MU undergraduate enrollment is fastest growing in Big 12, AAU

By Amanda Del Buono
October 18, 2011 | 7:37 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — For the past nine years, MU has been the fastest-growing university for undergraduates among all institutions belonging to the Association of American Universities, as well as members of the Big 12.

Undergraduate enrollment has increased by 32 percent since 2002, and total enrollment has jumped 29 percent, according to Ann Korschgen, vice provost of enrollment management.

From 2002 to 2011, the number of undergraduates at MU grew from 19,698 to 26,024. Total enrollment increased during the same period from 26,124 to 33,805.

Korschgen attributed some of this growth to aggressive recruiting out of state, mainly in Texas and Illinois.

"Recruiting in Dallas and Chicago made a world of difference," she said.

Much of this effort was undertaken to counter a drop in Missouri high school graduates that is expected to last until 2014, she said.

Korschgen estimated that 9,000 fewer Missouri students would graduate during that period.

Because of the anticipated decline of in-state enrollment, she said she does not see MU capping enrollment in the future.

Nevertheless, the decade of growth has been encouraging to MU administrators.
"This growth means we will have more alumni and more graduates around the world," Korschgen said.

Her staff put together comparative data from AAU and Big 12 schools but only had figures from these schools through 2010.

Still, from 2002 through 2010, MU showed marked undergraduate enrollment growth in comparison to other Big 12 schools.

From 2002 to 2010, MU undergraduate enrollment was more than twice that of Big 12 schools Texas Tech and Texas A & M universities, which had the next highest growth figures.

Among the 61 AAU schools, all large research institutions, MU showed 26 percent growth between 2002 and 2010, followed by the University of California-San Diego with 24 percent growth and the University of Oregon with more than 20 percent.

"One of the most important outcomes of growth is that we have a campus that is more enriching for the learning environment," Korschgen said.
Big 12 future with and w/out Mizzou

By Blair Kerkhoff - Posted on 18 October 2011

How’s this for influence?

**Missouri holds the key to membership in three conferences: Big 12, SEC and Big East.**

Will the Tigers be one of 10 or 12 in the Big 12 or the 14th in the SEC? If it’s the latter, how does this impact Louisville and West Virginia in the Big East?

After talking to several sources in the Big 12, the general feeling is this: If Missouri stays in the Big 12, the league is more likely to stay at 10, with TCU replacing Texas A&M as the lone move.

But if Mizzou goes to the SEC, the Big 12 could look more favorably at a 12-team arrangement.

The idea is without Missouri the Big 12 would need more than one replacement to bring value to its football contracts.

Louisville is the most suggested addition to the Big 12, but West Virginia, and its stronger football brand, is the favorite of some in the Big 12, if it’s a one-team add.

Cincinnati can’t be ruled out if multiple Big East teams are the answer for the Big 12.

Brigham Young is not out of the Big 12 expansion picture, an official said. BYU athletic director Tom Holmoe said on Saturday that there have been discussions between the Big 12 and BYU but no invitation.

Holmoe smartly reminded reporters how quickly the TCU action transpired, in a matter of days from the initial call from Big 12 interim athletic director Chuck Neinas to the press conference introducing the Horned Frogs to the conference.

As for potential Big East candidates, that league has voted to raise its exit fee from $5 to $10 million. Big East bylaws also require a 27-month notice, which wouldn’t make any member available to a new conference until the middle of the 2013-14 season.

Big East Commissioner John Marinatto said Tuesday that his league is moving toward a model with 12 football-playing members and the league could hold a championship game in New York.
During a news conference Marinatto also said:

*There has been no contact with another conference commissioner about realignment since he talked with the Big 12's Chuck Neinas about TCU. If the Big 12 targets Big East schools, Neinas will go through proper channels.

**"We're not going to pause (on expansion) while the Missouri situation resolves. It may not be resolved for a while." (Or it may be resolved by the end of the week when the Board of Curators meet at UMKC).

*Notre Dame remains committed to the Big East.

*If "God forbid" other Big East teams leave "we'll be fine."

*The Big East could play as a 14-team football conference with Pittsburgh and Syracuse next year. The AP has reported Big East expansion targets as Houston, SMU and Central Florida for all sports along with Boise State, Air Force and Navy as football-only members.

Timing in realignment is an issue. Marinatto said Pittsburgh and Syracuse won't be excused from the 27-month notice. But TCU will join the Big 12 and Texas A&M the SEC next year.

Neinas has said that even if Missouri goes to the SEC the timing is such that it wouldn't happen until the 2013 football season. But the Tigers would be the first departing Big 12 team to spend more than one academic year in the conference as a lame duck.

If Mizzou is SEC-bound, expect attorneys from the university and conference to work on exit strategies, including the departure date and withdrawal fees.
McCaskill Has Mixed Views About MU Move To SEC

Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Washington D.C. (AP) - Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill says she has mixed views about the University of Missouri's possible move from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference.

The Mizzou grad says she understands the curators' desire to keep the school relevant, but she says it would be odd if Missouri played schools for which it doesn't have long-standing rivalries.

McCaskill says even if they do make the switch, the Tigers should make sure they schedule a game against traditional rival - Kansas.

She says she's not sure "how the world could go on without the MU-KU fight."
Curators meeting could send MU on road to SEC

By Dave Matter

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators will hold a regularly scheduled meeting over three days this week in Kansas City and is expected to discuss options regarding conference realignment, specifically withdrawing from the Big 12 and joining the Southeastern Conference.

The board will first meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow at The Raphael Hotel to discuss the UM System presidential search and will reconvene Thursday morning. The curators will then move to the student union on the campus of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and gather for a public session Thursday afternoon. At 3:45 p.m., the board is scheduled to go into closed executive session and reconvene Friday morning before going into another closed session at 10 a.m.

The curators last met Oct. 4 in St. Louis, where they unanimously voted to grant Chancellor Brady Deaton the authority to explore conference affiliation outside of the Big 12. Deaton is expected to update the board on his findings during Thursday’s round of meetings, a university source told the Tribune.

According to the UM System bylaws on intercollegiate athletics, the curators and system president — in this case, interim President Steve Owens — shall approve any proposal by a campus to withdraw from one intercollegiate athletic conference for the purpose of affiliating with a new conference. Any proposal to withdraw would be proposed by the campus chancellor. A decision to leave the Big 12 and join the SEC could hinge on what Deaton shares with the curators since their last meeting two weeks ago, a source indicated.

An anonymous college official told The New York Times that Missouri’s decision to apply for membership to the SEC was “inevitable and imminent,” the newspaper reported on its website last night. The report did not indicate any timetable for Missouri’s decision.

Missouri athletic department spokesman Chad Moller declined comment on the report.

Reach Dave Matter at 573-815-1781 or e-mail dmatter@columbiatribune.com.
New theories on why boys won't talk

Is your son embarrassed? Or just doubtful that it will do any good?

By Nara Schoenberg, Tribune Newspapers

3:00 p.m. CDT, October 18, 2011

Why won't your son talk about his problems?

New research from the University of Missouri suggests a fascinating — and counterintuitive — answer. While common wisdom holds that boys are afraid of looking or feeling weak, the boys in the study said that discussing their problems would feel "weird" or be a waste of time.

That's useful information for parents trying to get their sons to open up, says study co-author Amanda Rose, an associate professor of psychological sciences.

"We often try to make our sons feel safe" so that they will tell us what's bothering them, Rose says. But if the real issue is that boys are skeptical of self-revelation, not scared, all the "making them feel safe" in the world isn't going to help, Rose says.

Rose's research is based on surveys and observations of nearly 2,000 children and teens, and has been accepted for publication in the journal Child Development.

Not everyone thinks she's on the right track.

"I'm sure boys are saying that (talking about their problems would feel weird or pointless)," says Niobe Way, a professor of applied psychology at New York University and author of "Deep Secrets: Boys' Friendships and the Crisis of Connection" (Harvard University Press). "The question for me is, why are the boys saying that?"

The answer, she believes, is that they don't want to admit their true feelings. Boys in our culture are under tremendous pressure not to act sensitive. "Boys do need to share their feelings," Way says. "Although they may pose at times and say they don't, if you sit with them and talk to them at length things come out."

Although Rose and Way differ profoundly in their interpretation of the university data, their recommendations for parents aren't strikingly different.
Rose gives parents good reason to back off a bit. If he doesn't see you as constantly pestering him to open up, he may be more willing to confide in you.

Way, whose research deals primarily with middle school and high school boys, reminds parents that they're not their sons' only confidants. Best friends can play important roles.

Rose says that if your elementary school boy has a problem, it may be helpful to read a book together that focuses on a topic of concern. With teenagers, a movie on a related topic can break the ice. Context counts too, she says. A boy who clams up during a direct interrogation may have more to say when you're shooting hoops or driving to the mall.

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Fostering friendships

By age 12, your son may well want to talk about his problems — but not with you. Best friends become very important in middle school and high school, with boys sharing their deepest concerns in relationships that they say are vital to their emotional well-being, says Niobe Way.

How can parents help their son develop these very important friendships? Start early, talking about friendships and social dynamics when he's in grade school, Way says. She also suggests that you avoid gender stereotypes (such as "boys don't cry"). Seek opportunities to encourage positive friendships (say, a sleepover) and talk about your own friendships, conveying their importance to you.
An explosion that severely burned a Texas Tech graduate student last year suggests safety problems plague college labs nationwide, a federal watchdog agency warned.

A report released Wednesday by the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), an independent safety agency, examines the Jan. 7, 2010, detonation at Texas Tech University in Lubbock that cost the student, Preston Brown, three fingers and caused severe burns and eye damage. Brown had set out to produce 10 grams of an explosive compound — 100 times more than an informal lab limit — for research sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security.

"The report serves as a cautionary tale for universities across the country," CSB's Daniel Horowitz says.

There have been similar accidents, and even deaths, at 120 school labs in the past decade, according to the report. Among them:

• A UCLA graduate student, Sheharbano (Sheri) Sangji, died of burns she suffered in a 2008 chemical fire.

• Four University of Missouri students were injured in a 2010 hydrogen explosion.

• Two University of Maryland students were burned last month in an acid fire.

"The report lays out a challenge to the academic community," says Neal Langerman of Advanced Chemical Safety Inc. in San Diego. "We really need a 'safety culture' in university labs."

Lab accidents at schools and colleges happen 10 to 50 times more frequently than in the chemical industry, according to Jim Kaufman of the Laboratory Safety Institute.

The report documents failures at several levels, from the lab to school administration to the Department of Homeland Security. Homeland Security's $3.6 million project to study explosives detection at 12 universities came with no safety-related requirements. Homeland Security shut
down project labs for up to 10 months following the incident, and now requires safety procedures.

"Safety is just as important as scholarship," says Taylor Eighmy, Texas Tech research vice president. The university now makes investigators report all safety accidents.

"We almost lost a graduate student, that's unacceptable," Eighmy says.

Homeland Security documents obtained by USA TODAY describe "resentment" among Texas Tech faculty over safety reprimands and personnel who "made fun of" others who wore lab coats.

"We're quite confident it's not only at Texas Tech that these problems exist," Horowitz says.
Annual cancer screening tests urged less and less

By Associated Press | Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Annual cancer tests are becoming a thing of the past. New guidelines out Wednesday for cervical cancer screening have experts at odds over some things, but they are united in the view that the common practice of getting a Pap test every year is too often and probably doing more harm than good.

A Pap smear once every three years is the best way to detect cervical cancer, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force says. Last week, it recommended against prostate cancer screening with PSA tests, which many men get every year.

Two years ago, it said mammograms to check for breast cancer are only needed every other year starting at age 50, although the American Cancer Society still advises annual tests starting at age 40. Earlier this week, a large study found more false alarms for women getting mammograms every year instead of every other year.

"The more tests that you do, the more likely you are to be faced with a false-positive test" that leads to unnecessary biopsies and possible harm, said Dr. Michael LeFevre, one of the task force leaders and a professor of family and community medicine at the University of Missouri. "We see an emerging consensus that annual Pap tests are not required for us to see the benefits that we have seen" from screening, he said.

Those benefits are substantial. Cervical cancer has declined dramatically in the United States, from nearly 15 cases for every 100,000 women in 1975 to nearly 7 per 100,000 in 2008. About 12,200 new cases and 4,210 deaths from the disease occurred last year, most of them in women who have never been screened or not in the past five years.

The cancer society and other groups say using Pap smears together with tests for HPV, the virus that causes cervical cancer, could improve screening. But the task force concluded the evidence is insufficient "to assess the balance of benefits and harms" of that.
Instead, more lives probably could be saved by reaching women who are not being adequately screened now, the task force says.

And despite what many people suspect, cost has nothing to do with the task force's stance, its leaders said.

"We don't look at cost at all. We really are most concerned about harms," said Dr. Evelyn Whitlock of Kaiser Permanente Northwest's Center for Health Research in Portland, Ore., who led an evidence review for the task force.

Here are some questions and answers about the cervical cancer guidelines.

Q. At what ages should screening start and end?

A. The task force recommends against screening women under 21 or older than 65. Very few cervical cancer cases occur in women under 21, so the old advice to start screening three years after the age of first intercourse has been changed. HPV tests are only approved for women after age 30 because transient infections that don't pose a cancer risk are more common at younger ages.

"We should not be screening teenagers. It's not helping, it's not finding any more cancers and it's creating way too many harms for them," said Debbie Saslow, the cancer society's director of breast and gynecologic cancer.

Q. Should anyone else not be screened?

A. Women who have had their cervix and uterus removed should not be tested, but check with your doctor — not all hysterectomies are complete; some leave the cervix.

Q. What does screening cost?

A. Pap tests cost $15 to $60; HPV tests run $50 to $100.

Q. Will insurance pay for HPV tests since the government panel doesn't endorse them?

A. Probably. They are included in preventive services that other federal advisers say should be covered under the Affordable Care Act, and the government has continued to pay for mammograms for women who want them even if it is sooner or more often than the task force recommends.

Q. What if I've had the HPV vaccine?

A. Doctors don't know how the vaccine will affect HPV test results or how long the vaccine lasts, so women should still be screened for cervical cancer if they are within the recommended screening ages.
Q. How can I comment on the guidelines?

A. The web site below for the task force tells how. Comments are accepted for a month before guidance is adopted.
'Drunkorexia' growing problem on campuses: Research

By Jordan Press, Postmedia News October 19, 2011 8:26 AM

More students on university and college campuses are cutting calories during the day so they can binge drink at night, leaving them open to long-term health problems, new U.S. research suggests.

Results from a study out of the University of Missouri found that as many as one in five students save their calories for alcohol, an eating and drinking disorder dubbed 'drunkorexia.'

The findings, which have been presented publicly but not peer-reviewed, are part of a growing body of research showing drunkorexia as a trend on campuses.

Students in the study said their motivations to be drunkorexic included getting drunk faster, spending money on alcohol that might otherwise be spent on food, and keeping their weight down.

The growing problem is another issue counsellors will have to handle as students spend their limited funds in potentially unhealthy ways, said Dr. Valerie Taylor, chief of psychiatry at Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

"It's ironic. Society has to adapt to our changing environment and these kids are doing the same thing," Taylor said.

"Perhaps ... because students don't have as much money, it's becoming more prevalent."

Taylor said alcohol abuse and mental-health issues are on the rise in Canada and schools continue to try to address the problem.

One example was in May when Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., said it would address a "culture of drinking on campus" after the release of a coroner's report that concluded excessive drinking was a factor in the deaths of two students at the beginning and end of the 2010 fall term.
"Like other universities, we are wrestling with the societal issue of alcohol consumption and excessive drinking in the university-aged population," the university's dean of student affairs, John Pierce, said in a statement at the time. "We've been proactively addressing this issue for several years and will continue to do so."

Drunkorexia differs from anorexia, where people purposely starve themselves to lose weight. Taylor said. It's also different from dieters who avoid alcohol to lose weight, but may give in and have a drink when their willpower fails them, she said.

The research suggests the majority of drunkorexics are women — they were three times more likely to have the disorder than men.

Women are at higher risk for health problems related to binge drinking because they metabolize alcohol faster than men. This means women can get sick faster and suffer damage to vital organs sooner than men.

"Women are bombarded with lots of images with what's socially acceptable," Taylor said. "They desperately want to not gain weight.

"If they can only consume so many calories a day . . . that's going to come from alcohol."

Drunkorexics are at greater risk of becoming sexual assault victims and suffering from substance abuse and more severe eating disorders later in life, Taylor said.

What these students may not be aware of is that drunkorexia could affect their ability to learn and to make decisions, and ultimately damage their internal organs, the Missouri study suggests.
Environmentally conscious band Guster to play at MU

By Emily Garnett
October 18, 2011 | 8:10 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Alternative rock band Guster will visit Columbia on Wednesday for a concert and question and answer session to explain how touring musicians can reduce their environmental impact.

The MU Office of Sustainability and the MU College Music Committee are co-sponsoring the event.

Karlan Seville, spokeswoman for Campus Facilities, pushed for a public question and answer session because of the unique nature of Reverb, the nonprofit organization founded by Adam Gardner, 38, a guitarist and vocalist for Guster, and his wife, Lauren Sullivan.

Reverb seeks to lower the amount of carbon emissions and waste that are often associated with music tours in a process called “greening.”

Reverb has worked with more than 100 bands to make their tours more environmentally friendly, including Dave Matthews Band, Sheryl Crow and Coldplay.

The greening efforts include:

- Using vehicles that can run on biodiesel, a vegetable oil-based diesel fuel.
- Eating only local, preferably organic, food while on tour.
- Using reusable water bottles, dishes and silverware.
- Links to an online carpool service on the band’s website for concert-goers.

Unfortunately, the non-tour status of this stop means the band will not travel in the usual biodiesel vehicles and will instead be flying in from the East Coast.
Gardner said the band loves coming to Columbia.

“Columbia is an oasis in the middle of a no-touring period,” he said.

There’s no official reason for the band’s four members to gather in Columbia, Gardner said. But the band’s drummer, Brian Rosenworcel, has family in the area, and the band has played at The Blue Note during Summerfest in the past.

Gardner said they always make a visit to Perche Creek a priority when they find themselves in the Midwest.

Airplane flights are not environmentally friendly, Gardner admitted, and Reverb will calculate the amount of carbon emissions this trip will produce. By paying a company called Native Energy to fund activities such as wind farms, the band will “offset” the carbon footprint of the trip to Columbia.

Kellie Donahoe, chair of the College Music Committee, said efforts are being made by the sponsors to ensure that Guster’s other green requirements are met.

The sustainability office has supplied the band with menus from local restaurants and grocery stores that use local farmers. Five-gallon water containers are available backstage and onstage for the band to cut down on disposable water bottle use. Biodegradable coffee cups, reusable silverware and dishes and recycling bins will also be made available to the band.
Nixon: Billions worth of deals on tap with China

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and DAVID A. LIEB

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon plans to leave Friday for a trade trip to China that he says will seal the deal on billions of dollars of exports over the next three years.

But the trip won't be quite as grand as some Missouri officials and business leaders had originally hoped. That's because it is coinciding with the gradual demise of a special legislative session in which Missouri lawmakers have failed to pass a bill authorizing millions of dollars of tax credits that had been intended to transform the St. Louis airport into a hub for Chinese cargo planes.

Nixon said Tuesday that the trade mission to China still can be a success.

"There is a lot more to the relationship as far as trade and products than just the airport in St. Louis," Nixon said at a Kansas City news conference promoting his China trip. "We have folks from all across the Show Me State that are selling products internationally, and especially to China, and we think that there is absolutely no reason why we can't continue to maintain these agreements and to see further concrete steps forward in our trade relationship."

China already is Missouri's third-largest trading partner, buying $987 million of Missouri goods in 2010, Nixon said. Through August, Missouri exports to China totaled about $773 million, which Nixon said was a 25 percent increase over the same period the previous year. He said the trade agreements to be signed during his trip should significantly increase Missouri's exports to China from 2012 to 2014.

Many Missouri business leaders and elected officials had argued that exports could increase even more if the state would offer incentives for companies to ship goods through Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and for businesses to build the warehouses and other facilities needed to handle an influx of cargo.
This summer, Missouri House and Senate leaders said they had agreed on an economic development package that included $360 million of tax credits for what some dubbed as the China Hub or Aerotropolis at the St. Louis airport. Nixon placed the proposal on the agenda for a special session that started Sept. 6. But it quickly ran into trouble in the Senate, where it was pared back to $60 million of tax credits targeted only for firms that handle the logistics for exports at the St. Louis airport.

That slimmed down plan also has failed to pass because of a stalemate between the House and Senate about whether to place expiration dates on a pair of existing tax credits for the construction of low-income housing and the renovation of historic buildings. The Senate decided Monday not to seek further negotiations with the House and has not scheduled any additional votes before the special session automatically ends Nov. 5.

House Speaker Steven Tilley said Tuesday that he, too, saw no further hope of passing the air cargo incentives during the special session.

"We probably need to go ahead and adjourn," said Tilley, R-Perryville.

Nixon said the proposed export incentives targeting the St. Louis airport "would have added another asset on the table for us" as he heads to China. "But that one bill at one time will not limit our continued growth" in Chinese exports, Nixon added.

Nixon's schedule calls for him to leave Friday from Missouri and arrive Saturday in Beijing. He also is to travel to Shijiazhuang and Shanghai before returning to Missouri on Oct. 29. Nixon is to be accompanied by his wife, the directors of the state agriculture and economic development departments, the president of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of various agricultural industry groups, the University of Missouri and the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association. The delegation also includes representatives of various businesses, such as Anheuser-Busch InBev, Peabody Energy Corp. and Orscheln Products.

Nixon's travel costs will be covered by the Hawthorn Foundation, a nonprofit group that often finances gubernatorial trips related to economic development.

The Missouri Republican Party on Tuesday cast a cloud over Nixon's trip by noting that Nixon had criticized Chinese imports during his 2008 gubernatorial campaign. Nixon had run a TV ad accusing his Republican opponent, U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof, of backing economic policies that resulted in the loss of 45,000 Missouri jobs due to Chinese trade since 2001.

Asked Tuesday about his campaign comments, Nixon said he didn't want to respond to something from three years ago and instead stressed that he has always supported the exportation of Missouri products.