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Table of Contents

UCM History	5
Anniversary Events	8
Future-Focused Academics	14
Culture of Service	16
Worldly Perspective	19
Engaged Learning	22
Timeline	25
MIAA Athletics	30
National Champion Athletics	32
UCM's impact on community	34
KMOS	37
Legacy families	39
Mo the Mule	42
Presidents reflect on UCM	45
UCM Alumni Foundation	49



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Produced by the Warrensburg Star-Journal
and Phillips Media Group
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Warrensburg, MO 64093
Phone: 660-747-8123
www.warrensburgstarjournal.com

Star Journal

*This is a special advertising section of
the Warrensburg Star-Journal. Content herein
does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies
of the University of Central Missouri.*

UCM perseveres 150 years through challenges, successes

By Star-Journal Staff

The University of Central Missouri has been a Warrensburg institution since 1871. It has persevered through wars, natural disasters, changes in higher education, financial hardships and a variety of challenges to continue providing quality education to thousands of students every year.

In 1870, the Missouri General Assembly created normal schools throughout the state in an effort to educate more teachers to help with the state's education system. Sedalia was originally awarded Normal School District No. 2 by raising \$75,000, but Warrensburg soon outbid them, raising \$150,000 in county bonds, \$110,000 in cash, and a campus. The Board of Regents reversed its decision and awarded District No. 2 to Warrensburg on April 26, 1871.

With no time to build a school, Principal George Petrie Beard accepted the offer to use rooms in the Foster School, Warrensburg's public school. Two teachers were hired and 30 students enrolled, with the first class taking place May 10, 1871.

The cornerstone laying of the building that would become the main building occurred on Aug. 16, 1871, and the celebration drew nearly 10,000 visitors.

In September 1872, the first floor of the new school building, affectionately nicknamed "Old Main," was ready for classes, but a lack of funding slowed the completion of Old Main for another decade.

With little funds to complete the building, the faculty voted for a 10% pay cut to provide the money needed. By 1882, the upper floors of the building were finished, creating a space for the newly organized Training School.

On Arbor Day in 1887, students planted a small elm to the west of the entrance leading to Old Main. It grew to gigantic proportions and was known as the Old Elm.

The student newspaper began in 1878 as The Normal Courier. It has since experienced many transformations and name changes, as it is now the Muleskinner and has print and digital formats.

Student organizations began to pop up. The YMCA and the YWCA were founded in the 1880s and literary clubs and a social fraternity began in the 1890s. The first campus sorority was founded and one of the first women's basketball teams in the nation was established



Stone pillars with the Old Main cornerstone from the Class of 1915.

Photos courtesy of University of Central Missouri



The Student Government Association replaced the Student Council in 1948 and has been faithfully serving the students of Central ever since.

in the 1903-1904 school year.

By 1899, there were many classes offered by the school and the regents organized the classes into departments. Some of the first departments on campus included physical science, music and drawing, natural science, and history.

The first five presidents also taught classes at the school, but the sixth president, James E. Ament, was the first to only serve in an administrative role, starting a precedent for all presidents who followed.

After years of successful improvements,

the school experienced a major setback.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, March 6, 1915, a night caretaker saw Old Main on fire. The firefighters' response was slow due to recent snowfall. Residents watched as Old Main, the Science Annex, the auditorium and library, and the Training School burned, leaving only charred pieces behind.

Academic records, the 40,000 volumes of the school's library, the museum, and furnishings and equipment were lost in the fire. Dockery Gym and the Powerhouse

and Fine Arts building survived.

However, school was back in session the following Monday due to the dedication of President William Hawkins and his faculty. Classes were hosted in borrowed rooms, churches, faculty homes, and Warrensburg public schools.

Through fundraising efforts and petitioning the General Assembly, more than \$470,000 was collected. A new administration building, science building, and training school were completed by the end of 1916, but no attempt was made to rebuild Old Main. The stone pillars on the north side of campus today utilize the cornerstone of Old Main and stand parallel to the original entrance to Old Main.

In 1926, 19 acres were purchased on the west side of campus, two blocks from the quad. On one side stood Selmo Park, which was renovated and made the official home of the president. North of the residence was enough room to build a football stadium, known as West Campus Field. The first Friday night football game ever played in Missouri occurred on this field Oct. 25, 1929.

Severe storms and flooding greatly damaged historic Selmo Park, and it was demolished in 2015.

A separate library building was constructed in 1939 with the completion of Ward Edwards Library, named for long-time librarian Ward Edwards who had died in 1938 before seeing his dream fulfilled.

Students had to find lodging with Warrensburg residents until enough funds were gathered by 1940 and the next year saw the completion of Laura J. Yeater Hall. It is named for Latin instructor Laura Yeater, who willed her household furnishing and furniture to the hall when she died in 1954.

Between 1957 and 1979, President Warren Lovinger oversaw the expansion of the campus. Phillips Residence Hall, Houts Hall, Hosey Hall, Utt Music Building, Grinstead Building, and Garrison Gym



The Missouri Innovation Campus opened in 2012 with an agreement to offer high school students more access to UCM programs.

were completed. Dockery would be completely gutted a year later and renovated to be safer. Hudson Hall, Foster Hall, Knox Hall, the Ellis Complex, Nickerson Hall, Nattinger Hall, Bradshaw Hall, Hawkins Hall Apartments, Wood Building, College Elementary and the original section of the University Union were completed in the early 1960s.

The Panhellenic Hall and Fraternity Complex were both completed in 1965, followed by expansions to Ward Edwards, and the creation of the Student Health Center. The Technical Arts Building (now the Public Safety Building), the Missouri Safety Center, the Education Building, Fitzgerald Hall, and more expansions to Ward Edwards and the University Union followed.

With this last expansion of Ward Edwards, the Old Elm that had been planted in 1887 and withstood the fire of 1915 was felled to make room.

Highlander Theatre (named later) and Martin Building were the last buildings completed before the university celebrated its Centennial in 1971.

Skyhaven Airport was donated to the school in 1968 by local businessman Max Swisher.

Early in 1968, a fire broke



The UCM campus is seen in present day.

out on the second floor of the Administration Building. Only recently remodeled, many offices and rooms were reduced to ashes. Heat and smoke damaged the third floor.

As the surrounding public schools flourished and were staffed by well-trained teachers, enrollment in University High School dwindled and the last class graduated in 1976; Central Elementary closed in 1980 and the building became the university's Art center.

To continue its goal of making college education more accessible, renovations began at the Summit Technology Center in Lee's Summit, which opened in 2000.

The Missouri Innovation Campus in Lee's Summit

opened in 2017, where UCM partners with community businesses, Metropolitan Community College and the Lee's Summit R-7 School District to offer an accelerated program that can shorten the time needed to complete a four-year degree.

Many campus buildings have since gone through renovations and upgrades, plus the Student Recreation and Wellness Center was completed in 2011. It was followed by The Crossing-South at Holden in 2015, the largest capital building project which features a 325-bed residence hall and retail facility.

To support military and veteran students, the Veteran's Success Center opened in 2011 and in 2012, the Student Veteran's Organization was established on campus.

Two months before his inauguration, President Roger Best welcomed a large donation from the Sunderland Foundation for a new state-of-the-art terminal and flight education facility at the airport.

Information for this article is taken from "University of Central Missouri: 150 Years of Education for Service" by Ashley McGuffey. It is for sale in the University Store and at ucmbookstore.com.



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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all events are subject to change. For more information about upcoming UCM 150 events or to submit an event for review, contact Amber Clifford-Napoleone at clifford@ucmo.edu.

APRIL

150th Exhibition: UCM @ 150: The First 50 Years

Date: Jan. 15 - June 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Location: Arthur F. McClure Archives and University Museum

The McClure Archives and University Museum located in the James C. Kirkpatrick Library will host a special exhibition commemorating the first 50 years of UCM, from 1871-1921. The event is free and open to the public.

State of Missouri Bicentennial Quilt & State of Missouri Bicentennial 4-H Quilt Exhibition

Date: April 13-16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Arthur F. McClure Archives and

University Museum

The McClure Archives and University Museum located in the James C. Kirkpatrick Library will host a special exhibition of the State of Missouri Bicentennial Quilt and the State of Missouri Bicentennial 4-H Quilt. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

School of Accountancy Awards Reception

Date: April 22

Location: Ward Edwards 2401 and via livestream

The School of Accountancy will host a reception to recognize the accomplishments of UCM students. All alumni and friends are invited to join the celebration.

Transitions, a UCM Wind Ensemble Concert

Date: April 22 at 7 p.m.

Location: Hendricks Hall

To mark the 150th anniversary, the UCM Wind Ensemble will present Transitions, a concert with selections chosen from the specific years that coordinate with UCM's

name changes - 1871, 1919, 1946, 1972 and 2006. A new work will also be created and premiered to mark the 150th anniversary at this event. This event is free and open to the public.

First Pitch Banquet

Date: April 23 at 6 p.m.

Location: Multipurpose Building
Join current players, baseball alumni, coaches and friends at the annual First Pitch Banquet with keynote speaker Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City. To register, visit ucmfoundation.org/firstpitch2021.

Crane Stadium Groundbreaking

Date: April 24 at 12:15 p.m.

Location: James R. Crane Stadium at Robert N. Tompkins Field
Join UCM for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the expansion of Crane Stadium prior to the doubleheader where the Mules will take on Northwest Missouri State. For game tickets, visit ucmtickets.universitytickets.com. ▶

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Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Founders Day Campus Birthday Picnic

Date: April 27 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: UCM Quad

UCM students, faculty and staff are invited to this picnic to celebrate 150 years of Education for Service. Everyone is invited to party like it's 1871! Join UCM as we gather for lunch, birthday cake, music, a reenactment of the night the location of State Normal School No. 2 (UCM) was awarded to Warrensburg and more.

Over There: Missouri and the Great War Exhibit

Date: March 1-May 7

Location: James C. Kirkpatrick Library

Explore Missouri's role in World War I and the influence the war had on communities across the state. This event is sponsored by the UCM History Program, Kirkpatrick Library and UCM Military and Veteran Services.

MAY

Commencement

Date: May 7-9

Location: Multipurpose Building

Each year at the close of both spring and fall semesters, UCM offers multiple commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate candidates, hosted at the Multipurpose Building. This is one of UCM's biggest events of the year, and everyone is always welcome to attend. For more information, visit ucmo.edu/commencement.

MuleNation Texas: Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Date: May 13 and 15

Location: The Butler House in Spring; Dr. Pepper Ballpark in Frisco, Texas

JULY

President's Lawn Concert

Date: July 26 at 7 p.m.

Location: Selmo Park

Cool off with ice cream and yard games before enjoying an evening of music by the Warrensburg Community Band. This event is free and open to the public. Feel free to bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. If you have questions or special accessibility needs, contact the UCM Alumni Foundation at 660-543-8000 or events@ucmo.edu.

AUGUST

Fashion and Design Historical Costume Collection Exhibition

Date: Aug. 16-Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Location: James C. Kirkpatrick Library 1470
What have back-to-school outfits looked like at UCM for the last 150 years? Join us to view items from the Fashion Merchandising program's historic costume collection, along with brief descriptions of the catalysts of fashion change throughout UCM history. This event is free and open to the public.

MuleNation Sedalia: Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Date: Aug. 17 from 5-7 p.m.

Location: Missouri Wine Tent at the Missouri State Fair

MuleNation invites you to meet and mingle with fellow alumni and friends at the Missouri State Fair this summer. Complimentary wine and appetizers will be served at the Missouri Wine Tent. To register, visit ucmfoundation.org/2021mnstatefair.

Emeriti Dinner: Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Date: Aug. 24 at 5 p.m.

Location: Elliott Student Union Ballrooms
President Roger Best and First Lady Robin Best invite UCM emeriti to join us in celebrating UCM's newest emeriti as well as previous retirees whose service and involvement continue to impact students' lives. The social is at 5 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 5:45 p.m.

150th Exhibition: UCM @ 150: The Last 50 Years

Date: Aug. 15 - Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Location: Arthur F. McClure Archives and University Museum

The McClure Archives and University Museum located in the James C. Kirkpatrick Library will host a special exhibition commemorating the last 50 years of UCM, from 1971-2021. The event is free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER

Get the Red Out

Date: Sept. 2

Location: Holden Street

Get the Red Out is a fun street fair, complete

with inflatables, games for the kids, hoop shooting with the Mules and Jennies basketball teams, food trucks and dozens of other local organizations and vendors. Thousands of campus and community members attend the street fair each year, which takes place on Holden Street in Warrensburg between South and Clark streets. Get the Red Out is hosted on the afternoon of the first home football game each year, and is a cooperative community event sponsored by UCM and the Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit ucmo.edu/gtro.

150 Successful Years of Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science: An Alumni Gathering

Date: Sept. 11

Location: To be determined

Town and Gown: The Life and Legacy of Charles R. Mayes

Date: Sept. 15 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Location: To be determined

Join Dan Crews, professor of History, for this presentation on one of its alumni and scholarship founder Charles Mayes.

A Legacy of Lifelong Learning and Leadership Banquet hosted by the College of Education

Date: Sept. 17 from 6-8 p.m.

Location: Student Recreation and Wellness Center

This event will honor former and current students and faculty and our supporting partners in the local and academic communities. Preregistration is required for this family-friendly event and attendees will have the opportunity to purchase event T-shirts.

Struggle for Statehood Exhibit

Date: Sept. 21 - Oct. 26

Location: The Missouri Innovation Campus, 1101 Innovation Parkway, Lee's Summit, Missouri

Visit this Missouri Bicentennial traveling exhibit when it comes to The Missouri Innovation Campus in Lee's Summit. Sponsored by UCM History, The MIC and the Summit Technology Academy (LSR-7).

Criminal Justice and Criminology Alumni Showcase

Date: Sept. 24 from 9 a.m.-noon

Location: Elliott Student Union 238

Alumni from the program will display tools, technology and memorabilia and will be available to answer your questions about the

Celebrating 150 Years of UCM



day-to-day work of police, Highway Patrol, federal agencies, probation and parole, children's services, investigations and more.

Family Weekend

Date: Sept. 24-26

Location: Various locations on UCM's campus

Join fellow UCM parents and family members in celebration of UCM's Family Weekend. This exciting weekend features an array of activities while providing an excellent opportunity to spend time with your student and enjoy the University of Central Missouri community. For more information, visit ucmo.edu/family.

MuleNation Springfield: Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Date: Sept. 30 from 5-7 p.m.

Location: Millwood Golf & Racquet Club in Ozark, Missouri

Join UCM leadership, alumni and friends for a MuleNation gathering to connect with classmates and network with UCM grads in your region. Enjoy drinks, appetizers and an update on the university and alumni affairs. To register, visit ucmfoundation.org/2021mnspringfield.

OCTOBER

MuleNation Mid-Missouri: Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Date: Oct. 1 from 5-6:30 p.m.

Location: Bar Vino and the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City

Join MuleNation in Jefferson City at Bar Vino for appetizers and drinks from 5-6:30 p.m. Following the social at Bar Vino, the group will depart to a haunted ghost tour of the Missouri State Penitentiary at 7 p.m. Discover the penitentiary's haunted past through a guided tour of the facility, highlighting its history and the strange and unexplained occurrences behind its walls. To register, visit ucmfoundation.org/2021mnjeffcity.

Haunted Tour of Missouri State Penitentiary

Date: Oct. 1 at 7 p.m.

Location: Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri

After our MuleNation Mid-Missouri gathering (above) a group of current students, alumni, faculty, and friends

will discover the penitentiary's haunted past through a guided tour of the facility, highlighting its history and the strange and unexplained occurrences behind the walls. This event is co-hosted by the UCM Alumni Foundation and UCM Criminal Justice program. To register, visit ucmfoundation.org/2021mnjeffcity.

MuleNation St. Louis: Celebrating 150 Years of UCM

Date: Oct. 2 at 4 p.m.

Location: Sport and Social in Ballpark Village prior to a Cardinals game. Join University of Central Missouri alumni and friends at the St. Louis Ballpark Village at Sport and Social and enjoy complimentary appetizers at 4 p.m. To register, visit ucmfoundation.org/2021mulationst.louis.

Homecoming Weekend Celebration

Date: Oct. 22-24

Location: Various locations on campus. Homecoming is one of UCM's longest-standing traditions and the largest campus and community party of the year. Alumni enjoy coming back to Warrensburg with their families and friends to reconnect with classmates and professors and to see how the university and city have changed. Students show their school spirit through weeklong competitions, the pep rally and parade.

Carnival: Oct. 22 and 23

Black Alumni Association Reunion:

Oct. 22-24. For additional information, contact alumni@ucmo.edu.

50-Year Reunion Induction Ceremony and Lunch: Oct. 22 in the Union Auditorium 237

Distinguished Alumni Dinner and Reunion: Oct. 22 at 5 p.m. at the Elliott Student Union Ballrooms

Breakfast Club Donor Appreciation Event: Oct. 23 at 7:30 a.m.

Parade: Oct. 23 at 9 a.m.

Alumni Party in the Park, featuring an all-class reunion: Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Selmo Park

Volleyball Alumni Game: Oct. 23

Homecoming Football Game: Oct. 23 at 1:30 p.m. at Walton Stadium

Homecoming All-Class Reunion: Oct. 23

NOVEMBER

The Works of Emma Lou Diemer: A Celebration

Date: Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

Location: Hart Recital Hall and streamed online at youtube.com/ucmmusic

Join us as we celebrate the music of UCM community member and composer Emma Lou Diemer. Emma Lou was the daughter of UCM President George Diemer, grew up in UCM's Selmo Park and became a world-famous composer.

DECEMBER

Party With a Purpose

Date: Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

Location: Elliott Student Union Ballrooms

Enjoy dinner and dueling pianos at the MuleNation Home Chapter's event, "Party with a Purpose," to raise funds in support of the UCM Opportunity Grant program. To sponsor a table or reserve your ticket, visit www.ucmfoundation.org/2021partywithapurpose.

Dickens Holiday Reception at the Achauer House

Date: Dec. 4 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: Achauer House, 314 S. Holden St., Warrensburg, Missouri

Join us for UCM's annual holiday open house in partnership with Warrensburg Main Street's Dickens Christmas event, and enjoy festive refreshments and activities.

New Technologies Ensemble "Sonic Wanderings Through Time" Concert

Date: Dec. 5 at noon

Location: Hart Recital Hall

Join the New Technologies Ensemble as they create and perform a new concert-length composition incorporating the sampling of audio recordings from the history of the university, instruments from UCM's Essig Collection in the McClure Archives and University Museum, and the sonification of data from the history of the school, representing change over time.

Commencement

Date: Dec. 10 and 11

Location: Multipurpose Building

Each year at the close of both spring and fall semesters, UCM offers multiple commencement ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate candidates, hosted at the Multipurpose Building. This is one of UCM's biggest events of the year, and everyone is always welcome to attend. For more information, visit ucmo.edu/commencement.

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UCM science teacher and basketball coach Richard Dale



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Owner Todd Dale with the CMS Mules



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UCM sticks to its roots with future-focused academics

By Nicole Cooke

nicolec@warrensburgstarjournal.com

The University of Central Missouri has its roots in education, starting as a teaching college in 1871. Over the last 150 years, future-focused academics have remained a pillar of the school.

Dr. Lauren Hays, assistant professor of education, said the Educational Technology program has offered a graduate certificate in online teaching and learning for several years. She noted it has become even more relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last spring, as the pandemic began, UCM professors offered four free webinars open to area educators who needed tips as they made the quick transition to virtual instruction. This spring, another group has been offering workshops about online learning geared toward UCM students so they can prepare for virtual teaching.

"I think there will still be a lot of virtual options, so we want to prepare our teachers for that and continue to support our graduate students with online instruction skills," Hays said.

UCM offers two courses related to Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality in education. An online introductory course is offered through UCM Extended Studies for a professional development credit. This summer, UCM will offer an in-person professional development course on AR/VR at the Missouri Innovation Campus in Lee's Summit.

"We're able to use the technology in the Mixed Reality Studio that exists at the MIC," Hays said. "(Such as) Microsoft HoloLens, Oculus HTC Vive, Magic Leap, also an Emerge VR headset that participants in the course can test and see how they work. It's not just watching



Photos courtesy of University of Central Missouri
UCM College of Education students use iPads to work on an assignment.

a video, but they get hands-on experience using the technology."

The course is thanks to a Missouri Excels grant that paid for technology at the MIC. With Hays' experience in AR/VR in various capacities over the years, she thought it could be used for professional development with teachers.

"Studies show AR/VR can have a big impact especially on special education students who need extra practice time in a social environment but in a virtual space can have those practice skills without the pressure of real interaction," Hays explained. "Research is showing that it is helpful for students. Having these skills online and using AR/VR in the classroom ultimately impacts UCM students' students for good."

The AR/VR course may be a specific area of future-focused academics, but the College of Education is constantly offering technology opportunities to its students.

In multiple courses, students create lessons using various software programs. Hays teaches a leadership course to help educators evaluate hardware and software for purchasing decisions at a district level and how to

create a district technology plan.

This fall, UCM is starting a new computer science for educators course. Hays said it will help current teachers or undergraduate students learn the skills to teach computer science.

"The impact for students is really being prepared to go into the classroom or if they're already in the classroom, it's being able to be a leader in what is a changing educational landscape and being able to be at the forefront and help others come along and use the technology or adjust teaching strategies as necessary," Hays said.

Cybersecurity is one of UCM's newer programs. Dr. Hyungbae

Park, the program coordinator for both Cybersecurity and Information Technology, said the program was revamped in 2017, which led to two concentration areas, cyber operations and secure software development.

"This is based on the comments from our industry partners that they would like to see some skillset completed focused on those operations like managing switches and routers with proper configurations," Park explained. "On the other side, they want to see some students who have coding skills but with a cybersecurity background. That's why we revamped our program and created those two tracks."

The curriculum is reviewed annually with an advisory board meeting, including industry partners in Kansas City and St. Louis, alumni and faculty.

UCM's cybersecurity program was the first in Missouri and one of the first in the nation to receive accreditation from ABET, a global organization that evaluates applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology programs. Park and Dr. Taiabul Haque, an assistant professor of computer science and cybersecurity, said fewer than 20 schools are accredited.

Park said the program was ▶

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Computer Science students at UCM work together on a project.

created due to supply and demand. There are more than 10,000 job openings in the cybersecurity industry in Kansas and Missouri.

"We do lots of things with the internet like online shopping, banking, education, information about patients in hospitals," Park said. "The internet is going to help us do all this, but the problem is the internet is an invitation to hackers. Anyone can join the internet. This is why cybersecurity is even more

important than ever because we rely on many things on the internet and we don't want to reveal our social security number, credit card, or health information to someone else we don't know."

UCM's cybersecurity faculty also are helping the next generation by volunteering as coaches for high school CyberPatriot competitions. Students and faculty also educate the community about online safety through presentations to area organizations and by hosting

a Cyber Expo where they talk to residents about making strong passwords and the importance of encrypting information.

Park said UCM also has a close relationship with the Missouri National Guard, so they have done some joint cybersecurity exercises.

Haque said cybersecurity is only going to become more important as technology evolves, such as the growing popularity of bitcoin. Park said life is moving from analog to a virtual space,

FUTURE-FOCUSED ACADEMICS

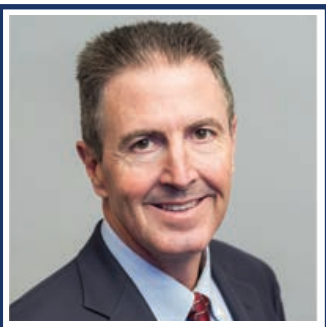
By staying up to date with the latest advancements in technology, UCM prepares its students to be leaders in their industries.

such as using Zoom for the Star-Journal's interview.

"The way technology is evolving, cybersecurity is a topic that is going to stay there for a while and beyond," Haque said. "We are going to thrive and keep updating ourselves just like we've been doing. Technology keeps evolving, the good guys have to keep evolving ourselves."

Nicole Cooke can be reached at 660-530-0138 or on Twitter @NicoleRCooke.

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UCM students, faculty, alumni embody the university's **culture of service**



Photo by Dustin Steinhoff | Star-Journal

Members of UCM Breakers provide their services to Journey Home to help improve its facilities in March 2021.

By Dustin Steinhoff

dustins@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Through the volunteer work and donations made by University of Central Missouri students, staff and alumni, the university is able to fulfill the mission associated with its Culture of Service pillar of education.

Assistant Director of Student Activities and Volunteer Services Kristie Brinkley said she and the Volunteer Services department serve as a liaison between the student body and the surrounding communities.

She said she is able to connect students with local agencies for volunteer projects and also receives requests from local organizations seeking volunteers.

"I find out about volunteer opportunities or in turn, the community calls me," Brinkley said.

Brinkley said UCM students have been able to volunteer for projects with a wide variety of organizations in Warrensburg as well as the surrounding communities.

She said students have worked to pick up trash in the area with the City of Warrensburg, collaborated with Warrensburg Main Street for downtown beautification projects and fundraisers, assisted Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County with fundraisers and donation drives, completed park clean up and trash pick up with Warrensburg Parks and Recreation, helped in the office and with donations for

Survival House and passed out food and cleaned the Johnson County Food Center.

Brinkley said students are usually able to assist in local nursing homes, but due to COVID-19, students have been unable to assist in the same capacity. However, students have helped in other ways by providing various items they are in need of.

The organization also hosts a number of blood drives throughout the year in which students can volunteer to help run or donate blood themselves.

Brinkley said by completing volunteer work, they become part of the partnership with the community.

"By students getting involved in the Warrensburg community, it helps them become more invested and it becomes their community," Brinkley said. "And in turn, the community partners we work with are very thankful and grateful for the students who come out and help."

She said volunteering in the community helps students see things from a different perspective while also fulfilling course requirements and providing aspects to include on their resumes.

"This helps students be well-rounded individuals," Brinkley said.

Many UCM students don't stop assisting the community after graduation as more than 100,000 alumni are registered in the UCM Alumni Foundation's database.

Associate Vice President of University Advancement Jackie Jackson said the

Alumni Foundation is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the university.

She said the organization's goals are to cultivate, manage and distribute resources in support of UCM. The staff of 17 works to conduct fundraising events, connect with UCM graduates and manage the funds raised through donations and fundraisers.

CULTURE OF SERVICE

With the university motto, "Education for Service," UCM students, faculty and staff are dedicated to volunteering and making a difference in the campus and surrounding communities.

She said alumni and donors can also get involved in volunteerism through the organization.

Jackson said the staff also works with university leadership to determine what is needed at the university.

"We connect the passions of people with the mission of the institution," Jackson said. "If someone is passionate ►

about something, we can help identify a need at the university that aligns with their passion.”

For student scholarships, the Alumni Foundation is currently offering Ignite Opportunity Scholarship and Funds for Student Success.

Jackson said the Ignite Opportunity Scholarship is a recruitment scholarship to help students get their foot in the door at UCM.

The Funds for Student Success is a retention scholarship that is utilized to assist students with financial hardships as they work to complete their degree.

Jackson said the university also offered the Student Hardship Fund to assist students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donors can also create their own scholarship at UCM, name it and set the criteria with a minimum commitment investment of \$25,000.

Jackson said in 2020, 975 UCM students received direct scholarship support through the foundation.

Donors also contribute funds to the Central Annual Fund, which allows the university to use the gathered funds for projects needed at the college at any given time.

Jackson said these funds were recently utilized for technology improvements as classes shifted to an online format during the pandemic.

Jackson said as part of UCM’s 150th anniversary celebration, the organization launched Fuel Opportunity. She said the funds raised will go toward 15 capital projects throughout 2021. She said the Alumni Foundation worked with faculty



Photo courtesy of University of Central Missouri

Mo Volunteers, a student organization that has a mission of doing community service, poses for a photo as they complete trash pickup.

members to determine 15 projects that could be completed at the university that could significantly benefit students’ learning experiences. This includes two projects for the athletic department, a library modernization and multiple projects across the academic colleges.

Jackson said the investments range from \$15,000 to \$1.4 million and staff has been working with prospective donors to assist with areas they are passionate about to make the projects happen.

Jackson said the organization’s endow-

ment payout in 2020 was \$1.46 million, with the amount growing each consecutive year. She said this amount doesn’t include the direct contributions donors make to the various departments.

Jackson said in 2020, the organization received \$7.3 million in gifts to the university from just under 7,000 donors.

“Our goal is to make sure every dollar we raise impacts all of our employees and students,” Jackson said.

Dustin Steinhoff can be reached at 660-747-8123.



UCM students participate in the 2021 MLK Day of Service.



UCM students make no-skid socks for local nursing centers during the 2021 MLK Day of Service.



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Helping students around the globe for a worldly perspective

By Sara Lawson

saral@warrensburgjournal.com

The Office of Graduate and International Student Services works to help the University of Central Missouri community achieve a worldly perspective, one of the four pillars of the university.

The office works to assist in the admission process and paperwork for international students.

“Once students are here, we serve them all the way through their (schooling at) UCM,” Sarah Alkire, interim director, said.

The office currently serves nearly 700 students from about 35 different countries and is expecting those numbers to grow for this fall and summer.

Alkire said the office also serves about 800 students who choose to continue with optional practical training post-graduation.

“We handle any questions, concerns, needs they may have regarding their immigration status, their visa status,” Alkire said. “Anytime they need to travel, we create the paperwork for that. We work closely with other offices and faculty to ensure that our international students are successful because for international students, success is not just academic but also in maintaining that valid visa status.”

The Office of Graduate and International Student Services was founded in 2016, but the university has had international students for more than 50 years.

“UCM has a study abroad office as well,” Alkire said. “Being able to send students outside of the country as well as bringing students into UCM, I think helps bring culture to the staff and students at UCM. They have the opportunity to learn not just abroad but right here on campus.”



Photos by Sara Lawson | Star-Journal

The Office of Graduate and International Student Services is located in the east wing of the Ward Edwards Building.

Alkire said the purpose of the office goes beyond retention and recruitment.

“We want to have faculty who are working with international institutions on various projects,” Alkire said. “We want faculty and staff to understand the different pieces that go into studying in the U.S. for our international students. We want to continue to share the various cultures that we represent with our international student population.”

A goal of the office is to educate and inform the UCM community through comprehensive internationalization.

“We often have events that allow our international students to display dance or music or other culture from their home country,” Alkire said. “We also have a food show that happens once a year, allowing them to display food from their home country.”

These kinds of events are open to the public.

“As with everything, the pandemic has caused some challenges but also opportunities

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Flags from every country that is and has been represented on campus are displayed in the atrium of the Ward Edwards Building.

and has definitely been a very interesting experience, not just with recruitment and admissions, but also with working with the U.S. government to make sure that students can maintain their valid visa status when it comes to course offering and what is going to be acceptable and what is not,” Alkire said.

Alkire said the pandemic caused several changes that the office had to navigate, including online learning and in-person class requirements.

“Historically, I think we will definitely look back on that as a big piece to what occurred during (the pandemic for) international education and international recruitment,” Alkire said.

Alkire said current and emeritus-status employees of the office and campus have built a relationship with international students.

“It was beyond just international recruitment for the purpose of international recruitment,” Alkire said. “These individuals made friendships, they made connections with students, with parents, with agents, with other institutions and I think that has not only aided in our continued recruitment

and hosting of international students, but also the word of mouth that has spread in some of these countries about how UCM works with their international students.”

The office services undergraduate and graduate international students and domestic graduate students.

“We hope to continue developing a more comprehensive internationalization plan for UCM and I know that many of our staff are hopeful that with decreasing COVID cases and increasing vaccinated individuals that we’ll be able to offer more of the on-campus opportunities for cultural engagement with our international students because I know that’s something that we’re very proud of and has been greatly missed,” Alkire said.

When Missouri went into lockdown and the campus closed in March 2020, the Office of Graduate and International Student Services was faced with the unique challenge to get international students back home.

“One of the biggest changes was previously all I-20 or government documents had to be printed and signed and one of the first things that was done

was they allowed for those to be emailed,” Alkire said. “That was a big help, especially once UCM offices closed and we worked from home. I would say the biggest impact was the change in volume of applicants and, of course, documents we were producing because so many embassies were closed and students couldn’t get visa appointments. At one point, not many flights were going either.”

Alkire said international students had to put a life goal on hold during that time.

“Just trying to be there to support them, not knowing and not being able to give them an

WORLDLY PERSPECTIVE

UCM welcomes international students from around the world and helps individuals gain a new worldly perspective by providing study abroad opportunities to make connections and network with people across the globe.

answer either, but just trying to be there to support them and encourage them that we can help them to defer their application to a future semester and we can support them getting here.”

Alkire said the office is seeing a large surge in applicants and admissions as embassies and borders are opening back up.

“For me, serving as interim director, I’m just extremely proud of the team that I work with and how they have handled these volumes and how they look beyond just numbers to the fact that these are individuals who are coming here to work toward a goal that they have and that’s what motivates them to work so hard.”

Sara Lawson can be reached at 660-747-8123.

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***Congratulations
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Engaged learning opportunities lead to greater student success

By Nicole Cooke

nicolec@warrensburgstarjournal.com

The University of Central Missouri offers many hands-on training opportunities to its students, giving them real-world experience beyond the classroom as part of its Engaged Learning pillar.

The Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) offers students the chance to take on tasks they might encounter in future careers. In 2013, the UCM Alumni Foundation approved \$500,000 for a new SMIF. It is a class structured like an investment company that is led by a team of students.

Adviser Jim Cicon, an assistant professor of finance, said the students analyze the current portfolio to determine whether to buy or sell and look at what is

happening in the economy, decisions by the U.S. administration, and current events.

Being part of the SMIF gives students a competitive advantage in the job market, Cicon said. Students are not only managing real dollars, but they are using a dozen Bloomberg terminals to do so, which is the industry standard, according to Cicon. He said the fund inevitably comes up in job interviews once companies learn UCM students know how to manage an investment fund and understand the tools needed.

Other universities have student-managed investment funds, but Cicon said UCM is unique because he lets students operate the fund.

"Typically at other places, students pitch to faculty and the faculty decide if they are bought or sold. I let students pitch to stu-

dents," Cicon said. "In the past, they've bought things I wouldn't have bought — Shopify was \$100 and now it's \$1,000, so that was quite the purchase.

"That's an advantage — students can see things sometimes because of their unique position in life as consumers of a different age and demographic. They see things that might be missed by faculty. They come up with some real winners sometimes."

Less than a decade after it started, the fund hit a major milestone in February 2021: growing to \$1 million.

"There's something magical about a million," Cicon said. "The first million means a lot."

Cicon said offering engaged learning opportunities for students is important because students learn more in real-world situations rather than simula-

ENGAGED LEARNING

Through classes that provide real-world, hands-on learning opportunities, UCM students graduate with the skills needed to be successful and make an impact in their chosen careers.

tions. Just like aviation students need to learn how to fly a real airplane, Cicon said it's "critical" for finance students to engage in actual stock trading.

"I had students doing simulated stock tracking, but they don't take it seriously, so they make decisions arbitrarily or not well thought out," Cicon said. "When you're talking about real money and real consequences, you tend to think a lot more about what you do, what you buy or sell. It's significantly different from a ▶

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Student Managed Investment Fund team members work in the Donn G. Forbes Center for Financial Services in the Ward Edwards Building.

Photo courtesy of University of Central Missouri

simulation.”

Dr. Scott Lankford, the Chair of the School of Natural Sciences and an associate professor of biology, said many real-world opportunities are built into the Agriculture Science curriculum. Labs are designed to teach students what they’ll be doing when they get a job as a soil science professional or work for an agency like the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Students use university-owned farmland to certify pastures, work with cattle and goats, and learn about row cropping, all while being taught by Dr. Kyle Lovercamp about field soil test methods, sperm motility tests and artificial insemination on the beef cattle herd.

“We try to engage students in all elements of that and really expose them to the science and theory of the four areas of agriculture we specialize in: agronomy, animal science, horticulture and agribusiness,” Lankford said.

In the Biology department, Lankford said the diverse nature of biology doesn’t allow faculty to include everything in the classroom. He said they stress to students the importance of co-curricular activities.

Natural Sciences has numerous research teams with a faculty member, a graduate student and a few undergraduate students. Students also learn how to apply for grants to get their work funded.

Student Hannah Ogden conducted a study with Drs. Daniel Marschalek and Daniel Wolcott to quantify the use of restored tallgrass prairie or degraded grassland by the black blister beetle, which was published in the Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society. Another student, Topher Hockaday, worked with Dr. Aaron Geheber to discover and quantify a fish hybrid in Missouri, which was published in the journal South-eastern Naturalist.

Similar opportunities are available in the Chemistry department, such as Dr. Chen Zhou involving his students in research on a biocompatible luminescent gold nanoparticle temperature sensing device in the journal Frontiers in Chemistry.

“To do the experiment is one thing, to design it well is another, then to have enough merit to get it in a scientific journal that anyone in the world can submit to is a big deal for an undergrad,” Lankford said.

Other students have presented their projects at national scholar symposiums. These types of opportunities for undergraduate students are unheard of at many larger universities.

“We’ve had a lot of students at national science meetings as undergrads and they are asked what year of graduate school they are in,” Lankford noted.

Lankford said the impact of having engaged learning op-

portunities is “tremendous” for students.

“The value added to the degree is enormous,” he said. “If you haven’t done an undergrad project in chemistry, you don’t have any experience. In biology, you learn some of the techniques in the lab, but you don’t (implement them). In agriculture, they learn in the classroom and can go

to the farm we have.

“The pinnacle of the undergraduate experience is doing a research project with a professor as part of a team because you’re putting what you learn in the classroom into practice. You develop more knowledge than we could ever teach in the classroom. It puts them in a better position going to the next level.”



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A look back at 150 years of UCM history

Photos courtesy of University of Central Missouri

1871 — State Normal School No. 2 founded on April 26 and awarded to Warrensburg. George Beard hired as principal.

First day of classes were held on May 10.

Campus site designated on Aug. 16 and cornerstone of first building laid.

1872 — Beard leaves, James Johonnot becomes president.

1873 — Textbook rental service established.

1875 — First graduating class of the four-year degree.

Johonnot leaves, George Osborne becomes president.

1878 — First campus newspaper established.

Alumni Association organized on June 12.

1881 — University's first museum is established.

1882 — Old Main completed.

1892 — First Greek fraternity on campus.

1894 — First football team established.

1895 — First athletics association formed.

1896 — Science Annex completed.

1898 — Osborne resigns, George Howe becomes president.

1899 — University departmentalized, establishing similar academic structuring to today's departments, schools and colleges.

1900 — First band organized.

Regular summer sessions begin.

1901 — Howe resigns, Edwin Craighead becomes president.

1903 — First Greek sorority on campus and first women's basketball team established.

1904 — Craighead resigns, James Ament becomes president.

1905 — The university yearbook, the "Rhetor," is created and made annual.

1906 — Ament resigns, William Hawkins becomes president.

1909 — University Farm purchased.

The Training School building completed.

1912 — Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) established with the university as one of the chartering members.

1914 — First Bachelor of Science in Education conferred.

1915 — Fire destroys Old Main, the Science Annex and the Training School on March 6.

Spring classes begin as scheduled on March 8 in borrowed facilities across the surviving campus and in Warrensburg.

Hawkins leaves, Eldo Hendricks becomes president.

1916 — Training School (Humphreys Building), the Morris Building and the Administration Building completed.

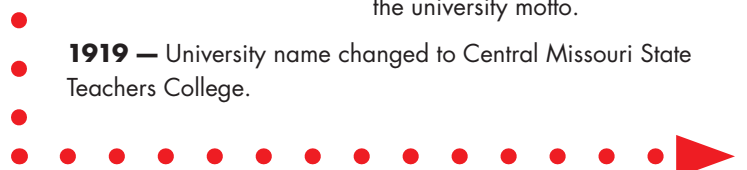
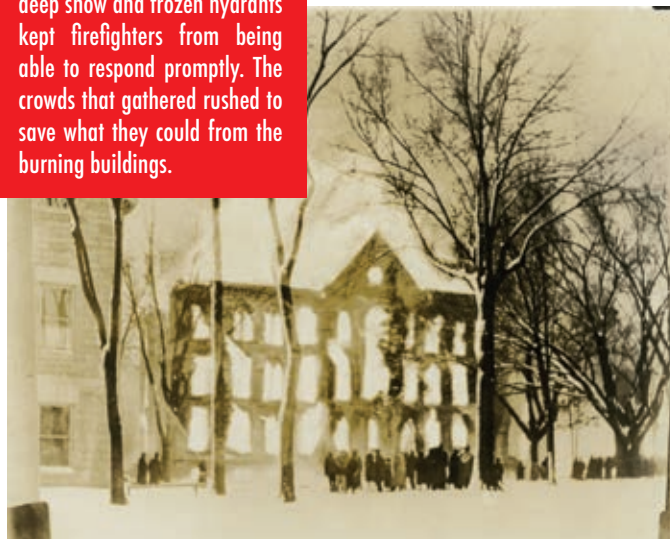
"Education for Service" becomes the university motto.

1919 — University name changed to Central Missouri State Teachers College.



First graduating class in 1875 with President Johonnot.

When the 1915 fire broke out, deep snow and frozen hydrants kept firefighters from being able to respond promptly. The crowds that gathered rushed to save what they could from the burning buildings.



A look back at 150 years of UCM history

1921 — First Homecoming Parade is hosted, but it is not annual.

1922 — The mule is adopted as Central's mascot.

1926 — Selmo Park is purchased and turned into the home of Central's presidents.

1927 — First graduation procession with faculty in full regalia.

1929 — First football stadium at West Campus Field built.

1935 — First annual Homecoming Parade.

1937 — Hendricks resigns, George Diemer becomes president.

1938 — Training School redesignated as College Laboratory School with its components known as College High and College (Central) Elementary.

1939 — Morrow Health and Physical Education Building and Ward Edwards Library completed.

1941 — Civil Pilot Training Program established on campus.

Yeater Hall finished.

1943 — Navy V-12 Officers Training Unit acquired by college.

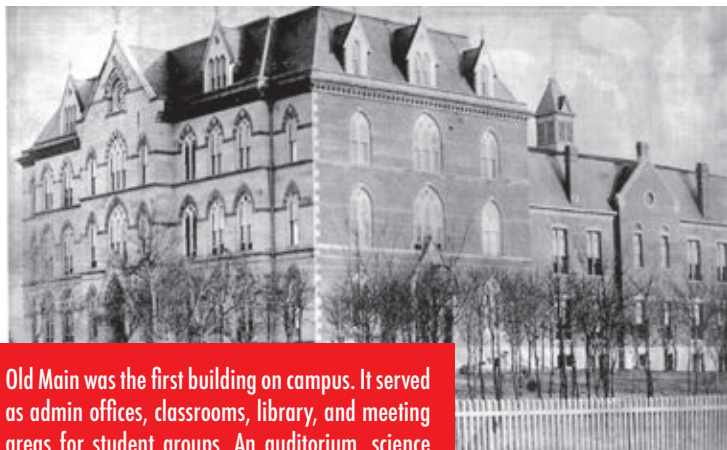
1946 — University name changed to Central Missouri State College.

1947 — Graduate program established.

1948 — Diemer Hall completed.

Student Government Association established.

1952 — Todd Hall completed.



Old Main was the first building on campus. It served as admin offices, classrooms, library, and meeting areas for student groups. An auditorium, science annex, and training school were connected later.

1956 — Diemer resigns, Warren Lovinger becomes president.

Alumni Memorial Chapel completed.

1956-1957 — Counseling Center opened.

1957 — Houts Hall completed.

1958 — Honors Program developed.

Hosey Hall completed.

1959 — Garrison Gym, Grinstead Building and Utt Building completed.

Pertle Springs acquired by the university.

1960 — Central Elementary building completed.

1961 — Hudson Hall and South Todd Hall completed.



The student newspaper has gone through a couple of name changes and is now online, as well as in print.

Computerization begins on campus.

1962 — Foster Hall, the original Union, and Nickerson Hall completed.

1963 — Knox Hall, Bradshaw Hall and Nattinger Hall completed.

1964 — Wood Building, Hawkins Apartments and Ellis Complex completed.

1965 — Health Center, Panhellenic Hall and

Fraternity Complex completed.

1966 — South Yeater Hall completed.

Airport donated to university by Max B. Swisher



A look back at 150 years of UCM history

1967 — Missouri Safety Center and the Public Safety Building completed.

1968 — Lovinger Building, new Morris Building and Fitzgerald Hall are completed.

Children's Literature Festival established.

1969 — Old Elm removed.

Black Panthers chapter visited campus during student protests.



1984 national basketball champions

University (College) High closes.

1978 — Distinguished Alumni Award established.

1979 — KMOS-TV acquired by university.

Lovinger resigns, James Horner becomes president.

1980 — Central Elementary closes and the building becomes Art Center.

Byler Award established.

1969-1971 — Student protests on campus.

1970 — Humphreys and old Science Building connected.

Women's sports teams recognized officially on campus.

1971 — Martin Building and Highlander Theatre completed.

First police academy hosted.

The university celebrates its 100th anniversary.



Panhellenic Hall

1981 — Gaines Technology Building completed.

1982 — Stahl Construction Technology Building completed.

1984 — Men's and women's basketball teams become the NCAA Division II champions.

1985 — Horner resigns, Ed Elliott becomes president.

1986-1987 — Highlander Theatre updated to state-of-the-art status.

1972 — University name changed to Central Missouri State University.

Student newspaper renamed the Muleskinner.

1974 — Jennies adopted as mascot for women's athletic teams.

1976 — Multipurpose Building completed.

Ceramics Building dedicated.



Fitzgerald Hall

1987-1988 — Greenwood Park townhouses built.

1988 — Distinguished Service Award established.

1990 — Central Village completed.

Extensive renovations to the Union are started.

1991 — Smiser Alumni Center completed.

A look back at 150 years of UCM history

1992 — Union renovations completed.

1994 — Mules baseball team earns the NCAA Division II championship.

1995 — Audrey J. Walton Stadium completed.

1997 — Board of Regents renamed Board of Governors.

1998 — Maastricht Friendship Tower completed and dedicated.

1999 — Honors Program becomes Honors College.

New library dedicated to James C. Kirkpatrick.

Elliott resigns, Bobby Patton becomes president.

2000 — Summit Center opens.

First cooperative doctorate earned.

2002 — Prussing Farm donated to the university by Natalie (Prussing) Halpin.

2004 — Osborne Hall and Phillips Hall torn down after extensive tornado damage.

2005 — Patton leaves, Aaron Podolefsky becomes president.

THRIVE organized on campus.

2006 — University name changed to University of Central Missouri.

2007 — Academic restructuring created five-college layout.

2008 — A more flexible bachelor's degree with only 120 required hours established.

2009 — Push for sustainability on campus.

2010 — Podolefsky leaves, Charles Ambrose becomes president.

2011 — Student Recreation and Wellness Center and Audrey J. Walton Clubhouse completed.

2012 — Academic restructuring created more departments and programs within a four-college layout.

2013 — President Barack Obama visits campus.

2015 — The Crossing completed.

The Alumni Association and UCM Foundation merge.

Donn G. Forbes Center for Financial Services dedicated.

Selmo Park demolished.

2016 — Campus-wide renovations begin.

2017 — The Wall that Heals, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, was hosted by the museum and archives.

The Missouri Innovation Campus is dedicated.

2018 — Ambrose leaves, Roger Best becomes president.

2019 — Donations are received to provide a new

terminal for the airport.

2020 — COVID-19 pandemic hits.

2021 — UCM celebrates its 150th anniversary.



The Crossing houses dorm apartments, a Starbucks, Spin Pizza, and the University Store.



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused some changes in how classes are taught.



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Central Missouri Athletics part of MIAA's storied history

By Joe Andrews

joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Central Missouri's history includes a long-standing tradition of excellence as a member of the MIAA.

The MIAA was founded in 1912 as the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Association by the Warrensburg Teachers College and 13 other institutions. The conference included four other teachers colleges in Missouri — Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman State University), Northwest Missouri State Teachers College (now Northwest Missouri State University), Missouri State Normal School of the Third District (now Southeast Missouri State University) and Southwest Missouri State Teachers College (now Missouri State University).

The remaining founders were all private schools — Central Methodist, Central Wesleyan University, Culver-Stockton College, Drury University, Missouri Valley College, Missouri Wesleyan College, Tarkio College, Westminster College and William Jewell College.

In 1924, the conference made the decision to only include public schools. At that point, it became an association of five regional universities. The other schools formed the Missouri College Athletic Union, now known as the Heart of America Athletic Conference in the NAIA.

Conference records date back to 1924, when the MIAA officially began sponsoring football, men's basketball and track. Over the next 40 years the sports of men's tennis, men's indoor track, men's cross country, wrestling, men's swimming and baseball were added.

It wasn't until 1981-82 that women's basketball, women's cross country, softball, women's tennis, women's track and volleyball were added.

In 1989, the MIAA expanded into Kansas adding Pittsburg State University and Washburn University. Emporia State University eventually entered the conversation, leading the renaming of the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Association to the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association in 1992.

The conference expanded into Nebraska in 2008 with the addition of the University of Nebraska Omaha. It entered Oklahoma in 2010 with the University of Central Oklahoma and Northeastern State University.

The present-day MIAA includes Central Missouri, Central Oklahoma, Emporia State, Fort Hays State University, Lincoln University, Missouri Southern State University, Missouri Western State University, the University of Nebraska-Kearney, Newman University, Northeastern State, Northwest Missouri State, Pittsburg State, Rogers State University and Washburn.



Central Missouri and Northwest are the last founding members and have remained in the conference through its 109-year existence.

Upon the conclusion of the 2020-21 winter sports season, the Mules and Jennies have claimed a combined 215 conference championships.

Opposite is a list of each regular-season conference title. Coaches are included alongside team-fielded titles. ▶

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.



Central Missouri football celebrates as it receives the MIAA Conference title after defeating Lincoln 73-6 on Nov. 9, 2019, at Walton Stadium.

File Photos | Star-Journal

Baseball — 26 since 1966

1966 - Bill Tompkins; 1971 - Bill Tompkins; 1974 - Bill Tompkins; 1981 - Gene Weber; 1986 - Stu Rogers; 1988 - Stu Rogers; 1989 - Stu Rogers; 1990 - Stu Rogers; 1994 - Dave Van Horn; 1995 - Brad Hill; 1996 - Brad Hill; 1997 - Brad Hill; 1998 - Brad Hill; 2000 - Brad Hill; 2001 - Brad Hill; 2002 - Brad Hill; 2003 - Brad Hill; 2004 - Dave Hendrickson; 2005 - Dave Hendrickson; 2007 - Dave Hendrickson; 2010 - Tom Myers; 2011 - Tom Myers; 2012 - Tom Myers; 2014 - Tom Myers; 2016 - Kyle Crookes; 2019 - Kyle Crookes.

Volleyball — 24 since 1982

1982 - Peggy Martin; 1983 - Peggy Martin; 1984 - Peggy Martin; 1985 - Peggy Martin; 1986 - Peggy Martin; 1987 - Peggy Martin; 1988 - Peggy Martin; 1989 - Peggy Martin; 1990 - Peggy Martin; 1991 - Peggy Martin; 1992 - Peggy Martin; 1993 - Peggy Martin; 1994 - Peggy Martin; 1995 - Peggy Martin; 1996 - Peggy Martin; 1997 - Peggy Martin; 1998 - Peggy Martin; 1999 - Peggy Martin; 2000 - Peggy Martin; 2009 - Flip Piontek; 2010 - Flip Piontek; 2011 - Flip Piontek; 2013 - Flip Piontek; 2014 - Flip Piontek.

Men's Golf — 22 since 1934

1935; 1974; 1977; 1979; 1980; 1981; 1982; 1983; 1994; 1995; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2000; 2001; 2002; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015.

Indoor Men's Track and Field — 21 since 1937

1953; 1954; 1955; 1994; 1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2000; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2005; 2006; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2019.

Outdoor Men's Track and Field — 21 since 1924

1926; 1927; 1928; 1929; 1951; 1953; 1955; 1956; 1994; 1998; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2019.



Central Missouri head coach Dave Slifer holds up the remainder of the net following the Jennies 64-41 win over Missouri Southern on February 22, 2018.

Men's Basketball — 20 since 1924-'25

1924-25 - Tad Reid; 1936-37 - Tad Reid; 1937-38 - Tad Reid; 1938-39 - Tom Scott; 1940-41 - Tom Scott; 1941-42 - Tom Scott; 1950-51 - Earl Keth; 1956-57 - Earl Keth; 1964-65 - Joe B. Hall; 1968-69 - Norm Short; 1969-70 - Norm Short; 1979-80 - Tom Smith; 1980-81 - Lynn Nance; 1983-84 - Lynn Nance; 1984-85 - Lynn Nance; 2004-05 - Kim Anderson; 2009-10 - Kim Anderson; 2011-12 - Kim Anderson; 2012-13 - Kim Anderson; 2013-14 - Kim Anderson.

Men's Cross Country — 15 since 1958

1969; 1978; 1981; 1982; 1991; 1993; 1995; 1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2004; 2010; 2011; 2013.

Women's Basketball — 11 since 1982-83

1982-83 - Jorja Hoehn; 1983-84 - Jorja Hoehn; 1984-85 - Jorja Hoehn; 1985-86 - Jon Pye; 1987-88 - Jon Pye; 1988-89 - Jon Pye; 1989-90 - Jon Pye; 1995-96 - Scott Ballard; 2013-14 - Dave Slifer; 2017-18 - Dave Slifer; 2019-20 - Dave Slifer.

Women's Soccer — 11 since 1995

2007 - Lewis Theobald; 2008 - Lewis Theobald; 2010 - Lewis Theobald; 2011 - Lewis Theobald; 2012 - Lewis Theobald; 2013 - Lewis Theobald; 2014

- Lewis Theobald; 2015 - Lewis Theobald; 2016 - Lewis Theobald; 2017 - Lewis Theobald; 2019 - Lewis Theobald.

Football — Nine since 1924

1926 - Theodore C. Reid; 1956 - Lew Comer; 1970 -

Howard Mahanes; 1983 - Terry Noland; 1986 - Terry Noland; 1987 - Terry Noland; 1988 - Terry Noland; 2003 - Willie Fritz; 2019 - Jim Svoboda.

Indoor Women's Track and Field — Nine since 1982

1983; 1986; 1994; 1999; 2005; 2006; 2007; 2015; 2021.

Softball — Eight since 1982

1982 - Peggy Martin; 1987 - Peggy Martin; 1988 - Rhesa Sumrell; 1994 - Rhesa Sumrell; 1995 - Rhesa Sumrell; 1997 - Rhesa Sumrell; 2009 - Susan Anderson; 2015 - Susan Anderson.

Wrestling — Eight since 1966

1966; 1972; 1973; 1974; 1975; 1977; 1980; 1983.

Men's Tennis — Four overall *No longer at UCM*

1954; 1955; 1956; 1957.

Women's Cross Country — Three since 1981

1999; 2004; 2005.

Women's Outdoor Track and Field — Three since 1982

2005; 2006; 2007.



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Above: Central Missouri women's basketball celebrates the program's second national championship on March 23, 2018, at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Above right: Central Missouri senior Kayonna Lee walks in with the 2018 women's basketball national championship trophy during a pep rally hosted at the Multipurpose Building.

Right: Central Missouri's Garrett Sandbothe draws cheers while holding the 2014 national championship trophy over his head for Mule Nation to see during a championship celebration at the Multipurpose Building.

File Photos | Star-Journal



A look at Central Missouri Athletics' nine national championships

By Joe Andrews

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Through the course of the University of Central Missouri's athletics history, nine teams have ended their season as national champions.

The university's first two titles, occurring through the men's basketball programs, occurred in the NAIA. Central Missouri later joined the NCAA Division II upon its founding in 1957. It has remained as a Division II member ever since.

Also joining men's basketball with national titles includes women's basketball, baseball and women's soccer.

Men's Basketball National Champions 1937 - NAIA

Central Missouri State Teachers College topped Morningside 35-24 in the first annual NAIA Tournament at the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. The game is the lowest scoring championship in NAIA history to this day. Tad Reid coached the Mules. It was the first-ever national title in university history.

1938 - NAIA

Central Missouri State Teachers College beat Roanoke 45-30 at the Municipal Auditorium. It was Reid's second and final national title at Central Missouri. ▶



Far left: Central Missouri women's basketball's 2018 national championship trophy was on display during a pep rally hosted at the Multipurpose Building.

Left: Central Missouri women's soccer hoists its 2017 national championship trophy Dec. 2, 2017, at the Swope Park Soccer Village in Kansas City.

1984 - NCAA Division II

Central Missouri State University earned the university's third-ever NCAA Division II title and sixth overall in a sport by beating St. Augustine 81-77 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Ron Nunnally was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 1984 NCAA Division II Tournament. The Mules were coached by Lynn Nance. CMSU became the first-ever university to win both a men's and women's tournament title in the same season.

2014 - NCAA Division II

Kim Anderson's final game at the Uni-

versity of Central Missouri ended with a national championship. The Mules topped West Liberty 84-77 at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana. Daylen Robinson was named as the Most Outstanding Player of the 2014 NCAA Division II tournament.

Women's Basketball National Champions 1984 - NCAA Division II

Central Missouri State University topped Virginia Union 80-73 in the third-ever NCAA Division II women's basketball championship in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Jennies were coached by Jorja

Hoehn. The most outstanding player was Carla Eades. CMSU became the first-ever university to win both a men's and women's tournament title in the same season.

2018 - NCAA Division II

The University of Central Missouri beat Ashland 66-52 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Jennies were coached by current head coach Dave Slifer. Kelsey Williams was named as the tournament's most outstanding player. The championship is UCM's most recent.

Baseball

1994 - NCAA Division II

Central Missouri State University beat Florida Southern College 14-9 in Montgomery, Alabama. The Mules were coached by Dave Van Horn.

2003 - NCAA Division II

Central Missouri State University beat the University of Tampa 4-3 in Montgomery, Alabama. The Mules were coached by Brad Hill in his 10th college world series appearance.

Women's Soccer

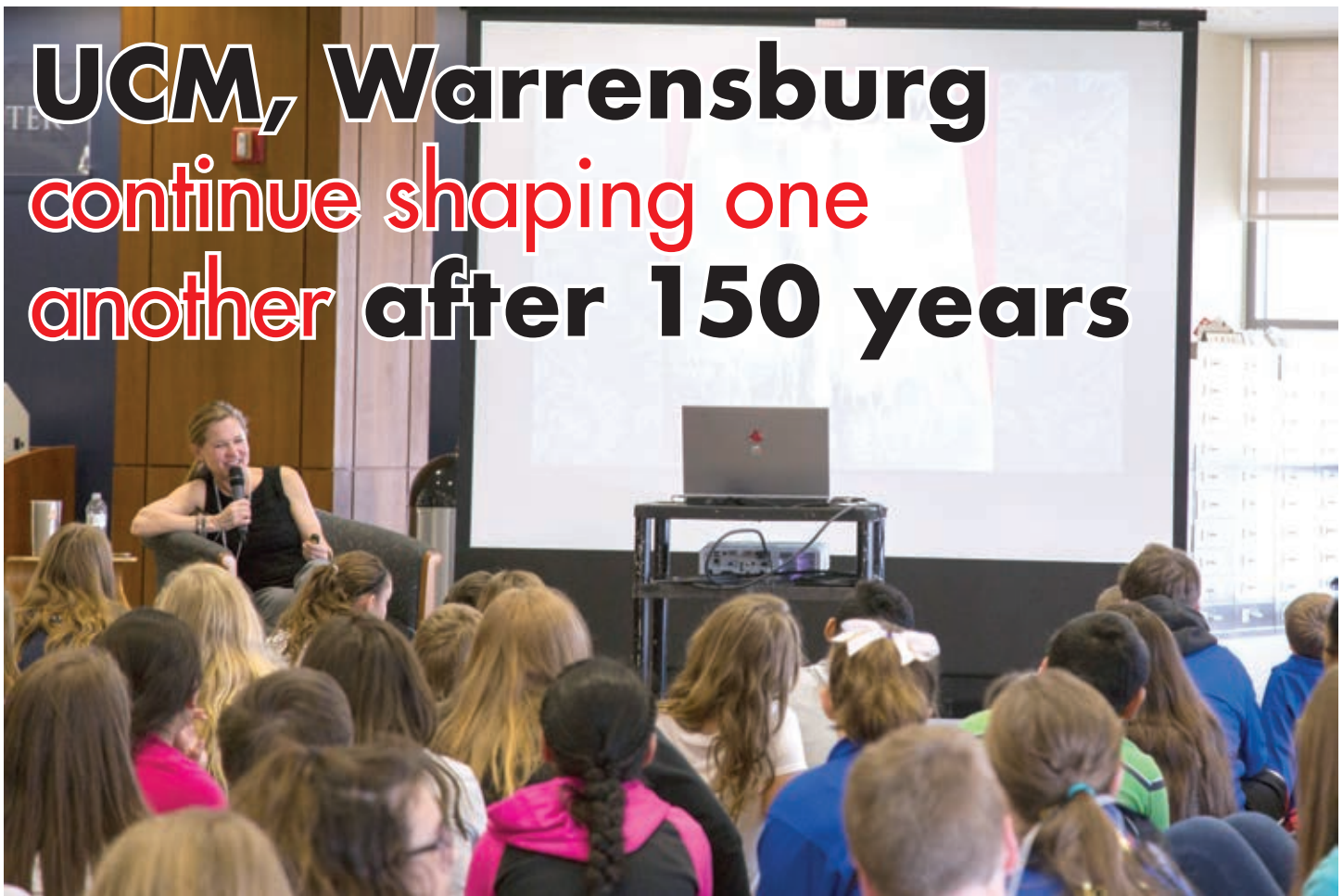
2017 - NCAA Division II

Central Missouri earned the university's second overall women's national championship by beating Carson-Newman 5-3 in penalty kicks at the Swope Park Soccer Village in Kansas City. Under the direction of head coach Lewis Theobald, the Jennies finished with a perfect 26-0 season. Abby Rhodes was named as the Most Outstanding Offensive Player while Ana Dilkes was named as the Most Outstanding Defensive Player.

Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.

Feeling on top of the world while riding atop a Warrensburg Fire Department aerial pumper, members of the 2014 NCAA Division II national champion Mules basketball team, Daylen Robinson and Chuck Hammock alongside firefighter Ryan Smith, wave to more than 1,500 people who line South Holden Street to celebrate Central Missouri's victory.





Photos courtesy of University of Central Missouri

The Children's Literature Festival is an annual event hosted on UCM's campus.

By Dustin Steinhoff

dustins@warrensburgstarjournal.com

From the economic impact to the community impact, the University of Central Missouri has helped shape the trajectory of Warrensburg and vice versa.

Johnson County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Tracy Brantner said as of the final quarter of 2020, UCM employed 1,120 faculty and staff, not including adjunct faculty. She said UCM is the county's second-largest employer, right behind Whiteman Air Force Base.

Brantner said while not all UCM staff and faculty members reside in Johnson County, the majority of them do. She said the staff living as well as traveling to the community for work support local businesses when eating or purchasing from stores in the community.

Brantner said the university also impacts the local economy through the contracts it forms with local businesses for their services. She said contractors employed by the university include plumbing,

electrical and landscaping businesses.

She said the sporting and cultural events hosted by the university help positively impact the economy as well, with visitors spending about \$96 per day per person.

According to information provided by University Analytics and Institutional Research Director Meng Chen, in 2019, expenditures by students was about \$78.3 million, faculty and staff spending was about \$221.4 million, general operating expenses was about \$193.8 million and expenditures by visitors was about \$110 million, resulting in a total of about \$603.5 million.

"We're very blessed to have the university here generating that kind of economic impact in our county," Brantner said.

Brantner said the student population brought to the community also impacts the county in major ways, both economically and culturally.

"The university provides international culture in a rural county in Missouri that you can't find anywhere else," Brantner said.

Brantner said the impact of students

reaches past the dollar amount as they help make Warrensburg a quality place to live.

Brantner said in 2020, UCM had an enrollment of about 10,000 students with about 6,150 students residing in Warrensburg.

"That's 6,150 students potentially providing to the workforce an excellently trained talent pool, they provide diversity, they bring culture, they bring the arts," Brantner said. "All of their strengths and assets as a person come with them."

Warrensburg Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Marcy Barnhart said UCM and Whiteman Air Force Base are the two biggest establishments in the county.

Barnhart said the university's Family Weekends bring in so many visitors that the lodging facilities often fill up and family members sometimes need to stay at facilities outside of the immediate community.

She said when people visit the county for purposes related to UCM, they are supporting local businesses by residing in the county's lodging facilities, eating ►

at local restaurants and making purchases at local stores.

Barnhart said UCM also hosts a variety of events throughout the year that the community can take part in. She said many events also bring in visitors from a number of places around the world.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for us locals to have that interaction with people all over the world because of the incredible job UCM does to create a welcoming environment to have those events year after year," Barnhart said.

Barnhart said the university is able to bring events and attractions that one would typically only see in larger cities.

One event she cited was the Children's Literature Festival, which brings thousands of youth, authors and illustrators from across the globe to the campus.

Barnhart said when the university closed due to COVID-19, the county saw a large drop in the number of visitors in the county.

Barnhart said the university offers visitors a well-rounded trip

to the community.

In addition to the university's events, Barnhart said she is able to promote the various facilities available to the community located on campus. She said these include the university's bowling alley, art gallery and university museum.

"A lot of people get the misperception that because it's on campus, the general public can't utilize them and that is not the case," Barnhart said. "UCM does a great job of opening themselves up to people of the community or visitors coming in for a few days."

Barnhart said UCM is so ingrained in the community, that almost everyone she speaks with has a connection of some sort to the university.

"They know somebody who went to school here, they went to school here or their parents went to school here," Barnhart said. "Warrensburg is UCM and UCM is Warrensburg."

Dustin Steinhoff can be reached at 660-747-8123.



Families of UCM students participate in one of the university's Family Weekends.



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The Lennon Sisters join KMOS during its pledge drive, hosted by Sheryl Strobel, in the mid-90s.

KMOS-TV producing local content for central Missouri for more than 40 years

By Dustin Steinhoff

dustins@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Through a partnership with the University of Central Missouri and the Public Broadcasting Service, KMOS-TV is able to provide local and award-winning content to central Missouri produced by UCM staff and students.

KMOS serves as the PBS member station for the region of central Missouri and is able to broadcast across the area between Owensville to the east, Grain Valley to the west, Republic to the south and Highway 36 to the north.

KMOS-TV Director of Broadcasting Services and General Manager Josh Tomlinson said the station utilizes a 2,000-foot-tall broadcasting tower in Syracuse, which gives KMOS one of the largest single coverage areas of the nation's PBS stations.

He also said the tower is the tallest structure in the state and one of the tallest structures in



Photos courtesy of KMOS

Members of KMOS in 1989 pose for a photo during its fundraising drive.

the world.

The station is owned and operated by the University of Central Missouri.

As a PBS station, KMOS is a nonprofit organization and operates on funds provided by the university, grants from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting and viewer donations.

Tomlinson said before being owned by UCM, the station was

initially used as a repeater for the station KRCG in Jefferson City and was also previously known as KDRO in Sedalia.

Tomlinson said the station was off air for several years before UCM obtained ownership.

He said through several acquisitions and mergers over the years, a railroad company out of Kansas City obtained ownership of the station, which

in turn handed ownership of the station to UCM.

Tomlinson said the university then invested in a new tower and transmitter, set up a campus studio and became a PBS member station.

He said the university's initiative provided a real-world learning lab for its students.

Tomlinson said the university began broadcasting from the station in December 1978. He said the first broadcast went on air for just one day in order to meet its requirement to be fully licensed before going on air the following year as a regular television station in 1979.

Tomlinson said in the station's early years, it only broadcasted a few hours out of the day on one channel.

He said the station aired PBS programming such as "Sesame Street" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" as well as a limited nightly newscast about Sedalia and Warrensburg. Today, KMOS has four channels

and broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week and every day of the year.

"We offer over 35,000 hours of unique PBS and UCM content to central Missouri," Tomlinson said.

KMOS is comprised of 12 full-time staff members across the strategic development, engineering, production, programming, operation and community outreach departments.

Tomlinson said for every staff member, approximately two UCM students are employed at the station. He said students are able to work in each of the station's departments alongside the staff members in a real-world learning environment.

"If you watch KMOS-TV, everything you see has been touched by a University of Central Missouri student," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson said students working at the station receive a wage and are offered paid internships in areas such as graphic design, marketing and public relations. He said this allows students to reduce their debt load while still in college.

"Over the last 15 years, we've paid approximately \$1.5 million in student wages," Tomlinson said.

He said having KMOS be a part of UCM also benefits the station as they can oftentimes partner with other university departments.

"If there's one thing we benefit from that a lot of PBS stations



David Gildhouse, Eric Boedeker, Roy Millen and Ashley Zades take part in the production of KMOS Classroom in 2020.

don't have, it's the expertise of the faculty and staff and the excitement and innovation that the students bring," Tomlinson said. "They make a difference in what we do every day."

Tomlinson said when schools began shutting down at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, KMOS partnered with the College of Education to produce KMOS Summer School, a series aimed toward decreasing the achievement gap. He said this was especially helpful to students who did not have access to high-speed internet across more than 400 schools in its broadcasting zone.

KMOS is also able to broadcast theater, dance and arts productions put on by the university.

KMOS has also received

awards for its regional programming, such as the recognition it received from the most recent Midwest Regional Emmy competition for its "Making" series, which highlights artists and entrepreneurs across Missouri.

Tomlinson said the station has also received recognition from the National Education Tele-

communications Association of Public Media awards.

He said some of the locally produced programming at KMOS is on a temporary hiatus due to COVID-19 but will resume producing said content in the near future.

Dustin Steinhoff can be reached at 660-747-8123.



Christy Millen puts a microphone on Matt Burchett, host of the KMOS program "Making," in 2019.



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A lifetime of UCM traditions

Smarr family has many connections to campus

By Nicole Cooke

nicolec@warrensburgstarjournal.com

There are thousands of University of Central Missouri alumni across the globe, and many of those alumni have their own unique memories from their years on campus. For Rex and Adrienne Smarr, attending UCM was, and is, a family tradition.

Rex Smarr attended UCM from 1970-75 while it went through a name change from Central Missouri State College to Central Missouri State University. He received a degree in drafting technology with a minor in business. The Warrensburg native still lives in Warrensburg and has spent the last 35 years working as an independent insurance agent.

Rex and his older sister were the first to graduate from college in their family.

"We lived south of town on a farm and we could go to school for \$100 a quarter. We went three terms a year so it was \$300. Then they raised it, we had to pay for the Multi so it went to \$125 or something like that," Rex recalled. "It was affordable, I could live at home, not have college debt ..."

Adrienne (Ellis) Smarr graduated from CMSU in 1974 with a speech pathology degree and later earned a master's.

Adrienne also grew up in Warrensburg and said attend-

ing CMSU was a convenient way to earn her degree. After changing her major a few times, she discovered speech pathology while working in the communications department. She would deliver mail to the speech pathology department and would watch the students and faculty work.

"I thought, 'I love that.' I'm glad, I'm still doing it for 36 years now and I've had tons and tons of student teachers and they've changed the way our program is used, now it's more of an internship," Adrienne said. "It's been a great field and I've been connected to the university for years with students and faculty. To me, it was the best department."

There is such a huge group of Smarr relatives who call themselves UCM alumni that Rex and Adrienne said it would be hard to name every single one of them.

"Oh my gosh," Rex replied when asked which family members attended UCM. "My mother went there, my whole family, my wife went there, my four sons graduated from there, my wife's brothers went there and all their children. My three siblings went there, their spouses went there, their children went there. It is a big number. My wife's dad taught there, he was head of the art department for 33 years."

Rex and Adrienne's ties to UCM go beyond their education. They enjoyed going to athletic events like football and basketball and Adrienne was in the Marching Mules. Rex worked in the library between classes. Rex proposed to Adrienne on the former outdoor stage behind the Dockery Building, and they got married his junior

//

We're so connected through so much of the family, it's just crazy. I think it's a great university; I can't imagine anyone not wanting to come here to go to school."

ADRIENNE SMARR

year in the Alumni Memorial Chapel.

Decades after graduation, those connections remain. Rex and Adrienne moved to Marshall for 10 years when they graduated and moved back to Warrensburg in 1985, purchasing a home at College and Grover streets that sat at the end of the Homecoming parade route. That led to a Smarr family tradition.

"So when the bands came

over the bridge where the train is, they were done and quit playing. So we started a kind of fundraiser thing where we decided we were going to be sound judge No. 5," Rex explained. "We made signs, the boys dressed up with ties on and had signs so when they came over the bridge, they would have to start playing again and that seemed to work."

"It became a tradition and we ... started out giving \$500 to the band, then got up to \$1,000 and then \$1,500 sometimes. And the band, if you contributed enough the band would then come back and play before the homecoming game. That was a huge tradition — the band would march down the street to our house, stop in the middle of the street and play for about 15 minutes. It was pretty awesome."

When the idea started, about 10 people would gather, but it grew to hundreds over the years. The Smarrs have since moved to another area of Warrensburg, but have returned to that area a few times to watch the parade.

Many family members come back to Warrensburg ▶



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to visit, especially for Homecoming. Rex said both sets of parents enjoy the parade.

"My wife's dad was one of the judges for the floats for years and years and years," Rex said. "And my parents always came here and still today my mother, that's kind of like Christmas to her is coming to the Homecoming parade and watching everything and enjoying the food and all the bands and the floats. She gets to see all of her grandkids, great-grandkids and great-great-grandkids who still come. It's a big event."

The list of Smarr-UCM connections is as long as the list of Smarr alumni.

A number of nieces and nephews lived with Adrienne and Rex while attending UCM.

Adrienne said her brother originally designed the four Central Missouri signs

outlined with rock on the edges of campus. He built the signs and painted the gold leaf while Rex found a contractor to build the stone edging. Aspects of the signs have changed as the college's name evolved, but the signs still exist.

The couple's youngest son helped establish the UCM Office of Military and Veteran Services and a niece worked in the alumni office.

"We're so connected through so much of the family, it's just crazy," Adrienne said. "I think it's a great university; I can't imagine anyone not wanting to come here to go to school."

"It's changed a lot of our lives for the better," she added. "That's why I was certain our kids would go to college."

Nicole Cooke can be reached at 660-530-0138 or on Twitter @NicoleRCooke.

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Nearly a century with Mo the Mule

Following the institution's name change in 1919, it was decided that a mascot was needed for the sports teams. The former "Normals" no longer fit and the "Teachers" did not sound tough enough.

During the 1921-1922 academic year, the Athletics Association held a contest to name the mascot. The winner was promised a three-year post-graduation subscription to the student newspaper. More than 80 entries were submitted, which included skink, bobcat, and hippopotamus. The winning submission came from 1924 alum John Thomason, who thought the Missouri Mule would make a fine mascot. Mules have a long history of being used in farming, war and exploration because of their hardy nature. Mules are the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse and are known to be very stubborn.

The Mule mascot was officially announced and accepted Feb. 15, 1922. For more than 50 years, both men's and women's sports teams were represented by the "Mules," but by the early 1970s, women's teams wanted their own mascot. Holding a similar competition, the winning submission of "Jennies" was given by 1974 alum Cynthia Almaguer. ▶



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The Fighting Mules athletic symbol was developed in 1969, while the cartoon mascot, affectionately called Mo the Mule, was developed in 1997.

Several live mules have been used as the mascot. The first was Gizmo shortly after World War II. Little Mo took over in 1950, followed by Roscoe in 1960. Abbedale took over in the 1980s, donated by 1938 alum Sam Smiser. The newest mule is Molly, who appears at events alongside oldtimer Tammy, also known as Mancow after 1988 alum Matthew Erich "Mancow" Muller, who donated funds for her in 2003.

This is an excerpt taken from "University of Central Missouri: 150 Years of Education for Service" by Ashley McGuffey.



Photos and graphics courtesy of University of Central Missouri



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Kevin Smarr
UCM Alumnus 2006



UCM presidents reflect on 150 years of education

By Nicole Cooke

nicolec@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Sixteen men have helped lead the University of Central Missouri over the past 150 years.

George Petrie Beard was the first leader of Warrensburg Normal No. 2 and served for one year, using the title of “Principal” rather than President. In the years following, 15 others shaped the university into what it is today.

The Star-Journal spoke with the four living UCM presidents as they reflect on the 150th anniversary.

Ed M. Elliott 1985-1999

Elliott said his interest in education began as a young student when interacting with his classmates in a mentoring role. That inspiration stuck with him as he became a public school teacher and then progressed through the ranks at various institutions.

While serving as president of Wayne State College in Nebraska in the early 1980s, he received a call from Central Missouri. He said the school held a special place in his heart and for his wife, Sandra, as it is her alma mater and they both spent time on campus while high school sweethearts in Grain Valley.

“I had the longest tenure of any president since Lovinger,” Elliott said. “I have to say, in spite of always having challenges and issues, I loved every moment being the president of Central Missouri,” Elliott said.

When Sandra and Ed toured campus in 1985, he said he observed many things that would be challenging to fix, and that initial tour influenced many of his presidential decisions.

Enrollment had been declining and a reduction in staff was planned, so he introduced an “aggressive” marketing program with area high schools and communities.

“Higher education at that time was just on the verge of aggressive



Photos courtesy of University of Central Missouri
President Roger Best is inaugurated in April 2019 in the UCM Multipurpose Building.

sively promoting connectivity and diversity,” Elliott said. “We were in the early stages of that as campus leaders. We didn’t really understand the long-term ramifications, but it was something that nationally we were working on and we tried to make some changes at Central that would include that. I’m pleased about that.”

He also saw that beautification was needed to help restore buildings and improve the grounds. That led Elliott to introduce a sculpture program on campus, which continues today.

He also found a large number of retired faculty and staff living in the community who had no official connection with the campus, so he introduced the faculty emeriti program that he had started at Wayne State.

During that 1985 tour, College Street still ran through the middle of campus, meaning people had to cross a busy street to get from the student union to the Administration Building. Elliott approached the city about vacating the road, creating the campus people know today.

In a similar situation, students had to cross Maguire Street to get from campus to the residence halls, so Elliott asked the city

and state administration to build a crosswalk.

Sandra worked to renovate the home and grounds at Selmo Park. She invited all freshmen students to take a tour and welcomed the community to their home at least once or twice a year.

The Alumni Association, now part of the UCM Alumni Foundation, was created in the late 1980s to help connect another group to UCM. Then a separate, new entity, Elliott committed to getting more donors for the UCM Foundation, growing its assets from about \$500,000 to more than \$30 million during his tenure.

Other significant accomplishments during Elliott’s tenure include starting a university art collection, constructing a new football stadium, and getting alumnus Jim Crane involved with the university, which eventually led to funding the current baseball stadium. Elliott also helped create the Smiser Alumni Center. He noted Sam Smiser raised mules and he brought a mule-led wagon to Elliott’s inauguration that took Elliott from the Administration Building to the stadium.

The James C. Kirkpatrick

Library was constructed as well, which Elliott said was the largest state capital gift to the university at the time. He called it a “glorious facility.”

He also helped get funding for the Maastricht Tower, which is known as the Friendship Tower.

He said he and Sandra tried to ensure that every new student had a chance to interact with them while serving at UCM. Decades later, Sandra and Ed now live in Lee’s Summit and still get recognized by former students when they go grocery shopping.

“At this station in our lives, we’re proud of a lot of things we’ve been engaged in and involved in over the years, but the 14 we spent in Warrensburg as leaders of the campus are the most consequential years of our working career,” Elliott said. “Having a family is certainly most important, but we lived and breathed Central Missouri when we were there, and you know what, we still do.”

Bobby R. Patton 1999-2005

Patton began his education career as a high school teacher and began teaching at the University of Wichita after a few years. Like Elliott, he progressed through the ranks of higher education institutions across the country until he was named the 13th president of CMSU in 1999.

“I gladly accepted because I saw a great challenge here. A lot of issues needed to be addressed, but we had good state support, a good group of alumni, but a lot of it needed to be harnessed because we didn’t have a lot of external support and our state support was starting to decline,” Patton recalled.

The university formulated a strategic plan and developed four focus areas.

“Rather than just doing things across the board, we had to be more strategic in how we used our dollars,” he said.

During Patton’s tenure, some of the changes included changing the salary schedule and

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI



George P. Beard
1871–1872



James Johonnot
1872–1875



George L. Osborne
1875–1898



George H. Howe
1898–1901



Edwin B. Craighead
1901–1904



James E. Ament
1904–1906



William J. Hawkins
1906–1915



Eldo L. Hendricks
1915–1937



George W. Diemer
1937–1956



Warren C. Lovinger
1956–1979



James M. Horner
1979–1985



Ed M. Elliott
1985–1999



Bobby R. Patton
1999–2005



Aaron M. Podolefsky
2005–2010



Charles M. Ambrose
2010–2018



Roger J. Best
2018–Present

Graphic courtesy of University of Central Missouri

compensation system to attract more highly qualified faculty and finding new funding sources as state support continued to decrease. Patton helped diversify the university's funding sources, such as relying more on student tuition by recruiting more students. International student enrollment strengthened as certain countries learned about UCM's strong programs as alumni returned to their home countries.

Patton also continued Elliott's efforts of connecting with alumni who could help fund projects and programs.

Patton oversaw expanding visibility into the Kansas City area. An outreach program opened in Lee's Summit, an alum working at Union Station allowed UCM to have a long-term lease at the facility for meetings and an office, and UCM took over sponsorship of 10 charter schools in Kansas City.

"It was a very gratifying time because we were supported by our Board of Governors in terms of making the major moves that were needed to both be served by the budgets we had available and the funds to support such endeavors," Patton said.

The university's most recent name change happened during Patton's presidency. As other Missouri schools changed their names, Patton said he felt Central Missouri needed its own identity as well.

"I think Central Missouri has established itself as a quality institution that is available to the people," Patton said. "We went from having open admission to qualified admission to make sure people who come are going to be able to succeed. I think we have a 150-year record of preparing people to be great contributors to our society and are recognized for that."

Patton said he felt good about the quality of education UCM provided and the ability to accommodate so many students who otherwise might not have been in college.

"Eleanor and I loved our time there," Patton said. "We value the



President Ed Elliott is inaugurated as the 12th president of UCM.

memories we have. The problem solving we were able to do, being in a place at a time when we felt like we could realize our vision in the short term for what we wanted the college and university to be and valuing the fact we had great help, great support. We appreciate the opportunity to have been there when we were. It was the fulfillment of my educational dreams."

**Charles M. Ambrose
2010-2018**

After 12 years at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, North Carolina, Ambrose joined as the 15th president of UCM in 2010.

Ambrose said his experiences as an undergraduate student led him to think about a career in higher education. His college president had strong relationships with students and the community, which inspired Ambrose's career path. He joked that he's been a longstanding college student ever since.

Ambrose was familiar with UCM while serving as part of the American Association of Colleges & Universities, where Elliott served as a mentor. He said seeing Elliott serve as president of UCM told him it was a quality university, so he always kept an eye on opportunities at UCM.

Ambrose joined UCM right after the recession ended, which he said made his presidency a "period of unique challenges but also incredible opportunities." Higher education funding in Missouri was still at 1999 levels, he said. ▶

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“But yet the outcome and needs continue to accelerate faster than ever,” he said. “I think by driving partnerships and innovation, we were able to create a lot of energy in a time college began to matter even more.”

As financial stresses on higher education institutions continued and students faced more and more debt, Ambrose said he committed to making a difference in student success.

The Choose Red marketing and branding campaign and a new student success model were born out of that commitment. It focused on degree completion, second-year residency contracts, completion grants, incentives, and constructing The Crossing: “anything that helps you get across the finish line,” he said.

He said faculty and staff worked to make the campus more accessible to students and The Crossing established a new link between campus and community.

Ambrose said UCM always committed to keeping education affordable and often did not raise tuition when other institutions did.

“I am proud of graduates who were the beneficiaries of that who didn’t have to carry that much debt into life, could take that degree and use it, which is incredible,” he said.

Ambrose also worked to strengthen UCM’s relationship with Whiteman Air Force Base and increased military enrollment opportunities.

There was also an “explosive expansion” of international students, which led to a diverse population for UCM and Warrensburg.

“And without question, the thing I’ll appreciate the most was really the creation, design and delivery of the Missouri Innovation Campus in Lee’s Summit,” he said. “It started in 2012 and President Obama came in 2013, so the speed and number of partnerships we had with Gov. Nixon and the State

of Missouri and the support we got from Lee’s Summit R-7, Metropolitan Community College, and business partners, then to have the community turn around and build the campus was a multiplier. A \$40 million facility we were able to build for \$27 million with three partners that any one of us couldn’t have pulled off ourselves was pretty extraordinary. The humility it causes to have Obama come to campus and tell your story is incredible.”

Ambrose said there is a seamless relationship between UCM and Warrensburg, which he said defines the city as a “true learning community.”

“It’s a great time to have a retrospective over 150 years because of the legacy of service, but at the same time, it gives hope that innovation will continue to show the community what’s possible and chart the course for what it can mean for students and their families,” Ambrose said. “It’s a great time to celebrate and double down.”

Roger J. Best 2018 to present

Unlike Elliott, Patton and Ambrose, Best was an internal hire for president. He has been a UCM employee since 1995, when he was hired as an assistant professor of finance.

“My first trip to Missouri was to interview for this job,” he said. “I planned to be here for a few years and go back. By year three, I had fallen in love with the university and figured if they’d keep me, I’d stay as long as I could.”

He became the Harmon College of Business Administration dean in 2010, which became the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies in 2011. He was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer in January 2018 and shortly after was named interim president. The Board of Governors appointed him as president later that year.

“I was feeling extremely humbled and honored to serve

as interim president as asked by the board,” Best said. “The intent was to prepare for the presidential transition, not thinking it would be me. I was even more humbled and honored to be asked to serve without the interim title.”

Best said serving as president has given him an even greater understanding of the consequences of decisions made as an institution.

“I work every day to see where we are today as a result of decisions made over the last 150 years,” he said. “Some were amazing, great and insightful decisions and some were less so. It causes me to pause and think deeply about any decision I’m required to make that may have a long-term impact on the institution. Presidents come and go, but we have students that will be serving long after as alumni for life.”

Best was a faculty member at the Lee’s Summit campus, which was started in 2000, in its early days and has watched it grow. He’s also watched facilities change, including the Ward Edwards Building’s renovation from a library into the Harmon College’s modern home. As dean, Best was part of the campus restructuring during Ambrose’s tenure.

He was even the chair of the inauguration committee when Ambrose was inaugurated, “never thinking I would be on the stage when one was going on for myself.”

“One of the reasons I fell in love with this institution was its people,” Best said. “They have a passion for higher education and our students that is unparalleled. The truly gratifying part of the changes here at the university was what didn’t change during that process, which is our commitment to our students.”

Best has only been president for a few years, but he has led the university through its most challenging situation in a century: the COVID-19 pan-

demic. He said he gained an appreciation for President Eldo Hendricks, who served from 1915-1937, which included the Spanish Flu pandemic.

“We looked back at the archives and a lot of the protocols were exactly what they did — pausing classes, wearing face coverings,” Best said. “It put us really in the moment and not too long-term to make sure faculty and students are well.”

A story that sticks out for Best is from his first year at UCM. During a staff and faculty lunch in the Multi, Elliott stopped by his table.

“Three weeks later, he saw me on campus and called me by name, and it shocked me that the president knew my name,” Best recalled. “I had a strong appreciation for what he was able to do when he was president and the personal interaction he had with all the employees here always stood out to me.”

Best said he has told faculty members that if you were to show someone a photo of an iconic UCM building, they would quickly associate it with UCM. But that’s not what matters, he said.

“When I have a chance to talk with alumni, they don’t ask me how the Administration Building is doing, they ask how their professors are doing or staff members they had the opportunity to engage with,” he said. “Realistically, the fabric of this institution is not our structures, not our buildings we go into that comprise campus. It’s our people — the faculty, staff and students and alumni as well.

“From my perspective, it’s the commitment of those individuals that allows us to celebrate 150 years of existence with the full intent that we’ll be here 150 years from now. What we do today matters not just today but tomorrow and 150 years from now.”

Nicole Cooke can be reached at 660-530-0138 or on Twitter @NicoleRCooke.



The University of Central Missouri Alumni Foundation is located in the Elliott Student Union.

Photos by Sara Lawson
| Star-Journal

Alumni relations, donations part of university since day one

By Sara Lawson

saral@warrensburgstarjournal.com

From the first year, the University of Central Missouri Alumni Foundation has grown and changed with the university and now serves to work with alumni as well as fundraise for the university.

The history of the organization begins in 1871 when an alumni association was established, the same year Normal School No. 2 first opened its doors with 30 students, because the school had students graduate that first year with a one-year certificate.

Normal School No. 2 was founded on 20 acres of land donated by Melville U. Foster.

"From day one, from the minute this university came into existence, philanthropy has played a role in that," Jackie Jackson, UCM Alumni Foundation associate vice president, said. "That's a big part of what we do here in the fundraising aspect."

The foundation was created in 1979 as a nonprofit organization that worked on fundraising for the institution.

"It was two separate entities, one focused on alumni engagement, volunteerism, keeping the database of alumni when they graduate and the other was the foundation that focused on fundraising," Jackson said. "In 2015 we filed to become one entity and in 2016 our board voted and approved (the foundation)."

Jackson said the mission of the foundation is to cultivate, manage and distribute resources.

"We're solely tied as a fundraising organization to the University of Central Missouri," Jackson said. "We don't fundraise for any other projects outside of what would support UCM."

The funds raised by the foundation go toward awarding

scholarships and operating costs for the university including academic programs, faculty development, research projects, facilities and equipment.

"We're always seeking scholarships for recruitment or for retention to help students get to UCM or to help students stay here who are having financial difficulties," Jackson said. "We have our Central Annual Fund and that's the backbone of everything we do and that's unrestricted support that allows the university to flex those funds to where it's needed most."

The foundation works to maintain the university's relationship with alumni and donors and helps find future donors as well as managing external relations with the community and local groups.

"When we cultivate those resources, support is kind of a tricky word because it implies it's always money when a lot of times it's about volunteerism, alumni coming back and engaging with students and sharing their experiences and their career advice," Jackson said.

The foundation manages more than \$70 million in assets under management.

"Our vision is to transform the lives of UCM students, to create opportunities for them beyond what they imagined possible," Jackson said. "Everything we do is for students at UCM."

It was announced in March 2021 the largest planned gift, a value of \$20 million, has been promised to the university, but will not be received for a number of years. The donation, from John Spillman Jones who graduated from State Normal School in 1912, is through a trust agreement.

"Our history plays such a huge part in what the foundation is doing," Jackson said. "It's all so intertwined." ►

A bust of University of Central Missouri alumnus Dale Carnegie stands in the commons area on campus.



Previous substantial donations include the land for the Prussing Farm where the live mule mascots are groomed for events.

Notable alumni from the university include Dale Carnegie, writer and lecturer, and Jim Crane, owner of the Houston Astros.

“Historically speaking, when the foundation was started we were here as the ‘margin of excellence,’” Jackson said. “The university received state funds and could do what it needed to do to achieve its mission, and the foundation was kind of like the icing on top.”

Jackson said the purpose of the foundation used to be to provide a margin of excellence beyond state funds.

“This has shifted a little bit over time to where UCM is a lot more reliant on philanthropy and giving from our alumni donors to support what our university does so well, and we aim to still be providing that margin of excellence,” Jackson said.

“It shifted a little bit over time to where we’re a lot more reliant on philanthropy and giving from our alumni donors to support what our university does so well and we hope to still be providing that margin of excellence,” Jackson said.

As part of the UCM 150 celebration, the foundation currently has an initiative called Fuel Opportunity consisting of 15 capital projects.

“Our goal is to focus on fundraising for tangible projects that will have a direct and immediate student impact,” Jackson said.

Jackson said the foundation focuses on four pillars of engagement when working with alumni, including experiential, philanthropy, interactive communication and volunteerism.

“When donors contact us and have any area they want to support, like they want to support their academic program or an athletic team or the Campus Cupboard, we put those gifts to use where the donor wants them,” Jackson said.

*Congratulations
on 150 years!*



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1871

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While many things have changed since the early days of State Normal School No. 2, one thing remains the same — our commitment to student success. We provide students with unparalleled support, exceptional academic programs, valuable learning opportunities and affordable access to a high-quality education. Share in our legacy of "Education for Service" and be part of the celebration!

Visit 150.ucmo.edu to learn about our sesquicentennial events, view a historical photo gallery and test your UCM history knowledge with the Mule quiz!

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