



Join the club

Hobbyist? Enthusiast? Buff? Students have fun and make friends in hundreds of clubs at Mizzou. Story by John Beahler Photos by Rob Hill



The Mizzou Black Men's Initiative, formed in fall 2009 to help young black men settle into campus life, also provides a support system with regular study sessions in the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. From left, members Korian Harrington, Phillip Simpkins, Cameron Grant, D'Andre Moore and Jake Mitchell serve a meal to visitors at the group's inaugural dinner and movie evening at the Black Culture Center.

When alumni think back on their time at Mizzou, they realize that the experience of attending a large public research university extends well beyond the classroom. Because MU is so diverse both academically and socially, students are exposed to new people and new opportunities almost every day.

For a student from rural Missouri and a St. Louis city slicker, sharing a dormitory room can open up a new world view. Intramural sports teams allow students to indulge their individual athletic passions from volleyball to ultimate Frisbee. Almost every academic department at MU sponsors a club that lets students immerse themselves in the subjects that interest them the most.

Across campus, there are nearly 600 student clubs, including dozens of religious-affiliated organizations; others are devoted to chess,

computer-game design, concrete canoe design and building formula racing cars. One student organization, called the Triangle Coalition, provides a political outlet and educational resources for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people, and for those who are interested in non-heterosexual issues.

There also are clubs for aspiring pilots, target shooters and barbecue aficionados. There is the MU Skeptics, Atheist, Secular Humanist and Agnostics Club, and one called Color Me Wild for students who “dye their hair unnatural colors.”

Here’s a look at a few of the student organizations that add to the student experience at MU.

MU Horticulture Club members Karen Momper and John Smeda tend to poinsettias that members grow in a south campus greenhouse before the group’s annual holiday sale. Members also sell roses for Valentine’s Day and bedding plants in the spring to local gardeners.



Jerolyn Byrne, left, and Mark Peper haul a Christmas tree to its new owner during the Forestry Club’s annual tree sale at Memorial Stadium. The club has been selling trees to loyal customers for nearly 40 years, including some trees that members plant and tend on a small acreage off campus.



Aaron Fuller, director of the Legion of Black Collegians’ Gospel Choir, leads the group during the fall 2009 semester-ending Fabulous Stop Day event at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center. The popular choir is in demand to perform at dozens of events throughout the year.



They might not make ideal next-door neighbors, but the MU Percussion Society's steel drum ensemble brings a welcome touch of the Caribbean to area schools with drumming demonstrations and shows. Practicing in a Loeb Hall music studio are Becca Taylor, Ted Brakeman and Liz Fornago.

Hunter Nash may look like he's working solo, but he has help from dozens of fellow Agricultural Systems Management Club members during the group's lawnmower tune-up clinic held each spring. Every year, club members get hundreds of mowers ready for another season of lawn duties.