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## SEC website publishes pages announcing the addition of Missouri

**Missouri hasn't declared its intention to join the Southeastern Conference, though that might seem a formality at this point.**

Pages on the SEC website were discovered Thursday night that trumpeted the Tigers joining the conference as its 14th team. The pages were shown to be updated on Oct. 22 and the announcement by commissioner Mike Slive was said to be on a Monday.

In the release, Missouri and Texas A&M were to join the SEC as additions to the league this July, which is contrary to previous statements of Big 12 interim commissioner Chuck Neinas, who has said the Tigers would play in the Big 12 next year no matter what the school's decision was.

Here is the text of the entire statement on the page:

Given the ever-changing conference paradigm over the past year, the Southeastern Conference has continued to demonstrate its commitment to maintaining its stature as one of the nation's premier conferences by welcoming the University of Missouri as the league's 14th member, Commissioner Mike Slive announced Monday.

Missouri joins Texas A&M University as the league's two new institutions who will begin full membership on July 1, 2012. It is the first expansion of the SEC membership since Arkansas and South Carolina joined the conference in 1992.

Missouri was a charter member of the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1907, which became the Big Six Conference in 1964, the Big Eight Conference in 1964 and the Big 12 Conference in 1996.

Geographically, it is a natural fit as the state of Missouri touches more states (Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee) that currently are home to an SEC institution than any other state that is not in the league's previous 13-member footprint. Like the majority of the cities in the SEC, Columbia, Mo., is a college-centered town with a metropolitan population of 164,283, making it the fifth-largest city in the state of Missouri.

With an enrollment of 32,415, the University of Missouri boasts a strong academic resume, as it is one of only five universities nationwide with law, medicine, veterinary medicine and a research reactor on one campus. Six of Missouri's sports teams last season led the Big 12 in graduation rate for their respective sports.

Culturally, Missouri is as well known for its barbecue, country music, history and rich tradition as the majority of the current states of the SEC.

Missouri is one of only 35 public U.S. universities invited to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). It will become the fourth SEC school that is part of the AAU, joining Florida, Texas A&M and Vanderbilt.

In addition to the main release, the SEC also had published pages that offered details on Missouri and its SEC connections. There were also separate stories on the Tigers' impact on football and men's basketball with respective Q&A's with Tony Barnhart and Chris Dortsch.

All of those pages were taken down shortly after midnight and instead only showed a message that said, "That article is missing."

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Apparent SEC statement on Mizzou admission surfaces, disappears

by VAHE GREGORIAN | Posted: Friday, October 28, 2011 12:11 am

Mizzou's move to the Southeastern Conference has seemed inevitable for days, so much so that the SEC apparently prepared an extensive news release announcing MU's membership dated Oct. 22 that inexplicably briefly popped up on its website late Thursday night before being replaced by "that article is missing."

While it's conceivable it was fraudulent and the SEC could not be reached for clarification, the level of detail went deep under the heading, "Tiger Tracks: Missouri Joins The SEC."

The statement said MU would begin full membership along with Texas A&M on July 1, 2012.

The seeming snafu comes at a time when MU is in the process of intricate, perhaps delicate, negotiations with the Big 12 over such issues as exit fees and timing of its departure.

The Big 12 has said it doesn't believe MU could leave until 2013 and wants assurance of having 10 members in 2012 in order to meet contractual obligations for its football television packages.

The release referred to commissioner Mike Slive announcing Mizzou's membership on Monday, presumably meaning Oct. 24 but possibly meaning Oct. 31, and extols the virtues of Mizzou.

That included highlights of its football and men's basketball history, mentions of its distinguished alumni and the fact it would be the SEC's fourth member of the distinguished American Association of Universities. It also outlined historical ties between MU and the SEC.

## **While SEC move is on hold, Missouri will try to make one on the field**

By MIKE DeARMOND

Players like Brad Madison and T.J. Moe insist that all the talk about Missouri moving to the Southeastern Conference is not a distraction, that it has nothing to do with why Missouri is taking a 3-4 record into Saturday's game at Texas A&M.

"It doesn't matter whether we're playing in the Big 12 or the SEC," said Moe, a junior wide receiver. "We're going to be playing someplace."

Madison, a junior defensive end, would have you believe he has blocked out all the speculation — or at least most of it.

"I mean, I've seen we'll join the (SEC) East if we do join," Madison said. "That's all I've heard about it. But I just haven't been paying any attention."

If that is true, then Madison has more self-control and an ability to focus that just about any Missouri fans, who have been talking, emailing and posting on Internet message boards about little else.

Sources who early on told The Star of Missouri's interest in going to the SEC remain steadfast in their contention that, eventually, that will happen.

But one of those sources, who is close to the MU athletic department and its teams, said Thursday that coach Gary Pinkel's current demeanor reflects the fact that a decision has not been made public, coupled with the football team's on-field struggles.

"He's about as grumpy as I've seen him," the source said. "It's a huge distraction for the kids, and it's unnecessary."

MU chancellor Brady Deaton, during and after an interview at KFRU-AM in Columbia on Tuesday, said a decision was not being delayed unnecessarily.

"These are not decisions that can just be made at the press of a button," Deaton said, adding the verdict might come within days or might take another week or two.

Concerns over the amount of the exit fee that Missouri would have to pay the Big 12 and other legal maneuvering is likely holding up the decision. But MU donors have made millions of dollars in pledges to cover exit fees and expenses, according to the source, and it is anticipated MU would announce plans to make a significant stadium expansion upon joining the SEC.

The Big 12, meanwhile, this week seemed to strengthen Missouri's contention that the source of its concerns with the Big 12 has primarily been over its instability.

On Tuesday, West Virginia appeared to be on the verge of a news conference announcing its move to the Big 12. Interim Big 12 commissioner Chuck Neinas and other league officials were reportedly ready to fly into Morgantown, W.Va., for the ceremony.

Then the Big 12 board of directors applied the brakes, supposedly because some wanted to add Louisville instead of West Virginia. U.S. senators from West Virginia cried foul.

Could Missouri pull the trigger on its departure today? Or perhaps Monday? Deaton is scheduled to attend an international conference in Agra, India, from Tuesday through Nov. 9.

No matter because, with or without a decision, Missouri kicks off a game at Texas A&M at 11 a.m. on Saturday against an opponent likely more focused on repaying Missouri's 30-9 victory at A&M last year than in appreciation for being a future SEC conference mate.

"Anytime a team comes in and beats you like that, you're going to be ready for them next year," Madison said. "So we're going to have to be ready for them. We did all right last year. Hopefully we can do it again."

## **Oops: SEC site briefly "announces" Missouri as new member**

By Dave Matter

A page dated Oct. 22 on the Southeastern Conference website briefly appeared online Thursday night and had some major news to share: Missouri is officially the league's 14th member ... or so was supposed to be the case earlier this week. According to the press release that was clearly posted inadvertently, Missouri will begin full membership in the SEC on July 1, 2012.

It's unclear how or why the pages were posted online, but they were quickly taken down from the league website, replaced with a message saying, "That article is missing." MU has not made any announcements regarding its conference status this week. The way the release was worded, it appears the announcement was at one point scheduled to take place Monday of this week

Here is what the original release stated:

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** – Given the ever-changing conference paradigm over the past year, the Southeastern Conference has continued to demonstrate its commitment to maintaining its stature as one of the nation's premier conferences by welcoming the University of Missouri as the league's 14th member, Commissioner Mike Slive announced Monday.

Missouri joins Texas A&M University as the league's two new institutions who will begin full membership on July 1, 2012. It is the first expansion of the SEC membership since Arkansas and South Carolina joined the conference in 1992.

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Geographically, it is a natural fit as the state of Missouri touches more states (Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee) that currently are home to an SEC institution than any other state that is not in the league's previous 13-member footprint. Like the majority of the cities in the SEC, Columbia, Mo., is a college-centered town with a metropolitan population of 164,283, making it the fifth-largest city in the state of Missouri.

With an enrollment of 32,415, the University of Missouri boasts a strong academic resume, as it is one of only five universities nationwide with law, medicine, veterinary medicine and a

research reactor on one campus. Six of Missouri's sports teams last season led the Big 12 in graduation rate for their respective sports.

Culturally, Missouri is as well known for its barbecue, country music, history and rich tradition as the majority of the current states of the SEC.

Missouri is one of only 35 public U.S. universities invited to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). It will become the fourth SEC school that is part of the AAU, joining Florida, Texas A&M and Vanderbilt.

The website also included a page titled "Missouri-SEC Connections" that listed five past and present coaches who share MU and SEC ties, including Arkansas basketball and former Missouri Coach Mike Anderson, whose photo was featured on the page.

Also included was a page detailing Missouri's homecoming history, an MU basketball page featuring a Q&A with analyst Chris Dortch and another Q&A with CBS Sports columnist Tony Barnhart. In the Barnhart feature, the writer is asked about Missouri's football program being a good fit for the SEC.

"I think people have to remember that, as recently as 2007, Missouri was ranked No. 1 and in a position to play for the national championship," Barnhart responds. "If they beat Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship game, they were in a position to play for it all. Gary Pinkel has been as consistent of a coach as they've ever had. Missouri knows what good football looks like.

"The thing that people keep asking: 'Is Missouri a cultural fit?' I don't think there's any question that they are. People forget that there were questions about South Carolina and Arkansas. South Carolina had always been in the ACC or an independent, and Arkansas had been a founding member of the Southwest Conference, as far west as they were. People wondered if they would be a cultural fit. Once you bring somebody into the SEC family, after 3-4 years from now, that question will never be raised. They become a part of that family by being invited."

# MISSOURIAN

## SEC post saying Missouri to join league appears then disappears

Thursday, October 27, 2011 | 11:58 p.m. CDT; updated 3:12 a.m. CDT, Friday, October 28, 2011  
BY BEN FREDERICKSON

And the conference realignment chaos takes its latest tumultuous turn.

Bubbling up like a groundswell on Twitter late Thursday night came the news that the Southeastern Conference had officially added Missouri as its 14th member. Surely, this was just another rumor, another anonymous source spouting silly nonsense. Right?

Not so much. Links started popping up, one of the earliest coming from Clay Travis, a sportswriter and radio host from Nashville. The links didn't lead to a sketchy blog or random message board.

Instead they went straight to the [SEC digital network](#), the official website for the Southeastern Conference.

The first paragraph of the release read:

"Given the ever-changing conference paradigm over the past year, the Southeastern Conference has continued to demonstrate its commitment to maintaining its stature as one of the nation's premier conferences by welcoming the University of Missouri as the league's 14th member, Commissioner Mike Slive announced Monday."

At the top corner of the page, the article showed it was updated October 22. If updated last Saturday, would that mean Missouri was supposed to join the SEC this Monday? Or, if the update day was wrong, maybe the announcement was meant for this upcoming Monday? Maybe the release was never meant to be posted at all?

Questions went unanswered. No one responded to phone calls to the SEC on Thursday night.

Ten minutes later, the post was down.

The replacement page showed only one sentence.

"That article is missing."

As is the presence of clarity when it comes to conference realignment.

## **Nixon reappoints Van Matre to board**

Gov. Jay Nixon once again has reappointed Columbia attorney Craig Van Matre to the University of Missouri System's Board of Curators.



Van Matre

Van Matre has been attending curator meetings — but not participating — since the special legislative session started in early September. That's because the appointment needs approval from the Senate, which hadn't planned to address nominations during the brief fall session.

Van Matre was first appointed in January, but senators held up confirmation, forcing Nixon to withdraw his name at the end of the regular session. Nixon reappointed him in June, allowing Van Matre to serve at that time.

Senators will have 30 days to confirm his appointment when they return in January. Otherwise, Van Matre no longer will be eligible to serve.

Nixon also reappointed to the Board of Curators Pamela Henrickson, a Jefferson City attorney, and 21 other nominations he withdrew last month.

Appointees from Columbia include Linda Duffy, a Republican appointed to the Missouri Community Service Commission; Le Greta Hudson, a Democrat appointed to the State Committee of Dietitians; Shirley Patterson as a member of the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood; and Kelly Schultz as the Missouri child advocate in the Office of Child Advocate for Children's Protection and Services.

## Study of the Day: How Chinese Americans Live Within Their Means

By Hans Villarica  
Oct 28 2011, 8:00 AM ET

*New research from the University of Missouri shows that the largest Asian-American group in the U.S. has almost no consumer debt*

**PROBLEM:** Bad mortgages and rampant consumer debt drove the U.S. economy into a recession. When it comes to borrowing money, how do those with a Chinese background measure up against other Americans?

**METHODOLOGY:** Researchers led by University of Missouri professor Rui Yao surveyed 1,957 Chinese-American households in 10 Midwestern cities about their finances. The participants' annual income ranged from \$4,000 to \$1.4 million. The average was \$106,000.

**RESULTS:** Overall, Chinese Americans borrowed less than the rest of the population. Though 72 percent of the respondents held a mortgage, only five percent of them had outstanding auto loans and only three percent had any other type of consumer debt at the same time. Chinese Americans also had very little consumer debt, and households with higher incomes were the ones more likely to have them.

**CONCLUSION:** Chinese Americans don't borrow excessively.

**IMPLICATION:** Yao says encouraging Chinese Americans to take advantage of their financial options responsibly is important for the economy, but credit and debt are relatively new concepts to this group. She explains in a news release: "Having ties to a country where most purchases are made with cash, debt may not be an acceptable option for low-income households that are aware that debt needs to be repaid with interest in the future."

**SOURCE:** The full study, "An Exploratory Study of Chinese Americans' Debt Ownership," is published in the *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.



# Job Market Tough for Young Adults With Autism

## But strategies can help individuals learn job skills and prepare for the workforce

By Amanda GardnerHealthDay Reporter

THURSDAY, Oct. 27 (HealthDay News) -- More children are being diagnosed with autism than ever before and now many of these children are graduating from high school and entering, or at least trying to enter, the workforce.

Unfortunately, this critical crossroads is precisely the time that supportive services for this population tend to peter out.

**"What we're seeing now is this group of adults with the autism diagnosis who have been more empowered and supported than ever before, but they're leaving behind the school structure and special-ed structure," said Scott Standifer, a clinical associate professor at the University of Missouri's School of Health Professions. "The system of adult disability support is very different, so they're having trouble figuring out and making that transition. The world of work is not the same as the world of school."**

The result? People with autism have higher rates of unemployment and, when they do work, tend to earn less.

According to a fact sheet compiled by Standifer based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and other sources, less than one-third of people with a disability aged 16 to 65 were working in 2010, compared with about two-thirds of people without a disability. And people with autism were only about half as likely to be working as people with disabilities in general (33 percent compared with 59 percent).

One study found that almost 40 percent of young adults with autism get no medical, mental health or case management services to help them make the transition into adulthood.

Meanwhile, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in 110 children in the United States has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by problems with language and social interactions.

It is these communication issues that may pose the greatest obstacle for adults with autism both to find a job and to keep it, Standifer noted.

"Autism doesn't qualitatively change when you hit adulthood. You've got the same issue with reading social signals, with understanding instructions," said Standifer, whose office provides training and consultation to State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. "We forget how important social relationships are in maintaining employment."

For instance, one of the most trying parts of the workday for an individual with autism is the lunch break and its almost mandatory socializing requirement. "There's no script. [Individuals with autism] don't know what to do," said Standifer, who organizes an annual "Autism Works" conference.

But even something as mundane as a stapler missing off a desk can also upset a person with autism, who then may not have the skills to express their frustration or confusion.

Families of people with autism as well as employers and co-workers can all help to make the employment experience a positive one for these individuals. Here are some tips:

- Families should start preparing for their teens' transition into adulthood and the work force well in advance, perhaps even as much as two or three years before graduation. "People with autism are often so anchored in routines that it is important to have new, productive routines in place for them well before they hit graduation and leave school behind," Standifer said.
- Find a job that matches their more general abilities and strengths. Although it's hard to generalize, people with autism often do well doing gardening, simple bookkeeping, merchandising (such as folding or organizing clothes in a department store), as well as in library and school settings, said Charles Archer, CEO of the Evelyn Douglin Center for Serving People in Need, in Brooklyn, N.Y., an organization that helps people with disabilities live independently.
- Take advantage of local vocational rehabilitation counselors, more of whom are cropping up all over the country, Standifer said.
- Find jobs with consistent routines. "Individuals with autism need a workplace that is structured, that's non-judgmental, that provides ongoing training and very, very strong levels of consistency either in work and/or communication," said Archer.
- Create accessible work environments. This might include providing written instructions for a task rather than verbal ones.

## Ancient climate data may predict future

Published: Oct. 27, 2011 at 6:30 PM

**COLUMBIA, Mo., Oct. 27 (UPI) -- Prehistoric data on greenhouse gases from studies of the ocean floor could predict Earth's climate future, researchers at the University of Missouri say.**

The greenhouse climate on Earth of the Late Cretaceous Epoch was influenced by circulation in the deep oceans, they said, and changes in those circulation patterns 70 million years ago could help scientists understand the consequences of modern increases in greenhouse gases.

"We are examining ocean conditions from several past greenhouse climate intervals so that we can understand better the interactions among the atmosphere, the oceans, the biosphere, and climate," Kenneth MacLeod, professor of geological sciences, said in a UM release Thursday.

While high atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide caused Late Cretaceous warmth, ocean circulation influenced how that warmth was distributed around the globe, the researchers said.

"Understanding the degree to which climate influences circulation and vice versa is important today because carbon dioxide levels are rapidly approaching levels most recently seen during ancient greenhouse times," MacLeod said.

"In just a few decades, humans are causing changes in the composition of the atmosphere that are as large as the changes that took millions of years to occur during geological climate cycles."



## Wrapping up Missouri's 2011 special legislative session

By Marshall Griffin

A very contentious special legislative session ended with a whimper in Jefferson City this week. It was dominated by seven weeks of head-butting over a wide-ranging tax credit bill that in the end boiled down to a long-running battle between the Missouri House and Senate over whether tax credits should have expiration dates. St. Louis Public Radio's Marshall Griffin takes a closer look at what happened.

### **(Dis)agreement**

Back In late July, House and Senate leaders flew around the state, holding press conferences to announce that an agreement had been reached on a tax credit bill that included the Aerotropolis proposal to turn Lambert Airport in St. Louis into an international air cargo hub. But once the session began in September, some fiscally conservative senators announced that they had not been consulted on the deal. One of them, Republican Jason Crowell of Cape Girardeau, immediately began a move to block its passage.

"But right now, this is just special interest stuff...right now, I invite you once again, tell me how many jobs this is going to create," Crowell said. "What do you say it's going to create? Zero."

President Pro-tem Rob Mayer and other Senate leaders slashed the warehouse incentives from the Aerotropolis proposal in order to bring Crowell on board and get the bill passed. House leaders opposed that move, however.

### **Political Ping-Pong**

They then made changes of their own that the Senate objected to, namely, removing expiration dates, or sunsets, on the state's two most expensive tax credit programs: low-income housing and historic preservation.

The House passed their version and sent it back to the Senate, which rejected it and sent it back to the House, which voted to appoint conference committee negotiators and then sent back to the Senate again. Mayer responded to that bit of legislative Ping-Pong by ending the special session.

"We're not reining in tax credits, but we continue to issue more and create a greater obligation to the state...at some point there needs to be reform, they need to be reined in...certainly, a seven-year sunset is not an unreasonable proposal," Mayer said.

But try telling that to House Speaker Steven Tilley. He says tax credits create jobs, and for that reason they should not have sunsets tacked onto them.

"If you put people to work, they pay more taxes (and) the revenue within the state coffers go up...if you eliminated every incentive that the state had, that wouldn't change the fact that Kansas, Arkansas (and) Iowa would have incentive programs," Tilley said.

### **The ripple effect of a failed bill**

The failure to pass an economic development bill also resulted in other bills not surviving the special session, including, once again, the St. Louis Police local control bill. It had earlier died during the regular session when lawmakers again clashed over tax credits.

The most surprising side effect, though, was the death of the bill to move the state's presidential primary from February to March. After passing the House, a group of senators held it up, too – and then floated an alternate bill to dump the primary in favor of caucuses, which also failed. **Marvin Overby is a political science professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia. He says the failure to resolve the presidential primary issue could be more embarrassing than deadlocking on tax credits.**

**"The Republican leadership was unable to sort of get a reasonable bill passed," Overby said. "I guess now we're going to have a primary that doesn't count, and we're going to have some sort of caucus system that does count...that again just looks incompetent."**

And Overby says the GOP's failure may be the Democrats' gain.

### **Who's to blame?**

"Probably Governor Nixon looks better in comparison, although it's not so much what he did, it's just that he doesn't have his fingerprints as much on the failure of this legislative session," Overby said.

But House Majority Floor Leader Tim Jones says the governor deserves a share of the blame for a mostly failed session.

"The governor seems to be the closest to the senators and the most aware of what happens in that body," Overby said. "I wonder how well the governor vetted the bill with Senator Mayer and the rest of the Senate leadership and talked about, 'okay, who's going to have issues with this bill.'"

But a spokesman for the governor says it was the inability of the House and Senate to resolve their differences that deprived the state of additional economic development tools. Only two

bills passed during the special session: the “Facebook Fix” and a funding mechanism for creating high tech and life sciences jobs, and both were signed by Governor Nixon.

Lawmakers are scheduled to return to Jefferson City in just over two months, and so far there’s no indication they’ll be able to agree on tax credits during next year’s regular session, either.



## **Discovery Ridge gets 'certified' tag**

The Department of Economic Development announced today it has designated the University of Missouri's Discovery Ridge in southeast Columbia as the city's third "certified site."

The state's certified site program acts as a marketing tool that lets companies searching for areas to develop know a particular site has the necessary environmental and other studies complete. The process is supposed to cut down the time businesses would spend doing their own due diligence on a particular site. In May 2009, Columbia's Ewing Industrial Park was the first site in the state to receive the distinction, but neither it nor the city's other certified site has yet landed a tenant.

Discovery Ridge is already home to ABC Laboratories and MU's Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory. MU announced in June it had signed a 55-year ground lease with a Kansas City development company that plans to build an 80,000-square-foot building.