Video Evidence: They Predicted the iPad Way Back in 1994

By Chris Gayomali on April 25, 2011

"It may be difficult to conceptualize the idea of digital paper, but in fact, we believe that's what's going to happen," says then Knight-Ridder director Roger Fidler in this eerily prescient video from way back in 1994. That's over 16 years ago, in a world where Aol was still America Online and you had to use a screechy landline to sign onto 14.4k Internet.

Up until 2006, Knight-Ridder was the second largest newspaper publishing company in the United States, and in this newly dug up video, Fidler nails a lot of the key features and industry trends that gave way to the proliferation of tablets.

Here's a key excerpt:

New forms [of human communications system] tend to take on many of the characteristics of older forms for a period of time. Over time, of course, they do evolve and take on their own characteristics. I believe the same thing will happen with our transition from ink on paper to digital forms of newspapers, magazines and books. But in the beginning, they will retain many of the familiar characteristics of print products today. And I think that's absolutely essential; we don't want to have to issue people manuals to read their newspaper.

On the money, right? Plus, look at their clothes.

Nowadays, Mr. Fidler works as the Director of Digital Publishing at the journalism institute of the University of Missouri.
MU faculty salaries rank ninth in Big 12

The average salary for an MU professor is $111,216.

By Joyu Wang

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MU's below-average faculty salaries aren't news to the university.

The American Association of University Professors released its annual faculty salary survey last week. Among the other Big 12 universities, MU is ranked ninth.

According to AAUP's 2010-2011 faculty salaries report, a full-time MU professor earns an average of $111,000 a year. Compared to last year's data, this number is slightly increased by $100.

But MU's average pay doesn't meet the 40th percentile — $111,216 — for full professors at equal-rank universities nationally.

The average pay for associate professors and assistant professors is lower. Their annual salaries are $73,500 and $60,900, respectively. Compared with the national data, these numbers do not meet the 20th percentile.

"We are very aware of it," MU spokesman Christian Basi said. "This has been an issue and concern for several years."

He said the statewide budget cut has impacted the constrained faculty salaries.

"We haven't seen the increase for several years," Basi said. "Actually, the past year we saw a cut."

Even though this marks the third year faculty salaries did not increase, there will be a 2 percent increase in the salary pool for faculty, Basi said.

"Not everybody got the 2 percent increased salaries," he said. "It depends on the job performance."

MU Budget Director Tim Rooney presented the budget at the spring general faculty meeting April 19.
“We must address salaries,” he said. “That is our number one priority.”

He said it will take $400 million endowment to raise the faculty salary to the AAUP median.

“We can simply raise fees and tuition, but we are constantly concerned with MU’s affordability,” Basi said.

He said MU is still facing a budget gap between $5 and $20 million.

“We always strive to maintain the highest (educational) quality as we can,” Basi said. “But it is difficult to maintain.”

Among other Big 12 universities, the University of Texas at Austin has the highest annual faculty salaries. The average annual pay for a full professor is $136,000.
Schweitzer Hall lab renovations completed after explosion

Seven new safety measures were put in place.

By Jimmy Hibsch

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Renovations to the Schweitzer Hall lab that exploded in June have been completed in the last two weeks.

Renovations have been in progress since June 28, 2010, when an experiment triggered an explosion that injured four lab members. The most seriously injured lab member suffered multiple superficial lacerations and hearing loss and was consequently hospitalized overnight. The member is now fully healthy.

“We have determined that this was accidental,” Columbia Fire Department Battalion Chief Steven Sapp told The Maneater in July 2010. “There were several things in the tank that could have sparked it, but we were not able to determine exactly what sparked the hydrogen.”

To prevent a similar accident from occurring again, the laboratory underwent a complete renovation throughout the year. Judy Wall, who was the professor overseeing the experiment that resulted in an explosion, said the laboratory has several improved features.

First, most of the anaerobic chambers are now in a common area, which requires fewer compressed gas tanks. She also said new, “amazingly sturdy” braces have been set in place to secure the gas cylinders.

The aisles in the lab are wider, and two exits are now available. In addition to a fume hood, an exhaust snorkel is now present in the lab. Both are used to remove noxious fumes, Wall said.

Now, the sink used for dishwashing can be accessed through a passage. This is intended for carts holding glassware, so that they will no longer need to be rolled through the main traffic routes in the lab. Finally, the lab now features an open-ceiling design, which means that it is not a dropped ceiling with tiles.

“That will likely keep down some of the mold growth,” Wall said.

The new safety measures should inhibit the chance of an explosion, she said.
“Explosions will not occur from the use of hydrogen for our anaerobic chambers because we are using premixed gases of 95 percent nitrogen and 5 percent hydrogen,” Wall said.

MU’s Environmental Health and Safety division is dedicated to preventing accidents such as the explosion in the future.

“Campus policy states that my office will develop and implement programs to ensure regulatory compliance and provide a safety work environment,” EHS Director Peter Ashbrook said. “We have developed a variety of programs to address various aspects of laboratory safety. These programs place primary responsibility on faculty and supervisors for ensuring that researchers are trained and follow proper procedures.”

He said his office works with the campus community as an in-house consultant to provide advice and assistance in identifying and preventing hazards. The EHS Office conducts periodic laboratory visits as well, to review work environments and practices.

Wall said she is confident there will not be another accident similar to last summer’s.

“Of course, I would like to think we will have no accidents of any kind, but life does not come with guarantees,” she said.

Ashbrook said accidents of the explosion’s magnitude do not happen often. According to Maneater archives, the last laboratory accident was in November 2009, when phosphorous-32 spilled onto a researcher’s shoes. The radioactive isotope was then tracked throughout the building and outside.

“Laboratory incidents involving injuries and significant building damage are unusual at MU,” he said. “I can’t think of any such incidents in the 11-plus years I have been EHS director.”
New campus name is just part of legacy

Chancellor retiring from Missouri S&T.

ROLLA — He changed the name of one of Missouri’s oldest universities, got rid of college deans and secured money from the state for an academic building. And, even though he’s retiring this summer, Chancellor John Carney III isn’t done yet.

The Missouri University of Science and Technology desperately needs a new chemical engineering building, an $85 million project. Carney has a few ideas about how to get funding for that building before he leaves in August, but he’s not ready to publicize details yet.

That’s how Carney rolls. He works behind the scenes, and when he’s ready to pounce, he does so quickly.

Take the name change — likely to be among Carney’s most-remembered accomplishments. He’d been at what was then called the University of Missouri-Rolla about a year when he started talking to groups about the name. UMR, he said, didn’t relay to non-Missourians the school’s heavy focus on engineering.

“People thought we were a branch campus of Columbia — which is extremely irritating, by the way,” he said.

Although he faced pushback from Rolla residents — one quipped, “Keep the name, change the chancellor” in a letter to the Rolla Daily News — Carney already had alumni, faculty and some students onboard.

Within just six months, UMR became Missouri S&T.

Out-of-state and international enrollment has been climbing since, he said. Missourians still make up about 80 percent of the 7,206 students, but Carney expects that to drop in coming years as enrollment grows.

The name change worked, former UM System President and UMR graduate Gary Forsee said.

“The quality of the students and faculty, the national and international recognition that was bolstered by the name change and unprecedented alumni and partner support will be lasting legacies of Chancellor Carney,” he said in a statement.
Carney, who came to Rolla in 2005, announced his retirement in January, the same month Forsee stepped down. The timing was coincidental, though. Carney actually told Forsee about his plans in the summer, but the two agreed to keep it quiet until January.

The month before, Forsee’s wife was diagnosed with cancer, prompting his own resignation.

Carney has been there. His wife, Patricia, battled cancer for two years before her death in December 2009. For him, the job provided a much-needed distraction.

“I threw myself into the job,” he said.

Forsee’s resignation didn’t prompt Carney to rethink his decision. Although at least one person has suggested he be considered for the UM presidency, Carney is ready to return to his Cambridge, Mass., home and spend time with his children and grandchildren.

He has other things on his to-do list before he goes. Carney hopes to wrap up a fundraising campaign: The school already has $1 million of the $3 million needed to build a new alumni center in downtown Rolla.

He’s also moving forward with efforts to convert Missouri S&T’s nine-hole golf course into a research park, another unpopular move among some locals but one he believes will boost the local economy.

The first building already is open on what was the driving range, and more facilities will be added when it fills up. The park is similar to Discovery Ridge in Columbia and includes an incubation area for startup companies that intend to market university research.

Although he has not always been a hometown hero in Rolla, Carney said he “loves this place.”

“I’m proud of the way we worked together as a community, not only as a campus but a city,” he said.

He hopes whoever fills his position continues to work to promote Missouri S&T on a national and international level.

“I really want this university to continue to zoom up into the stratosphere,” Carney said. “I hope the momentum continues.”

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UM union violence lectures grab attention

By Janese Silvey

Videos showing two University of Missouri instructors apparently advocating for union violence don’t represent the UM System as a whole, a spokeswoman said.

“Obviously, the comments on the video do not reflect the position of the University of Missouri,” Jennifer Hollingshead said in a statement.

She also said administrators on the Kansas City and St. Louis campuses are looking into the lectures posted online yesterday by Andrew Breitbart’s Big Government website.

The videos capture Judy Ancel, director of UM-Kansas City’s Institute for Labor Studies, telling a class “violence is a tactic, and it’s to be used when it’s the appropriate tactic.” She goes on to tell a story of a friend who worked for a utility company in Peru, where it’s illegal to strike.

“They couldn’t get access to” strike, “but they had a lot of cats and they succeeded in putting cats in powerhouses,” she said. “And the cats — now, don’t think about the cats, OK? The cats would run around inside and short out the system and cause power blackouts. And that created enough chaos in the system” to get to “a negotiating position.”

Plus, she joked, they “got rid of a lot of feral cats.”

The course, Labor in Society & Politics, is offered as part of the labor studies certificate. It’s team-taught by Don Giljum of Operating Engineers 148. It’s unclear whether those in the class are adult workers or college students. Ancel was not available for comment Monday.

In the videos, Giljum advises students to get creative with union strategies. Giljum, who represents Ameren workers, explains how workers at one company printed articles off the Internet about sabotaging equipment and spread them throughout the plant. Additionally, workers would “end up at the same shopping center or church” as the CEO of the company — so much so that he became paranoid and began wearing protective jackets and helmets inside the plant “because he was afraid of being shot,” Giljum said. “There are all kinds of things you can do to be creative.”

Finally, the FBI was called in and the plant became a potential crime scene, giving workers paid time off. In another instance, he said he was charged with instigating riots that “destroyed several police cars.”
Violence is not only a part of union history, he said, violence and sabotage has its place.

The video also shows a student asking when terrorism becomes a revolution, to which Ancel responds that it’s “terrorism until it’s successful. Then it’s a revolution.”

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MSA, RHA members support camera installation

RHA Vice President Chris Rucker cited the graffiti incident at Hatch Hall to show the benefits of having cameras.

By Amanda Capua

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At the joint session meeting Wednesday, members of the Missouri Students Association and the Residence Hall Association will present their resolution to support installing cameras outside residence halls.

"The resolution stemmed from the rape incident at Laws earlier this semester, and that is why we want to potentially install cameras outside the residence halls," MSA Student Affairs Chairman Tyler Ricketts said.

RHA Vice President Chris Rucker said the resolution is in support of initiating the process for installing cameras outside the residence halls.

"We've been talking about future plans for putting cameras outside the residence halls, and we want to fast-track that process," Rucker said.

Ricketts said the cameras would deter crime and supply the resources to find suspects of crimes.

"The safety of students is paramount," Ricketts said. "We are advocates for student safety."

Ruckers said the graffiti incident at Hatch Hall showed how beneficial cameras were when it came to student safety.

"We've seen what could be done with the Hatch incident and finding the suspect, and more cameras would allow us to do that again," Rucker said.

MSA has already passed the resolution, and it was presented to the Policy and Rules Committee on Monday evening at the RHA meeting. RHA will vote on the resolution at the joint session meeting.

"We want to encourage Residential Life to invest more in installing cameras," Ricketts said.
There was an option to put wireless Internet in all the rooms in the residence halls, but that idea has been put on the back burner because rooms already have a connection to the MU network through the ethernet, Rucker said.

“Right now, it looks like we must choose one over the other, but the other will not be crossed out for the future,” RHA Treasurer Connor Wangler said.

Wangler said people are more concerned with safety than they are about Wi-Fi and installing cameras is a great way to improve safety on campus.

"A lot of rooms already have Wi-Fi, and the safety of residents far outweighs Wi-Fi,” Wangler said. “We are not against Wi-Fi, and it isn't ruled out.”

Rucker said safety is more important than Wi-Fi, but having Wi-Fi in all the rooms is something RHA wants to pursue in the future.

Ricketts said it was not a binding resolution.

“We don't have the authority to actually change anything,” Ricketts said. “We just want to encourage the administration.”

Rucker said MSA and RHA both have the same goals, and they want to do what is best for the students.

“We value the safety of residents and students on campus,” Rucker said. “This is our number one goal, and it trumps other luxuries like Wi-Fi.”