MU starts search for journalism dean

Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 12:00 am

The University of Missouri has started its search for a new School of Journalism dean.

The university said in a release posted on the journalism school website Friday that it had started its nationwide search to replace Dean Mills, who announced in February he was stepping down from the post he occupied for 25 years. Mills’ retirement was effective Sunday. Mills is taking a part-time job as director of the Reynolds Fellows program at the Reynolds Journalism Institute.

According to the online job posting, the journalism school seeks a “dynamic” and “visionary” leader. A link to the job listing is posted with the announcement at http://journalism.missouri.edu/.

Part-time professors face challenges as they fill important roles on local campuses

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (1)

Audra Sergel has been an adjunct professor at Stephens College for the past five years, but it has only been the past year or so that she has made peace with her tenuous part-time position.

Sergel, who teaches voice and piano at Stephens, has four other part-time jobs, all of which involve the performing arts. She knows she has little job security at Stephens, but she has decided she can’t focus on that aspect of the position.

“Last year, I truly let it go,” Sergel said. “If I get hired back, great. If I don’t, I don’t. That way, it’s a joy rather than a concern.”
Sergel said she loves her job and her students, but it is stressful not knowing whether she’ll be asked back for a semester until just weeks before it begins.

“I’m grateful to do the work I do,” Sergel said. “I’m grateful to be a musician in a community like this. I’m grateful for whatever comes around. But I’m not holding stock in my position.”

Most adjunct faculty members face a similar situation — they have credentials comparable to their full-time peers’ yet are paid relatively little, they don’t get benefits such as health care and they don’t know whether they’ll have a job from semester to semester. The word “adjunct” itself denotes a lesser status; its definition is “a thing added to something else, but secondary or not essential.”

The use of part-time professors varies among higher education institutions in Columbia. Some use adjuncts to fill niche needs, while others need them as they add classes to keep up with growing enrollment. Representatives of all the local schools seem to agree that the use of part-time professors offers flexibility as they deal with funding constraints.

According to the American Association of University Professors, more than 50 percent of all faculty members hold part-time appointments. The median pay for a three-credit-hour course is $2,700, according to the association.

Gary Massey, dean of adult higher education at Columbia College, said for a school that spans 34 campuses — physical and online — adjuncts are essential. He said the college has about 1,800 part-time faculty members altogether. There are 53 adjuncts and 69 full-time professors working on the Columbia campus.

“We have a rigorous hiring process that shows how we treat adjuncts like they’re full-time faculty,” Massey said. “We expect nothing less from them even though they’re temporary or part-time.”

Part-time professors at Columbia College are included on committees that consult on issues such as student scholarships, just like their full-time counterparts. And their evaluation process is just as rigorous, too, Massey said.

“Many of our adjuncts are long-serving,” Massey said. “We’ve got people who have been here a year, and 15, 20, 30 years. I had been an adjunct for over 20 years myself. If someone has been teaching for 10, 15, 20 years, it’s because they’re doing a good job.”

**For MU, adjunct professors help fill immediate needs.**

“On a really broad level, adjuncts allow us to cover needs that pop up,” said MU interim Provost Ken Dean. “Sometimes those are specialized skills in areas that we don’t have someone on our faculty who can cover courses for at that time.”

MU has more than 100 adjunct faculty members and more than 1,200 full-time professors, many with different appointments between teaching, research and MU Extension.
Part-time professors at Moberly Area Community College teach general education courses as well as courses in their specialties, such as law enforcement, computer science or health care courses.

“For us, adjuncts are really important to what we can deliver,” Moberly President Jeff Lashley said. “I think most years we’ve added full-time positions as much as possible, … but we haven’t been able to add to meet our growth.”

Lashley said there are about 100 adjuncts who teach at the school’s Columbia campus and about 26 full-time professors who teach there as well as at other Moberly Area Community College campuses.

For the past several years, Lashley said the school has given a small stipend to adjunct faculty members so they can participate in professional development workshops. Lashley said it isn’t a “huge amount of money,” but he hopes “it means something to them and shows that we value them.”

Stephens College primarily uses part-time professors for specialized courses, spokeswoman Janese Silvey said. Stephens has 54 full-time professors and 38 adjuncts.

“Our adjuncts basically allow us to expand our curriculum,” Silvey said. “The courses are assigned based on their areas of expertise.”

For instance, an artist teaches fashion sketching and design classes at Stephens, and a performer such as Sergel can teach something specialized, such as vocal or piano lessons.

Lashley said the decision sometimes comes down to money. Hiring part-timers is less expensive than hiring full-time professors.

“Higher education is growing rapidly still, but revenue isn’t keeping up,” he said.

Last year, Moberly Area Community College limited hours worked by its part-time faculty to avoid having to offer them health care insurance under Affordable Care Act rules that went into effect this year.

Most part-time professors have multiple jobs because of the low pay and lack of benefits.

In addition to her gig at Stephens College, Sergel is a ballet accompanist at the Columbia Performing Arts Center, serves as a musical director and accompanist in the University of Missouri theater department, serves as music director at Unity Church of Peace in Jefferson City and teaches music lessons at her home. She also is working on her master’s degree at Central Methodist University.

Eric Sweet, part-time professor of printmaking at MU, juggles a few jobs, too. Outside of the classroom, Sweet works at Uprise Bakery, taking as many hours as possible depending on how many classes he teaches. He also practices what he preaches — art.
“To stay current in art, you need to apply for shows and get into shows,” Sweet said. “It costs money for both. If I was tenure-track, the department would offer some money to send me, but I’m not.”

Like many other adjuncts, Sweet struggles with the minimal pay and lack of benefits.

Sweet, who has a Master of Fine Arts degree in printmaking from MU, said he stays in his part-time position because he hopes it is a stepping stone to a full-time spot.

“Most jobs require teaching experience beyond graduate school,” he said. “The main thing is this gets me in the classroom to actually teach. I mentor, I encourage, teach problem-solving, critical thinking and teach them to become better artists. I love that.”

Sweet said he loves his department, and although he doesn’t have a vote in departmental issues, he is in on the conversations. And although he doesn’t receive money for professional development, he does get support from his colleagues.

Support helps a lot.

Carl Kenney, adjunct faculty member in the MU School of Journalism, said he feels like J-School administrators affirm him personally.

“What’s challenging for me is the lack of connection to the broader community,” Kenney said. “You bring value to the institution, and you know you’re important to fulfilling the institutional mandates, but you’re not really connected to that. You’re not part of it in a way that celebrates institutional success that affirms you and your work.”

Kenney, who came to Columbia from North Carolina to take care of his father, said he is happy for the opportunity. He has a master’s degree in divinity from Duke University and gets paid $3,000 per three-credit-hour course.

Kenney said if someday he is offered a tenure-track opportunity, he would take it because he found a love for teaching in the semester that he has been at the J-School.

Not all adjuncts have their sights set on full-time professorship.

Eric Staley, adjunct faculty member at the MU Truman School of Public Affairs, calls himself a happy adjunct. Staley, who has a doctorate in English, teaches a specialized course in fundraising for not-for-profits, among other classes, and maintains his full-time job with his consulting company, Missionmapping LLC.

“I’ve got nothing to complain about,” Staley said about his adjunct status. “I’m paid well enough. I don’t even care to compare that pay with what a professor gets. I’m in a position where I can build my own schedule. Here I am, a person who has been in this career for 35 years, and I have a wonderful opportunity to develop the next generation of nonprofit and civic leaders. For me, what more could I want?”
Staley understands his perspective is different. Before his consulting business, he worked as an administrator focused on development or advancement at universities for decades.

“In almost all cases, articles in the Chronicle of Higher Education “and New York Times have been overwhelmingly negative about adjuncts,” Staley said. “They’re about how adjuncts are underpaid, overworked, have no benefits, have the same degrees that the full-time professors have and that they’re used in a way that’s diminishing of their experience. I understand that, and I’ve seen that. I believe that exists on campuses and actually on the University of Missouri campus. But that doesn’t mean it’s always the case.”

Title IX training underway

Coordinators have met with nearly 1,000 students to explain Title IX procedures.

By Covey Eonyak Son and Isabella Alves

Faculty Council kicked off the fall semester by discussing changes to Title IX procedures and employee benefits during its first open session on Thursday.

Title IX changes

Interim Title IX Coordinator Linda Bennett and UM System counsel Marsha Fischer presented how the university plans to improve Title IX procedures and ways in which allegations are handled.

Fischer said MU is expanding beyond just Title IX cases but is aiming to address any type of sex discrimination case.

“We are improving how we are handling all discrimination cases,” Fischer said. “We won’t just be chasing the trend; we will be stepping up.”

Bennett said Title IX coordinators have received two days of training to learn how to handle cases and will receive an additional two days of training later this semester.

Some faculty members will also have the option to attend a 15-day training workshop to learn more about Title IX procedures and sexual assault prevention.

All faculty members will be required to report Title IX violations and sexual misconduct to Title IX coordinators under UM System President Tim Wolfe’s executive order.
The only confidential sources for students are medical personnel and the Rape and Sexual Violence Prevention Center.

Fischer said changes were made to the equal employment and educational opportunity policy. She said sexual discrimination and harassment language were added to the education policy, as well as a new equity resolution process for students or student organizations that are being accused of violations.

Bennett said the Title IX coordinators have met with nearly 1,000 students since the beginning of summer and are developing a website to explain Title IX policies.

_Benefit changes_

Kelly Stuck, UM System associate vice president for Total Rewards, presented changes that were made to faculty and staff benefits this year.

According to Stuck, the system will implement an active enrollment policy for employee medical plans, which means each employee must actively select and submit a desired medical plan.

Stuck said employees who fail to choose a plan will be defaulted into the Healthy Savings Plan, which is the plan with the lowest cost but the highest deductible out of the three plans available.

In addition, Stuck said, new employees and employees who previously did not have medical coverage will be required under the Affordable Care Act to enroll in a plan or default into the high-deductible plan.

Stuck said the system has also increased its health wellness incentive to encourage healthier lifestyles among faculty and staff. UM System employees will be able to earn up to $450 for healthy behaviors such as getting a flu shot and living tobacco-free.

Committee chairs briefly presented reports before the council entered a closed session.

Diversity Enhancement Committee Chairwoman Angela Speck said the committee will discuss recent faculty survey results that showed higher dissatisfied response rates from faculty of color in the coming days.
Burden hopes to bring groups on campus together and focus on university-wide sustainability issues.

By Annabel Ames

The Sustainability Office recently hired Michael Burden as the new coordinator in an effort to keep a better handle on sustainability issues around MU.

Burden, who previously served as the project coordinator for the Office of Service Learning, said he hopes to connect groups working on similar sustainability issues while in his new position.

“We have a pulse of what’s going on all around campus, so when somebody comes to us and says ‘we’re working on this,’ we can then connect them to somebody across campus who is doing something relatable and see if there are any synergies possible,” Burden said. “We love when we can find those collaborative projects that tie those things together.”

Burden said the office recently connected two groups researching waste at football games.

The first group is studying the placement of bins and how it impacts behavior, while the other looks at the food waste stream coming out of the stadium to optimize efficiency.

“(The athletics department) really wants to achieve a low waste profile for the games that they have,” Burden said. “When a partner like athletics is on board with sustainability issues, the amplification of the issue is tremendous because so many people care about it.”

Burden said the office will also help MU administrators in achieving carbon neutrality on campus by 2050.

Alicia LaVaute, the senior recycling and waste minimization specialist for the Sustainability Office, said Burden’s positivity and high-energy personality will improve the office.

“He has great leadership skills and will be able to motivate people to try new things and make changes to live a life that can be more sustainable,” she said.

Campus Facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said Burden will take the office in a new direction.
“(Burden) is going to focus more on the big picture of sustainability as a whole on campus — that’s something we’ve been lacking,” she said. “And someone to get a handle on what is happening across campus and better package that because people don’t know how many different research projects and classes there are.”

Burden said the Sustainability Office will work with Sustain Mizzou and the Environmental Leadership Office to host Sustainapalooza in October and spread awareness of environmental efforts on campus.

“College is a time when you start to develop habits that are potentially going to be lifelong habits and it’s also a time when you’re exposed to a lot of new ideas, and we hope that students will consider how their day to day actions have an impact on others and their environment,” Burden said.

Burden said his goal for the next few months is to get a clear understanding of everything occurring on campus, and eventually propel MU to be recognized as an environmentally-friendly campus.

“One of the goals that I have is that if you visit the campus as a prospective student, I want you to very easily get a sense that this campus is at the forefront of sustainability,” Burden said. “We are in so many ways now, but you might not know that. Sometimes it’s below the surface or isn’t in the promotional materials. I want to continue to amplify and integrate those efforts into the overall messaging that folks receive.”

Colleges re-thinking sexual assault education

September 05, 2014 1:14 pm • By JULIET LINDERMAN

NO MU MENTION

BALTIMORE (AP) — As freshmen descend on college campuses, they enter the "red zone" — a period between Labor Day and Thanksgiving during which they are most vulnerable to sexual assault.
This year is different, though. It is the first since the U.S. Department of Education released a list of colleges and universities under federal investigation for their handling of rape and sexual assault complaints, and many schools are making sexual assault awareness programs mandatory for incoming students.

The list, which includes 77 schools under investigation, was released in May. It represents one piece of a national conversation that gained unprecedented political momentum in April, when the newly minted White House Task Force to Prevent Students from Sexual Assault released its first report, alongside a website designed to advise colleges on how to combat rape on campus. Since then, Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat, has introduced a bill to require annual surveys of students, and require schools to staff confidential advisers on campus.

Oklahoma State University, which is on the list, announced last month that students who do not complete a new 40-minute online course on sexual assault awareness will be barred from registration. Vice President for Student Affairs Lee Bird said the school took the unusual step of asking to be under federal review.

"Sexual violence has been a huge topic for years, but the politics around it and trying to find remedies is what's changed," Bird said, adding that the school offers "hundreds" of alcohol, drug and sexual assault awareness programs throughout the year. "This has been an issue for my 36 years and I imagine it will be an issue on campus for the next 30."

University of California at Berkeley, which is under investigation, has started two new mandatory programs. Freshmen and transfers must attend a sexual awareness program known as Bear Pact, as well as complete an online course, called Haven, about sexual assault, harassment and stalking. The school has also designated a confidential advocate whose role is to assist students who have been sexually assaulted.

While the U.S. Education Department doesn't release what prompts an investigation, UC Berkeley was the subject of a blistering state audit in June that revealed the school's failure to adequately train resident advisers, athletic coaches and even campus law enforcement on how to handle sexual assault allegations. The audit also found that the administration did not ensure attendance at sexual assault education workshops for freshmen. Based on the school's own data, only 52 percent of the incoming class attended the programs in 2013.

"For us, it's looking at what we need to do to be in federal compliance and follow best practices," said UC Berkeley spokeswoman Janet Gilmore. "It's a continuing effort. We've done a lot, and we know that there's more we can do."

Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, another school under federal investigation, also requires its freshmen to complete Haven. The school adopted a policy in June requiring an independent investigation into sexual assault complaints, and calls for mandatory expulsion for convicted students.

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore is one of the most recent additions to the list of schools under investigation for possible Title IX violations. It was added Aug. 12.
Title IX is a federal law prohibiting gender discrimination. It regulates institutions' handling of sexual violence and is the same law that guarantees female athletes equal access to sports. Schools that violate Title IX can lose federal funding.

Johns Hopkins is under investigation for its handling of an alleged gang rape of a Towson University student at a fraternity house, Pi Kappa Alpha, in the spring of 2013. Since the allegation became public in May, more Hopkins students have come forward to share their own sexual assault stories, said Laura Dunn, an advocate with nonprofit organization SurvJustice who helped file the initial complaint.

One of those students is a rising junior who asked that her name be withheld. The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual assault.

In June, she told AP that she was sexually assaulted in 2012 during her first few days on campus. She said her alleged attacker had taken her keys and phone, dragged her into his room and assaulted her.

A few days prior, the student said she had gone to a sexual assault awareness workshop offered to incoming freshmen.

"At the workshop they said anything after you say no is sexual assault. I said to him, 'Don't you remember what we saw yesterday? This is going to be rape.'"

"Then he said, 'I didn't go to that stupid thing.' That's when I really got scared."

The workshop she attended, Sex Signals, is on this year's orientation schedule and not labeled as mandatory. Hopkins spokesman Dennis O'Shea said freshmen are required to attend with their resident advisers, and those who do not sign up for it will be registered for a makeup session later in the year.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

First 'Let's Talk CoMo' forum to be held Monday

Sunday, September 7, 2014 | 7:05 p.m. CDT; updated 7:45 p.m. CDT, Sunday, September 7, 2014
BY TESS HART

COLUMBIA— Three "Let's Talk CoMo" forums will be held by the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence this week, with the first planned for Monday afternoon.

The event will be at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, 1005 W. Worley St. from 3 to 5 p.m. According to the forum's website,
the events offer the public a chance to join the discussion on how to reduce crime in Columbia and create a better community.

Monday's event is open to the public and will include a free dinner and child care services. The two other forums this week include a parent-focused session on Sept. 11 at the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church and a youth forum for residents between the ages of 15 and 30 on Sept. 12 at the Armory Sports and Recreation Center.

"We're your neighbors, we're in the same community and people know that they can do it too, they can get their voices heard too," task force member Chris Campbell said. "We want them to come to these forums and get involved."

**Each of the forums will feature a panel of guest speakers. Monday's panel will include Mayor Bob McDavid, Kansas City Mayor Sly James, MU School of Journalism adjunct instructor Carl Kenney and Battle High School Assistant Principal Darlene Grant.**

Task force member Tyree Byndom said Columbia is an educated city that cares about public safety.

"The forums will be a safe place to discuss all that we have found and to talk about it with the public," Byndom said.

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**ALS chapter prepares to hold Saturday fundraiser**

Friday, September 5, 2014 | 9:34 p.m. CDT; updated 7:52 p.m. CDT, Saturday, September 6, 2014

**BY MARY KALETA**

COLUMBIA — Supporters of the ALS Association will be able to work toward a cure this Saturday at the Walk to Defeat ALS in Columbia.

While the ALS Association's walk has been held nationally since 2000, Saturday's event will be the first in Columbia for the Mid-America chapter.
The mile-long course provides an opportunity for participants who could not drive to larger-scale walks in Springfield or Kansas City to raise awareness, Linzi Smith, regional development director for the Mid-America chapter, said.

"It’s a perfect time for families to come together," Smith said. "They can celebrate the ones still with them or embrace the memories of loved ones from the past."

As of Friday afternoon, six teams, and a total of 90 participants, had signed up for the walk. Smith said $5,000 has already been raised for the event.

"It’s quite a dramatic difference from our last attempt at a walk in Columbia," Smith said. "We had a virtual walk last year because only one team registered, and we only raised $3,266."

Smith said she attributes the increased registration numbers to the awareness raised by the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

The challenge, which started this summer, has become a viral internet sensation and has raised over $109.1 million for ALS, according to the national association's website.

"We are overly grateful for the awareness the challenge has brought to ALS," Smith said. "They understand the severity of the disease and how it affects people."

Money raised from the national Ice Bucket Challenge is divided equally among ALS association chapters across the country, Smith said. Mid-Missouri challenge participants will see their money stay in the area, with the funds benefiting the Mid-America chapter, she said.

Formally known as the Keith Worthington chapter of the ALS Association, the Mid-America chapter represents patients with ALS and their families in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The chapter has raised $1.85 million so far this year for ALS support in the region, and members hope to surpass the $1.9 million total raised for 2013, Smith said.

Columbia resident Annie Allert, 52, said she began to understand the benefits of the ALS association when her husband, Alan Allert, was diagnosed with ALS in May 2011.

**Alan Allert, a professor at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine for 11 years, taught courses including anatomy and pharmacology during his time at the university.**
A team of MU veterinary professors and students will join Annie Allert to walk in Alan's honor at the ALS walk in Columbia on Saturday.

Annie Allert said the ALS association provided her and her family with support groups, education and medical equipment. Alan Allert passed away in January at the age of 64, but Annie Allert said she and her family have continued to raise awareness for the disease.

"It’s a devastating disease that slowly takes away the ability for a person to interact with loved ones," Annie Allert said. "There is no cure yet, but we need to do all we can."

Registration for the walk starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, and the walk is scheduled to begin an hour later. The event is free, but participants are encouraged to make a $75 donation in order to receive a walk T-shirt.

MU "Theater of War" hosts Greek tragedy reading

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A dramatic reading of an ancient Greek tragedy in which the title character commits suicide will be featured as part of contemporary conversation at the University of Missouri this week about the tolls of war.

The free presentation of Sophocles’ "Ajax" is part of the Theater of War: Soldiers & Citizens Tour. The reading by actors Brent Harris and Chinasa Ogbuagu is followed by a town hall discussion organizers say explores "the visible and invisible wounds of war."

The national tour comes to the Rhynsberger Theatre in Columbia on Thursday and begins at 7 p.m.