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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM Press hires former editor Jane Lago as consulting director

By Tess Malone

October 19, 2012 | 7:15 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Jane Lago has been hired as the new consulting director for the University of Missouri Press, starting Monday. Lago follows interim director Dwight Browne, who is retiring. She will remain until a permanent director is hired after a nationwide search.

Lago worked at the press for 33 years as an editorial assistant, assistant editor, editor, senior editor and managing editor before retiring in 2008. As consulting director, she said she will oversee the staff and manage hiring and fundraising until a new permanent director is named.

"I will be in charge of handling decisions on how the press is going to rebuild," she said. Historian Robert Ferrell worked with Lago when she was managing editor. She edited eight of his books, he said.

"What they really need to do is move fast with the editing and get the books out, and she'll be great with that," he said. Lago's appointment was announced Friday by MU Provost Brian Foster.

"Jane Lago is a long-term press employee who brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the press," Foster said in a news release. "Jane will help us through this transition as we commence our national search for a permanent director of the press."

Lago said she is eager to help the press recover.

"Just as I believed in the press enough to fight against its closure, I believe in its value enough to make sure it's brought back as quickly as possible," she said. The UM System announced in May that the press would be phased out in 2013. On Aug. 28, the system shifted responsibility for the press to MU.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.



United Way rally aims to spark MU donations

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, October 20, 2012

University of Missouri leaders yesterday hosted a lunchtime rally in hopes of drumming up more employee support for this year's United Way campaign.

The university's fundraising effort is lagging this year. As of Tuesday, the end of the latest reporting period, MU and UM System employees had contributed \$312,717 toward the goal of \$800,000. That's nearly \$170,000 down from the \$482,012 the university raised at the same point in last year's campaign, according to data from MU's United Way website.

Betsy Rodriguez, UM vice president of human resources, blamed a lack of communication. Last year, the university switched to an online contribution model, and she fears faculty and staff might not remember that system. "We need to do a better job of communicating," she said.

And some employees likely were waiting to hear how the donations would be used, she said.

The United Way on Wednesday announced it would allocate \$3.2 million to 26 Boone County agencies to fund 35 proposals focused on educational, health and emergency needs of local youths. The grantees represent the United Way's new Community Impact model, unveiled earlier this year.

"I think people were waiting to see what the change means," Rodriguez said, adding that she hopes the newly announced list gives the campaign "the push we need."

MU's United Way website also included detailed reports yesterday about who has given and who has yet to turn in donation slips.

In some instances, no employee in a unit had given as of Tuesday, and in other cases, units were made up of one individual — both of which allowed the public to identify who has or hasn't contributed yet. Administrators were planning to take the report offline after the Tribune inquired about it.

In the German & Russian Studies department, the report showed one person out of 46 faculty members, instructors and staff members had contributed. Nicole Monnier, an associate teaching

professor in the department, freely acknowledged it wasn't her. She contributed to United Way in past years, in part, to be supportive of staff in her department but has since decided it makes more sense to give donations directly to agencies. "If I give money directly to an organization, there's no overhead and it goes to that organization," Monnier said.

She also doesn't like the new direction the organization has taken. The Community Impact model resulted in the United Way no longer supporting previously-funded agencies that target needs of senior citizens.

"Now, I probably would not contribute because I don't like what United Way has done with its money," she said. "I see no reason to contribute, and it did not help when they cut out the elderly."

Karla DeSpain, who led the study that resulted in the change, said Community Impact was the result of three years worth of input and research.

"This did not happen in a vacuum," she said during the rally. "Hundreds of people were involved in the process."

The campaign's goal of \$4 million this year reflects the new commitment toward educational excellence.

"If we expect a 4.0 effort from our youth, how can we expect any less from our community?" asked Mitzi Clayton, campaign chairwoman.

To reach the goal, MU has to step up, Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton said. He said administrators are "very confident" the campus and system can reach its goal of \$800,000. "But we need your help," he told a crowd gathered in the Jesse Hall rotunda, "and the help of the entire Mizzou family."

Missouri ignored in 2012 presidential campaign

On a Sunday afternoon in the middle of September, a jet carrying Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney touched down at Kansas City International Airport. Romney exited to greet a few people on the tarmac while the plane refueled for a flight westward and its passengers filled up on catered barbecue.

The unscheduled, unpublicized stop marked the only time Romney stepped foot in Missouri since winning his party's nomination. President Barack Obama, a Democrat, never came to Missouri at all to campaign.

The 2012 presidential race has been unlike anything Missouri voters have seen in quite some time. Or perhaps "not seen" is a better description. There have been no rallies, debates or public events featuring Obama or Romney. And neither candidate has run any ads specifically targeting Missouri.

That's a sharp contrast with the 2008 election and the intense presidential campaigns that Missourians have come to expect over the past several decades.

In short: "They're ignoring the state," said George Connor, head of the political science department at Missouri State University.

The reason: Romney is expected to win Missouri, so neither candidate figures it's worth his precious time and money to battle for the state's 10 electoral votes.

"Campaigns have become very efficient at allocating resources -- they think a lot about where battleground states are," said John Petrocik, chairman of the political science department at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

The fact that Missouri is not a presidential battleground this year has forced the state Democratic and Republican parties to take on a greater role in recruiting volunteers, identifying likely voters and getting them to turn out on Election Day. Both parties vow they still will have strong efforts -- even without the aid of their presidential contenders.

A few statistics illustrate the vast differences between the last presidential campaign and the current one. In October 2008, Obama's presidential campaign had opened 44 field offices in Missouri and created 400 "neighborhood teams," each responsible for coordinating efforts in

eight to 12 precincts that could cover anywhere from a few city blocks to an entire county. Each of Obama's neighborhood teams in Missouri had a volunteer director for local canvassing, phone banks, data management and volunteer recruitment.

This year, Obama's website lists two offices in Missouri -- one in St. Louis, the other in Kansas City.

When it became clear that Obama would not invest heavily in Missouri, Sen. Claire McCaskill took the lead in organizing the state party's efforts, said Karla Thieman, the coordinated campaign director for the Missouri Democratic Party. The party has opened 32 offices around Missouri, and its volunteers have knocked on more than 900,000 doors and made over 4 million phone calls, Thieman said. Not everyone answers, of course, but those efforts have translated into actual contact with nearly a million potential voters, she said.

The state party is "running a very aggressive persuasion program of voter-to-voter contact," Thieman said.

She added: "There have been some folks who have said there is a lack of excitement because the presidential (candidate) is not here, but we're definitely not seeing and hearing and feeling that on the ground."

In October 2008, Republican presidential candidate John McCain had 16 full-time offices in Missouri. This year, the state Republican Party has eight offices run in conjunction with the national party and an additional 52 county GOP offices, many of which are open on a part-time basis, said state GOP executive director Lloyd Smith. He said the GOP expects to make close to the same number of phone calls -- around 1.1 million -- that were made in 2008.

Smith, who has more than three decades of experience in Missouri politics, said he can't recall another presidential election in which Missouri has not been a targeted battleground. In years past, campaign events featuring presidential candidates have drawn crowds of people, whose names, addresses and phone numbers were collected by party leaders.

"Because we're not having those large rallies with the 10,000 people or 20,000 people, we've had to work harder to get volunteers," Smith said.

Four years ago, Obama lost Missouri to McCain by 3,903 votes out of more than 2.9 million cast -- the slimmest margin in any state -- despite the fact that Obama carried 53 percent of the nation's popular vote and two-thirds of the electoral vote. It marked just the second time in more than a century that Missouri voters had not sided with the winning presidential candidate. The 2008 presidential election has been cited by political experts as an indication that Missouri now favors Republicans in national elections.

"We've become, in some way, kind of a victim of our own success," said Smith, the Republican director. "I don't want to say we're being taken for granted, but I think our production in the last two election cycles has proven we can carry our weight."

Although not campaigning in Missouri for the general election, the presidential tickets have drawn money from the state.

The absence of in-state campaigning by presidential contenders can also affect down-ballot candidates by denying them the free public exposure that comes from sharing a stage with a bigger name and, potentially, by diminishing the coattail effect among voters.

"As a general proposition, the better the top of the ticket does, the better that party's vote is as you go down the ballot," said Petrocik, the political scientist.

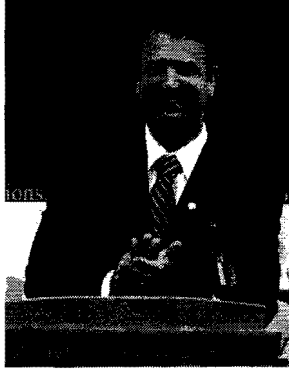
Will the absence of an aggressive presidential campaign in Missouri make it harder for other candidates to do well?

"We're going to find out," Blunt said. "We've had so little experience with that."

MU Thompson Center welcomes former researcher's return as executive director

By [Lizzie Johnson](#)

October 19, 2012 | 5:03 p.m. CDT



Stephen M. Kanne, the executive director of the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, thanks his wife at his speech at MU Thompson Center Celebration and Recognition Program on Friday. Kanne was a psychologist and researcher at the center for six years and left a year and a half ago to become the director at Texas Children's Hospital Autism Center. He went to Baylor University, where he continued his studies on ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorders) and other specific genetic disorders relating to autism before coming back as the new executive director in September. | [Xiaojie Ouyang](#)

COLUMBIA — Stephen Kanne has been with the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders since its start.

As a researcher and a psychologist there for six years, Kanne watched it work through growing pains at its former location at 300 Portland St. He left in 2011 to become the director of the Texas Children's Hospital Autism Center.

This year, Kanne returned.

The MU Thompson Center, now down the street at 205 Portland St., held a ceremony Friday to celebrate his new position as executive director.

"I was one of the people that helped form the center," Kanne said. "It was a no-brainer. I imagined someone else in this job and it felt wrong. This is kind of like home to me."

Kanne assumed the role in September. His appointment was announced in July; the previous director, Joel Bregman, resigned in April to move closer to family.

At the ceremony, Kanne said he envisions a center with a greater reach beyond mid-Missouri.

"We want to impact everything we can, especially the kids," he said. "At the end of the day, we ask what is best for them."

Harold Williamson Jr., vice chancellor for the MU Health Sciences Center, said Kanne will meet with a board on Nov. 1 to present ideas.

"There are no radical changes, but with any new leader, there will be change," Williamson said. "He has been here since the beginning. He has an excellent sense of history of the place."

William Thompson of the Thompson Foundation for Autism, a major donor for the center, said the transition was positive.

"We are thrilled to have Kanne return," he said. "When you get the right leader, who has a clear focus, a loyal and deep affection for the staff, and a passion for, in our case, the child and family, that is a winning combination."

Kanne also presented medallions to distinguished donors. The groups included Ella's Hope Foundation for Autism, Holiday Inn Executive Center of Columbia, Project Change-Team Awaken KC, John and Marjory Gaberio family and the Doug and Courtney Mertens family.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

Volunteers wade into Hinkson Clean Sweep



Ryan Henriksen | [Buy this photo](#)

University of Missouri students collect trash off the bank of Bear Creek during the seventh annual Hinkson Clean Sweep Saturday,

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Sunday, October 21, 2012

Dozens of volunteers donned gloves and grabbed red mesh trash bags yesterday to clean up Columbia.

The seventh annual Hinkson Clean Sweep citywide stream cleanup event coincided with the Columbia Youth in Service Day and the MU Homecoming Service Day to provide

opportunities to pick up trash or to pull discarded automobile tires from Hinkson Creek, Flat Branch Creek and Bear Creek.

At a gathering point along the Bear Creek Trail off Big Bear Boulevard, site co-captain Naomi Gego, a Missouri Stream Team biologist, held a clipboard with the names of more than 40 people who pre-registered to lend a hand.

"We want to make sure everyone who goes in comes out," Gego said, after giving basic safety instructions to volunteers. Gego said she normally would talk about the danger of high water, "but this year that hasn't been so much of a problem."

Leaders also reminded volunteers that if they came across trash or other objects that they were afraid to handle, they should notify a site captain. Gego said that in the past some teams have found drug paraphernalia.

"Occasionally you find a weapon, although that hasn't happened in a long time," she said.

Other Clean Sweep sites were at Capen Park, Flat Branch Park, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the MKT Trail, and the Hinkson Creek Valley neighborhood. Organizations registered at the Bear Creek site included Greeks Going Green, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Society and Mizzou Engineers Without Borders.

At the Bear Creek site, most volunteers headed to the creek, in most cases encountering steep or slick creek banks, while others traipsed through the forested area in search of trash.

Megan Weldy, 20, a University of Missouri junior from Oakdale, Minn., was part of a Phi Sigma Pi service project group that scoured the forest for trash. It was her first Clean Sweep experience in Columbia, but Weldy said she participated in a similar effort in high school back in Minnesota.

Word spread among the Bear Creek volunteers that someone had discovered a refrigerator.

"We haven't spotted anything that large yet," Weldy said.

Several volunteers converged to tackle a steep hillside on the north side of Bear Creek, filling bags with trash. Leaf litter on the surface of the shallow water gave the illusion of solid footing, and damp slopes got slicker with each passing foot.

Daniel Nabelek, 22, a Columbia graduate student who is pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering, said his group, Engineers Without Borders, had collected a lot of typical trash.

"Nothing bizarre," he said. "Just the usual stuff: bottles, cans, Styrofoam."

After Nabelek and two other group members crossed the creek to get back onto Bear Creek Trail, they discovered a buried object — either part of a car or an entire car — at the top of the creek

bank. The three students grabbed two shovels and pick axe — apparently left by another party that was intent on unearthing the rusted metal — and began digging.

The group was followed up the damp bank by Alexandra Martinez, who lugged a car tire that she had retrieved. "I don't really mind getting a little muddy," said Martinez, an 18-year-old anthropology student from Virginia. "Must be the country girl in me."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Speakers decry food insecurity at MU symposium

By Caroline Michler, Taylor Weatherby

October 19, 2012 | 1:40 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Forty years ago, David Holben's father fell down a set of stairs.

After that day, "magically my lunch tickets changed from one color to another color," Holben said, "because reduced-priced school lunch tickets looked different than everyone else's."

Holben, a registered dietitian and nutrition professor at Ohio University, has taken his personal experience with food insecurity and has since been trying to find solutions to the universal problem.

Holben spoke to a room of about 200 students, faculty and locals Thursday as part of a two-day symposium hosted by the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources titled "Food Insecurity: Assessing Disparities, Consequences, and Policies."

In 2011, about 15 percent of U.S. households were food insecure, which amounts to about 18 million households, according to the Department of Agriculture. Food insecurity is related to health problems such as poor diabetes management, overall poor health status and depression.

Food insecurity is a preventable health threat, Holben said. Communities can help by referring patients and clients to safety net programs and collaborating to develop programs that improve food access and food security.

Such a program is ECOhio, a community garden project in Athens, Ohio, where anyone can walk by and take fresh produce, Holben said. Another food security support program in the area is the Chesterhill Produce Auction, where local produce is auctioned to the public.

"There are more hungry people than we can even begin to count in the U.S. and in Columbia," said Melinda Hemmelgarn, a dietitian of 30 years who attended Holben's speech. "People are making decisions that don't support their bodies (because) their choices are limited."

Sandy Rikoon, one of the symposium's organizers, said about 400 people attended the event over the course of two days.

Holben was one of two main speakers at the symposium. Patricia Allen, a professor at Marylhurst University in Lake Oswego, Ore., gave a presentation Wednesday night.

Allen spoke about the importance of food security and a socially just food system. She gave a definition of a socially just food system as "one in which power and material resources are shared equitably so that people and communities can meet their needs, live with security and dignity, now and into the future." This definition came about at a meeting of academics and activists in California, Allen said.

Women and people of color do not have equal access to farmland and are among those likely to be hungry, along with children and the elderly, Allen said.

In conversations about food security and food safety, there is often tension between protecting the environment for future generations while not giving much concern to those who are here now, Allen said.

She said these are the worst of times because of the food security crisis but also the best of times because of people's engagement with the issue.

"We can create a world where there is a place for everyone at the table that is overflowing with good and beautiful food," Allen said.

Supervising editor is Simina Mistreanu.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: MU Clery releases perpetuate stereotypes

By Jamie Crockett

October 19, 2012 | 1:04 p.m. CDT

I'm a junior as well as the Legion of Black Collegians Student Government communications chair and a general body member of the NAACP Collegiate Chapter. But titles and involvement aside, I am also an African-American female. I have noticed, but more so it has been brought to my attention by many of my peers, **that the MU Clery releases do not adequately describe assumed perpetrators, specifically African-American males.**

Students feel many stereotypes are perpetuated in these releases, and they have been quite upset about its frequency. Quite frankly, a lot of African-American males on this campus could fit the description mentioned, however, not all of them have supposedly done the crime.

So my question is this: Do we continue to allow the releases to continue perpetuating these stereotypes, or do we insist that Clery releases include more identifiable information (e.g., tattoos)?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jamie Crockett is a broadcast journalism major at MU.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Grass-fed beef in more pastures and on more plates

October 21, 2012 12:15 am • By Georgina Gustin ggustin@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8195

MU MENTION P. 3

At the Tower Grove Farmers Market every Saturday, rancher Jeremy Parker brings in hundreds of pounds of beef — flanks, sirloins, briskets, ground — and at the end of the market day, most of it is sold.

“When I leave, it's all but gone most of the time.” Parker says. “There's definitely growing demand. There's more demand than there is availability.”

Parker and his fellow grass-fed producers are happy to ride the trend.

In St. Louis and around the country, the appetite for grass-fed beef has shot up in recent years. While still a small percentage of the beef consumed in the U.S. — about 3 percent — advocates, consumers and producers predict the number will keep rising. One study put demand growth at 20 percent a year.

“It's expanded dramatically,” said Alan Williams, a grass-fed beef producer and member of the Pasture Project, an effort to get more conventional producers in the Midwest switching to pasture-based systems. “In the late 1990s there were only 100 producers. Now there are more than 2,000. The market has grown from being \$2 million to \$3 million to over \$2.5 billion in retail value.”

The American beef industry brought in \$44 billion dollars in 2011, making it the most valuable sector in American agriculture.

Missouri's contribution to the sector is significant: With 52,000 ranches, the state has the second-highest number of cow operations in the country, behind Texas, bringing in an estimated \$1.5 billion a year.

The vast majority of the cattle raised here and in other states is sent elsewhere, to feedlots in Kansas and Nebraska mostly, where the animals are fattened and “finished” on a diet of corn and other grains.

This feedlot system — where cattle are raised in one place, finished in another and processed in yet another — has enabled the country to develop its massive beef industry cheaply, efficiently and with less manpower.

Cattle ranchers contend that a wholesale, or even partial, transition to a grass-based system would be impractical and would drive up costs.

In recent years, however, critics of that system say the industry's growth has come at too high a cost, for the environment, for human health and for the animals themselves.

About 40 percent of the country's corn now goes to livestock, helping make corn the most grown, and most valuable, crop in the country. But corn production is nitrogen-intensive, and critics say that run-off from nitrogen fertilizer has contributed to polluted waterways, most notably the growing “Dead Zone” in the Gulf of Mexico.

At the same time cattle's corn-centric diets have contributed to fattier, less nutritious beef that is higher in cholesterol and lower in good fatty acids, some say.

Because the cost of that beef is relatively low, consumers can afford to eat more of it, often in the form of fast food burgers.

Finally, critics contend, the animals aren't designed to subsist on grain or live in confined space. Their diet and confinement allow them to get fatter, faster, improving margins for producers, but forcing the animals to live in crowded, dirty conditions that make them sick, requiring the use of antibiotics and triggering bacteria that, ultimately, get into the food supply and make people sick.

“Basically, it comes down to time,” explained Patricia Whisnant, president of the American Grassfed Association, and a Missouri producer whose Rain Crow Ranch is among the largest grass fed operations in the country. “You take an animal off of pasture, you give him antibiotics and corn, you're looking at harvesting that animal in 12 to 14 months. On grass, you're looking at 24 months, and more likely 28.”

Altogether, these factors appear to be getting the attention of consumers who are willing to pay a premium for grass-fed beef. Producers and retailers are responding.

Until recently, most grass-fed beef was sold directly by the producer to the consumer, who often arranges to buy a whole side of beef through a special arrangement. Some grass-fed beef is also sold directly through buyers clubs.

But now grass-fed beef is becoming big business. Supermarket chains, including Schnucks, Dierbergs and Whole Foods, now stock grass-fed beef. This summer Washington University announced that 100 percent of the ground beef served in the school's cafeterias would be grass fed — amounting to about 1.2 million pounds a year.

“We have a lot of students who are conscious about a low-carbon diet,” said Jill Duncan, the Washington University-based director of marketing for Bon Appetit Management, the company that runs the school's food service. “We have to make sure the students support our positions.”

Bon Appetit earlier this year announced that by 2015, 25 percent of all the meat it serves, not just beef, has to be certified by a third-party independent group that requires pasture-based feeding systems.

“For a company that has 500 accounts, that's a pretty huge stance,” Duncan said. “We have large buying power.”

Neither the U.S. Department of Agriculture or beef trade groups track production or sales of grass-fed beef, choosing not to distinguish grass-fed production from conventional production.

But according to the Pasture Project, based on the grass fed industry's own market research, sales of domestic grass fed beef were about \$350 million in 2010, with more than \$1 billion in total retail sales including imported product. The group predicts that, with sufficient supply, annual sales could reach \$17 billion.

That increase could have a dramatic impact on nutrient run-off, something the Pasture Project is targeting. In 2011, the group issued a report that set out a goal: to get 20 percent of cattle producers in the upper Midwest transitioned to grass-based systems.

“We firmly believe that using grazing techniques makes the land more productive and reduces the amounts of inputs,” said Warren King, who runs the project for the Wallace Center, which is part of the Arkansas-based, nonprofit Winrock International.

Conventional cattle producers and their trade groups point out that grass-fed beef is more expensive for consumers because it is more expensive to raise. Some also question whether there is adequate land to supply enough beef for the nation's appetites. The average American eats 60 pounds of beef a year.

There are roughly 1 billion pastureland acres in the U.S., which appears to be ample to graze the number of cows needed to meet that number. But not all land is equal.

“The number of acres it would take, they'd be just exorbitant,” said Ray Massey, an agricultural economist with the University of Missouri, speaking at a panel discussion at Washington University last. “You need four or five acres per cow. There are 1 billion acres. But most are west of the Mississippi. In Nebraska and Colorado, you need 20 and 30 acres.”

More than acreage, the switch to grass fed will require more labor. Grass fed production requires constant rotation and much more manpower than feedlots, where volume is concentrated and feed can be dispensed via computerized systems.

“I believe we can do it in this country. I believe it can happen on small scale farms. We have enough land.” Whisnant said. “Will it be done? I don't believe so, because it takes people working on those farms, and there's no one there.”

Massey and others also point to another difficulty of grass production — one that was underscored with this year's historic drought.

“If you have your livestock in a pen, and you don't have corn around you, you can go somewhere else and get it,” Massey explained. “When your pastures dry up, you have to sell early.”

Luckily, for Midwestern grass fed producers, recent rains have brought much needed relief.

“We did have to sell off quite a few mother cows and some calves this summer because we were just running out of pasture. We had to spend \$15,000 on hay this summer,” Parker said. “But the fall's been fantastic. It's like a second spring.”