

Alumni Alliance Honors Park

John T. Park, chancellor emeritus of UMR, received the University of Missouri Alumni Alliance Award during the annual UM Legislative Day Luncheon February 26 in Jefferson City, Missouri. Park, who served as UMR's chancellor from 1992 to 2000, received the award in recognition for his years of service to UMR.

Park joined the UMR faculty in 1964 as an assistant professor of physics. He was named vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1983 and became chancellor in 1992, a post he held until he retired eight years later.

During his chancellorship, UMR's existing physical facilities were improved, new structures were added, a degree program in computer engineering was begun, and a \$60 million capital campaign successfully concluded. Park also championed new student leadership programs and created the UMR Board of Trustees. UMR also won the Missouri Quality Award and, in so doing, became the first public research university in the nation to be honored for making substantial performance improvements.



Alumni Notes

Brian Polis (MS '01) has been hired to teach math and science for 9th and 10th graders at Winfield High School.

Vibhakar Dave (MS '65) is Chairman of the Physics Department at Southern University in New Orleans. He tells us his son, who is a practicing ophthalmologist, was married in October 2003.

Mike Noble (BS '91) moved from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Conyers, Georgia, and misses the low humidity and sun of New Mexico but loves seeing green again. He is Operations Manager for the General Mills Plant in Covington, Georgia ("keep eating those Cheerios!").

Katie Masterman Pimmel (BS '96) says "we welcomed our first child to the family—Julia Grace was born on September 6th 2002."

Emmett Redd (PhD '86) was transferred from the Industrial Management Department to the Physics, Astronomy, and Materials Science Department at Southwest Missouri State University in January 2002. Redd's Enterprises, Inc. provided research services to SMSU for a grant from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators alliance on "Tornado Alarm Design, Beta Test, and Incidental Manufacture."

Larry Oppliger (BS '57) comments "I am enjoying retirement—fishing, making furniture, reading."

Jerry Doug West (BS '80) tells us "outside of work and family my hobby is astronomy. I take many observations of variable stars and write papers. It is a lot of fun and keeps me thinking about physics."

Patrick Joseph Garey (BS '82) says "our 2002 GDI reunion at UMR was the best ever! Hope to see you at the next one!"

Don Schrieker (BS '74) reports "enjoying our 2nd winter in Tucson after 10 years in Michigan. Everyone is well. Still

looking around Tucson for old W0EEE radio club members in the area."

James Jensen (BS '79) writes "after eight years in Texas, we are moving back to North Augusta, South Carolina. Have sold the ranch on which we raised deer and antelopes and watched them 'play.'"

Nellie Fuller turned 94 and lives close to her son, **Billy Thom**, in a rural setting near the Lake of the Ozarks.

Jerry Koelling (BS '61, MS '63) reports "after receiving five university degrees, teaching, consulting, and enjoying work at the Los Alamos National Laboratory for over 20 years my wife and I retired to a retirement community north of Tucson, Arizona. We have been involved in genealogy studies, flying private airplanes, golf, tennis, skeet and trap shooting, senior Olympics, motorcycle touring, traveling, tutoring, garden railroad building, and radio controlled airplane flying. Genealogy and RC flying take up the majority of our time now and hopefully will in the future."

Bob Spratt (BS '58) tells the Physics "Guns" that he enjoyed the telephone conversation with Travis during the 2003 Phonathon.

Stephen Christiansen (BS '73) and his wife Dr. **Carol Berner** have moved their office to a larger space in south Springfield, where they have an independent practice and employ three nurse practitioners.

If you wish to get in touch with any of these alumni, or any others, please contact the Physics department at (573) 341-4781 or at physics@umr.edu. We can generally give you current phone numbers, along with postal and e-mail addresses. We would be grateful if you would take the time to fill out and return the alumni information on both sides of the last page of this newsletter.