Enrollment data reveal campus shift

Biz school sees lower numbers.

By Janese Heavin

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Fewer first-time college students will be entering the University of Missouri's business school this fall than last year, while more students appear to be interested in arts and science majors.

Preliminary enrollment numbers from July 1 show 1,052 deposits have been made to the Trulaske College of Business, a decrease of 173 from this time last year. Deposits are a reliable enrollment indicator because students are more likely to show up on the first day of class if they've paid a fee in advance, said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management.

Mary Beth Marrs, an assistant dean in the business school, said the decrease isn't cause for worry because last year's numbers were unusually high.

"We saw a significant surge last year, so the decrease might be kind of a correction right now," she said.

After a major recruiting push before the fall 2008 semester, 1,225 deposits were made by July 1, 2008, up from 985 in 2007. This past year, Marrs said, the college had to curtail its recruiting efforts because of budgetary constraints.

The College of Arts and Science is seeing the largest increase in deposits to date. At the start of this month, 2,302 deposits from first-time college students had been made to the college, up 98 from the same time a year ago.

Interest has especially grown in the field of psychology, Dean Michael O'Brien said.

"Not just in majors, but also minors in psychology," he said. "Business, pre-law kids. they know it's a good degree. Plus, it's really interesting."

Biological science and political science degrees also remain popular in the College of Arts and Science, O'Brien said.

Although the increase has required some shuffling of faculty and larger classes, O'Brien said he has been impressed with the caliber of students coming into the college.
“It’s a good problem to have,” he said. “What we see is an increase in prepared students. These are the best in the state of Missouri.”

Other preliminary enrollment data show that as of July 1:

- Deposits were up by 22 in the College of Engineering.
- Deposits were up five in the College of Education and two in the School of Health Professions.
- Deposits were down by 23 in the School of Journalism.
- Deposits were down by six in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Preliminary enrollment numbers also indicate a more diverse group of first-time college students will enter MU this fall. The number of deposits from black students was 447, up 98 from last fall, and deposits from Hispanic students were at 159, an increase of 24. But the number of deposits from Asian students was 129, down by 11 from this time last year.

Korschgen said those demographics “are a commentary on our ongoing efforts to diversify our student body. The more we do that, the more success we have in attracting additional students.”

Final enrollment numbers aren’t collected until the fourth week of the fall semester.

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Pi Kappa Alpha house first to include safety features

By Brittany Petersen
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COLUMBIA — Epoxy coating covers the bathroom walls, ceilings and floors of the newly renovated **Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house**, a clear strategy to ensure for easy cleanup.

"(The residents) literally could take a hose in here," said Terry Bruns, manager of the project.

But that's not the only “frat-friendly” improvement.

The $2 million renovation began in summer 2008 and sought to incorporate the new safety measures first laid out by the City Council in January 2007.

**Pi Kappa Alpha, also known as Pike, is the first Greek house at MU to implement the new safety measures.** The fraternity currently has 124 members, about 90 of whom will live in the house this fall.

The decision by the council to adopt the 2006 International Fire Code meant all MU fraternities and sororities would have to install sprinkler systems in their houses by Dec. 31, 2012.

However, MU’s Greek system argued the deadline didn't provide enough time to raise the necessary funds, which was estimated to be $100,000 per house.

A Fire Sprinkler Task Force was then assembled, and convinced the council early this year to extend the deadline to March 16, 2016.

Regardless of the safety recommendations, the plan to renovate the Pike house had already been decided in 2006.
From there, Pike brothers raised about $800,000 with the help of alumni and other donors.

The decision to include the new safety measures made sense because of the amount of work already being done, said Randy Coil, president of Coil Construction Inc., which worked on the project.

Mark Timberlake, an alumnus of the fraternity, completed the engineering for the house. Of the renovation, he said, "(The house) probably hasn't looked this good since it was built in 1929."

The renovations include a new stair tower, stair lift, sprinkler system, vinyl flooring, ADA accessibility and LED lighting to increase energy efficiency.

Bruns walked through the house Wednesday morning to showcase the various upgrades.

"This house was essentially gutted," he said.

Out of the $2 million cost of the project, about 5 percent went toward the new safety components of the house: installing a sprinkler system, new smoke alarms and flashing strobes, Coil said.
U.S. pork supply balloons as swine flu curbs demand

Wed Jul 22, 2009

By Jerry Bieszk

CHICAGO (Reuters) - U.S. pork supplies held in storage ballooned to the highest level ever for the month of June as consumers turned to other meats amid the spread in swine flu, the government and analysts said on Wednesday.

The analysts said data from the U.S. Agriculture Department should pressure Chicago Mercantile Exchange lean hog futures when pit trading in Chicago reopens on Thursday morning.

USDA data showed that total pork stocks in June of 578.8 million lbs were down one percent from May but were up nine percent from a year ago, and a record high at end-June.

"We've got the largest (total pork stocks) number on record for this particular month's (June) report," said livestock analyst Rich Nelson of brokerage Allendale Inc.

"We had a drawdown of 6 million pounds from last month. Typically, we draw down about 40 million pounds," he said, adding that the built-up in stocks showed that U.S. pork exports continued to be curtailed by swine flu.

H1N1, known as swine flu despite being spread by humans, caused the first influenza pandemic of the 21st century, spreading globally in just a few weeks, infecting millions.

Traders have blamed the spread of the flu to consumers shying away from pork. CME lean hog futures have tumbled about 30 percent since peaking at 90 cents a lb in August.

"This confirms that we're still having export problems," Nelson said, citing sales China in particular.

Ron Plain, livestock economist at the University of Missouri, said the June data compared with the all-time record for any month of 663 million lbs in storage on April 30, 2008.

"It was the weekend of April 25th and 26th is when it (swine flu) hit the news. Pork stocks started growing in May and that continued into June," he said.

"It was just last year we set the record for pork in cold storage and we were just above 600 million earlier this year."

Stocks were at a record high last year as the industry increased stocks to meet demand from China when the country hosted the summer Olympics in 2008.

"Last year we were building a lot of pork in cold storage for export. We were setting records in exports and a lot got accumulated in cold storage before it gets shipped."
Ham stocks rose 23 percent from end-May. "Ham prices were pathetic in June and apparently for good reason. For that much to be put into cold storage it obviously wasn't a product that was moving very fast," Plain said.

"Mexico was the biggest market for ham exports and the whole H1N1 thing slowed movement of product to the south."

The H1N1 flu was first detected in Mexico.

(Reporting by Jerry Bieszk; Editing by K.T. Arasu and Marguerita Choy)

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