



ESTABLISHING A
LEGACY



Years from now, when the Memorial Stadium lights dim on Gary Pinkel's career at the University of Missouri, fans will remember the head football coach for many things: his signature Mizzou visor, his knack for developing recruits, his storied 2007 win against Kansas in the rivalry's most memorable installment, the Tigers' return to national prominence.

He won't, however, be known for his dance moves.

In the early hours of Jan. 4, 2014, after Mizzou's 41-31 AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic win against Oklahoma State, Pinkel jiggled and jived. Amid his elated team's roof-raising arms, the choreography conveyed the joy of a 12-2 record and Pinkel's 102nd victory at Mizzou. The dance video went viral, but football fever had long since taken hold of Tiger nation.

The victory pushed Pinkel (102-63) past Missouri immortal Don Faurot (101-79-10) in career coaching wins at MU. Although Mizzou is the second institution at which Pinkel holds the mark (he also leads the University of Toledo with 73), he remains humble and focused on improving the program he joined in 2001.

"I never had the goal, at Toledo or here, to become the winningest coach," says Pinkel of passing the home field's eponym. "Faurot is legendary, and he's legendary as much as a person as he was a football coach. He was honest, he ran the program with integrity, and that model works for any successful organization. The key is to daily do all the right things." →



Fans will see major updates to Memorial Stadium when they attend 2014's first home game, versus South Dakota, at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 30. mizzoumagazine.com/fall2014

Brushes With Greatness

The son of a General Tire salesman, Gary Robin Pinkel grew up in northeast Ohio's industrial plateau as many children did — a Browns fan. It's a 40-mile drive from his Akron hometown, the Rubber Capital of the World, to Cleveland.

At age 16, Pinkel and his dad made the trip in winter 1968 to see the Browns host the Baltimore Colts in the NFL Championship.

Father and son arrived late, and as they approached a buzzing Municipal Stadium, Pinkel stopped his dad near a stretch limousine. Out stepped famed Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi, wearing what Pinkel describes as the iconic "Russian hat."

"Everyone knew Vince Lombardi if you watched football on TV, and I did," Pinkel says. "I was awestruck."

Back home in Akron, Pinkel grew up alongside younger brother Greg and older sister Kathy. Both siblings suffered from hereditary spastic paraplegia, a condition that confined them to wheelchairs by adolescence. The genetic disorder skipped Pinkel, who developed an especially close relationship with his sister.

"Some people go through struggles at that age because they have acne or whatever, and she lost the ability to walk," Pinkel says. "When people stared at her, I would walk beside her and stare people down."

For Pinkel, an imposing 6-foot-2-inch receiver with great hands, the game came naturally. He played peewee football from age 7, and his Kenmore High School team won the city championship.

Pinkel parleyed prep success into an athletic scholarship at Kent State University. There he met teammates and fellow captains Nick Saban, now SEC foe Alabama's coach, with four national championships to his credit; and Jack Lambert, the crushing Hall of Fame linebacker for the Pitts-

burgh Steelers. Pinkel arrived at Kent State the fall following the tragic shootings of May 4, 1970.

"During my last month in high school, I was with my girlfriend at Dairy Queen when it came over the news," Pinkel says. "In class after lunch, the teacher put up on the board National Guard 4, KSU students 0. It would take a decade and a half for the university to recover from it, and I had just signed to go to school there five days earlier."

Led by another future Hall of Famer, Coach Don James, the Golden Flashes won the Mid-American Conference (MAC) in 1972 and went on to the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Florida. James would become the most influential figure of Pinkel's career and the indirect architect of Mizzou football.

After earning All-MAC honors twice as a tight end and graduating with an education degree in 1973, Pinkel remained at Kent State as a graduate assistant coach. When James accepted a head coaching job at the University of Washington, it didn't take long for him to reach out.

"[James] said he had 80 applicants [for an assistant coaching vacancy] but narrowed it to five, and I was one of them," says Pinkel. "I hadn't even applied. He asked, 'If I offered you the job, would you take it?' That was the interview."

Pinkel spent five years as the Huskies' wide receivers coach and later seven as the offensive coordinator, mixing in a two-year stint as receivers coach at Bowling Green from 1977-78. At Washington, he mentored future NFL quarterbacks Hugh Millen, Chris Chandler and Mark Brunell, among others. In 1991, he took over as head coach at the University of Toledo, while the Huskies, led by a pair of Pinkel-coached quarterbacks, won national championship honors.

Pinkel stayed true to James' strategy for building a winning program. After all, his mentor had laid



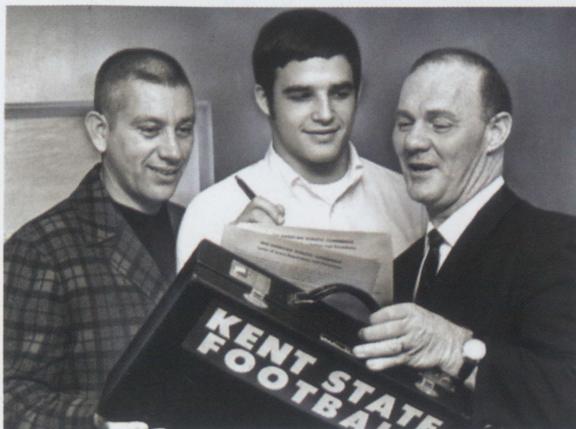
GARY PINKEL'S TOP 10 MIZZOU WINS

Aug. 31, 2002: Mizzou 33, Illinois 20
In a bold move, Gary Pinkel gives redshirt freshman quarterback Brad Smith his first career start in the Arch Rivalry game at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

Oct. 11, 2003: Mizzou 41, Nebraska 24
Missouri ends a string of 24 consecutive losses to the Cornhuskers, and fans bring down the Faurot Field goal posts.

Dec. 30, 2005: Mizzou 38, South Carolina 31
Brad Smith passes for 282 yards and rushes for 150 to bring back the Tigers from a 28-14 half-time deficit and win the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Nov. 24, 2007: Mizzou 36, Kansas 28
With the No. 1 ranking and the Big 12 North championship at stake, the Tigers come out on top in the rivalry's most significant game. 



↑ **LEFT** Gary Pinkel (center) signs a letter of intent to play at Kent State beside Kenmore High School Coach Dick Fortner (left) and Kent State Assistant Coach Tom Phillips. **CENTER** Pinkel was an All-Mid-American Conference tight end at Kent State. **RIGHT** The 1981 Washington Huskies coaching staff of Don James (center) included Gary Pinkel (left of James) and Bob Stull (right of James), the head coach at Mizzou from 1989 to 1993.

out the blueprint at Kent State and Washington. The young coach would simply mimic those systems at Toledo. He rattles off the fundamentals of the James philosophy — attention to detail, relentless self-evaluation, hard work, meticulous organization — which now are tenets of Pinkel's Mizzou Made system for developing student-athletes.

Still, James had some sage advice for Pinkel before he returned to Ohio.

"He looked at me with stone-cold eyes and said, 'Gary, when things get tough — and they're going to get tough — you wake up that morning and make it through hour after hour, 100-percent focused on your job,'" Pinkel recalls. "Don't let anything in. The next day, wake up and do the same thing. If you don't do that, it will chew you up."

Rocketing Toward Mizzou

In 10 seasons at Toledo, Pinkel amassed a 73-37-3 record. His Rockets won or shared the MAC title four times, a stretch that included an undefeated 1995 season (11-0-1) and a 1997 MAC Coach of the Year award.

When Mike Alden, Mizzou's director of athletics, composed a list of coaching candidates to take over a Missouri program that had posted eight losing seasons in 10 years, Pinkel's name was at the top.

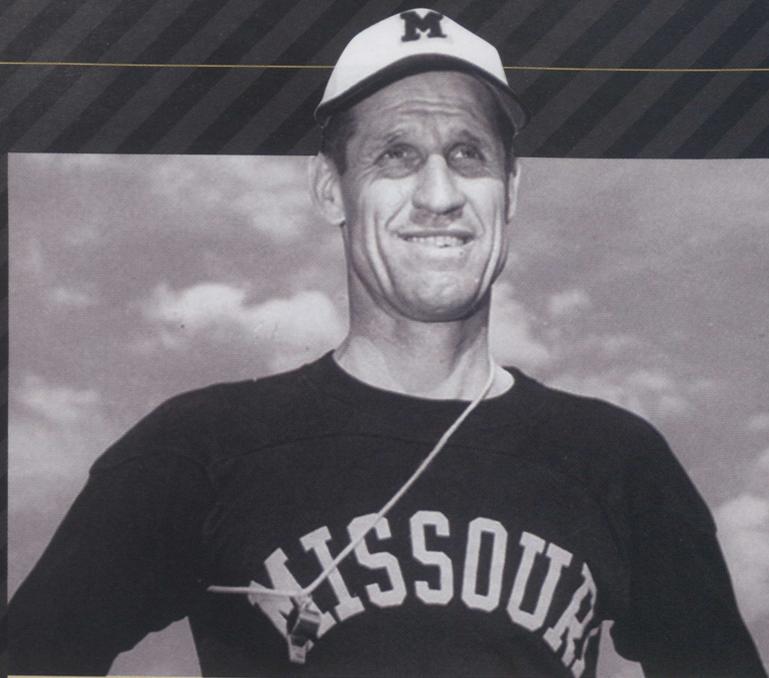
"Gary has a commanding professional presence, and it was evident in [our] initial introduction he was organized, focused and disciplined in his approach," Alden says. "His work ethic was, and is, outstanding."

Pinkel's first season (2001) in Columbia remains his worst as a head coach. The 4-7 campaign culminated with a 55-7 loss to Michigan State, a game originally scheduled for September but moved to December because of 9-11.

"My guys quit on me at halftime, and I had never had a team quit like that," Pinkel says. "I sat on my bed that night sobbing, emotionally exhausted, and I remembered what my dad used to say to me after a loss: 'Go fix it. Don't be wallering around here. Get going.'"

The next day, Pinkel called a meeting with his staff to inform them practices were about to get more intense. If players were going to quit, he said, it would happen during preseason in February, not in the regular season.

Training camp tweaks aside, nothing could prepare Mizzou for the 2002 arrival of Brad Smith, the electric quarterback from Youngstown, Ohio, with whom Pinkel's legacy and Missouri's resurgence are inextricably linked. The Tigers played in the 2003 and 2005 Independence bowls, and defeated Nebraska for the first time in 25 years, as Smith became the first player in NCAA Division 1A history to pass for 8,000 yards and rush



Faurot Forever

Donald Burrows Faurot was always slim. When he arrived in Columbia from his Mountain Grove, Missouri, hometown in 1921, his slight frame discouraged him from trying out for Missouri's freshman football team.

Now the late Thin Man, following a career as a player, coach, teacher and athletic director, is synonymous with Mizzou athletics.

Faurot's father was the director of an experimental fruit station where Faurot lost two fingers on his right hand in an orchard farming accident. By his senior year at MU, he had overcome the disadvantage and bulked up to 145 pounds to punt and play fullback for Missouri Coach Gwinn Henry.

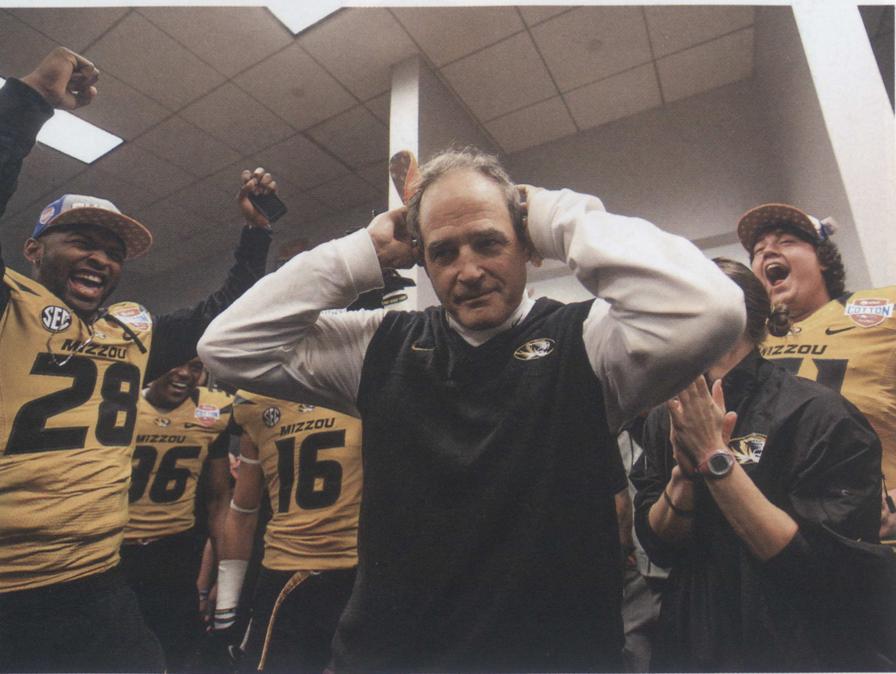
On the recommendation of another Mizzou legend, athletic director Chester Brewer, Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (NMSTC, now Truman State University) hired Faurot, BS Ag '25, MA '27, to coach baseball, basketball, football and track. Faurot's football teams in Kirksville went 63-13-3 and won 26 consecutive games before he relocated to coach and direct athletics at his alma mater in 1935.

When the Tigers defeated Texas A&M Nov. 30, 2013, Gary Pinkel and Faurot each had 101 career wins at Mizzou, but it wasn't the icons' first important parallel. Both coaches spent significant time at another institution where they compiled the best record in that school's history. Both implemented prolific offenses at Mizzou.

Perhaps most memorably, Faurot and Pinkel witnessed dramatic safeties to punctuate signature wins against the reviled Kansas Jayhawks. In Faurot's final game as coach in 1956, Mizzou defensive lineman Chuck Mehrer, BA '58, tackled Kansas running back Bobby Robinson in the Memorial Stadium end zone for a 15-13 victory. In 2007, with the BCS No. 1 ranking on the line, Mizzou defensive lineman Lorenzo Williams, BS '07, sacked Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing to seal a 36-28 victory for Pinkel's Tigers.

Faurot, who died Sept. 19, 1995, and Pinkel are also known for cultivating close relationships with athletes.

"Faurot made a point of going to the rooms of many of his players to keep open lines of communication," former NMSTC player Fred Schwengel told the *Chariton Collector* in 1986. "He truly cared about his players."



↑ After Mizzou defeated Oklahoma State 41-31 Jan. 3, 2014, at the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic in Arlington, Texas, Pinkel treated the Tigers to some sweet locker room dance moves.

for 4,000 yards in a career.

Yet Smith was only the first in a string of play-makers behind center. Developing quarterbacks remains Pinkel's calling card, as does getting big-time production out of unheralded recruits.

"We look for high-character kids with size and speed potential," says Pinkel of his staff's talent evaluating system. "They don't have to be the greatest football player in the world, but with those things, we can give them to Pat Ivey [associate athletic director for athletic performance] and make them stronger and faster."

The philosophy turned the Tigers into perennial Big 12 contenders, winning the North Division in 2007, 2008 and 2010. That stretch, among Mizzou's other institutional attributes, caught the SEC's eye when the nation's top football conference sought expansion in 2011. In arguably his biggest coup, Pinkel's 2013 Tigers surprised national sports pundits by winning the SEC East in their second season in the league.

Since 2007, Mizzou is the only BCS school to rank in the top 10 in wins, top five in NFL first round draft picks and top five in Academic Progress Rate, which measures graduation and retention. At press time, there were more than 30 Mizzou alumni on NFL rosters, including Carolina Panthers defensive lineman Kony Ealy.

"No excuses — I heard that from Coach Pinkel coming in, and I heard that leaving," says Ealy, AFNR '14. "It means don't come out here and make up some excuse why you can't get your job done, or why you can't be a man. That's from a football stand-

point and a life standpoint. He's like a father to me. He has always been there. Any time I needed him, any time something went down, he's always there."

Pinkel's tutelage has also allowed a few assistant coaches to spread their wings, including former linebacker and Mizzou safeties coach Barry Odom, BS '99, M Ed '04, now the defensive coordinator at the University of Memphis.

"I can still hear coach defining his job: He wakes up every day, worries about the things he can control and does everything he can to make Mizzou football better," Odom says. "Then he wakes up the next day and does it again."

Much of that late night toiling and strategizing is done from the top floor of the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex, where Pinkel's headquarters are appropriately flanked by the Dan Devine Pavilion (named for the third-winningest coach in Mizzou history) to the southwest and Faurot Field to the east. The office is a black-and-gold menagerie of photos, displays, game balls and trophies — emblems of success that span 13 seasons at Mizzou.

Now, in the summer preceding his 14th season, Pinkel shows off a preliminary sketch of a football-shaped trophy he plans to give his dearest coaching assistants and staff who have helped him climb to 102.

"When I got here, I remember putting up the sign [of goals], and one said 'Win the National Championship,'" Pinkel says. "The players weren't allowed to laugh, but you could tell by their body language they wanted to laugh."

"Last year, we were a quarter away from playing for the national championship. In 2007, we were a half away from playing in the national championship game. Two of the past seven years, we were knocking at the door. There's a process to winning." **M**

'Don't let anything in. The next day, wake up and do the same thing. If you don't do that, it will chew you up.'

GP'S TOP MIZZOU WINS

Jan. 1, 2008: Mizzou 38, Arkansas 7

Led by senior running back Tony Temple's Cotton Bowl-record 281 rushing yards, the Tigers cap a historic 12-2 season with a No. 4 final ranking.

Oct. 4, 2008: Mizzou 52, Nebraska 17

With its first win in Lincoln since 1978, senior quarterback Chase Daniel and Mizzou hand Nebraska its most lopsided home loss in 53 years.

Oct. 23, 2010: Mizzou 36, Oklahoma 27

Pinkel is 0-6 against Oklahoma until the Tigers knock off the No. 1-ranked Sooners and celebrate Homecoming with ESPN College GameDay in attendance.

Oct. 12, 2013: Mizzou 41, Georgia 26

Despite losing starting quarterback James Franklin to injury in the fourth quarter, the Tigers upset No. 7 Georgia for Pinkel's first road victory against a top 10 team.

Nov. 30, 2013: Mizzou 28, Texas A&M 21

By beating the Aggies and reigning Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Manziel, the Tigers earn a trip to Atlanta for the SEC Championship.

Jan. 3, 2014: Mizzou 41, Oklahoma State 31

Sophomore defensive end Shane Ray's fumble return for a touchdown seals a Cotton Bowl win, caps a 12-win season in the SEC and ensures a No. 5 final ranking.



Celebrating Our Stripes

Everyone celebrates Homecoming a little bit differently. Some come to CoMo to tailgate and cheer on the Tigers at Memorial Stadium. Others stay up late to tour campus decorations and wake up early to catch the parade. Students put on step shows and talent shows, and alumni reconnect with old friends. But few invest in Homecoming like the 32 students who spend months planning and executing one of the nation's best celebrations of its kind. Meet Homecoming Steering Committee directors Jeremy Essner, Jessica Morrow and Brandon Pilas.



Jeremy Essner

Kelso, Missouri
Senior
Business administration, management

What Homecoming means to me: Homecoming is more than just a football game. Homecoming is a chance for our alumni to come back and relive memories they made at MU. It's also a chance for our current students to make those memories that they will be talking about for years to come.

What the Homecoming theme, "Celebrating Our

Stripes," means to me:

Our student body comes from such diverse backgrounds. This theme gives the students a chance to celebrate what *they* are most proud of here at Mizzou.

Best idea as a director:

Buy a planner

Biggest surprise about college life: How much laundry I have

Favorite class at MU:

Classical mythology because it was like story time as a kid

Favorite place to eat in CoMo: CJ's. I love wings.

Superpower I'd like to have: Time travel, so I

could go back to freshman year and live college all over again

Obsession: I finished a whole season of *Bates Motel* in two days.

Guilty pleasure: El Rancho nachos

Actor who would play me in a movie: Russell Crowe. I like to think of myself as rugged.

First crush: Topanga from *Boy Meets World*

Most people don't know: I've never been on an airplane before.

Dream job: Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals

Jessica Morrow

Waukesha, Wisconsin
Senior
Nursing

What Homecoming means to me: I'm blown away by the spirit and tradition that lies within this campus.

It's incredible to see such passion in the desire to maintain our traditions in the hearts of our students, alumni and faculty.

What the Homecoming theme means to me: Acknowledging the diverse culture Mizzou encompasses. Everyone's "stripes" add to the Mizzou experience.

Most challenging thing about being a director: Coordinating business black-and-gold outfits

Favorite MU tradition: Chanting M-I-Z. I love connecting with fellow Tigers wherever we might be.

Most exciting experience: Getting my acceptance email from Sinclair School of Nursing because it is something I am passionate about

Have always wanted to: Travel to Spain so I can put

my Spanish skills to use

Glad I did it but wouldn't do it again:

Walk across a frozen lake in northern Wisconsin

Most people don't know: I like to be artsy and paint in my free time.

Favorite place to eat in CoMo: Las Margaritas

If I won the lottery: I would buy a nice car and then give my parents a bunch of money because they've put up with me for 21-plus years.

Actor who would play me in a movie: Jennifer Lawrence. She seems pretty cool.

Dream job: Chief of nursing at a level-one trauma center

Ultimate dinner date:

Beyoncé, to figure out how she does it all

Favorite quote: "Whatever the problem, be part of the solution. Don't just sit around raising questions and pointing out obstacles." — Tina Fey

Brandon Pilas

Ballwin, Missouri
Senior
Business administration, marketing

What Homecoming means to me: Homecoming means everything to me. From donating blood to staying up to the early hours of the morning building a parade float, I love it all. It's a celebration where everyone can find an event they are passionate about.

What the Homecoming theme means to me: One of my goals as director is to get everyone involved in Homecoming. "Celebrating Our Stripes" encompasses everything that Mizzou is about. The students at Mizzou are so diverse,

and we want to celebrate everyone.

First thing I thought when I found out I was a director: I thought it was a joke. When I realized it wasn't, I thought, "What am I getting myself into."

Most challenging thing about being a director: Remembering there are 31 capable people willing to help me with anything Homecoming-related

Most exciting experience: Studying abroad last summer in Prague. Encountering so many different cultures and stepping outside of my comfort zone was incredible.

Favorite class at MU: Accounting 2258 because it teaches everything you need to know about Microsoft Excel. It was and will be the most practical class I take at Mizzou.

Favorite place to eat in CoMo: Booche's

Wish I knew as a freshman: To get to know my professors. They are really there for your benefit and want to help you out in any way.

I'm proudest of: Donating bone marrow my sophomore year. It was an incredible feeling to be able to give an individual a second chance at life.

Biggest fear: I don't go into the ocean. I'm afraid of getting eaten by a shark.

Would never: Allow my children to attend the University of Kansas

Perfect day: Attending an afternoon Cardinals game and an evening Blues game

Ultimate dinner date: Chancellor Loftin. I haven't met him yet, and he seems like a pretty cool guy.

Favorite quote: "Be quick, but don't hurry." — John Wooden

SWAB A CHEEK, SAVE A LIFE



At least 1,000 people with blood cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma, die annually because they can't find a matching bone marrow donor, according to the Institute for Justice (IJ). The Mizzou family is rising to the challenge by making a bone marrow drive a standard at Homecoming.

Olivia Maniaci, BS BA '11, of Washington, Missouri, helps establish bone marrow registration drives across the region for the nonprofit Delete Blood Cancer. Last year, she started coordinating Mizzou's annual Homecoming drive, which began in 2007. During the 2013 drive, volunteers registered 1,644 people, the third-largest college drive the organization has done.

Unlike blood drives, bone marrow drives collect information. Donors complete a questionnaire and have their cheek swabbed. The DNA from the cheek swabs is analyzed for 10 genetic markers that determine compatibility for transplant, and the information is placed on a bone marrow registry. Then the waiting begins. Donors remain on the registry until they turn 61, so an 18-year-old freshman could wait more than 40 years for the chance to save someone's life.

Bone marrow donation can be as simple as taking blood from one arm, removing the stem cells and returning the

blood to the other arm. A more invasive method takes liquid marrow from the pelvic bone using a special syringe.

This year, 133,000 Americans will be diagnosed with a serious blood disease that could require a bone marrow transplant, according to IJ. Transplants are needed after chemotherapy or radiation destroys a person's own diseased bone marrow. However, finding a suitable match is exceptionally difficult. Thirty percent of patients find a donor within their families, but 70 percent must count on the kindness of strangers. Despite a registry of millions, Delete Blood Cancer says 60 percent of patients never receive a transplant.

Maniaci wants to add 2,000 Tigers to the registry this year. Her grand goal is to top Ohio State's single-drive record of 2,500 new registrants. Of the 7,500 MU students registered to date, 58 have donated bone marrow, Maniaci says.

Delete Blood Cancer has made a big push onto college campuses in part because of students' enthusiasm.

"So many people, when you tell them about being a bone marrow donor, their eyes get wide, and they run away," Maniaci says. "You still get some of that at college campuses, but often they say, 'Of course. Why wouldn't I do that?'" — Erik Potter

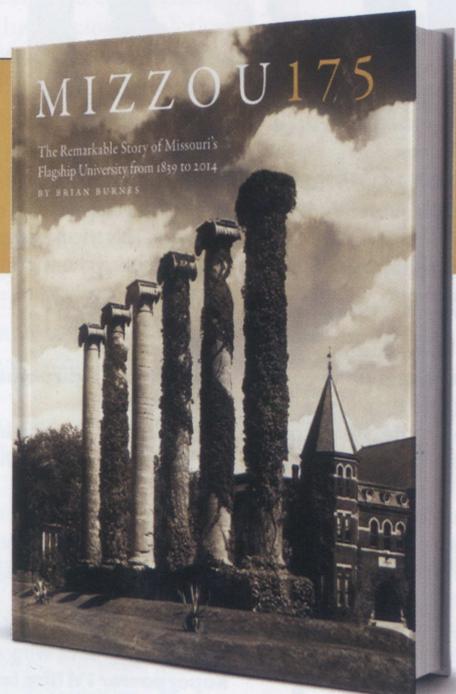
Celebrate a Landmark Anniversary With Mizzou's New Commemorative Book

The University of Missouri has helped shape history within the state and far beyond since its founding 175 years ago. You can explore this fascinating journey in a new coffee-table book written by historian and alumnus Brian Burnes, BJ '76.

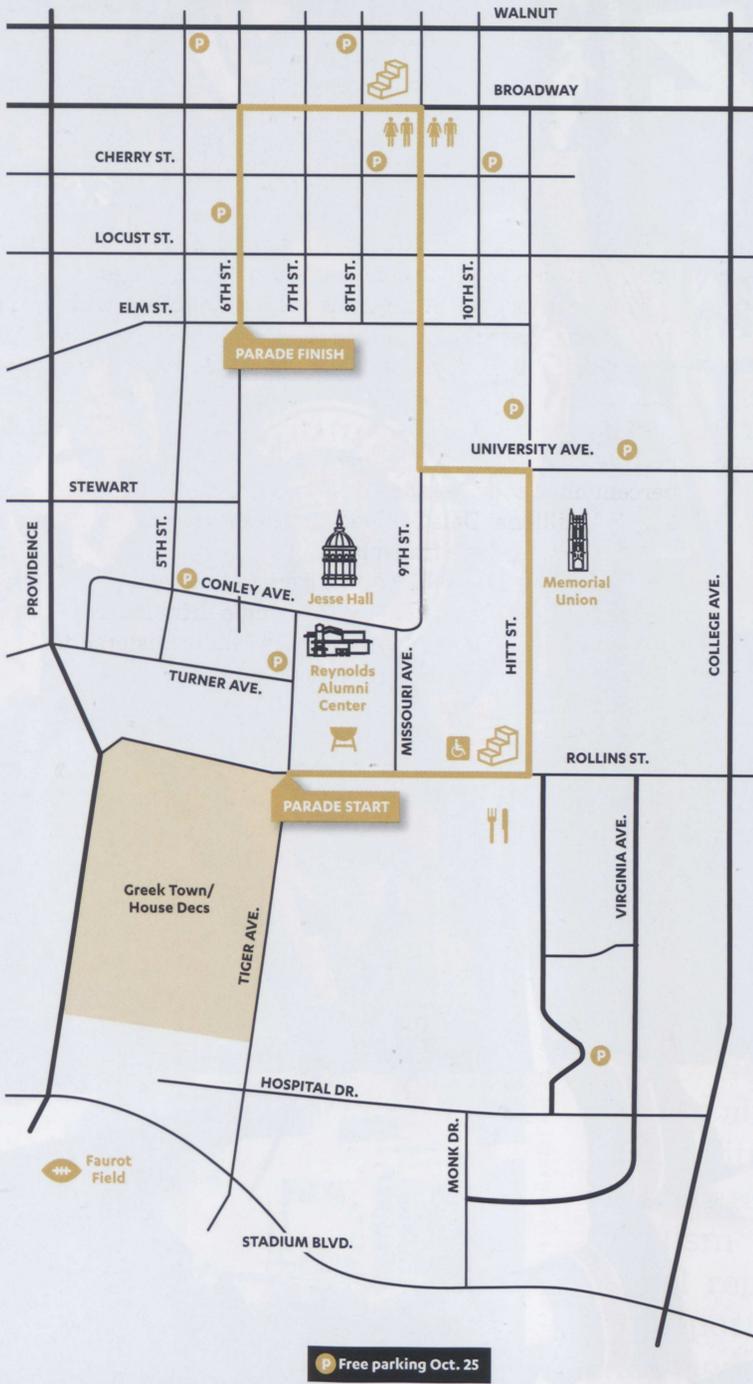
The 224-page book, packed with hundreds of archival and contemporary photographs, uses colorful narrative to chronicle the growth of the first public university west of the Mississippi River — from its modest start in frontier Boone County to its current standing as Missouri's major research, land-grant university.

- ▶ 9 x 11 inches with cloth hard cover and dust jacket
- ▶ Priced at just **\$29.95** plus shipping

Order at MizzouBook175.com or call toll-free 866-834-7467.



2014 Parade Route



P Free parking Oct. 25

KEY

- P** PARKING
- GRANDSTANDS
- ACCESSIBLE SEATING
- RESTROOMS
- ROMP, CHOMP AND STOMP
- BREWER BREAKFAST

Homecoming Events

Oct. 13-16 Homecoming Blood Drive

11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Hearnese Center
Thousands of students and alumni participate in the Homecoming blood drive, one of the nation's largest college-based drives. Make an appointment to donate in Columbia, or visit mizzou.com to find a satellite drive near you.

Oct. 20-23 Talent Competition presented by Asset Campus Housing

6:30 p.m., Missouri Theatre
Check out talented Mizzou students singing, dancing and joking onstage. Purchase tickets online, at the box office on performance day or stream the competition live at mizzou.com.

Oct. 24 Homecoming Headquarters

Noon to 5 p.m., Reynolds Alumni Center circle drive, Conley and Tiger avenues
Stop by the Reynolds Alumni Center and Traditions Plaza to check in for the weekend and reconnect with old friends. In the afternoon, catch one of the hourly campus tours.

Campus Decorations and Spirit Rally

6 to 9:30 p.m., Greek Town
Tour campus decs, and watch larger-than-life skirts. Food and merchandise will be available. Rev up for the big game at the spirit rally in Greek Town after house decs.

Oct. 25 Homecoming Parade presented by CenturyLink

TBD
Enjoy game-day spirit as floats, bands and performers wend through campus and downtown Columbia. Or stream parade coverage live at mizzou.com.

Homecoming game vs. Vanderbilt

TBD, Memorial Stadium
The Tigers face the Vanderbilt Commodores. At halftime, watch the Homecoming king and queen coronation. Single-game tickets are on sale at mutigers.com, or call 800-CAT-PAWS.

Check out the Mizzou Alumni Association's new mobile site mizzou.com from your smartphone.





MIZ
MISSOURI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MIZ 20th

**MISSOURI
XXL
TIGER**

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ALUMN

SPORT
SPORT
SPORT



DREAM JOBS

STORY BY MARCUS WILKINS • ILLUSTRATION BY BLAKE DINSDALE

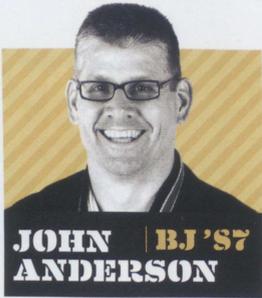
Mizzou sports fans in the digital age have grown accustomed to expansive coverage of their beloved Tigers. On Aug. 14, black-and-gold exposure reached an all-time high with the launch of the SEC ESPN Network.

Airing 450 events in its first year, including approximately 45 football games and more than 100 men's basketball games, the SEC Network will provide 24/7 programming about the Southeastern Conference's 14 institutions.

Naturally, with the nation's foremost journalism school on its campus, Mizzou is well represented at the Worldwide Leader in Sports. But not all MU alumni at ESPN studied primarily at the J-School.

Here, a handful of MU graduates discuss their lives as students, alumni and professionals. ➤➤

PHOTOS BY JOE FARAONI/ESPN IMAGES; PROPS COURTESY THE MIZZOU STORE



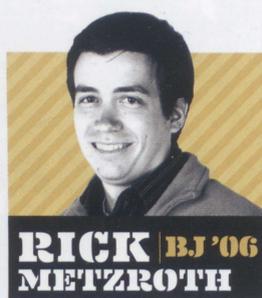
JOHN ANDERSON BJ '87

SportsCenter anchor Green Bay, Wisconsin
Favorite Mizzou athletics memory while a student-athlete: "My first Big Eight indoor track meet in Lincoln, Nebraska. We were expected to finish seventh according to the coaches' poll. Mizzou track and field Coach Bob Teel stood in front of the squad, a gentleman in every sense of the word, and informed us seventh would be fine as long as the eighth-place team was — (and then he took a long, long pause). Finally, he just said, 'Men, I would rather spit than be a Jayhawk!' We finished second."



KENDRA WALTER BA '10

Media operator Independence, Missouri
Favorite memory of Mizzou life: "[During a] snow day in 2006, my first-floor Hudson hallmates and I made the most of it. We stayed up all night chatting, daring people to go outside in their swimsuits, taking pictures and avoiding homework. It really helped us build better friendships with the people we had lived with for several months, and it's something we still laugh about today."



RICK METZROTH BJ '06

General editor, ESPNFC.com (soccer) Agoura Hills, California
The most excitable (rabid, boisterous) alumni — from any SEC institution — at the SEC ESPN Network: "It's hard for me to contain my passion when watching Mizzou at work sometimes, and a lot of people I work with would say I'm the most excitable SEC fan they know. But I have to give that title to Auburn fans — every one of them lives and dies with each game. There's no such thing as a casual Auburn fan."



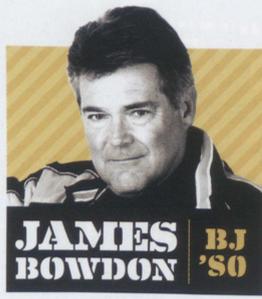
SETH WICKERSHAM BJ '00

Senior writer, ESPN The Magazine and ESPN.com Anchorage, Alaska
Most vivid memories of life in Columbia and at Mizzou: "They're all blurry. That's what made them fun. No, it's not really one memory but rather the collective feeling of an era. It was an era in which we covered the Super Bowl [for the *Missourian*] as college kids. It was an era in which big dreams seemed possible, if we worked hard enough. I was so fortunate for my friends at the sports desk: Wright Thompson and others. We were ambitious and obnoxious and competitive, not against one another, but against the world."



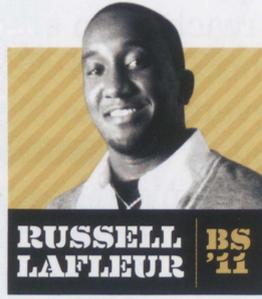
WRIGHT THOMPSON BJ '01

Senior writer, ESPN The Magazine and ESPN.com Clarksdale, Mississippi
What Mizzou brought to the SEC that makes the conference more interesting or fun: "Mizzou has brought a window into the orbit so many students have known and loved: little burgers and Stag longnecks at Booche's, mouth-scalding pizza at Shakespeare's, and music at the Blue Note, bottomless cups at the Fieldhouse, and the way three generations throw a football around the Quad in the shadow of the Columns."



JAMES BOWDON BJ '80

Coordinating producer, auto racing coverage St. Louis
Favorite Mizzou athletics memory while a student: "The Mizzou football team beat Notre Dame 3-0 [Sept. 9, 1978] in South Bend, Indiana, but everyone went to Faurot Field anyway, tore down the goal posts and took them to Bullwinkle's."



RUSSELL LAFLEUR BS '11

Software engineer Houston
Favorite Mizzou athletics memory while a student-athlete: "I made my way from Texas by way of a baseball scholarship. Mizzou played Texas Christian University in the 2010 Houston College Classic at Minute Maid Park where I hit my first career home run to lead off the game in front of 50-plus family and friends."



TOM FRIEND BJ '83

Senior writer, ESPN TV and ESPN.com Washington, D.C.
What he enjoys most about his job: "I get the chance to tell human interest stories for both mediums. You hear people say all the time, 'I liked the book, but I loved the movie.' Or, 'I liked the movie, but I loved the book.' I get to do both the movie and the book. It's perfect."



THOM GRIFFIN BJ '09

Production assistant Old Bridge, New Jersey
What he enjoys most about his job: "I most enjoy being in an all-sports, all-the-time environment every day. I also love that while everyone on campus takes the job seriously, they also realize that at the end of the day, we are bringing people sports, and it is an awesome privilege."



JULIE TURNER BJ '06

Manager, ad solutions and revenue analysis Emporia, Kansas
Reaction when she first learned Mizzou would join the SEC: "My first thought was what would happen to our rivalry with Kansas. I was at Mizzou Arena for the last home game against KU. The Tigers' win was the perfect ending to the rivalry, for now. I hope they're able to work something out to play again."



JOHN WALSH | MA '69

Executive vice president, executive editor
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Most vivid memories of life in Columbia and at Mizzou: After putting to bed the *Missourian*, “We would go to the Heidelberg and listen to John Fogerty singing ‘Who’ll Stop the Rain’ until 2 in the morning. It was fun. [The late] Jo Ann Dickerson, MA ’71, to this day one of the great mentors in my life, gave us all the confidence in the world. One of the great things about my time at Missouri was to hear [journalism Professor] Jo Ann say, ‘I have been in this business for a while, I see what you’re doing, and it’s really good.’ At my age, to hear that from someone who had spent 15 years in daily newspapers in Texas was the most gratifying and inspirational talk I could ever have.”

‘It was an era in which big dreams seemed possible, if we worked hard enough.’



AMY BRACHMANN | BJ '10, MA '11

Associate editor, ESPN
The Magazine

Crystal Lake, Illinois
Reaction when she first learned Mizzou would join the SEC: “I was excited; it’s more exposure and attention for the school. I knew in the short-term it would be a rough go, but I had confidence Mizzou would get on par with the rest of the SEC sports programs.”



TOM HART | BA '98

Play-by-play announcer for the SEC Network and ESPN Radio

Atlanta
Most vivid memories of life in Columbia and at Mizzou:

“When Notre Dame came to town in 1984, my brother and I sold candy bars in the parking lots for our school fundraiser. I was sent into the ABC production truck by a friendly cameraman to hand one to the producer. I bought my own football season tickets as a 13-year-old, and I passed campus every day on the way to Rock Bridge High School, so it was inevitable I would end up at Mizzou.”



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