



# HOMECOMING 2015

GO ON THE RECRUITING TRAIL  
WITH THE BACK-TO-BACK  
SEC EAST FOOTBALL CHAMPS

STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE  
WITH THOSE GOLDEN GIRLS  
OF THE GRIDIRON

MEET THE FRESH-FACED  
HOMECOMING  
TRI-DIRECTORS

HEY THERE, TIGER.  
I'M MISS MIZZOU,  
YOUR HOSTESS THROUGHOUT  
OUR SPECIAL SECTION  
HIGHLIGHTING MU'S  
GRANDEST TRADITION.

**FOLLOW ME!**

## A SHOW-ME STATE OF MIND

STORIES BY MIZZOU STAFF • COVER ILLUSTRATION BY JOSH NICHOLS



INTELLIGENCE

ATTITUDE

STRENGTH

HEART

TOUGHNESS

SPEED

AGILITY

OBJECTIVE:

# Making Mizzou Made

By Marcus Wilkins  
 Photos by Rob Hill  
 MIZZOU MAGAZINE  
 FALL 2015  
**PAGE 41**

Name	Off/Def Pos.	MU Proj. Pos.	Number	School	Evaluators
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**TOUGH QUESTIONS – HS/JC COACH**

- 1) Does he have ability & desire to be great college player in the SEC?
- 2) Is he liked & respected by teammates & coaches? (1-10)
- 3) Rate his toughness? (1-10)
- 4) Is he a leader? Vocal/By Example (1-10)
- 5) Is he a great competitor? (1-10)
- 6) Does he do what he is supposed to do when he is supposed to do it? (1-10)
- 7) Rate his character? (1-10)
- 8) Good citizen? Ever been in trouble?
- 9) Work ethic? (1-10) Practice Player? (1-10)
- 10) Attitude, coachability & reaction to criticism.
- 11) Concentration & ability to learn football. (1-10)
- 12) Does he love to play football?
- 13) Any medical problems? Surgery? Concussion? Back? Knee? Shoulder? Asthma?

**TOUGH QUESTIONS – MU COACH**

- 1) Recruiter's ranking / Position Coach Ranking
- 2) Does he have great toughness? (1-10)
- 3) Does he run well in relationship to projected position? (1-10)
- 4) Is he athletic in relationship to projected position? (1-10)
- 5) Who does this player athletically compare to in our program?

MU Football Grade	MU Position Coach Grade	HS/JC Football Grade	Physical Grade	Athletic Grade	Test Score	Core GPA / Classes
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Other Sports: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Competition: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Life: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - PHYSICAL GRADES - QUARTERBACK										
ATTRIBUTE GRADE					POSITION GRADES					IMPACT
10	HT	WT	SPD	STR	PLAYMAKER _____	Quickness	_____	1st Year Starter or Contributor		
8	6'4	220	4.5	275		Arm Strength	_____		2nd Year Starter	
6	6'3	210	4.6	250	ACCURACY _____	Drop	_____	2nd Year Contributor		
4	6'2	200	4.7	225	SCRAMBLE/RUN _____	Delivery/Release	_____	3rd Year Starter – Recruit		
2	6'1	190	4.8	200		Poise	_____	3rd Year Contributor – Hold		

NOTES:

**Recruiting.** In the world of college football, there is no weightier word. Many believe championships are won and lost, careers are extended or cut short, and programs are built or dismantled based on a coaching staff's ability to land the nation's top high school athletes. ¶ But there's no trick to spotting the truly elite athletes, and although head Coach Gary Pinkel targets consensus stars, he and his staff have also mastered the subtler and more disciplined craft of selecting players who, with proper guidance, can be developed into strong college performers. ¶ Of the schools in the "power five" conferences — the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — the Missouri Tigers are No. 5 in wins since 2007. Mizzou has capped 10 of the past 12 seasons with bowl games, won back-to-back SEC East championships and produced six first-round NFL draft picks in six years. Pinkel has led the Tigers to five top-20 and two top-five finishes in eight years. That record takes talent. ¶ Yet most preseason rankings of his recruiting classes are almost dismissive. 247Sports Composite, a ranking aggregator employed by multiple NCAA football preview magazines, ranks Mizzou, on average, No. 36 over the past decade. ¶ So what does Pinkel see that other coaches don't? And how are he and his staff able to transform groups of mostly unheralded recruits into one of the nation's top programs year after year? ¶ "Our system isn't necessarily designed so that you get the greatest players, but it is designed so that you don't make recruiting mistakes," Pinkel says. "It's about development as a player, as a student and a person, and we have an organized plan for all three. It's all about getting exceptional people to come here. ¶ **"It's all part of what we call Mizzou Made."**

**PLAYER ATTRIBUTES**

HEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_  
 WEIGHT \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPEED \_\_\_\_\_  
 STRENGTH  
 BP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PC \_\_\_\_\_  
 SQ \_\_\_\_\_

TRACK INFO

BEST ATTRIBUTE
LIMITATIONS



### Evaluation Situation

Brad Smith was born and raised in the cradle of football: Youngstown, Ohio, near the Pennsylvania border. By the time the fleet-footed quarterback graduated from MU in 2005, he had set 69 Missouri, Big 12 and NCAA records. He also had helped to launch the second act of his head coach's career and to reinvigorate Mizzou football's fan base.

So how did one of the most gifted athletes in Mizzou history slip past football behemoths Ohio State, Penn State and Michigan — right in their backyard?

"Why those other schools didn't recruit him, I don't know," Pinkel says. "I knew he had great potential. Everyone has their choices they have to make."

Smith's choice, however, was easy.

"I came to Columbia, ate great food, met great people, and saw the stadium and everything lit up," recalls Smith, BS BA '05. "I was like, 'Oh, man, I can't miss out on this.' The big thing was the opportunity to build something — to come in on the bottom level and set the foundation for all the teams to come."

Pinkel's eye for quarterback talent is especially sharp. He looks for physical skills — a quick pass-release, footwork and arm strength. But he also investigates intangibles, including competitiveness, mental toughness and leadership capability.

And quarterback is just one, albeit the most important, position. Mizzou's exhaustive evaluation form, used for all players, includes skill categories such as elusiveness, vision, acceleration, lateral movement and "motor" (the energy with which a player plays), to list a few.

It also includes a battery of "tough questions" for high school coaches, such as "Does he have the ability and desire to be a great player in the SEC?" and "Does he do what he is supposed to do when he is supposed to do it?"

Like so many aspects of Pinkel's program, the Mizzou evaluation system descends directly from the one used by his mentor, the late Don James, head coach at the University of Washington from 1975 through 1992.

"Many of the guys who [coached under] Don James changed the evaluation system, for whatever reason," Pinkel says. "For almost all of them, it didn't work. It's thorough, and we ask a lot more questions than most people."

The starting point of Pinkel's recruiting success is what he calls "size, strength and speed potential." By examining a player's build — arm length, shoulder width, bone thickness — and other less-obvious clues, Mizzou recruits players who can develop into SEC- and even NFL-caliber athletes. Cases in point: offensive linemen Justin Britt, BGS '13, of the Seattle Seahawks, and Mitch Morse, BS '14, of the Kansas City Chiefs.

"Those guys came in here at about 250 pounds," Pinkel says. "How can they be 310? Plug them into our program. Give them to [Associate Athletic Director for Athletic Performance] Pat Ivey [BS '96, M Ed '00, PhD '13] and his staff, and he turns them into the best they can be."

### Developing Talent

Young football players everywhere aspire to "play on Sundays," but at Mizzou, even those with long odds as freshmen are developing into NFL draft picks.

In the palatial Mizzou Athletics Training Complex (MATC), the corridor leading to the Sells Athletic Family Dining Hall is lined with game-action photos and plaques highlighting former Tigers who have made it to the pros. The exhibit is a strategic threshold for wide-eyed prospects to traverse on the way to a scrumptious meal.

Sitting in boxes on the floor in the office of Nick Otterbacher, Missouri's director of recruiting, are



newly framed NFL jerseys emblazoned with the names of Mizzou alumni destined for the same area. The Denver Broncos picked the most recent example, Shane Ray, and the team even traded up in draft position to secure the once lightly recruited defensive end out of Kansas City, Missouri.

That's not to say Mizzou coaches are going after only "diamonds in the rough." They are also recruiting, and landing, highly touted prospects targeted by other SEC programs.

"You want to be strategic in terms of who visits and when," Otterbacher says. "You want to be a kid's final visit [before he commits]. Especially when you know it's going to come down to the wire. We feel like it gives your school a better chance."

Long before signing day, the relationship between team and recruit has been cultivated over many months and sometimes years. Pinkel's staff starts with an annual list of 7,000 to 9,000 prospects from various recruiting services. The names are generated from high school coaches and camps sponsored by apparel companies such as Nike and Under Armour. Mizzou also hosts its own camps attended by youth league and high school football players, mostly from the Show-Me State.

"Some years we'll call every single coach in the state because we have a lot of little towns that don't always have players capable of playing Division-I football," Otterbacher says. "Got any sophomores or

juniors who might be able to play at our level? Anyone we need to be aware of?"

Once upon a time, says Mizzou offensive coordinator and tight ends Coach Josh Henson, universities recruited only high school seniors. Not anymore.

"When I first started, that was a big deal: People were starting to offer scholarships to juniors," Henson says. "Now you're seeing some teams make offers to sophomores, freshmen and eighth graders. I'm not sure where it stops. I do know this, though: Some of the most productive guys we've ever had at Mizzou we didn't recruit until their senior year. They were late bloomers."

Another modern recruiting boon is digital video footage. Where once VHS tapes filled rooms and spilled into hallways at the MATC, now coaches can use their smartphones to review game film of virtually any recruit in the nation.

"I go back to the days of film — cans of film," Pinkel says. "At Washington, high school coaches would send us film and ask us to send it along somewhere else, or we would copy it and send it back. But technology has changed. Everything is

1,000 times faster."

After evaluating thousands of student-athletes for more than a decade, Mizzou coaches know the proof is in the pudding. So Pinkel and his staff pay little heed to prognosticators such as 247Sports Composite, which ranks the Tigers' 2015 signing class at No. 25.

"You always want to hit your position goals as far as the number of players at each spot, and if you don't, you're going to pay for it a year or two down the road," said Pinkel of the class on national signing day. "I feel great about this class, and I'm looking forward to the guys getting on campus."

### Fireside Chat

At its simplest, recruiting is a conversation among coach, player and family in the living room. Those talks usually happen in Mizzou's main recruiting footprint, which extends throughout Missouri and its contiguous states, south to Texas and east through Georgia and Florida. However, sometimes those relationships are built around the kitchen table.

"In 2007, Coach Pinkel and I had three home visits [in St. Louis] one evening, which is a lot, so we grabbed a bite before we started," says Cornell Ford, cornerbacks coach and St. Louis recruiter. "First stop, [former Mizzou quarterback] Blaine Gabbert's mom had a spread. Next visit, Wes Kemp's

mom had another spread, and Coach Pinkel said, 'There's no way I can eat any more.' I whispered, 'Coach, we can't turn these people down.' Then we got to [former Mizzou defensive back Robert] Steeples' house, and it was like Christmas dinner. We actually ate four meals that night."

Home visits are also an opportunity to sell the family on the University of Missouri's academic virtues, such as the football team's Academic Progress Rate (a measure of graduation and retention), which is third in the SEC. Through the years, Pinkel has slept in his car, taken 3 a.m. calls from prospects and landed at high schools in a helicopter, all in the name of recruiting.

"I want to be in the home of every player we sign," Pinkel says. "It allows me to understand how a player was brought up; then we can do a better job of working with that player and bringing him along.

"Then I like to make it real clear that it's my responsibility to make sure your son or nephew graduates from Mizzou. *That's* my job. We're not perfect, but we're pretty darn good." **M**



### Total Tigers

Mizzou Made, the tagline on national TV commercials and Memorial Stadium's east façade, is a student-athlete development concept across MU sports. Coined by former Mizzou safety Kenji Jackson, BA '11, M Ed '14, and used as a Twitter hashtag for following Tigers during the NFL draft, it now describes a philosophy and programming that help players progress athletically, academically and socially.

Key to the concept is the Total Person Program, which launched in 1986 to provide student-athletes with tutors, mentors and opportunities to get involved in the community.

"We want not only to help student-athletes concentrate on their four years at Mizzou but also to prepare them for 40 years later," says Tami Chievous, associate athletics director for academic services.

Players also hone themselves psychologically by working with Pat Ivey, BS '96, M Ed '00, PhD '13, Mizzou's associate athletic director for athletic performance, who teaches mental toughness and positive coaching concepts.

**'Some of the most productive guys we've ever had at Mizzou we didn't recruit until their senior year. They were late bloomers.'**

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Few events showcase Mizzou's pageantry quite like a home football game on a glorious mid-Missouri autumn day. From the belly-punch of the ROTC cannon after a Tigers touchdown to the echoing "M-I-Z!" of 71,000 fans, traditions permeate the senses at Memorial Stadium. ¶ In fall 2015, the **Golden Girls** dance squad celebrates 50 seasons at the center of it all. What began in 1965 as a troupe of seven sequined baton twirlers has grown into a nationally recognized and frequently televised dance team of 30-plus. ¶ Although the gilded uniforms and thousand-kilowatt smiles have been present since the inaugural season, nearly every other aspect of the iconic squad has evolved.

Madison Putnam  
Sophomore, Kansas City, Missouri

← **uniform era**  
**1970s**

# Golden An



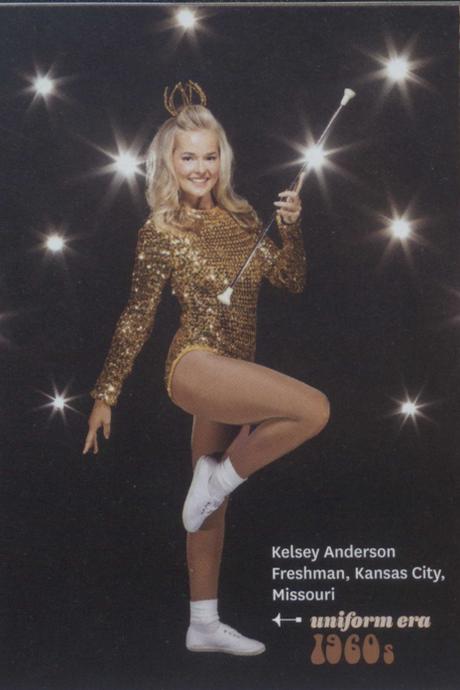
Mackenna Surdyke  
Sophomore, Osage Beach, Missouri

← *uniform era*  
**1990s**

# Mackenna Surdyke

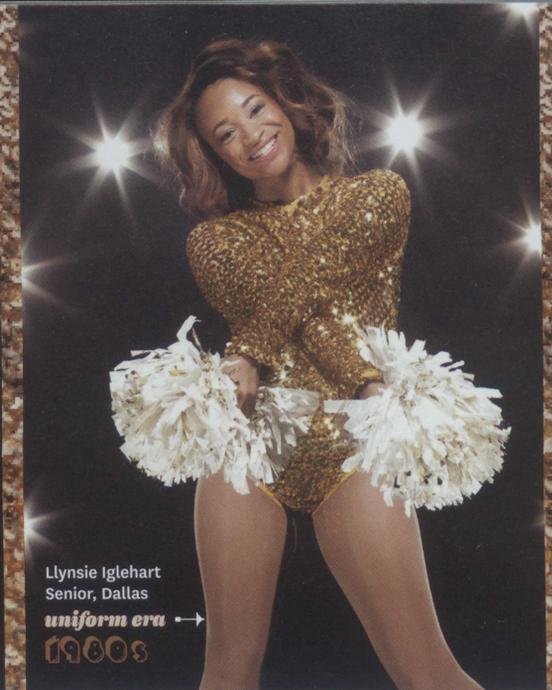
➡ **Marcus Wilkins**

📷 **Nicholas Benner**



Kelsey Anderson  
Freshman, Kansas City,  
Missouri

← uniform era  
1960s



Llynsie Iglehart  
Senior, Dallas

← uniform era  
1980s



Caroline Sundvold  
Sophomore, Columbia

← uniform era  
CURRENT

† One of the NCAA's most recognizable dance troupes, the Golden Girls have performed at thousands of Mizzou events, as well as at NFL games, national competitions and alongside 1970s stuntman Evel Knievel.

**The 1960s were a golden age** for Mizzou football. Head Coach Dan Devine led the Tigers to 77 wins and five bowl games. Players such as Johnny Roland, BS BA '66, and Roger Wehrli, BS Ed '70, electrified crowds with their gritty and athletic play. The band, dubbed "Marching Mizzou" in 1958, rode the wave of gridiron success to national prominence. Innovative Director Charles Emmons, hoping to wow the audience at the 1960 Orange Bowl, concocted elaborate halftime-show formations including the still-popular "Flip Tigers" routine: Band members form the word "Mizzou" and then transform it into "Tigers."

A small group of baton-wielding majorettes accompanied the band every Saturday. But when Sandy Davidson, BA '68, MA '73, JD '82, now a communications law professor at the MU School of Journalism, wore a silver-sequined leotard to the 1964 tryouts, the showman Emmons had a eureka moment.

"He said, 'I'd like to see that in gold!'" says Patty Gramm Kespohl, BS Ed '68, a featured twirler on the 1965 squad and Golden Girls coach for 33 years. "We weren't officially announced as the Golden Girls — maybe a reporter gave us that name — but we were always looking for twirlers until [Emmons' successor Alex] Pickard got tired of watching the girls pick up dropped batons."

The luminous uniforms, reflecting sunlight to the stadium's highest climbs, were a hit. "They were stretchy and thick, and they were hard to pull on," says Emmons' daughter Charla Emmons Kleopfer, BA '69, MA '79, an original Golden Girl. "They were modest, but they didn't look modest on the football field."

As more and more experienced dancers auditioned, Kespohl and Pickard eventually phased out twirling and incorporated more costumed halftime numbers, including the Charleston and a performance to the song "Kids" from the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*.

In the 1970s, the Golden Girls caught the eye of executives at the NFL's St. Louis Cardinals. For five seasons, the squad based to St. Louis on Sundays and performed in red-and-white uniforms on the Busch Stadium sidelines. Although the paying gig helped fund uniforms and trips, Kespohl eventually decided the weekly obligation was too much to ask of college students.

In 1987, former MU Director of Athletics Joe Castiglione

wanted to see more action during halftime and timeouts of men's basketball games, so he invited the Golden Girls to perform at the Hearn Center. The closer quarters forced Kespohl to trim the roster to 14 dancers, which ultimately might have helped sharpen the squad's skills. The 1990–91 Golden Girls won back-to-back National Cheerleaders Association championships in Dallas, and the dancers were rewarded with a trip in to Tokyo, where they performed during NBA exhibition games.

"We all had 4-inch bangs and went through some *serious* Aqua Net," says Shannon Wells Fry, BS Ed '95, a Golden Girl alumna who enters her 18th season as coach in 2015. "It was the stickiest."

Today, the squad trains at the posh Tiger Performance Complex, south of Memorial Stadium, which opened in 2011 and which they share with the gymnastics program. The Golden Girls compete annually in the National Dance Alliance Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in Daytona, Florida, where they finished second in April 2015. Beyond the playing field, they participate in events to support research for autism and cancer as well as local youth charities, including the Rainbow House and Ronald McDonald House.

"As a Golden Girl, I gained confidence, but I also learned the value of trying your best and being part of a team," says Linda Russell, BS Ed '72, M Ed '87, a retired social studies teacher at Columbia Public Schools. "You don't want to let your team down, but you *have* to have fun. Those years were some of the best of my college experience."

Golden Girls alumnae have gone on to become dance instructors, lawyers, doctors and scientists. Their beaming faces and boundless enthusiasm have welcomed and entertained many thousands of fans at Mizzou events over the years.

"Our first responsibility is to be ambassadors for the University of Missouri," Fry says. "When you become a Golden Girl, you take on the name of every single girl who wore the gold sequins before you. I always tell them, 'This is not a job; it's a lifestyle.'" **M**

THESE  
24-KARAT  
GALS *REALLY*  
KNOW HOW  
TO SPARKLE.



# A Show-Me State of Mind

SHOW ME A MISSOURI TIGER AND I'LL SHOW YOU A KID WHO'S GOIN' PLACES, JACK.



No one knows for sure who invented Homecoming, but it's clear that University of Missouri students, alumni, family and friends put on one of the nation's largest and best celebrations. This year, a group of 34 dedicated students took to heart what U.S. Congressman Willard Duncan Vandiver said in an 1899 speech: "I am from Missouri. You have got to show me." ¶ For the past six months, the Homecoming Steering Committee has been planning opportunities for the Mizzou family to show its pride, from step shows and talent shows to service events and spirit rallies. Meet the directors — Missouri natives, all three — who want Tigers to return to Columbia this October in a Show-Me state of mind. — *Kelsey Allen*

## Kit Nelson

*St. Joseph, Missouri*  
Senior  
Civil engineering



**First thing I thought when I found out I was a director:** First: Wahoo! Second: Wow, this is going to be hard.

**What the Homecoming theme means to me:** When we decided on "A Show-Me State of Mind," we really wanted to focus on the alumni, family and friends coming home to Columbia. No matter how you celebrate, we're happy you come back.

**Favorite class at MU:** Honestly, probably calculus. I really like math, so it was fun for me.

**Favorite place to study on campus:** The Grand Reading Room at Ellis Library

**Favorite MU tradition:** I attended the inaugural Columns Society gala in 2014. They completely transformed MizzouRec to honor outstanding alumni. It was inspiring, and it made me want to be that kind of alumna.

**Favorite place to eat in CoMo:** Café Berlin

**Biggest weakness:** Puppies. If there is a puppy in the room, I am not going to leave it alone.

**Glad I did it but wouldn't do it again:** When I studied abroad in South Africa, I tried ostrich meat. It's cool to say I've tried it, but, yeah, never again.

**Superpower I'd like to have:** Teleporting so I could travel the entire world

**Have always wanted to:** I'm thinking about having a structural emphasis with my civil engineering degree, and I would love to design roller coasters someday.

**Would never:** Root for the University of Kansas. No explanation needed.

**Can't live without:** Music. There is always something out there for me to listen to and love no matter what my mood, or the occasion.

**Dream job:** Performer on Broadway

**Most people don't know:** I hate it when people touch my elbows or knees.

**Guiltiest pleasure:** I love to watch the Food Network.

**Best way to relax:** A day on the boat at the Lake of the Ozarks

## Tanner Bryant

*Sikeston, Missouri*  
Senior  
Parks, recreation and tourism



**What Homecoming means to me:** It's a celebration of our wonderful Mizzou, which has made us who we are.

**Favorite thing about Homecoming:** The sense of family you feel the week leading up to the game. Fellow students, committee members, alumni, faculty — you just get the feeling that we all belong together.

**Biggest surprise about college life:** No one to dictate my diet

**Favorite class at MU:** English 2006: The Journey of the Hero. I loved this class for two reasons: The content of the class taught life lessons, and Associate Teaching Professor Raymond Ronci taught it so well with a lot of life experience.

**Favorite place to study on campus:** The cages in Ellis Library

**Something I wish I knew as a freshman:** How fast the years go by, even if you are here for five-plus

**How my friends describe me:** Loud

**I am proudest of:** My little sister, Harper, who has done so well her first year here at Mizzou

**Glad I did it but wouldn't do it again:** High school

**Superpower I'd like to have:** Shapeshifting

**Have always wanted to:** Travel to Ireland to see where my family originated

**Cannot live without:** My morning coffee. If I did not have it, I would not be able to physically make it to class before noon.

**Spurge:** Anything at Bass Pro Shop

**Dream job:** Open a brewery

**Perfect day:** Wake up early, drink some coffee and fly-fish all day

**Actor who would play me in a movie:** Kevin Costner

**Favorite game:** The Legend of Zelda for Nintendo 64

**Favorite quote:** "Not all those who wander are lost." — J.R.R. Tolkien

## Kelsey Denker

*St. Charles, Missouri*  
Senior  
Accounting



**What the Homecoming theme means to me:** "A Show-Me State of Mind" means that Missouri and Mizzou have a unique experience with Homecoming. Many universities have Homecoming, but only one impacts people the way Mizzou's does.

**What Homecoming means to me:** It's a time when you can really show how much the university means to you.

**Biggest surprise about college life:** Cooking isn't for everyone. One time I made a cheese quesadilla, and it came out charcoal.

**Favorite place to study on campus:** A booth in the MU Student Center, but that never happens, so I resort to the stacks in Ellis Library.

**Favorite place to eat in CoMo:** B&B Bagel Co., hands down

**I'm proudest of:** Skydiving. Heights are not my thing.

**Biggest weakness:** Chocolate

**Biggest fear:** Wind. You never know what it's going to do.

**Superpower I'd like to have:** To be able to look at a textbook and transfer all the knowledge to my brain

**Have always wanted to:** Own a monkey

**Would never:** Bungee jump. There's no way I'm putting my life in the hands of an elastic band.

**Can't live without:** My support system — also pizza.

**Dream job:** *National Geographic* photographer. You get paid to search for the most amazing scenes in the world.

**Guiltiest pleasure:** Scratch-offs

**If I won the lottery:** I'm going straight to Australia.

**Ultimate dinner date:** Jennifer Lawrence because she would be OK with just ordering pizza.

**Favorite song lyric:** "It's funny how it's the little things in life that mean the most, not where you live, what you drive or the price tag on your clothes." — "Chicken Fried" by Zac Brown Band

# Beyond the Funny Pages

**Columbia cartoonist examines Miss Mizzou's many dimensions**

No one in the stands at the Tigers-Southern Methodist football game Oct. 11, 1952, is likely to have forgotten the halftime unveiling of what was hiding underneath Bek Stiner's trench coat (a leopard-print minidress).

The beautiful blonde "Miss Mizzou" — inspired in part by Marilyn Monroe — was the work of comic artist Milton Caniff. He created the character after a daylong trip in 1949 to campus, where he spoke to University of Missouri journalism students. Miss Mizzou — a waitress in Columbia, though not a Mizzou alumna — made her official debut Sept. 5, 1952, in Caniff's *Steve Canyon* comic strip.

"Every college town has girls who live and work on the edge of the campus and who are very much a part of the life of the school," Caniff wrote in the October 1954 issue of *The Missouri Alumnus*. "I decided my gal would be from the University of Missouri, if not of it."

Caniff couldn't have anticipated that his two-dimensional character would give rise to a three-dimensional prototype (model Bek Stiner), a community controversy (the street name Caniff Boulevard versus Providence Road) and a campus tradition (the Miss Mizzou contest).

It's that crossover from comic strip to real life that intrigued local cartoonist J.B. Winter. "How do comic characters penetrate into the public consciousness?" Winter wondered. "Some are forgotten while others excite readers and inspire events in real life."

Winter spent years piecing together the history of Miss Mizzou to determine why she created such a stir. He answers his question in his book *Miss Mizzou: A Life Beyond Comics* (CreateSpace, 2014), available at the Mizzou Store, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

"I'm interested in the interplay between reality and fantasy," says Winter, who explores that interaction in his own work. In a recent project, Winter used edible food-decorator pens to draw comics on tortillas, creating artistic cheese quesadillas. "Miss Mizzou fits into that."

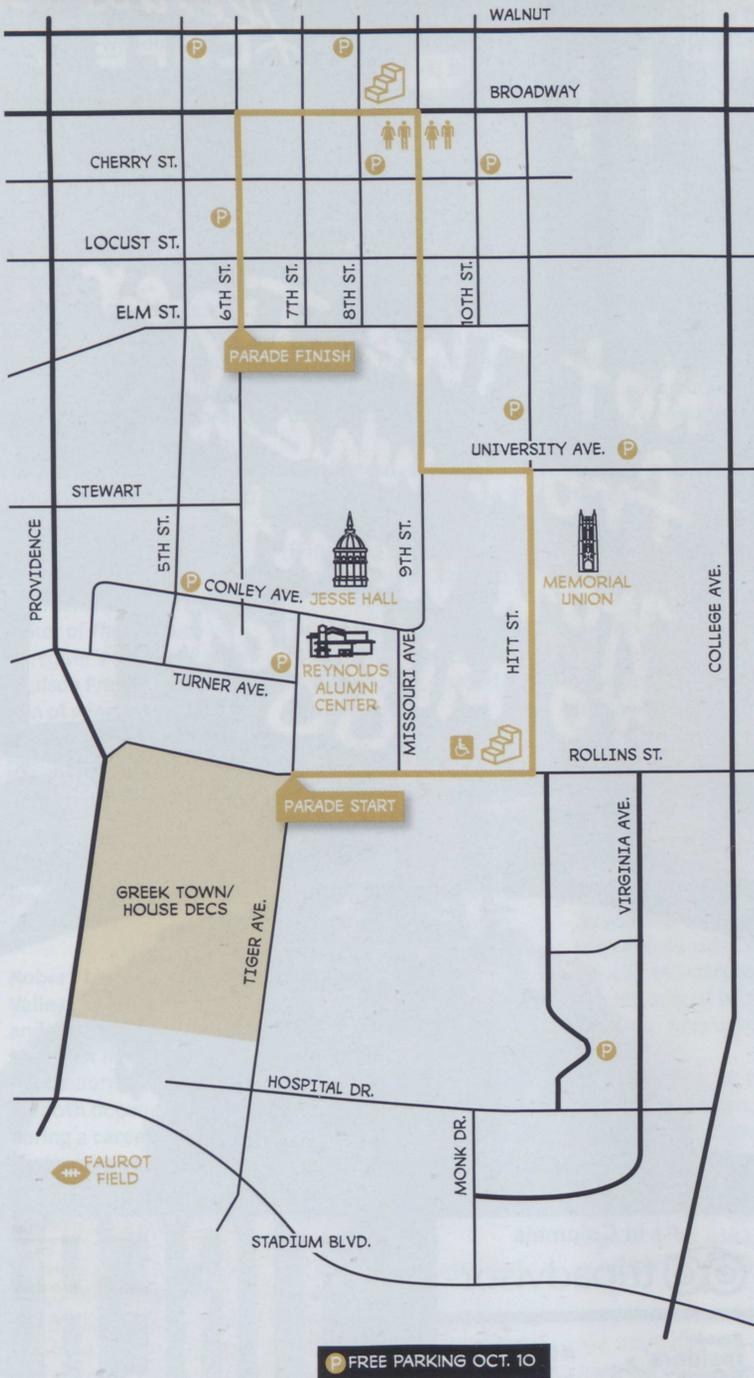
Today's students might not know Milton Caniff, Bek Stiner or Miss Mizzou, but nostalgic alumni can stop by the Mizzou Alumni Association at Reynolds Alumni Center, where a life-size chalk drawing of Miss Mizzou hangs.

"You can still visit her there and see the excitement Caniff sparked in Columbia via the flourish of an artist's touch," Winters writes. — *Kelsey Allen*



↑ Clockwise from top: Milton Caniff poses with 25-year-old Copacabana chorus girl Bek Stiner, who was the model for Miss Mizzou. Milton Caniff drew this cover for the premiere issue of the revived *Missouri Showme* magazine that appeared Oct. 21, 1960. The issue went on sale at 9 a.m., and by noon, all 3,200 copies had been sold. Stiner poses for a photo as Miss Mizzou in 1954. Cover illustration for *Miss Mizzou: A Life Beyond Comics* by local cartoonist J.B. Winter. The book is available at the Mizzou Store, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

# 2015 PARADE ROUTE



## Campaign Kickoff & Homecoming Events

### Sept. 28–Oct. 1

#### Homecoming Blood Drive 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Hearnes 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](http://mizzou.com) to find a satellite drive near you.

### Oct. 5–7

#### Talent Competition presented by Todd Student Living 6:30 p.m., Missouri Theatre

Check out talented Mizzou students singing, dancing and joking onstage. Purchase tickets online or at the box office on performance day, or stream the competition live at [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com).

### Oct. 7

#### David McCullough Lecture

7 p.m., Missouri Theatre  
World-renowned historian and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough will give a talk on the Founding Fathers as part of The Kinder Forum on Constitutional Democracy's public lecture series.

### Oct. 8

#### Mizzou: Our Time to Lead Campaign Kickoff

5:30 p.m. reception,  
7 p.m. dinner,  
Mizzou Arena

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin will officially kick off MU's comprehensive campaign, Mizzou: Our Time to Lead, at an invitation-only black-tie gala.

### Oct. 9

#### Homecoming Headquarters Noon to 4 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.

### Campus Decorations

6 to 9:30 p.m., Greektown  
Tour campus decs, and watch larger-than-life skits.

### Sheryl Crow Benefit Concert 6 p.m. VIP reception, 7:30 p.m. concert, Missouri Theatre

Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter Sheryl Crow, BS Ed '84, is donating the proceeds from her concert to the MU School of Music building project. Tickets will be available through Ticketmaster.

### Spirit Rally

9:30 p.m., Traditions Plaza  
Rev up for the big game at the first spirit rally at the newly constructed Traditions Plaza.

### Oct. 10

#### Homecoming Parade presented by CenturyLink TBD

Enjoy game-day spirit as floats, bands and performers wend through campus and downtown Columbia. Stream parade coverage live at [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com).

### Homecoming Game vs. Florida

TBD, Memorial Stadium  
The Tigers face the Florida Gators. At halftime, watch the Homecoming king and queen coronation. Single-game tickets are on sale at [mutigers.com](http://mutigers.com), or call 800-CAT-PAWS.

## KEY

-  PARKING
-  JUDGES' STANDS
-  ACCESSIBLE SEATING
-  RESTROOMS