

The University System's five-year plan for improving the base financial support for the institution goes before the General Assembly in January. Supported by administration, faculty governing bodies and the Board of Curators, the plan is a systematic approach to bring the UM System's funding base more in line with those of its peer institutions.

In the next few issues of SPECTRUM, we will highlight the five-year plan, the administration's hopes for it and what it means to faculty, staff and students if implemented and funded. Read about the plan's development and a breakdown of needed appropriations on Page 1.

5 YEAR PLAN

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Five-year plan ready for review by legislature

The fate of increased compensation for faculty and staff throughout the University of Missouri System will be in the hands of the General Assembly when it begins its 1989 session in January.

That's when University President C. Peter Magrath will present the five-year funding plan to the legislature by asking the state for an additional \$52 million in operating funds for 1989-90.

"The legislature is likely to be sympathetic to the five-year plan but frustrated on how to pay for it," says Jim Snider, assistant to the president for state governmental relations.

UM System faculty, administrators and curators are working together to make the five-year plan reality by encouraging the legislature and the governor to help the UM System achieve the funding goal for 1989-90, the first year of the five-year plan.

Faculty councils from all four UM System campuses have adopted a resolution supporting increased funding for the University. "This endorsement of the need for state support is most helpful, and I want to recognize the leadership of our faculties for this solid demonstration of support," Magrath says.

Magrath also has been meeting individually with the state's business, corporate and civic leaders to make the case for stronger state support. "The



leaders in Missouri's private sector understand and appreciate the unique mission of this University, and I believe

their support will have a positive role to play in both public and private funding initiatives," Magrath says.

The five-year plan calls for an additional \$147 million annually — \$117 million in state funding plus \$30 million in University-generated funds. Repairing the funding base will cost \$102 million annually with the rest of the \$147 million to go toward moving the University forward. Included in repairing the base is \$51.4 million for faculty and staff salaries and benefits.

Starting out as a financial needs statement written by Magrath and endorsed by the Board of Curators in June, the five-year plan is designed to repair the UM System's budget base and to help the University meet Missouri's future educational and economic development needs. The plan is expected to be adopted by the board at its Dec. 1-2 meeting.

"We can't reasonably expect to solve our funding need in one year so our objective is to solve that need over five years," says James T. McGill, vice president for administrative affairs, in explaining the genesis of the five-year plan.

Copies of the five-year plan are available from University Relations, 828 Lewis Hall, Columbia, MO 65211, (314) 882-4591.

Where the money will go

The five-year plan for funding calls for repair of the University System's base support by providing additional funds generated gradually over the next five years for these annual needs:

- compensation (\$51.4 million)
- libraries (\$6 million)
- academic computing (\$10 million)
- equipment replacement (\$15 million)
- maintenance and repair of facilities (\$19.6 million)
- selected program improvements called for in the long-range plan and the Agenda for Action (\$40 million)
- student aid (\$5 million)

Budget development begins with appropriations effort

Developing the University of Missouri System budget is not that different from putting together a personal budget. However, the amount of money involved, the array of programs and facilities and the large number of people affected make the UM System budget process more complex.

Building a budget is an on-going process. Budgets for three fiscal years are all in some stage at any given time. For example, right now the University System is operating under the 1988-89 budget. Such factors as state appropriation withholding still can affect the current budget. The 1989-90 appropriations request for state funding has been presented to the governor and soon will be presented to the legislature. The 1990-91 appropriations request is being developed at the campus level with faculty and staff input.

Early in the budget process, the system administration communicates with the faculty and staff about the appropriations request by holding campus budget hearings. For 1990-91, hearings are scheduled for this December to discuss the appropriations request that will go to the General Assembly next year. The objectives for the campus hearings are two-fold, explains James T. McGill, vice president for administrative affairs; first, to explain the five-year funding plan (see related story), and second, to solicit input from faculty and staff on the 1991 appropriations request.

"The president and the chancellor of each campus want to hear from the faculty and staff what they think is important in structuring our 1990-91 budget request," McGill says. "The process that occurs on the campus is a very important one, as that is the opportunity to hear the thinking of the campus faculty and staff."

System administration also communicates with academic department heads about the budget process when it meets with those representatives every year. The October 1988 meeting in Kansas City focused on planning the budget.

Each campus has until the end of March to go through the process it has established to determine for which programs it will request funding and what its special monetary needs are. The chancellors meet with faculty councils, deans, department heads and other interested persons to help shape the campus requests that go to System administration.

At about the same time campus hearings are held, the general officers (the president, the chancellors and the two vice presidents) begin meeting to

Appropriations process is complex, but continues to emphasize salaries.

discuss the general shape and character of the appropriations request. They also discuss campus priorities, salary priorities, costs of opening new buildings, medical insurance premium increases and other items taken into consideration when building an appropriations request.

In April the Board of Curators hears preliminary information about the appropriations request being built: unavoidable price increases expected, projections for inflation and other relevant information.

Here's an example of how external factors influence a budget: Late last spring President C. Peter Magrath presented to the curators a comparison of faculty salaries with Big Eight/Big Ten universities. "It was clear to us that for 1989-90 we needed to focus our request

primarily on what we have called 'repairing the base,'" McGill says, "especially on salaries for faculty and staff to address the problem of loss of our ability to compete for the services of people."

That and other priorities, such as library improvement, equipment replacement, and repair and maintenance of facilities, led the president to outline the 1989-90 appropriations request within a five-year framework.

In June each year, the board receives a preliminary appropriations request for review. A formal appropriations request is submitted to the board for approval in July.

The final request is published in three volumes — a set of tables related to the operating budget, the request for capital funding and, for more general consumption, a summary of both the operating and the capital appropriations requests.

After the curators adopt the appropriations request in July, they forward it to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, where board members analyze the requests. In November CBHE makes its formal recommendations on support for the UM System and the other public higher education institutions in the state. Those recommendations are forwarded to the governor and the General Assembly.

The governor's office of budget and planning starts reviewing the University System appropriations request in late fall. The governor then makes his funding recommendations in early January.

The legislature holds appropriations hearings either as early as November or in January. It works on appropriations bills throughout the legislative session.

Previously, the legislature alternated by year between a long session ending in mid-June and a short one ending in late April. With the passage of Amendment One, which requires the legislative session to end by mid-May and appropriations bills to be passed a week before adjournment, the legislature will

now approve appropriations for the University no later than May.

After the General Assembly passes appropriations bills, the governor has 45 days to sign them. The governor can either sign bills in totality or use the line-item veto power to reduce any item of an appropriation. Then the governor decides whether to withhold some money from appropriations. In recent years, the governor has automatically withheld 3 percent of the University's appropriation. For the last two years, none of this money has been returned to the University.

Sometime in June or July the University System knows the amount of state money available for the budget for the fiscal year that begins each July 1.

From the appropriations process sometimes come restrictions on the state money. The legislature and the governor may indicate their intentions on how part of the state appropriation should be spent. They make this intent clear through letters from the legislative budget chairs or the governor.

Some cost increases, such as medical benefit premiums, the opening of new buildings or Social Security payments, are unavoidable. These costs and legislative limitations reduce the amount of revenue that can be devoted to other needs.

"Our clear priority in 1989-90 is faculty and staff salaries," McGill says. "We are going to work to keep as much flexibility for state revenues as possible so we can deal with salaries."

The budget process provides opportunity for involvement, McGill says. "Clearly, decisions need to be made; not everything is going to be included in the request. Prioritizing is the president's responsibility and he exercises that," McGill says. "But he doesn't do it sitting alone in University Hall. He has many thoughtful and intense conversations with the chancellors and listens to many people throughout the University."

Next month: how the University decides how to spend the state appropriations and other revenues.

Magrath tells CBHE state support for education is unfairly divided

University of Missouri System President C. Peter Magrath believes inequities exist in the way the state determines its share of a four-year institution's operating budget. As a result, he has called for a review.

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education recommended Nov. 11 the state provide only 68 percent of the UM System's operating budget for 1989-90. The state will pay 70 percent to 74 percent of operating expenses for all other public colleges and universities in fiscal 1990 if CBHE recommendations are followed.

Magrath said the state share should be at least 70 percent of the UM System

budget. The increase from 68 percent to 70 percent would mean an additional \$8 million for fiscal 1990. Board member David Macoubrie of Chillicothe called for raising the state share for the UM System, but the motion was defeated. A majority of coordinating board members did say they would take up the issue of policy factors and equity later.

Magrath said he doesn't understand the rationale behind the discrepancy in the state share. Several coordinating board members indicated they are confused by many of the complicated policy factors that determine state share.

"We're talking about distribution of scarce state resources. That's the literal

bottom line," Magrath said. "I think it's time we take a look at the policies which determine state share. I don't understand why we shouldn't all be at the same average."

An example of how 68 percent state share would work: for every \$10 recommended by the CBHE, the state share would be \$6.80 and the University System would have to raise \$3.20. Institutions receiving 74 percent state share funding would receive \$7.40 from the state and only need to raise \$2.60 themselves under the current plan.

State share is a very important issue for the University System. Magrath said policy factors used in the past to

determine state share may not be relevant in today's educational environment.

CBHE actions

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education Nov. 11 recommended

- faculty salary increases of 8 percent with an additional 2 percent increase in a separate request to state legislators.
- non-academic salary increases of 5 percent.
- 3 percent budget increases for expense and equipment.
- state share of 68 percent of the UM System's operating funds.

UM System scholars named Curators' Professors

One UM-Rolla and three UM-Kansas City faculty members have been named Curators' Professors by the Board of Curators.

The Curators' Professor title is awarded to outstanding scholars with established reputations in their professions.

Harlan Anderson, UMR professor of ceramic engineering; Wai-Yim Ching, UMKC professor of physics; Bernard Lubin, UMKC professor of psychology and medicine; and George J. Thomas Jr., UMKC professor of basic life sciences and head of the cell biology and biophysics division, received the highest honor the Board of Curators can bestow on a faculty member.

Harlan Anderson

Anderson received his bachelor of science degree in ceramic engineering from the University of Utah in 1957 and his doctorate of philosophy degree in engineering science from the University of California-Berkeley in 1962. He first came to UMR in 1970 as assistant professor and was later promoted to associate professor and professor. He was named a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society in 1979 and received the UMR Faculty Excellence Award for 1987-88.

Anderson has concentrated much of his research on insulating and conducting oxides, which has led to his recognition as one of the leading authorities on ceramic capacitors and high temperature conducting oxides.



Harlan Anderson

"Dr. Anderson's contributions in the field of ceramic electronic materials have brought renown not only to him but also to UMR," says UMR Chancellor Martin C. Jischke.

The Department of Energy-Basic Energy Science program, which Anderson started in 1980, has established a research effort in the area of high temperature conducting oxides. This program is leading to the development of new technologies and applications such as high temperature solid oxide fuel cells and the so-called "stealth" technology, development of materials that have the ability to act as radar absorbers.

Besides bringing more than \$2.8 million to UMR in government and private funding, Anderson has authored more than 40 research papers, many of them published in refereed journals. He has also delivered numerous invited talks and has directed more than 30 theses and dissertations.

Wai-Yim Ching

Ching earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Hong Kong in 1969, his master of science degree from Louisiana State University in 1971 and his doctorate of philosophy degree also from Louisiana State University in 1974.

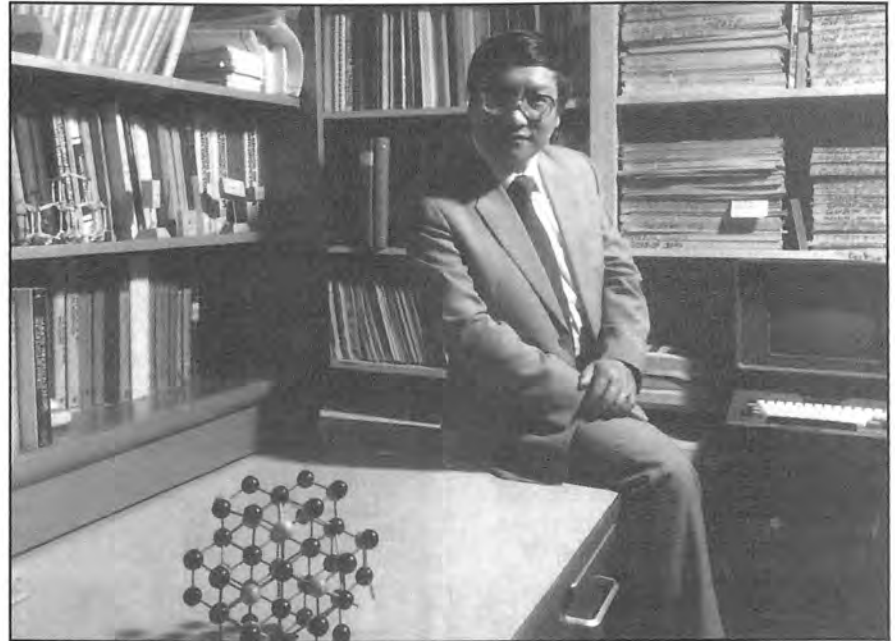
After four years with the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Ching came to UMKC in 1978. He has served as consultant to the Argonne National Laboratory and several other prestigious institutes. Ching was granted the UMKC N.T. Veatch Research award in 1985.

Ching is recognized internationally for his accomplishments in theoretical and computational physics of the electronic, magnetic, optical and dynamical properties of ordered and disordered solids.

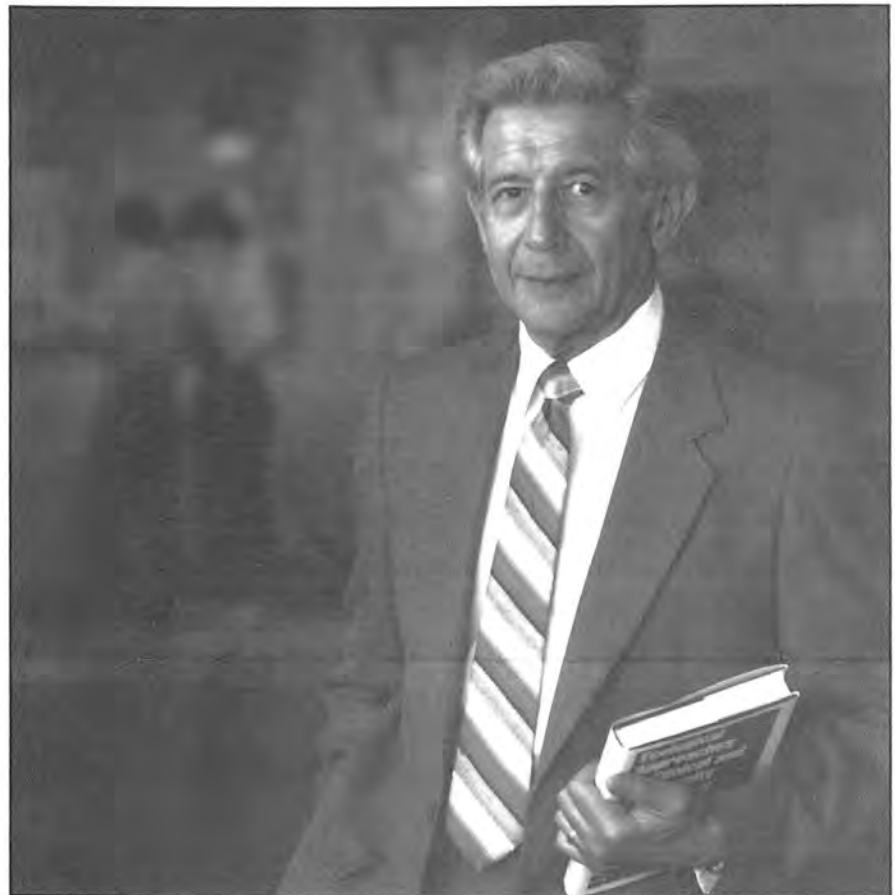
"He is a pioneer in the analysis of very complex physical systems in using the first principles calculation approach and is a world-class master in the subject, with his contributions well-recognized," says Wenpeng Chen, head of the non-linear optics department at Martin Marietta Laboratories.

Ching has attracted eight (extramural) research contracts totaling \$689,891 and 11 (intramural) research grants totaling \$96,500. His current extramural research contract is with the U.S. Department of Energy for three years at \$307,047.

To present his research, Ching has published 110 papers and presented 75 scholarly papers at professional meetings.



Wai-Yim Ching



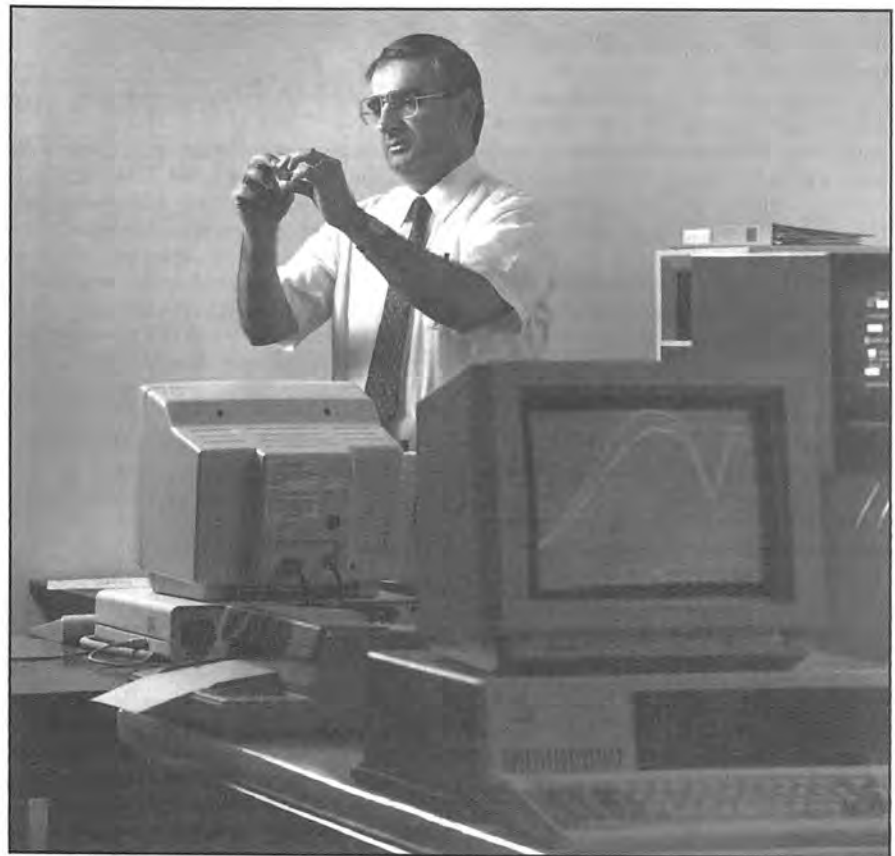
Bernard Lubin

Bernard Lubin

Lubin received his bachelor of arts and his master of arts degrees in psychology from George Washington University in 1952 and 1953, respectively. He earned his doctorate of philosophy from Pennsylvania State University in 1958. Lubin is a Fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association, NTL Institute, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Psychological Association and of five divisions of the APA. He received the UMKC N.T. Veatch Research award in 1981.

Lubin started working at UMKC in 1976 following a two-year appointment as director of clinical training, University of Houston. Prior to that he was chief and director of Psychology Services, Research and Training in Mental Health Departments/Foundations in Indiana and Missouri.

Internationally known for his research on the measurement of mood



George J. Thomas Jr.

and affect, Lubin's research facilitated the study of normal and clinical aspects of these phenomena. His work in the areas of small group processes and group psychotherapy is equally well-known.

"He is a distinguished contributor to the discipline of psychology and to the profession of clinical psychology, and he brings great credit and recognition to the University of Missouri-Kansas City," says Raymond D. Fowler, president-elect of the American Psychological Association.

Since joining UMKC, Lubin has helped define the psychology doctorate degree. As chairman of the psychology department for seven years, he worked with other faculty in his department and in the School of Education in creating the counseling psychology doctoral program.

Lubin has authored seven books and more than 160 articles, generating more than 1,500 citations.

(Continued on page 4.)

For a better University of Missouri System

Missourians get what they pay for — and it isn't much

This piece was reprinted through permission from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

by Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr.

Mayor, St. Louis

The University of Missouri and its president, C. Peter Magrath, have been much in the news recently. Faculty have expressed dismay with salaries that have failed to keep pace with public universities in other states, concerns have been raised about inadequate facilities and resulting frustrations have been directed at Magrath.

Getting tangled up in debates over the very leadership that has been strenuously working to get the needed resources, however, in large measure misses the point and diverts attention from the central question.

The issue is *not* Peter Magrath, who is in fact an outstanding educational leader. He is not responsible for the chronic lack of funds for the University of Missouri System.

Indeed, funding problems long predated his arrival, and he has made progress in halting the long slide. Magrath has sought to raise our sights, an effort that is crucial to the future of our state.



Schoemehl

The real issue is this state's unwillingness to provide the money to run the kind of university system we need to compete economically and to provide real opportunity for our young people. The future we face as citizens of Missouri is only as bright as the economic growth of our state is strong. If we can build a diverse and vigorous economy — one that keeps up with the swiftly changing national and international marketplace — we can build a community in the St. Louis region and across the state that provides a promising and fulfilling life for all of us.

To the extent that our economy does not grow and adapt, however, we in Missouri will find ourselves, our families and our communities falling behind and failing to provide the quality of life we all seek. We must face a fundamental fact: Our economic future must be built upon a foundation of excellent higher

education readily available to all. We must also face a glaring reality: We as a people and as a state are not now meeting this challenge.

Though this state has private and public colleges and universities of strong quality, we have been systematically over the last decade or more failing to provide the resources and commitment — particularly in our public institutions — that will produce the truly outstanding educational opportunities that we need to face the 1990s and the 21st century with strength and confidence.

The real issue is this state's unwillingness to provide the money to run the kind of university system we need to compete . . .

The time has come to focus on what we are doing to ourselves, our communities and our state by forcing the University of Missouri to function with woefully deficient resources. Our penny-wise, pound-foolish treatment of the university and other public colleges and universities threatens to lower our horizons as a state and rob all of us of the future we seek and deserve.

We like to believe as Missourians that we are doing all right, that we are in the middle of the pack or above nationally in most categories. We are fooling ourselves.

In our financial support of higher education, we as a state do a terrible job. We rank almost at the bottom nationally in most measures of support for higher education — rankings that should both embarrass and scare us. Missouri is 49th among 50 states in tax burden as a percent of income; 47th in per capita state appropriation for higher education; 44th in per pupil spending for higher education.

Our neighbor, Arkansas, which is neither wealthy nor extravagant, is fifth in per pupil spending for higher education. Missouri spends about half as much as Arkansas per student and only about two-thirds the national average. How can we expect to provide truly fine education and prepare our students for a challenging future when we are close to the bottom of the pack in funding?

It is not that we cannot afford to do better. This dismal record is compiled at the time of economic health in the state: Missouri is 24th among the states in per capita personal income. Missouri has the capability of strong commitment to education, but we are allowing ourselves to drift backward dangerously. We do not lack the ability to do a good job of supporting higher education; we lack the will.

This state's sad record of weak financial support for public higher education has seriously affected the entire University of Missouri System, the flagship of public higher education in Missouri.

About a decade ago, in 1979, the University of Missouri System received 9.9 percent of the state's general revenue. By 1985, that had been cut to 7.1 percent. About \$90 million annually would be needed just to restore the System to where it was in 1979.

Since the arrival of Magrath as president, the System has inched up to 7.4 percent of the state's general revenue budget, but the persistent underfunding has really taken its toll — both on resources for education and on morale within the System.

Lack of funds has cut into the heart of what the university needs in order to provide to our students a real opportunity to compete in the increasingly technical job market. For example, the university's resources for computing — clearly an urgent necessity in today's economy and tomorrow's — are now only half of the average for other Big Eight and Big Ten schools.

Libraries at the university's four campuses need 50 percent more money just to keep up with acquisitions and staff at a standard comparable to other schools with which we compete. If we cannot even provide adequate libraries and computing facilities, how can we keep up and get ahead in the rugged national and worldwide economic competition?

Despite these obstacles, the University System under Magrath's direction has made significant strides in important areas. Private funds to supplement public appropriations have increased 35 percent over the first three full years of his tenure, and donations are up 80 percent in the first four months of this year compared to last.

Sponsored research — a key to the ongoing development of new knowledge that can translate into economic health for our state — is up 34 percent in the same three years. Magrath has selected strong new chancellors for three of the campuses. As chancellor at the St. Louis campus, Marguerite Ross Barnett has brought terrific new energy and energizing leadership not only to that campus, but to the region as a whole.

Her vision and skill have attracted major private funds to the St. Louis campus. She has launched a highly significant cooperative PhD program in biology with the Missouri Botanical Garden as well as new ventures in criminal justice administration, joint projects with various school districts, math and science education projects and a host of other important new horizons.

And there have been some rays of hope on the state level. During the last two years, legislators from St. Louis and St. Louis County have banded together to support funding for Partnerships for Progress and a new science building, a new library addition and a computer center.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis trains more of the workers in the St. Louis area than any other institution. We are fortunate that, despite scarce resources, it has a continuing tradition of quality education.

But it is clear that this region and this state will not prosper without a serious renewed commitment by all of us

to both this campus and the other institutions of higher education throughout the state, public and private. It is really a commitment to the students of this state and the future of all of us.

Just last week, Monsanto President Earle Harbison told a business conference, "Knowledge is this nation's most valuable raw material in its competition in the global market," and emphasized that we must view knowledge as a product. Business is facing an increasingly worrisome gap between the need for skilled workers and the available talent pool.

Our penny-wise, pound-foolish treatment of the university and other public colleges and universities threatens to lower our horizons as a state and rob us all of the future we seek and deserve.

Our state faces an unprecedented economic challenge. Recently an industry economist in St. Louis forecast annual economic growth in the United States over the next decade of 2.7 percent — but growth of only 1.7 percent in the state of Missouri.

If that forecast is accurate, our growth rate will lag behind the rest of the country by more than a third every year, and we will dig a bigger and bigger economic hole for ourselves and our children each year. A new investment in educational development and opportunity is urgently needed to alter this direction for our state.

Unless we as a region and a state put new vigor into our higher education efforts — and major new funds — we will be left behind in the race for good jobs for ourselves and our children. This is a political issue but need not be a partisan one.

Leadership from all sectors will be needed to achieve real progress — business, labor, religious and civic, as well as political. It is time to end the finger-pointing and direct our efforts to providing the kinds of training, research and technology for all our students that will lead us to move forward vigorously.

Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. is mayor of St. Louis and a 1972 graduate of the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

For your benefit...a letter from a grateful retiree

To the Office of Staff Benefits:

In 1972 it was necessary for my husband to retire from the job he held as maintenance foreman at the University. He is now receiving disability coverage and coverage through the medical benefits plan.

He was ill from 1972 to 1980 and his medical costs were paid by Provident. When he saw the doctor and received prescriptions, it was expensive, but Provident gave us excellent service.

In 1980 my husband developed cancer — a terrible disease. In the past

eight years he has faced many difficulties — prostate problems, back and knee difficulties, a hernia and the need for a pacemaker. The doctors have tried all kinds of treatments. All during his hospitalizations and radiation treatment, Provident saw us through.

To the young people, middle-aged people and those ready to retire:

You can't realize how little you are paying for the service and quality provided by the insurance people who take care of your papers. In cases like this and others that will happen in life,

the raise on the insurance premium is just a drop in the bucket out of your paycheck. If not for that coverage, we would be thousands of dollars in debt.

Look ahead and thank staff benefits for a small raise on your policies. Sometimes you cannot obtain medical insurance when tragedy strikes.

We say "Thank God" for our excellent medical coverage the University staff benefits provide us for such a small amount.

Each time I hear remarks from someone about the raise on our policies,

I tell them our story and warn them that it could happen to them. Then they would appreciate their bills being taken care of. They are lucky people, these people who have the advantage of staff benefits at the University.

The staff benefits people have helped me many times, and the St. Louis office understands the needs of elderly people. I write often and thank them, too.

Yours truly,
Earl and Margaret Barnes

Curators' Professors *(Continued from page 2.)*

George J. Thomas Jr.

Thomas graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Boston College in 1963. He received a master of arts and a doctorate of philosophy in physical chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1965 and 1967, respectively. Following a one-year post-doctoral study at King's College in London, Thomas joined the research faculty at Southeastern Massachusetts University. He came to UMKC in 1987.

While in Massachusetts, Thomas served as a visiting scientist to Osaka University and MIT. He has extensive experience with the National Institutes

of Health Advisory Groups and chaired the N.I.H. Study Section on Biophysical Chemistry from 1982 to 1983. Thomas is currently a member of the editorial advisory board of *Biopolymers Journal* and editorial board of the *Biophysical Journal*. His many honors include a 1987 appointment as National Academy of Science-National Research Council Fellow in the United States-Soviet Union Joint Advisory Program and the prestigious Coblentz Award in 1977 for outstanding accomplishment by a spectroscopist under age 35.

Thomas, who is recognized internationally as an expert spectrometrist, has made significant contributions to the

understanding of the organization of proteins and DNA in viruses through the use of laser spectroscopy.

Thomas is described by his peers as "...one of the leading lights in the field of biophysical chemistry, having established a distinguished record of research on the applications of Raman spectroscopy to biological molecules, especially nucleic acids and viruses," says Thomas G. Spiro, Eugene Higgins professor of chemistry at Princeton University in Princeton, N.J.

The author of a number of standard reviews in his field, Thomas has published approximately 100 papers and scientific monographs.

Penny papers provide valuable historic tool

Joseph Penny, a freed slave from Kentucky, founded the black community of Pennytown in 1871. Pennytown was the largest of several communities of black freedmen in Missouri after the Civil War.

A descendent of a founding family, Josephine Lawrence, donated a collection of documents and papers concerning Pennytown to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, located in Ellis Library at UM-Columbia.

The collection, called the "Josephine R. Lawrence Collection," includes copies of news clippings, funeral bulletins, legal documents, some church records, school records, financial records, photographs and other miscellaneous records.

"She's the main one who has been promoting the continuity of the community," says Elizabeth Uhlig, manuscript specialist at Western Historical Manuscript. "She was just concerned that these papers be preserved and used."

Lawrence wants to be sure future generations of the people in Marshall have access to the information. "I've gone over it with my children, but maybe they or their children won't remember."

The collection is important to both genealogists and researchers, says Uhlig. "It is important to document these types of black communities and the black experience."

The community was unique because the inhabitants all held deeds to their

land. "I think for a black to be able to buy land in 1871, so soon after the Civil War, was not a common experience," says Uhlig.

Penny bought 40 acres eight miles south of Marshall. He then resold the tracts to black families. Other black families bought surrounding land.

With an average tract size of seven acres, most of the people also worked as

P

reservation of papers guarantees continuity of the black history experience.

day laborers or agricultural workers for families and farms in the surrounding area.

In the early 1900s, almost 200 people lived in Pennytown. By the 1930s, the economic hardships of the Depression and the better opportunities elsewhere forced many to move. The last school closed in the 1940s. With so many of the people working in Marshall,

it was easier to live close by.

The last inhabitant moved out in 1977, after his wife's death, to be with his family in Marshall.

Lawrence gathered information about the town in her search for her family history. She started compiling a book on the history of Pennytown in 1967. Her children are helping her put the book together. She expects it to be complete soon.

"Those people out there motivated me," Lawrence says.

"I met some people who had been slaves and some who grew up right after blacks were given freedom. You could see the hurt and then the progress. You could see the depression of those who couldn't get the things they wanted even after the war."

Even though nobody lives in Pennytown anymore, every August the descendants meet at the Freewill Baptist Church for a reunion.

Because the church is the only remaining reminder of the town, these descendants are trying to have it restored and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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