A growth in out-of-state residents attending public universities is crowding out poor and minority students and making it more difficult for people from those backgrounds to get ahead, a new report argues.

The increase in the percentage of non-resident students enrolling at state flagship universities has "a significantly negative relationship" with the number of students from low-income and "underrepresented racial groups" enrolled, write Bradley R. Curs, an associate professor at the University of Missouri, and Ozan Jaquette, an assistant professor at the University of Arizona, in a new research draft presented this week at an American Educational Research Association meeting.

State universities have hiked tuition in response to consistent cuts from legislatures in recent decades. Though some states limit how much in-state tuition can increase, those limits do not typically exist on non-resident tuition rates, leading students from wealthier backgrounds to feel more comfortable applying to those schools than their peers from less-wealthy households.

"Non-resident students are typically more affluent than resident students because only affluent households can afford non-resident tuition prices," Curs and Jaquette write. "Therefore, growth in non-resident students may crowd-out enrollment opportunities for students from low-income households."

Because public universities are increasing non-resident enrollment to help fill a gap left by declining state financial support, Curs and Jaquette argue higher education budget cuts are leading to lower socioeconomic and racial diversity, since minorities are more likely to come from low-income backgrounds.

The new findings add to a March 2013 paper the duo submitted at the American Educational Research Association conference.

For every 1 percent decline in state revenues, the research institutions in their sample increased freshmen nonresident enrollment by .76 percent, from 2001-2011. They found in the March 2013 paper that doctoral institutions were even more likely to boost out-of-state student enrollment, increasing it by .9 percent for every 1 percent decline in state revenues over the same period.
This strategy appears to be limited to in-demand flagship universities with strong national profiles, the authors concluded. So while the University of California-Berkeley could easily boost out-of-state enrollment, for example, the UC Merced campus may have a bit more trouble.

"[D]ecreases in state appropriations may have the unintended effect of compelling institutions to prefer non-resident students over resident students," Curs and Jaquette wrote in the March paper. "Given that non-resident students are less likely to remain in the state upon graduation, the decline in state support for higher education may have negative effects on the number of college-educated workers entering the labor force."
The University of Missouri struggled during its first season of SEC football. The Tigers fully comprehend the challenge their new league presents.

The players, coaches, administrators and fans didn’t need to see any more evidence of the conference’s competitive greatness.

But here it is anyway: Texas A&M is embarking on a Texas-sized stadium expansion.

Kyle Field is already one of college football’s most storied venues. It seats 82,589. Roaring A&M crowds already create one of the great home field advantages in the sport.

But A&M is in the SEC now, not the Big 12. The school isn’t just trying to fit in its new surroundings — it is aiming to win at the highest level of the sport.

The school’s $450 million stadium expansion will boost capacity to 102,500, the highest in the conference and the third-largest in the nation.

“We’re writing a new chapter in the history of the university,” A&M athletic director Eric Hyman said, according to the Houston Chronicle. “This is a daunting challenge; it’s powerful, ambitious, aggressive, iconic. But we know the Aggie network is going to help us.”

This renovation makes Mizzou’s ongoing stadium expansion — the addition of more than 6,000 seats — seem relatively small. It is as if MU is moving a few more bleachers behind the north end zone.

The Kyle Field upgrade, scheduled for completion in 2015, will give the powerful A&M football program millions more to play with. The Aggies appear poised for perennial contention under coach Kevin Sumlin and this project will raise the program’s national profile.

“Kyle Field is a megaphone to the world, whether you like it or not,” A&M chancellor John Sharp told the Chronicle. “And this megaphone that we’re fixing to build is going to be the loudest on the planet.”

Why would Texas A&M want the biggest stadium in the SEC? Well, why wouldn’t it? We’re talking about Texans here.

“We don’t follow other folk anymore,” Sharp told the Chronicle. “We kind of do our own thing.”

STORY CONTINUES...
SEC Network will launch in August 2014

MU mention pg 2

By Dave Matter

Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm

After years of speculation, winks and nods, the Southeastern Conference officially unveiled plans for its own network Thursday in Atlanta. Set to launch in August 2014, the SEC Network will be a joint venture with ESPN and will feature around-the-clock SEC programming.

The SEC and ESPN announced the network plans as part of a 20-year agreement through 2034.

"The SEC Network will provide an unparalleled fan experience of top quality SEC content presented across the television network and its accompanying digital platforms," SEC Commissioner Mike Slive said. "We will increase exposure of all 14 of our institutions and will showcase the incredible student-athletes in our league."

The SEC Network, to be headquartered in Charlotte, will feature 1,000 live sporting events, approximately 450 televised on the network and 550 distributed digitally. ESPN will handle all of the network's digital platforms. The league expects to televise approximately 45 football games on the network every year, three games every Saturday for 13 weeks, Slive said. The network will also feature 100 men's basketball games, 60 women's basketball games, 75 baseball games and live events from the SEC's other sponsored sports, plus studio shows, spring football games, signing day coverage and specific school content produced for the network.

Slive and ESPN President John Skipper declined to discuss the financial terms of the agreement, though industry experts have widely projected the deal to be the richest of its kind for college sports.

"We believe … that this network will be very successful both in terms of distribution and ultimately the development of potential significant revenue," Slive said.

AT&T U-verse has already agreed to carry the network. ESPN and SEC officials expect other cable and satellite providers to eventually follow suit and offer the network across the nation.
For Saturday football coverage, the SEC Network will televise a game during the early, afternoon and evening windows. Slive said CBS will continue to have the first selection among SEC games. A content board will decide where the other games land among ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and the SEC Network.

Representing Missouri at Thursday's announcement were Athletic Director Mike Alden, Deputy Athletic Director Doug Gillin, football Coach Gary Pinkel, men's basketball Coach Frank Haith, Media Relations Director Chad Moller and Chris Koukola, the assistant to Chancellor Brady Deaton. Pinkel and Haith were among 32 SEC coaches seated on the stage during the announcement.

"We talked about this being a national network for Mizzou," Alden said in statement released by MU. "We know the move to the SEC has already elevated our brand from a national standpoint, and this SEC Network will do that even more so exponentially. So while it's great for college athletics and great for the SEC, for the University of Missouri and for our brand, this elevates it exponentially because we are now associated with a national network that will give our programs and our name access to major markets throughout the country."

"Now as a member of the SEC you can be in every home in the country," Pinkel said. "It's so appealing, and we have just been in the league for a year coming from a pretty good league in the Big 12, it's amazing when you have the brand name of the SEC next to Missouri what that does for all of us."

"This is a game-changing day for our conference and the University of Missouri with regards to exposure and the opportunity to sell our league and our program here at Mizzou," Haith said. "The revenue portion aside, the Southeastern Conference will be seen like never before and the historical success of our conference in all sports has set this up to be a record-breaking venture for many years to come.

"We had very good visibility in our league before, but this takes it to another level, both in conference play and out of conference. We recruit nationally at Missouri and to be able to go coast to coast and list off the channels families can watch their sons play on every night of the week, wow, that's a powerful selling point."

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Posted in Mu on Thursday, May 2, 2013 2:00 pm.
Ape pelvis fills gap in evolution puzzle

U. MISSOURI (US) — Experts say the pelvis from an 11.9 million-year-old ape skeleton suggests the primate probably lived near the beginning of the great ape evolution.

Researchers who unearthed the fossil specimen of the ape skeleton in Spain in 2002 assigned it a new genus and species, *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus*. They argued that it could be the last common ancestor of modern great apes: chimpanzees, orangutans, bonobos, gorillas, and humans.

*Ashley Hammond, a Life Sciences Fellow in the department of pathology and anatomical sciences at the University of Missouri, used a tabletop laser scanner attached to a turntable to capture detailed surface images of the fossil, which provided her with a 3D model to compare the *Pierolapithecus* pelvis anatomy to living species.*

Hammond and colleagues say it appears the ape lived after the lesser apes had started to develop separately but before the great ape species began to diversify.

As reported in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, the ilium, the largest bone in the pelvis of the *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus*, is wider than that of *Proconsul nyanzae*, a more primitive ape that lived approximately 18 million years ago. The wider pelvis may be related to the ape’s greater lateral balance and stability while moving using its forelimbs.

However, the fingers of the *P. catalaunicus* are unlike those of modern great apes, indicating that great apes may have evolved differently than scientists originally hypothesized.

“*Pierolapithecus catalaunicus* seemed to use a lot of upright behaviors such as vertical climbing, but not the fully suspensory behaviors we see in great apes alive today,” Hammond says.

“Today, chimpanzees, orangutans, bonobos and gorillas use forelimb-dominated behaviors to swing below branches, but *Pierolapithecus catalaunicus* didn’t have the long, curved finger bones needed for suspension, so those behaviors evolved more recently.”
Researchers should continue searching for fossils to further explain the evolution of the great apes in Africa, Hammond says.

"Contrary to popular belief, we're not looking for a missing link. We have different pieces of the evolutionary puzzle and big gaps between points in time and fossil species.

"We need to continue fieldwork to identify more fossils and determine how the species are related and how they lived. Ultimately, everything is connected."

Researchers from Stony Brook University, the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain and the University of Turin in Italy, and the Autonomous University of Barcelona co-authored the study.
Discovery helps explain rare disease

Associate Professor of Biochemistry Michael Petris and his team of researchers made a discovery that helps to explain the rare and often fatal genetic disorder Menkes disease.

Menkes disease is a genetic disorder that affects the body’s ability to properly absorb the nutrient copper from foods. After three years of research, Petris and his team of researchers were able to identify the ATP7A gene’s importance in the dietary absorption of copper.

“Studying the function of the ATP7A gene is critical to understanding the disease,” Petris said in an email.

The ATP7A gene provides necessary instructions for regulating copper levels in the body, by transporting dietary copper throughout the body, Petris said. Human beings need this gene to survive, but children can have Menkes disease when the gene is mutated or missing.

Petris and his team were able to modify mice so that they were missing the ATP7A gene in certain areas of the body, specifically in the intestinal track where copper absorption takes place.

“These findings help us to understand where in the body the function of this gene is vital and how the loss of the gene in certain tissues can give rise to Menkes disease,” Petris said in a news release.

Petris said he and his team found that the mice that were missing the ATP7A gene were unable to fully absorb copper from their food. He said the mice also displayed symptoms that mimicked symptoms of Menkes disease in children.

“We would love to ultimately develop compounds that prolong the lives and alleviate the symptoms of children with Menkes disease,” Petris said in an email.

Petris said he hopes to do this by studying Menkes disease using cultured cells from patients.

Currently, the disease often leads to seizures, neurodegeneration, stunted growth, impaired movement and death, the release stated. Many people who carry the disease are born prematurely and typically do not live past the age of three.

According to the release, many children are not originally screened for Menkes disease since only one in 100,000 children are born with the genetic disorder. Screenings are also not regular because the disease comes up randomly through families, and usually when symptoms are noticed, it is too late for treatment.

There are very few treatment options now for children with Menkes, but Petris said his team’s study provides new models to understand the disease and create new treatments.

Petris’ lab also concluded that the ATP7A gene product is important for exporting certain anticancer drugs.
They plan on testing whether blocking the ATP7A function might enhance tumor killing by forcing tumor cells to accumulate higher levels of these cancer drugs, Petris said.

Petris said he also wants to continue to look into Menkes disease.

“We want to continue to explore the underlying biology of Menkes disease to determine where we should focus our research efforts in the future,” Petris said in the release. "If we know which organs or tissues are most responsible for transporting copper throughout the body, we can focus on making sure the gene is expressed in those areas. This disease is ideal for gene therapy down the road.”
Back from ashes: UM Press releases fall list

By Jane Henderson jhenderson@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8107

The University of Missouri Press, which was slated to close last May, is ready to announce its fall catalog.

The first books it will publish since last summer's emotional fight over its future include "Prairie Sky," a memoir by pilot W. Scott Olsen; "The Ozarks in Missouri History," edited by Lynn Morrow; and "Teddy Roosevelt and Leonard Wood" by John S.D. Eisenhower.

Most of the books had been in the works "at one stage or another," Jane Lago, the press' consulting director, said Thursday by email. She said Clair Willcox, who last year lost his job as editor, then was reinstated after loud protests by authors, "managed to complete readers reports' (on the new manuscripts) and Press Committee approval for them within two months after the closure was reversed. We anticipate having a larger list in the Spring of 2014 and continuing to grow from there."

The press' fall list also includes seven books new as paperbacks and 15 books new as e-books. Some, like "Laura Ingalls Wilder, Farm Journalist," are already available.
Another crop of college graduates is heading out into the world this month.

Colleges and universities across the region have started the annual commencement season, with ceremonies running through the middle of May.

Among the speakers this year are Newark Mayor Cory Booker and fraud expert Frank Abagnale Jr. Included in the list of honorary degree recipients is Martin Mathews, the co-founder of the Mathews-Dickey Boys' and Girls' Club.

Among the ceremonies:

- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: New Chancellor Julie Furst-Bowe will preside over her first commencement this weekend. The first ceremony, for the Graduate School, School of Business and School of Nursing, will start today at 6:30 p.m. Other ceremonies will follow Saturday, with the last starting at 5 p.m.

- Maryville University: Commencement is Saturday at 10 a.m. outdoors on campus.

- St. Louis College of Pharmacy: Ceremony is at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Peabody Opera House.

- Southern Illinois University Carbondale: Three ceremonies are scheduled for May 11 in the SIU arena. Keynote speaker is Abagnale, the security and fraud expert who was the subject of the 2002 movie "Catch Me If You Can."

- Harris-Stowe State University: Ceremony is at 11 a.m. on May 11 in the Emerson Performance Center.

- Southeast Missouri State University: Ceremony is 2 p.m. on May 11 in the Show Me Center.

- Webster University: Ceremony is May 11 at 10 a.m. at the Muny in Forest Park.

- William Woods University: Ceremonies are May 11 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Cutlip Auditorium.

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: The campus will have two ceremonies, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., on May 12 in the Assembly Hall. Speaking is Shahid Khan, president of Flex-N-Gate Corp. and owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars NFL football team.
• Washington University: Commencement is May 17 at 8:30 a.m. on the Brookings Quadrangle. Speaking is Booker, who is also receiving an honorary degree, along with Mathews and Howard Wood, co-founder of Charter Communications and Cequel III.

• Lindenwood University: Ceremonies will be on May 17 and May 18 at St. Charles Family Arena.

• Missouri University of Science and Technology: Ceremonies are May 17-18 in the Gale Bullman Multi-Purpose Building.

• University of Missouri-Columbia: The school will have 18 ceremonies for its various colleges, schools and programs over the three-day period of May 17-19.

• University of Missouri-St. Louis: The first of five ceremonies is on May 18 at 10 a.m. in the Mark Twain Building. The final ceremony starts at 6 p.m. on May 19.

• Fontbonne University: The ceremony will be May 18. The graduate ceremony starts at 10 a.m., followed by the undergraduate ceremony at 2 p.m.

• St. Louis University: Commencement is May 18 at Chaifetz Arena. Individual names will be announced in a series of pre-commencement ceremonies May 16 and 17.
Critics of standardized tests argue that the written portion of those assessments can short-circuit the process of developing ideas in writing. Using machines to grade those tests further magnifies their negative effects, according to a statement adopted last month by the National Council of Teachers of English.

As high-school students prepare for college, the statement reads, they "are ill served when their writing experience has been dictated by tests that ignore the evermore complex and varied types and uses of writing found in higher education."

The statement is unlikely to quell controversy over the use of automated grading tools to assess a new wave of standardized tests of writing that are being developed for students at elementary and secondary levels.

The intent of the statement, which was passed unanimously by the council's executive committee, is to prompt policy makers and designers of standardized tests to think more fully about the pitfalls of machine scoring, said Chris M. Anson, director of the writing-and-speaking program at North Carolina State University. Mr. Anson is also chair of the committee that drafted the statement for the council, a 35,000-member organization that seeks to improve the teaching and learning of English at all levels of the education system.
Chief among the council’s concerns, said Mr. Anson, is that machine grading tends to recognize, and therefore encourage, writing that may appear superficially competent, but lacks meaning or context.

Machines also cannot judge some of the most valuable aspects of good writing, the statement reads, including logic, clarity, accuracy, style, persuasiveness, humor, and irony.

To judge writing, machines analyze a text by using an algorithm that predicts a good answer, which is largely based on whether it uses certain words. The machines cannot recognize if the argument is coherent or even true, he said. Rarely used and multisyllabic words can boost a test-taker’s score even when they are included in an essay pointlessly.

"By using the word 'cadre' or 'defenestration,'" he said, "the computer will think that's good."

Mr. Anson also worries about the larger message that machine grading sends. It tells students "that writing is so unimportant that we're not willing to take the time to read it," he said.

If machines value writing that has the veneer of coherence but lacks substance, he said, that factor is also likely to shape the kinds of writing exercises teachers assign. In his courses, he sometimes asks students to write an imagined dialogue between scholars, such as B.F. Skinner and Noam Chomsky, or Sigmund Freud and Karl Marx. A machine would not be able to handle such an assignment, he said, and faculty members might be dissuaded from being creative in the exercises they devise.

"It sends a message to teachers," Mr. Anson said, "to design the most stereotypical, dull assignments that can be graded by a machine."

'Already Mechanical'

Machine grading is a more urgent issue in elementary and secondary education than it is for colleges. Such scoring is being considered to grade the assessments being developed for the Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted in 45 states and the District of Columbia. Those standards are intended to improve students' readiness for the transition to college or the work force.
Still, the notion of machine grading is not foreign to higher education. The grading of the written portion of the Collegiate Learning Assessment, for example, is "almost exclusively" automated, said Jeffrey Steedle, a measurement scientist for the Council for Aid to Education, which created the CLA.

While the statement from the National Council of Teachers of English is likely to find a favorable audience among many faculty members, Mr. Anson concedes a point often made by critics of the status quo: Human evaluators do not always practice the kind of close, careful, and nuanced reading the council's statement champions.

"Machines can reproduce human essay-grading so well because human essay-grading practices are already mechanical," Marc Bousquet wrote in a blog post for The Chronicle last year.

Although multiple human raters may collectively catch mistakes, individuals tend to make more grading errors than machines do, said Mark D. Shermis, a professor of educational foundations and leadership at the University of Akron. He is the lead author of a study, supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, that found that machines were about as reliable as human graders in evaluating short essays written by junior-high and high-school students.

In a statement provided to The Chronicle, he criticized the council's announcement as "political posturing" and a "knee-jerk reaction," and criticized its analysis.

"There is no evidence to suggest that scoring models for longer writing products are somehow 'worse' than for short, impromptu prompts," he wrote.

In an interview, Mr. Shermis agreed that a computer cannot understand context or judge meaning. It can, however, conduct a coherence analysis, which can render a verdict on the accuracy of an argument based on probability. The grading software, he said, can identify a number of words and phrases that are highly likely to lead to the correct conclusion.

Critics of Mr. Shermis's work, such as Les C. Perelman, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have faulted his methodology and shown how a computer can be dazzled by big but meaningless words.
Someone like Mr. Perelman, who understands the algorithms, can write a bad essay full of botched facts and still get a good score, said Mr. Shermis. "The average writer doesn't operate that way."

An important distinction, some analysts say, is whether machines are used for high-stakes tests or for formative evaluations, which are likely to be low-stakes assignments that a student can revise and resubmit.

The council's statement fails to recognize the distinction, according to Edward E. Brent, a professor of sociology at the University of Missouri at Columbia and president of Idea Works, which developed grading software called SAGrader.

"We need to be having a good healthy discussion of different views regarding the use of computers for assessing writing," he wrote in an e-mail. "But it is important that the conversation be broadened to encompass the full range of such programs and their differing strengths and weaknesses."

Ultimately, said Mr. Shermis, writing and measurement experts should work together to define what matters most in the craft of writing. The technology to measure it will continue to be developed.

"There's nothing we can do to stop it," he said. "It's whether we can shape it or not."
Missouri colleges would need TB testing under bill sent to governor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. • The Missouri Legislature has sent Gov. Jay Nixon a bill that would require colleges and universities to develop targeted testing programs for tuberculosis.

Under the legislation, any student who refuses to participate in the testing would not be able to enroll in classes. The program would be targeted at students and faculty who are considered at a "high-risk" for contracting tuberculosis.

The bill would also require the state health department to develop a brochure on meningitis to be distributed to college students who are under age 18.

The measure was passed by the Senate on Thursday, and the House approved the same bill earlier in the week. It is sponsored by Republican Sen. David Sater, of Cassville.
Bus routes to detour around block party

Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A University of Missouri spring block party next Thursday on Rollins Street will result in detours for Columbia Transit buses.

Rollins will be closed to traffic from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., and several buses will run detoured routes starting at 2 p.m., according to a city news release. The bus stop in front of the MU Student Center on Rollins will be closed from 2 p.m. on, but passengers can catch buses at the following locations instead:

- In front of the Carnahan Plaza fountain: 107 FastCAT, 401 Tiger Line day route to Hearnes lot, 406 Tiger Line night route to south loop, 207 Gold to Campus View Apartments and 208 Gold to Gateway Apartments.
- At Hitt Street and Rollins: 404 Tiger Line night route to downtown and 405 Tiger Line night route to Trowbridge parking and East Campus.
- On Virginia Avenue in front of the Black Culture Center: 402 Tiger Line day route to Trowbridge parking, 207 Gold to The Point, 208 Gold to Grindstone Canyon, 209 Black to the Cottages and 210 Black to the Reserve.

For more information, call the customer service line at 874-7282.

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Posted in Local on Thursday, May 2, 2013 2:00 pm.
Dad, son push mental-health awareness with cross-state walk, film

By Catherine Martin

Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 2:00 pm

When Eric Norwine started making a documentary about his father's walk across the state to raise awareness about mental illness, he said he just wanted to make a movie.

The topic was something he was passionate about already — both he and dad Mark Norwine have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder — but along the way, something amazing happened, he said. About 16 of his friends opened up to him and shared stories about their struggles.

"It was as simple as me bringing it up," he said.

Yesterday, the father and son hoped to have a similar impact with students at the University of Missouri when they stopped on campus for a few hours. The pair, accompanied by documentary film crew members, waited for people to come up and ask what they were doing before starting impromptu conversations about mental health.

Often, they said, mental illness is a topic people don't want to talk about.

"I think it's equated to weakness," Mark Norwine said.

If people have cancer or heart disease, they often are perceived as strong for fighting their illness, Eric Norwine said, but people don't look at the fight against mental illness the same way. Their goal is to let people know it's OK to talk about mental illness, and Mark Norwine said he hopes people who hear the message will seek help.

The stop at MU could help young people who are struggling, as issues such as depression can come out during stressful times of transition, said Maria Craft, awareness project coordinator at CHADS Coalition for Mental Health in St. Louis, where Mark Norwine works. The group's bigger focus, however, is middle and high school audiences.

During his walk across Missouri, Mark Norwine said he planned to stop at several schools to talk about mental illness at assemblies, particularly in rural areas with fewer resources for mental
health. He said he shares his own story about being diagnosed with bipolar disorder because kids can "smell a fake" and are more open with him if he is honest.

Mark Norwine said two girls already had talked to him on the trip about problems they'd been having with possible bipolar disorder and cutting.

More school stops are scheduled next week, but today the group planned to spend time at the Capitol talking to legislators. Eric Norwine said the crew also plans to interview mental health professionals, political figures and others affected by mental illness.

This article was published in the Thursday, May 2, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Dad, son push openness on mental health issues: Film to chronicle cross-state effort."

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