

January 17, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

A new semester begins! This likely will be my last eNewsletter to you as Interim President. I'd like to thank you for your support during the past year—your words of encouragement and advice have helped make this transition as smooth as possible. Together, we accomplished a lot in 2011, and I know 2012 will bring even more accomplishments, opportunities and challenges. Please join me in welcoming President Tim Wolfe as he officially takes office on Feb. 15, and I look forward to resuming my work with you as the University's General Counsel.

Sincerely,
Stephen J. Owens

Special Thanks to the Presidential Search Committee

Feb. 15 will mark a special day as our 23rd president will take the reins of the University of Missouri System. [President Timothy M. Wolfe](#) is a University of Missouri-Columbia business school alumnus with an executive background in the high-tech industry and deep Missouri roots. He was selected after nearly a year of study, interviews and careful deliberation by both the curators and the [Presidential Search Advisory Committee](#). I would like to extend my thanks to all who spent considerable time and energy ensuring we have a poised and capable leader for the University of Missouri System.

Curators Assume New Leadership Positions

At the beginning of the year, Curator [David Bradley](#) of St. Joseph began his one-year term as board chair and Curator [Wayne Goode](#) of St. Louis began his term as vice chair. We thank Curator Warren Erdman of Kansas City—who will continue to serve on the board—for his tireless support of the university during his chairmanship last year, and look forward to working with curators Bradley and Goode in their new roles. To learn more about our curators, please visit www.umssystem.edu/curators.

Mentoring Program Recently Recognized

The University of Missouri was recognized with the Corporate Innovation Program Award and the Government/Institution of the Year Award last month at the St. Louis Minority Supplier Development Council's Awards Gala. The awards recognize [our efforts](#), led by Dr. Jacqueline Hall Kelly, director of Minority Business Development, to increase the number of competitive women- and minority-owned firms that do business with the university. Among our efforts in this area is the [Advocacy Mentoring Program](#), which partners young minority or women-owned firms with established firms that have done business with the University. Congratulations to Dr. Kelly and all those involved in the program.

United Way Campaign Exceeds Goal

The numbers are in! Employees throughout our four campuses and the rest of the UM System raised a record \$835,000 during our annual

education is an important investment—in our children, our economic future and quality of life, the health of our citizens and the global competitiveness of our nation. During these difficult economic times, we remain committed to working with the governor and legislature to find ways to adequately fund higher education and maintain the quality and excellence that Missourians rightfully expect from the university.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Monday, the University of Missouri observed the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. As an armchair historian, I think Dr. King's legacy can be an inspiration to all of us to persevere in the face of adversity, to fight injustice and respect the rights of all people. I have made it a personal tradition to re-read some of his speeches each MLK holiday. His "I Have a Dream" speech is always worth re-reading and I commend it to you. Here is a [link](#) to the speech.

Protecting the Sanctity of the Classroom

Last month I issued an [executive order](#) regarding the unauthorized redistribution of recordings made in the classroom. The new policy was developed in conjunction with faculty representatives and administrators from all four of our campuses. The primary purpose of the policy is to protect the sanctity of classroom discussions for students so they feel free to contribute their own thoughts and opinions in a safe learning environment without fear that their personal opinions will be disseminated outside the classroom.

The University of Missouri System has long protected the academic freedom of faculty as being essential to the learning process and the new policy provides similar protection for student discussions. This new policy in no way attempts to prohibit students' use of technology, but rather prohibits the unauthorized redistribution of any audio or video outside of the classroom without the instructor's prior consent and the consent of any students who are recorded.

State of the University Speech on Feb. 3

On the eve of our new president taking office, I will deliver a State of the University Address at our Feb. 2-3 curators meeting in Kansas City. As with previous annual State of the University remarks, it will be audio-streamed live at approximately 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, from our website, www.umsystem.edu. For those who can't tune in, a transcript of the address will be posted at www.umsystem.edu/president/speeches.

