COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) -- A steady surge in out-of-state students is behind what looks to be another year of record-breaking freshman enrollment at the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported Wednesday that school officials anticipate a fall undergraduate enrollment of nearly 6,300 first-year students. That would be an increase of about 120 students from fall 2010 and a boost of more than 650 students from fall 2009.

Missouri has seen record enrollment for several consecutive years, with nearly 25,000 undergraduates and about 32,000 total students in the most recent academic year.

The fall projections are based on the number of students who paid deposits and did not request refunds by the May 1 deadline. The number of expected students is slightly down this year for Missouri residents but is nearly 10 percent higher for out-of-state students.

That reflects a concerted effort to recruit from outside of Missouri, campus officials said -- and not just because non-Missouri residents pay nearly three times as much in tuition.

"Certainly we continue to recruit heavily in Missouri -- that will never change," said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment. "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."

Demographic projections suggest that about 2,000 fewer Missouri students are expected to graduate from high school this year after a steady run of increases. The decline is due to decreases in the state's population rather than an increase in dropout rates.
The number of high school graduates in Missouri will continue to fall through 2014, according to university research analyst Mark Ehlert. The Class of 2014 will represent the state's lowest graduate population since 2002.

Nearly 1,200 students from Illinois have deposited money with the intent to enroll this fall, up from 1,045 last year. Missouri is just one of many out-of-state schools targeting students in the Chicago area and beyond with locally based recruiters.

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

An increase in transfer students is also behind the projected enrollment increase, officials said. That group includes Missouri students who thought they wanted to study out of state but are ready to come home.
New solar sheet captures up to 95% of light energy

Many of today's solar panels collect only about 20% of available light, but a University of Missouri engineer says he's found a solution. His team has developed a flexible solar sheet that captures up to 95% of light energy and plans to make affordable prototypes available to consumers within five years.

If successful, this product will put us orders of magnitudes ahead of the current solar energy technologies we have available to us today," Patrick Pinhero, an associate professor, said in announcing his findings. Using special high-speed electrical circuitry, the thin, moldable sheets of small antennas -- called nantenna -- can harvest the heat from sunlight and industrial processes and convert it into usable electricity.

Pinhero, who worked with former colleagues at the Idaho National Laboratory and electrical engineering professor Garrett Moddel of the University of Colorado, also partnered with Dennis Slafer of MicroContinuum, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., to develop the sheet into inexpensive mass-produced products.

The team is securing funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and private investors. Because it's a flexible film, Pinhero said it could be incorporated into roof shingle products, custom-made to power vehicles or used in optical computing as well as to improve contraband-identifying products for airports.
Researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia think they have made a breakthrough in solar technology that could replace conventional solar panels in a decade with a kind of high-tech wallpaper.

The key is something called a nanoantenna, a teeny device that is 1/25 the diameter of a human hair, that collects the energy of heat from the sun or other sources and turns it into electricity. It takes lots and lots of the little things to collect enough heat to produce meaningful power. Silicon-based solar collectors collect only about 20 percent of available light. Engineering professor Patrick Pinhero’s flexible solar sheet is loaded with nanoantennas that can increase that efficiency to about 90 percent.

He thinks walls of the flexible material can capturing large amounts of waste industrial heat within five years. Within ten years, they might replace conventional solar panels. “The real hope is...that this can be used in third world countries, in rural remote areas [and] it can be used in disaster relief.”

All of this counts on an industry that will move the technology into an inexpensively-produced commercial product. Pinhero admits the development is so exciting that he has to avoid getting carried away with talk about its possibilities.
The search committee appointed to find a new president for the University of Missouri System is meeting in Kansas City this week to take a look at the candidates.

The Board of Curators received more than 30 applications for a successor to former President Gary Forsee by the May 9 deadline, according to system spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead.

The board’s presidential search committee has scheduled an executive session for 7:30 a.m. Friday, depending on a vote Thursday to close the meeting.

Curator Warren Erdman, who heads the search committee, has indicated that the board does not expect to announce a new president until at least the end of the year.

Given the secret nature of the search, buzz about the candidates is hard to come by. Here’s a speculative list of names that have been mentioned on UM’s four campuses.

**Brady Deaton:** The MU chancellor has been the subject of plenty of gossip as a potential candidate. Earlier this month, he told the Missourian his new position as chairman of a federal advisory board would not affect an opportunity to be a candidate for the president’s job.

“This is the kind of thing presidents of institutions do,” he said. “They’re involved in a variety of national and international policy issues.”
In addition to obvious familiarity with the university, Deaton would bring political savvy to the job, having served on multiple boards and committees. However, he does not have the business experience the search committee included in its qualifications.

**John Carney III:** The newly retired chancellor of Missouri Science & Technology would come in with institutional knowledge but without business expertise.

**Kathy Osborn:** As regional business council executive director and former University of Missouri-St. Louis vice chancellor, Osborn would bring the recipe of academic experience and business experience. She would also become the UM System's first female president, and the curators would likely welcome the opportunity to demonstrate their acceptance of diversity.

**Kit Bond:** The former senator told the Columbia Tribune he is “definitely not a candidate” for the job. The news came as a blow to many who saw him as an ideal candidate given his political career and close relationship to the university.

**Steve Owens:** As interim president, Owens would be a logical choice for a smooth transition. But he has said repeatedly he is not interested in the job.

“I enjoy this job as president. It’s interesting and it’s challenging. I’m having fun with it,” Owens said in an interview early this year.

“It’s really just a matter of personal preference. I’m educated as a lawyer. I’m trained as a lawyer. And so my personal preference is to be general counsel as opposed to president.”

**Thomas George:** Another familiar face in the system, the UMSL chancellor could be considered. But he has told faculty members he is not interested in the job.
Cost of finding a UM prez = $234,500

By Janese Silvey (this ran in “Campus Chatter” blog, not in the print edition)

Consulting fees aren't the only costs associated with finding the next UM System president. Between the long-distance phone calls, advertising costs and travel expenses, the search is a pricey process.

The system expects to pay about $234,500 in the search for a Gary Forsee replacement. Here's how that breaks down:

*Professional services, including the consulting firm, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, and its travel and indirect costs = $157,500

*Business travel = $53,000

*Business meeting expenses = $8,500

*Postage, express mail delivery = $2,200

*Wats (code for long distance calls) = $2,000

*Advertising = $9,000

*Printing and reproduction = $1,500

*Supplies = $800 (not that they'll buy special paper for search-related memos, but this is the amount of general office supplies expected to be used during the search. Wouldn't a presidential decoder pen be awesome, though?)
COLUMBIA, Mo., May 20 (UPI) -- People who eat a healthy breakfast -- especially one high in protein -- are more full and are less hungry throughout the day, U.S. researchers found.

Heather Leidy, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri, says people may have an easier time preventing weight gain by eating a healthy, protein-rich breakfast such as waffles made with protein powder.

"Everyone knows that eating breakfast is important, but many people still don't make it a priority," Leidy says in a statement. "This research provides additional evidence that breakfast is a valuable strategy to control appetite and regulate food intake."

For three weeks, teens in the study either skipped breakfast or consumed 500-calorie breakfast meals containing cereal and milk, which contained normal quantities of protein, or higher protein meals such as the protein-added Belgium waffles, syrup and yogurt.

At the end of each week, the volunteers completed appetite and satiety questionnaires and before lunch, the volunteers completed a brain scan, using functional magnetic resonance imaging to identify brain activation responses, Leidy says.

The study, published in the journal Obesity, finds both breakfast meals led to increased fullness and reductions in hunger throughout morning. The fMRI showed brain activation in regions controlling food motivation and reward was reduced prior to lunch.
Have protein-rich breakfast, cut overeating

Eating a healthy breakfast, especially one high in protein, increases satiety and reduces hunger throughout the day, a University of Missouri researcher has found.

In addition, using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) the researchers found that eating a protein-rich breakfast reduces the brain signals controlling food motivation and reward-driven eating behaviour.

Eating healthy, protein-rich breakfasts, such as waffles made with protein powder, can be a simple strategy for improving appetite control and preventing overeating.

"Incorporating a healthy breakfast containing protein-rich foods can be a simple strategy for people to stay satisfied longer, and therefore, be less prone to snacking," said Heather Leidy, assistant professor in the MU Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology.

"People reach for convenient snack foods to satisfy their hunger between meals, but these foods are almost always high in sugar and fat and add a substantial amount of calories to the diet. These findings suggest that a protein-rich breakfast might be an effective strategy to improve appetite control and prevent overeating in young people," added Leidy.

The study is detailed in Obesity.
University warns Mo. horse owners about virus

Thursday, May 19, 2011 - Updated 10:31 AM
The Associated Press

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-1.

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.