Higher education cuts loom next year

Protection likely over, official says.

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, August 26, 2010

After being shielded from the budget knife for two years in a row, Missouri’s public universities and colleges likely will have a bull’s-eye on their collective back when lawmakers start drafting next fiscal year’s budget.

“Higher education is sticking out like a sore thumb,” Paul Wagner, deputy commissioner of the Missouri Department of Higher Education, told University of Missouri department chairs yesterday. The annual chairs’ retreat took place yesterday and this morning at the Reynolds Alumni Center on campus.

The state’s current budget is being padded with $860 million in federal stimulus dollars that won’t be available in fiscal 2012, which begins next summer. Those stimulus dollars came with strings attached that protected higher education funding. Also, Gov. Jay Nixon struck a deal with colleges for the past two years that limited budget cuts in exchange for tuition freezes for in-state undergraduates.

But when the coming budget year rolls around, “higher education is no longer off the table,” Wagner said.

The state is eyeing as much as a $600 million shortfall next year, and Wagner said higher education should expect to take as much as $250 million of the cut. That amounts to 25 percent, a figure stemming from a number of factors. First, higher education’s “fair share” of the cut would be about 12 percent, based on how much colleges and universities receive from the state. Second, other state-funded programs such as Medicaid and K-12 education already have taken more than their fair share of cuts over the past two years, Wagner said.

It’s “highly unlikely” higher education will “get away with just the proportionate share,” he said.

Adding to the considerations is the fact that universities and colleges can raise tuition to plug budget gaps, Wagner said. But schools are limited in the amounts they can raise tuition. A 2008 law limits tuition and fee increases to the rate of inflation unless an institution gets approval from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Wagner expects to see an influx of waiver requests from schools next year if colleges don’t think the consumer price index is sufficient.
“We’re right back where we were before the stimulus started,” he said. The only good news, Wagner said, is “at least we’ve seen this one coming.”

To cushion some of the funding gaps, the state’s higher education board is starting to discuss ways to better coordinate the network of public colleges and universities in the state. Interim Higher Education Commissioner David Russell said he anticipates regular meetings between academic leaders at state colleges and universities to review programs and degrees.

The review aims to identify degree programs that aren’t producing significant graduates. For instance, if a school awarded fewer than an average of 10 bachelor’s degrees in a certain major over a three-year span, “that raises flags,” Russell said.

There would be other considerations, though, such as whether a department is needed to complete general education courses. A school that graduates on average fewer than 10 math majors over three years, for instance, might not be able to do away with that department because math is a required general education course.

Even if the exercise doesn’t save significant dollars, Russell said, it should help build confidence in higher education among taxpayers and lawmakers.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Mizzou suspends No. 1 tailback Washington

BY VAHE GREGORIAN and TOM TIMMERMANN | Posted: Friday, August 27, 2010 12:03 am

COLUMBIA, MO. • Derrick Washington, Mizzou's starting tailback and a team captain, was suspended indefinitely on Thursday. No reason was given for the suspension, which leaves unclear Washington's status for the Sept. 4 opener against Illinois, and coach Gary Pinkel declined to say anything beyond the fact Washington was suspended.

But the Columbia Missourian reported Thursday night that an order of protection was issued against Washington in June after an allegation of sexual assault, and a source with knowledge of the matter told the Post-Dispatch that the incident still was being discussed this week among prosecutors and an attorney for Washington.

According to an interview cited in a University of Missouri police report and obtained by the Post-Dispatch late Thursday night, Washington in mid-June made an unexpected visit to a female friend at 2:30 a.m., banged loudly on doors and windows until he was let in and, after tension between them, attempted to sexually assault her roommate.

Washington returned to the other woman's room a few minutes later, her statement said, and said nothing of what had happened.

"I was sexually assaulted by him ... I am pressing criminal charges," the alleged victim wrote in court documents obtained by the Missourian. "I fear physical retaliation."

Attempts to reach Boone County prosecutors Thursday night were unsuccessful, but an attorney for Washington, Chris Slusher, told the Missourian that he understood a matter had been referred to the prosecutor's office but that no charges had been filed.

Washington, a senior from Raymore, Mo., who is one of the team's co-captains, has been the team's leading rusher the past two seasons. Last season, his average yards per carry dropped from 5.9 to 4.6 as the team as a whole rushed for just 1,651 yards, its fewest since 1994, but Washington had lost weight and appeared to regain a gear in camp.

If Washington's suspension includes the Illinois game, it will move sophomore Kendial Lawrence up to the starting spot, and who's behind that is uncertain at the moment. The Tigers' No. 3 tailback, De'Vion Moore, has been out since last week with an ankle injury — he also missed a couple days earlier in camp with concussion-like symptoms — and didn't take part in Thursday's scrimmage. If Moore can't go, the team would be without two of its top three tailbacks and have to turn to freshmen.
The No. 4 tailback, who got time with the first string on Thursday and is, for the moment, No. 2, is Henry Josey, a 5-10, 180-pound true freshman from Angleton, Texas, and the No. 5 — now No. 3 — is Marcus Murphy, who is 5-9, 170 pounds and another true freshman from Texas. Josey said he thought Moore would be ready to play by the Illinois game.

"I don't know too much," Lawrence said after the scrimmage, in which he carried four times for 11 yards and scored two touchdowns. "It was a shock to me when I got into the locker room (and heard of the suspension).

"We're all working hard, we're all ready to go."

Josey carried four times for eight yards in the scrimmage and caught five passes for 44 yards.

"I would love to play this year," he said. "It's at the top of my list. I'll do whatever I can for the team. Camp is going real good. The transition has been good so far."

Lawrence is a quick, darting ball carrier, but he's also 5-foot-9, 3 inches shorter than Washington and smaller than most everyone else on the field, though he doesn't see that as a problem. He had 52 carries for 219 yards last season as a freshman and three catches for 49 yards.

Washington, Lawrence and Moore were the only tailbacks used by Mizzou last season, but Washington got 62 percent of the carries. Pinkel has said that he expected the three to all see ample playing time this season. Moore, a junior from Hazelwood Central, had 63 carries for 258 yards last season and one touchdown.

**Prince injured**

Thursday's scrimmage ended on a somber note with backup cornerback Munir Prince from DeSmet High being wheeled from the field on a stretcher after colliding with 6-foot-5, 250-pound Marcus Malbrough on a reverse on a kickoff return and being knocked out.

Prince regained consciousness and teammates said he was moving, but as a precaution Prince was strapped to a board, with his helmet still on his head, and taken from the field to a waiting ambulance. The initial report from University Hospital was that Prince had feeling in all of his limbs.

"It's precautionary," Pinkel said. "We hope he'll be OK."

The scrimmage continued briefly while Prince was initially being looked at, but after a few minutes, when the final field goals were taken, the entire team gathered in silence around Prince and dropped to one knee. After Prince was taken from the field, the team reassembled at midfield for a prayer before heading silently to the locker room.

Combined with the Washington news, it was a tough day all around for the Tigers.
"We've just got to fight through," quarterback Blaine Gabbert said. "Things are going to happen to this team. We have to bounce back and fight on."

Prince transferred to Mizzou from Notre Dame after the 2007 season and has been a backup cornerback and kick returner.

**Tiger tales**

Starters saw only light action in the scrimmage and the team's quarterbacks came away again with good stats. Gabbert completed nine of 11 passes for 121 yards, and backup James Franklin completed eight of 12 for 51 yards. Tight end Michael Egnew had four catches for 65 yards. "It's unimportant now," Pinkel said, moments after Prince had been taken off the field, "the (first team) on both sides did a good job. I think we got a lot out of today, it just ended the wrong way."
Missouri suspends Ray-Pec’s Washington

By MIKE DeARMOND

COLUMBIA | Missouri senior tailback Derrick Washington, a team captain, has been indefinitely suspended from the team, coach Gary Pinkel said Thursday.

Multiple sources told The Star that Washington had been accused in an off-the-field incident earlier this summer.

“He’s indefinitely suspended for disciplinary reasons,” Pinkel said. “As I’ve done for 10 years, I don’t ever talk about those issues. I tell my players: When something happens, I don’t do that.”

Court records obtained by The Columbia Missourian — which were not listed on the Missouri court case database when The Star ran a search on Washington’s name on Thursday — said that Boone County Circuit Court Judge Leslie Schneider issued an order of protection in June for a Columbia woman. That order said Washington was to have no contact with the woman, whose name was not disclosed by The Missourian.

The newspaper said the woman filed a statement with the court, saying: “I was sexually assaulted by him. ... I am pressing criminal charges.”

The incident is alleged to have taken place about 2:30 a.m. June 19 at the Campus View apartments in Columbia.

A court hearing set for July 7 was continued until July 21, The Missourian reported. Neither Washington nor the complaining party showed up for that hearing, and it was dismissed without prejudice.

The Boone County prosecutor’s office, despite a query from The Star regarding any information forwarded to it involving Washington, did not respond. However, the Missourian reported that an attorney in the office confirmed Thursday that a case involving Washington had been referred to the prosecutor’s office.

An attorney with the Columbia law firm of Holder, Susan and Slusher confirmed Thursday evening that it had been retained by the Washington family. The lawyer said that no criminal charges had been filed.
Washington was not at the final MU football practice that was open to the media Thursday. No family member returned e-mail or telephone calls from The Star.

Washington, a standout at Raymore-Peculiar High School, had been exuberantly charging through August practices, having discovered a new gear in his running game after dropping 10 pounds and his percentage of body fat from a year ago.

As a sophomore, he rushed for 1,078 yards and 17 touchdowns. Injured much of last season, Washington dropped to 865 yards. He enters his senior year at MU with a career rushing average of 5.2 yards a carry.

Whether for one game or the season, sophomore Kendial Lawrence seems the obvious choice to replace Washington in the starting lineup. De’Vion Moore, next on the depth chart, has been slowed by a foot injury.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Derrick Washington suspended indefinitely from MU football team

By Missourian staff
August 26, 2010 | 9:59 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Derrick Washington, a captain and starting tailback on the Missouri football team, was issued an order of protection against him by Boone County Circuit Court Judge Leslie Schneider in June after he was accused of sexual assault, according to court documents obtained by the Missourian on Thursday.

Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel suspended Washington indefinitely before the Tigers' Thursday scrimmage.

Missouri Athletics Director Mike Alden confirmed on Thursday he has been aware of Washington's legal situation for weeks and that he supports Pinkel's decision to suspend him.

"I am certainly aware of the situation involving Derrick and the coach's decision to suspend him," Alden said. "(I have known) probably, I think for a few weeks, that there were some things that were being evaluated at that time."

Alden refused to directly confirm that Washington's suspension and the sexual assault allegations were connected, saying that it is not athletics department policy to comment on suspensions.

In court documents, the woman, who is in her early 20s, alleges Washington sexually assaulted her at about 2:30 a.m. on June 19 at the Campus View apartment complex.

"I was sexually assaulted by him. ... I am pressing criminal charges," she wrote in court documents. "I fear physical retaliation."

The woman continued that Washington entered her room "unprovoked."
The order of protection against Washington was first issued three days later, on June 22. This order meant Washington could not abuse, threaten, stalk, molest or disturb the woman. He was also forbidden from going to her residence or communicating with her.

A court hearing was scheduled for July 7, but the woman asked for a continuance the day before the hearing. The hearing would have determined whether a full order of protection was to be issued. The order of protection was renewed until the new court date of July 21.

Neither party showed up to the hearing, and the case was dismissed without prejudice. This means that the issue can come before the courts again, according to the Missouri Bar.

Prosecuting attorney Andrea Hayes said only that she had been referred a case on Derrick Washington.

Attorney Chris Slusher said his law firm, Holder, Susan and Slusher, was hired by the Washington family to help them with some issues brought up with the university. He said his firm understood that a matter had been referred to the prosecutor's office, but criminal charges had not been filed.

Slusher refused to comment on the order of protection filed against Washington because he said he had not seen those documents.

Team spokesman Chad Moller would not comment on why coach Gary Pinkel made his decision to suspend Washington on Thursday.

"The extent of everything we have to say has already been said," Moller said after Thursday's football scrimmage, which Washington did not attend.

Pinkel spoke briefly with the media after the scrimmage and was visibly irritated when asked about Washington's legal matters.

"He's indefinitely suspended for disciplinary reasons," Pinkel said. "As usual, as I've done for 10 years, I don't ever talk about those issues."

The indefinite loss of Washington will impact a Missouri team that is eight days away from its first game against Illinois in St. Louis on Sept. 4. Washington ran for more than
1,000 yards his sophomore season and looked poised in preseason practices to rebound from a disappointing 2009 season in which he was hobbled by a knee injury.

The Missourian attempted to reach Washington by phone, but he did not respond.

It is Missourian policy not to identify victims of sexual assault.

*Missourian reporters Len Goldman, Will Guldin, Dieter Kurtenbach and Joan Niesen contributed to this report.*
University of Missouri and Columbia police officers stand in front of a city bus after responding to a report of shots fired around noon Thursday.

By T.J. Greaney

Published August 26, 2010 at 1:56 p.m.

Two bullet holes were discovered behind a rear passenger tire on the bus.

Columbia police are investigating the incident and say that no one was hurt.

Police said the bus driver reported hearing what sounded like “rocks hitting the bus” in the area of Providence Road and Kentucky Boulevard around 9:45 a.m.

The driver noticed what appeared to be two bullet holes near the rear passenger tire of the vehicle during a routine inspection stop in front of Tiger Plaza on the University of Missouri campus at 11:54 a.m.

After the driver contacted police, Columbia police officers and MU police officers began canvassing the area for possible evidence and witnesses. No evidence or witnesses were located.

Police had not received any other shots fired calls in connection with the incident. Members of the Columbia Police Department’s Forensic Evidence Team are examining the bus for evidence.

Shortly after the discovery, campus authorities said the incident does not pose an immediate threat.

“We don’t think there is any imminent danger to anyone at the campus,” said Chief Jack Watring of the MU Police Department.

Reporter Janese Silvey contributed to this story.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Two possible bullet holes found in campus shuttle bus

By Amrita Jayakumar
August 26, 2010 | 2:54 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A shuttle bus driver reported what appeared to be two bullet holes in the side of his bus to the MU Police Department around noon Thursday.

The driver reported hearing "what sounded like a rock or rocks striking the bus" around 9:45 a.m., according to a news release from the MU Police Department.

He was driving on Providence Road near Kentucky Boulevard at the time, according to the release. When the driver stopped the bus around 11:54 a.m., he noticed two possible bullet holes near the right rear tire.

The Columbia Police Department is still investigating where on the bus route the incident took place.

Neither police department has received any further reports of the same type of incident in the area or any other part of campus, according to the release.

If anyone has any information about the incident or was a passenger on the bus, please contact the Police Department or call CrimeStoppers at 875-TIPS (8477).
MU looks at realism of three- or four-year degrees

Majority of MU students don’t even graduate in 4.

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, August 26, 2010

The recent national and local talk about whether colleges should offer three-year degree programs is missing some context: Most students don’t even graduate in four years.

Fewer than half — 42 percent — of students at the University of Missouri graduate within four years, Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies, said during a department chairs’ retreat on campus yesterday.

Four years has historically been considered the normal span of time needed to complete a college career. Now, the graduation rate standard used by higher education institutes is six years.

Spain said yesterday he wants departments on campus to take another look at MU’s Four Year Graduation Plan to see which academic studies are most likely to be able to satisfy the contract. That contract has been around for a while, Deputy Provost Ken Dean said, but it has lost direction over the past few years.

MU’s Four Year Graduation Plan is a written agreement between the university and a student that guarantees the student will have access to the courses he or she needs to get a degree in four years or else the university will pick up the tuition tab for classes that span beyond four years. The contract is offered to all freshmen. Even though there’s no penalty if a student ultimately doesn’t graduate in four years, few students have taken advantage of that tuition guarantee, Spain said.

Parents aren’t interested in it, either, he said, even though knocking off a year of college would save thousands in tuition. Although there are varying reasons for that, he said many parents don’t want to pledge to the time frame if it means lessening the chances of a student studying abroad, taking a semester off for an internship or having to cram studies in and miss other opportunities that make up the college experience.

Most students today bring to college credit hours they earn through Advanced Placement or dual-credit courses in high school. But when they get to college, most aren’t picking up the course load needed every semester to get to the 120 hours required for most majors. The majority of
MU undergraduates are taking 12 credit hours a semester, three hours shy of the 15 that would be needed to graduate in four years starting with no credits from high school.

Getting students to graduate in three years is doable but not without changing that trend, Spain said. A student who enrolled with 13 credit hours from high school — the average that MU students bring with them — would still need to take 16 hours a semester and tack on 11 summer credits to graduate in 36 months.

“Students are not interested in 16 hours,” Spain said.

Having students come and go in eight semesters would free up resources and class space on campus. But Spain stressed that there are sometimes valid reasons to stay in school longer, such as when a specific degrees require more than 120 hours or when a student has a difficult transition into college. That’s where academic advisers come in, he said. “We have to balance effectiveness and efficiency,” Spain said. “Where’s the balance? That comes from individual negotiations.”

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Stem cell research

Remaining on tentative ground

By Henry J. Waters III

Thursday, August 26, 2010

Back when Republicans were in charge, Congress passed a law saying federal money could not be used for stem cell research if a human embryo is destroyed.

After taking office, the Obama administration authorized an increase in the number of stem cell “lines” eligible for federal assistance, unleashing new research in a number of laboratories. A lawsuit was filed by two doctors doing research with adult stem cells, and a federal judge agreed the Obama plan violates the law, throwing researchers into confusion and effectively stopping a lot of valuable work.

The stem cell issue has been fraught with misconception. Right-to-life activists say using embryos for research instead of for human procreation is equivalent to abortion, even though in the process no human birth is affected. The science of cloning to create human life is not developed and in any event is specifically prohibited in laws enabling stem cell research. Using stem cell lines for research shortchanges not one potential human life but has the potential to save many lives affected by Parkinson’s, spinal cord injury or diabetes, to name a few promising areas of research. Embryonic stem cells are much more useful for such research than adult cells.

But don’t blame the judge. The federal law says funding cannot be provided for any research that destroys an embryo. The judge concluded the funded research does have that result.

The offending law should be changed. Even though a wave of conservatism is sweeping the land, not all of it necessarily would be averse to allowing funded embryo stem cell research. The tea party, for instance, is against big government above all else. If the stem cell prohibition is not big government, what is?

Meanwhile, similar prohibitions in Missouri law seriously deter economic development, not to mention potential health benefits, enhancing our state’s discouraging reputation as a place unfriendly to science and sending valuable research elsewhere.

HJW III
Other than the Missouri State Fair and peach season, August doesn't have much to recommend it. Back from an ill-deserved break and catching up with the news, I see that this year is no exception. The Cardinals and the economy aren't the only things we have to worry about.

The first troubling item that comes to mind is an especially unpleasant surprise. I'm talking about Robin Carnahan's campaign for the United States Senate. She's sounding like she has forgotten the advice of Missouri's most successful politician, Harry Truman. Mr. Truman once observed that voters, given a choice between a Republican and a Democrat acting like a Republican, are likely to choose the real thing.

Ms. Carnahan reminded me of that a few days ago, when she announced that she supports extension of the Bush tax cuts for the top 3 percent of earners, those making at least $200,000 a year. Of course, Roy Blunt, her Republican opponent, had already said the same thing. Our president, who as you may recall is a Democrat, wants to extend the cuts for the bottom 97 percent and let the fat cats pay back some of what they've gained in the decade of disproportionate gains for the rich and economic stagnation for most of us.

Ms. Carnahan has also seemed disturbingly Republican-like in her positions on the stimulus (which in fact has accomplished just what Mr. Obama promised) and a couple of other major issues. We can only assume she's following the polls and not her heritage. Her father ran as a real Democrat when he defeated a stronger Republican in his own Senate race. We liked Mel so much we elected him even after he was killed in a plane crash.
A second bit of bad news, one that wasn’t so surprising, came from our current governor, another super-cautious Democrat. He pointed out that budget woes are going to require another round of cuts next year to higher education. He said we’ll have to be more efficient. If he said anything about being “world class,” I missed it. I hope he didn’t, because that’s not the direction we’re headed.

**Here at MU, the biggest-ever freshman class of more than 6,000 brings our total enrollment to a new record of 32,009, an increase of 35 percent since 2001. That would be good news except for this: The regular (tenured and tenure-track) faculty has only increased by 4.7 percent over the decade, to 1,239 in the fall of 2009. That’s the most recent number available.**

Who’s teaching all these new students, you ask? Well, for one thing, the student/faculty ratio has increased from 15/1 to 17/1. For another, the growth in faculty numbers is in the nonregulars, up 56 percent over the decade. That’s more efficient, but is it better?

Times are tough, and they’re likely to get tougher for future university employees. Three weeks ago, President Forsee announced that administrators are studying a change in the pension system for future hires, from defined benefits to defined contributions. His e-mail listed advantages of such a change, but it neglected to mention that defined contribution pensions shift the burdens of investment and the risk of loss from the institution to the individual.

The change is only being studied, but the president’s language pointed pretty clearly to the outcome. That will be more efficient, too.

The picture isn’t any prettier in our public schools, where fewer teachers are handling more students and the tax is going up to compensate for declining state support.

But let’s not despair. August is nearly over. We’ve got a holiday coming up, and football, and the prospect of cooler weather. And peaches are still in season.

*George Kennedy is a former managing editor at the Missourian and professor emeritus at the Missouri School of Journalism.*
Many colleges and universities have spent the last couple of months setting their fall tuition, but the average nationwide increase won't be known until the College Board's annual tuition report is released in October. Some state systems -- or their individual universities -- have already released their increases, and the aggregate information below is based on publicly available data.

Average Increases in 2010-11 In-State Tuition for 4-Year Public Universities, Selected States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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Not surprisingly, some of the states with the highest increases are those where university budgets have been hit the worst. Arizona's three state universities have had their budgets cut by more than 18.5 percent or $230 million since 2007, and their 2010-2011 tuitions will rise by an average of about 16 percent. California has also enacted massive budget cuts, prompting all 10 University of California campuses to raise tuition by 32 percent since Fall 2009. (California State University is raising its tuition by 5 percent, after a 32-percent increase in 2009.)

The University of North Carolina system is reeling from a $142-million cut this year, on top of $575 million of reductions over the past three years. As a result, the legislature allowed massive tuition increases this year, and tuition at all state universities is rising an average of about 17 percent, and on some campuses by more than 20 percent.

"The university cut administrative expenses last year by 23 percent and abolished nearly 900 administrative positions -- I think we've cut the administration to the bone and we had to do something to protect the quality of our education," said Ernie Murphrey, CFO for the UNC
system. He added that the tuition increase will help to offset this year’s cuts to the operating budget.

In Georgia, research universities will see an increase of $500 in tuition, or 16.5 percent, which is expected to generate $80 million to help offset a $227-million state reduction. “It’s a heftier increase than we have seen at that level,” said John Millsaps, a spokesman for the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. “Like every other state we are seeing pretty significant budget reductions to state appropriations, but we obviously have more and more students who are knocking on the doors. It’s a challenge to maintain the quality level with fewer resources.”

Georgia’s universities have also been asked to submit plans for 4, 6, and 8 percent reductions for the current year, Millsaps said, and in the past, they have had to make the highest-level midyear reductions. He added that if the universities were required to make a 10 percent cut to their proposed 2012 budgets, they would fall below 2007 fiscal year appropriations, requiring them to use less money to serve a projected 60,000 more students than in 2007.

Millsaps said that the rising cost of attendance didn’t seem to be turning people away from Georgia’s universities -- which still have among the lowest tuitions in the country -- but recent research has shown that more than half of incoming freshmen nationwide in 2009 were concerned about how they would finance their educations, and an all-time high of 46 percent said that cost was a very important factor in choosing which university to attend.

“Instead of going to a place they’re most qualified to go to and fits their educational goals, they’ll make their decision based on price,” Callan said, describing a phenomenon he called “trading down.” He added that higher education has become the “gate to the middle class” but that the rising prices make it increasingly hard for students to attend and graduate. “We’re digging ourselves into a deep hole and increasing the mismatch in what American society needs.”

Nonetheless, the skyrocketing rates have bypassed some states even this year. While many universities’ increases average between 5 and 10 percent, some states -- even those with large universities and large budget cuts -- are maintaining more modest increases. The percentage of state money that supports the University of Texas system budget is relatively small compared to other states, and as a result UT is raising its tuition by an average of only 4.1 percent. In-state students in Missouri, West Virginia, and at New York state and city universities will not see an increase in tuition this year, and it will increase less than 5 percent for out-of-state students.

“When [Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon] came into office he promised that he would make higher education a priority, and he held that promise even though he has had to decrease state allocations to many other areas,” said Mary Jo Banken, a spokeswoman for the University of Missouri. For the 2010 fiscal year, Nixon promised to cut university state allocations only 6 percent if the universities promised not to raise their tuitions. Banken said that increasing enrollment has brought in enough revenue to make this a feasible solution.
Average increases in 2010-11 In-State Tuition at 4-Year Public Universities, Selected States

<table>
<thead>
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<th>State</th>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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— Iza Wojciechowska
Horses, an unthought-of consequence to the economic down turn

Kevin Killeen

ST. LOUIS (KMOX) – The recession is apparently taking its toll on Missouri’s horse population. University of Missouri veterinarian, Alison LaCarrubba, says a growing number of owners can’t afford to keep their horses.

“The problem comes when you don’t have a large amount of land and the horse is in a small lot situation. They eat everything down in the lot and then they’re left with no food at all,” said LaCarrubba. “Then people don’t know how much hay and feed it takes to keep a horse.”

LaCarrubba blames a glut of horses nationwide, after a 2007 law shut down the horse-slaughterhouses.

That dropped horse values so low some are going for free or as little as $50.

LaCarrubba says, “We hear stories about abandoning horses in state parks and at saddle barns, things like that.”

Many new owners in the recession can’t afford to get their horses euthanized or buried.

Copyright KMOX Radio
In Columbia, ‘Beetle Bailey’ stamps will be honored at MU

The U.S. Postal Service is honoring a classic cartoon character with mid-Missouri roots at a ceremony today at the University of Missouri.

A stamp depicting sad-sack soldier Beetle Bailey and his longtime foil, Sgt. Orville Snorkel, is part of the new “Sunday Funnies” series released in July. Other stamps feature Archie, Calvin and Hobbes, Garfield and Dennis the Menace.

The 60-year-old cartoon’s creator is Mort Walker, a Kansas native who grew up in Kansas City and was a 1948 Missouri graduate. He based many of the early characters on his fraternity brothers. The cartoon’s setting of Camp Swampy is loosely based on Walker’s Army stint at Camp Crowder near Neosho, Mo.

A ceremony is set for 11 a.m. outside the Reynolds Alumni Center, where a Beetle Bailey statue welcomes visitors.
This stamp depicting sad-sack soldier Beetle Bailey and his longtime foil, Sgt. Orville Snorkel, is part of the new "Sunday Funnies" series released by the U.S. Postal Service. The Beetle Bailey stamp, initially unveiled in July, is being honored for its connections to MU and mid-Missouri. Beetle Bailey's creator, Mort Walker, is a 1948 graduate of the university.  

COLUMBIA — In 1995, Beetle Bailey didn't make the cut for the Comic Strip Classics.
The U.S. Postal Service wanted to create a series of commemorative postage stamps to celebrate the centennial of newspaper color comics.

"When we did this series in 1995, we contacted the Cartoonists Society," Terry McCaffrey, manager of stamp development for the U.S. Postal Service, said. "We actually talked to Mort Walker."

Walker, an MU alumus and creator of the long-running comic strip, helped poll cartoonists of the day, and they decided on the 20 comics that would make up Comic Strip Classics. The original series featured strips such as Blondie, Dick Tracy and The Yellow Kid.

"Ironically, we ended up not picking Beetle Bailey for the first strip, but he was very gracious about it," McCaffrey said. So gracious, in fact, that Walker included a shout-out for the 1995 series by featuring the stamps in his own strip.

"Those 20 designs on Comic Strip Classics were some of the most popular-selling stamps of all times," McCaffrey said. "We decided to revisit this and pay attention to the ones that had been considered, but we had felt were too contemporary at the time."

Fifteen years later, the ageless Private Bailey has earned his postal stripes as part of five stamps dedicated to comics that missed the sheet in the first round. The release coincided with the 11th anniversary of the campuswide Mizzou Botanic Garden. A statue of Beetle that pays homage to Walker is part of one of the campus gardens.

At 11 Friday morning, a large framed picture of the stamp will be unveiled at the sculpture next to the Reynolds Alumni Center. Private Bailey himself is expected to make an appearance, along with Chancellor Emeritus Richard Wallace and Bill Janocha, Mort Walker's assistant.

Cheryl Hudson, customer relations coordinator for the postal service, said she expects about 200 people to attend. In addition to viewing the unveiling of the stamp, the audience will have the opportunity to take home a piece of Beetle Bailey history.

“There’s a tradition with stamp unveilings,” Hudson said. “There’s a program that everyone receives that has a space available to put the stamp and receive a special postmark, or cancellation.”
The special cancellations and stamps will be available on-site. The stamps are available for purchase individually or as a part of the five-comic set.

The stamp of Beetle and co-character Sgt. Orville P. Snorkel joined comic strip neighbors Archie, Dennis the Menace, Garfield and Calvin and Hobbes in the iconic series. Maintaining his own tradition, Walker persuaded his fellow cartoonists to help publicize the strip on their own medium.

Columbia stamp collector and MU finance professor Dan French said he plans to take advantage of the special cancellation but expects the stamp to linger around its current face value of 44 cents. Although a stamp's selling price generally follows inflation, he said, the value is determined by the individual collector.
Mort Walker assistant among speakers at Beetle Bailey stamp ceremony

By Missourian Staff
August 26, 2010 | 10:35 a.m. CDT

Mort Walker's assistant Bill Janocha is among those speaking at a ceremony Friday at MU to unveil a U.S. Postal Service stamp that honors Beetle Bailey, the cartoon character created by MU graduate Mort Walker.

The event is set for 11 a.m. Friday at the Beetle Bailey statue near the Reynolds Alumni Center. The statue is located at the site of The Shack, a beer joint and student hangout that Walker featured in his strip.

The program includes:

- Pete Millier, director of the Mizzou Botanic Garden.
- Larry McMullen, president of Friends of Mizzou Botanic Garden.
- Cheryl Hudson, customer relations coordinator, U.S. Postal Service.
- Mizzou Army ROTC, present the colors.
- Presentation to Honor Flight.
- Linda Russell-Whitworth, Boone County chapter president, Mizzou Alumni Association.
- Bill Janocha, assistant to Mort Walker.
- MU Chancellor Emeritus Richard Wallace.
- David Martin, district manager, U.S. Postal Service.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mort Walker: The artist behind Beetle Bailey

By Sarah Tucker
August 26, 2010 | 6:59 p.m. CDT

Comic creator honored in postal stamp presentation ceremony

Mort Walker was working in New York City as a magazine editor in 1950 when he started drawing Beetle.

“The editor of the Saturday Evening Post said, ‘Why don’t you do something you know about? Why don’t you do some college cartoons?’” Walker said in a phone interview Thursday from his office in Stamford, Conn.

After Walker sketched a few characters, his editor picked one he thought looked funny.


**Inspired by his time at MU in the late 1940s, Walker said he modeled Beetle after David Hornaday, a since-deceased friend from high school and fellow Kappa Sigma fraternity brother.**

Walker took Beetle to King Features Syndicate, a comic print company. "They bought him right away,” he said.

**The first Beetle Bailey comic strip in 1950 featured The Shack, a campus watering hole where Walker held meetings of ShowMe, a humorous student publication he ran while attending MU.**

Unlike Walker, Beetle didn’t do well as a college student.

“College wasn’t a familiar theme with the readers,” Walker said. “The war had started again and my editor said ‘put him in the Army.’”
Walker didn’t want Beetle to enlist but signed him up anyway. He even started Hi and Lois, a family cartoon, because he thought it was the end for Beetle. Instead, it was the opposite.

“Sales just zoomed,” Walker said. “Pretty soon I had 1,000 papers instead of 25.”

While The Shack is gone, it is marked by a statue of Beetle. The site will serve as the location for a ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday to present a U.S. Postal Service stamp that features Sarge yelling at Beetle.

Walker won’t be attending but said he plans to visit MU in late October for the dedication of the new student center. The center will feature a restaurant dedicated to him as well as a student lounge with original booths and other pieces of The Shack.

On Sept. 4, the Beetle Bailey comic strip will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Walker still draws the comic strip by hand and works on it daily with his sons. He attributes Beetle’s long-term success to basing characters on real-life people.

“It gave me a guide for their personality,” Walker said. “You’ve gotta be consistent, to be true to the characters. People form an affinity towards them. To last 60 years you gotta do something people care about.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mort Walker Collection on display at Special Collections Library

By Melanie Lynch
August 26, 2010 | 8:58 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Miss Buxley, replete with her red dress, resides in a box with General Halftrack, Sarge and Beetle Bailey.

The dolls are part of a special collection of comic books, sketches and original works of Mort Walker housed on the fourth floor of Ellis Library.

The Special Collections Library is a place where visitors, students and patrons can see and touch a piece of history.

The Mort Walker Collection, part of the library's Comic Art Collection, includes a large inventory of posters, photographs, cartoons — even a set of Beetle Bailey salt and pepper shakers and The Old Army Game made by Milton Bradley Co.

The collection also includes issues of ShowMe magazine, a campus publication that featured Walker's early works as an MU student.

Karen Witt, special collections librarian, said Walker boosted ShowMe's circulation through his humor and art.

In 1992, Walker donated memorabilia to the collection. Other donors have contributed as well.

A display that includes older versions of Spiderman, Batman and Superman comic books is one of the most popular, Witt said, especially for those taking a tour. "We stress the variety of things we have," she said.
The Special Collections Library, located in 401 Ellis Library, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visitors should take the elevator to the third floor, turn left, and the library is at the top of the stairs or a handicap-accessible ramp.

Visitors are encouraged to call ahead and let the librarians know what they are looking for. Visitors can also go to the Special Collections website for an inventory check.

Anyone wishing to access and handle anything from Special Collections must have a photo ID and fill out a form with contact information. Witt said people should “take great care with what they’re using.”

“We definitely want people to come and visit,” she said. “We have something for any interest here.”
Colleges see prospective donors among new students

MU Mention on Pg. 3

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER/The Associated Press
August 26, 2010 | 11:44 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The drill for new college students remains pretty consistent: grab a campus map, buy some overpriced textbooks, save those quarters for laundry and don’t forget to call home.

On a growing number of campuses, first-year students are hearing another message. Please give. Not for tuition, but instead as a young donor.

With alumni-giving rates at record lows and lagging state support of post-secondary education, public and private schools alike are focusing their efforts on building lifetime loyalty among still-impressionable students.

Some schools start small. Fundraisers at Emory University in Atlanta pass out piggy banks for freshmen to collect spare change. Texas Christian and California University of Pennsylvania ask for $1 donations at their new student convocations.

Other schools, including the University of Pennsylvania, have created more elaborate efforts, with four-year programs designed to teach students the value of philanthropy as a civic virtue as well as the nuances of higher education funding.
"We are unapologetically laying out expectations for their relationship with Penn," said Elise Betz, executive director of alumni relations. "Before our students enter a classroom, they are given this message."

In the Penn Traditions program, school trustees and donors visit dorms to share their perspective on financing an Ivy League education. Trivia night contests focus on school history and traditions, not just sports or pop culture arcana.

By the second semester of their freshmen year, students can tap an alumni database for job leads or networking contacts. But the first 'ask' — donor-speak for a request for money - doesn't take place until senior year.

"It really isn't just about giving," Betz said. "It's about staying connected."

The program seems to be paying off. Participation in Penn's senior gift drive increased from 18 percent in 2001 to 70 percent in 2009 — a figure nearly double the school's alumni-giving rate.

The University of Michigan doesn't wait until freshmen orientation to discuss student philanthropy. Instead, prospective Wolverines learn about the importance of private contributions while touring the Ann Arbor campus.

Students at public colleges and universities — and their parents — often mistakenly assume that tax dollars cover the bulk of their education, said Judy Malcolm, director of development communications and donor relations.

Instead, state support of the school's core academic functions hovers near 20 percent - nearly one-fourth the level of support provided by Michigan to its flagship university 50 years ago.

"At privates, from the moment the student sets foot on campus, giving to the university is an expectation," Malcolm said. "Here, they mistakenly think the state is paying for their entire education."

Angelo Armenti Jr., president of California University of Pennsylvania, calls his school's focus on current students as future donors a "survival strategy." State support at the 158-year-old school in western Pennsylvania now accounts for just one-third of its budget, half the funding levels of 25 years ago.
Alumni who graduated during more flush times don't always understand the necessity of private support, Armenti said.

"Most of them graduated at a time when the state paid all the bills," he said. "How do you convince these people that they have to step up and contribute like private university graduates? Educating our students before they become alumni is much more effective and efficient."

The tough economic times have hit campus development offices particularly hard. A Council for Aid to Education survey of charitable contributions to U.S. colleges and universities showed a decline in private giving of nearly 12 percent in 2009, the steepest drop in the survey's 53-year history. The alumni participation rate of 10 percent was also a record low.

On some campuses, asking students for donations outright is secondary to educating them about the role of private philanthropy in higher education.

That's the case at the University of Missouri, where the private Mizzou Student Foundation invites scholarship recipients to a "Grateful Tiger" day where they write thank-you notes and holiday greeting cards to their benefactors. In another program known as TAG Day — an abbreviation for "Thanking Alumni and friends for their Generosity" — classrooms and buildings that have benefited from donor money are "tagged" with such designations to increase awareness. Faculty members with endowed chairs and student scholarship recipients also wear the tags.

Allyson Lindsey, a 2007 Michigan graduate, learned about the importance of alumni donations on her campus while working as a student fundraiser in the school's telethon office.

The Detroit native returned home after graduation to work as a neonatal researcher at Wayne State University. It took her six months to find a job, but she quickly donated $25 to her alma mater — despite still owing more than $20,000 in unpaid student loans.

"I was really inspired to give back," she said. "I can't give thousands of dollars yet, but they still appreciated my $25. That really resonated with me."
Girls who cut themselves suffer emotional torment

By: The Doctor Game/W. Gifford-Jones MD.

Posted: 27/08/2010 1:00 AM | Comments: 0

Why would teenage girls, even a royal princess, want to injure themselves?

It's called the "cutting disease" and experts say it has been on the rise for the last 10 years, but self-mutilation is not a new disorder.

Dr. Amando Favazz, a psychiatrist at the University of Missouri refers to a reference from the gospel of St Mark, chapter five, in which a man cries out and cuts himself with sharp stones.

Intentionally cutting yourself regularly with razor blades, burning the skin with cigarettes, pulling out hair or breaking bones is to most people an unthinkable way to act. Normally, most of us try to prevent injury. Self-cutting involves both the rich and poor. But nearly 100 per cent of the time it's females that are tormented by this disorder.

The Mayo Clinic reports, "there's no single or simple cause to explain this problem as it's often triggered by a mix of emotional disorders and an inability to cope in a healthy way with psychological pain." In short, a whole basket of emotional problems.

Experts stress self-mutilation is vastly different from suicide. Rather, regularly cutting the skin is an attempt to use the body to express that their physical pain is nothing compared to the awful feelings they bear inside. And that self-injury is due to a mixture of anger, fear, anxiety, loneliness, guilt or emptiness that engulfs the lives of sufferers.

One psychiatrist remarked, "Initially, cutting helps to relieve their intense anxiety. But they quickly realize the problem still exists and they feel ashamed, guilty and try to hide the scars."

When analyzing the histories of such tormented people, several underlying problems stand out. The majority have endured an unhappy childhood. Some were maltreated by abusive parents. Others faced the emotional turmoil of seeing parents divorce and being shuttled back and forth between unhappy households. Or there's a recurrent history of drug, alcohol or sexual abuse.

A prime example is the late Princess Diana, who witnessed the divorce of her parents, was shuttled between households and later bound by an unhappy marriage to Prince Charles. She then shocked the world in 1995 during a television interview with the BBC, revealing she was a
self-injurer having cut her arms and legs. She explained "You have so much pain inside yourself that you try and hurt yourself on the outside because you want help."

In the biography *Diana: Her True Story*, she admitted she had often thrown herself against a glass cabinet at Kensington Palace, slashed her wrist with a razor blade and a serrated lemon slicer. Once during an argument with Prince Charles, she cut her wrist and thighs with a pen knife. On another occasion, during a plane flight, she locked herself in the bathroom, cut her arms and smeared the blood on the walls and seats.

When patients are asked why they self mutilate they provide many reasons. One remarked poetically, "I know it's wrong, but it feels so right, so I'll just add another scar tonight." Others say it gives them a sense of control over their body. Or as Tracy Thompson wrote in *The Beast: A Reckoning With Depression* that "it's better to inflict injury on myself than let other people do it."

There's no magic bullet to ease the internal turmoil in these people as it's never easy to treat depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disease and other emotional troubles. Besides, self-cutters hide their secret for years by wearing long sleeves or using other deceptions.

But I hope this column will alert parents who see suspicious cuts and bruises. They should see their daughters receive prompt treatment. The longer cutters cut, the more difficult the treatment.
Impact of divorce on sibling relationships

By Katherine Dedyna, Postmedia News

Much of the research that exists on sibling relationships involves reports that parents made on behaviour, such as whether their kids talked a lot or fought a lot around the time of the split, or it involves only one child in the family or took place after children were grown, Bush says.

Jackie Bush's parents divorced when she was six. Her younger brother by a year helped her cope, and their lifelong close connection has inspired Bush, now a PhD candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Victoria, to focus on research into how siblings respond to one another when families break up.

It's an area often overlooked that could have strong ramifications in many families, she says.

"I was the type of child who was strongly affected by my parents' divorce, and without Andy there through all of the transitions involved, including just going back and forth between my mother's and father's houses every week, I don't think I would have managed as well as I did," Bush says. "Even though he and I never talked about it as children, having him with me as a stable source of continuity provided great comfort."

Much of the research that exists on sibling relationships involves reports that parents made on behaviour, such as whether their kids talked a lot or fought a lot around the time of the split, or it involves only one child in the family or took place after children were grown, Bush says. In her view, the relationship between siblings is neglected in the literature and even in counselling.

"Despite the massive number of children" who go through marital breakup, "few studies have invited children to talk about their experiences," notes a study by Carolyne Abbey at the University of Plymouth, published in 2004.

Bush wants to assess children's experience of their sibling relationships when they're still children, close to the time of the breakup and taking into account family dynamics.

"At the time, the parents and kids are coming from such different perspectives," she says. For one thing, parents know their union is ending before the children are sure what's going on. Moreover, adults can make assumptions about their children's reactions that might not be accurate, given the stress at the time.

Through contacts with various community groups, Bush has studied three families in depth, but is eager to find three more.
"I think that siblings can support each other more than we may give them credit for, whether that's in a divorce situation or any kind of family situation," she says. Often that support is unspoken: just hanging out together or sticking up for one another with parents. An older sibling might not invite a younger one into his room to talk, but to colour while the elder does homework.

"They're not talking, but the older sibling knows it provides comfort to the younger sibling, and he gets comfort from it, as well. It's those kinds of things that aren't obvious to adults."

She's interested in whether siblings see a change in their relationship due to the breakup, and what works and doesn't work in supporting one another. Rather than conduct formal interviews with kids, she's communicating through children's drawing and storytelling.

If the sibling relationship is sound, they have natural ways of supporting each other, she believes.

However, sometimes children take out their negative feelings about the split on siblings, or create conflict to claim parents' attention, note Kim Leon and Kelly Cole on the website of the University of Missouri's Human Development and Family Studies Department.

It's important to try to defuse sibling rivalry by talking and listening to your children about the situation and spending time alone with each, they recommend. While younger children may express emotions more readily, older siblings who do not seem upset might be hiding their feelings, the website notes.

It's often thought that sisters are closer than brothers are, but that's based on stereotypical ideas of closeness, Bush says. "I think brothers can be as close as sisters; it just doesn't look the same. Sisters may talk a lot and share emotions and ideas with each other, whereas boys may wrestle or do things together.

"Clinical reports, and several recent research studies, suggest that siblings can play a fundamental role in how children adjust to parental separation," she says.

"For example, although some brothers and sisters might argue more in the months following the transition as everyone in the family readjusts, siblings also appear to provide support to one another."

Utrecht University research published in the Journal of Family Issues in 2009 found that divorce has little effect on the quality of the adult relationships among children who grew up in divorced families who experienced low conflict at the time. But in cases of high conflict between parents, divorce improved the relationship between siblings, says sociologist Anne-Rigt Poortman. "In high-conflict families, it is 'better' to divorce (for the sib relationship) than stay together. In general, high parental conflict worsens the relationship between sibs, and in that case, parental divorce improves the relationship," she said in an e-mail to the Victoria Times Colonist.

"Parental conflict is a far more important predictor than parental divorce per se," researchers found.
Sibling study

PhD student Jackie Bush wants to interview siblings for her research into the ways brothers and sisters react when their parents split up. Families must be able to meet on several occasions, with the children interviewed alone and together, and each parent twice on their own.

Families must have at least two biological children aged six to 16 who have lived in the same home most of their lives. Step-siblings and half-siblings are not eligible.

For more information, contact jbush@uvic.ca.
MU adds off-campus housing locations

Off-campus housing for returning students frees up on-campus space for freshman.

By Zachary Murdock
Published Aug. 27, 2010

Robert Swain/Staff Photographer
Senior Amy Tesch and her mother Danette Tesch stand outside waiting to start the move-in process Aug. 20 outside the TRUE Scholars House. The house is intended to give students support beyond their academic studies and encourage them to look toward their future careers.

With a record-breaking freshman class and several residence halls construction and renovation, Residential Life faced space constraints.

According to an MU News Bureau release, 6,160 first-time freshmen are enrolled in classes this fall. With such an increase in the freshman population, Residential Life was forced to restrict some returning and transfer students who wanted to live on campus, Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said. In addition, there was an increase in returning students wanting to live on campus.

Residential Life knew early on there would be a limit on the number of students able to live on campus, Minor said. By May, more than 500 returning and transfer students were on a Residential Life waiting list for campus housing contracts.

In May, Residential Life signed a one-year deal with Campus View Apartments to rent 336 beds and extend the Tiger Diggs option for freshman students in need of housing for this academic year, Minor said. Tiger Diggs is a part of Residential Life’s extended campus options, which include 236 beds at the Mizzou Quads at Campus Lodge.

During the summer, Residential Life offered incentives for returning students to break housing contracts to free up room for incoming freshman. For $500 credited to students’ accounts, Minor said Residential Life wanted to try to see if returning students would give up their space in order to place as many freshmen on campus as possible.

“Our original goal at the time we issued that incentive was about 200 (beds),” Minor said. “Many of us were skeptical that we would get to that number so we upped (the incentive) to $1,000.”

The incentive brought nearly 100 openings to freshmen students attempting to live on campus, Minor said. He also said at this same time, Residential Life reached a deal with Stephens College to utilize Prunty Hall as a space for 108 more off-campus MU students.

Another Residential Life option arose for returning students in the TRUE Scholars House. The former Liahona house at the intersection of College Avenue and University Avenue, the TRUE Scholars House houses 22 predominantly returning students in single, suite-style rooms.

On campus, Residential Life attempted to create as much space as possible with available facilities this semester and identified more than 100 temporary spaces, Minor said. These spaces include study rooms in Hudson residence hall and pairing some student staff members with a roommate.
An additional 50 rooms were converted to house single students and will serve as residential rooms for the whole academic year, he said.

Renovations plans for next year have not been confirmed, Minor said, but Gillett residence hall will open next fall, providing another 420 beds. The question is whether or not renovations will begin next fall on Mark Twain residence hall, the next project in the Residential Life master plan, he said.

“I don’t think we can go past a two-year deferral,” Minor said. “Just because of the needs of the facility, and it’s also deferring all of those additional projects to five other halls.”

Minor said it is difficult to project the sizes of incoming freshman classes, but it is believed the number of graduating high school seniors in Missouri will drop by 2012, alleviating some of the housing pressure.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Ann Korschgen said in the release the increases in enrollment can be viewed as a positive demonstration of MU’s presence in the state.

“Not only is our enrollment increasing -- the quality and diversity of our students are increasing as well,” Korschgen said.

Graduate students Devon White and Erica West said they have seen some crowding around campus.

“T’ve definitely seen crowds in the bookstore,” West said.

White said the biggest crowds she’s seen have been in the central parts of campus, especially the Arts & Science building.

“Going up the stairs in Arts & Science, it’s really crowded,” White said. “It’s a total nightmare, especially when people are waiting for their classes.”
Futuristic classroom debuts

The classroom budget was around $100,000.

By Jimmy Hibsch
Published Aug. 27, 2010

Projection screens and dry erase boards line the walls of Strickland Hall room 117. The classroom was remodeled this summer to serve as a prototype for future renovations.

Professor Clenora Hudson-Weems is accustomed to teaching Theorizing Africana Literature in front of a desk and chalkboard in a conventional MU classroom.

This year, she is teaching in Strickland Hall room 117, which features swivel chairs, three projectors and an array of other amenities in a classroom she describes as “marvelous.”

“This room complements the content of my work and is superior,” Hudson-Weems said. “It’s an extension of what I do, which is the perfect and the beautiful. I wish all rooms were like this.”

After a university survey found faculty members felt MU’s classrooms were lackluster, Space Planning and Management Director Heiddi Davis said she and a number of other instructors committed themselves to improving the classroom environment.

“There was a report by a teaching and learning task force that indicated that there was a feeling that the quality of the classrooms on campus was generally poor,” Davis said. “The quality of the environment was something we really wanted to delve into.”

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Jim Spain said two groups of MU faculty members and administrators traveled to Michigan to meet with professionals from Steelcase, a company that specializes in classroom environments. Ideas for the classroom were gathered from both this trip and faculty input.

“If you look at the room in Strickland, it’s got a lot of ideas and feedback that come not only from our trip up to the learning lab at Steelcase, but it comes from some specific feedback that we got from faculty on what they would change,” Spain said.

Junior Allie Bass said she feels the classroom accomplishes its purpose.

“I think it’s a really neat room actually,” Bass said. “It’s funny because every day my teacher always mentions how nice the chairs in here are -- they are much more comfortable than your average chair.”

Spain said he is anticipating feedback such as Bass’ on the classroom and is excited about the final product.

“Part of our goal was to make it feel less institutional and to make it feel more mature and intellectual than what you might encounter in other classrooms,” Spain said. “It doesn’t feel like just any classroom in high school, and I think as students make the transition from high school to college, that upgrading the learning environment like that would help with that transition.”
The classroom houses MU's first eno board, a brand of interactive whiteboard on which instructors can write notes over presentations and then save them as a file. Despite concerns from audience members about the product's ease of use in an open house in the classroom held Aug. 18, Davis assured that instructors would find the product to be simple after a few trials.

"It does take some getting used to, but after some practice I got the picture," Davis said. "People told us that they wanted a smart board in their classrooms, so we will see if it gets used."

For the less technologically inclined instructors, the classroom features six whiteboards, which are for use by students in breakout sessions as well.

"As we're trying to design a classroom for every type of faculty member, we didn't want to force somebody into technology that wasn't ready for it," Davis said.

She said the classroom budget was around $100,000, and feedback about this classroom will be factored in to the future classroom renovations, as funding is available.

"Every classroom is a little different, so we don't have a cookie cutter way of doing things," Davis said. "If people like the room, we will use ideas from it in future renovations but every new classroom won't be the same."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

WeCar arrives at MU

By Katie Bevan
August 26, 2010 | 5:37 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — WeCar hit MU with two Toyota Priuses, a Ford Fiesta and a Ford Focus ready for rental on Aug. 18.

The program lets MU students, faculty and staff rent cars on campus. The goal is to help reduce emissions and crowding caused by traffic, according to WeCar's website.

"WeCar's pilot program was established at Washington University, right here in St. Louis," said Lisa Martini, a representative from St. Louis-based Enterprise Holdings, the company behind the WeCar program. The company began business-to-business car sharing with Google in California and quickly realized that universities had the same needs in hourly car rental.

"It has been a very good relationship in the program," said Meghan Maguire, another representative at Enterprise, referring to the expansion of WeCar onto university campuses.

There are about 20 programs in place nationwide, including campuses such as the University of Southern Florida, Tulane University and Oklahoma State University. Plans are in the works to add roughly 12 other locations, Martini said.

Steve Burdic, MU sustainability coordinator, said the program is "a convenient alternative to owning a car on campus."

But he also sees it as a step toward making campus carbon neutral.

"This is a pilot project for MU," he said. "If it goes well, we'll probably add more."

Here are the facts for would-be car renters:
• MU has four cars, two each at two locations: University Bookstore and Memorial Union
• Gas is included in the rental rate of $8 per hour for the Fords and $9 for the Priuses. Each car comes with a gas card, and each member (you must join WeCar to rent) is expected to refill the tank if it's less than one-quarter full.
• Memberships are for each WeCar "dedicated site." MU members must register again if they want to rent in St. Louis or any other campus or city site.
• There is a one-hour minimum and a 24-hour maximum on every rental.

• To get things going, WeCar is offering a $35 driving credit to the first 50 applicants, waiving the $20 application fee and reducing the $50 membership fee by 30 percent. (That's about four hours of almost-free driving for either the sedan or the hybrid.)
• The car must be returned to its assigned parking spot.

The cars are already being put to use.

“A lot of freshman signed up during their Summer Welcome visits,” said Joe Hayes, Missouri Student Unions assistant director.

Enterprise representatives will be outside the new MU student center signing students up for memberships for the rest of the week. Applications can also be found on the Missouri Student Unions website.
$50,000 donation anchors radiothon for MU Children's Hospital

By Jing Zhao
August 26, 2010 | 3:47 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA—A Toronto-based insurance provider is set to donate the largest gift the MU Children's Hospital has ever received through its annual radiothon sponsored by the Children's Miracle Network.

Foresters, a life insurance company that sponsors the Children's Miracle Network, pledged $50,000 to the hospital on Friday. The company donated the money to MU's children's hospital because it is in the listening area of Y107, which was voted "North America's Most Caring Radio Station," according to a news release from the hospital.

The $50,000 donation is the largest single gift in the four years the Children's Miracle Network Radiothon has been held at the hospital, according to the release.

"Last year, we had a three-day radiothon and raised $225,000," Matt Splett, spokesman for MU Children's Hospital, said. "The $50,000 donation is a starting point for this year's radiothon. It is a significant donation to MU's children's hospital."

The hospital plans to use the donation to buy life-saving equipment for the neonatal intensive care unit, Splett said.

Children's Miracle Network is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for more than 170 children's hospitals.

Unlike last year's radiothon, this year's event will only be held for one day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday at Columbia Regional Hospital.