

MISSOURI SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 • REPORT



DR. DEAN VAN GALEN

PRESIDENT

OFF TO A ROARING START

Thanks to the commitment of our staff, faculty, and community partners, we provided an especially welcoming and energetic environment for new and returning students as we began a new academic year. There was strong attendance at the orientation and opening semester events as we further build a culture of vibrancy and student success.



New Student Convocation



Spirit Tunnel



Community Day

CELEBRATING FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

The eight outstanding faculty members approved in June by the Board of Governors for tenure or promotion were recognized on August 24 at a ceremony at the University Mansion. The Board was represented by Chair Governor Oplotnik, Governor Rosenberg (Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee), and Alison Hershewe (past Board Chair and current member of the Academic Affairs Committee).



HEALTH SCIENCE INNOVATION CENTER MOVING FORWARD

Excellent progress is being made on the design and planning for our new Health Science Innovation Center. The facility will include immersive learning environments including a large simulation hospital, skills labs, anatomy and physiology labs, an expanded cadaver lab, research space, as well as a Welcome Center and conference space to support the entire campus. Envisioned to be located next to Billingsly to “complete” the Oval, this facility has the potential to enhance future enrollment and our distinctiveness as a university.

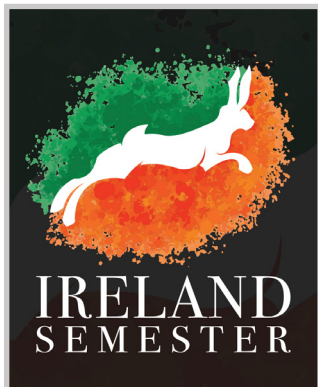
As part of the fiscal year 2024 state budget, an additional \$7.5 million was approved specifically for the Health Science Innovation Center, bringing dedicated state support to \$22.5 million for the facility. Good progress is being made to achieve the goal of \$15 million in matching funds, and at the August 17th Welcome Back meeting we announced a \$1 million gift from the **Steadley Trust**, formally the Kent D. & Mary L. Steadley Trust Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, dedicated to support the project.

The Health Science Innovation Center Steering Committee continues to work with Corner Greer and Associates on facility design, and soon updated concepts will be shared with campus stakeholders for additional input. Groundbreaking will be scheduled in early 2024 with a tentative completion date of early 2026



LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

As part of the Welcome Back meeting for our faculty and staff, I shared ten reasons for optimism and excitement as we look forward to the coming academic year—here they are:



Celebrate Ireland



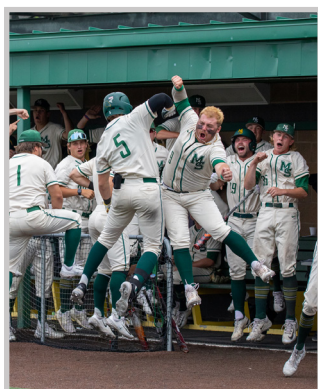
Increase Local to Global Partnerships



Create (Even More) Campus Vibrancy



Grow Graduate Programs



Lion Athletics - Build on a Historic Year



Health Science Innovation Center



Lions Forward Campaign Public Kickoff



Student Recruitment and Success



Implementing Our 2023-2024 Strategic Plan



Support & Celebrate Great People

DR. BRAD HODSON

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

NEW FACILITY SERVICES DIRECTOR



Jeff Boman, a veteran facilities manager, has joined Missouri Southern as the director of Facility Services. Since 2021, Jeff has been the physical plant director at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla. Prior to that, he worked in facilities management at Leggett & Plat for nineteen years and Ozark Christian College for fifteen years.

In his role at Missouri Southern leading Facility Services, Jeff will be responsible for 1.6 million square feet of interior space and a 400+ acre campus. Services under his leadership will be custodial, mechanical maintenance, grounds, trades, transportation, key control, and capital construction.

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PLAN



At the welcome back meeting held in mid-August, the university announced eight projects that will form the core of year one of a three-year facilities improvement plan. Largely funded through an allocation approved by the Board of Governors in June, the funds come from both the institution's operating budget (\$250,000), carry-forward funds (\$50,000), and a one-time grant of reserve funds (\$625,000).

The process by which these eight projects were selected from the many needs on campus included tours of MSSU facilities by faculty, staff, and administrative leaders, input sessions with faculty, staff, and students, and collaboration with the university's Facilities Planning Task Force. After a twelve-month process, the following projects were selected for FY 2024 in four categories:

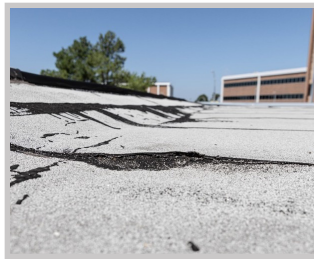
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INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES



1. **Reynolds 232:** Replace furnishings and floor in the tiered lecture hall.
2. **Reynolds 119:** Upgrade floor, ceiling, walls, and furnishings in the zoology lab.
3. **Art 105:** Upgrade ceiling, walls, lighting, and furnishings in the sculpture studio.
4. **Science Annex:** Prepare and market this structure for sale.

INFRASTRUCTURE



5. **Young Gym:** Complete replacement of the facility's roof.
6. **Billingsly Student Center:** Upgrade the floor, ceiling, walls, lighting, and fixtures in the bathrooms adjacent to the Connor Ballroom and the Board of Governors Room.

SAFETY AND SECURITY



7. **Access Control System:** Install electronic locks on the exterior doors of the university's most highly-trafficked buildings.

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WAYFINDING

8. Building, Wayfinding, and Monumental Signage: Install new signage across campus to assist visitors in identifying their destination.



NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

At its August meeting, the Missouri Southern Foundation board of directors welcomed five new members, who were elected in May. The foundation board is a thirty-eight (38) member external board with the fiduciary responsibility for managing \$46.3 million in total assets received from private donors. Directors are elected for three-year terms and are eligible to be re-elected twice. The new foundation board members for 2023 are:

Gary Aggus, Springfield, Mo.

Gary is a 1976 graduate of Missouri Southern with a degree in business administration. He retired in 2023 as the president/CEO of Hiland Dairy after 20 years leading and growing the company. He was named MSSU Outstanding Alumnus in 2009.

Richard Davidson, Jr., Neosho, Mo.

Richard Davidson Jr., an alumnus of the Plaster School of Business at Missouri Southern, earning his degree in economics and finance in 1992. He serves as the president and co-owner of the Marco Group, an educational furnishings manufacturer.

Nick Edwards, Joplin, Mo.

Nick Edwards graduated from Missouri Southern in 2007 with a degree in political science. With a strong passion for public service, Nick has been the Joplin city manager since 2020 and served our country in the United States Marine Corps.

Amy Ipsen, Joplin, Mo.

Amy Ipsen is a 2018 graduate of the MSSU Plaster School of Business with a degree in finance. She is a small business owner of La Boussole, a medical day spa and wellness center located in Joplin.

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Emily Stanley, Joplin, Mo.

Emily Stanley brings expertise in public relations and as a volunteer leader for both arts and educational causes. She has served in leadership roles for the Empire District Electric Company, Freeman Health System, and the United Way of Southwest Missouri & Southeast Kansas.



Gary Aggus



Richard Davidson, Jr.



Nick Edwards



Amy Ipsen



Emily Stanley

DR. LISA TOMS

PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, LIFE SCIENCE, AND EDUCATION



TEACHER EDUCATION hosted a variety of activities in their building to welcome back their students including Dr. Rice's Pancake Day! Teacher Education also provided donuts, snacks and cold drinks during the first week of school. Dr. Rice was also selected as the MSSU 2023-2024 Outstanding Advisor through student nominations.



The Missouri Southern State University **EMS DEPARTMENT** was happy to celebrate the graduation of the following students on July 27, 2023. From left to right: Jason Sides, Nathaniel Cook, Arin Katzer, Olivea Sutherland and Shyla Levens. All five students completed the Paramedic course requirements on July 25th, and we are happy to announce that all students successfully passed the NREMT Psychomotor and Cognitive Exams on the first attempt. This means 100% pass rate for 2022-2023. All five students have become licensed Paramedics in the last month and are working in area communities.



The 27th Children's Lifetime Sports Academy, hosted by the **KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**, was held in early June. 106 area youth participated in the 4-day camp, and participated in activities that included bowling, fishing, canoeing, tennis, pickleball, frisbee, golf, swimming and more. Kinesiology students were enrolled in two immersive learning courses to learn the planning and administration of a youth camp. Southwest Missouri Bank and OneJoplin provided funding for 10 camper scholarships. Partnerships with MO Department of Conservation and support from local businesses help make the camp the success it is.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, COMMUNICATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

KGCS-TV staff participated in 75th Anniversary Missouri Broadcasters Association convention and entered several student and staff projects in the award competition. We received three awards plus a certificate of merit.

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The award recipients were:

- **Brady Faauliuli** (student) won first place in the Commercial Announcement category) with her hype video for Homecoming
- **Lisa Olliges** (General Manager of KGCS-TV) won first place in the Feature Reporting category with a news/feature package she did for Send Silence Packing, the suicide related Behind the Backpacks display
- **Jazmine Knight**, a student, helped produce and host one of the segments of a newsmakers program on Black History Month which won first place in the Opinion/Commentary category.
- And a Newsmakers on Watered Gardens, a local charity which included an edited package on the Washington Hope Center for women and children, won a certificate of merit in the Documentary/Public Affairs category.



Thanks to our FY 2023 MoExcels grant, the following items and areas have been accomplished in the Communication/Digital Media area:

- Added professional cameras for Film, Documentary and Commercial Production
- Upgraded Broadcast Cameras for Studio B – 4k capable
- Networked storage for Art and Communication – Around 192 TB of storage
- Virtual Production system in Studio A (LED Wall, MoSys camera tracking, Unreal computer system)
- Greenscreen Wall in Studio B
- Computer running Unreal Engine and Aximmetry in Studio B for real-time 3d backgrounds
- Upgraded wireless comms



Other technology items have been purchased and will be installed soon.

Student award: **Simon Siebert** took the Microsoft Office Specialist: Excel Associate (Office 2019) exam as part of the Mgmt 237 class and received the top score in the State of Missouri! Because he was the top qualifier, he was invited to the 2023 Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship held this past summer in Orlando, Florida. He is the first MGMT 237 student who qualified for the National Competition and attended with our assistance (he received a \$1,000 scholarship/grant from the PSB to attend).

SHRM Club Merit Award: The MSSU student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management ("SHRM Club") learned on 8/30/23 that they have been selected as recipients of the Superior Merit Award from the national office. Though the official number of schools selected for this honor for 2022-2023 has not yet been announced, we can tell you that last year our chapter was the only student chapter in the entire state of Missouri to earn this distinction. Some of the other 50 or so schools on the list included Rutgers, Auburn, Colorado State, and Clemson. The award is given annually to recognize student chapters for offering superior programming and professional development opportunities.

Case for Women Competition: Megan Douglas and Sarah Holtzen co-authored a case selected as the second-place winner in the 2023 Case for Women Competition. Sponsored by Forté, Graduate Business Curriculum (GBC) Roundtable, and Emerald Publishing, “The aim of this global competition is to promote the development of high-quality teaching case material that positively represents the challenges and triumphs of real women in leadership positions.” The case has also been accepted for publication (with minor revisions) to The Case Journal and will be added to The Case for Women repository online.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Three **ENGLISH** majors have been involved in impressive internship programs over the last year. **Bethany Roberts** held a technical writing internship at EaglePicher and has been offered a permanent position there. **J.P. Rutledge** graduated in spring, and also completed a technical writing internship with EaglePicher this summer. JP worked on creating a Test Engineering Reference Manual for the test lab at EaglePicher’s Crossroads location. The manual will eventually be used at multiple of E-A’s sites. **Cassidy Hunter** was hired as a first-ever technical writing intern at Schuber-Mitchell Homes, a position she has held for almost a year. She has been involved in a number of increasingly more complex and integral projects.



Dr. Rebecca Mouser took three English majors to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario this summer where they met a graduate to take in world class theatre and educational behind the scenes tours.

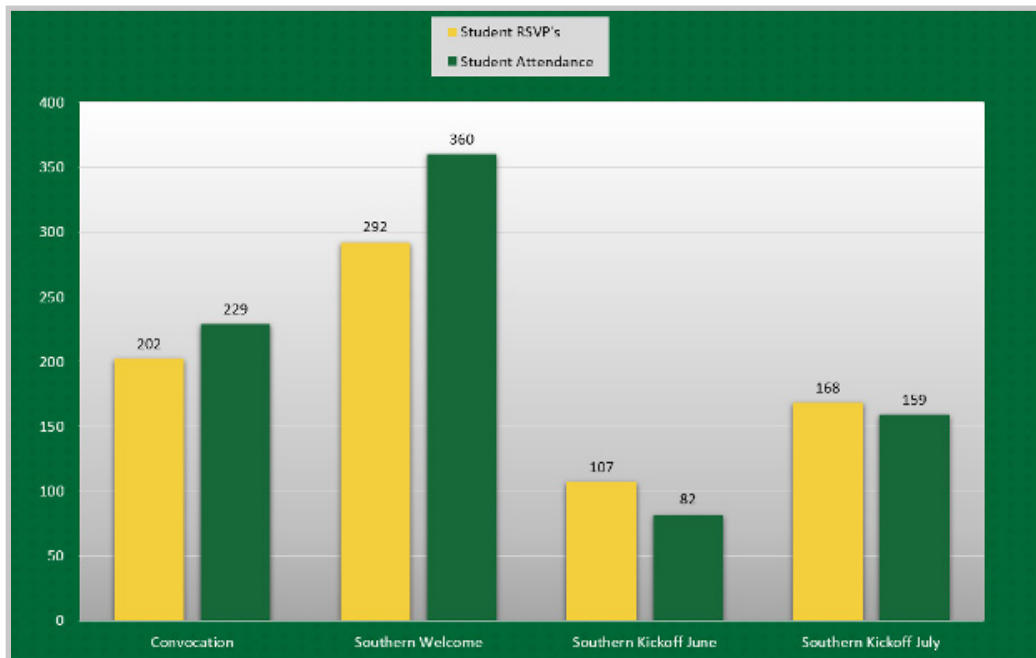
STUDY ABROAD 2023

- Biology and Environmental Health and Art and Design Departments studied Art and Anatomy in Italy with MKEAP students.
- Mr. Kyle McKenzie took Art and Design students to study the Artist and Conflict in Ireland. Their exhibit ran from August 14-30th and the artist talk attracted 80 audience members.
- MSSU’s crown jewel of study abroad trips, five-week, Summer in Scandinavia experience, began its 28th year in Hamburg, Germany on Thursday, May 25 and arrived at our partner institution, the Mallsjö Folkhögskola, in Sweden late Sunday, May 28 to study both black and white darkroom photography and the art history of Scandinavia by visiting cities in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. Led by Mr. Ed Outhouse, this group returned at the end of June.
- Becca Shriver and history students joined Kinesiology students and Professors Andrea Cullers and Stephanie Schiding on a study abroad experience in Barcelona.

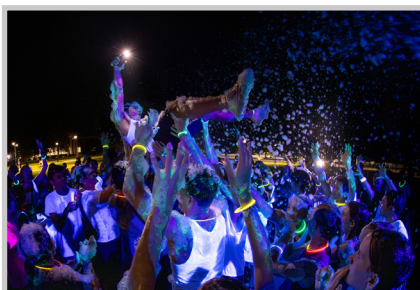
In August the department of **ART AND DESIGN** was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, for the exhibition of photography and works by New York City photographer Alen MacWeeney (originally from Ireland) and multi-disciplinary artist Pesya Altman (Originally from Israel) called “Finding Inspiration: Dublin Photographs & Paintings 1963/2020”. This exhibition runs from September 5 to October 11 and will be the second in the MSSU Spiva Gallery that supports the Ireland Themed Semester.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- The Global Leaders will be inducting 17 new students into the Program. This is the 3rd cohort. The Pinning Ceremony will take place on Thursday, September 28th @ 5:00 pm in the BSC Ballroom.
- First-Year Experience has had success engaging new students in several events. The chart below illustrates the attendance at different events.



- The back-to-school season has been increasingly exciting for the Student Activities office, where we have been seeing increased engagement compared to last year's attendance numbers for "Welcome Home" and Southern Welcome events! The attendance numbers have been:
 - Welcome Home Movie: **109**
 - FSL Toga Party : **75**
 - Glow Foam Party: **256**
 - Campus Craze: **317**
 - Big Prize BINGO: **225**
 - Welcome Home Picnic: **712**
 - Splash Bash: **123**
- Community Day was sold out, including 140 businesses and organizations coming to campus to connect with students and alumni related to internships, part-time jobs, full-time jobs, alongside promoting programs and services.



HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program took eighteen students to Ireland in May 2023 as part of the Literary Dublin class, which Dr. Howarth taught for the fourth time. The students spent the spring semester studying Irish literature and culture, then traveled to Dublin and Killarney for two weeks.

The Honors Program welcomed forty new students for the fall 2023 semester, its largest cohort since COVID-19 began.

For the second year in a row, the MSSU Honors Program won the Highest Student Engagement Award at the annual Suitable Pathways conference. The Honors Program had a 99% student engagement rate, the highest in the country. This award is a testament to the success of the Honors pathway, which is titled Honors PRIDE, and represents the main components of the MSSU Honors Program (Portfolio, Research, International Experience, Development, and Engagement).



LINDA EIS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

AUDIT FISCAL YEAR 2023

The audit is progressing along well. The auditors have done on-site fieldwork for both finance and compliance (student financial aid and federal grants). We continue to work through the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) new statement (GASB96) that addresses leases for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITA) as well as numerous year-end audit entries. Then we will move towards writing the narrative and producing the audited financial statements. We are on track to present the annual audit at the November 2023 Board meeting.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE



As mentioned previously, the Insurance Committee (IC) has been meeting and working through historical information and assessing rate and plan design options to provide a recommendation for calendar year 2024. The IC provided their recommendation to the President's Cabinet in August and it was approved. The information has been shared with employees in preparation for open enrollment scheduled for October 18 – October 31. The university and employees will see increased costs with a menu of three plans (traditional base plan; health savings plan and a new second health savings plan with higher deductibles and out of pocket expense but at lower monthly premium costs). We continue to offer a Wellness Incentive Plan (WIP) to employees that provides an opportunity to receive points for healthy body and mind, preventive care and fitness tracking. Employees who achieve 400 points receive a monthly \$25.00 wellness incentive.

POLICY ON POLICIES

A committee was formed to work on university policies and to provide a framework for the implementation, review, and maintenance of policies at the university. The "Policy on Policies" is this framework. It is a Board of Governor's policy that is a statement of the university's official position on specific organizational or operational matters that affect or apply to the entire campus community, including staff, faculty, administration, and students of all groups or departments.

SUPPORTING AND CELEBRATING OUR EMPLOYEES



As we kick off the new year, there are training and engagement opportunities for our team members. Some of the upcoming events include MOSO Connect presentations; Lunch & Learn and Southern Summit. We welcome our new hires with Quarterly Coffee; celebrate our colleagues with Pawsitively The Best and Service Champ Awards. And this fall the themed semester focuses on Ireland and offers a little something for everyone. One of the best engagement activities for faculty, staff and students occurred three weeks ago on August 18th. We welcomed students to campus with a spirit tunnel and pep rally. The energy, excitement and celebration of our students was energizing and uplifting and reminds us all of our “why”. It feels great to be on our way to a successful semester!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Presentation of the financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2023.

Lions **Forward**. Lions **Together**.



DR. SHELLIE HEWITT

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

FALL 2023 NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT



Census data will be available in mid-September, however, we are confident to share that we expect to see an increase in new and returning graduate students, and a significant jump in new transfer enrollment. Overall new student enrollment is anticipated to be up in Fall 2023 compared to Fall 2022. New students include first-time freshman, transfer, and graduate students.

FALL 2023 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

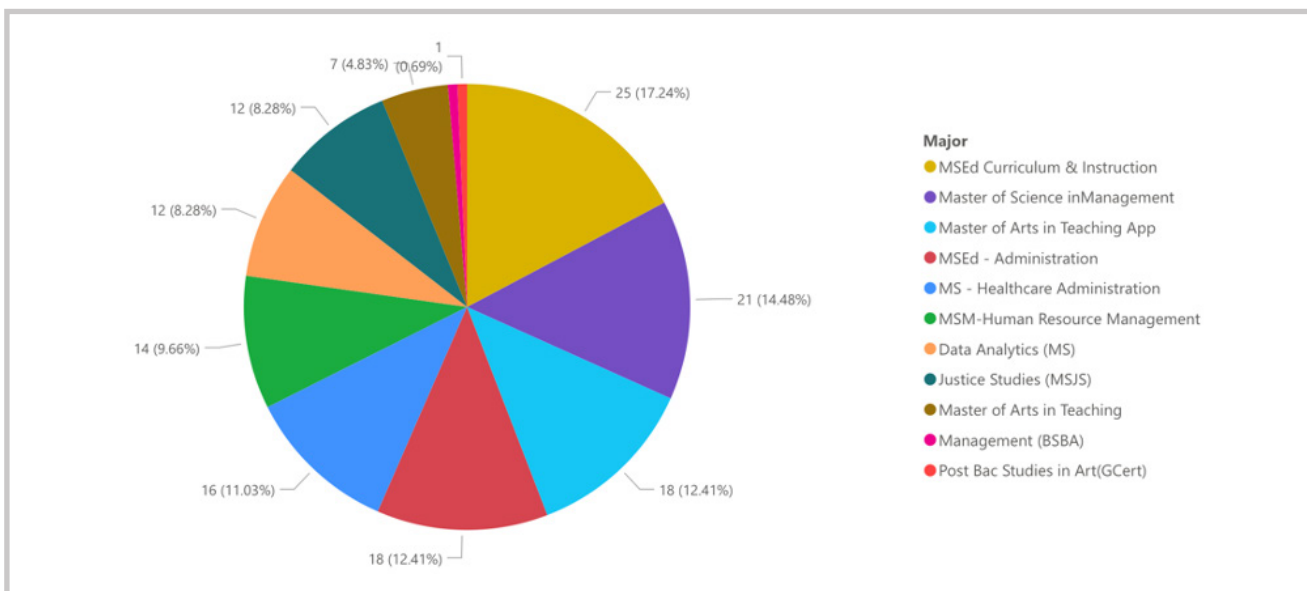


This fall Missouri Southern has seen an increase in overall international student enrollment. Moreover, the best news is that we have increased our new full-time degree-seeking student enrollment by 33 percent. Furthermore, our goal was to increase all new international student enrollment by 10 percent and we exceeded that goal and increased new international student enrollment by 14 percent.

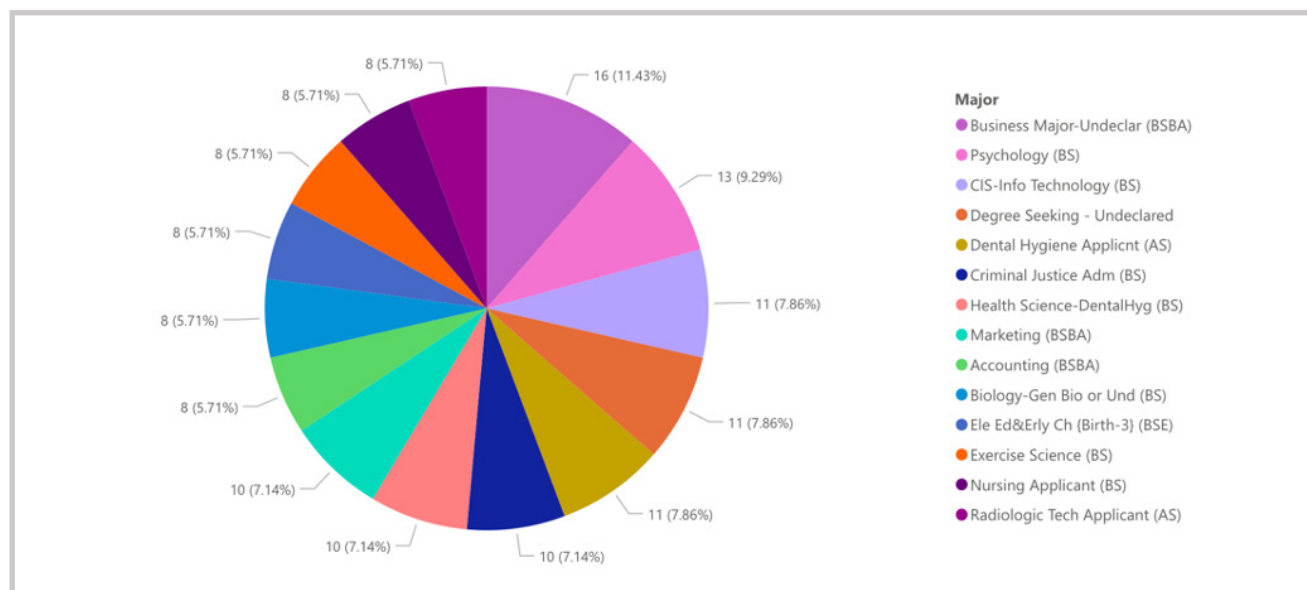
This fall our new international students hail from the following countries Nepal, Japan, Germany, South Korea, France, Cameroon, Ghana, India, Malaysia, Brazil, Mexico, Tunisia, Spain, Czech Republic, Bangladesh, France, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, and United Kingdom. Many of the students admitted for fall 2023 that were unable to get visa appointments in time to attend this semester, have already requested their applications be deferred to spring 2024. We are looking forward to an equally successful spring recruitment cycle.

FALL ENROLLMENT HIGHLIGHTS

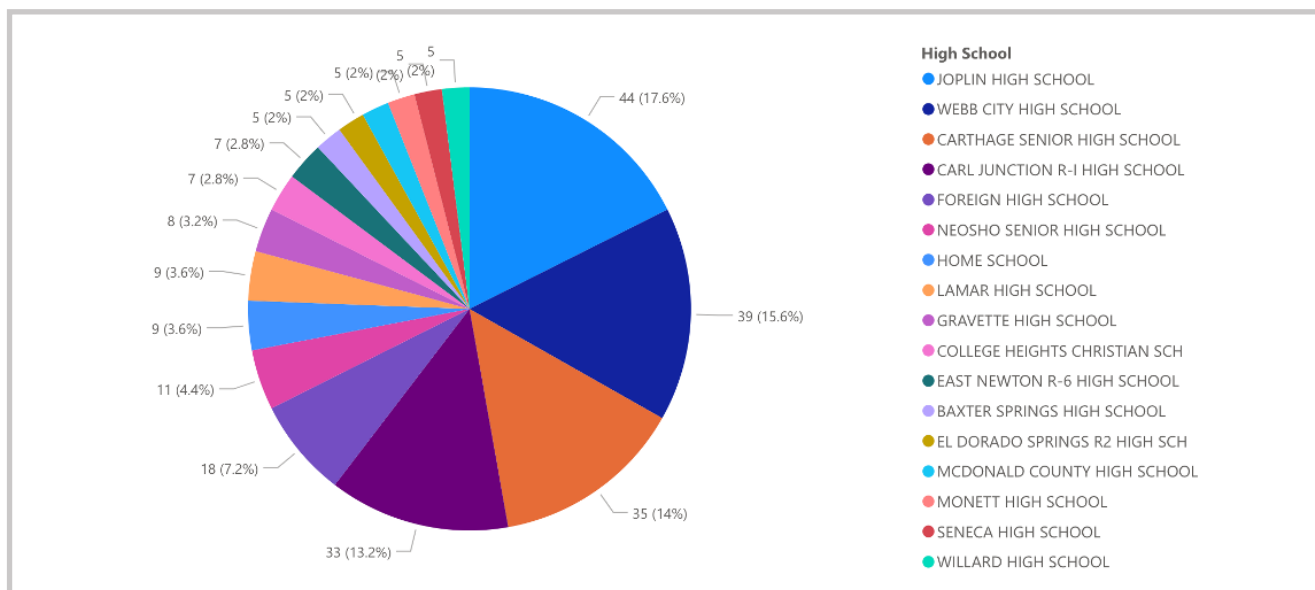
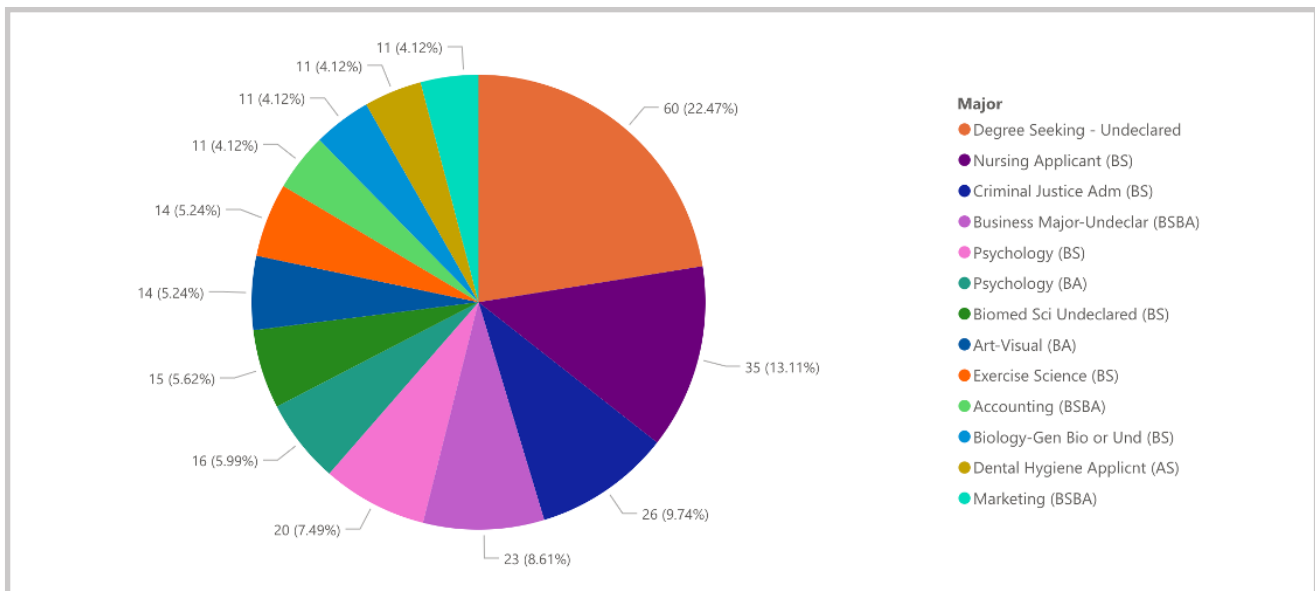
New graduate student enrollment is up and continuing graduate student enrollment is also on the rise. Graduate student enrollment breakdown by major is below:



Furthermore, new transfer student enrollment has increased significantly and the breakdown by major for the top programs is below.



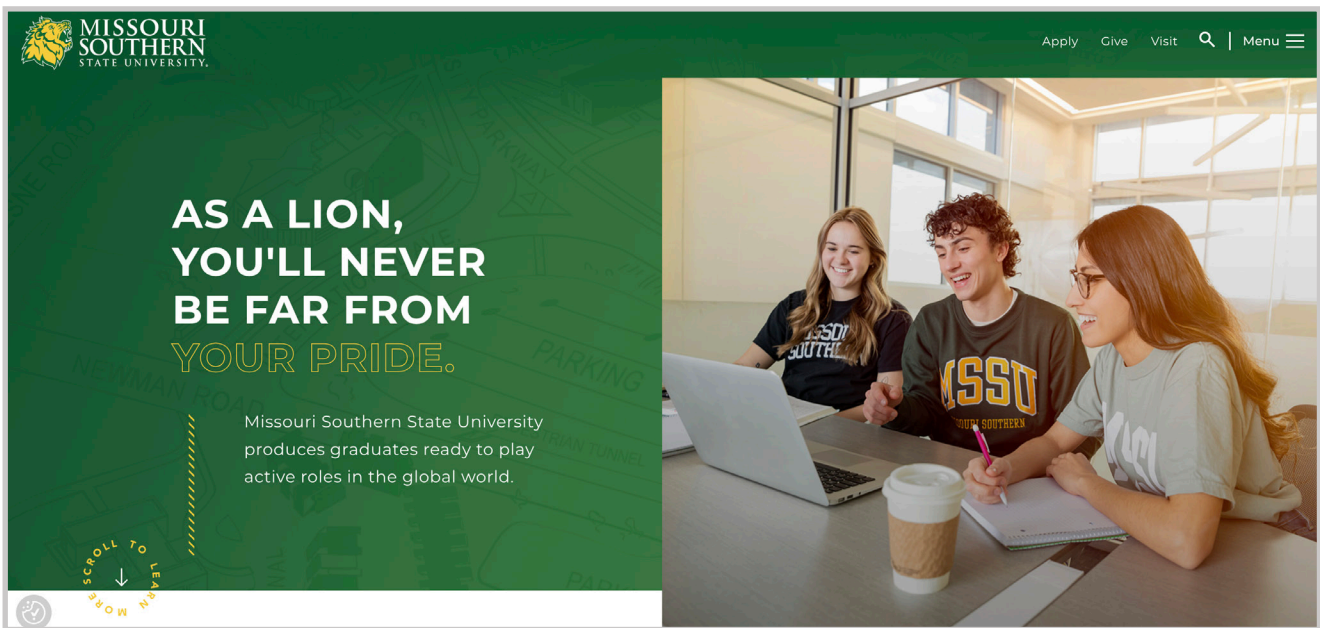
New first-time freshman enrollment is trending in a positive direction and we are hoping that summer melt is less this year than for fall 2022. The diagrams below show the top feeder high schools and the top programs they are pursuing.



NEW WEBSITE REDESIGN IS LIVE!

Our university website redesign went live August 24, 2023. We are extremely pleased with the new navigation that was designed with all user in mind including current and prospective students, parents/family, faculty/staff, community partners, and alumni. Enhancing the user experience on our website was a top priority and we are delighted with the results.

Additionally, a new search functionality will help users find what they are looking for more quickly. Specifically for prospective students who are searching for academic programs, admissions criteria, financial aid, and scholarship information. Our new website now functions as an additional recruitment tool for future lions!



ROB MALLORY

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

SOUTHERNFEST SUCCESS

Southernfest 2023 was a major success, as the athletic department's largest fundraising event of the year brought in more than \$115,000 in gross revenue to support MSSU student-athletes.

Southernfest was held over three days this year, from July 20-22. The Rod Smith Golf Classic was held at Eagle Creek Golf Club on July 20-21 with approximately 160 golfers participating. MSSU Hall of Famer and event namesake Rod Smith made the trip back to Joplin to attend, greet participants, and take photos. Student-athletes from a number of teams were on the course playing games with participants and raising additional funds for their programs. Despite having to navigate some weather challenges, it ended up being two day of fun and engaging golf.

The Green & Gold Gala was held at Downstream Casino & Resort on July 22. 375 attendees enjoyed dinner, silent and live auctions, more games with student-athletes, and a performance by popular regional band Members Only.

Net proceeds are still being finalized and will be released in the near future. Dates for Southernfest 2024 will be July 11-13, once again hosted at Eagle Creek Golf Club and Downstream Casino & Resort.



MIAA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



As previously reported, it was announced in January 2023 that Lincoln University would exit the MIAA effective in the Fall of 2024. On June 26, upon the recommendation of the Institutional Representatives Committee and unanimous approval by the CEO Council, the MIAA welcomed the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS) as a full member beginning in the Fall of 2024. UAFS joins the MIAA from the Lone Star Conference and becomes the conference's first full-time member in the state of Arkansas. UAFS currently sponsors 10 varsity sports: volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's golf, and men's and women's tennis.

The addition of UAFS will keep the number of basketball programs at 14, increase the number of volleyball programs to 12, and increase the number of baseball programs to 13. Lincoln's exit will decrease the number of softball programs to 13. Scheduling impacts and new conference schedules will be considered and reviewed throughout the fall for approval in November.

The MIAA continues to monitor the membership landscape with a desire to grow further in the future. Commissioner Mike Racy has appointed a task force of 4 Presidents/CEOs to evaluate potential membership additions.

STAFF COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A number of MSSU employees recently received appointments to serve on MIAA or NCAA leadership committees.

President **Dr. Dean Van Galen** has been named Vice Chair of the MIAA CEO Council. The CEO Council has final authority and responsibility for oversight of intercollegiate athletics within the MIAA. Primary CEO Council duties include, but are not limited to, establishing annual goals for the Association, approving the annual budget and dues for the Association, fiduciary oversight, approval of changes to the MIAA Constitution, evaluation of the MIAA Commissioner, and consideration of recommendations for the MIAA Institutional Representatives Council (IRC).

Associate AD for Internal Operations **Cori Reid** has been named the chair of the MIAA Institutional Representatives Council (IRC) and will serve a two-year term in that role. The IRC is made up of the Athletic Director, Senior Woman Administrator, and Faculty Athletic Representative from each member institution. The IRC is responsible for policy and legislative issues for the MIAA. These include proposing NCAA legislative changes, reviewing NCAA or MIAA legal and policy updates, considering changes to the MIAA Constitution and Operating Bylaws, and making other recommendations to the MIAA CEO Council.

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Head Baseball Coach **Bryce Darnell** has been appointed to the NCAA Division II Baseball Committee for a four-year term. Division II sport committees are charged with oversight of the postseason rankings and selection process, establishing championship brackets, and administering the championship in that sport.

Director of Athletics **Rob Mallory** has been appointed the NCAA Division II Membership Committee for a four-year term. The Membership Committee reviews and considers issues pertaining to Division II membership requirements and membership compliance issues. The committee establishes policies and procedures for prospective member institutions and conferences to achieve active membership status in Division II, and has the authority to approve or deny a prospective member's request for membership. The committee also handles NCAA Convention tasks related to Division II business.



Dr. Dean Van Galen



Cori Reid



Bryce Darnell



Rob Mallory