

Welcome to the annual State of the University Address

- Thank you Glen.
- Begin by congratulating all of the award winners who will follow me to the stage.
- Also want to welcome all of our new faculty members to campus.
- We're glad that you're here and know you'll do great things as instructors and researchers.

I'm really excited about this academic year – one of the primary reasons being of course the great foundation set last year

Last fall ... at 16,809 ... UMSL tied its record for total student enrollment

- Several other records or firsts included ...
 - 24 average ACT for freshmen – well above state and national averages.
 - Record for GPAs of incoming freshmen and transfer students.
 - For the first time ever ... university-owned housing was full.

Student highlights included Tracy Mulderig's 2-year appointment to represent students on Board of Curators

- Tracy is a doctoral student in industrial/organizational psychology and is interning at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health.
- Bachelor's degree from Truman State University and master's from UMSL.
- She's insightful and just a joy to work with.

UMSL's student athletes performed exceedingly well in and out of the classroom

- UMSL's 11 teams have a combined 170 – 100 – 4 record, which is an outstanding .635 winning percentage!
- To put that in perspective – that's like the Cardinals winning 104 games. Last year they won the National League Championship with 97 wins.

And a record 84 student athletes received Academic All-GLVC honors

- Can you imagine that ... 45 percent of our student athletes are performing at the highest level possible athletically and academically.
- Commend coaches and entire athletics department staff for focusing on academics and recruiting students who are also great athletes.

UMSL granted nearly 3,100 degrees and certificates last year

- UMSL now has more than 88,000 graduates who can be found in all 50 states and 68 foreign countries.
- But their greatest impact – 63,000 strong – is being felt right here in Missouri.
- Indeed, we educate and provide the workforce for the St. Louis region.

Academic Analytics

UMSL faculty ranked 14th nationally in productivity for universities with “high research activity”

- Other schools in that top group include William and Mary, Boston College, Syracuse, Wake Forest and Texas Tech.
- UMSL ranks first in Missouri in the “High Research Activity” – the second highest category which includes Missouri S&T, UMKC and SLU.

Academic Analytics

12 individual programs ranked among Top 50 in their respective fields

- Counselor Education 2nd.
- Information Systems 4th.
- Criminology & Criminal Justice 9th.
- Social Work 15th.
- Philosophy 33rd.
- Finance 36th.
- Accounting 37th.
- Educational Psychology 38th.
- Communication 44th.
- Logistics and Operations Management 47th.
- Applied Mathematics 50th.
- Anthropology 50th.

STL Public Radio gained listeners and clickers after adding STL Beacon journalists into its operation

- KWMU is broadcasting and posting more and better news content that is reaching record on-air and online audiences.
- Monthly audiences have grown to 400,000 listeners and 150,000 unique website visitors.
- St. Louis Public Radio is a great community asset and helps extend the UMSL brand.

At \$31.2M ... UMSL set a record for private gifts and pledges

- Donors were outstanding in their support of scholarships, buildings and the mercantile library.
- We now have five endowed positions associated with the library –
 - 3 in the library itself
 - And 1 each in the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and Business Administration.

One of the first questions asked when I meet potential donors is ... “Do you invest in yourself?”

- Because of you ... the answer is a resounding YES.
- Last year more than 400 of our faculty and staff donated a collective \$1.8M to help our students excel.
- This is outstanding, and I thank you.

UMSL broke ground on a Recreation and Wellness Center

- Construction of the \$36M center is on schedule to open in fall of 2015.
- The 99,000 SF building will include
 - 3-court gym
 - 3-lane elevated running track
 - 4 fitness rooms
 - fitness/recreation pool
 - climbing wall
 - juice bar
- Funded primarily through a student-approved fee.

Also started construction on the Science Learning Building

- The badly needed 75,000 SF building will include
 - state-of-the-art teaching laboratories
 - solarium/town center
- Funded by a \$32M bond we're paying off through internal reallocation.
- We expect to open this facility in 2015 as well.

So what do we expect this academic year?

- More records.
- More student and faculty accolades.
- And more construction.

There's a real possibility that total enrollment can reach 17,000 students

- First-day, on-campus enrollment was up 1% at the undergraduate level and 2.5% at the graduate level.
- Off-campus enrollment – including our ACP students – is trending better than that.
- So, I'm looking forward to Oct. 1 official enrollment report.

And it's not just quantity ... the quality of our incoming freshmen class is again outstanding

- 541 freshmen – a 7% increase from last year.
- Class has highest average ACT ever.
- Helped UMSL achieve a 6% increase of students in campus-owned housing.
- We actually had to kick people out of offices to house students.

US News & World Report ranked our International Business program the best in Missouri and 16th overall nationally earlier this month

- 12th consecutive year in publication's Top 20.
- Program was 14th last year; as high as 8th in past editions.
- Great news for our business college and speaks well of the overall academic quality of UMSL.

For 2nd straight year, UMSL has received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from *Insights into Diversity* magazine

- Recognizes universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to **diversity** and **inclusion**.
- I want to thank each of you for your commitment to civility, diversity and quality.

As if you hadn't noticed ... MoDOT started the transformation of Natural Bridge into a Great Street this summer

- \$14M project will reformat Natural Bridge between Lucas & Hunt and North Hanley.
- While disruptive now ... we expect this project will greatly enhance the connection between our North and South campuses.
- It also should generally enhance the social and economic environment around campus.
- Completion by late 2015.

Begin construction of the Optometry Patient Care Center in January

- The \$17M, 48,000 SF building will be located along Natural Bridge Road.
- 13,000 SF of leasable shell space
 - Primary health care and dental care
- 1st phase of the proposed Nursing-Optometry Complex.
- Funding coming from the college and student-approved fee.

We fully expect to break ground this academic year on a new Business Building

- Our faculty and alumni are excited by the way in which this 46,000 SF structure will enhance the academic experience of students – and so am I.
- Legislature has approved a \$10M match of private gifts UMSL has received for the facility.
- We're currently consulting with Gov. Jay Nixon to secure the release of those matching funds.

Speaking of the governor ... last week he released 5% performance funding for the University of Missouri System

- According to President Wolfe ... this translates into \$2.4M for UMSL – targeted primarily for scholarships.
- With the help of state Rep. Rick Stream ... the legislature had also included our final equity adjustment of \$1.4M into its budget.
- That measure did not emerge from the veto session last week.

We're celebrating two anniversaries this year of importance to our students and alumni

- First ... the Newman Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary here at UMSL.
- The Newman Center is the oldest student organization on campus.
- Literally, thousands of UMSL students have met and created life-long friends [and marriages] at the Newman Center.
- We wish our friends in the Newman Center a happy birthday.

The Pierre Laclède Honors College is celebrating its 25th anniversary

- Started as an academic unit in Arts & Sciences ... the Honors College today enrolls nearly 600 students and is offering 48 honors seminars this semester.
- Many people have contributed to its success – none more so than Bob Bliss and Nancy Gleason. Both are retiring – Nancy soon and Bob at the end of this academic year. Please stand to be recognized.

The tragedy and incidents started in Ferguson have affected and changed us all

- I want to thank you – the UMSL community – for the way in which you have led this campus to respond.
- Collectively, reaching out to those most in need providing
 - counseling services.
 - food and other supplies.
 - a forum for civil and thoughtful manner.
 - faculty expertise to media, governments and organizations

Gov. Nixon appreciated this campus' response ... using UMSL as a temporary headquarters

- UMSL will continue to be involved in the rebuilding process with state, local and business partners.
- I've asked Patricia Zahn to help coordinate our external partnerships related to Ferguson ... with help from Rob Paul at MIMH.
- What we have done so far is just a beginning.

In closing today ... let me say that this is the 12th time that I've had privilege to give the State of the University Address

- Together, we've faced challenges and celebrated successes.
- And today ... because of you... we continue to excel as we provide the very best in education and service to our community and beyond.
- Thank you for all you do!