); asst. professor, foreign languages, chemical engineering; lecturer, chemical engineering.

UMSL: asst./assoc./full professor, accounting, management science and information systems; asst. professor, marketing; visiting asst. professor, political science.

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Editor: Bonita Eaton
Ph. 882-4591

