



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

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Total MU enrollment is down but freshman numbers are better than expected

By: Mara Rose Williams

Enrollment at the University of Missouri this year is still declining but the drop, especially with freshman, was not as deep as first projected.

The university on Wednesday released the official fourth-week census enrollment numbers for the 2017-2018 academic year. Universities wait to release official enrollment numbers until after the fourth week of school to account for drop-outs, no-shows and late transfers.

Total enrollment this year 30,870. The university had expected a lower number — just slightly more than 30,000. Last year at this time MU's enrollment was 32,777. The year before enrollment was nearly 35,000.

The new numbers showed 4,134 freshman enrolled this fall.

That's down from 4,799 freshmen last year, but it's up from the 4,009 expected based on preliminary numbers released in May.

University officials boast that while the overall numbers are down the Columbia campus logged "near-record retention rates," meaning students enrolled as freshman the previous year returned to attend a second year.

MU's retention rate was 87 percent—the second highest in university history.

"These numbers show that students and parents understand the inherent value of an MU degree," said MU's new Chancellor Alexander Cartwright.

"Our students are heavily recruited because people know that Mizzou students have a strong work ethic and infuse Midwestern values into everything they do."

MU is still struggling to recover from the blow it took to its reputation in the fall of 2015.

The university predicted a loss of enrollment and attributed it in part to 2015 student-led, racially charged protests, which led to the toppling of the university system president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus.

Both stepped away from their positions after football players threatened not to play a game and [a student languished on a seven-day hunger strike](#). Students and faculty called for their resignations because of how claims of systemic racism on the campus were handled.

Since then the university has stepped up recruitment and put millions into advertising. [Last month MU launched a program](#) offering a free or significantly subsidized education to students who qualify for a federal Pell Grant based on financial need.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri official enrollment figures show expected decline

By: Rudi Keller

The University of Missouri, by a scant four students, maintained its position this year as the public four-year school that attracts the most new freshmen from within the state.

MU enrolled 2,754 new freshmen who reside in the state, compared to 2,750 for Missouri State University in Springfield. The enrollment report comes a week after MU's claim to be the No. 1 choice of Missouri high school seniors was called into question by the data from ACT tests taken in the spring of 2016.

It is a position MU is not willing to give up without a struggle.

"We do have a very aggressive recruiting campaign and we are working very diligently to make sure prospective students and their parents understand the opportunities that await them at the university," MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Missouri State is not making any secret of the fact that it wants to overtake MU.

"I think if people look closely at a number of factors, not the least of which is cost of attendance, I think we stack up very well," said Don Simpson, associate vice president for enrollment management and services at Missouri State.

Overall, enrollment at MU continued the decline that began a year after campus protests ended with the November 2015 departure of then-President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. Total enrollment is 30,870, the lowest since 2008 and down 12.9 percent from the record set in 2015.

Wednesday was the day for recording official enrollment numbers for the fall semester at Missouri colleges and universities. MU did slightly better attracting new freshmen than anticipated in the spring but the total, 4,134, is down 546 from fall 2016 and 2,060 fewer than in 2015.

An MU news release on the figures emphasized high retention rates — the second highest in school history at 87 percent — and an ACT average for the new class of 26, above the state average of 20 and national average of 21.

“These numbers show that students and parents understand the inherent value of an MU degree,” MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said.

The high retention rates and test scores are good indicators that students are successful at MU, Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies and eLearning, said in the release.

“Student success is a priority, and our students are benefitting from our efforts to improve retention,” Spain said.

The enrollment decline is evident at every class level across the university except for seniors. There are 972 fewer sophomores on the MU campus than last year, 402 fewer juniors and 315 fewer graduate and professional students. One of the largest declines was in international enrollments, which fell 12.1 percent from 2016.

MU’s campus is slightly more diverse this year, with minority students making up 16.1 percent of the total, up from 15.6 percent in fall 2016. The total number of minority students on campus declined but not as much as enrollment overall.

It took the university almost two years, after the selection of new President Mun Choi, before it acknowledged the decline was due in large part to the reputation hit from the protests and their aftermath. Choi and new Chancellor Alexander Cartwright have announced steps to make the university more attractive — access to cheaper textbooks and a new financial aid program to help Missouri residents eligible for Pell grants afford MU — that they hope will reverse the decline.

The enrollment figures released by Missouri State show it will remain the second-largest campus in the state, with 24,350 students on its Springfield campus and 26,216 overall, up 216 over 2015.

Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla was the only other University of Missouri System campus to provide enrollment figures on Wednesday. The campus reported modest enrollment growth of 0.6 percent, to 8,884, with a drop in first-time freshmen of 56 offset by an increase of 68 in graduate enrollment.

MISSOURIAN



MU's Freshman Enrollment Continues Decline, But More Than Expected Arrived on Campus

By CAMERON R. FLATT & COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

More freshmen than expected arrived at MU this year, but overall numbers were still lower than last year's freshman class.

In 2017, 4,134 freshmen were enrolled, for a total of 30,870, [according to official numbers released Wednesday by MU](#).

These numbers are higher than the 4,009 freshmen and 30,400 total MU [estimated in May](#), but they are below [the 2016 numbers of 5,995 freshmen and 33,266 total students](#).

This year, MU has its lowest total enrollment since 2008, data on the university website showed.

However, MU has “more first-year students, including more Missourians, than any other university in the state,” according an MU news release.

Enrollment matters because tuition and fees comprise one of two main ways MU generates revenue. The other is state funding, which continues its long-term decline.

This fall, 2,754 first-time college students from Missouri and 22,160 total Missourian residents are on campus, MU spokesman Christian Basi said in an email.

MU's 2017 retention rate — how many freshmen return for their second year — is the second highest ever — at 87 percent, according to the release.

Marshall Stewart, MU's vice chancellor for extension and engagement, has described the University of Missouri System's new recruitment strategy for freshmen as a "["Missouri first" attitude](#)". UM System President Mun Choi has placed similar emphasis on state students, with a call for improved affordability and access for Missouri residents.

At a July retreat of the UM System Board of Curators, Pelema Morrice, MU vice provost for enrollment management, cited Missouri's low college-age population as one key reason for low enrollment. He said growth will have to come from aggressive recruiting or retention of current students.

This has included doubling the visits to high schools as well as calling potential students six months earlier than before. Stewart has noted [the importance of MU Extension offices](#), saying they expand the university's influence in both rural and urban areas.

Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies and eLearning, said this year's enrollment numbers are a positive sign.

"This tells me that the University of Missouri is attracting the state's best and brightest," he said in the news release.



[President of University of Missouri Visits Southwest Missouri, Discusses Possible Partnership with Crowder College](#)

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=60bae17d-f225-401b-a64f-0fd785e10b12>

JOPLIN, Mo. - The president of the University of Missouri visits Joplin today in hopes to partner with Crowder and the Advance Training and Technology Center.

President Mun Choi took a tour of the technology center.

He and university administration are looking into the possibility of partnering with Crowder College to train students in advanced manufacturing.

MU's enrollment has been down for the past three years and the president is looking for new and innovative ways to better the system's educational opportunities.

"We provide an outstanding research-inspired education that helps students participate in experiential learning, and provides an opportunity for students to become professionally developed by the time they graduate." said MU President Mun Choi.

President Choi also visited Crowder College today.

He will be going to Mount Vernon and Springfield later this week.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Wildwood Student Awarded Scholarships at the University of Missouri

Generated from News Bureau press release

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Emily Wescott, Wildwood, Missouri, received the John A. and Elizabeth K. Epple Scholarship and the Campbell-Harrison Scholarship. The John A. and Elizabeth K. Epple Scholarship is awarded to students with strong academic merit. **The Campbell-Harrison Award is reserved for students enrolled in the College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Missouri.**

Wescott is a 2017 graduate of Lafayette High School. She currently is a first-year student at MU studying nutritional sciences; due to AP credits she earned in high school, she is a sophomore. Her parents are Ron and Jeanine Wescott.

Mizzou is one of 20 public universities to be named a “Best Buy” school in the 2018 “Fiske Guide to Colleges.” Based on quality of teaching, research and scholarship, Mizzou is one of only 34 public universities invited to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities.



Minorities more likely to be disciplined in school, says MU professor

Generated from News Bureau expert pitch

By: Daniel Litwin

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/minorities-more-likely-to-be-disciplined-in-school-says-mu-professor>

COLUMBIA – Colleges and universities are probably discriminating against minority students in their enforcement of Title IX policies and other disciplinary processes, says one MU professor.

MU associate law professor Ben Trachtenberg is releasing a new article early next year in the Nevada Law Journal that he hopes brings to light a data issue with higher education.

“It’s been discovered and observed for years and years and years that black students are disproportionately likely to be suspended or expelled from public schools,” Trachtenberg said.

Unfortunately, this data doesn’t exist at the University of Missouri.

“I realized that we don’t have any numbers like that at the University of Missouri, and that’s not because Mizzou is unusual.” Trachtenberg said.

Trachtenberg found higher education across the country doesn't compile disciplinary data based on race or ethnicity at all, and he said there are several factors at play.

"I think for a lot of universities it simply didn't occur to anyone to keep [the data]. At some other universities, folks might be afraid of being embarrassed, because no one wants to collect data that shows they're treating people differently on the basis of race," Trachtenberg said.



[MU to pursue a 100 percent tobacco free campus](#)

By: Car'Nese Turner

Generated from MU health release

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-to-pursue-a-100-percent-tobacco-free-campus>

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri has received a grant from the American Cancer Society and CVS Health Foundation to advocate for, adopt and implement a 100 percent tobacco-free campus.

MU was selected as one of 126 colleges from around the country awarded this grant to work towards a tobacco-free campus policy.

The Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative is designed to reduce the number of people who get sick and die from tobacco-related diseases by reducing tobacco use among college students. The program will reduce access to and opportunities to use tobacco by increasing the number of universities and colleges that are 100 percent tobacco-free.

MU student, Sydney Schack said the policy will be good for the University.

"I definitely think that anything the school can do to promote a healthier lifestyle and make us all better people in general, just healthier more ready to face the world is definitely a good thing."

The American Cancer Society will also provide technical assistance and other resources, including education, communications, support to quit smoking and evaluation.

Associate Director of the MU News Bureau, Liz McCune, said, "The grant funds will cover staff meeting time for policy reviews, smoking cessation resources to help people quit smoking, university signage and also the grant will help pay for communication related expenses."

A committee with stakeholders from MU has been formed to review best practices for implementing a tobacco-free campus policy.

MU Health Care will also be using this opportunity to review its current tobacco-free campus policy by forming a separate subcommittee.

The U.S. Department of Education reports there are approximately 4,700 U.S. colleges and universities, only 1,611 campuses are 100-percent smoke- and tobacco-free, according to an Americans for Nonsmokers Rights analysis.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[Gordo: Mizzou's Sterk undaunted by life in the SEC](#)

By: Jeff Gordon

Athletic success in the Southeastern Conference was never going to come easily for the University of Missouri.

The SEC is great in everything. Its facilities are top-notch. Its athletic programs dominate the national Top 20 in annual revenue and budgets. Alabama's elephant mascot is appropriate.

Missouri has been playing catch-up since the old Big Eight days. Even if everything broke right for its sports teams, the university would find life in the SEC demanding.

And many things broke wrong during the last two years.

The revenue-driving football and basketball programs crumbled simultaneously. A campus protest ran amok, putting the school in a terrible light nationally. The university's dysfunctional administration underwent a top-down overhaul.

Athletics director Jim Sterk was hired during that extreme makeover last August and embraced the challenge. So far he hasn't flinched.

"We have momentum," Sterk insisted during a Wednesday visit to the Post-Dispatch offices. "For me, I think, yeah, the SEC is tough. Some (rival school) budgets are \$50 million larger than ours. But I think we have an opportunity to grow in donors, season ticket holders."

Although Missouri sank to the conference cellar in football and men's basketball last season, Sterk takes pride in overall department success. Volleyball has remained terrific under Kreklow family leadership, winning one SEC conference title and sharing another.

Ehren Earleywine built a softball juggernaut and survived program turbulence. Robin Pingeton has elevated the women's basketball program to national caliber. Missouri wrestling is a powerhouse, too.

"For us, to have last year 16 of 20 (teams) go postseason ... and it wasn't football, (men's) basketball or baseball," Sterk said. "So we have that opportunity to really make headway in the future here. For each of our programs, our goal is to be in the Top 25."

It all starts with football. Officials underscored that point while trumpeting the ambitious south end zone project at Memorial Stadium.

A new football training facility, locker room, offices and premium seating will rise after this season. Raising the necessary funds was a huge accomplishment under the circumstances.

"We had 42 people that pledged over \$50 million towards that project," Sterk said. "For me, it was really heartening to sit with those alums or friends of the institution that were willing to give of their talents and resources to be able to move that forward. They believed in the place."

But the football program is testing that belief. Coach Gary Pinkel's tenure ended awkwardly, at best, amid his team's support for the campus protest. Successor Barry Odom has won just five of 15 games, finishing 4-8 last season and starting 1-2 this year.

Last Saturday's dispiriting 35-3 loss to Purdue at home represented a new low point. Sterk didn't sugarcoat the fiasco, but for the record he refused to write off the season.

"We have nine games left. It's important for us to focus on each of those games and move forward," Sterk said. "(I'm) disappointed from the standpoint of we had momentum at the end of last year, two out of three, beating a couple of bowl teams down the stretch and having 10 of 11 offensive starters back.

"For us to be successful, we've got to score points. From the first three weeks, we need a big jump in the rest of the nine games."

Sterk hopes Odom can inspire that leap toward the high side of .500. Barry is a Mizzou guy and 1,000-percent committed to succeeding there.

If the Tigers don't rise up, though, Sterk must decide the next step. Earlier this year he ended basketball coach Kim Anderson's futile three-run tenure and made a brilliant hire in Cuonzo Martin.

By securing the Porter Family Package, Martin fast-forwarded his rebuild. Missouri will have an NCAA Tournament-caliber squad for this coming season. With the 2018 SEC basketball tournament scheduled for Scottrade Center next spring, Martin's team-building should also improve Mizzou's flagging profile in St. Louis.

Increased basketball revenue will offset some of this season's football losses and help Sterk keep things moving forward under tough circumstances.

Budget dollars are tight. School enrollment is down, forcing campus-wide cutbacks. Political pressures on the school are considerable. Sterk's challenge is to keep building a better sports operation while the larger university regroups under new leadership.

"It's good — it's very good — the momentum we have in basketball," he said. "I think it does help a lot of areas. It helps our alums, our fans and overall with the university."

Not only must Mizzou teams fight to remain competitive in the SEC, they must help energize the campus and sell would-be students. The athletic department has embarked on outreach initiatives across the state, including some through the extension department.

Then there is the television exposure through sports. "We're on the SEC Network, at a minimum, and that is 73 million households that it goes to," Sterk said. "We can do that."

Of course, weeping fans and empty seats don't do much to promote the school, so his heavy lifting has just begun.

T COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

Symposium offers deep dive into Dinnerstein's work

By: Aarik Danielsen

It is, of course, common to hear artworks referred to as "conversation pieces." But the most significant works don't simply begin conversations. They beget more conversations.

More than 40 years after its creation, [Simon Dinnerstein's](#) "The Fulbright Triptych" continues to create dialogue. Exceptional both in detail and intimacy, this unorthodox family portrait has inspired writers and academics to spill gallons of ink.

The conversation will continue this weekend at the University of Missouri, with a symposium that will honor, and dive deep into, Dinnerstein's work.

The piece, along with other artifacts from Dinnerstein's artistic practice, currently hang in the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology. An inspired feature of the show is the presence of comments from MU faculty across multiple disciplines.

Many of those thinkers and teachers will be represented at "Perspectives on the Lasting World," taking place Friday and Saturday.

Friday evening's program will feature remarks by Melissa Wolfe from the St. Louis Art Museum. Then, Dinnerstein himself will introduce the 1992 film "[The Quince Tree Sun](#)," a documentary exploring the approach of artist Antonio Lopez Garcia.

Saturday, a multi-faceted program will include lectures by professors from MU and Saint Louis University, in disciplines and specialties ranging from painting and drawing to art history and theology.

Get a head-start on the conversation and see Dinnerstein's work for yourself Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

"Perspectives on the Lasting World" will take place in 101 Swallow Hall. Admission is free. Learn more about the symposium at maa.missouri.edu.

MISSOURIAN

FACT CHECK: It's too early to say the governor can take credit for job growth

By: Tateanna McCaskill and Riley Newton

Republican Gov. Eric Greitens has been pushing job growth since his 2016 campaign.

In a Facebook live video on Aug. 23, Greitens said there has already been substantial improvement since he took office in January.

"Since we took office, we have been outpacing the nation in job growth," he said.

Is Missouri really "outpacing the nation" in jobs? We wanted to find out.

By the numbers

The number of jobs added from January through July 2017 increased by 0.9 percent over the same period in 2016.

Greitens compared Missouri to the national average job growth over the same time, which was 0.8 percent.

Between January and February of 2017, Missouri job growth increased by 0.0012 percent whereas national job growth increased by 0.0016 percent. However, Missouri experienced a 0.005 drop in jobs between February and March. Greiten's Press Secretary Parker Briden claims that the governor has created more than 35,000 jobs since then.

"Since March, we have created 37,200 jobs, while the United States as a whole has created 792,000," Briden said. "Thus, in that time we account for approximately 4.7 percent of total job creation in the country, performing far better than the national average."

The standard metric for tracking job growth at the national and state level is the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics survey.

As far as numbers go, Greitens has a point. But can he take credit for the job spike?

In 2016, Missouri experienced a 0.2 percent hike in job growth. The same upward trend goes for 2014 and 2015, where jobs grew by 0.5 percent in the first seven months of each year. So, jobs had been added at a decent clip before Greitens took office, though not as much as this year.

BLS' data shows the state of Missouri at a steady increase in job growth over the past five years.

"Most economists would say that it's highly unlikely anything he did in the first eight months of office is the reason for this job growth," said Peter Mueser, an economics professor at the University of Missouri's Truman School of Public Affairs.

Mueser even went on to say that most of the time, governors don't have enough control to cause employment growth or decline.

“Lots of things contribute to the economic growth that the governor doesn't have control of,” he said. “Over time, population increases and every so often it's easier to claim that employment grows because of the population growth.”

Bills for businesses

Greitens' major initiatives on the economy or workforce have either not yet taken effect or only recently became law.

In January, Greitens signed SB 19, a “right-to-work” bill that allows workers to opt out of joining a union. Greitens pledged to pass this bill while on the campaign trail and signed the bill in an abandoned warehouse in Springfield.

The bill was supposed to take effect on Aug. 28. However, after more than 300,000 petitions (more than triple what is required to put a bill on the ballot) were submitted, “right to work” will instead be moved to the Nov. 28 ballot for the public to decide.

Another bill the governor has signed but only recently went into effect is HB 130, which requires transportation network companies, such as Uber and Lyft to pay a one-time \$5,000 licensing fee and conduct driver background checks and vehicle inspections. Pacific Republican Kirk Mathews sponsored the bill and says regulations will keep transportation network company drivers in Missouri. The bill is expected to create up to 10,000 new driver jobs in the state but was five days away from becoming law when Greitens made his statement.

Greitens also signed SB 43, which will make it tougher for fired workers to prove employment discrimination. The governor, who signed the bill in June, said the new law will “prevent trial lawyers from killing good jobs.”

Our ruling

Greitens said, “Since we took office, we have been outpacing the nation in job growth.”

Missouri did outpace the national average in job growth from January to June in 2017.

However, Missouri's jobs have been on a steady uphill climb since 2014, long before Greitens took office. And although Greitens has passed multiple laws affecting employment and businesses, these bills did not go into effect until Aug. 28. So there is no evidence that the continued job growth in Missouri is because of his management.

Even Greitens' press secretary didn't provide information on how exactly Greitens has increased job growth except employment numbers. When asked for further examples on how the governor has created 37,200 jobs, Briden did not return request for comment.