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Southeast Regents Extend Contract of President Vargas

JUNE 29TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Southeast Regents Extend Contract of President Vargas

The Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents voted June 12 to offer Dr. Carlos Vargas a new three-year rolling contract to continue as President of Southeast Missouri State University.

According to Board President Donald G. LaFerla, the new contract, effective July 1, 2018, runs through June 30, 2021. No salary increase or additional compensation was awarded with the new contract.

Board President LaFerla noted that the new contract is consistent with the contract structure the Board of Regents approved at its June 26, 2017, meeting and was based on the Board's assessment of the University's accomplishments and University President Vargas' leadership during the past year.

"This University is very fortunate to have a man of Dr. Vargas' character and credentials as our president, and we want him to know how much we appreciate what he means to us," LaFerla said.

Some of the accomplishments Mr. LaFerla cited include:

The University's continued progress toward its retention and graduation goals, noting that retention and graduation rates reported in fall 2017 were both at the highest rate since the

University began tracking the data.

The institution's success in securing three new program-specific accreditations from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the National Association of Schools of Dance, and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education – all of which attest to the quality and rigor of academic programs at Southeast.

The development of multiple new graduate and undergraduate programs such as the Bachelor of Applied Science, new undergraduate Agriculture options, and the Master of Science in Cybersecurity.

Execution of the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program which exceeded participation goals endorsed by the Board of Regents.

The University's ability to increase giving and identify new donors through initiatives led by University Advancement and the Department of Athletics.

The implementation of the new SE Alerts communication/notification system.

The University's efforts to continue implementing innovative solutions to enhance enrollment and create alternate pathways to degree as evidenced by the addition of new Transfer Mentor Program partners and the corporate degree partnership with TG Missouri.

“I feel honored that the Board of Regents has renewed my contract,” Vargas said. “I continue to be committed and excited to work with the University community to enhance the visibility and recognition of Southeast Missouri State University.”

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River Campus Announces Performance Dates for 'Little Shop of Horrors'

JUNE 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

River Campus Announces Performance Dates for 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Southeast Missouri State University announces the River Campus Summer Arts Festival's production of "Little Shop of Horrors," opening June 14 as part of its two-week extended season.

"Little Shop of Horrors," one of the longest running Off-Broadway shows, is a deliciously dark sci-fi comedy musical with a stunning 1960s pop/rock score by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman. Meet Seymour, a meek and dejected floral shop employee who finds an unusual plant, which he adoringly names "Audrey II." Surprises await as this strange and unusual plant develops a soulful voice, a sailor mouth and a taste for human blood.

Performances of "Little Shop of Horrors" are slated for 7:30 p.m. June 14, 19, 22, 23, 26 and 27; and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 17, in the Wendy Kurka Rust Flexible Theatre at the Southeast River Campus.

The musical is a hilarious show that spoofs audiences' favorite sci-fi and B-rated horror movies, said Director Michael McIntosh, assistant professor with Southeast's Conservatory of Theatre and Dance.

"It's a very funny show that everyone will love," McIntosh said "We have a great cast and huge special effects. It's going to be a first-class production that audiences won't want to

miss.”

The company consists of current Southeast Conservatory students and professional faculty and staff. *For a listing of the full company, please see below.**

Tickets

Tickets are \$20 and are on sale now. They may be purchased by contacting the River Campus Box Office, located in the Cultural Arts Center, 518 S. Fountain St., weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., by calling (573) 651-2265 or online at RiverCampus.org.

River Campus Summer Arts Festival:

The fifth annual community River Campus Summer Arts Festival on June 16 includes live music, dance, theatrical performances, magic, visual arts displays, hands-on family-friendly art expression activities, museum exhibitions, musical instruments and animal petting zoos, creative writing workshops, an arts walk, and other hands-on activities throughout the River Campus. The festival will offer an ambitious season of three shows. In addition to “Little Shop of Horrors,” visitors also may enjoy the whodunit meets spicy spy novel in the melodramatic comedy “The 39 Steps,” and the Broadway musical “Legally Blonde Jr.”

The community festival is free and open to all ages in the entire region. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is sponsored by Drury Hotels, US Bank, the Earl and Margie Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts, Southeast Missouri State University, City of Cape Girardeau Parks and Recreation, the Isle Casino Cape Girardeau, Rust Communications, KGMO, Ameren Missouri, KBSI, River Radio, Pure Country C106.1, KRCU, Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau, SoutheastHEALTH, Legends, Lemonade Grill, Cape Noon Optimist Club, Cape Rotary Club, the Rosemary Berkel and Harry L. Crisp II Museum, Jimmy John’s, Andy’s Frozen Custard, Minglewood Brewery, Pepsi, and the University’s departments of Art, Music and The Conservatory of Theatre and Dance. Partners include the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri, Old Town Cape and the United Way of Southeast Missouri.

For more information, visit <http://rivercampus.org/event/summer-arts-festival/>.

*Full List of Company:

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Michael McIntosh (Director), assistant professor of musical theatre, directing and acting

Jenna Lee Moore (Music Director), assistant professor of theatre – voice

Malachi Marrero (Choreographer), junior dance major of Memphis, Tennessee

Jeffrey Luetkenhaus (Scenic Designer), production manager for the Earl and Margie Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts

James M. Miller (Costume Designer), guest designer

Christopher Haug (Lighting Designer), technical director and lighting designer for The Conservatory of Theatre and Dance

Mick Keathley (Sound Designer), assistant manager for the Earl and Margie Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts

CAST:

Brianna Busse (Chiffon), sophomore musical theatre major of Florissant, Missouri

Alexia Buckner (Crystal), junior musical theatre major of Memphis, Tennessee

Diamon Lester (Ronnette), sophomore musical theatre major of Hazelwood, Missouri

Bart Williams (Mushnik), assistant professor of theatre

Abigail Becker (Audrey), junior musical theatre major of Independence, Missouri

Mason Ramsey (Seymour), junior musical theatre major of Festus, Missouri

Andrew Freeland (Orin, Bernstein, Snip, Derelicts, Everyone Else), sophomore musical theatre major of Pikeville, Kentucky

Ries Lundstrom (Audrey II – Puppeteer, Derelicts), sophomore musical theatre major of Granite City, Illinois

Nicholas Kuchem (Audrey II – Voice, Derelicts), junior musical theatre major of Washington, Missouri

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SEMO Awarded NASAD Accreditation

JUNE 06TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

SEMO Awarded NASAD Accreditation

Southeast Missouri State University is pleased to announce it has been awarded associate accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

The NASAD Commission awarded the accreditation in April following self-study and peer review processes. The associate accreditation is for four years, with the University's next full review slated for the 2022-2023 academic year.

“We are absolutely thrilled to receive NASAD accreditation. This is the fourth and final accreditation in the arts for Southeast,” said Rhonda Weller-Stilson, director of the [Earl and Margie Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts](#) and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “With this last accreditation, we are the only school in Missouri nationally accredited in all four arts areas – music, art, theatre and dance.”

With this announcement, NASAD accredited art programs at Southeast are as follows:

- Bachelor of Arts in art
- Bachelor of Science in art education
- Bachelor of Science in human environmental studies (interior design option)

- Bachelor of Fine Arts in art (ceramics, digital arts, graphic design/illustration, painting, printmaking and sculpture options)
- Master of Arts in human environmental studies (interior design option)
- Master of Arts in secondary education (art option)

NASAD is an organization of schools, conservatories, colleges and universities with about 352 accredited institutional members. It establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for art and design and art/design-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational and other art/design-related endeavors.

Southeast's Department of Art offers students the opportunity to hone their talents and prepare for careers through study and hands-on experiences in ceramics, digital art, graphic design, illustration, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students regularly exhibit their work in the River Campus Art Gallery, the Dobbins Hallway Gallery, the Rosemary Berkel and Harry L. Crisp II Museum and the Catapult Creative House Gallery.

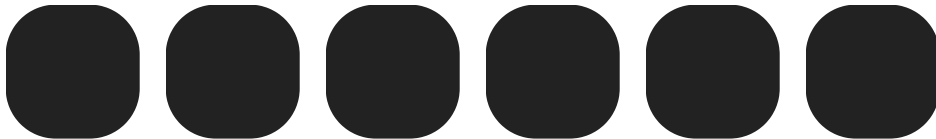
Southeast's NASAD accredited art and design programs now find themselves among prestigious company, including the New York Film Academy, California State-Fullerton, Syracuse University and Saint John's University, all NASAD accredited schools.

Southeast's Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts now holds four major national accreditations. In addition to NASAD, Southeast's Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance (NASD). The University's Department of Music is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). Southeast is also a proud member of the esteemed National Association of School of Theatre (NAST).

Other NAST accredited institutions include the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, UCLA and several State University of New York (SUNY) campuses. Among a number of NASD accredited institutions are the Limon Institute and the California Institute of the Arts. Institutions with NASM accreditation include the Eastman School of Music and The Collective, among others.

“We have strived to create programs and curriculum that not only provide an excellent education to our students but also have been verified by professional consultants in each area as appropriately demanding,” Weller-Stilson said. “We set high goals for our students, and this affirms that we are meeting national expectations.

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Regents Approve Tuition Rates for Fall 2018

MAY 15TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Regents Approve Tuition Rates for Fall 2018](#)

Southeast Maintains Affordability Commitment

In approving a new tuition and fee schedule, the Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents today approved a 2.1 percent increase, the allowable percentage increase in the consumer price index in accord with Senate Bill 389.

The Regents then waived all but one percent of that increase that will be charged to students as part of an agreement with state legislators that would reduce higher education funding cuts proposed by Gov. Eric Greitens.

Dr. Carlos Vargas, president of Southeast Missouri State University, said, “We have worked very hard to keep tuition increases at a minimum, and we remain steadfast in our mission to offer access to quality academic programs and services at a reasonable cost. Despite our funding challenges, Southeast is committed to keeping costs affordable for

students and serving them well.”

Under the new fee schedule, per credit hour rates beginning fall 2018 are as follows:

Missouri resident undergraduate: \$247.25

Non-resident undergraduate: \$438.50

Online only-undergraduate: \$284

Resident graduate students: \$315.50

Non-resident graduate students: \$555

Online only-graduate: \$347.25

Tuition and general fees for lower division courses at the regional campuses will increase \$5 per credit hour, bringing that rate to \$175 per credit hour, which is consistent with area community college rates.

Included in the new tuition and fee schedule is a Student Government recommended three-year phased general fee increase of \$7.40 per credit hour. The portion charged beginning in fall 2018 will be \$5.40 per credit hour and includes reallocations to better support information technology and student wellness.

This change, along with the one percent tuition increase, will amount to a total tuition and fee increase of \$7.75 per credit hour for resident undergraduate students in fall 2018.

In related action, Board also approved special course fees to take effect with the fall 2018 semester. These fees cover the cost of consumable supplies or expenses unique to a course making them higher than average in cost to deliver per student credit hour generated or on courses using electronic course materials directly from a publisher. The Regents also eliminated some previously approved special course fees and discontinued an electronic course fee for eight courses.

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SEMO Regents to Consider Tuition, Fees for Fall 2018

MAY 10TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

SEMO Regents to Consider Tuition, Fees for Fall 2018

The Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents will consider a tuition and fee schedule, along with program and special course fees, for fall 2018 when they meet at 9 a.m. May 11 in the Board of Regents Room in Academic Hall.

The meeting will open with swearing-in ceremonies for two new Regents — Tina Klocke of South St. Louis County, Missouri, and Luke LeGrand, student representative from Cape Girardeau. Conducting the swearing-in ceremony will be the Honorable Abbie Crites-Leoni, U.S. Magistrate Judge and president of the Southeast Missouri State University Alumni Association.

The Regents will consider a proposal for major academic reorganization to help meet significant budgetary challenges facing the University. The proposal is the result of campus-wide discussions, input and open forums during both the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters.

In addition, the Regents will consider several academic program changes, including two new programs – a Master of Science in cybersecurity and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in writing and options in creative writing and professional writing. They also will consider changes to the Bachelor of Arts in English.

In other action, the Regents will consider conferring degrees for spring and summer 2018. They also will hear several reports, including the University President's Report from Dr. Carlos Vargas; reports from incoming Student Government President Matt Rolwing and Outgoing Student Government President Peyton Mogley; reports from Outgoing Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Jim McGill and incoming Faculty Senate Chair Dr. David Powell; a report on contracts and Facilities Management projects from Kathy Mangels, vice president for finance and administration; and a report on Residence Life from Dr. Kendra Skinner, director of Residence Life.

The Regents will consider a motion to go into a closed session for appropriate considerations related to litigation; hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of employees; and personnel records and performance ratings.

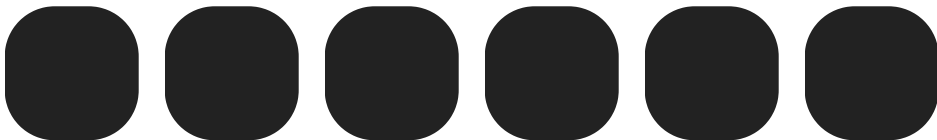
When the open session reconvenes, the Regents will announce actions taken during the closed and closed executive sessions. The final item of business will be consideration of a motion to adjourn.

The Board agenda in its entirety can be reviewed at http://www.semo.edu/board/meeting_info.html.

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