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THE KANSAS CITY STAR **AP** Associated Press
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Region's colleges look out of state for students, more tuition money

Universities such as MU are importing more students, and more tuition money.

By *MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS*



A growing number of out-of-state students, including junior journalism major Julie Fine of Antioch, Ill., are enrolling at the University of Missouri.

Before Chicago native Julie Fine visited the University of Missouri campus, she had no idea where Columbia was, or what she would find there.

“I pictured tumbleweeds and Dorothy,” she said.

But she came, she saw, she enrolled. Now the junior majoring in journalism leads campus tours for new students — and more and more of them, like her, are from out of state.

About 35 percent of MU's freshmen this fall are coming from outside Missouri, more than double the 17 percent of 10 years ago. And this year, for the first time, MU received more applications from out of state than in Missouri.

With state governments cutting higher education funding, and tuition making up an ever-larger part of schools' budgets, universities across the country are trolling for out-of-state students.

"It's a national trend," said Mike Reilly, executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

And, as so often is the case, it's a trend fueled by money.

Twenty years ago, tuition was a quarter of MU's operating funds. Today, it accounts for 60 percent.

Nonresident students typically pay twice as much as residents, or more. Tuition at MU for a Missouri resident taking 14 credit hours is \$9,272 a year. For an out-of-state or international student, it's \$22,440.

"It helps us balance our budget," said Vice Provost Ann Korschgen. "If we had not brought in more out-of-state students, maybe we would be laying off people.

"It's extra millions of dollars. Huge."

MU's 10,634 out-of-state applications this year are up 2,300 from the year before, Korschgen said.

Overall, out-of-staters now make up 30 percent of MU's student body. University leaders expect that percentage to keep rising.

But, Korschgen said, MU will have room for all Missourians who want to attend.

"We don't turn away anyone who meets Mizzou's admissions standards, not in state or out of state," she said. "We don't have a waiting list for admission, and we don't have a cap on it, either."

At least one state has been talking about a cap. In California, lawmakers have proposed limiting nonresident enrollment to 10 percent to ensure room for residents.

Last fall, out-of-state students, including international students, made up 23 percent of the freshman class on the University of California's 10 campuses.

Again, the financial motivation is strong: Out-of-state tuition in California is nearly triple in-state tuition, and California schools have struggled more than most to make ends meet.

At the same time, with tuitions at the state's public universities tripling in the last decade, thousands of California students have gone elsewhere in search of lower college costs. In 2007, 22 percent of the state's high school graduates enrolled in the University of California system or California State University. By 2010, the number had slipped to 18 percent, The Associated Press reported earlier this year.

Thousands of them are slipping across the border to the University of Oregon, which last year had 4,500 students from California. Overall, the university has seen its out-of-state enrollment jump from 5,828 in 2001 to 10,555 last year, and the out-of-state percentage of the student body grew to 43 percent.

California is one of MU's primary targets, too, along with Texas, Colorado and Minnesota. But MU is making its strongest play in Illinois, where three of its seven full-time out-of-state recruiters work, two of them in Chicago.

"The Mizzou name is exploding in Chicago," said Derek Kessen, president of MU's Chicago Alumni Association. "I see an MU logo somewhere or on someone every day here."

Chicago pub owner Mike Janusch has watched the clientele bellying up to his bar, Sedgwick's, tilt more and more toward MU. On most football game days, fans wearing black and gold pack the place, sometimes 300 strong, to raise their mugs for Tiger touchdowns.

MU got 6,200 applications from Illinois this year, almost two-thirds as many as it got from Missouri residents.

At other schools, too

Other schools in Missouri and Kansas are boosting out-of-state enrollment, too.

According to the Kansas Board of Regents, enrollment of in-state students at the state's six public universities declined by 1.7 percent from 2005 to 2010. At the same time, out-of-state students increased by more than 25 percent.

As at MU, nonresident applications to the University of Kansas exceeded resident applications this year.

"Out-of-state applications are up everywhere over the last three or four years," said Matt Melvin, KU vice provost for enrollment management. "Applying online makes it easier for students to apply to six, sometimes a dozen, different schools."

Melvin said that while most KU students hail from Kansas, the university is busy recruiting internationally and out of state. In 2010, non-Kansas residents made up 25 percent of KU's freshman class.

Out-of-state interest in Kansas State University also has been growing.

“We have experienced record applications and enrollment from out-of-state students for the last six years,” said Pat Bosco, vice president for student life and the dean of students at K-State. He said K-State has increased its international undergraduate enrollment from 200 to about 600 over that time.

Those students, he said, must show that they can pay full price and remain financially independent while attending K-State before they are admitted.

Across the state line in Missouri, 27 percent of freshmen at public and private colleges last year came from other states.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City has seen a 12.6 percent increase this year in applications from out-of-state students, not including those students from nearby Kansas counties.

UMKC’s Border Schmorder program allows students from 11 Kansas counties, including Johnson and Wyandotte, to pay in-state tuition, so they don’t count in the out-of-state numbers.

Over the last 10 years, UMKC’s student body has gone from 14 percent out of state and international to 33 percent.

But UMKC isn’t recruiting out of state as hard as some other schools, university officials said. Instead, it’s relying more on its recent high ranking for its Bloch School of Business, and the interest that the school and its Conservatory of Music and Dance are getting around the country to pull in more students, said Jennifer DeHaemers, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment management.

The school, though, is doing some recruiting in the usual hot spots: Texas and Illinois, China and the Middle East.

‘Like an arms race’

Beyond money, there’s this: Kansas and Missouri just aren’t generating as many bodies for their universities’ student bodies.

Graduating classes in Kansas and Missouri are shrinking, according to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. The commission predicted several years ago that 2009 would produce the largest graduating class in this region and after that, the class size would decline by about 5 percent each year until 2015.

KU has started prospecting in California, Tennessee and Kentucky, Melvin said.

“There is only a finite amount of people in Kansas, so it is incumbent on us to start looking to where we can get the maximum penetration” to reach the college-ready population in surrounding states, he said. “We call it enlarging our enrollment zone. It’s like an arms race.”

Out-of-state recruiting offers another benefit, administrators say: Some out-of-state students stay after graduation, raising families and starting businesses.

The hope, K-State's Bosco said, is that those transplants will help counter the brain drain that occurs when Kansas and Missouri students leave the state.

At MU, about a third of out-of-state students become Missouri residents, Korschgen said, and "about 30 percent of those ... will then stay in the state, so we are importing intellectual capital."

For her part, Fine, the junior from Chicago, has decided she's not ready to leave Missouri when she graduates.

"I'm going for my master's degree at Mizzou," she said.

She's not sure where a job hunt might take her, but "I'm definitely not opposed to staying here in Missouri. I love it here."

Plagiarism charge prompts investigation of MU researchers

By Zachary Matson

August 13, 2012 | 8:08 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The American Journal of the Medical Sciences last week retracted an article written by **two doctors at the MU School of Medicine, saying they had plagiarized parts of a 2006 article published in a separate journal.**

The article was co-written by Amar Jadhav and Anand Chockalingam of the School of Medicine and by a third researcher, Apeksha Ingole, who is affiliated with a medical school in India. The article, “Ventricular Ectopic Beats: An Overview of Management Considerations,” was published in the February issue of the journal.

According to the retraction notice published last Thursday, the article “plagiarized significant aspects of an article published” in the journal Heart. MU officials were first made aware of the allegations on July 2 by the medical sciences journal, Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau said.

On Aug. 3, MU assigned the investigation to an ad hoc inquiry committee, which is responsible for investigating the charges and determining whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant further investigation by the Standing Committee on Research Responsibility, Basi said. The month-long delay in initiating the investigation was the result of summer absences, Basi said. The two researchers will remain Missouri faculty members while the investigation progresses.

“Nothing has changed regarding their employment status,” Basi said.

Researchers found to have committed research misconduct such as plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination, Basi said. The retraction was first reported by the website Retraction Watch, which tracks article retractions in scientific journals.

The Missouriian was unable to reach Jadhav, Chockalingam or the American Journal of the Medical Sciences for comment.

'Young women place looks above health'

Maria Len-Rios, associate professor of strategic communication, Suzanne Burgoyne, professor of theater, and undergraduates from the University of Missouri (UM) studied how such women view their bodies and how they feel about ads aimed at women.

"During our focus group conversations, we learned that young people don't think about nutrition when it comes to eating," Len-Rios said. "They think more about calorie-counting, which is not necessarily related to a balanced diet."

The focus groups included college-age women, college-age men and mothers of college-age women, who discussed how body image is associated with engaging in restrictive diets, irregular sleep patterns and over-exercising, according to a Missouri statement.

"We receive so many conflicting media messages from news reports and advertising about how we should eat, how we should live and how we should look," Len-Rios said.

"Some participants said they realise images of models are digitally enhanced, but it doesn't necessarily keep them from wanting to achieve these unattainable figures - this is because they see how society rewards women for 'looking good'," added Len-Rios.

The researchers also completed in-depth interviews with nutritional counselors who said lack of time and unhealthy food environments can keep college-age students from getting good nutrition.

"Eating well takes time, and, according to health professionals, college students are overscheduled and don't have enough time to cook something properly or might not know how to prepare something healthful," Len-Rios said.

These findings were presented at the annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference in Chicago.



Grant will fund database for hospital inspection reports

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

A \$42,500 grant to the Center for Excellence in Health Care Journalism based at the University of Missouri aims to increase access to hospital inspection reports.

The center received the investigative-reporting grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, which last week awarded 23 grants totaling \$1.84 million to journalism organizations nationwide. The Center for Excellence in Health Care Journalism, located at MU's Reynolds Journalism Institute, is the not-for-profit organization that supports the Association of Health Care Journalists Inc.

Len Bruzzese, executive director of the center, said the grant will be used to develop a database and document archive of hospital inspection reports. Such reports are generated by hospital and health regulatory agencies, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"In this case, we're talking strictly CMS, when CMS is called in to investigate when complaints are filed" against hospitals, Bruzzese said. Those reports lead to an official "statement of deficiencies and plan of correction" that are supposed to be public but typically are not easily accessible, he said.

Bruzzese said the AHCJ has pressed regulators to put those reports online "so the public can understand where their hospitals stand regarding deficiencies." The inspection reports sometimes point to trends in deficiencies in patient care, infection control and other quality measures tracked by the inspecting agencies.

The Center for Excellence in Health Care Journalism's purpose is to ensure journalists are trained to cover news events, trends and issues in all aspects of health care journalism, including the business of health care, public policy, medical research, medical practice, consumer health issues, public health, health law and ethics.

Bob Ross, president and CEO of the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, said the center was among "high quality, innovative grantees" for the new award cycle.

MU rural-doctor program receives national recognition

By The Associated Press

August 13, 2012 | 8:08 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — An MU program that places doctors in rural areas is receiving national recognition.

The program of the medical school's Area Health Education Center was honored with a top award recently by the National Area Health Education Center Organization.

The medical school's Rural Track Pipeline Program guides undergraduates to rural settings for training during medical school and, ultimately, seeks to place them in rural practices.

The university says more than 450 medical students have participated in the program since its creation in 1995. Sixty-five percent of those who took part practice medicine in Missouri, nearly half of them in rural areas of the state.

Recession produces spike in entrepreneurship

By Kayla Kauffman

August 14, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Jeanie Nobis got laid off twice in five months — from the same job.

"I got laid off in August" 2008, she said. "... And then they called me back."

Nobis was rehired by the metal production company she'd worked at for the fall and holiday seasons. Then, in January 2009, she lost her job for good.

Her mother-in-law, Barbara Nobis, owns Grandma Barb's Pies. The two live next door to each other. While she was still employed, Jeanie Nobis liked to help her mother-in-law bake goods to be sold at local farmers markets.

"When I got laid off, we decided that I could go to Hannibal to try and make a little bit of money," she said. "It all started going from there."

Jeanie Nobis now owns her own business, C & J Baked Goods, with her 16-year-old daughter, Catie. The trio works together, baking six days a week for the two separate businesses, which they run out of Barbara Nobis' certified kitchen in Paris, Mo.

Selling pies won't make her a millionaire, but Jeanie Nobis' hobby-turned-business provides her with a steady income — and work she enjoys. Her husband, Cory Nobis, is a truck driver, and she says she needs the extra money.

"I make enough to get groceries," she said. "And to keep me from going back to a factory job."

Career paths such as Nobis' are becoming increasingly common, according to new research on rural entrepreneurship. **MU researchers Thomas Johnson and Maria Figueroa-Armijos matched data from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor survey and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics with locations nationwide and found that when the economy struggles, "necessity entrepreneurship" increases.**

In their resulting study, published this year in the Entrepreneurship Research Journal, Johnson and Figueroa-Armijos define "necessity entrepreneurship" as businesses that are begun because their creators need income. Between 2007 and 2010, a period of economic recession, those sorts of enterprises grew from 16 percent to 28 percent of all entrepreneurship in the United States.

"From economic stress, great ideas are born," Johnson concluded.

For Grant Ballard, starting a business wasn't just about money. It was a lifestyle improvement. "I needed the work," he said.

Ballard worked as a heavy machinery operator for a St. Louis-based union. The bad economy brought too many workers with the same skill set and not enough construction jobs to keep them all busy.

Ballard faced long stretches of time between jobs, and when there was work, it would require him to be away from his family. He usually traveled more than 100 miles for jobs.

"I have two kids. I wanted to be home and watch them grow up," he said. "I didn't want to be the dad on the phone."

Ballard also coaches three sports: football, baseball and archery. He couldn't be as involved if he lived on the road.

In starting his own business, Ballard was able to come home for good. He now owns Ballard Welding & Fabrication, a Columbia-based welding company.

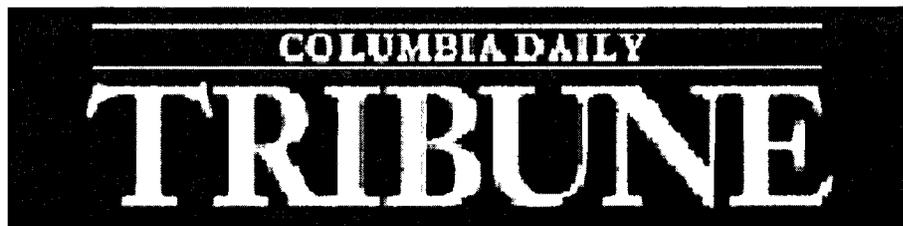
"A pretty good-sized shop went out of business in Columbia, so there was a considerable hole that needed to be filled," he said. "I already had most of the start-up tools, had some retirement and figured I would give it a go."

Ballard opened his doors Jan. 2. Business was slow in the spring, he said, but it gets better every day.

According to the researchers, necessity entrepreneurship needs more support. With a bit of help, entrepreneurs can do more than just improve their own incomes. When they succeed, they can create jobs for other people.

"These necessity entrepreneurs could create ... economic growth for long-term prosperity," Figueroa-Armijos said.

STORY CONTINUES.....



Despite GPS glitch, FastCAT hits streets

By Rudi Keller

With a few kinks left to work out, the FastCAT Express bus rolled out this morning to mixed reviews from the handful of riders who took advantage of the free introduction to the new route.

By 10 a.m., 34 riders had boarded the bus driven by Rick Huffman, who was on his first day driving solo for the Columbia Transit system. He said he is happy with his new job — he previously drove a school bus — and likes the route.

The route serves downtown, the University of Missouri and Boone Hospital Center. With two buses working the route, it is designed so no rider waits longer than 20 minutes at any point. It will run on weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 10 p.m., with later service until 2:30 a.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Weekend service will begin at 9:50 a.m. on Saturdays and noon on Sundays.

When the RouteShout locator program is working properly, a tablet beside the driver will indicate how well the route is doing keeping the 20-minute spacing between the buses, Huffman noted. "That will be nice," he said.

For Kyle Albrecht, who lives near Tenth and Cherry streets, the bus system is how he gets his groceries and medical care. With three heavy bags filled this morning, he was pleased to be able to get on the bus less than a block from home.

"As long as it goes up to Hitt and Cherry, I'm happy," he said.

The new route is the latest attempt to accommodate students by providing more convenient public transportation. It will run later than any other city route. But it meant eliminating the free downtown shuttle route, which one rider, who declined to be identified, said she had used to get to work at Boone Hospital Center from the Wabash Station in 10 minutes. Riding the FASTCAT route, she found that the ride might now take as long as 35 minutes.

Drew Brooks, director of the transit system, suggested that rider walk to Broadway and Hitt to catch the bus rather than wait at Walnut Street, where it must run the entire route to reach her destination.

"It is definitely not as easy as what she was doing before, but it is reasonable," he said.

The RouteShout system was supposed to allow riders to check on the location of the two buses so they could avoid waiting in bad weather. The data from the GPS transmitters were not finding their way through the AT&T connection to the software that reads them, said Steven Sapp, spokesman for the Public Works Department.

The system, when operating correctly, will be available online and through a telephone software application. "We are very hopeful we will have that feature available at the end of this week," Sapp said.

Overall, Brooks said he was happy with the first day and looks forward to fine-tuning the schedule. Although originally planned as service every 15 minutes, the initial schedule was set with more flexibility, he said.

"So far I haven't heard any major issues," Brooks said. "It sounds like it has been a relatively smooth rollout."