A year after nearly calling it quits, the University of Missouri Press is back in the business of publishing scholarly books and looking forward to a future flush with promise, not uncertainty.

A public uproar ensued last summer after university administrators disclosed plans in late May 2012 to shutter the 54-year-old academic press known for its commitment to regional culture, presidential history, Mark Twain scholarship and 20th Century sports icons. Barely three months later, the University of Missouri system and new President Tim Wolfe backtracked on those plans and attempted to repair the public relations damage.

After forgoing a spring catalog, the press recently released its fall/winter catalog with 10 new books and 15 e-books. The publishing house is now part of the flagship Columbia campus rather than the university system, and a search for a new director continues. Press supporters hope the threat to its survival will allow the business to prosper even as modern technology poses continual challenges.

"The press was sort of taken for granted," said Mel George, a former Missouri system president who now leads a 21-member faculty advisory committee formed to support the venture. "Having been placed on the campus gives it much more of a central voice of authority. There is a renewed commitment to the press."

At the time, Wolfe said the decision to shutter the press — which some campus officials insisted on characterizing as a business reboot rather than a closure — was driven by financial constraints, and a need to disperse a $400,000 annual university subsidy toward more dire needs such as building repairs or faculty raises. He later acknowledged miscalculating the importance of the school’s scholarly publishing and not vetting the idea with faculty and others affected before reaching that decision.

Jane Lago, who retired as managing editor in 2008 after more than three decades with the press, returned seven months ago as interim director until a permanent hire is made. She is confident that university leaders are committed to the venture’s long-term success. The press is now overseen by Provost Brian Foster, the top academic officer on the Columbia campus.
"The university is very interested in hiring a new director with a vision to do whatever publishing (looks like) in the future," she said. "We don't know what publishing is going to be like in five years. But there's a great deal of interest in looking at scholarly publishing and how it's evolving, and how a university should be part of that."

The contretemps also generated much broader name recognition and awareness of the university press, Lago said _ even on the MU campus.

"It gave us much greater visibility than what we had before," she said. "There were so many people on campus who didn't know what the press was, or what we did or what we published."

Ned Stuckey-French, an associate English professor at Florida State University, was among dozens of authors who angrily sought return of their publishing rights after Missouri's initial announcement. The new catalog now includes a paperback version of his book, "The American Essay in the American Century."

"Closing the press was a horrible, short-sighted mistake that was not in the interests of the university or the people of the state of Missouri," said Stuckey-French, whose father grew up on a small farm in northwest Missouri and graduated from Mizzou.

"The University of Missouri Press is back and strong and publishing good and important books," he added. "I couldn't be happier."
SEC schools dividing league-record $289.4 million in revenue

Missouri's first payout expected to be $20.7 million.

By Steve Walentik

Saturday, June 1, 2013 at 2:00 am

Missouri will receive about $20.7 million in revenue from the Southeastern Conference for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The SEC will distribute approximately $289.4 million to be shared by the league’s 14 schools, Commissioner Mike Slive announced yesterday as the conference wrapped up its annual spring meetings in Destin, Fla.

The revenue total, which includes money generated by football television, bowls, the SEC football championship game, basketball television, the SEC men's basketball tournament and NCAA championships, is the highest total in SEC history.

Missouri, which joined the SEC in July, will receive its first full share as a conference member for the fiscal year that ends Aug. 31. The school took in about $13 million from the Big 12 in 2011 but forfeited its share from 2012 as a penalty for leaving the conference without advance notice.

The university covered the deficit, but the athletic department can start paying that money back, especially in two years thanks to the launch of the SEC Network. Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden said recently that a conservative estimate is that the network would increase each school's revenue by at least $2 million. A USA Today report in January estimated that by 2015, the SEC could increase its annual distributions to $14 million more per member with the creation of the SEC Network.

The SEC's news release said the $289.4 million does not include the $14.1 million retained by the schools that participated in bowl games last season or $980,000 divided among all 14 schools by the NCAA for academic enhancement.

Additional revenue schools earned from their local media packages were also excluded from that total.
Here is a list of the SEC's other annual money distributions since 1980: 1980 ($4.1 million); 1981 ($5.57 million); 1982 ($7.24 million); 1983 ($9.53 million); 1984 ($18.4 million); 1985 ($9.34 million); 1986 ($13.1 million); 1987 ($13.56 million); 1988 ($14.34 million); 1989 ($13.85 million); 1990 ($16.3 million); 1991 ($20.6 million); 1992 ($27.7 million); 1993 ($34.34 million); 1994 ($34.36 million); 1995 ($40.3 million); 1996 ($45.5 million); 1997 ($58.9 million); 1998 ($61.2 million); 1999 ($68.5 million); 2000 ($73.2 million); 2001 ($78.1 million); 2002 ($95.7 million); 2003 ($101.9 million); 2004 ($108.8 million); 2005 ($110.7 million); 2006 ($116.1 million); 2007 ($122 million); 2008 ($127.6 million); 2009 ($132.5 million); 2010 ($209 million); 2011 ($219.9 million); 2012 ($244 million); 2013 ($289.4 million).

In other news from the final day of the meetings, Slive said no changes in the football scheduling rotation will be made until the 2016 season. For at least two more seasons, schools will play six division games, one fixed cross-division game and one rotating cross-division game.

Slive said the 2014 schedules should be released in the next few weeks.

This article was published in the Saturday, June 1, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "MU to get $20.7 million from SEC."

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Posted in Mu on Saturday, June 1, 2013 2:00 am.
A Kansas Jayhawk on Show-Me state license plates? Missouri lawmakers resoundingly said "no way." But an Arkansas Razorback? That still might be OK.

Officials in Missouri are trying to ease restrictions on specialty license plates from out-of-state colleges after a prohibition aimed at the University of Missouri's traditional nemesis, the University of Kansas, appears to have inadvertently affected budding rival in the University of Arkansas, as well as Pittsburg State University in southeastern Kansas.

Missouri Rep. Lyle Rowland, whose state House district abuts the Arkansas border, said the prohibition approved last year has been interpreted to apply to all out-of-state schools and that some people already have a Razorback on their license plates.

"I had a lot of my people _ since I border Arkansas _ down here that were alumni of the University of Arkansas, and they love their Hog plates," said Rowland, R-Cedarcreek.

The Arkansas Alumni Association license plate has "Missouri" printed on top with the Razorbacks' hog logo on the left. The alumni association said there are more than 4,000 Arkansas graduates in Missouri and that it also has special license plates in Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas. The Missouri Department of Revenue declined to provide figures for how many Razorbacks specialty license plates have been issued in recent years.

For its part, the University of Missouri Alumni Association has specialty license plates in Missouri and Texas.

Missouri's license plate restrictions also have affected Pittsburg State University, which is about five miles west of the Missouri border. The school last year sent applications from motorists for the plates. However, the university was told by Missouri officials that the state no longer would issue collegiate specialty license plates for organizations representing out-of-state schools, and application fees were refunded.
The license plate was to say "Pittsburg State University" at the bottom with the school's gorilla mascot on the left side. Officials said about 17 percent of Pittsburg State students came from Missouri during the fall 2012 semester and that 10,000 to 11,000 graduates live in Missouri.

Now, Missouri lawmakers are trying to knock down some of the prohibitions they erected last year. Proposals would carve out colleges and universities that already were approved to offer a specialty license plate before last year's law took effect Aug. 28, 2012. The reversal could apply to both schools and is included within broader measures dealing with motor vehicles that won final approval before the Legislature's mandatory mid-May adjournment.

It means well-known Missouri Tigers supporter Gov. Jay Nixon will decide by mid-July whether to welcome a license plate from a Southeastern Conference opponent of his alma mater. The Missouri Tigers and Arkansas Razorbacks are in separate divisions within the conference, but the league has announced that the schools will become cross-division rivals. That means Missouri and Arkansas would play each other every season in football and will play twice each season in basketball.

Democratic Rep. Chris Kelly, whose district includes part of the University of Missouri-Columbia campus, joked during the House's debate that preserving a specialty license plate for Arkansas is in some Missourians' interest.

"If this is not passed and people cannot get Arkansas Razorback license plates, no one in Greene County will be able to have pizza delivered," Kelly said.
No smoking at MU in Columbia come July 1

May 31, 2013 8:17 am • Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The University of Missouri says its campus in Columbia will become smoke-free beginning July 1.

In 2009, Chancellor Brady Deaton announced a plan to end smoking by Jan. 1, 2014. But that target was moved up at the urging of student leaders and a group called Smoke-Free Mizzou.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the new policy prohibits the smoking of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, pipes, cigars, hookahs and water pipes on campus.

The T.E. Atkins UM Wellness Program will provide smoking-cessation programs for faculty and staff. Students can get help quitting from the Wellness Resource Center.

Those who still want to smoke must leave any property that is owned or leased by the university.
McCaskill talks student loans at MU

Rate hike is set for this summer.

By Karyn Spory

Friday, May 31, 2013 at 2:00 pm

As the clock ticks down to July 1 and an expected doubling of interest on student loan debt, 16 University of Missouri students sat down with Sen. Claire McCaskill on Thursday to tell her about their fears and their ideas on how to fix the debt crisis.

"We have looming in front of us a crisis of sorts," McCaskill, D-Mo., said. "Legislation that sets the interest rates for loans is set to expire, which would revert the student loans back to an interest rate" of 6.8 percent.

McCaskill said the notion of keeping higher education accessible is important for the future of the country. She is co-sponsoring the Bank on Student Loan Fairness Act, legislation that would allow students receiving federally subsidized student loans to receive the same interest rate offered to big Wall Street banks, she said. McCaskill said banks are offered a 0.75 percent interest rate when borrowing via the Federal Reserve's short-term "discount window."

Meanwhile, the House has passed legislation that links student loan rates to the financial markets. The bill would avoid a rate increase for students with new subsidized Stafford loans, which are set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for new loans beginning July 1.

Samantha Green, a first-year law student, said that with nearly $96,000 in loans ahead of her for law school, the prospect of a floating loan rate is scary. McCaskill added that she didn't think the House-passed measure would make it through the Senate.

"It's good to see representatives of our state taking on student loans as one of the big issues," Missouri Students Association President Nick Droege said.

Droege said he was told last week about McCaskill's visit and began rounding up students to discuss the issue with her, contacting the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, Missouri Students Association and the Graduate Professional Council.

"With those three bodies, I think you can really find people that come from all different backgrounds and people that are passionate about all different issues," Droege said.
Those differences could be seen yesterday between concerns of undergraduate and graduate and professional students. As Congress and the public focus on the interest rates for undergraduate students taking out subsidized Stafford loans, Jake Wright, president of MU's Graduate Professional Council, said he wondered what legislatures would do to help those at the "back door" of student loan debt.

"We're not eligible for the subsidized loans, which means we're already paying, ... and many of us are being crushed by this debt," Wright said.

McCaskill said that with limited resources, the priority is to help students get into school and finish. "The assumption is if you are going to a graduate program, you are somebody who already has a better chance of gaining good employment," she said.

However, she vowed to bring graduate and professional students into the conversation on Capitol Hill.

Droege said he appreciated McCaskill's front-end approach to helping undergraduates. "I do believe access to higher education for a bachelor's degree is" important, he said. "Otherwise, you'll never get to that graduate degree."

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Posted in Education, Politics on Friday, May 31, 2013 2:00 pm.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU hosts seventh annual rummage sale

By Sara Barba
June 1, 2013 | 4:25 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Artificial Christmas trees, various board games, pet accessories and other treasures helped make up roughly 20 tons of "stuff" at MU's annual rummage sale Saturday morning.

Tiger Treasures, an event in its seventh year, accepts student-donated items to sell to members of the community in order to keep them out of landfills.

Before the event was founded, students would throw out many of the goods, and city workers would spend a lot of time gathering it.

"The city had a lot of overtime collecting it," volunteer coordinator Trina Almond said. "There was not good-quality movement of the stuff."

About 50 volunteers put in a total of more than 600 hours beginning with pick-up, which started when students moved out of their campus housing, according to Almond. This year is Almond's second year volunteering for the rummage sale.

The Sustainability Office at MU partnered with MU Residential Life, the YMCA, the city of Columbia and other organizations to run the event.

"It's usually in the football stadium, so it's hard to tell," MU sustainability coordinator Steve Burdic said when talking about the turnout this year at the MU Surplus Property. "We have a shuttle running from Hearnes parking lot because there was a location change."

Burdic has been a part of Tiger Treasures since its beginning. In past years, the event has been paired with single or multiple non-profit organizations to benefit from the proceeds. This year, the YMCA is the sole beneficiary.

"We like that the Y is a university entity and we kind of get to keep it within the university," Burdic said.

Many of the volunteers are veterans of the sale. Bonnie Gregg volunteered for the third time.
"I saw an email because I work for the university," Gregg said. "I saw the money was going to a good cause, so I decided to volunteer."

Gregg's favorite part is seeing people go away with a lot of wonderful things for a low cost. The items do not go into a landfill and the proceeds benefit charity.

The event was very busy in the first hour and a half, Gregg said. They opened the doors for "early birds" at 6 a.m. and the number of shoppers didn’t level out until 7:30 a.m. The event ended at 11 a.m.

Shopper Jill Anderson attended the sale for the first time this year after hearing about it from a friend who helps coordinate it.

"I got here a little late, so all the good items are gone," Anderson said.

*Supervising editor is Zachary Matson.*
MU sale awaits treasure hunters

Rummage event has new location.

By Karyn Spory

Friday, May 31, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Nearly 20 tons of student-donated furniture, electronics and clothing await bargain hunters Saturday during the seventh annual Tiger Treasures rummage sale at the University of Missouri.

The rummage sale will take place in a new location this year, said Steve Burdic, MU’s sustainability coordinator.

Because of construction at Faurot Field, the event has been moved to the MU Surplus Property facility, he said.

Surplus Property is at 1507 Capen Park Road. Burdic said because of limited parking there, shoppers can park at the Hearnes Center south parking lot and catch a shuttle to the Surplus Property building starting at 5 a.m.

The sale runs from 7 to 11 a.m., but early birds can enter at 6 a.m. and get a jump-start on their rummaging for a $5 donation. At 7 a.m., the sale becomes free and open to the public, Burdic said.

"Students have donated nearly 20 tons worth of stuff, which saves us around $1,500 in landfill fees," Burdic said.

Burdic said has seen more mini fridges and furniture this year, but as usual, a lot of clothes also were donated. He said items not sold will be taken by Usagain, a for-profit company that collects unwanted textiles and resells them in the United States and abroad, the company’s website said.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit The Y, the University of Missouri’s YMCA, Burdic said.

Julie Alexander, executive director of The Y, said it was a natural fit for proceeds from the sale to benefit MU’s YMCA.
“It's nice that students are able to give back, through donation, to a student organization,” Alexander said.

Proceeds will go toward scholarships for low-income children who want to attend Camp Mudd, a day camp with 10 one-week sessions. The University YMCA website said each weekly session at Camp Mudd is designed around a theme, which includes a field trip or activity.

Alexander said the camp is rustic and gets kids out from in front of the TV and into nature.

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Posted in Local, Education on Friday, May 31, 2013 2:00 pm.
Editorial: With pork deal, northern Missouri could become a province of China

1 hour ago • By the Editorial Board

Last week, when Smithfield Foods CEO Larry Pope told analysts that the giant meatpacking firm had agreed to be acquired by the Chinese firm Shuanghui International, he mentioned that talks had begun back in 2009.

That might have been nice to know back in 2011 when lobbyists for Smithfield's Premium Standard Farms unit were haranguing the Missouri Legislature. Premium Standard convinced the Legislature and Gov. Jay Nixon that they should grant the company the right to steamroll its neighbors in northern Missouri.

At issue were the odors coming from Premium Standard's 63 hog farms and nine giant CAFOs (confined animal feeding operations) in seven counties. Some of the company's neighbors had won million-dollar judgments on claims that Premium Standard effectively had ruined their property.

The Legislature passed, and Mr. Nixon signed, a bill declaring Premium Standard's properties as "permanent nuisances." That meant that neighbors would get one shot at Premium Standard in court, not one shot every few years or so.

This limited the options for many small farmers and landowners. They might be able to sell their land, but they were unlikely to find buyers for their homes.

As Richard Oswald, a farmer in Langdon, Mo., and president of the Missouri Farmers Union, put it in an email, "When the General Assembly limited judgments against Big Pig for pollution and property degradation, we thought they gave our property rights away to Smithfield. As it turns out, they gave them to China."

Would it have made any difference? Probably not, though it would have been fun to watch rural conservatives twisting themselves into knots over giving away their constituents' property rights to the People's Republic.

(Here we should take a moment to get some names straight. Premium Standard was a stand-alone company when it came to Missouri 20 years ago. Smithfield acquired it in 2007. Two weeks ago, Smithfield made Premium Standard part of its 12-state livestock production subsidiary, Murphy-Brown.}
LLC. What was Premium Standard is now called Murphy-Brown of Missouri LLC. And, if federal regulators approve the deal, everyone will be part of Shuanghui).

By whatever name, Big Pig has kept large parts of northern Missouri afloat since coming to the state. In 2011, the University of Missouri Extension Service estimated that Premium Standard and Farmland Foods, another Smithfield unit, accounted for 5,200 direct and indirect jobs in Missouri.

Not only do the firms operate their own farms, they also contract with Missouri farmers for pigs and hog finishing and buy feed grains from Missouri growers. In all, Big Pig puts $1.1 billion a year into Missouri’s economy.

This is what globalization means: A hog farmer in, say, Daviess County, Mo., could soon be growing hogs that will be butchered, flash-frozen, put in 40-foot freezer containers and shipped, at 20 degrees below zero, in what’s known as the “cold chain” to a dinner table in China.

The carbon cost is enormous and it’s a hugely inefficient way to provide food proteins. But China’s burgeoning middle class wants to eat like westerners do. To meet demand, China not only needs to import pork from the United States, it needs the factory farm technology that U.S. firms have perfected.

From a geopolitical point of view, a nation is more likely to get along with a nation that feeds it and in which it is heavily invested. From a Missouri farmer’s point of view, it’s a good deal, too. Americans are eating less meat, but the rest of the world wants more. Demand for the corn that goes into hogs helps keep U.S. food prices high. And combined with the ethanol mandate for gasoline, it contributes to high prices for gasoline.

On the other hand, should China become as efficient at producing pork as it is, say, in producing electronics, it wouldn’t be particularly good for Missouri farmers. Given China’s spotty record of food safety, it wouldn’t be particularly good for Missouri consumers, either.

These are among the considerations facing the federal government’s multi-agency Committee on Foreign Investments, which will have to approve the Smithfield-Shuanghui deal. Who knew pork was a sensitive technology? Some pig.