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..... A publication of the MU Alumni Association • Fall 1997

MU celebrates a new campus resource

University leaders donned traditional African kinte cloth stoles as they took part in the May 2 groundbreaking ceremony for a new building for the Black Culture Center.

Curator President Malaika Horne contributed dirt from Goree Island, West Africa, which was used during the pouring of libation, an African tradition that recognizes ancestors by pouring a liquid into the ground. Goree Island is along the Gambia River where Africans, who were captured for the slave trade, departed in ships for various destinations, including America. The soil, Horne said, not only acted as a memorial to the past but also acted as hope for the future.

Curators approved a contract with Reinhardt Construction Co. in April, and work began in May.

The new facility will be on Virginia Avenue, between the Baptist Student Union and Wolpers Hall. The proposed 11,000 square-foot, one-story building will replace the two-story brick house — which has less than one-third the square footage and in disrepair — that was converted into the Black Culture Center about 30 years ago. When it's completed next spring, the new center will contain administrative offices, a multipurpose room, individual spaces for campus organizations and a computer lab. A combination of private donations and revenue from student services will pay for the building, estimated to cost about \$2 million.

All students will benefit from the center's computer lab, meeting rooms, and the culturally diverse programs and activities that will be held there, said Charles Schroeder, vice chancellor for student affairs. "We also hope that faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community will take advantage of this valuable resource."

Carolus Taylor, interim coordinator,



At the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Black Culture Center, interim Chancellor Richard Wallace, left, watches as the first spade of dirt is turned by curator President Malaika Horne; Mel George, former interim UM System president; and Charles Schroeder, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"The construction of a new facility for the existing Black Culture Center will benefit not only African-Americans but all students at Mizzou," Horne said. "We are creating an environment on the Columbia campus in which people from all walks of life will have the opportunity to learn from one another."

Nancy O'Connor photo

believes the future center can be integral in creating a diverse community where individuals respect the differences of others and are able to live in harmony with one another.

"The new building will help us reach and serve many more students within the university community," he said.

"Not only will we be able to offer resources such as the computer lab, but students will have an opportunity to participate in numerous cross-cultural programs and learn more about African-American culture while attending MU."

Annually, students, faculty, staff and alumni take part in a variety of programs offered by the center. For example:

■ **FALL FEST**, an event designed to

introduce first-year and returning students of color to academic departments, student affairs units and student organizations, and to the community's black businesses and churches.

■ **CAREER SEMINAR**, a program that helps students translate their majors into the work force. Mizzou alumni are on hand to talk about their collegiate experience and its impact on their employment; practitioners advise students on what skills and classes are needed for their area of interest.

■ **BLACK CULTURE WEEK**. This event began in 1992, when the mayor of Columbia issued a proclamation

See Center, Page 3



"Don't you realize that the sea is the home of the water? All water is off on a journey — unlesson it's in the sea, and it's homesick — and bound to make its way home someday."— Zora Neal Hurston

WE NEED YOU AT HOME

Dear fellow alumni,
I'm sure your mama's told you: "No matter what happens, no matter what your experience, no matter what your trial and tribulation, you can

always come home."

And it's true. Even though we can move to another state or travel around the world, we yearn to return to that place that we know and come from. Home. Home is where the heart is and where our friends are, or where we go when we want that special dish no one else can make quite the same as mama. When it comes to leaving home, some of us never want to go. Others leave in a hurry. Nevertheless, when we think about home, there is really no place like it.

Like Mizzou. Have you forgotten all the good times you had on the quad or, more likely, at the Black Culture Center? Can you remember all of the things you stood up for and brought about?

Sometimes we forget that Mizzou is home, and that there is always a place for us there. One group of people that has made sure of that is the MU Alumni Association's Black Alumni Organization. The BAO is comprised of me, you and every other African-American graduate of MU. Established in 1979, the BAO has been committed to preserving the legacy of the University's minority students.

How so? Through the years, the organization has sponsored and participated in alumni- and student-related activities, including Fall Fest, the popular Minority Achievement Program/BAO Ice Cream Social and events like the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Legion of Black Collegians, and the new Summer Reunion.

BAO members continue to support the recruitment and retention of students of African descent. Most of the black students attending the University are there because an alumnus, one of us, encouraged them to come. With your help and membership in the MU Alumni Association, the Black Alumni Organization will continue to promote the expansion of programs, services and events for black alumni, students, faculty and staff to enjoy for years to come. If you are not a dues-paying association member, use the coupon on Page 5 to join today!

We also support local banquets across the state. See Page 3 for a list of events taking place in St. Louis this fall. When the BAO buys a table at these activities, tickets are given to board members and dedicated BAO members who work on committees for the organization. No seat goes unfilled. We hope to increase our presence in the Kansas City area next year with the Reunion at EXPOSure and at other events.

One of BAO's biggest events of the year is Homecoming. See pages 6 and 7 for what's happening Oct. 8-18. Homecoming's theme is "TigerTown USA." You've been there before and it's time to visit again. Remember, Homecoming is for us. Homecoming is for you. So come home.

Warmest regards,

LaTia King Westfall, BJ '90
President, Black Alumni Organization

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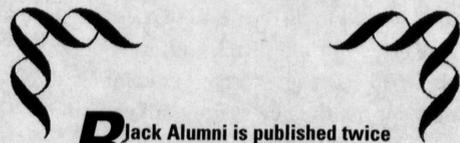
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Black Alumni is published twice during the academic year by the MU Alumni Association.

Send comments to BAO, 123 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211.
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E-mail MUAA@muccmail.missouri.edu

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Nancy O'Connor, photographer
Sue Richardson, editor



Center

From Page 1

designating Nov. 16-21, 1992, as Black Culture Week. Since then, the center has continued a week's offering of programs that enlighten the community on the significant contributions of African Americans.

■ **KWANZAA CELEBRATION**, a holiday celebrated from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, highlights the cultural roots of people of African ancestry. Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili. On each day of Kwanzaa — by eating certain foods, telling stories and taking part in collective activities — celebrants affirm their commitment to these values: **unity** (umoja), **self-determination** (kujichagulia), **collective work and responsibility** (ujima), **cooperative economics** (ujamma), **purpose** (nia), **creativity** (kuumba) and **faith** (imani).

■ **BLACK WOMEN IN SCIENCE** is a program that highlights the

accomplishments of African-American women in the sciences and provides information on career options available.

■ **ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**, sponsored by the multicultural affairs office. At the ceremony, four individuals are presented the Malcolm X and the Wilma Rudolph Courage awards for their contributions to the community and to the advancement of African cultural understanding, and for their courage in

overcoming physical and mental challenges.

■ **JOB FAIR**, sponsored by the multicultural affairs office, takes place during Black History Month. Students interview and discuss job opportunities with recruiters from state agencies, and statewide businesses and corporations.

The multicultural affairs office and the Black Culture Center are units in the student life department.



The annual Fall Fest celebration at the Black Culture Center is a popular activity for students, faculty, staff and local business owners.

Nancy O'Connor photo

Upcoming events

Oct. 9 - Counselor Night at the Black Rep, 8 p.m., St. Louis. Public school counselors and BAO members who serve as Tiger Trackers will attend a performance of *Tell Me Something Good* at the Mildred E. Bastian Performing Arts Center, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. Event is co-sponsored by Mizzou's admissions office and the Black Alumni Organization. To order tickets at \$10 each, call the St. Louis Black Repertory Theater at (314) 543-3807.

Oct. 8-18 - Homecoming Week. Theme: "TigerTown USA."

Oct. 18-Dec. 14 - Exhibition: "Commitment: Fatherhood in Black America" at the Museum of Art and Archaeology. The energy, resolve and love required to fulfill the role of a supportive father are captured in 50 black and white images. See related story on Page 4.

Oct. 23-26 - The Black Studies Program will sponsor a conference on "Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement 1950-1980: Legacies and Challenges — Past and Present." Poet Nikki Giovanni is scheduled to speak at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 24 in Middlebush Auditorium. For more information, call (573) 882-6229.

Oct. 28 - St. Louis alumni chapter will sponsor happy hour at Schneithorsts. For more information, call Kiersten McCarty at (314) 727-7169 or 726-5511.

Nov. 14 - UNCF Mayor's Ball, St. Louis. To order tickets at \$50 each, call (314) 421-5958, and indicate that you are a BAO member.

Nov. 25 - St. Louis alumni chapter will sponsor happy hour at Hacienda. For more information, call Kiersten McCarty at (314) 727-7169 or 726-5511.

Dec. 3 - St. Louis alumni chapter's holiday party at Harpo's-

Landing. For more information, call Kiersten McCarty at (314) 727-7169 or 726-5511.

Dec. 23 The MU Alumni Association will sponsor "Black & Gold Day in St. Louis." Wear your school colors to work. Join other alumni and friends at the Hyatt Union Station's Regency Ballroom for a reception before the Missouri vs. Illinois basketball game. With questions call (314) 727-8150.



If you've moved, plan to move or know of fellow alumni who have moved, please send change of address to:

BAO, 123 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

Call 1-800-372-MUAA or (573) 882-6611

Fax (573) 882-5145

E-mail MUAA@muccmail.missouri.edu

Negating the negative

When the opportunity knocked on Jon Lawrence's door last spring to help with a book highlighting positive features of the black family, he grabbed it without hesitation.

Now the fruits of his labor is at hand. *Commitment: Fatherhood in Black America* will be published in November by the University of Missouri Press. The book — brainchild of free-lance photographer Carole Patterson of Columbia — is the companion piece to a same-titled exhibition that will open Oct. 18 at the Museum of Art and Archaeology.

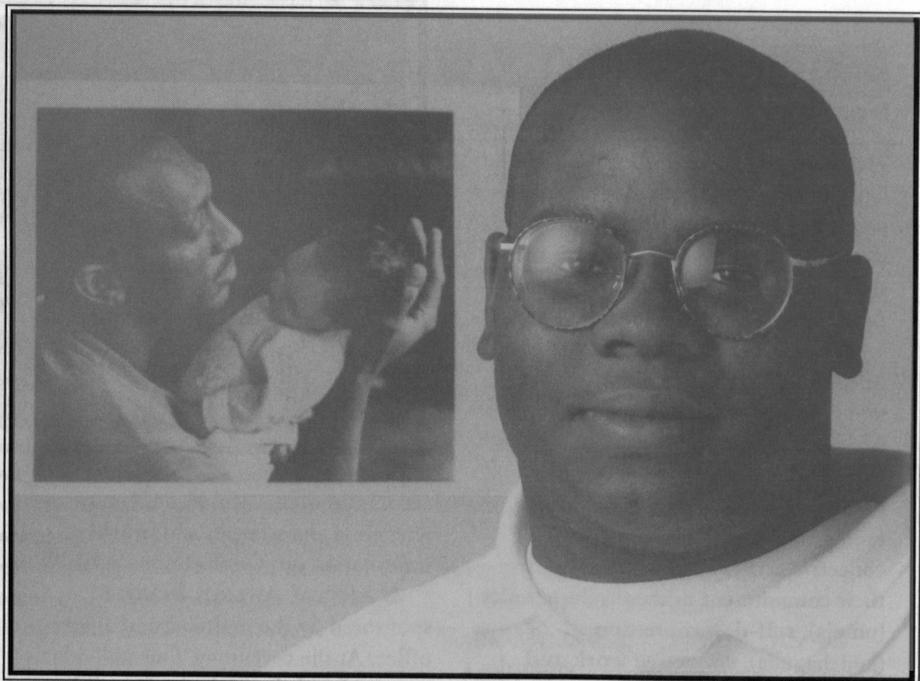
Prevalent media stereotypes portray the black family as dysfunctional, and black fathers as being non-existent, unconcerned about the welfare of their children, or lack as providers or nurturers, says Lawrence, a senior art history and archaeology major of Independence, Mo.

Both the book and exhibition, however, set out to balance negative ways in which African-American males are depicted. In 50 black and white images, shot over 5½ years, Patterson and photographer Anthony Barboza of New York City document the story of a dozen men nationwide. They vary in socio-economic and educational backgrounds — kids off the street, ex-gang members, a multimillionaire — but they all have one thing in common: They are doting fathers.

Their words are the book's text.

Lawrence helped author Clyde Ruffin ferret out the fathers [many had relocated since their encounter with the photographers] and schedule interviews. As an added bonus, Lawrence had the privilege of interviewing three of the subjects. Now that the book is at press, he's helping staff members at the museum get the exhibition ready to open this month.

"It's a rare opportunity for a black male student to be involved with something of this scope during his undergraduate time, maybe even his lifetime; these kinds of things don't come along every day," says Ruffin, professor of theater and one of the featured fathers. "John is extremely valuable to the project; he is sensitive to it and he



Nancy O'Connor photo

understands it."

Lawrence, who grew up in a two-parent household, says his dad is comparable to the featured fathers. "In spite of working long hours, my dad has always made time for me. He is always there for me; he cares," Lawrence says. "Many of the fathers in this project have small children and, like my father, they all make it a point to support them financially, emotionally and spiritually."

The photographers do not attempt to symbolize every role of the black father. "Rather, what comes across are the universal qualities of parenting like love and commitment, protecting and providing, and these qualities transcend racial lines," Patterson says.

None of the fathers is a super dad or a celebrity, just ordinary people. "When you view the exhibit or read the text, you will see that what these men have been able to accomplish is accessible to anyone," Ruffin says. "It is not as though you have to go out and adopt twenty-five foster kids and raise them all by yourself; these men are not like that. They are ordinary men doing an extraordinary thing of just staying with their families, committing themselves to their children for the long haul."

The subjects range in age from a 21-year-old in Bronx, N.Y., father of a 2-year-old son, to a 90-year-old gentleman in Effingham County, Ga., who is rearing his 14-year-old great-grandson.

"This project makes you look at the struggles these father go through,"

Jon Lawrence has yet to become a parent, but when that time comes, he is confident that he will be a committed dad and husband. His inspiration comes from his work on the book and exhibition *Commitment: Fatherhood in Black America* produced by the Museum of Art and Archaeology.

The exhibition will be on display Oct. 18 through Dec. 14 at the museum in Pickard Hall. The book will be published in November. Included in both works is Thurmon Stubblefield of Yazoo City, Miss., background, photographed with daughter Amelia by free-lancer Carole Patterson of Columbia.

Families and the general public are invited to a special showing of the exhibit at 3 p.m. Oct. 26, when the museum hosts Family Day.

Lawrence says. "Some have to work two, three or four jobs, but they endure; they hang in there. I learned so much from listening to what they have had to overcome in order to keep their families together.

"I hope that I will do as these men do. That's the kind of foundation I grew up with in my household — the dad does whatever is necessary to take care of the children."

Lawrence believes he has a good chance of doing just that.

"I don't think you'll find me somewhere else carousing."

They keep getting better

Student enrollment is up and the number of academically talented freshmen continues to climb at MU, according to preliminary figures. Total campus enrollment Aug. 25 was 22,395, up 158 from the first day of class in 1996. The total includes 17,271 undergraduates, 3,964 graduate students and 1,160 professional students.

First-time freshmen enrollment is 3,576, down 189 students, or 5 percent, from the first day of classes in 1996.

A number of factors reflect the high academic quality of this year's freshman class. Thirty-five percent of first-time freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their high-school classes. The number of Missouri Bright Flight Scholars increased for the fifth year in a row, with a total of 622 this year, up from 615 last year. Nearly one in five MU freshmen are now Bright Flight Scholars, which means they scored in the top 3 percent nationally on the ACT or SAT.

For the past several years, each freshman class has broken the University's record for the highest ACT mean score, and this year is no exception. This fall's freshman class increased the mean score to 25.8, up from 25.4 last year and 25.1 in 1995.

"The average ACT score for this year's freshman class is a significant

increase from last year and is especially impressive when compared to the national average ACT score, which is 21, and the state average, which is 21.5," said Charles Schroeder, vice chancellor for student affairs. "More and more academically talented students are finding out that MU offers a challenging, broad-based education to students of all majors."

Efforts to recruit African-American students to the University have been successful in recent years. Scholarship offerings have been expanded and recruiters are working with high schools around the state.

During the 1966-97 academic year, 1,266 African-American students attended MU and made up 5.7 percent of the nearly 22,500 student body. A total of 6.1 percent of all undergraduates and 4.7 percent of graduate students were black. Of the 3,737 incoming freshmen last year, 286, or 7.6 percent were black students. This fall's preliminary enrollment figures show that the number of new African-American freshmen is 287.

LaTia King Westfall, BJ '90, president of the Black Alumni Organization, has a hand in helping the admissions office recruit black students from the St. Louis area. Westfall, who works for the Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis, interviews and recommends to MU high-school seniors whom she believes to be good candidates for the Transition

Program. Students in this program are considered at risk because of a low class rank or a low ACT score. Interviewers, however, take more than scores into consideration when making their recommendations. "We focus on the total person as well as the person's family," King says. "In our interviews, we look for students who will be a good fit at MU."

Students accepted to this program spend their summer on campus getting used to college life, brushing up on skills and becoming acquainted with the academic and social resources available to ensure their success as an undergraduate. Students who complete the program and enroll at MU receive a Diversity Scholarship of \$3,500 a year until they graduate.

The most competitive of the University's scholarships for ethnic minority students is the George C. Brooks Scholarship, named for the former director of Financial Aid. Recipients receive \$8,500 a year.

"Students will enroll at MU if they know that they have the support they need," King says. "The university is committed to recruiting and retaining African-American students, and it stands behind this commitment with dollars, resources and staff members. Without these components, MU would not have more than twelve hundred African-American students."

Show your support for the Black Alumni Organization by joining the MU Alumni Association.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Class year _____ Student # _____ Phone () _____

Spouse attended MU. Spouse's name _____

Charge VISA card # _____

MasterCard # _____

Signature _____

(required for credit card use)

BAO

- Individual, annual \$30
- Individual, 65 or older \$20
- Mr. & Mrs., annual \$45
- Mr. & Mrs., 65 or older \$30



Make your check payable to **MU Alumni Association** and return to **Membership**
123 Reynolds Alumni Center
Columbia, Mo. 65211

Middleton named to administrative post

In August, Michael Middleton, professor of law, began a 12-month appointment as interim vice provost for faculty development and minority affairs. He replaces KC Morrison, who stepped down this summer to return to research and teaching in the



Michael Middleton

political science department.

In naming Middleton to the vice provost position, Provost Ed Sheridan lauded his qualifications. "I am extremely pleased that professor Mike Middleton has agreed to accept the challenging position of interim vice provost for minority affairs and faculty development," Sheridan said. "I believe he is especially well-qualified for this position and will immediately be popular with all of the constituencies it serves."

Middleton will be responsible for policies and programs relating to minority affairs, faculty development and academic retention, including faculty searches and appointments, academic leaves and sabbaticals, and promotion and tenure. He will oversee the Learning Center, the Program for Excellence in Teaching, the Office of Disability Services, the Women Studies Program, the Black Studies Program, the Office of Academic Retention Services and the MU to the Future Human Relations Program.

"Because I understand that the university is its faculty, the faculty development component of this position is critically important," Middleton said. "Because my legal expertise is in the area of civil rights, including gender equity and the rights of people with disabilities, I have a deep concern for the minority affairs component of the position. Dr. Morrison has taken giant steps in both areas over the past eight years. I hope to continue that progress."

Middleton was elected vice chair of MU's Faculty Council this year. "I do

regret that in accepting this position I will be unable to fulfill my responsibilities as vice chair of the council, but I expect that I will be very much involved with faculty issues in Jesse Hall," Middleton said.

Since coming to MU as a law professor in 1985, Middleton has served as the lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the St. Louis metropolitan school desegregation litigation. He previously had served as director of the St. Louis District Office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). He was an associate general counsel at the EEOC in Washington, D.C., for three years, where he managed the commission's national litigation program and supervised 250 attorneys at 22 district offices.

Middleton received a bachelor's degree in political science from MU in 1968 and is a 1971 graduate of the law school. He is a co-founder of the Legion of Black Collegians and long-time executive board member of the Black Alumni Organization.

College planning made easy

A series of workshops geared toward helping parents and students prepare for college will be held this fall in St. Louis.

Co-sponsored by the Black Alumni Organization and MU, the sessions are specifically for African-American juniors and seniors in the St. Louis public school system, and students the St. Louis Internship Program, INROADS and Urban League, but all interested students and parents are welcome to attend, says LaTia King Westfall, president of the BAO and MU's admissions representative in St. Louis.

The workshops are free, King says, and MU's admission fee is waived to attendees.

The date's for this fall's sessions are Oct. 12, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. All are from 2-4 p.m. at University City Library, 6701 Delmar.

To register, call 1-800-225-6075, ext. 3, or King at (314) 830-0306.

Celebrate Homecoming '97 BAO Style

Oct. 18, 1997

11 a.m.- BBQ picnic, Black Culture Center

Noon - Distinguished Alumni and Honorees/Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Four \$500 scholarships will be given to an undergraduate student in each class, and one \$1,000 scholarship will be given to a graduate student. Also, alumni and friends who have helped make MU a stronger, diverse campus will be honored.

1 p.m. - Mizzou vs. Texas football game, Faurot Field.

8 p.m. - BAO/LBC dance at the Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, featuring the musical group Satin. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres served 'til the stroke of midnight.

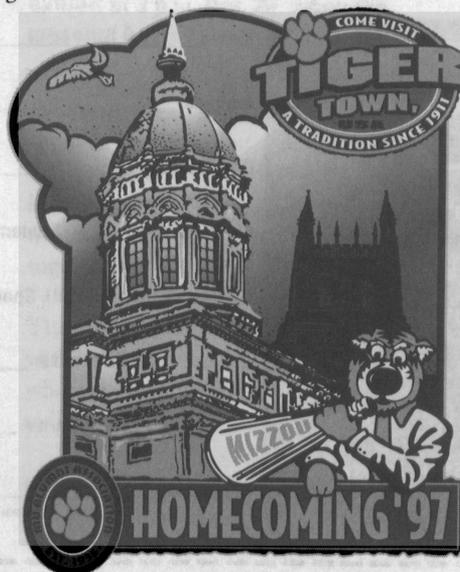
Tickets are \$10 for alumni and friends, with all proceeds going to the BAO Scholarship Fund. LBC's charge to students will be \$5.

Can't make it to the dance, but still want to help support the Black Alumni Organization's Scholarship Fund?

You can do so by purchasing a copy of *The African-American Experience at the University of Missouri, 1950-1994*.

Books will be available for sale at Homecoming and other BAO events throughout the year. Cost is \$10 — 60 percent off the book's price of \$25.

For more information or a list of events near you, call Darlene Miles at (573) 882-6611.



Homecoming Week Calendar

Wednesday, Oct. 8, Thursday, Oct. 9, Tuesday, Oct. 14

■ Homecoming Blood Drive
Giving the gift of life. Hearnes Fieldhouse. Call toll-free 1-888-292-MUHC (6842).

Sunday, Oct. 12

■ Multicultural Extravaganza
Art, music and dance from around the world will be featured. 7 p.m., Jesse Auditorium, tickets \$6.

Monday, Oct. 13, Tuesday, Oct. 14

■ Talent Competition
Mizzou students share their talents. 6:30 p.m., Jesse Auditorium, tickets \$6 per show.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

■ Black and Gold Day Wear your school colors.

■ Soccer: MU vs. Kansas, 4 p.m., Soccer/Track Complex. Call 1-800-CAT PAWS for tickets.

Thursday, Oct. 16

■ Grand Marshal Book Signing
Grand Marshal Sonja Steptoe, AB, BJ '82, a senior editor at *Sports Illustrated*, will autograph copies of the book she wrote with Jackie Joyner-Kersey, *A Kind of Grace: The Autobiography of the World's Greatest Female Athlete*. University Bookstore, Brady Commons. Time to be announced.

■ Homecoming Spirit Rally

See Truman the Tiger, the Golden Girls, Marching Mizzou, the Cheer Squad and fireworks. 7 p.m., South Quadrangle/Stankowski Field.

Friday, Oct. 17

■ Tiger Town Classic Golf Tournament

Join in this new Homecoming tradition. 10 a.m., A.L. Gustin Golf Course. \$65 for MU Alumni Association members, \$75 for nonmembers. Call 1-888-292-MUHC (6842).

■ Campus Decorations

Bring the family to the great tradition of house decs. 7 p.m., Greektown.

■ University Concert Series

The association sponsors Bizet's *Carmen* performed by the San Francisco Western Opera Theater. 8 p.m., Jesse Auditorium, tickets \$33, \$29 or \$27. Call (573) 882-3781.

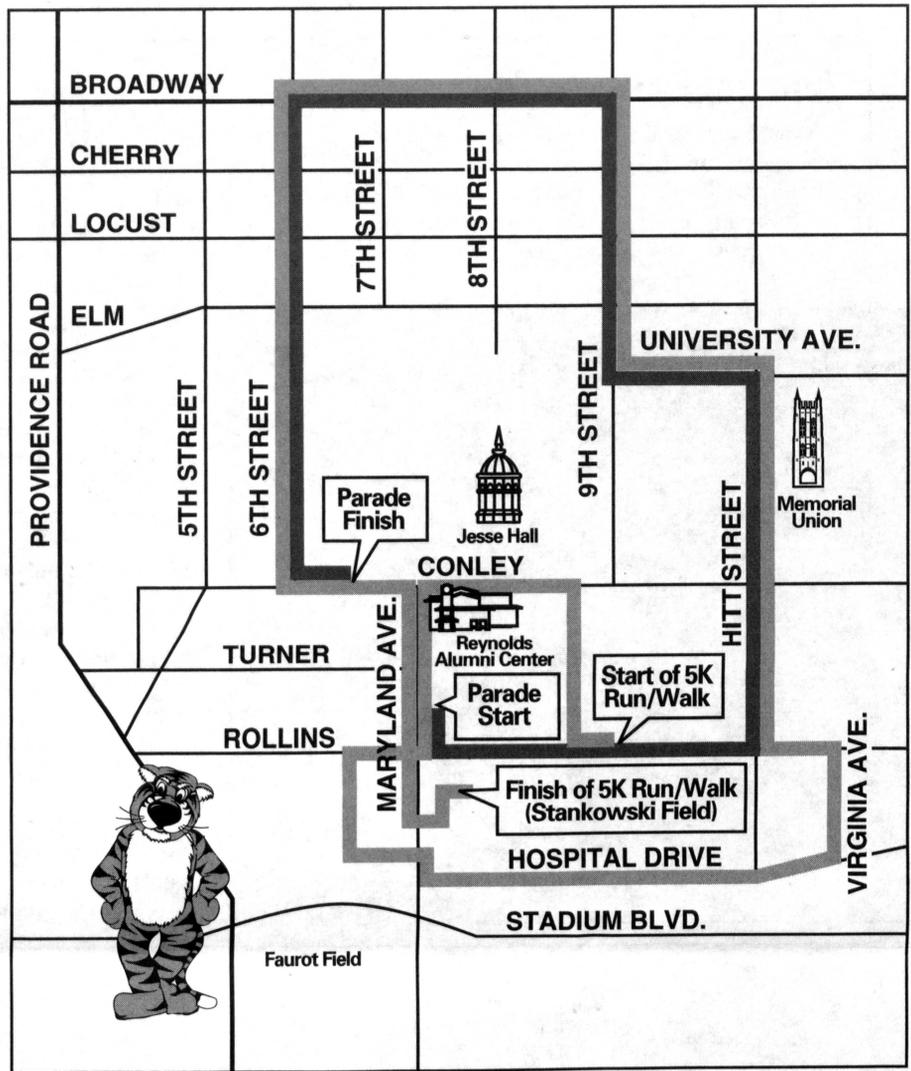
Saturday, Oct. 18

■ 5K Run/Walk

7:30 a.m., campus and downtown. See map. Call 1-888-292-MUHC (6842).

■ Homecoming Breakfast

8 a.m., Reynolds Alumni Center, with Gov. Mel Carnahan and Grand Marshal



Sonja Steptoe. Call 1-888-292-6842.

■ Parade

9:30 a.m., campus and downtown. See map.

■ College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Hospitality Tent
11 a.m., south of Hearnes Fieldhouse. Call Dana Brown at (573) 882-0088.

■ MU Alumni Association Tiger Town Tailgate

11 a.m., south of Hearnes Fieldhouse, tickets \$10 adults, \$7.50 children 12 and under. Call 1-888-292-MUHC (6842).

■ BAO Barbecue

11 a.m., Black Culture Center. Call 1-800-372-6822 by Monday Oct. 13.

■ Homecoming Game: vs. Texas

1 p.m., Faurot Field. Call 1-800-CAT PAWS for tickets.

■ Mizzou Revue Talent Finals

6:30 p.m., Jesse Auditorium, tickets \$6. Call 1-888-292-MUHC (6842).

■ Homecoming Dance

8 p.m., Missouri Unions. Call Vicki Cawley at (573) 882-3743.

■ BAO Dance

8 p.m., Black Alumni Organization Scholarship Dance, Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center. Call 1-800-372-6822.

Tickets \$10 for alumni and friends; \$5 for students.

Sunday, Oct. 19

■ Mizzou Revue Talent Finals Matinee Performance

The best acts from Monday and Tuesday night perform. 1 p.m., Jesse Auditorium, tickets \$6. Call 1-888-292-MUHC (6842).

■ Homecoming Awards Ceremony
4 p.m., Jesse Hall.

■ ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

■ Thanks to these Homecoming 1997 sponsors and supporters:

MU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, KOMU-TV, 96.7 KCMQ, KINKO'S, COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN, DOMINO'S PIZZA, MBNA AMERICA, UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE, MU RECREATIONAL SERVICES, HEARNES CENTER, HAMPTON INN-COLUMBIA, GREEK WORLD, AMERICAN RED CROSS, CENTRAL MISSOURI FOOD BANK, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.

A journey of service

Students returning to campus for the fall semester missed seeing the familiar face of Shelia Wilson-McDonald. This summer, Wilson-McDonald resigned from MU to return to the classroom as a speech language pathologist for Lang Middle School and Oakland Junior High School in Columbia.



Nancy O'Connor photo

She sums up her 18-year stint on campus as being “a journey of service.” Her trip began in financial aid, where she was as an academic advisor, coordinator of the work-study program and supervisor of undergraduate advising services. A dozen years later, she moved to the University of Missouri System to become manager of the Curators’ Scholars Program. In 1994, she joined the academic retention services office as a retention specialist.

“We had quite a task ahead of us,” she says, “because we had to set up programming for the first year of the big recruiting initiative, the 1994-95 academic year. Serving in that capacity was rewarding, because we were able to help students stay here and be successful at the university. Looking back over the years, I realize that I have been blessed to have had an opportunity to serve thousands of beautiful young men and women at Mizzou.”

Moving to the public school system is a double blessing, she says. Not only will she be returning to the classroom, but she also will be returning to the age level she loves most. “These students are at a juncture in their life that I call formulative years. I want to be instrumental in serving them and helping them reach their true potential so that they will go for their goals in life and accomplish big things, including meeting their higher education goals.”

Joe Camille, director of financial aid, was among the guests at a farewell reception July 31 held for his former co-worker Shelia Wilson-McDonald.

Black alumni
Received on: 07-13-98
University of Missouri -
Columbia

Black Alumni Organization, MU Alumni Association
123 Donald W. Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center
Columbia, Mo. 65211

Black Alumni

University of Missouri-Columbia

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