



# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

R E P O R T

N O V E M B E R 8 , 2 0 2 4

# DR. DEAN VAN GALEN

## PRESIDENT

### SUMMARY OF FALL ENROLLMENT

The official university fall census date of September 13 occurred after the last meeting of the Board. To review, enrollment highlights from fall 2024 (compared to fall 2023) include:

- Increase of 1.24% in overall headcount enrollment
- Increase of 66% in graduate headcount enrollment
- Increase of 26% in international student enrollment
- Third consecutive semester of growth in new students



### CRAGIN ART GALLERY



At a September 27th ceremony, the university honored the Missouri Southern legacy of the Spiva and Cragin families by rededicating the university art gallery, formally the Spiva Art Gallery, as the Cragin Art Gallery. George A. Spiva was a catalyst of efforts to purchase the 230-acre Mission Hills Estate in the mid-1960s—the current home to MSSU—and made a personal gift to support that effort. The four grandchildren of Mr. Spiva (children of John Cragin and Joy Spiva-Cragin) supported the renaming of the Gallery and generously established a new endowment fund as part of the Lions Forward Campaign. Proceeds from the endowment will be used to produce and promote exhibitions and care for the Cragin Art Gallery space in perpetuity.

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS OF 1974 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM



As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of women's athletics at Missouri Southern, it was most appropriate that the 1974 Women's Basketball team was inducted into the MSSU Athletics Hall of Fame on October 12. We are grateful to the 1974 team, coached by Sallie Beard, for paving the way for future opportunities for women student-athletes at Missouri Southern. The photo provided is from the induction event in Young Gym and includes members of the 1974 team along with members of our current women's basketball team.

## SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2025 SESSION

We look forward to working with the next Governor of the State of Missouri and the state legislature to advance public higher education and Missouri Southern. Here is a summary of our draft priorities for the 2025 session—these will be adjusted as we gain additional feedback from our elected officials:

State Priorities (from CBHE)	MSSU Specific Priorities
3% Core Budget Increase	Update Statewide Mission (concurrent resolution)
MoExcels Funding	Continue Science-to-Jobs funding
Maintenance and Repair Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal Justice Gym Floor</li> <li>• Young Plumbing (phase 1)</li> </ul>	Additional Capital or Repair Projects



### GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

The daily work of our outstanding staff and faculty is very diverse, but all roles are important to the success of the university and its students. In a rather astounding example of that work, on October 11 our Facility Services staff was tasked with solving a problem. The cable system used to hoist the American flag in front of the Billingsly Student Center frayed and malfunctioned. Repair required use of the 100' lift to pull new cable and replace the turret assembly. Robert Frossard, Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor, came to the rescue. His actions are a great example of going above and beyond to support the university's mission. Thank you, Robert.



# DR. BRAD HODSON

## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

### BLUNT HEALTH SCIENCE INNOVATION CENTER

- Drilling, rebar, and filling of 81 support piers completed in mid-October.
- In November, structural masonry going up (elevator shafts and stairwell towers) as well as mechanical and electrical underground rough-in.
- Steel erection taking place in early January with steel delivery slated for mid-December.
- Slab on grade concrete pour taking place in mid-January.
- Project to date:

**Two weather days** claimed by Crossland (out of 20 built into schedule); expect significant weather in first two weeks of November.

**Four change orders** submitted: three accepted for a net credit of \$7,617. Fourth rejected as unnecessary (trench drains in elevator pits).

**Owner's contingency** at \$95,093 (net increase of \$6,500 with change orders).

**Current total project** budget of \$48.2 million.

**Current total commitments** and cash on hand for the BHSIC of \$47 million

**Fundraising gap** to be filled of \$1.2 million

### LIONS FORWARD FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

- As of October 31, 2024, the Lions Forward campaign had received documented commitments of \$35.1 million
- Total commitments documented in the current fiscal year: \$3.5 million; goal for FY2025 is \$37 million by June 30th; leaving \$1.9 million.
- Asks in follow up of \$3.58 as of October 31, 2024.
- Ten gifts of \$1 million or more received; 206 of \$25,000+ from 2,544 campaign donors.



## CAPITAL CONSTRUCTIONS PROJECTS COMPLETED

The following projects have been completed by Facility Services in the first four months of Fiscal Year 2025:

- Gipson Center for Data Analytics (remodel in Plaster)
- Art 105 Sculpture Studio (part of Three-Year Facilities Improvement Plan)
- Hearnes Hall (renovations from water damage)
- Reynolds 232 Tiered Classroom (part of Three-Year Facilities Improvement Plan)
- BSC Ballroom Bathrooms (remodel)
- Hearnes Hall Parking Lot (new asphalt and striping)
- Kinesiology Department (new carpet)
- Music Department (new ceiling tiles)
- Science Annex (removed and donated to New Heights Christian Academy)
- Anderson Criminal Justice (MoExcels renovations)
- University Storm Damage (from May 6th storm)
- East Hall (renovations from water damage)
- Young Gym Entry (athletics hall of fame remodel)
- Quads (wood decking replacement and repair of fire and water damage)

An additional 18 active projects currently under management by Facility Services with a total value of \$52.6 million and four projects assigned to the on-call architect for scope development.

# DR. LISA TOMS

PROVOST / VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Angie Durburow was recently selected to serve as the Graduate Director at MSSU. Dr. Durburow is a 2006 graduate of Missouri Southern State University with a B.S.E in Business Education. She taught in SE Kansas for nine years before moving into school administration. She was a K12 principal and Assistant Superintendent in a rural school district for four years. She came to Missouri Southern in 2019 and has spent five years as an instructor in the Teacher Education department and as Graduate Coordinator of the Masters of Science in K-12 Education Administration. She has a master's degree and an Ed.S from Pitt State and her Ed.D in Educational Leadership from the University of Arkansas.

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Provost/VPAA Lisa Toms partnered with Student Senate to host a two-day event to raise awareness of breast cancer. Students sold pink ribbon lapel pins, luminaries, and t-shirts on October 24 – 25 and had “minute to win it” games for students. Over \$600 was raised, and all proceeds will be donated to Hope4You, our local breast cancer support group.



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. Melvyn Mosher, emeritus Chemistry professor, and Mrs. Donna Mosher donated a collection of soapstone Inuit Art to campus around 15 years ago. The collection is now on display on the 2nd floor of Webster Hall. On October 2nd, the collection was dedicated with several government officials from Canada present.



On October 2nd, MSSU's Concert Band performed Canadian music with several Canadian government officials present.



On October 9-12th, the Department of Performing Arts performed School House Rock Live for over 2,100 elementary school students and community members.



League of Lions hosted Susan Hickman, Executive Director of Lafayette House for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Hickman stated, "We understand how many lives we can impact in our community. We are grateful to be a resource, a provider, a community collaborator so that we all can help individuals and families become safe, empowered, and independent." BSW junior and League of Lion's Secretary, Kimberly Sampson, who assisted in coordinating the visit stated, "I was so excited to have Lafayette House come to speak to our League of Lions club in honor of Domestic

Violence Awareness month about their services in our community. Not only are we learning about areas we may want to explore for our practicum or as a career when we obtain our degrees, but we are seeing social work in action, and it just gets me excited for when I graduate and get out in the field." Connect | Advocate | Empower For more informational resources from Lafayette House visit: <https://www.lafayettehouse.org/>

Macro advocacy! Students and community members attended trainings by Cassie Brown, Executive Director of NASW-MO. Participants were empowered with information on legislative process and advocacy skills that make their voice personable and impactful. This is Ms. Brown's second visit to Missouri Southern.



Prof. Wilson and Eldred start their 4 day training at the CSWE Annual Program Meeting. They are excited to attend several training sessions to continue elevating and strengthening the BSW Program!

On Thursday, 10/24, Dr. Rebecca Mouser, Dr. Lisa McGunigal, and Dr. Hannah Dow hosted a Graduate School Panel and Q&A session for MSSU students. Faculty panelists included Whitney Hamm, Archivist/Librarian, Assistant Professor at Spiva Library, and Dr. Leah Orr, English Department Chair at University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Also in attendance were MSSU alumni who have pursued MAs and PhDs in English literature and writing. During the session, the panelists described their decisions to pursue graduate degrees in their field, their career goals and aspirations, and how a graduate degree prepared them accordingly. They also offered advice to current students, who were given time to ask questions of the panelists and faculty in attendance.

Our local chapter of the International English Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta (advised by Dr. Amy Gates) hosted a fun pumpkin painting event for members and campus friends. This was a great opportunity to enjoy beautiful weather under the magnolia trees at the tables outside Kuhn Hall, listen to music, chat, and destress while engaging our creative sides between classes

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH, LIFE SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

The MSSU Department of Nursing hosted a signing ceremony on Wednesday, October 23, to establish an RN to BSN articulation agreement between Missouri Southern State University and Crowder College.

MSSU nursing students recently participated in the CoxHealth Lamar Health Fair ON October 4 to provide health screenings for community participants.

MSSU nursing students also participated in the Southern Stampede to provide basic medical assessments for participants.



Dental Hygiene students traveled to Jasper School District on October 25. They performed dental health screenings for 137 students with 79 students receiving sealants.

The Respiratory Therapy program recently received an equipment donation from Cox Medical Center South in Springfield. The equipment is a high-frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV) unit and is the first of its kind within the MSSU Respiratory Therapy program. Students will now be able to learn how to use this type of ventilation system - it reduces ventilator-associated injury and can improve surgical comfort and respiratory status compared to conventional ventilation.





Dr. Penning, Associate Professor of Biology, and 17 MSSU research students attended the Midwest Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) Conference at the University of Tulsa on October 19. The mission of this society is to foster research, education, public awareness, and understanding of living organisms, from molecules and cells to ecology and evolution. Students participated in poster presentations for their research and Dr. Penning gave an oral presentation.

The Reptile Physiology Lab now has new inhabitants thanks to a donation from a private facility in California: two Eastern Indigo snakes. These snakes are very rare and listed under the Endangered Species Act. These snakes are apex predators and have incredible bite force. Their specific predation habits will provide for new studies in this area. The Reptile Physiology Lab has ~175 individual snakes representing 32 species.

## MOSO CAPS

The Missouri Southern Center for Advanced Professional Studies (MOSO CAPS) began. We have seen steady growth in the program from the inaugural class of 43 student associates in August 2022. This year we have 67 student associates and recognize that we will reach our target goal of 90 students within the next few years. Our retention rate for our student associates who begin as Juniors and continue with us as a Senior is 93%. Each year we have had only one junior who has not been able to return due to a scheduling conflict at their sending high school. The retention rate is reflective of the quality program that the MOSO CAPS team has built and the experiences the student associates get from the commitment of our 180+ industry partners. Furthermore, the matriculation of MOSO CAPS students to full-time first-time freshmen is a little more than 40%.

Each fall, first year MOSO CAPS student associates are placed at four different Industry. Partner locations while second year MOSO CAPS Ambassador placements can range from 1-4 placements depending on the strand. This fall over 250 Industry Partner placements were made, securing individualized immersive learning experiences for CAPS students. Our program would not be successful without our amazing local industry partners in the fields of Health Sciences, Business, and Human Services.

## TESTING SERVICES

Stephanie Scheulen, The Director at the Missouri High School Equivalency Office, recently visited the MSSU Testing Services Center as part of her tour to all HiSET/GED exam centers in Missouri. The feedback was positive, with Ms. Scheulen expressing her appreciation for our facilities and private ADA testing room. She found our policies and procedures to be properly aligned with the sponsors' rules.

## **SPIVA LIBRARY**

Thanks to grant funding, the Feed the Pride program at the Spiva Library is able to offer cooking classes and supplies to students on campus. Students attend cooking classes that focus on cooking healthy meals and food safety tips. The classes utilize a mobile kitchen in the Library. Students can also check out utensils and tools from the Library of Things to further their practice. Spiva Library is also home to the Lion Cooper which offers food, personal items, and cleaning supplies free to students.

# LINDA EIS

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### AUDIT FISCAL YEAR 2024

As presented earlier, the annual audit is complete. This year the review encompassed four federal programs in addition to the finance review. There were new audit procedures and review of the programs. We take great pride in presenting an unmodified/clean audit. No findings. A special thank you to Michelle Arwood, Director of Accounting, for her significant work throughout the audit process. In addition, it takes campus-wide effort year-round to achieve these results. Thank you to our team members across campus for their part in this success. It truly is OUR success.



### REPORTING

After completion of the annual audit, yearly reports are due this fall and early spring including IPEDS data, Higher Learning Commission financial ratios, continuing bond disclosures, Athletic NCAA/EADA just to name a few. It is a reminder that our audit is a reflection of our operations and utilized by departments across campus, and by state and federal agencies that provide university resources in the form of grants and financial aid awards.

### INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Open enrollment for annual insurance selections were done in the month of October. Over 400 employees made their selections for the 2025 calendar year.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources will provide two informative sessions (Human Resources: Elevating the Employee Experience) on November 19 as part of the YourU series. The sessions will provide information on the numerous services they provide for our employees. The YourU series is an opportunity to engage with employees on topics that provide more insight about the university. It is a wonderful opportunity for informal discussion and engagement.

It is the time of year where we begin work on the annual employee appreciation brunch event. This is a time we come together to celebrate our employees with their impressive length of service (anywhere between 5 years up to 40 years). Everything they do makes a difference and is impactful to our students. We recognize an outstanding classified employee and professional employee for their exemplary dedication and service to students, faculty, and staff. The brunch is the kickoff to our winter break.



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Presentation of the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2024.

Lions **Forward**. Lions **Together**.

# DR. SHELLIE HEWITT

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

## FALL 2024 RECRUITMENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



We've had a very busy fall semester recruiting future Lions! To date, Missouri Southern has hosted 27 events and group tours. Off campus we've had 170 high school visits and attended 108 recruitment fairs. Additionally, travel abroad to recruit internationally has resumed and Missouri Southern visited Istanbul, Turkey for two recruitment fairs and has plans to visit the British Virgin Islands later this month.

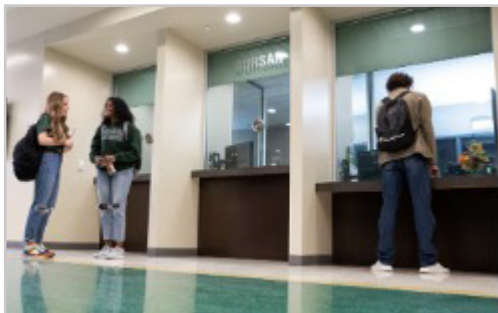
## DUAL CREDIT HIGHLIGHTS



Enrollment for dual credit this fall increased 10% from last fall. We are gaining a reputation for offering high schools students access to quality college courses at an affordable cost, including our On the Move tuition waiver for students with financial need beyond federal funding.

We had three new instructors approve from Carthage High School and we've had inquiries from other school districts like Webb City and Northwestern R-1 School District.

## BURSAR UPDATE



The Bursar's Office completed and submitted the university Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) for 2024. Also, spring 2024 payment plans are available, offering students the ability to break their student bill into as many as seven monthly payments.

## UNIVERSITY MARKETING UPDATE

University Relations and Marketing welcomed new director, Abby Morris, late-October who comes with extensive experience in higher education marketing and communications. Missouri Southern provides an exciting opportunity for her to bring her knowledge to the next level as she departed from a community college in Kansas that recently experienced an uptick in enrollment due in part to initiatives launched within their strategic enrollment management plan. On a personal note, Abby's daughter, Cady is a transfer student at MSSU where she also plays softball.

The Fall 2024 edition of Crossroads magazine is in full content production as key team members compile the



first-round draft expected to go to editing in early November. The magazine features stories to include Olympian Rajindra Campbell, Dr. David Penning's students' advancing fieldwork, as well as the story of Tulsa homicide detective Mark Kennedy who is featured on popular TV show, *The First 48*, just to name a few.

A top priority for the URM department moving into the winter months is creating a structured timeline to produce a new television commercial to have finalized ahead of the Fall 2025 semester. Concepts are currently in the works that will be reviewed to assess the logistics and timeline necessary to prepare the deliverable.

## FINANCIAL AID UPDATE



To date, we have disbursed 1,111 unique merit-based scholarships to students. This includes transfer and MOSO Merit programs. There are 459 students currently utilizing our A+ Scholarship. Spring-only scholarship awarding started a few weeks ago for new students who did not start in the Fall and incoming transfer students. Processes have been developed to begin awarding our new graduate-level scholarships.

The 25-26 Foundation Scholarship application opened October 7. We currently have over 300 applications and will have several promotional pushes to students in the coming weeks. We currently have a priority deadline of February 1 for this applications and recipients will begin being selected in late February/early March.

## GLOBAL LEADERS UPDATE

Fall semester in the Global Leaders program is off to a great start, with a successful first site visit and service project with the Lion Co-op in the books. We are excited to have two of our featured speakers coming to campus this upcoming month, Dr. David Robinson, from Tarleton State University on November 1st, and Dr. Angie Besendorfer, an alumna of Missouri Southern, on November 14th. Senator Jill Carter's speaking event has been rescheduled to Wednesday, December 4th and will take place at noon in the Ron Richards Athletic Center and is open to the public. We also look forward to celebrating our two Global Leaders students who will be graduating this December.



## TRIO PROGRAMS

Talent Search recruiting for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, which began September 1st, has been successful. They have surpassed their goal of 542 students (from 5 school districts), with 555 students, and counting. They have begun the 7/8-month process of rewriting the Talent Search grant for the next five-year cycle, 2026-2031. The expected application deadline is early summer.

Talent Search is waiting for the US Department of Education to announce the due date to submit the Talent Search Annual Performance Report. We have met and/or exceeded each of our federally mandated goals for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Upward Bound has finished recruiting and filled all their open seats. They received 59 applications from area students and of those 25 were selected to participate in the program. Currently, they a total of 70 students from five schools: East Newton High School, Joplin High School, Webb City High School, Carl Junction High School, and Carthage High School

## REGISTRAR UPDATE



The Registrar's Office continues their efforts with installation and implementation of the new Student Educational Planner. To date, they have created 144 major code templates, hosted advisor trainings, created advisor and student training guides and videos. These efforts allow advisors to better serve students during enrollment and degree completion planning.

# ROB MALLORY

## DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

### **MSSU ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2024**

On Saturday, October 12 the Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame grew to include 143 individuals and 10 teams with the induction of the Class of 2024. New members of the Hall of Fame are Larry Barnes (Football), Arley Smith (Track & Field), the 2009 Women's Cross Country Team, and the 1974-75 Women's Basketball Team. The inductees attended a reception on Friday evening in the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center and were officially inducted at a brunch ceremony the following day.

Larry Barnes played football at MSSU from 1975-78 and lead the team in rushing during the 1976 and 1977 seasons. He was named an honorable mention All-American in both seasons. Upon the completion of his playing career, he was the Lions all-time leading rusher and still stands third all-time in career rushing yardage.

Arley Smith was a member of the football and track & field teams from 2001-2004. He was a standout in a number of throws events, winning five MIAA championships in four different events: the hammer throw (2003), shot put (2004), discus throw (2004), and weight throw (2003, 2004). At the national level, Smith was a four-time All-American, earning that distinction in the shot put (2002 – 2nd place), discus throw (2002 – 7th place), weight throw (2004 – 4th place), and hammer throw (2004 – 6th place).

The 2009 Women's Cross Country team won the MIAA championship, South Central Regional Championship, and finished 3rd at the NCAA Division II National Championship event. The Lions put six runners in the top seven at the MIAA event, six in the top 10 at the regional, and had four All-American finishes at nationals: Ashley Siler, Kimi Shank, Courtney Waltbillig, and Ashley Bunch.

The 1974-75 Women's Basketball team was inducted for meritorious service as the team that started women's athletics at Missouri Southern. The team started when a group of female students asked Sallie Beard if she could help them start a basketball team. The team quickly came together and would go 9-2 in their inaugural season. Following basketball, tennis and softball teams were started during the same academic year. The induction of the 1974-75 Women's Basketball team was part of the celebration of 50 years of women's athletics at MSSU.

### **TRICK OR TREAT SO OTHERS CAN EAT**

Student-Athletes recently completed the 16th annual "Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat" food drive, collecting canned goods and other non-perishable items from neighborhoods throughout the community. The items are donated in support of Souls Harbor, a local human services and homeless shelter, located at 817 S Main St in



Joplin. This year's event was very successful, bringing in 8,618 items for donation, the largest number on record for the event. The donation came at a critical time for Souls Harbor, as they announced in mid-October that they were temporarily closing their food pantry due to a lack of inventory.



### **MSSU TO HOST NCAA CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL**

For the sixth consecutive year, Missouri Southern will host the NCAA Division II Central Region Men's and Women's Cross Country Championship on campus at the nationally recognized Tom Rutledge Cross Country Course. Races will take place on Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 AM (Men) and 11:15 AM (Women). This marks the eighth time Missouri Southern has hosted this event in the thirteen seasons following regional realignment in 2012, and we are slated to host again in 2025. Additionally, in the most recent NCAA Championships bid cycle, MSSU was awarded the Central Region Championship again in 2027.