

## **Spectrum**

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### **Gary D. Forsee named University of Missouri's 22nd President**



Gary D. Forsee, a native Missourian and veteran business leader, was appointed Dec. 20 as the 22nd President of the four-campus University of Missouri System.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators voted unanimously to hire Forsee with an initial three-year contract. He will begin his duties Feb. 18.

“I am humbled and honored to be introduced as the next president of the University of Missouri,” Forsee said during his appointment speech at Reynolds Alumni Center on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. “I am so proud to accept both the privilege and the responsibility that will go along with my key role in this endeavor. We have a great story to tell, and I can’t wait to get started.”

Forsee, 57, served as chairman and chief executive officer of Sprint Nextel Corporation, a Fortune 50 company, from 2003-2007. In this role, he oversaw landmark ventures in wireless and wireline services and initiated new technology platforms for enhanced mobility in the United States.

Forsee holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla. The University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree in 2005.

“Gary’s background in one of the fastest-evolving field telecommunications reflects an appreciation for nimble thinking and a high regard for thinkers who make a critical difference,” said Board of Curators Chair Don Walsworth. “He is a proud civil engineering graduate from UMR with deep roots in Missouri and a devotion to the University of Missouri. We are thrilled to introduce him as the next leader of our University.”

UM Interim President Gordon Lamb will remain through 2008 as Executive Vice President of the UM System, serving as a key advisor to the new president and undertaking special projects.

Forsee previously served as chief executive officer and chairman of Sprint and as vice chairman of BellSouth Corporation where he was responsible for domestic operations and chaired the Cingular Wireless joint venture. With more than 35 years of experience in telecommunications, he also has held leadership positions with Global One, AT&T and South-western Bell.

Forsee was born in Kansas City and spent his childhood in Moberly, St. Joseph and Cape Girardeau. He graduated from Cape Girardeau High School before attending UMR.

He and his wife, Sherry, have lived in Hannibal, Kansas City, Joplin, Springfield, Charleston and St. Louis among other U.S. and international locations. Numerous family members, including his two daughters, are UM graduates.

Forsee has been very active in his community and currently serves on UMR's Board of Trustees. He also has served as national chair of the March of Dimes and as a trustee for the Boy Scouts of America.

Forsee will be paid \$400,000 per year, plus \$100,000 in annual incentive pay, which will be deferred for payment until his completion of three years as president.

### **Cheryl Walker, Bo Fraser elected board officers for 2008**

The University of Missouri Board of Curators elected new officers at its Nov. 29 meeting in Kansas City. Cheryl D.S. Walker of St. Louis was unanimously elected as chair; Bo Fraser of Columbia was unanimously elected as vice chair.

The one-year leadership terms for Walker and Fraser begin Jan. 1. Walker, who served for the last year as the Board's vice chair, succeeds Chairman Don Walsworth of Marceline.

Walker has chaired the Finance and Human Resources Committee and the Physical Facilities and Management Services Committee. Among her priorities for the Board of Curators will be working with the University's newly appointed president, Gary D. Forsee.

Walker received her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla and a law degree from Washington University. She is president and general counsel of Obasi Enterprises LLC.

She also has served as counsel in the St. Louis office of Bryan Cave LLP, an 850- attorney international law firm specializing in commercial law, as well as Deutsche Financial Services Corp., now GE Distribution Services.

She is a member of the Tower Grove Park Board of Commissioners and is a member of the boards of The Newberry Group, St. Louis Social Ventures Partners and the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Fraser received his bachelor's degree in business from Benedictine College and is a graduate of the Southwestern School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

He is chairman of the board of Boone County National Bank in Columbia and previously served as the bank's chairman and CEO for more than 20 years.

Fraser serves on the board of directors for Benedictine College and is a founding member of the Community Development Cooperative, which was formed to address housing issues in the Columbia area.

## **Nichols named VP for Research and Economic Development**



Dr. Mike Nichols has been appointed UM Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Nichols has served since 2006 as Director of the Office of Technology Management and Industry Relations for the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He has a prior association with the University dating back to 1978 when he served on the research faculty of what is today UMC's Dalton Research Center. Nichols started his duties Dec. 1.

"Mike brings special experiences to meeting the challenges of bringing University of Missouri research to the marketplace," UM Interim President Gordon Lamb said. "He has led research and been a successful entrepreneur, founding and operating technology companies. He has great statewide perspective about building research-inspired businesses from the ground up."

Nichols earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in biological sciences from California Polytechnic University, and he earned his doctorate degree in biomedical sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"I am honored by this great opportunity to serve my alma mater," Nichols said. "The University is truly an economic engine for Missouri. I am eager to assume leadership efforts to maximize the impact of outstanding University research for the benefit of Missouri's economy."

Nichols succeeds Dr. John Gardner, who resigned earlier this year to accept a similar position at Washington State University.

## **Wellness Program meeting objectives**

The Thomas E. Atkins Wellness Program is meeting its objectives of providing targeted wellness interventions that will create a healthier employee and dependent population resulting in medical

program cost reductions, according to a report provided to the Compensation and Human Resources Committee.

The Wellness Program was rolled out to the University of Missouri-Columbia campus in fall 2007 with a wellness fair that included health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, height and weight, and life style assessment; flu shots; and referrals for out-of-range findings from screenings. Approximately 2,700 employees participated in wellness fairs at UMHC and the MU campus in October. Wellness programs will begin on the other UM campuses in spring 2008, and half-time wellness coordinators are to be hired on each campus in December 2007.

Progress of the program will be monitored by developing a confidential, anonymous repository of information, including sick leave, workers compensation and medical program expenses, that will enable program administrators to focus on whether their targeted interventions are having the intended financial impact on University expenses.

### **Survey: Spectrum viewed favorably**

Eighty-nine percent of readers who responded to a recent survey of Spectrum said they find the newsletter either extremely or somewhat informative, and 77 percent said it is either extremely or somewhat useful as a source of University of Missouri news and information.

Sixty-one percent of respondents said they are either extremely interested or somewhat interested in receiving Spectrum via e-mail, and 62 percent said that if Spectrum is distributed electronically they would not need a printed copy.

However, only 4 percent said they currently read Spectrum online, which is posted on the UM Web site at [www.umsystem.edu](http://www.umsystem.edu). The majority of respondents—81 percent—said they are pleased with the number of issues they receive, and 97 percent said they read either every issue or most issues.

Strategic Communications, which writes and edits Spectrum, will discuss any upcoming changes to the newsletter.

More than 800 Spectrum surveys were received from staff, faculty and retirees on all four campuses.

Christine Burge in the department of Dental Instruction at the University of Missouri-Kansas City is the winner of the \$50 campus bookstore gift certificate for completing the survey.

### **eProcurement makes debut**

UM's new eProcurement solution featuring the Show-Me Shop electronic marketplace made its debut in October with 18 initial suppliers comprising the virtual shopping mall. Pilot testing is now taking place on all campuses with approximately 125 users placing live orders daily.

The new system, which includes a wide range of products, provides users a one-stop shopping experience with the ability to order from suppliers' complete online catalogs at pre-negotiated discounted prices. By driving greater contract compliance with these strategic suppliers, the University will be able to capture projected cost savings over a five-year period of \$24.9 million.

The Board of Curators approved a five-year contract with the electronic marketplace provider, SciQuest/Higher Markets, in July 2006. Campuswide rollout of the marketplace will begin in January 2008.

### **UM holds inaugural Missouri 100 reception, meeting**

The Missouri 100, a presidential advisory group formed by Interim President Gordon Lamb, held its inaugural meeting on Nov. 9-10 in Columbia.

Members attended an evening reception Nov. 9 with U.S. Sens. Christopher "Kit" Bond and Claire McCaskill, who spoke of the wonderful work the University does in areas of health care, research and economic development. The senators encouraged members of The Missouri 100 to share the University's unique mission with all Missourians.

The group met Nov. 10 for in-depth discussions regarding the University's impact statewide. Members heard about the University's unique role in educating dentists, doctors, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists and an array of allied health professionals, as well as the Preparing to Care for Missouri's Citizens initiative, which will increase the number of health care graduates in the state.

They also heard about the University's impact on economic development in the state and its mission of research and teaching, including the University of Missouri-Columbia's membership in the prestigious American Association of Universities.

The group is co-chaired by Cynthia Brinkley, who is president of AT&T Missouri where she is responsible for regulatory, legislative, governmental and external affairs activities in the state; and Richard Miller, who is president and chief executive officer of Miller's Professional Imaging, the largest professional photo lab in the United States with locations in Columbia and Pittsburg, Kan. Brinkley and Miller are graduates of the University of Missouri-Columbia. The third inaugural co-chair of The Missouri 100, Gary D. Forsee, was appointed the 22nd President of the University of Missouri on Dec. 20.

Membership in The Missouri 100 is by invitation from the president. Members speak with one voice as they advocate for the University as a whole. The UM System president confers with members on matters of critical importance to the University and the State of Missouri.

### **2007 University Unity Tour visits campuses statewide**

The University of Missouri's 2007 University Unity Tour occurred from October through December in collaboration with public higher education institutions across the state.

UM Interim President Gordon Lamb and other university presidents shared stages to discuss the common missions of Missouri's public higher education institutions, including teaching, service and accountability. They also discussed Preparing to Care, an initiative of all public four-year and two-year institutions to increase the number of graduates in critically needed health professions. Preparing to Care has been endorsed by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education and has garnered support from legislators and on editorial pages statewide.

This is the second consecutive year the University of Missouri president has joined presidents of other four-year institutions on their campuses to discuss how they work together to help meet the state's goals and needs.

Stops on the tour have included Missouri State University in Springfield, the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville and Truman State University in Kirksville. In addition, an event has been held on each of the UM System's campuses.

### **Board hears positive financial status report for FY 07**

The University of Missouri experienced positive financial performance in FY 2007, Vice President of Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz told the Board of Curators at its November meeting in Kansas City. The University achieved a 9.8 percent return on net assets and a 5.1 percent operating margin.

Total assets increased 8 percent from FY 2006, the majority of which were in long-term investments and physical plant holdings, while total liabilities increased 3 percent. Long-term investments, including investments in the general pool and endowed pools, totaled \$1.7 billion at fiscal year end.

The endowment fund balanced pool return was 18 percent, and the general pool, which is managed internally and used for general operations, had a total return of 6 percent compared to a benchmark index of 5.5 percent reflecting the improved interest rate. The University's outstanding debt decreased \$15 million from the prior year resulting from principal payments on outstanding bonds.

Total operating revenues in FY 07 increased 6 percent, or \$93 million, mainly as a result of tuition and related fees, net of scholarships, and patient medical fees. Net tuition and fees increased 7 percent, or \$26 million, due to increases in enrollment and resident and non-resident tuition and related enrollment fees.

Total operating expenses increased 5 percent, or \$93 million. Salaries and wages increased approximately 5 percent due primarily to merit increases for employees and increases in full-time equivalent employees. The core missions of teaching, research and public service and academic and student support accounted for approximately 47.7 percent of the expenditures.

The University's retirement trust, as well as University of Missouri Health Systems, also showed positive financial performance in FY 07. The retirement trust had an increase in net assets of

\$436 million, a result of net investment income and the University's contribution, and experienced investment returns of 19.7 percent compared to benchmark returns of 18.6 percent and a total investment return of 13.7 percent for the prior year. The health system had increases in total net assets of \$40 million and decreases in total liabilities of \$9 million.

Total revenues exceeded the previous year by 6 percent, while total expenses were 9 percent higher due to increased volumes and market pressure on professional staff salaries.