



JUL 03 2012

## UM Press employees await word on layoffs

### **New budget year cuts out funding.**

By Janese Silvey

University of Missouri Press employees reported to work as usual this morning, even though the phase-out of the university system's publishing house officially started yesterday.

It's unclear when the press office will actually close. UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said there is no timeline, even though the system 2013 budget, which no longer includes a \$400,000 subsidy for the press, went into effect yesterday.

There were no signs of the office closing shop this morning at the building off LeMone Industrial Boulevard. The titles still in print were on display on a front office bookshelf, and copies of the current catalog were up for grabs at the reception desk. Also on display was a copy of the press's history by former interim UM President Melvin George, written to mark its 50th anniversary four years ago.

Employees declined to come out of their offices to speak with a Tribune reporter. No press employee has left since May, when UM President Tim Wolfe made the announcement that the press would close, interim director Dwight Browne said last week, clarifying misinformation the MU Faculty Council had received.

Reached by phone, Editor-in-Chief Clair Willcox said he and another acquisitions manager at the UM Press expect to be the first to go, although they have not yet received a layoff date. Some employees could remain on the payroll through late fall, he said, because the UM Press is contractually committed to a fall list of books that still must be edited, designed, produced, distributed and marketed.

"We have not been given a timeline in terms of when we will be laid off as individuals or an exact timeline for when the press itself will end," publicity manager Jennifer Gravley said in a phone conversation.

Wolfe has said the Columbia campus is exploring ideas for a new type of press that would be self-supporting. Those involved in the discussions on campus said it is too early to announce details, although the system has suggested student interns would be used.

Ned Stuckey-French is in the English department at Florida State University and is helping to lead efforts to protest the closure. He fears a new model will ignore the need for a professional

editorial staff and a marketing department. He also worries any new press would live off proceeds from the existing back list of 2,000 titles the UM Press created over its 54-year history.

Stuckey-French, along with Chicago publishing representative Bruce Joshua Miller, have collected more than 4,200 signatures on a petition calling on Wolfe to reverse his decision. They also oversee a Facebook campaign that has more than 2,250 participants.

Dozens of people attended last week's UM Board of Curators meeting in Columbia to show support for the press.

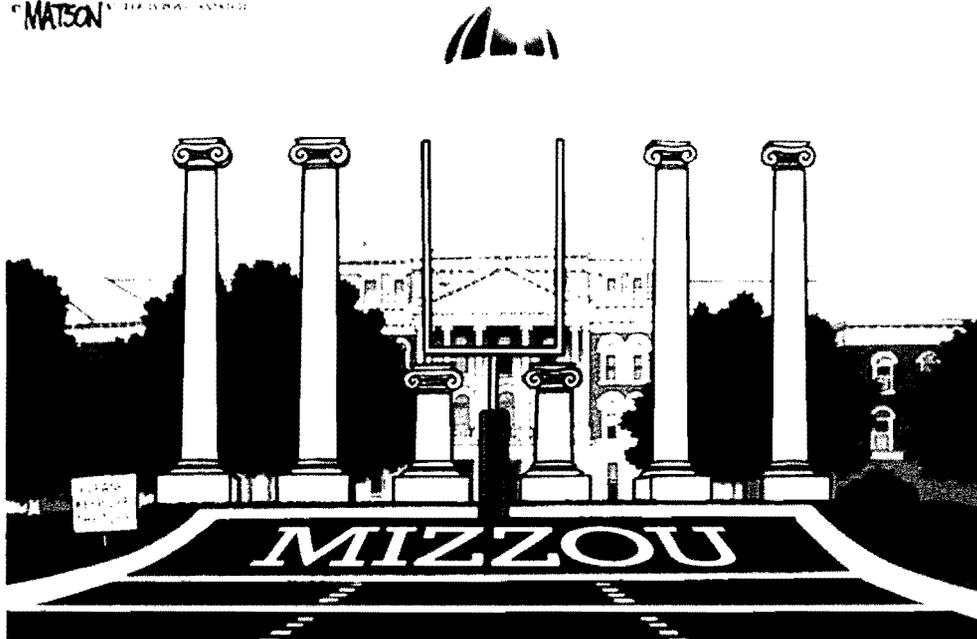
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# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Editorial: Money for sports? No problem. Money for higher ed? Problem.

By the Editorial Board | Posted: Tuesday, July 3, 2012 12:10 am | (1) comments.

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PRIORITIES

R.J. Matson/Post-Dispatch, July 3, 2012

**Five days after Gov. Jay Nixon trimmed \$9 million from Missouri's higher education budget last month — bringing to \$120 million the amount cut from the higher education budget in the past three years — some sports fans gave \$30 million to the University of Missouri.**

Of course, it was all for inter-collegiate football at the university's Columbia campus. The \$30 million from the Kansas City Sports Trust will cover not quite 25 percent of the \$102 million that the Mizzou athletic department will spend on the first phase of a \$200 million master plan to enhance its athletic facilities.

The other \$72 million for phase one will come from premium seating (some of which is disgustingly tax-deductible) at the university's Memorial Stadium, which will be enlarged, gussied-up and clad in a red-brick facade, dull pre-Depression concrete being so Big Eight-ish.

Now that Mizzou is part of the Southeastern Conference, it must demonstrate that its priorities are sufficiently out of whack.

That should be no problem.

**Even as the** state is choking off its academic resources, even as the curators are raising tuition, even as students and their families are going deeper in hock to pursue a sheepskin, Mizzou's focus is on pigskin.

"This is indeed a historic day for the university," Mizzou chancellor Brady Deaton said last Tuesday in a press release when the \$30 million gift was announced. "What a poignant and symbolic showing of the support we have as we move into the Southeastern Conference. I've said many times that athletics is the front porch of the institution and that a strong program benefits Mizzou immeasurably."

"Poignant?" Not really, but we'll buy "immeasurably." The reform-minded Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics has noted that despite claims to the contrary, donor support of athletics does little to increase support for other programs. Spending on sports creates more spending on sports.

The same day that Mizzou announced its big plans, the college presidents who oversee the NCAA's postseason football games announced that a four-team playoff would be used to determine the national championship beginning in 2014. In addition to cooling the fevered brows of those who regard the current bowl system as the greatest atrocity since Pol Pot ruled Cambodia, the playoffs are expected to generate an extra \$500 million to \$700 million a year in television revenue.

The Knight Commission has suggested that some of that revenue be spent on academics. We'd suggest paying the athletes instead, but then we'd be accused of undermining amateurism.

**Also at last** week's university board of curators meeting, it was announced that a \$36 million sports and recreation center would be built at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Of 12,000 students on campus, about two-thirds of the 1,500 who voted in a March referendum decided to dun everyone \$19.25 per credit hour to pay for the facility, although, presumably, many voters will have graduated or otherwise moved on before the facility is built.

Future students (or his or her parents) taking 12 hours a semester or more will pay an extra \$231 per semester for a cool place to work out, assuming they can afford the tuition.

Sports has become the tail that wags the dog. America may be 12th among 36 industrialized nations in the number of college degrees awarded, but we're No. 1 in football and work-out facilities.

## **MU holds its first official event as a member of the SEC**

**MU's athletic staff gathered in front of Mizzou Arena Monday morning for a small flag-raising ceremony celebrating their new conference affiliation.**

**By TEREZ A. PAYLOR**

COLUMBIA | With the morning sun bearing down and a smile creased across his lips, Mike Alden addressed the crowd, three flags flapping behind him in the breeze.

**Monday marked the University of Missouri's first business day as an official member of the Southeastern Conference, and this small flag-raising ceremony – held for athletic department staff and campus administrators right outside Mizzou Arena – was the department's first official event as a full, card-carrying member of the SEC.**

The occasion, Missouri's athletic director said, also doubled as a moment in time to remember. "Today gives us an opportunity to recognize another moment in our history where we're going to have a chance to move forward," Alden said.

He then asked the crowd to think back to 1839, when the University of Missouri was founded, and how athletics has been woven into the fabric of the university since then. He urged them to think about all the coaches and athletes and staff members over the years, each of whom individually pushed their school forward – to this exact moment – because of the cumulative effect of their efforts.

As he spoke, two school workers stood at one of the flagpoles, slowly lowering the black flag bearing the school's Tiger head logo. Underneath it, they placed a white flag bearing the blue-and-yellow logo of their new conference, and slowly raised both until they were set firmly into place at the top, each flying high directly next to the American flag.

"I can guarantee you this – based upon what I've seen on that chain, that flag ain't going anywhere," Alden said to a scattering of laughter. "It looks like it's pretty secure."

Much like Missouri's future, Alden hopes. Despite college football's ever-changing landscape and a football-crazed culture – "My gut tells me that we probably haven't seen like anything we're going to see on Sept. 8," Alden said of the conference opener against Georgia – SEC schools aren't looking to go anywhere, thanks to several lucrative deals bargained by perhaps college football's most respected commissioner, Mike Slive.

Under Slive, the SEC has also risen to the top of the nation's conference hierarchy in competitiveness. This school year alone, the SEC has won national championships in nine sports, with the most high-profile being football, where Alabama clinched the conference's sixth consecutive national championship in that sport.

"It will be different for us to go to Columbia, S.C, or Knoxville, Tenn., instead of Ames, Ia., or Manhattan, Kan.," Alden said. "But...that difference, while something that you think about, is also pretty exciting. There are new venues, new opportunities and we're going to challenge ourselves at the highest level."

So yes, while Alden reiterated several times Monday that making to adjustment to their new conference won't be easy – "It's going to take us several years to really feel like we've oriented ourselves to the SEC," he said – he remains confident that the University of Missouri is ready to rise to the occasion.

"As an institution, as an athletic program, what it means is that we've now stepped into a league that is regarded as the strongest in the country," Alden said. "We're going to have our plate full every day...and certainly, there are a lot of challenges ahead. But it's going to be pretty exciting."

Especially with the graciousness of the SEC officials, who he says have been right there, helping them every step of the way.

"Their willingness to always answer our phone calls, to always respond to the questions we may have, it's been really impressive," Alden said. "And I know that doesn't end today. That's going to be the experience we're going to have throughout our tenure in the SEC."

Alden pointed to all the hard work that has been done over the last nine months as proof of the school's commitment to "stepping up." Whether it's been replacing the signage at the Hearnes Center (also done Monday), taking a closer look at the recruiting budgets or planning the expansive, \$200 million athletic facility upgrades that were announced last week, preparing for the move has been a daily effort.

The work, however, really begins now, though it will be a different type of work than the kind he and his staff put in for much of last year, when they felt the need to explore every possible avenue in hopes securing the school's athletic and financial future.

It is, to be sure, a similar predicament some of his fellow athletic directors across the country find themselves in right now – hence the ongoing chatter about conference realignment that Alden doesn't see going away any time soon.

"If you take a look at the landscape out there and now the formatting as far as a playoff for college football, I wouldn't say that that's over," Alden said. "There may be a lull, as there was before, for a little while. But I think eventually we'll see some other movements."

Alden added that he had nothing to base that on, other than his gut. But while uncertainty figures to grip other schools in the coming year, Missouri's athletic leader couldn't be happier to know that with his school now an official member of the SEC – as the pristine, white flag now flapping outside Mizzou Arena clearly indicates – he need not worry about that stuff any longer.

"(Realignment talk) is over for Mizzou, that's for sure," Alden said with a laugh. "We've got a great home...we're looking forward to being a proud member of the SEC for a long, long time."



Flying the flag of a new conference

## Fans enthusiastic about fresh start in SEC.

As Missouri fans counted down the minutes to midnight Saturday night, Athletic Director Mike Alden was at home with his family in Columbia. The Aldens stayed up late for a special reason: Coldplay.

"I was watching 'Saturday Night Live,' " Alden said this morning. "It was a rerun. Emma Stone, if you wanted to know, was the" guest host. "And Coldplay was on, so I wanted to see Coldplay. That was pretty exciting."

Of course, the stroke of midnight was momentous for another reason, the one that had Missouri fans celebrating like it was New Year's Eve. As the calendar flipped to July 1, MU formally became a member of the Southeastern Conference. It's a historic line of demarcation for a school and athletic program that had been part of the Missouri Valley Conference, Big Six, Big Eight and Big 12 for more than a century.

Those days are officially history.

MU athletic department officials and coaches gathered outside Mizzou Arena this morning to commemorate the conference change with the raising of the SEC flag.

Afterward, it was back to work on a transition process that began Nov. 6 when Missouri announced it was leaving the Big 12 for its new home.

"The work really begins today," Alden said after the white SEC flag joined a larger black MU flag on one of three poles outside the basketball arena. "I think a lot of people think the work is done. The work begins today.

"You've got to sharpen your saw even more," he continued. "You've got to really, really focus in on every little aspect in every area, so that your soccer program or volleyball program or football program or basketball program or whatever that may be, that you're providing your student-athletes, your coaches, your fans the greatest opportunity for success in a brand new neighborhood.

"The work is going to continue. It's not like you just moved to a neighborhood and everything's going to be peaches and cream right away. Everything's going to be new."

Yesterday, the SEC celebration extended to Kansas City, the place that has been portrayed as the most resistant to the SEC move. A few hundred Missouri fans gathered downtown at Willie's bar seemed to indicate otherwise. The event was organized by members of the Tiger Club of Kansas City and the local Mizzou Alumni Association chapter and featured a guest appearance by University of Missouri Curator Warren Erdman, who chaired the board throughout the conference realignment process.

"In the end, we did the right thing and we did it unanimously," Erdman said in a brief speech. "And it's going to change your school forever."

Fans in Kansas City basked in that decision yesterday.

"Every summer for the last three or four years, I was anxious," said Scott Jones, a Tiger Club board member. "But not anymore. There was a time when we thought we were going to the Big East. We don't have to worry about that ever again."

Kansas City's initial resistance to the SEC was overblown, Jones said. He said the bulk of the criticism came from local politicians and what he called the "white tops," the older generation of fans who still long for the comfort of the Big Eight.

"They might miss the Big Eight," he said, "but nobody here is going to miss the Big 12."

Paul Blackman, a Kansas City attorney and Tiger Club board member, said he initially hoped Missouri would join the Big Ten when Big 12 troubles arose, but he quickly bought into the SEC. Blackman said most Missouri fans in Kansas City are on board, too.

"We may not have the most fans here, but you won't find more passionate Missouri fans than you do in Kansas City," he said. "That's because we're on the front line. We're up against it every day."

By that he meant the city's proximity to Kansas, Missouri's longtime archrival and the thousands of KU fans who share space with Missouri fans in the area. But in recent months, Kansas' refusal to continue the rivalry in any sport seems to have galvanized Missouri fans posted on that front line.

"I used to hate KU," local business owner Greg DeCamp said. "Now, I'm feeling indifferent to KU."

In Columbia, the honeymoon will soon wear off and the challenges will loom. Alden said he expects conference realignment will experience a lull for a while but eventually perk up again. But not at Missouri.

"The SEC is our home," Alden said, "and we're looking forward to being a proud member of the SEC for a long, long time."

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# MISSOURIAN

## Missouri's Alden welcomes challenges of move to SEC

Monday, July 2, 2012 | 10:51 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — As he watched his assistants raise the MU and Southeastern Conference flags together for the first time Monday in front of Mizzou Arena, Mike Alden cracked a long-awaited smile.**

Alden smiled, but he didn't sigh. Relief might be for those merely content with joining what he called the best league in America, but not for Alden, whose goal of moving forward has already lived beyond one confetti-filled celebration in early November.

"As an institution, as an athletic program, I think what (today) means is that we've now stepped into a league that's regarded as the strongest in the country, and that we're going to have our plate full every day and we're going to be challenged every day to try to improve our program," Alden said.

The raising of the flag, which took place in what Alden called "Southeastern heat," came a day after MU officially traded out its Big 12 Conference logo for an SEC one. Alden said at the moment the transition became official, midnight Sunday, he was enjoying "Saturday Night Live" with his family.

The process has been a lengthy one for Alden, stocked with the highs, lows and uncertainties that come with changing conferences. The journey included the unrealized possibility of the Big Ten Conference in summer 2010 before striking gold with the SEC on Nov. 6, 2011.

Alden said the trip now moves not just southeast, but up the ladder of the league that has produced the past six national champions in football.

"I think you've got to sharpen your saw a little bit," Alden said, citing last week's \$30 million donation to the program's \$102 million plan to renovate facilities as examples of attaining a appropriate quality life in the SEC.

Although he lauded the efforts of SEC commissioner Mike Slive and the league's members for their warm welcomes, Alden said settling into SEC culture will take time.

"This is going to take us several years to really feel like we've oriented ourselves to the Southeastern Conference," he said.

Alden said he expects the atmosphere at Faurot Field to be unlike anything he's ever witnessed when reigning SEC East champion Georgia visits the Tigers on Sept. 8. He added that he knows acclimating the fan base and university to the game's premier conference will be a challenge.

But as Alden reiterated on multiple occasions Monday, raised stakes have served as his motivation all along the rocky road to a new conference home. He said they consistently fueled the department's major moves, such as the renovations plan and even small day-to-day tasks, such as changing banners in the Hearn Center.

They might have even had something to do with that smile he flashed Monday as he watched the SEC flag fly high amid SEC-like heat.

"The SEC is our home, and we're looking forward to being a proud member of the SEC for a long, long time," he said.

# MISSOURIAN

## Missouri flies SEC flag to symbolize conference switch

**COLUMBIA – One day after MU made its official passage from the Big 12 Conference to the Southeastern Conference, the athletics department made a symbolic transition with the raising of an SEC flag Monday at Mizzou Arena.**

Athletics Director Mike Alden welcomed faculty, fans and media members to the flag poles on the north side of the arena, where assistants strung the SEC flag together with the MU flag and raised it.

Alden joked that since there were only three flag poles and the first two featured state and national flags, the athletics department had no choice but to bond the SEC flag together with the MU one.

"I want you to think back to over 100 years of intercollegiate athletic competition at this institution," Alden said. "I want you to think back to 1839, when the University of Missouri was first founded and athletics became a very important part of everything that we try to do at our institution."

As he talked about moving forward with what he called the best conference in America in the SEC, Alden paid respects to the Big 12 for the years Missouri spent in competition with several long-term rivals. The Tigers spent 16 years in the Big 12 since it was formed by the merger of the now-defunct Big Eight and Southwest conferences. The league traces its roots back to 1907, when MU was one of four charter schools in the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

"Certainly, our gratitude and our appreciation for our brethren and our colleagues in the Big 12 and in the Big Eight before that certainly has been something that has been significant to our history at the University of Missouri, and certainly is something that we're greatly appreciative of for all of those years and all of that competition and all of those associations that we've had," Alden said.

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## Alden talks SEC move at ceremonial flag raise

*The day following Missouri's official adoption into the Southeastern Conference, a flag was raised outside Mizzou Arena.*

By Seth Boster

On his first Monday morning of business as an athletics director in the Southeastern Conference, Mike Alden was wearing a bright yellow Mizzou Golf polo and his usual thin-rimmed glasses as a flag was being raised behind him.

**“I want you to think back to 1839, when the University of Missouri was founded,” he said before a contingency of media members and fans on the Walsworth Plaza. “You think over the course of well over 100 years, student athletes and coaches, and staff, and chancellors, and faculty members, and staff members, wherever they might be, all worked together to be able to see Mizzou move forward. Today gives us another opportunity to recognize another moment in time in history to be able to move forward.”**

It was important to signify MU’s adoption into the SEC, Alden said. Though the adoption was official on Sunday, he said it might have been difficult to rally people on church day.

At the stroke of midnight July 1, the online countdowns expired and Missouri was ushered into the SEC with wide celebration throughout Columbia and among the team's fans.

All the while, Alden — having officially completed the long process of conference conversion from the Big 12 Conference — was at his home with family, watching a rerun of "Saturday Night Live" hosted by Emma Stone with a musical appearance by Coldplay, who performed "Paradise."

Alden was asked to describe all it took for the day to finally come.

“It’s hard to describe,” he said. “It’s been a daily effort, no matter if it’s having to change the sign at the Hearnes Center to taking a look at our recruiting budget ... It’s just been a myriad of things we’ve been working on.”

He was sure to express final gratitude to the Big 12, formerly the Big Eight, the home of Alden and Missouri for the past 16 years and all 14 years of his tenure.

“We would not have the opportunity to do the things we’re able to do today — we would not have been as well-prepared had it not been for our association with the Big 12 Conference,” he said before the SEC flag was hoisted.

Throughout the year, Alden answered questions concerning matters such as the program's ability to compete in the SEC, regarded as, what he called, "the strongest athletic conference top to bottom in the United States of America." He heard fans' worries of league rival Kansas ending the century-old Border Showdown, disintegrated as of now.

"These types of decisions, they don't just stay in your head," Alden said. "They're in your heart, too."

He said that the real work was just beginning, that Missouri's real acclimation to the SEC would be made over the span of several years.

"It's not like you just move to a new neighborhood and everything's going to be peaches and cream right away," he said. "Everything's going to be new."

Gary Anders and Kathy Ungles, members of the athletics department, rolled down the pole's chain and people watched quietly as the flag was clipped on. Alden remarked that the chain would hold the flag firmly. The cheering started once it reached the top.