MU law school receives $1.57 million gift to endow chair

By Karyn Spory
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The University of Missouri School of Law hopes a $1.57 million gift to create a new endowed faculty chair will help recruit and retain top-notch faculty.

Today at the Reynolds Alumni Center, Chancellor Brady Deaton announced MU had received a $1.57 million gift from the Nancy and Charles Wall Family Foundation to create the Wall Chair in Corporate Law and Governance, which will be an endowed chair in the School of Law.

"When you think of the alums of the law school, there are many that are very enthusiastic, and to see a gift come forward from one of those is particularly exciting," Deaton said.

Charles Wall, who was not on hand for the announcement, was a 1970 graduate of the School of Law who went on to practice corporate law. "It is an inspiring and humbling experience when you see alums like Chuck who want to give back to the university and share their success with the institution that enabled them to achieve," Deaton said.

Gary Myers, dean of the School of Law, also announced Thom Lambert, a former professor in the MU School of Law, as the inaugural Wall Chair.

"Thom epitomizes the type of faculty member we try to attract, recruit and retain at MU," Myers said.

Myers said Lambert had been a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota — a top 25 law school with great resources and reputation.

Myers said the Wall Chair played a role in Lambert's decision to come back to MU because it shortens the financial gap between well-funded schools, such as Minnesota, and MU.

Myers said having an endowed chair will help attract and retain faculty to the law school in two ways. Myers said the chair recognized people who have achieved national and international recognition in their field of work, such as Lambert, and it provides financial support to faculty
members in the form of salary, travel support, research support and other funding to enable them to carry out their work.

Lambert said he was honored to be named as the inaugural Wall Chair. Lambert said he has had the pleasure of meeting with Wall before, and the two agree on three matters. Lambert said the first that is among legal institutions, the business corporation is unrivaled in its ability to generate economic prosperity and distribute it widely among society. The second is the need for corporate governance.

"The third key matter Mr. Wall and I agree on is that Mizzou Law does legal education the right way," he said. Lambert said it is important that professors are both scholars and teachers.

"My colleagues on the law school faculty … understand in order to be a really good teacher, you need to be a good scholar because a good teacher doesn't just provide information, they inspire students to come along on the intellectual journey," he said.
MU School of Law receives $1.57 million gift

By Molly Duffy
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COLUMBIA — Charles Wall gave a gift of $1.57 million to the MU School of Law on Thursday morning, though he did not present it himself.

"He's a very humble individual," said Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for development and alumni relations. "He provided the support, but actually, we had to kind of talk him into allowing us to use his name at all on the chair. So we're really privileged to have, and honored to have, his name on the chair."

Law professor Thomas Lambert will be the inaugural Wall Chair in Corporate Law and Governance. The Nancy and Charles Wall Family Foundation, which Charles Wall heads with his sister, provided the funds to establish the chair and to start the professorship immediately.

Charles Wall graduated from the MU School of Law in 1970 and has had a successful career in corporate law, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said.

"It's truly an inspiring and really very humbling experience when you see alums like Chuck who want to give back to the university and share what they have done, their success, with the institution that enabled them to achieve these successes," Deaton said.

MU Law School Dean Gary Myers said Charles Wall also chairs the board of directors of the New York City Opera and is involved with the Aspen Music Festival.

"He has many broad interests, but one of those fundamental interests comes from his background," Myers said. "Chuck Wall is a consummate corporate lawyer."
Deaton said the Walls wanted to build on the law school's existing strengths and called corporate law one of its "major" strengths. Maintaining excellent faculty is part of staying a leader in critical areas, such as corporate law, he said.

"Thom (Lambert) epitomizes the kind of faculty member we try to attract, recruit and retain at the University of Missouri School of Law," Myers said.

Lambert graduated from Wheaton College and the University of Chicago Law School. He has clerked for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, served as a John M. Olin Fellow at Northwestern School of Law and practiced law with the firm of Sidley Austin in Chicago. He is a scholar in the areas of corporate law, anti-trust law and contracts, Myers said.

"But it's not just that he's a great scholar; Thom Lambert is a great teacher," he said. "You can know that when you talk to any of his students about his teaching. ... It's important to recognize the synergy that can exist between creative scholarship, cutting-edge scholarship and great teaching."

Lambert said this is a crucial time to study corporate governance.

"We have seen, occasionally, very widespread crises in corporate governance," Lambert said. "And we really saw that in the first decade of this century."

The early 2000s saw the failures of Enron and WorldCom, and the end of decade saw the financial crisis, he said.

"There could not be a better time to study corporate governance," Lambert said. "We are doing things that we've never done before, and I'm very excited to be able to be a part of this conversation, to explore what works and what doesn't work. This is a very key time for this field."

Lambert said that Charles Wall appreciates the roles of both the teacher and the scholar and that it's clear he wants the Wall Chair to "be a position to integrate scholarship with teaching."

"He's very interested in effective teaching that cannot occur without effective scholarship," Lambert said. "I'm totally on board with that plan."
MU adding 2 new ways to send emergency alerts

COLUMBIA, Mo. • A new system of beacons and a computer software program are being installed at the University of Missouri to help quickly get the word out in case of emergencies, a university official said.

About 225 beacons are being installed in high-traffic areas. They use strobes and sounds to get people's attention, and then alert messages will be displayed on a screen, university spokesman Christian Basi said.

The university is in the process of wiring buildings and getting everything prepared so the beacons can be installed, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported. The project will cost about $436,750, Basi said.

The university also has been working on a program that will allow specific administrators to take over computer screens to display alert messages, said Terry Robb, director of information technology.

"We will use our Blackboard mass notification system to write the message that goes to phones, and we have a special channel that we're going to configure that will force the message we write in Blackboard to be posted to Alertus notification," Robb said.

Both systems are provided by Alertus Technologies and send messages created through the university's new mass alert provider, BlackBoard Connect. The messages will be sent to university-owned computers that are typically used by faculty and staff. The technology department is working on a free download for students who want to add the program to their computers, Robb said. It also hopes to eventually be able to override the cable system so televisions around campus could display messages.

Currently, campus computers can only be overridden by Robb, another information technology department employee, the campus police chief, the head of Environmental Health and Safety, and the head of Campus Facilities.

Both alert systems should be ready within the next month, Robb said.
The University of Missouri on Wednesday became the eighth and largest institute of higher learning to establish a Peace Corps Prep Program.

Chancellor Brady Deaton said he was thrilled to have the Peace Corps Prep Program at MU. Deaton, who served in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1962, said Peace Corps gives volunteers the opportunity to learn about the world and see themselves in a new way.

"Those Peace Corps years shaped the thinking of every volunteer who's ever been there — you spend a lot of time thinking about yourself in the world through a culture that's looking at you very differently," he said.

Ann Marie Foley, director of the Office of Service Learning, said the program will not launch until next semester, but interested students can email the Office of Service Learning to get more information.

"We are holding a number of workshops, two or three every week for the next two weeks, to tell" students "how they can get involved," Foley said.

Foley said that during the workshops, students will learn what courses they should be taking and how they can get involved in global service and community development projects. Foley said she also would talk to students during the workshop about why they want to volunteer in the Peace Corps.

"We're going to talk about why they're interested in engaging in global service and what gifts they have inside that will empower the lives of others — that's very important to us," Foley said.

Foley said the workshops also are a way for students to determine what kind of leaders they want to be. "Are they interested in public health, youth development or economic development — what are their skills, and how can we lead them to activities that they love and know how to do so they can truly serve?"
The program, according to a news release, will include a 16-hour curricular structure that will include nine hours of service learning, six credit hours of cultural, leadership and public policy courses selected from an approved list, and a one-hour "Global Service and the Peace Corps" seminar. Students who complete the program will receive a minor in leadership and public service and an award from the Peace Corps.

Helen Lowman, associate director for volunteer recruitment and selection for the Peace Corps, said the Peace Corps has a competitive selection process, not that she wants that to deter anyone from applying. "We want to make sure the right people are going overseas to represent the Peace Corps and our country," Lowman said.

Lowman said MU is the largest university to have a prep program. "This program is really going to prepare students for service in the Peace Corps in terms of" global and cultural "learning, and it's going to give them hands-on experience in serving," she said.
WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is telling colleges and universities they can continue to use admissions to increase diversity among their students, even in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling that could potentially open the door to more challenges.

"Racially diverse educational environments help to prepare students to succeed in our increasingly diverse nation," the administration said Friday in a letter to the schools.

The Supreme Court ruled June 24 that schools should approve the use of race as a factor in admissions only after concluding "that no workable race-neutral alternatives would produce the educational benefits of diversity." The 7-1 decision, stemming from a case challenging the University of Texas admission plan, did not question the underpinnings of affirmative action.

Civil rights advocates celebrated that the door on affirmative action had not been slammed shut. But at the same time, the decision appeared to embolden challengers who feel they've been discriminated against.

In its Friday letter, the administration said the court "preserved the well-established legal principle" that colleges and universities have a compelling interest in a diverse student body. It was signed by Catherine E. Lhamon, the Education Department's assistant secretary in the Office for Civil Rights, and Jocelyn Samuels, the Justice Department's acting assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division.
Lhamon said the administration hopes colleges and universities aren't making changes in admissions policies because of the ruling. She said achieving diversity on campuses ultimately leads to diverse workplaces.

In an accompanying "questions and answers" paper, the administration said race can be considered as long as the admission programs can show that it is narrowly tailored.

"I would hope that colleges and universities would undertake these programs in carefully structured ways that would avoid legal challenge, and we certainly are available to try to help them do that," Samuels said.

The topic was to be addressed Friday morning during a panel discussion at the Justice Department.

The high court ordered the appeals court to take another look at the case of Abigail Fisher, a white Texan who was not offered a spot at the university's flagship Austin campus in 2008. Fisher has since received her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University.