The Custodian of Records at the University of Missouri System has moved.

Time to take those records requests elsewhere. Don’t worry — you don’t have to take them too far. Just down the hall, actually.

After years of housing the custodian of records in the UM System president’s chief of staff’s office, administrators recently decided to move the holder of the records, Paula Barrett, to the University Relations division, run by vice president Steve Knorr.

University relations houses the system's registered lobbyists, including Knorr, as well as the public relations arm of the UM System.

“It is critically important that we are completely transparent when it comes to addressing Sunshine Law requests,” system spokesman John Fougere said in an email. “By moving the Custodian of Records position out of the Chief of Staff’s Office, we hope to encourage media members and others that file requests to work closely with University Relations to access their information as opposed to automatically filing formal requests every time, which in many instances is not necessary.”

Fougere said in the email that “persistent filing” of formal records requests when the information was “readily available” caused a workload for the chief of staff’s office that will be alleviated by the move.

“We expect, and have already experienced, a smooth transition to this move,” he said.
Don’t Give Your Kids Gifts to Show Affection

Setting up a connection between things and reward early in life primes people to be materialistic

By Marissa Fessenden

The holidays are prime time to roll out complaints about materialism taking over our society. If you’re looking for ammunition for your rants, science has got your back: A new study says that rewarding children with gifts can set them up to crave material goods, according to Treehugger.

After surveying 700 adults, researchers from the University of Missouri and the University of Illinois at Chicago drew connections between gift-giving patterns and materialism. “Loving parents tend to provide their children with material rewards.” Marsha Richins, a marketing professor at MU and the study author, says in a statement, “One explanation for the link between material rewards and later materialism is that children who receive these rewards are more likely than others to use possessions to define and enhance themselves, an essential element of materialism.”

There are three problem patterns described in the work, which was published in the Journal of Consumer Research. According to the statement, they are:

- Rewarding children with gifts when they have accomplished something, such as making the soccer team or getting straight As.
- Giving gifts as a way to show affection.
- Punishing children by taking away their possessions, such as a favorite toy or video game.

Previous work shows not only does being materialistic lead to marital problems, gambling and debt, but buying new stuff doesn’t actually make us happy. To break the cycle before it starts, you don’t need to cut off the gifts altogether: It’s the association between reward and gifts that needs to stop. The researchers suggest that parents should encourage their kids to recognize how fortunate they are to receive gifts. "Spend time with your children and model warmth, gratitude and generosity to help curb materialism," says marketing professor Lan Chaplin of the University of Illinois.
So don’t send away unopened presents yet, just make sure you give them in the right context.

Odom returns to MU as defensive coordinator

By JOE WALLJASPER
Tuesday, December 23, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (2)

Barry Odom is the Missouri football team’s new defensive coordinator.

Odom, a former Missouri player and assistant coach, will replace Dave Steckel after the Tigers finish the season against Minnesota on Jan. 1 in the Citrus Bowl. Steckel was introduced as head coach at Missouri State on Dec. 14.

Odom, 38, has spent the last three years as the defensive coordinator at Memphis, where he helped transform those Tigers from perennial losers into a 10-win team this season.

“We’re really excited to have Barry and his family back at Mizzou,” Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel said in a release. “He’s done an outstanding job at Memphis these past three years. He’s coached with us before, and it’s great to see someone professionally advance himself and go do such a great job elsewhere.”

Odom reportedly drew interest from Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Texas Tech for their defensive-coordinator vacancies. Missouri had history with him, though.

Odom, a native of Maysville, Okla., played linebacker for Coach Larry Smith at Missouri from 1996-99. He ranks fifth on the school’s career tackles list with 362.

Former Missouri quarterback Corby Jones recalled having to race Odom in the 100 meters at the end of a winter conditioning program. Because Odom, whom Jones described as “short, stocky and played linebacker,” never bragged about winning two Oklahoma state titles in the 400 meters, teammates were surprised at the result.

“Barry beat my butt,” Jones said. “Barry was so quiet and unassuming, you never knew how athletic he was.”

Jones said he wasn’t surprised that Odom pursued coaching or excelled at it.
“He was always a student of the game,” Jones said. “He was never a vocal leader. He led by example. But he could get on you. Don’t make him angry. He’s quiet, but don’t make him angry.”

Paul Schmanke backed up Odom for three years at Missouri and was his roommate for a time.

“Even when he played, he had a calm demeanor about him,” Schmanke said. “He’s not a huge rah-rah guy — that I can remember — but he demands respect. He’s not really outspoken, but when he talks, people listen to him.”

After graduation, he had a brief stint as an intern working for the MU athletic department’s Tiger Scholarship Fund while he finished his master’s degree. He was an assistant coach at his alma mater, Ada High School in Oklahoma, in 2000. He returned to Columbia as the coach at Rock Bridge and went 14-8 in two seasons, including a run to the state semifinals in 2002.

Then it was back to Missouri, where he spent nine years in a variety of roles, including administrative graduate assistant, director of recruiting, director of football operations and safeties coach.

“I have such a deep respect for the success that Coach Pinkel and his staff have had since I’ve been away,” Odom said in a release. “Transitioning to a new conference is very challenging, and all they’ve done is get better at everything.”

Odom elevated his stock with his work under Coach Justin Fuente at Memphis, a program that was 3-21 in the two years before their arrival. After the Tigers went 4-8 and 3-9, they broke through this season, finishing 10-3 after Monday’s 55-48 overtime victory over BYU in the Miami Beach Bowl. The shaky defensive performance in the bowl game notwithstanding, Memphis made great strides on that side of the ball under Odom. The Tigers ranked 117th in the nation in total defense the year before he arrived, and they are ranked 28th this season.

Odom and his wife, Tritia, a native of Kahoka and an MU graduate, are the parents of two sons.
Son of Missouri Rep. Jeff Grisamore has surgery after brutal attack

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=84e43238-b363-421d-97f6-a87310f4c8cc

The son of a Missouri representative from Lee’s Summit underwent facial reconstructive surgery Tuesday after being brutally attacked earlier this month in Columbia.

Joel Grisamore, a 23-year-old senior studying business at the University of Missouri, is the son of Rep. Jeff Grisamore, who is leaving office in January after eight years.

Joel Grisamore was attacked and beaten unconscious by two unknown assailants the evening of Dec. 8 on an upstairs patio at the Campus Bar & Grill. A co-worker of Grisamore was able to break up the fight and the assailants fled.

“They continued to beat him after he was unconscious,” Grisamore’s father said. “They could have killed him.”

The motive is unknown.

Jeff Grisamore tweeted Tuesday as his son underwent facial reconstructive surgery that lasted almost two hours to repair a shattered nasal bone.

“Pain intense,” Grisamore tweeted.

Between the time of the attack and the surgery, Joel Grisamore was able to continue working two jobs and to complete his final exams.

Joel Grisamore is also a sergeant in the Missouri National Guard and leads the ROTC Cannon Crew at Mizzou games.

Columbia police have a partial description of the assailants but have made no arrests.

Jeff Grisamore is term-limited out of the Missouri General Assembly, but he said he would encourage a discussion of whether bars should be required to install security cameras to help law enforcement in cases like this.
Students in the A+ program will have to foot the bill for one credit hour this coming semester.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education made the announcement Monday after gathering estimated enrollment data for the spring semester and reviewing the budget. The department had previously projected students might have to pay for as many as four credit hours.

The A+ program is a scholarship that reimburses students for the cost of two years of classes at a community college provided they maintain at least a 2.5 grade-point average and perform 50 hours of tutoring in high school. Department spokeswoman Liz Coleman said about 14,000 students will receive A+ funds during the 2014-15 school year, up by about 1,500 from the previous academic year.

The program has become more expensive for the state because of rising tuition and fees and more student participation.

During fiscal 2014, the state spent $30.4 million on A+ — a roughly $3 million increase from fiscal 2013. Leroy Wade, deputy commission for the higher education department, has said the increase is barely enough to keep up with growth.

The General Assembly provided a $6.7 million increase for the program earlier this year, bumping it up to $33.1 million for fiscal 2015. In July, Gov. Jay Nixon initially withheld and then released about $2 million of that appropriation.

“MDHE will continue to monitor the status of the program funding during the next several months,” a letter from the department to Missouri community colleges said. “We will notify your institution if sufficient funding becomes available later in the spring semester to reimburse students for the additional credit hour.”
For Moberly Area Community College, the announcement means more than 1,500 A+ students will be responsible for $142 for one credit hour of their tuition, MACC President Jeff Lashley said. Those students are spread across all five of the MACC campuses in northeast and Mid-Missouri. Between 500 and 600 A+ eligible students attend classes in Columbia, Lashley said.

Lashley said the college is focused on being flexible with students on the unexpected cost, giving students options in how they pay for the one credit hour. Typically, payment plans come with initiation fees and require that students pay back certain amounts by certain dates, but Lashley said there are no requirements or fees for this year’s A+ students.

MACC forwarded state department letters to students and posted the information on social media and website banners. Lashley said he is hopeful the state will uncover additional funds for the program.

“What’s encouraging from my point of view is we’ve been in conversation with the governor and with the legislature, and across the board, without exception, they expressed support for the A+ program,” Lashley said. “It’s given me a confident belief they will do everything to fund it in the future.”

Editorial: Missouri is not a great place to be a woman

As Missouri becomes identified with low achievement — in health care for its poorest citizens, in educational attainment, in jobs and in many other areas — women are getting a raw deal.

A partnership between the Women’s Foundation and the University of Missouri’s Truman School of Public Affairs has released a study identifying some of the main problems confronting women in Missouri and offering suggestions for how to improve life for them and their families.

Economic independence and empowerment for women top the list of problems. Then, in short order, come lack of accredited child care centers, absence of health insurance, senior-aged women living in poverty and too few women in the Missouri Legislature.

It is not surprising to find that women in Missouri don’t do too well on the economic indicator scale. What is surprising is just how large the wage gap is in the state between men and women. Missouri women make 71 cents for every dollar a man makes,
compared with the national average of 78 cents on the dollar. That means the 865,738 women who work full-time in Missouri collectively earn 29 percent less than the million men who work full time.

The study unearthed a shocking statistic regarding child care: More than one in four of Missouri’s 114 counties lack accredited child care centers. Among them are the three counties with the highest percentage of children under age 4 — Scotland, McDonald and Pemiscot counties.

Health insurance is another troublesome area for Missouri’s women, directly and indirectly. At least 650,000 Missourians, or 13.6 percent of the total population, lack health insurance. In some counties, more than a fifth of the population is uninsured. Because women are so frequently the caretakers in their families, the responsibility for taking care of an uninsured sick or disabled family member falls to the woman in the family.

Another indicator of failure: Nine percent of Missouri seniors live in poverty, and two-thirds of them are women.

Troubles follow troubles for these older women, who are frequently suffering the loss of a spouse at the same time, often a contributing factor in their plunge into poverty. Such women also have lost the security of their place in society, which can lead to a host of mental health and disability problems.

If there were more women in the Legislature, some of these issues might get higher priority. But the number is small, and there is no indication that it’s going to change any time soon. Women make up slightly more than half of the state’s 6 million people, but hold only a quarter of the seats in the Legislature. There are 163 seats in the Missouri House and 34 in the state Senate.

ELECTING more women could help rectify some of the inequalities suffered by women in Missouri, Rep. Anne Zerr, R-St. Charles, said at a news conference where the initial findings of the research were presented.

“Why is it important for women to be at the table?” Ms. Zerr asked. “Because I can tell you from personal experience that having women as part of the conversation when developing public policy makes a difference. We bring a perspective that is unique and that brings great value.”

Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women’s Foundation, said the study’s respondents included women from lower-, middle- and higher-income backgrounds, and that one focus group of men also participated.

She added that she plans on using the results of the study to work toward developing policy solutions to help raise the living standards for women and their families in
Missouri. To that end, Ms. Doyle said she expects to develop action items to present to the Legislature next year.

Ms. Zerr, chair of the House Economic Development Committee, said she intends to work with the foundation to take steps in the next legislative session to bolster the economic self-sufficiency of women and their families.

The message is loud and clear. Voting for women — and perhaps some enlightened men — may be the only way to improve conditions. They certainly couldn’t do much worse.