

Board of Governors Report – Academic Affairs
April 17, 2015

Several of us attended the annual conference of the North Central Association **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** held the last weekend of March in Chicago. Sessions addressed such issues as strategies for assessing General Education outcomes; institutional support for student learning; involving faculty and staff in the assessment process; and many other vital topics that will be valuable to us as we prepare for our next comprehensive evaluation scheduled for 2017-2018.

We recently received provisional approval from MDHE to offer a new graduate program: **Master of Science in Management** with two tracks, General Management and Human Resource Management. We are currently seeking approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Dr. Al Cade, former Dean, School of Education, Professor of Teacher Education, was posthumously awarded the **Governor's Award of Excellence** in Education. This award is presented to an outstanding faculty member from each participating higher education institution in the state. A lunch was held in Jefferson City on April 7th to honor the recipients. Al's wife, Dorothy, accepted the award on his behalf. Several family members, as well as Dr. Marble and I, attended the event.

The second annual **World Music & Cuisine Festival** was held on Saturday evening, April 11th, with approximately 1,000 people listening to the music and sampling the food in Billingsly Student Center. The food was prepared and served by 15 international student groups, eight international faculty and staff, and four ethnic restaurants. The event attracted quite a few people from the area, many of whom stayed the entire four hours.

The Southern Symphonic Chorus, the Southern Symphony Orchestra, and the Chamber Singers were featured at the **Ein Deutsches Requiem** held on April 12th at the Central Christian Center. Dr. David Sharlow was the conductor for this amazing musical event.

Seven faculty-led **study abroad trips** were approved for May and June, to the following nine countries: Costa Rica, France, Spain, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark, Japan, and Sweden.

The 26th annual Missouri Southern **Regional Science Fair** was held on March 24th with representation from 15 area schools. A total of 125 projects with 111 students participated in the event, with one grand prize winner of the senior division going on to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, PA in May. Dr. Alla Peters, Assistant Professor of Biology, served as the special awards coordinator. She secured sponsors from the local business community and awarded over \$1000 in new prizes including an iPad and cash. Dr. Donna Johnson, Associate Professor of Biology, served as chair of the scientific review committee, assuring that all projects follow Intel ISEF rules and regulations. Dr. Vickie Roettger, Professor of Biology, served as the Director, while over 20 Missouri Southern faculty participate each year as judges or in other capacities to support our regional fair.

The annual **Southwest Missouri High School District Solo/Ensemble Festival** was held on our campus on March 27th and 28th. Nearly 2000 high school students participated in vocal and instrumental competition.

More than 600 area high school students competed for prizes and scholarships during our 37th Annual **Business Contest** that was held on campus April 1st. Over 25 high schools battled in individual and team events in categories such as accounting, business math, personal finance, banking, and website development.

The annual **Foreign Language Field Day** will be held at MSSU on April 21st. The event is expected to draw over 1000 students from 33 high schools from the Four State area. Students compete in vocabulary recognition, reading comprehension, geography, poetry reading, culture bowl, and skits in French, German, and Spanish. Dr. James Kilpatrick, Associate Professor of Spanish, serves as the director of the event.

The Missouri Southern Social Sciences Department recently hosted **Missouri Region 6 History Day**. For the 25th year, Dr. Paul Teverow served as the coordinator of the event. Students from area high schools, junior high schools, and middle schools were invited to enter. Judges included Missouri Southern faculty as well as volunteers from the community with a special interest in history. There were nearly 200 entries with 45 of them qualifying to advance to the state competition in Columbia. Dr. Conrad Gubera and Dr. Teverow will serve as judges for the state event.

Math League is sponsored annually by our Mathematics Department. High school students compete on our campus on five dates during the academic year. Twelve area schools participated this year with a total of 233 students displaying their math knowledge.

The Spring **All-Faculty meeting** will be held at 3:00 on April 29th. In addition to the election of faculty senators for next year, faculty will be asked to vote on the new Faculty Handbook.

Retirements:

- Dr. Elaine Freeman (hired 1980) – Professor, Teacher Education
- Dr. Vikki Spencer (hired 1989) – Professor, Teacher Education

New hires:

- Dr. Rabindra Bajracharya – Assistant Professor, Physics
- Mr. Jacob Boswell – Assistant Professor, Mathematics
- Dr. John Davenport – Assistant Professor, Geography
- Mr. William Fischer – Assistant Professor, History
- Mr. Tim Wilson – Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice

Resignations:

- Dr. Anna Cunningham – Assistant Professor, Biology
- Dr. Karen Turman – Assistant Professor, Foreign Language (French)

Additional Announcements:

- Dr. Deb Brown – Interim Dean, School of Education
- Ms. Lorinda Hackett – Interim Department Chair, Teacher Education