Joan Gabel appointed as new dean of MU College of Business

By Krista Schmidt
May 24, 2010 | 2:36 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU’s Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business is preparing to welcome a new member to the family.

Joan Gabel will begin her new position as dean on Sept. 1, according to an MU news release. She is currently Florida State University’s department chair of risk management/insurance, real estate and business law, DeSantis Professor of Business Administration and director of international relations in the College of Business.

The successes of the MU school sparked Gabel’s interest in the position, which opened after Bruce Walker’s announcement to retire as dean.

“The college has an incredible reputation not only for the quality of faculty and students, but also how it’s run,” Gabel said.

About three months after sitting down for its first meeting, the faculty search committee made its selection.

“That’s lightning speed,” said committee co-chair Neil Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition to her references of excellent teaching ability, strong scholarly work in her field and positive feedback from her students, Gabel stood out from other applicants by coming into the interview particularly well-prepared, Olson said. She asked good questions and responded thoroughly to those asked of her.

“Some committee members made a comment that they felt she knew more about Mizzou than they did,” Olson said.
Though Gabel might already have an abundance of knowledge about MU, there is still more she wants to learn.

"My first goal is to become as familiar as I possibly can be with the people and the programs in the college," Gabel said. "Then, begin to strategize about action items and steps for the future."

Before joining Florida State in 2007, Gabel spent 11 years working in the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University where she was the interim director of the Institute of International Business and faculty director of the Atlanta Compliance and Ethics Roundtable, according to the release.

At Florida State, Gabel oversaw two undergraduate majors, courses in undergraduate and graduate curriculum, a specialization within the MBA program and a specialized master's program in risk management, according to the release.

In addition to working at the universities, Gabel has a strong background working in international business, which she thinks will help her as the new dean.

"My hope is to draw on my multi-disciplinary background and my international experiences and bring that broad perspective into the school," Gabel said.

Currently, Gabel teaches undergraduate and graduate level legal and ethical business classes and leads graduate global business seminars in Chile and Australia. She has also taught in Italy, France and Egypt.

"I think that she will be able to move the Trulaske College of Business so that it's more known on the international scene," Olson said. "More than it is now."

Gabel also sees a bright future for the business school, as it is "something that is already working really well."

"I am really honored to be joining the team," Gabel said.
New dean named for MU business school

Joan Gabel will take over Sept. 1 as dean of the Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business at the University of Missouri.

Provost Brian Foster announced Gabel’s appointment this morning. Foster said Gabel’s experience in international business and her background in the legal field “will add a unique perspective to our educational atmosphere” at MU.

Gabel is director of international relations for the College of Business at Florida State University, where she also teaches legal and ethical business classes. She previously served 11 years on the faculty of the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. Gabel also has taught in Italy, France and Egypt.

She will replace Bruce Walker, who announced his resignation in October. Walker had been dean of the College of Business since 1990.
Midwest immigration conference being held in Columbia

COLUMBIA, Mo. | A three-day conference that explores issues facing Latinos and other immigrants in the Midwest continues Tuesday in Columbia.

The annual Cambio de Colores conference features sessions on economic development, health care, education, human trafficking and more. **Chancellor Brady Deaton of the University of Missouri's Columbia campus and university system president Gary Forsee were among the scheduled participants on Monday.**

The conference is organized by the university's Cambio Center, which focuses on immigration and cultural issues in Missouri.
MU engineering student wins scholarship from the Department of Defense

By Ji Young Won
May 24, 2010 | 9:24 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — An MU senior was one of 200 students out of 3,300 applicants to win a scholarship from the Department of Defense.

Adam Rubemeyer won the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship from the Department of Defense and the American Society for Engineering Education. He is majoring both in industrial engineering and business administration and currently conducting research for Boeing.

"I'm incredibly honored to have been selected as a recipient of this great award," Rubemeyer said in an e-mail.

The scholarship provided by the SMART program will pay his tuition and provide a monthly stipend, but it requires him to work for the Department of Defense upon his graduation for the same number of years that he receives the funding.

Rubemeyer, who has been interested in the military and defense, said he is glad to have the opportunity to work for the department. He attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Defense, Intelligence and Diplomacy during his senior year of high school, which helped him understand how the defense area of government works.

"Working for the (Department of Defense) is a great honor for me," Rubemeyer said in an e-mail. "It will be a great opportunity to gain valuable experience with them and perform a job that can help improve their operations and keep more Americans and people of the world safe."
Rubemeyer said his qualifications and school credentials, including his current undergraduate research with Boeing, may have bettered his chances of winning.

His primary research has focused on reducing energy costs in Boeing's supply chain and how changes in oil and gas prices should affect its decisions for selecting suppliers.

“I think my research experience with Boeing helped attract interest from the (Department of Defense) because it shows an interest in military defense,” Rubemeyer said. “Energy reduction is such a hot topic in the economy and society in general, so any experience in the area gives me a leg up on the competition.”

James Noble, a professor in the Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering Department at MU, said Rubemeyer's efforts had earned him the scholarship.

“As Adam is a very talented individual,” Noble said. “He is a hardworking student and an undergraduate researcher at MU. The scholarship reflects his hard work.”

As part of his research, Rubemeyer is currently working on creating a software interface in Excel that can provide Boeing with calculated costs of shipping, transportation and fuel for shipments from suppliers. It will allow Boeing to compare total costs of potential suppliers and determine which supplier would be the best choice for the company. He expects to conclude this project sometime this summer.

Rubemeyer plans to graduate in December and has to work in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., for at least a year and a half, he said. He hopes to continue working for the Department of Defense long enough to gain experience. Someday, he would like to venture into entrepreneurship and open his own business.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

KCOU asserting individuality, independence

By Brian Jarvis
May 24, 2010 | 6:26 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU junior William Toney, who has listened exclusively to KCOU/88.1 FM on a daily basis since his freshman year, can pinpoint the college radio station’s appeal.

“It’s the essence of audible stimulation,” Toney said. “From soul to world to hip-hop, they play all the music I listen to.”

Claiming “Spit Fresh Midwest” as his favorite KCOU program, he noted disc jockey Macy Pruitt’s penchant for persuading musicians to drop by for live studio appearances and spit out lyrics on the spot, or freestyle, as beats hum in the background.

“You get to hear something that happens only once,” Toney said. “After I graduate, I might still listen to KCOU online.”

Adjusting the FM dial for any sort of stimulation, however, is no longer the cultural frame of reference it held for previous generations that could call out their favorite DJs by name.

“You look at playlists on commercial stations and feel insulted,” said Rev. Moose, vice president of content for CMJ Network, formerly College Music Journal, in New York. “College radio is still 1,000 percent more varied than anything you’ll find anywhere.”

As MU’s all-student, all-volunteer run station, KCOU prides itself on its eclectic rotation of tunes, as evidenced by the cartons of CDs and vinyl LPs lining the walls inside its studio in the basement of Pershing Hall.

“Most major radio stations are completely automated,” Vinny Manning, KCOU production director, said. "They literally tell you they don’t care what you want them to
play. College radio is the opposite. We care about people’s input. We feel we have an obligation to give back.”

In an ocean of podcasts, RSS feeds, digital playlists and media conglomerates, KCOU finds itself in the same boat as nearly every station — searching for a harbor of relevance and original content that a loyal audience can’t do without.

Judging by trends in mid-Missouri, the task isn’t easy. Cumulus Media, which owns seven stations in the region, has steadily thinned the ranks of its on-air personalities as part of across-the-board cuts in the past few years. Dan Claxton was laid off from his job as news director at KFRU/1400 AM, one of Cumulus Media’s stations, and Fred Parry’s contract wasn’t renewed. Parry had hosted "The Morning Meeting" with Simon Rose.

Despite the market downwind, however, Rev. Moose says the digital age is rife with opportunity now that stations can broadcast over the Internet and be heard anywhere in the world. The only wild card is whether radio promoters can do what it takes to bring in listeners.

“All of the excuses are out the window,” he said. "You can be a kid with an iPod and get followers."

**Off and on the air**

When KCOU announced in January 2009 that it was taking a hiatus, originally slated to last only through spring break, then-general manager John Dobson predicted the station would bounce back bigger than ever. Because of renovations at Hudson Hall, where KCOU transmitted its signal at the time, the station was forced to rely on its website to broadcast until a new tower could be secured.

Then months came and went. Media reports detailed a clash between KCOU and MU’s Missouri Students Association, which helps secures the lion’s share of KCOU’s operating budget through the Student Fee Capital Improvement Committee. Some began to wonder whether the station was finished for good.

To KCOU staff, the challenge was “convincing the school that we were important enough to fund,” said freshman Matt Brown, host of “The Kitchen Sink,” who joined KCOU within his first month of arriving at MU. “Money is always an issue for a noncommercial
station on a college campus. But I think people are always willing to listen to a friendly DJ talk about music rather than just play songs or stick something in their face.”

If anything, the off-air publicity was a boon for the station, which saw a surge in student and community support. “Save KCOU” fliers and stickers began to circulate. The Blue Note joined in to help promotions. Fundraising efforts reached a record level of about $39,000 for the year. KCOU’s Facebook page, "KCOU 88.1 FM" soon boasted 1,200 fans. (It now has 1,910 followers.)

Ultimately, the Missouri Students Association purchased a $30,000 tower for KCOU atop Schurz Hall — on the condition that KCOU reach financial self-sufficiency within five years. A previous Missourian article stated that MSA would decrease its contribution to KCOU by about 20 percent each year.

In July, KCOU finally returned to its normal frequency, 88.1 FM. MSA has allotted KCOU a proposed budget of $32,493 for the 2009-10 school year. Although dollars might have to be stretched, Hutcheson is confident that KCOU will be fiscally solvent through sponsorships, underwriting, private donations and funding provided by on-campus organizations at MU.

“It was a hard-fought battle but definitely makes what I feel is a success that much sweeter. Our relationship is great now,” said Jonathan Hutcheson, KCOU’s general manager and chief engineer. “I think we’re stronger as a group and better as a station than we’ve ever been.”

2010 and beyond

Now taglined “The Pulse,” taken from its weekday news program by the same name, KCOU has extended its reach on the dial to Jefferson City and Kingdom City. More than 4,000 listeners from eight countries including Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan tune in on the Web. Two KCOU course-credit internships per semester are offered through the MU department of communication. A potential iPhone application is being discussed by KCOU’s executive staff.

“We’re always at the forefront of breaking new music, mixed in with excellent news and sports coverage,” Hutcheson said. “If you want to catch a (live) women’s softball game,
KCOU is where you go. The content mix is what sets us apart. I don’t think anyone out there does it quite like that.”

Key to KCOU’s rebound is promoting itself as a full-service brand, down to the free T-shirts and Frisbees handed out during giveaways at MU’s Speakers Circle.

KCOU also has stepped up efforts to sponsor live entertainment, from residence hall dances and spring break after-parties to last week’s appearance of underground hip-hop artist Brother Ali. Before taking the stage at Mojo’s with fellow rappers Fashawn and BK-One, Ali paid the KCOU studio a visit for an interview and freestyle session.

“Everything we get is sent by small, independent labels that don’t get the kind of marketing with EMI or SONY,” Manning said. “There’s no corporate or commercial oversight, so we get to decide. The vision is to be a truly independent force within the community of Columbia.”

Because of another round of campus renovations, KCOU will move to the new MU student center in December, a venture that will cost more than $140,000. Thanks to a combination of fundraising and grants, Hutcheson said that funds for the project have been secured, with more than $100,000 secured during his tenure.

And as with any college station, holding on to the talent amid a transient student population remains a perennial challenge.

“I’m a walking advocate of getting involved in college radio,” Hutcheson said. “You end up with friends for life, great stories and experiences. At the very least, you’ll end up with better musical tastes.”
Iraqi educators tour state schools

A group of Iraqi educators tour five Missouri colleges and universities this week to learn more about higher education in the United States.

The Iraqis will visit the University of Missouri, Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Ozarks Technical Community College and Drury University.

Iraqis planning to send 10,000 students per year for five years to study in the United States.