Economic advancement award

Nov 25, 2013 BY SARAH REDOHL

COLUMBIA, Mo.—The Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU) has distinguished the University of Missouri for its efforts in innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development and community development.

MU, along with 16 other public institutions, received the designation as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University (IEP). Since 2008, MU has filed 278 U.S. patents and signed 204 options and licenses for new technologies developed at the university that, in total, account for around $1 billion in sales revenue, according to an MU News Bureau press release.

“Universities are economic engines that not only employ people, but also generate research-based innovation and technical expertise that allow businesses to start up, grow and thrive,” APLU President Peper McPherson said. “This designation recognizes universities that are really stepping up to strengthen their local, state and nation’s economies.”

According to the MU News Bureau, “MU is a natural hub for innovation, as it is one of the few universities in the nation with a hospital, a veterinary hospital, a law school, a College of Engineering and a business school on one campus.”

Recent examples of success include Beyond Meat, a soy substitute for chicken that was developed by MU professor Fu-Hung Hsieh and senior research associate Harold Huff.

“The success of this product, which was developed in the laboratory, has now come full circle with the announcement that Beyond Meat has opened a plant right here in our community. It is anticipated that more than 60 jobs will be created and millions of dollars will be pumped into Columbia’s and the state’s economy,” said Rob Duncan, vice chancellor for research at MU.
With programs like the Mizzou Advantage initiative, which aims to bring together faculty from various disciplines to collaborate and innovate, and the MU Biodesign and Innovation Program (MUBIP), to improve the patient care through the development of new medical technologies, MU hopes to continue and expand its economic development efforts.
Tuition Crunch Takes Big Toll
Net Revenue at Nearly Half of Colleges Loses Ground to Inflation in New Survey

Nov. 22, 2013 12:01 a.m. ET
By Douglas Belkin

Nearly half of the nation's colleges and universities are no longer generating enough tuition revenue to keep pace with inflation, highlighting the acceleration of a downward spiral that began as the recession ended, according to a new survey by Moody's Investors Service.
The survey of nearly 300 schools reflects a cycle of disinvestment and falling enrollment that places a growing number at risk. While schools for two decades were seeing rising enrollments and routine increases of 5% to 8% in net tuition, many now are facing grimmer prospects: a shrinking pool of high-school graduates, depressed family incomes and precarious job prospects after college.

The softening demand for four-year degrees is prompting schools to rein in tuition increases while increasing scholarships. Those moves are cutting into net tuition revenue—the amount of money a university collects from tuition, minus school aid.

For 44% of public and 42% of private universities included in the survey, net tuition revenue is projected to grow less than the nation's roughly 2% inflation rate this fiscal year, which for most schools ends in June. Net tuition revenue will fall for 28% of public and 19% of private schools.

"We're all kind of holding our breath," said James Edwards, president of Anderson University in Indiana. The private Christian school suffered a 7% drop in enrollment this year, prompting cuts to faculty and several majors, including theater, French and philosophy. "The really big question is, where is all of this heading?"

This is the fifth year private schools have endured stagnant net revenue, and the impact has been compounding, as faculty wages are frozen and capital improvements and maintenance are put on hold, said Karen Kedem, the author of the Moody's report that accompanied the survey. The drop is just now hitting public universities, amid falling state aid and research dollars. Public schools are significantly more reliant on tuition revenue than they were a decade ago.

Last year, the same survey found 18% of private schools and 15% of public ones projected a decline in net tuition revenue.

"It's concerning because colleges and universities are mostly dependent on tuition to raise revenue," Ms. Kedem said. "If they're not able to invest in programs, personnel and facilities over time, their ability to attract students, faculty and donors will deteriorate."

The contraction among public schools is thorny because many of the tactics leveraged in lean years to generate additional revenue could dry up for many colleges. For public schools, the number of out-of-state students—who pay two or three times the tuition as in-state students—has flatlined at about 17%. And the market for international students—who also generally pay top dollar—is becoming more competitive.

Many schools see those markets as keys to their financial future. University of Louisiana at Monroe President Nick Bruno said generating more revenue from out-of-state students, international students and online students is critical to making ends meet, because the state has sliced its subsidy by more than half in the last five years.

"We don't know where the bottom is; if we knew, we could structure appropriately," said Mr. Bruno, with regard to the budget cuts. The result: "We have to look at a different business model; we can't just depend on our region anymore."
Schools with the strongest brands are less vulnerable to these trends. For instance, as the international market consolidates, flagship state schools with strong reputations already established in foreign countries stand to benefit from their alumni networks. Midtier schools lacking a presence overseas will find it harder to break into new overseas markets.

That is part of a broader separation between classes of schools, said Ms. Kedem. Market leaders with the strongest brands and credit ratings saw a median net-tuition-revenue growth of 6%, compared with 2% for those with the weakest ratings. The most prestigious schools "are distancing themselves from the others. They are getting stronger and the others are getting weaker, so the gap is widening," she said.

The Moody's survey, which included 173 responses from not-for-profit private universities and 114 responses from four-year public universities, also flagged impending federal regulation as an additional headwind for higher education. It remains unclear how a federal ratings system aimed at measuring a school's value for students will affect schools. The system is expected to be in place late next year.

Many university leaders have bristled at the impending ratings system, but frustration with the value offered by schools relative to their price has been simmering as student debt has surpassed $1 trillion. Last year, a Pew Research Center poll found 57% of Americans believe colleges fail to provide students with good value for the money.

"I think families are really struggling," said Mr. Edwards of Ashland University. "So few have planned for the college years, and they get here and they wonder how can I climb this crazy mountain, it seems impossible."

Write to Douglas Belkin at doug.belkin@wsj.com
Moody’s Investors Service on Monday issued a negative outlook for higher education in 2014—which should come as a surprise to no one. The bond-rating agency’s report last week, a survey of net-tuition revenues, was grim, and its outlook for higher education in recent years has been mostly bleak.

This year Moody’s cited a weak economy that will “affect families’ willingness and ability to pay for higher education.” It also anticipated federal budget pressures, including a looming sequestration threat, that could affect financial aid.

Moody’s pointed to the “rapid rise” of massive open online courses, or MOOCs, as a factor that has “accelerated the pace of change in online delivery models over the last two years”—this despite a number of people lately who have declared the MOOC dead.

However, it’s hard to argue with another threat outlined by the rating agency: that expenses are outpacing revenue for the higher-education sector. “After multiple years of stagnant capital investment and tightened control of operating spending, pressure is building to invest in capital, information systems, faculty compensation, and program renewal,” the Moody’s report says.

The report is available to Moody’s subscribers.
Are Colleges Ready to Adjust to a New Higher-Education Landscape?

Moody’s Investors Service on Friday released a report with grim news, particularly for public institutions: In a survey, 28 percent of public institutions, compared with 15 percent the year before, said they expected declines in their net-tuition revenue, increasingly the lifeblood of many institutions. For private institutions, the news was not quite as dire. Nineteen percent expected declines, compared with 18 percent last year, but that finding should come with a caveat: The Moody’s survey included only the institutions the credit-rating company evaluates, which means they are probably among the more financially stable private colleges out there.

One has to wonder if American higher education is the proverbial frog in a slowly warming pot of water, not realizing that it’s about to be boiled alive. The Chronicle’s own survey on enrollment trends at small private colleges and comprehensive state institutions, released last month, showed half of the 436 respondents missing their enrollment and net-tuition-revenue goals. The survey allowed respondents to leave comments on the state of affairs at their institutions. One respondent said that his institution was having a hard time maintaining or increasing enrollment while keeping the discount rate at a sustainable level.

“Students have more need, but families often have less willingness to take out loans than in previous years,” he wrote. “The poor job market and the media focus on ‘Is College Worth It?’ has raised questions in the minds of families and students about the value of a college education.”

Another respondent was acidic about the industry generally. “I’ve become a firm believer that most of our campus leaders are stuck in a ‘quick fix’ mentality when it comes to enrollment success,” he wrote. “I continue to see campuses make knee-jerk reactions and spend heavily to improve enrollment in the short run, only to see the cycle turn downward once the strategy is no longer viable, or their competition matches that strategy with one of their own. True campus-culture changes are the real creators of success, but most leaders are too afraid to upset the apple cart and deal with the inevitable groaning from faculty.”

It is probably more fair to say that changes in campus culture, administrative structures, and business practices could help many institutions, and that those changes need to go beyond merely laying the problem at the feet of faculty members.

“The story in this Moody’s report is not a new story, and I don’t think that it is a bump in the road,” said Rick Staisloff, a former college chief financial officer who now advises institutions
on financial strategies. “It is a permanent change in the landscape about how higher education will be financed from all its stakeholders. The challenge is that institutions have not adjusted to that reality.”

In the coming months, I will take a close look at the costs of college and the changing landscape, and I welcome your suggestions. However, experts in higher-education finance point to a few basic problems facing the enterprise.

First, the possibility that higher-education institutions are unfocused. The “buffet model” of higher education—where students come to a college and choose from a vast array of majors and programs—is not financially sustainable, Mr. Staisloff said. “That points to a disconnect between the mission and market,” he said. More institutions should ask themselves: What are we good at? What can we offer that you can’t just get anywhere? And perhaps they should offer a more-limited palette of majors and programs.

“We don’t understand where our economic engines are,” Mr. Staisloff said. “We need to figure that out, so we can do more of those things and do less of the things that don’t support the mission or the bottom line.”

Second, an economic reality that scholars of higher education have talked about for 40 years: the enterprise’s heavy reliance on expensive labor. “I am thinking, frankly, that we have to have productivity gains in higher education,” said John Curry, a former vice president at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who now works for the Huron Consulting Group. “The big gains have to come out of the education-research sector because that is still on the order of 70 percent of the operating budget of universities.”

While other industries have been able to replace labor with capital—in other words, find equipment and technologies that have allowed them to scale up productivity—that solution has been elusive in higher education. (That is, without compromising academic rigor, the college experience, or some other quality.)

Third, the need for institutions to work on retention. Getting students into college is not the challenge; getting them through is. “It’s less expensive to keep a student than to attract a new student,” said John Lawlor, who works with colleges on enrollment and marketing issues. Admissions offices often get too much credit and too much blame when it comes to getting students and keeping them. “It takes a village to recruit a student and keep a student …. There is a need to get the entire campus community to get involved in recruitment and retention.”

Last—and perhaps most important and most confounding—colleges are working with an American landscape that is fundamentally different in terms of ethnicity and financial health, compared with the era of the postwar college boom. Regions rich in colleges—the Northeast and Midwest—have a paucity of students, and student numbers are growing among populations that don’t have a long history of college achievement.

While incomes for the richest Americans have gone up since the recession, incomes for middle-class Americans have been stagnant for many years. Many Americans are drowning in debt—not
just student-loan debt, still considered a decent investment (if you finish college), but just plain old debt from consumption. Some economists talk about a “permanent slump” in the economy.

“That is an economy that can’t support the higher-ed business as we know it today,” said Mr. Curry, who then invoked the metaphor of the frog on the stove top. “That, to my mind, might be the biggest pot of boiling water out there.”
Now Everyone Has a Solution for Higher Education
By Beckie Supiano  November 25, 2013

Rarely does a week go by without an announcement or three of another forum, summit, or—lately—"convening" that proposes to shake up higher education or predict its future.

The New America Foundation explores the potential of competency-based education. National Journal examines demographic change. College Possible shares research on serving low-income students. The Charles Koch Institute defines the "diploma dilemma." And that's just this month. As a go-to presenter on innovation, Paul J. LeBlanc, president of Southern New Hampshire University, estimates having traveled to 30 speaking engagements so far this year.

While the direction of higher education has long been a hot topic among campus leaders and industry lobbyists, now everybody wants in on the conversation. The sheer pace of activity has stepped up, as think tanks, advocacy groups, and even media companies produce a steady stream of events and reports, all on some challenge or other facing the industry. What's driving all of this attention to higher ed?

For one thing, more people are going to college, and parents overwhelmingly expect to send their children. Yet the public has doubts about affordability and value. College is seen as important but flawed. Ripe, in other words, for an overhaul. The president is scrutinizing higher education even as he's promoting its importance.

It's also an appealing topic because the current conversation about public schools focuses on applying new policies, less interesting than dreaming up new ideas, says Andrew J. Rotherham, partner and co-founder of Bellwether Education Partners, a nonprofit consulting firm. "Things move on and off the agenda," he says.
While consumer interest and politics have prompted this wave of attention, so has money. Big foundations—notably the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation—are making major investments in higher education. And with certain ideas they’d like to see take hold, they are looking to steer government spending, too.

It's not simply a matter of how much money is in play. As many observers have noted, philanthropy has shifted from a model that supports recipients' broad operations to one that backs short-term, results-oriented projects. It's no surprise, then, that the flow of reports and events has been increasing.

Foundations' appetite for policy-ready ideas has also changed how think tanks operate, say several scholars who study them. In this environment, the groups have generally moved from a pure research model toward more advocacy, says Holly Yettick, a postdoctoral fellow at the Buechner Institute for Governance at the University of Colorado at Denver. They need to churn out—and draw attention to—a steady stream of work, and are looking for a cost-effective way to do so. Punditry, she says, is cheaper than research.

Even if events draw a small audience, or reports few readers, reporters cover them, raising their profile. And on the Internet's level playing field, information from any source, presented in any way, can travel far. A comprehensive, carefully conducted research study and a hastily written brief can wind up getting the same amount of buzz.

However think tanks and other groups go about it, they hope to set the parameters for debate. If the public keeps hearing about the same issues, the proposed solutions can start to feel inevitable. And if the message repeatedly reaches policy makers, those solutions might even become reality.

**Outsiders' Ideas**

While some groups seek grant money to probe higher-ed issues, others are after profits. That's true of the media outlets, says Stephen Burd, senior policy analyst with New America's education-policy program (and a former reporter for *The Chronicle*). "*U.S. News* has shown how much people are interested," he says, "and how profitable this is."
The public's belief that college is indispensable, coupled with skepticism over cost and quality, means higher education won't be trusted to solve its own problems. There's an appetite for new ideas, especially from outsiders.

Student-loan debt and a tough job market for recent graduates have led to frustration with the status quo, says Andrew P. Kelly, director of the Center on Higher Education Reform and a resident scholar in education-policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute. (AEI opened its center this year, in recognition, Mr. Kelly says, that higher education will be a long-term public-policy issue.)

"It seems highly unlikely," he says, "that a critical mass for a reform movement would come from the institutions that are to be reformed."

That movement has united thinkers from the right and left against the higher-education establishment. When more-conservative AEI and more-progressive New America make similar points about what needs to change—albeit sometimes both with Gates money—it can make colleges seem entrenched.

Professors who study higher education need to bring their expertise to a wider audience, Kevin R. McClure, a doctoral student at the University of Maryland at College Park, argued this fall in an online column for The Chronicle.

"The questions surrounding higher education's future," he wrote, "demand input from academics whose livelihoods are tied to rigorous scholarship, imbued with an understanding of history, theory, and data, not from policy centers pursuing a political agenda or entrepreneurs shoring up business."

The urgency of those questions might subside as the economy improves. If college graduates quickly find good jobs, worries about costs and debt will most likely become less pressing.

Still, some of the extra attention is probably here to stay. It gets hot under the spotlight, but higher education may have to get used to it.
The Antlers ejected for second straight game

By STEVE WALENTIK

The Antlers ejected for second straight game Steve Walentik

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 12:18 am

The Antlers spirit group was ejected from Mizzou Arena for the second straight game Monday night after what Missouri game operations officials determined was an inappropriate chant.

Their exit during a timeout with 14:48 remaining in the second half of the game between Missouri and IUPUI produced one of the loudest moments of the night as many fans booed loudly while members of the unsanctioned group made their way down the steps of the student section and exited through the tunnel at the northwest corner of the court.

MU forward Tony Criswell even gave high-fives to several of them as university police officers ushered them away from the floor.

Athletic Director Mike Alden appeared agitated after the game when approached by a small group of reporters inquiring about what happened that led to their dismissal.

“This is actually laughable to me, but let me just say this is we have high expectations for our students and our staff at the University of Missouri,” Alden said. “Our core values are respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence, and it’s critically important that we represent those values every day in everything we do.”

Asked specifically what they said or did, he said: “I’m just going to come right back to what I said right there, and that has to do with when we see people that don’t reflect the values of what we’re trying to do as an institution — and certainly those are things that are disappointing to us as a university — and we just want to make sure that folks are representing the institution with class.”

MU spokesman Chad Moller later sent an email to several media members that listed some observations of The Antlers’ chants and behavior at games against Southeastern Louisiana and Hawaii that were deemed crude of offensive, as well as some favorite “go-to cheers” that university and athletic department officials believe fit that description.
Most were sexually suggestive or homophobic, though members of the group were observed saying “Raise your hand if you thought Hurricane Katrina was a good thing,” during a free throw in the season opener against Southeastern Louisiana.

The email also contained a screen shot taken last week of the group’s Twitter page.

Emmett DeLaney, The Antlers’ Grand Poobah, received the same list during a meeting he had Friday morning with university and athletic department personnel, including Cathy Scroggs, the vice chancellor for student affairs.

“The things on that list, some of them are pretty rough, and it’s regrettable that it’s said,” DeLaney said. “But I myself am proactively trying to put that to an end, and that’s in the past of the group. Saturday I feel like we did a great job of avoiding those kinds of things.”

He said the group had the same intention to clean up their act on Monday night.

Their ejection came just after they completed a chant he said The Antlers have used for at least a decade.

“Pelvic thrust, churn the butter, step to the left, cop a feel,” he said, relaying the chant. “And you pelvic thrust, act like you’re churning butter, turn and squeeze the guys shoulder you’re next to.

“Then they booted us right after that, and while we were down there, they said references to sexual content won’t be tolerated inside the arena.”

Like the “Scum, scum, scum, go back to where you’re from …” chant that apparently led to their dismissal before Saturday afternoon’s game against Gardner-Webb, the “pelvic thrust” chant was not specifically cited on the list of inappropriate chants presented to DeLaney on Friday.

“That was basically our baseline that this and anything like this is no more, so when people emailed Mike Alden complaining about why we were kicked out Saturday, he emailed that list, making it seem like that’s why we were kicked out of that game, and Saturday and tonight, none of that was said,” DeLaney said.

He said the group will continue to edit its antics before the Tigers’ next home game against West Virginia on Dec. 5.

“Because even when we ask what it was” that led to The Antlers’ ejection, “they don’t tell us, we just kind of have to feel it out every game,” DeLaney said. “At this point, I don’t think we’re trying to push the line. I think we’re trying to find out where it is.”
COLUMBIA, Mo. • The Missouri men's basketball team improved to 5-0 in interim coach Tim Fuller's final game running the team Monday night, beating Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis 78-64 at Mizzou Arena.

Jabari Brown led the Tigers with 24 points, a career high. Jordan Clarkson added 22 points and four assists. Freshman forward Johnathan Williams III had his first double-double, with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

You can read more about the game in Tuesday's Post-Dispatch and online at STLtoday.com.

But the subplot was what had people buzzing. With 14:48 left in the game, The Antlers, the longtime student fan group, was ejected from the arena by university police, the second consecutive game in which the group was escorted out of the arena. The Antlers were kicked out before Saturday's game for making inappropriate chants at Gardner-Webb players.

The Antlers later posted on their Twitter account Monday night they were ejected for making sexual references during the game.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported Sunday that The Antlers Grand Poobah, student Emmett Delaney, met with university and athletic department officials last week, during which The Antlers were given a list of vulgar comments the group had made at games. The school officials warned The Antlers they’d be ejected from the arena if they continued to make inappropriate comments, the Tribune reported.

After Monday’s game, Mizzou released a document to reporters with a list of vulgar chants The Antlers made during recent games against Southeastern Louisiana and Hawaii, several of which were sexually graphic and homophobic. The Antlers, according to the email, made a crack about Hurricane Katrina when a Southeastern Louisiana player was shooting a free throw.

It's unclear what the group said to get ejected from Monday’s game.

After the game, athletic director Mike Alden declined to address questions directly about The Antlers ejection but repeatedly stressed the university’s core values of “respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence.”

“When we see people that don’t reflect the values of what we do as an institution, certainly those things are disappointing to us as a university,” Alden said after the game. “We just want to make sure folks represent the university with class.”
“This is a collective position by our institution, that we want to make sure that our students and our staff reflect this institution with class, with dignity, with respect, with responsibility, with discovery and excellence,” he said. “When they don’t, it’s tremendously disappointing to all of us.”

“I’ll say that until the cows home,” he continued, “because that’s who we are. And it’s critically important that our students and staff and everyone associated with the University of Missouri represent this institution with class and dignity and those core values.”
MU's emergency medicine residency aims to alleviate physician shortage

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CST
BY TRACEY GOLDNER

COLUMBIA — Richard Blubaugh, an emergency physician from Branson, once scared a man into quitting smoking.

"I don't care if you quit," he told his patient. "It's job security for me."

"I was kind of blunt, as emergency doctors are," he said.

But his bluntness worked. His patient quit that day.

Emergency medicine doctors are used to facing challenges and finding creative solutions. They also work long hours because emergency departments are open 24 hours a day, no matter the weather conditions or the holiday. Blubaugh plans to spend his Thanksgiving Day working rather than sharing a family meal with his wife and two young sons.

Emergency physicians now face a growing source of stress: There are too few of them, especially in rural Missouri. That means they're more likely to work in understaffed emergency rooms.

"There's probably 10 or 15 EM jobs out there for every doc that's out there," Blubaugh said. By his estimation, he receives at least two calls a day from other hospitals looking to recruit him. Residencies aren't keeping up with demand.

In response to the growing nationwide shortage, MU is launching a new residency program for emergency physicians in July 2014. The three-year residency will begin training six to eight residents in emergency medicine every year.

**People skills**
Marc Borenstein, an MU professor and chair of MU's Department of Emergency Medicine, will serve as director of the program. Its the sixth
program he has created, revived or helped stabilize in his 25-year career in academic emergency medicine. **He started laying the groundwork for the new program when he arrived at MU in October 2011 but gives credit to the more than 50 administrators, health care providers and faculty who had roles in creating it.**

Residents will spend three years learning emergency medicine-specific skills, dividing their time about 60/40 between the emergency department and training outside it in technical areas including trauma, surgery, labor and delivery, and airway management in critical situations when patients are at risk to stop breathing.

But it's also important to teach less technical skills such as communication, building relationships and teamwork, Borenstein said, because people come into the emergency department under very difficult circumstances.

"They are coming in with a lot of uncertainty in a situation where they may not have picked their doctor or their hospital or their nursing staff" because of the urgency of their health condition. That means emergency medicine physicians have about one minute to build trust with their patients, in his estimation.

**A newer discipline, greater need**

Emergency medicine residency programs are relatively new to the medical field and began in the early 1970s. The University of Southern California launched the first EM medical school program in the country in 1974.

"If you go back 20 to 25 years ago, it was very unusual to find an emergency medicine residency program at a medical school," Borenstein said. "And very few medical schools had academic departments of emergency medicine as a faculty."

Now, the vast majority of the 141 medical schools in the country have an EM residency, Borenstein said.

Meanwhile, an increasing number of people are visiting emergency departments. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Americans made nearly 130 million visits in 2010. That's a **34.5 percent increase from 1995**.

"The workforce alone to see that many patients is substantial," Borenstein said.
Meanwhile, technological advancements have changed the way hospitals see patients. Complex medical evaluations that once took two days to complete in the hospital can now be carried out in an emergency department in eight hours. The advances are beneficial for the patient in terms of time and cost, but they also require team effort from the hospital staff and highly sophisticated skills.

At the same time, emergency departments continue to serve as a safety net for uninsured and under-insured Americans who may have no where else to go for urgent health care needs.

**Demand outweighs supply**

*Kathleen Quinn, the program director of the Area Health Education Center at MU's School of Medicine, has been researching the physician shortage in Missouri for six years.* At the moment, she said, there aren't enough residency programs for graduating medical students.

Last year, 500 U.S. medical school graduates did not match into any residency training programs because the residency programs are not keeping up with medical school expansion, Quinn said. That means 500 students who could now be training to become doctors are waiting a year until a space opens up for them. However, slots may not be available again next year, she said. That creates a backlog of students awaiting residency training.

She cites flat national funding since 1997 for graduate medical education as one cause of the problem.

The lack of expansion, in turn, is playing a role in physician shortages, which are more pronounced in rural areas, primarily because of the financial resources available there, Quinn said. Doctors are attracted to the higher-specialty salaries available in urban areas, and most graduates come out of medical school with six-figure loans. High-paying specialties based in cities are much more attractive to them than a lower-paying job in a small town, she said.

Medical school students are also less inclined to practice medicine in rural areas, she said. A [recent medical study](#) found that just 3 percent of students who matriculate to medical school say they plan to practice in small towns or rural areas upon graduation.
Physician shortages have existed in rural areas for many years, Quinn said. The Missouri Rural Health Biennial Report found that 28 percent of Missourians lacked adequate access to health care in 2010-11.

Rural populations tend to be older and more impoverished, Quinn said. Moreover, since they have to travel a long way for medical care, they are less likely to be able to access care.

According to the report, 41 of Missouri’s 103 rural counties do not have a hospital, which means that emergency and specialty care are particularly hard to find. Quinn said that 37 percent of Missourians live in rural areas, but only 18 percent of doctors practice rural medicine. Nationally, 20 percent of Americans live in rural areas, while 11 percent of physicians practice rurally.

That leaves people in need of emergency care in a tough spot.

Traveling ER doctors step in
Kevin Kane, an MU professor and faculty director of clinical curriculum at MU's School of Medicine, said a few different models have emerged to help fill the gaps. One of them is having family physicians provide emergency care if there's no emergency medicine physician on staff at the local hospital, Kane said.

Although family physicians are not trained to handle trauma, he said their training does equip them to handle many of the patients coming to the emergency department.

Some rural patients at a small local hospital will be seen by a traveling emergency medicine physician.

"In Fulton, for instance, they have an emergency medicine group that staffs that hospital," Kane said. But those doctors may also travel to Hermann, Moberly and Boonville, he said. "That's one model that seems to work."

But there's no getting around the simple fact of a dire shortage. Borenstein and Quinn are both hopeful that some of the future emergency medicine residents will eventually decide to practice in rural Missouri. Blubaugh is hopeful as well but also concerned.

"It's good they're training six to eight (residents) a year," he said. "If they had twice that many, it still wouldn't be enough."
The Grove apartment complex runs afoul of MU rules

By JACOB BARKER
The Grove apartment complex runs afoul of MU rules

Monday, November 25, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Staying in the good graces of the University of Missouri is a must in Columbia's increasingly competitive student housing market, a lesson the owners of The Grove learned the hard way.

The Grove, owned by Charlotte, N.C., student housing firm Campus Crest Communities, was barred from off-campus housing fairs on the MU campus and not included in a catalog of off-campus housing options during the last academic year after it violated a "three-strikes rule" from the university's Off Campus Student Services office.

The office, overseen by MU's Wellness Resource Center, recently formalized the rule and has added other resources for students who live in one of the thousands of units that cater to students in Columbia.

Although the Wellness Resource Center declined to detail The Grove's specific violations, the matter points to increasingly competitive tactics to lure a limited number of students to a growing number of complexes financed by demanding investors.

In a third-quarter earnings report conference call with investors and analysts Oct. 31, Campus Crest management singled out Columbia and Statesboro, Ga., as the two markets that weighed down total occupancy in its 73-property portfolio. Campus Crest recently acquired the Copper Beech student housing brand, which operates a complex in Columbia on Old 63, but it was The Grove at Rock Quarry Road and Grindstone Parkway, which opened in 2011, that was the problem.

"Those assets both filled the previous year," Campus Crest Chief Operating Officer Robert Dann said on the earnings call. "Combined, they were 71.7 percent" leased in the 2013-2014 academic year "versus 100 percent the year before. So that's really where the drag was on the portfolio."

Paula Poskon, an analyst with Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc. who was on the conference call, commented that Campus Crest's competitors in Statesboro all struggled with oversupply, but "a lot of other folks did pretty well in Columbia." She asked management what happened here.
"Columbia was a different situation," Dann replied. "It was more a management thing. It was definitely an operational issue. We had a general manager that had a bad relationship with the school, and by the time we found out about it, it was very difficult for us to react to it."

Kim Dude, director of MU's Wellness Resource Center, declined to comment on specific violations by The Grove, but she said it has since been allowed back to MU-sponsored events and will be included in the office's next off-campus housing catalog if it buys an ad.

"I don't want to say what their violations were," Dude said. "But they're fixed now, and I think because we have a three-strikes-you’re-out policy, these complexes are much more likely to fix things that aren't going well."

Violations that constitute a "strike" include marketing tactics as well as safety and maintenance issues at the complex itself, Dude said. The Grove is the only complex that has violated the three-strikes rule, she said.

"Our most important concern is we want to make sure our students are treated fairly and the environment is safe," Dude said.

Since the incidents occurred, Campus Crest has changed management at The Grove and has been reinstated as one of MU's "recommended housing options," the company said in a statement to the Tribune.

"We now have an official letter from the school that we are absolutely in their good graces and have already been to their housing fair and are actually leasing '14-'15" academic year "ahead of last year," Dann said on the earnings call.

Dude said her office has added full-time staff and a board of directors to its off-campus services, and the office regularly communicates with student housing operators.

"I think the vast majority of our complexes are doing what they can to be good businesspeople," she said. "They know it's a competitive marketplace, and they're going to be very likely to want to do the right thing. This is just a nudge in helping them do the right thing."

*This article was published in the Monday, November 25, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "University gives three strikes: The Grove ran afoul of rules."*
COLUMBIA, Mo. • Columbia bartenders and store clerks who sell alcohol have to complete a training course and obtain certification required under a new city ordinance.

The Columbia health department is issuing new server photo IDs under the ordinance approved by the Columbia City Council last November. The measure requires every liquor store clerk, grocery store checker, bartender and waiter in Columbia to complete the online training by Jan. 1.

The city says it's issued about 400 certificates and expects many more people to take the course in the coming weeks.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the University of Missouri's Wellness Resource Center oversees the online training course.

Kim Dude, director of the wellness center, says the course takes about an hour and needs to be completed with 100 percent accuracy.
Missionaries minister to international students at Christian Campus House

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CST

BY MARCIE VEIT

COLUMBIA — Baking chocolate zucchini muffins is bewildering to Amy Sun, an MU international student from China. In the Christian Campus House kitchen, Linda Messimer is happy to teach her how to mix the ingredients and spoon the batter into muffin cups.

Sun carefully measures the chocolate chips, cocoa powder, flour, sugar, eggs and shredded zucchini into a bowl. After stirring, she uses an ice cream scoop to fill the 24-cup pan.

Sun slides the muffin tin into the oven and her work is done — until the muffins are ready in 15 minutes.

"I love baking," Sun said. "Chinese baking is different from American baking, so sometimes I mess up."

Christian Campus House sells muffins and other baked treats to raise money for mission trips. The fundraiser also serves as a baking lesson for students such as Sun, who are unaccustomed to the muffins, cupcakes and cookies common in America.

Linda Messimer, 65, and her husband, Dennis, 69, are part of a team that ministers to international students at the Christian Campus House on College Avenue.

In addition to baking, the Messimers help students with driving lessons, conversational English, Bible studies and trips to the doctor. They repair bicycles for transportation around town, and they invite students to a monthly home-cooked meal.

"They offer everything to every international student without asking what they believe," said Lance Tamerius, director of the Christian Campus House.
Because the Messimers are retired Christian missionaries who spent 38 years abroad, they understand how difficult it can be for international students to adjust to an unfamiliar place.

"Living overseas for 38 years, we are no longer typical Americans. We enjoy being with people from other countries," Dennis Messimer said.

International enrollment at MU has been on the rise for the last 10 years, according to data from the MU International Center.

The Institute of International Education reported this month that Missouri ranks 12th in the nation in the number of international students enrolled on state campuses.

MU leads the list with 2,490 students. More than one-third of the 17,300 international students in the state are from China.

The increasing number of international students at MU has intensified the efforts of international ministers at the Christian Campus House, including the Messimers. They serve as stand-in parents or grandparents for them. Students even call them "Grandma" and "Grandpa."

"They are missing family back home," said David Sowers, another minister to international students at the Christian Campus House. "To be a part of a family here is a helpful thing."

Story continues:  http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/167658/missionaries-minister-to-international-students-at-christian-campus-house/