New semester sets records
33,318 MU students start class.

Freshman members of Marching Mizzou lead classmates through the Columns Sunday on Francis Quadrangle during the annual Tiger Walk ceremony. The tradition represents the start of the students' academic careers at MU.

By Janese Silvey
Columbia Daily Tribune Monday, August 22, 2011

The University of Missouri's population has swollen to an all-time high again this year.

MU is setting 10 new enrollment records as classes start today. That includes a total population of 33,318 students — up 4.1 percent from last fall — a record-breaking freshman class and more transfer, graduate and professional students than ever. Additionally, MU is seeing its largest-ever populations of black and Hispanic students.

Although not a record, MU saw 85.1 percent of last year's freshmen return as sophomores, the third-highest retention rate in campus history and up from 84.5 percent last year.

Two academic buildings — Tate and Switzler halls — reopened this year after renovations and will provide some additional classroom space. But to accommodate the larger student body, administrators also have had to rearrange classes to make sure campus space is being used efficiently, spokesman Christian Basi said. For instance, classes with small populations are no
longer being held in classrooms designed for more students, even if that means a student takes, say, a journalism class in an agricultural building.

"In some cases, students might find themselves in a location that is physically away from their academic home," Basi said. "They're receiving the same instruction from the same faculty member, just in a different location."

The high enrollment numbers in a struggling economy reflect well on MU, said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management. "It reflects the wonderful academic programs, the success our graduates have in the job market, the phenomenal recruitment teams that we have both in state and out of state, and, I think, it reflects our beautiful campus," she said.

Out-of-state recruitment played a key role this year because the population of young Missourians is shrinking. This year, 166 fewer first-time MU students are from Missouri, mainly because of a shift in state demographics. The number of out-of-state freshmen offset that loss, increasing this year by 174.

It is doubtful out-of-state students can continue to mitigate the effects of the decline in Missouri's high school population, though. Korschgen said administrators are expecting steady enrollment but not record-breaking numbers over the next several years.

MU this year increased its tuition and fees by 5.8 percent, with Missouri undergraduates now paying $261.60 per credit hour and nonresidents $688.10.

The amount of financial aid awarded to mitigate those costs went up, too. This year, MU students received a total of $92.5 million in state, federal and university scholarships, grants and tuition waivers, up from $85.5 million last year, Basi said. The spike mostly came from the gifts awarded by the university, which increased from $49.5 million last school year to $56.8 million this year. Those numbers don't include loans, work study programs or athletic scholarships.

University Bookstore also is trying to ease the financial burden on students by making 650 book titles available for rent, up from 200 titles last fall. The rentals, mostly for general education courses, are offered at 57 percent off the sale price, said Michelle Froese, a spokeswoman for MU's Student Auxiliary Services.

Stephens College enrollment was down about 100 students from last fall, with 1,030 students starting classes today. Spokeswoman Amy Gipson said the decrease is the result of adjustments in recruiting efforts that have improved the school's academic profile and financial aid management.

William Woods University in Fulton is starting the semester with a slight decrease in enrollment, dropping from 990 last year to 960 this morning.

Columbia College enrollment figures weren't available by Tribune deadline.
MU enrollment up as university targets out-of-state students

By Simina Mistreanu
August 22, 2011 | 8:20 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — More out-of-state freshmen have come to MU this year, but the number of in-state freshmen has declined. This reflects both a downward trend in the number of Missouri high school graduates and an effort by MU to recruit out-of-state students, a campus leader says.

First-day figures from MU show:

- 6,168 freshmen, up eight from the first day of classes last year.
- 4,243 of those are in-state students, down 166 from last year.
- 1,925 are out-of-state students, up 174 from last year.

“We recruited exactly the class that we wanted,” said Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management. “We were able to maintain our number, even though there were fewer Missouri high school graduates this year.”
There were about 2,000 fewer high school graduates in Missouri compared with last year, Korschgen said. The number is expected to drop another 7,000 students by 2014.

Korschgen said MU has enhanced its out-of-state recruitment efforts by changing its scholarship policy. She pointed to the Mark Twain Nonresident Scholarship, which is awarded based on class rankings and ACT scores, as one way to attract out-of-state students.

Although the university is strategically going after more out-of-state students, MU spokesman Christian Basi said applicants are not competing with one another.

“Each student is judged on their own academic achievement when it comes to admissions,” Basi said. "We don’t have a certain number of students for every academic year.”

Having more out-of-state students brings financial benefits to the university, because nonresidents pay an additional fee per credit — $426.50 for undergraduates and $516.80 for graduate students, according to the Office of Cashiers website.

Basi said MU expects to take in $308 million in tuition in the 2012 fiscal year, up from $274 million in 2011.

First-day figures for the university also show:

- A record-setting 33,318 students are enrolled at MU, up by 1,300 students from last year.
- 25,814 are undergraduates, up 1,055 from last year.
- 6,268 are graduate students, up 224 from last year.

The tallies usually grow during the first few weeks of class, Korschgen said. Official enrollment is measured on the 20th day of classes.

**More African-American, Hispanic students**

Another highlight of the first-day enrollment figures at MU is an increase in the number of African-American students: 2,231, up 205 from last year.

The number of Hispanic students also increased by 100, totaling 882.
These figures are based on self-reporting by students.

The number of African-American students is a record for the university. The increase is part of an upward trend over the past 10 years, said Noor Azizan-Gardner, director of programming and professional development in the Chancellor's Diversity Initiative.

Azizan-Gardner said the steady increase might be due to recruiting efforts in areas such as Texas and Chicago.

Korschgen was pleased to note that this year, the mean ACT score for freshmen was 25.7, which she said is an increase over last year and the second highest in the university’s history.

**Opening day at Stephens, Columbia colleges**

Monday was also the first day of classes for Stephens and Columbia colleges.

The first-day estimate for the number of students at Stephens is 1,030, said Amy Gipson, vice president for marketing and public relations. That’s down by about 100 from 2010, Gipson said. About 260 are graduate students.

Columbia College is based in Columbia, but has 34 locations nationwide. School leaders think of it as one institution. Including online students, total enrollment this year is 17,095, a 1.6 percent increase over last year, said Brandi Hermann, associate director of public relations.

Excluding online students, the Columbia campus has 2,312 day and evening students this year, Hermann said.
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) -- **Fall semester classes began Monday at the University of Missouri's flagship campus after several days of welcoming activities for new and returning students.**

School leaders announced a record enrollment of 33,318. That's an increase of 1,309 undergraduates and graduates students from 2010.

Students have spent the past several days preparing for classes and immersed in traditional school activities.

New students spent Friday morning painting the rocks that form the block letter "M" in Memorial Stadium, a tradition since 1927.

Others volunteered with local service agencies on Saturday as part of Step Forward Day. A free concert with pop singer Jason Derulo followed at the Hearnes Center.

New Mizzou students spent Sunday night walking through the Columns on Francis Quadrangle to symbolize their entrance into college.
'Waiting' worst place Missouri can leave Haith, hoops program

Whether Missouri should've known in April that it was hiring a basketball coach who would four months later be publicly accused of a serious NCAA violation is debatable and mostly unimportant. What's done is done. Life has no rewind button.

So when former Miami booster Nevin Shapiro alleged to Yahoo Sports in a story published last week that Frank Haith was aware of a $10,000 cash payment to a recruit while he coached the Hurricanes, there was no way for Missouri officials to undo a hire that for some always seemed questionable. They could only try to handle the awkward situation wisely from that point forward, and wouldn't you know it, they screwed it up.

"We're waiting for the NCAA process to carry itself out," Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton said. "We're obviously very concerned."

Very foolish, too.

With those 14 words, Deaton paralyzed Haith -- just left his coach swirling in unknown winds and gave every program recruiting against the Tigers the ability to cast serious doubt on Haith's future. It might've been an honest statement, but it was a stupid one. Missouri needed to either start negotiating a buyout with Haith based on the serious nature of the allegation or publicly back him against "the word of a criminal" regardless of whether his job is really in jeopardy behind the scenes. Either option would've made sense on some level. But it makes no sense for Missouri to keep Haith while acknowledging it's waiting on the results of the NCAA's investigation into Miami, because investigations take a long time and the wait could destroy one recruiting class and possibly more.

It's difficult for coaches to operate with clouds above.

Everybody knows that.

That's why contract extensions are announced to do nothing more than create the illusion of long-term security. That's why most coaches hate it when their names are connected to other jobs for more than a few days. That's why Auburn football coach Gene Chizik recently asked NCAA
vice president of enforcement Julie Roe Lach to announce the NCAA is no longer investigating the Cam Newton scandal.

Chizik wants the cloud removed because that cloud affects his ability to his job.

It's used against him.

Credit Auburn officials for being smart enough to realize this. They've never left any doubt about who they're with or said they're "waiting for the NCAA process to carry itself out" before deciding whether Chizik can continue in his current role. Instead, Auburn officials have publicly dismissed the allegation and backed Chizik, Newton and everybody else.

Are they on the right side of reality?

I don't know.

But they're on the right side of the public relations battle.

Regardless of what rival coaches and fans might say, Chizik can look at prospects and tell them his job is in no jeopardy, that the Newton saga is a media-driven event going nowhere, that everybody is just hatin' on the reigning national champions. But Haith isn't so fortunate because his own chancellor has made it clear publicly that Missouri is simply waiting for the NCAA's investigation to be completed before deciding how to move forward, and the recruiting hits Haith will take because of that and until this is resolved one way or another are going to put him in a position where the losing that might come down the road can be traced back to this allegation and the cloud it put above his program.

There is no way rival schools aren't going to use this against Missouri.

I get that.

But I can't begin to understand why Missouri felt the need to use it against itself.
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Funding cuts have forced nine centers that provide technology and education access to rural areas to close or scale back their operations.

Two decades ago, the University of Missouri Extension began operating nine Telecommunication Community Resource Centers with the help of community partners that included school districts and junior colleges. In one case, a hospital was a partner.

The centers - located in the Missouri towns of Mexico, Reeds Spring, Kirksville, Salem, Nevada, Jefferson City, Portageville, Poplar Bluff and the Mineral area - used interactive television to help people access continuing education and for-credit college classes. Some of them offered public access to computers with Internet access.

But facing a $2 million budget cut from the state, the extension announced in November 2010 that it would eliminate the $800,000 in annual funding to the centers. The extension, which had provided the bulk of the centers' funding, gave the communities where the centers are located a year to make other arrangements.

Now, some of the centers are starting to close and the ones that remain are losing staff. The fate of some remains uncertain.

Rhonda Gibler, associate vice provost for the MU Extension, said the centers started at a time when college classes weren't widely offered over the Internet and interactive television was cutting edge. Businesses and the extension itself used the centers to conduct meetings with employees in far-flung parts of the state.
But now more people have high-speed Internet access in their homes. And people can use software applications to make voice calls over the Internet or hold conference meetings.

"As we keep looking at the future we have to look at what sorts of technologies are the future," Gibler said. "Although interactive television is a valuable resource, we will be likely doing more work in the web environment."

Still, she noted that access to high-speed Internet in rural communities remains a concern. That's why there is talk of placing some of the equipment from the closed centers in places, such as extension offices in technologically limited areas, where the community can continue to use it.

Gibler also noted that some of the 19 people who worked in the centers got jobs with the extension but others are still looking for work.

"It's not a painless process," she said of the cuts.

Last Friday was the final day for the center in Reeds Spring to be open to the public. And a center in the southwest Missouri town of Nevada has been closed for about two months. The Kirksville center also is slated to close, but the community is looking for ways to continue some of its functions, Gibler said.

Officials are still considering the future of a center located in an MU Research Center in Portageville. The college plans to continue providing the public some access to technology, but people may have to pay more and get less help. Already, one fewer person is working there.

The extension service is no longer covering salaries for staff at centers in Mexico, Poplar Bluff, or the Mineral area. But the centers' partners include colleges that will help ensure some services will continue to be offered.

Similarly, the center in Salem in south-central Missouri was operated with the help of a large group of partners that included businesses and the local school district, and those partners will take over the center and operate it. But there will be fewer employees.

The center in Jefferson City was largely run by the Missouri National Guard with the extension chipping in some money so the resources could be available to the public. Gibler said the guard will continue to make use of the technology.
Technology centers to close, scale back

Associated Press Monday, August 22, 2011

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Centers that began opening nearly two decades ago to provide technology and education access to rural areas are closing or scaling back as the University of Missouri Extension cuts funding.

MU Extension operated the nine telecommunication community resource centers with the help of community partners that included school districts and junior colleges.

The centers were located in Mexico, Mo., Reeds Spring, Kirksville, Salem, Nevada, Jefferson City, Portageville, Poplar Bluff and the Mineral area.

But facing a $2 million budget cut from the state, MU Extension announced in November it would eliminate the $800,000 in annual funding it provided to the centers. It gave one year for the partners to make other arrangements.
MU Extension to close, scale back rural technology centers

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH/Associated Press
August 22, 2011 | 12:33 p.m. CDT

KANSAS CITY — Funding cuts have forced nine centers that provide technology and education access to rural areas to close or scale back their operations.

Two decades ago, the University of Missouri Extension began operating nine Telecommunication Community Resource Centers with the help of community partners that included school districts and junior colleges. In one case, a hospital was a partner.

The centers — located in the Missouri towns of Mexico, Reeds Spring, Kirksville, Salem, Nevada, Jefferson City, Portageville, Poplar Bluff and the Mineral area — used interactive television to help people access continuing education and for-credit college classes. Some of them offered public access to computers with Internet access.

However, facing a $2 million budget cut from the state, the extension announced in November 2010 it would eliminate the $800,000 in annual funding to the centers. The extension, which had provided the bulk of the centers' funding, gave the communities where the centers are located a year to make other arrangements.

Now, some of the centers are starting to close, and the ones that remain are losing staff. The fate of some remains uncertain.

Rhonda Gibler, associate vice-provost for the MU Extension, said the centers started at a time when college classes weren't widely offered over the Internet and interactive television was cutting-edge. Businesses and the extension itself used the centers to conduct meetings with employees in far-flung parts of the state.

Now more people have high-speed Internet access in their homes, and people can use software applications to make voice calls over the Internet or hold conference meetings.
"As we keep looking at the future, we have to look at what sorts of technologies are the future," Gibler said. "Although interactive television is a valuable resource, we will be likely doing more work in the web environment."

Still, she noted that access to high-speed Internet in rural communities remains a concern. That is why there is talk of placing some of the equipment from the closed centers in places where the community can continue to use it.

Gibler also added that some of the 19 people who worked in the centers got jobs with the extension but others are still looking for work.

"It's not a painless process," she said of the cuts.

Last Friday was the last day that the center in Reed Springs was open to the public. A center in the southwest Missouri town of Nevada has been closed for about two months. The Kirksville center also is slated to close, but the community is looking for ways to continue some of its functions, Gibler said.

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The center in Jefferson City was largely run by the Missouri National Guard with the extension chipping in some money so the resources could be available to the public. Gibler said the Guard will continue to make use of the technology.
Boys believe discussing problems is a waste of time and weird, says study

BY HARRY JACKSON JR. • harry.jackson@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8234 | Posted: Monday, August 22, 2011 6:24 pm

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Boys don't discuss their problems because they feel it's a waste of time, says a new study from the University of Missouri.

"For years, psychologists have insisted that boys and men would like to talk about their problems but are held back by fears of embarrassment or appearing weak," said Amanda J. Rose, associate professor of psychological sciences in the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

When researchers asked young people about how talking about their problems would make them feel, boys responded that they didn't see talking about problems to be a useful activity, the study says. Boys didn't express angst or distress about discussing problems any more than girls.

Researchers surveyed nearly 2,000 children and adolescents.

Girls had positive expectations for how talking about problems would make them feel, such as expecting to feel cared for, understood and less alone, researchers said.

Boys reported that talking about problems would make them feel "weird" and like they were "wasting time." They did not expect to feel embarrassed, worried about being teased, or bad about not taking care of the problems themselves.

"An implication is that parents should encourage their children to adopt a middle ground when discussing problems," Rose said. "For boys, it would be helpful to explain that, at least for some problems, some of the time, talking about their problems is not a waste of time."

Helping boys see some utility in talking about problems may be more effective," Rose said.

"On the other hand, many girls are at risk for excessive problem talk, which is linked with depression and anxiety," Rose said. "So girls should know that talking about problems isn't the only way to cope."

The study, "How Girls and Boys Expect Disclosure About Problems Will Make Them Feel: Implications for Friendships," will be published in an edition of the journal Child Development. The study was funded by the National Institute for Mental Health.
Dear Editor,

On Aug. 16, my inbox carried the latest “hot news” from Apple. The computer giant had sent out its latest worldwide marketing blitz crowing that the MU School of Journalism relies on Macs, iLife and Final Cut Pro.

What’s this? Journalists shilling for the most valuable company in America? Surely no one at Mizzou would debase themselves this way. It had to be a mistake.

But the link revealed a professional video featuring nothing but top journalism school administrators, faculty and students, all endorsing Apple products.

Apple’s producers wrapped the production in a fine cloak of respectability, invoking Walter Williams’ creed and the fine education Mizzou offers, all thanks to Apple computers.

Apple must have been elated to show a great hall filled with 59 glowing Apple logos in front of virtually every student in a lecture.

When did those who claim to uphold the top standards of journalism decide that doing blatant commercial endorsements would have no impact on the credibility of the school, The Missourian, KOMU and KBIA?

Were students fully told, in advance, that they would be graduating, not just with a journalism portfolio, but with a starring role in an infomercial?

Was there not a single faculty member aware of the details or strong enough to say “No”?
Was there a quid pro quo assuring even more affordable computer deals for the school?

What might open records requests reveal in memos or contracts between journalism school leaders and the computer giant?

If The Missourian wishes to uphold its founder's intent to show no fear or favor it will investigate what led to such an astounding ethical lapse.

I believe Walter Williams would feel ashamed and betrayed.

I know I do.

_Vince Patton is a graduate of the MU School of Journalism, Class of '85_
Two recent appointees bring more diversity to Board of Curators

Pamela Henrickson, who was appointed Friday, will serve as the board’s second female member.

By Caitlin Holland Published Aug. 23, 2011

Six of the nine members of the UM System Board of Curators all fit the same profile. They’re men, and they’re white.

But, recent appointments indicate a change in the makeup of the board. David Steward, serving District 2 since earlier this year, is black. Friday, Gov. Jay Nixon appointed a second woman to the board, Pamela Henrickson, a lawyer from Jefferson City.

Henrickson said the board should represent the larger body of people involved in the UM System -- the students, faculty, alumni and Missouri residents.

“Gender and race play a part in people’s viewpoints, but they’re not the only factors that affect people’s viewpoints,” she said. “If you look at economic backgrounds, geographic backgrounds, educational backgrounds, all of those levels of diversity should be considered.”

Henrickson will represent District 4, currently held by Doug Russell, who has served since 2005. Her term will expire Jan. 1, 2017.

Henrickson earned her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University and a degree in law from MU.

Noor Azizan-Gardner, director for Programming and Professional Development in the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative, said MU patrons have been seeking increased diversity on the Board of Curators for years.

“I think that’s always been something many, many people would like to see,” she said. “We’ve had several faculty, staff and students point out to us. It’s really important to see that the University of Missouri has a diverse board of curators that represents the diversity of the state.”

The first woman to serve on the board, Mrs. Henry J. Haskell, was appointed in 1941. Since then, 14 women, including current member Judith Haggard and appointee Henrickson, have been selected for the Board of Curators.
"It’s looking pretty good so far considering that 10, 15 years ago, the board looked very different from what the board looks like now," Director of Diversity Programming Noor Azizan-Gardner said.

Evidence supporting the benefits of having a diverse board of directors, Azizan-Gardner said, can be found by examining some of the most successful companies in the country. She said when people of different backgrounds gather, innovation often results.

“If you look at a lot of boards of trustees from the very elite private schools, you see that they’re very diverse,” she said. “Something can be said about a very diverse board of trustees or board of curators that will provide a much more innovative or creative governance.”

Nixon said in a news release that Henrickson will join the board in overseeing operations throughout the UM System. The governor’s office could not be reached for comment.

“I am pleased to appoint Pam Henrickson to this important board that guides the University of Missouri system,” Nixon said in the release. “The board faces many crucial decisions ahead as the universities in the system continue to provide a top-notch education to their students.”

Azizan-Gardner said Henrickson’s appointment moves the UM System in the right direction to collaborate ideas from a diverse group to solve important problems in today’s world.

“I think one of our responsibilities as stewards of the citizens of Missouri is that we make the right kind of universities that everybody here would be really proud of,” she said. “The research we do here, the services that we provide should provide hopefully the knowledge and solutions to some of our most critical problems of the 21st century.”