MU expects another record freshman class

By Janese Silvey

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Higher tuition at the University of Missouri hasn’t hurt enrollment. MU is expecting another record-breaking freshman class, and the increase is coming from those who pay the most.

About 200 more out-of-state freshmen are expected to show up on campus this fall, while the number of Missouri students is down about 100. The numbers are based on how many students have paid deposits to attend MU and had not asked for refunds by the May 1 deadline.

Tuition and fees are increasing 5.8 percent this coming school year, but that has not had a noticeable effect on the number of students applying, said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment.

Non-Missouri students pay nearly three times as much as in-state students, shelling out $688.10 a credit hour compared to the $261.60 Missouri students will be paying this year.

In recent years, MU has boosted attempts to attract out-of-state students, not only to bring in more tuition dollars but also to offset a demographic trend administrators have been bracing for.

After years of steady increases in the number of Missouri students graduating from high school, about 2,000 fewer were expected to graduate this year. That’s mostly because of a change in the state’s population, not an increase in dropout rates.

Mark Ehlert is a research analyst at the university and helps Korschgen keep an eye on the teenage population in Missouri. Using a model that takes into account enrollment based on high school grade-level and dropout trends, he predicts the number of high school graduates in Missouri will continue to fall through 2014. That year, based on his model, some 54,561 Missourians will graduate from high school — the lowest graduate population since 2002.

To combat that drop, administrators have turned their attention to other states.

“Certainly we continue to recruit heavily in Missouri — that will never change,” Korschgen said. “But being aware of the demographic decline ahead of us, we’ve spent more time in Illinois and Texas. We’ve been met with wonderful success, especially in Illinois.”
A total of 1,179 Illinois students have deposited money with the intent to enroll this fall, up from 1,045 last year. The area is so ripe with potential college students that other institutions also are starting to target Chicago. The number of college recruiters working in that area full time has doubled from 40 to 80 since MU began recruiting there about four years ago.

MU also is starting to focus on California, which, like Texas, has large research institutions that are capped and having to turn away more students.

MU also is expecting to see more students transfer to Columbia this fall. The number of students transferring from other institutions who hadn’t asked for a refund on their deposits is 669, up from 579 last year.

Although many of those are coming from Missouri schools, many also are coming from out-of-state four-year institutions, Korschgen said. Some of those, she suspects, are Missouri students who thought they wanted to study out of state but are ready to come home.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - University of Missouri curators are holding a special meeting over two days in Kansas City to discuss the search for a new president for the four-campus system.

The board was scheduled to meet briefly in public at the University of Missouri-Kansas City on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. But the board will also convene behind closed doors to discuss the confidential search process.

Curators are seeking a replacement for former Sprint Nextel CEO Gary Forsee, who resigned in January after nearly three years as president to care for his ill wife.

General counsel Steve Owens took over on an interim basis but is not interested in the permanent job.

Campus leaders expect the presidential search to last at least through the fall.
Curators set to meet for two days in KC

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators will meet in Kansas City tomorrow and Friday.

The public session starts at 2 p.m. in the administrative center on the UM-Kansas City campus. The board is expected to review its roles and responsibilities for two new members, Don Cupps and David Steward.

The meeting continues Friday morning with a four-hour closed session, where curators will discuss the presidential search, followed by a public meeting at 11:30 a.m. to discuss finances.
COLUMBIA, MO (AP) - **Veterinarians at the University of Missouri in Columbia are urging horse owners to be alert for symptoms of a potentially fatal virus known as Equine Herpes Virus-I.**

There are no confirmed cases in Missouri, but the university said Wednesday a regional outbreak of the highly contagious virus is occurring in states to the west.

The outbreak is traced to the National Cutting Horse Association Western National Championships in Odgen, Utah, which began April 30 and ended May 8. EHV-1 has been reported in 17 horses in at least nine states and Canada, and three have died.

The university says any horse that was at the Utah show should be closely monitored for symptoms that include nostril discharge, unusual tiredness, weakness standing and a high fever.
Deadly Horse Disease Outbreak

May 19, 2011 7:43 AM

COLUMBIA, Mo. – University of Missouri veterinarians are notifying horse owners that a regional outbreak of equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy, also known as EHV-1, is occurring in states to the west of Missouri. There are no confirmed cases reported in Missouri.

The outbreak of this infectious disease has been traced to the National Cutting Horse Associations’ Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah, which happened from April 30 to May 8, 2011. Currently, EHV-1 has either been confirmed or is suspected in horses in at least nine different states and Canada. Any horse that was at the Ogden show or in contact with horses at that show should be closely monitored.

“We don’t want to unnecessarily alarm anyone, but this virus is highly contagious and can spread rapidly between horses,” said Philip Johnson, professor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. “Horse owners should be vigilant and informed about the disease. Substantial efforts are under way in the affected states to track the extent of the infection.”

The clinical signs typically start with a fever of 102 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, Johnson said. Other symptoms include:

- Nasal discharge from both nostrils or urine dribbling
- Unusual tiredness
- Weakness
- Leaning
- Reduced tail tone
- Difficulty/inability standing
- Recumbency

In addition to horse-to-horse contact, disease transmission also occurs through horse aerosol sprays (forced air from the nose), contaminated hands of horse workers, equipment, tack and food. Current vaccines do not prevent the neurological manifestation of this infection.

Horses that are suspected of carrying EHV-1 should be immediately isolated and tested on-site by a veterinarian. For diagnostic corroboration, veterinarians will obtain nasal swabs and blood samples from suspected horses and any other horses that may have been in contact.
employ various treatment strategies when faced with this disease. Some severely infected animals ultimately are unable to stand and must be subjected to euthanasia.

EHV-1 cannot be transmitted to humans or cattle, as the virus is very specific to equine species such as horses, mules and donkeys. Llamas and alpacas can be affected as well.

Horse owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarians with questions or concerns. Veterinarians in the MU Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital are available to help veterinarians identify and provide consultation for the treatment of affected animals. The MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab is conducting the lab testing to determine the presence of the virus. MU Equine Ambulatory veterinarians are available to visit horse owners close to Columbia, Mo.

To contact the MU Veterinary Hospital during normal business hours, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., call (573) 882-7821. For emergencies after hours and on weekends, please call (573) 882-4589.
Columbia firefighters this morning inspect the area around a catwalk on a smokestack at the MU Power Plant after a fire. No one was injured when a tarp on a floating platform used to repair the smokestack caught fire, said Columbia Fire Battalion Chief James Weaver. The tarp was covered by a fire retardant blanket. Officials were unsure how many workers were on the platform at the time of the fire. Crews were replacing the platform at the center of the smokestack. The crew used a water-based fire extinguisher to put out the fire.
COLUMBIA — A fire was reported around 9:40 a.m. Wednesday at the MU Power Plant located on Stewart Road.*

The Power Plant was having some repairs done on one of the upper areas. A canvas set up to prevent debris from hitting workers below caught fire, according to Columbia Fire Department Battalion Chief James Weaver.

"Work was going on at the plant to replace the center platform and during the process the canvas caught some fire," Weaver said.

He said water extinguishers were used to put out the fire and no one was injured.

How the canvas caught on fire was not immediately known and is under investigation.
MU journalism students win Fox News contest

By Janise Silvey

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Two University of Missouri journalism students will make an appearance on Fox News tomorrow because they won the network’s annual College Challenge.

Emily Spain and Blake Hanson will split a $10,000 prize. Viewers can watch the check presentation during “Fox & Friends,” which runs from 5 to 8 a.m. The duo will talk about the project later in the day during “Studio B,” which is from 2 to 3 p.m.

The College Challenge invites undergraduate journalism students to research, write, produce and submit a broadcast news story to be judged by a panel of Fox News professionals, said spokeswoman Carly Shanahan. Spain and Hanson’s winning piece, “Divide on Proposition B,” took a look at the various views about the law restricting puppy mills that voters approved in November. Lawmakers have since repealed some of the law’s provisions.

Spain and Hanson began working on the story in January and wrapped it up in February.

“It was so controversial. It was hard to get someone to go on camera” from breeding facilities, Spain said. “That took most of the time, just finding people willing to speak with us.”

The two found out they won last week. They’re flying to New York today for a visit that, in addition to on-air appearances, includes tours and an interview with human resources about potential internship opportunities. Although Spain and Hanson work at KOMU and have been in front of the camera, they admitted they’re nervous about being in Fox studios.

“I think we’ve gotten a little comfortable at KOMU and used to the way the studio works,” Spain said. “Being in the middle of New York City in a huge studio with unfamiliar faces … it’s exciting but it will be a little nerve-racking.”

Both say they’re thrilled to put a national spotlight on the Missouri School of Journalism.

“That’s the most exciting part, is that everyone is so proud of us,” Hanson said, referring to faculty members and fellow students. “I’m proud to be representing the Mizzou School of Journalism.”
MU students win Fox News College Challenge

Broadcast story on Proposition B took first place

COLUMBIA — On the morning of May 9, MU broadcast journalism students Blake Hanson and Emily Spain got calls that astonished them. They had just won the Eighth Annual Fox News Channel College Challenge for their work on a broadcast documentary.

Hanson was in a meeting when the people at Fox called him, so he learned of the award from a voicemail. Spain, however, was at home when the call came. It became a red-letter day.

"I jumped up and down with my roommates when I found out," Spain said. "Everyone is very excited and supportive."

Spain had good cause to celebrate. Winning the challenge means that she and Hanson each get a $5,000 scholarship, a trip to New York, an appearance on Fox News and a chance to interview for an internship with the channel.

Hanson and Spain are seniors at MU and completed their project with faculty adviser and assistant professor Greeley Kyle. They entered the competition in February, submitting a piece called "Divide on Proposition B." It focused on the controversy surrounding strict new regulations on dog breeding in Missouri that were approved by voters in November.

The students and Kyle flew to New York on Wednesday and will be interviewed live on the "Fox and Friends" program at 7:50 a.m. Thursday. Fox News is on Mediacom channel 33.

Hanson said he's looking forward to the appearance.
“I’m very excited about the opportunity to talk about our story on the national level,” Hanson said. “It was a huge issue for this state, but it had effects nationwide.”

Spain said she’s thrilled about the experience.

“I’m looking forward to sharing our work and excited about being in a national newsroom,” Spain said. “It will be good to showcase what the (Missouri School of Journalism) teaches its students.”

Fox News is the No. 1 cable news channel in America. The College Challenge is a nationwide competition for undergraduate students majoring in journalism, broadcast journalism, communications or an equivalent. Its mission is to recognize, encourage and support excellence in broadcast journalism in America’s colleges and universities.

The contest requires teams of two to four juniors or seniors to research, write, produce and submit an objective broadcast news story. A panel from Fox News Channel involved in news gathering, production and presentation judged the entries. As the winners, Hanson and Spain will split $10,000 in scholarship money, and the Missouri School of Journalism will get a matching grant of $10,000.

Hanson said he called his mom and dad instantly after hearing the news of his award. Spain said her parents and Hanson’s “were very excited for us. They were about as shocked as we were.”

The pair’s excitement was obvious during a telephone interview. They spoke loudly and enthusiastically, frequently talking over each other and interrupting each other’s sentences.

Hanson said he learned about the competition on the Internet. Spain said family members encouraged them to enter after seeing information about it on television.

“So I called Blake and said, ‘We’re doing this,’” Spain said.

Both Hanson and Spain credited the journalism school with developing their skills.

“I’ve learned so much about crafting a good story from my broadcast classes at MU,” Hanson said. “I love broadcast journalism, and I constantly study good writers so I can adapt some of their techniques.”
Spain agreed.

"Thanks to our classes at Mizzou and our work at KOMU, I feel it really helps me to excel in my writing," Spain said. "I think each story comes with it's own challenge, and so I adapt my writing to tell the best story."

The students also agreed that career opportunities in journalism will come for those who work hard.

"You've got to be willing to go that extra step to really humanize a controversial story like this," Hanson said. "For us, it meant traveling all across Missouri to find a breeder willing to share their story with us."

Spain said the key to good journalism is to be creative, and she borrowed a well-known phrase from the sponsor of the contest.

"Pick a story that is original and that has a clear impact on people," Spain said. "As always, make it fair and balanced."

*Phomotso Makeke is a student from Columbia Independent School completing a one-week journalism internship at the Missourian.*