

# Fresh faces



Every fall, throngs of freshmen take part in the tradition of whitewashing the rocks in the shape of an M on the north end of Faurot Field. The students added new rocks this year to spruce up the giant letter.



## Students enroll in record numbers.

Story by Marcus Wilkins Photos by Rob Hill

From a vantage point high above campus, it's easy to comprehend the magnitude of MU's substantial populace. Just peer out a window in Ellis Library overlooking Lowry Mall, or from Jesse Hall toward the Francis Quadrangle as backpack-laden students move from class to class.

Enrollment is growing at the University of Missouri, thanks to a 16.1 percent increase in first-time college students. The freshman class numbers 7,065.

For the seventh consecutive year, MU has also reached its highest total enrollment ever, as 30,200 students began the 2008 fall semester. The freshman retention rate is a record 85.4 percent, and the graduate student body increased by 5.5 percent to 6,028, making it the largest in university history as well.

The College of Arts and Science has risen to the enrollment challenge.

"Given that, whatever your major, [freshmen] are going to start with Arts and Science courses, we've certainly had the most work to do," says associate dean of arts and science, Ted Tarkow. "Our department chairs have been resourceful and imaginative, and we've added a variety of courses."

More students are attending classes between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. than ever before, and sections have been added to provide maximum classroom usage with only a modest class-size increase.

MU is already preparing for the record class to become juniors and seniors,

says Ann Korschgen, vice provost for enrollment management.

"To ensure that they have access to the courses, programs and services they will need as they make progress in their academic careers, we are currently working with the undergraduate deans and others to address these needs," Korschgen says.

She attributes Mizzou's surge in popularity to a variety of academic programs (280-plus majors), offering top-notch facilities (the Student Recreation Complex and new School of Journalism facilities) and added recruitment in Illinois and Texas. Early figures of campus visitors and applications for fall 2009 also look strong.

"I think that a large university has a diversity of opportunity that sets it apart," Tarkow says. "It's that diversity that makes MU a destination point. You can come here and do research, study abroad, aspire to leadership with some kind of extracurricular activity. Those are pluses associated with size."

The largest number of Mizzou's feeder schools are public high schools located in the St. Louis area, says admissions director Barbara Rupp. But MU has also seen a spike in applications from private schools and from the Chicago area.

"For fall '08 and fall '09, we're absolutely at the peak that reflects the birth rate 18 years ago," Rupp says. "Starting in 2011, that demographic starts to drop off rather precipitously. We have to look out of state if we want to maintain our current enrollment, and the most likely candidate is Illinois."

One ambitious student, Kelly Goldthorpe, 18, comes to MU from Rockford, Ill., about 90 miles west of Chicago. She says the large class simply means more interesting people to meet.

"It's been really fun because everywhere you look, there's another freshman that you've never seen before," says Goldthorpe, who lives in Gillett Hall. "Everyone on my floor is from out of state, and none of us have cars, so we all hang out together a lot.

It's great."

Goldthorpe plans to study magazine design in the School of Journalism, and she writes a blog chronicling her freshman experience at [new2mizzou.blogspot.com](http://new2mizzou.blogspot.com). She volunteered to be the Mizzou Alumni Association's 2008 blogger after she noticed last year's posts by Natalie Brandt.

"The competition for the J-School is stressful already because you have such an enormous number of people competing for the same number of spots," Goldthorpe says. "You have to make yourself stand out as much as possible."

Li Tang, 19, moved from the Chinese metropolis of Hangzhou (population 3.9 million) to the "small" community of Columbia (population 100,000).

"Before classes, students here will come up and say, 'Hi. How are you?' That's a little bit different from school in China. Americans are more open," she says.

Recent national exposure of the Tiger football program has proven to be an effective recruiting tool, too.

To accommodate the incoming class, the university contracted for blocks of rooms in two apartment complexes near campus — Campus Lodge and Campus View.

"It can get pretty crowded," Goldthorpe says. "But I think that's all just part of the experience."

Despite all of the challenges that the watershed freshman class presents, Tarkow and other administrators believe MU has addressed the difficulties with aplomb.

"There was a lot of stuff that could have gone wrong," says Tarkow. "Instead, we've got students in classes in disciplines they are thinking about pursuing, our residential life colleagues have found places for them to live, campus dining services have expanded operation hours, more activities have more students involved — all is well." ■

**ON THE WEB** > See photos of the class of 2012 as they experience the fall semester.  
[mizzoumagazine.com](http://mizzoumagazine.com)



**TOP:** Freshman Kelly Goldthorpe of Rockford, Ill., writes a blog called "First Steps of a Freshman" about her MU experience from her room in Gillett Hall.

**ABOVE:** Li Tang from Hangzhou, China, samples some global cuisine at the International Bazaar on Lowry Mall in September 2008.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** As hourly exams approached in October, students found study space at the Student Success Center.

**RIGHT:** Freshman Erin Siemen of St. Paul, Mo., moves her belongings into a Tiger Digs apartment on South Providence Road. MU extended its offerings of rooms to rent to accommodate incoming students.



## Annual undergraduate costs

### Fall 2008 — Winter 2009

Fees	\$8,500
Room and board	\$8,100
Books and supplies	\$1,020
Personal and transportation expenses	\$2,980
<b>Total for Missouri residents:</b>	<b>\$20,600</b>
* Out-of-state fees	\$10,350
<b>Total for non-residents</b>	<b>\$30,950</b>

\*Non-residents pay an additional \$369.70 per credit hour. Costs assume 14-hour enrollment each semester. For more detail, visit [cashiers.missouri.edu/cost.htm](http://cashiers.missouri.edu/cost.htm). Admissions standards remain unchanged.

## Fall 2008 enrollment

Total enrollment – 30,200	African-American FTC – 422
First-time college (FTC) – 5,782	African-American total – 1,701
Undergraduate – 23,042	Hispanic FTC – 128
Graduate – 6,028	Hispanic total – 584
Professional – 1,130	International – 1,565
Undergraduate transfer – 1,141	

## Enrollment through the years

1948	1958	1968	1978	1988	1998	2008
11,265	10,261	20,113	23,064	23,434	22,723	30,200