

{ SEE
PG. 38 }

**new fight,
same bite**

2009
football
preview!

two grand
marshals!

Marching
Mizzou in
England!





SEAN WEATHERSPOON

In 2009, 'Spoon' is bent on breaking Missouri's all-time career tackling record.



SPOON-FED

Now that Missouri football has earned national respect, players are hungry for seconds. And thirds.
Story by Marcus Wilkins † Photos by Nicholas Benner and Rob Hill † Sculpted spoons by James Calvin

For every true Mizzou fan, skies above have definitely been blue. The Tigers set a school record with 22 wins during the past two seasons after averaging fewer than six wins per season the previous decade.



MISSOURI'S 30-23 OVERTIME VICTORY against Northwestern University on Dec. 29, 2008, in the Alamo Bowl was its third bowl win in four years. Missouri is now a perennial part of the national football conversation, bringing a swagger hitherto unfamiliar to a generation of MU fans.

Unfortunately, the Alamo Bowl also marked the end of an era for six players on offense and seven on defense. Gone are star quarterback Chase Daniel and his two favorite targets, wide receiver Jeremy Maclin and tight end Chase Coffman. Departing from the defense are lineman Evander "Ziggy" Hood, safety William Moore and defensive end Stryker Sulak.

More than 40 players have moved on from Missouri in the last two years, but in his ninth season, head Coach Gary Pinkel is confident his program has achieved the recruiting momentum it needs.

"There was a time when nobody knew who Ziggy Hood was and no one had heard of Stryker Sulak," he says. "We've got a lot of kids now where it's kind of like it was three or four years ago."

So it's fitting that senior linebacker Sean "Spoon" Weatherspoon leads Mizzou into a new era with an ebullient personality and youthful energy. If "Spoon" and his teammates can inspire a defensive revival at Missouri, fans will continue to eat it up.

Table for 12

No conference is as defined by its quarterbacks as the Big 12, and 2009 will again showcase the nation's best. Baylor, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas all return top-flight quarterbacks with Heisman Trophy potential.

For Missouri, Blaine Gabbert could be the latest in what has become a legacy behind center. The 6-foot-5, blue-chip recruit

from Ballwin, Mo., has confidence and arm strength, but limited experience tempers expectations for the sophomore in 2009.

The Black and Gold Game on April 18 offered glimpses of Gabbert's athleticism and skill, but the defense was the dominant squad that day, stuffing the offense 68-40.

"Just like when Daniel was starting out, you have to rely more on other guys when you have a young quarterback," says David Yost, new offensive coordinator.

Yost represents one of the two most significant promotions on the Missouri coaching staff, as former offensive coordinator Dave Christensen is now the head coach at the University of Wyoming, and former defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus coaches linebackers for the Cleveland Browns.

Previously the quarterbacks coach, Yost was instrumental in developing record breakers Daniel and Brad Smith. New defensive coordinator Dave Steckel has been the man behind Mizzou's talented corps of linebackers for the last eight years. Yost and Steckel have a combined 25 years of experience with Pinkel, a particular point of pride for the head coach.

"When you hire from within, you hire people who know how you do things," Pinkel says, comparing the process to his experience as an assistant under University of Washington coaching legend Don James. "This transition has been very minimal for everyone, but most importantly for the players."

Chewing up yards

Junior tailback Derrick Washington was the Big 12's third-leading rusher in 2008 with 1,078 yards. Along with sophomore tailback De'Vion Moore, who averaged almost six yards per carry last season, the running backs will likely be among those "other guys" Yost mentions. In fact, with a

new quarterback and fresh faces on every unit, fans are wondering how the Tigers' high-flying aerial attack will fare. But don't expect Mizzou to transform from the spread offense into the I formation.

"When you lose that many players in two years, the last thing you want to do is come in and change the offense around," Pinkel says. "You want to go back to basics. There are adjustments we're going to make, but we're going to do it within our system."

The offensive line continues to get bigger and stronger, anchored by returning starters junior Tim Barnes, senior Kurtis Gregory and sophomore Elvis Fisher. At 6-foot-7, 315 pounds, sophomore tackle Dan Hoch won playing time as a true freshman in 2008, while sophomore Austin Wuebbels steps in at left guard.

Senior wideouts Jared Perry and Danario Alexander will try to replace the 2,093 receiving yards and 20 touchdowns posted by Maclin and Tommy Saunders, and speedy sophomores Wes Kemp and Jerrell Jackson also have earned increased expectations. At tight end, reliable sophomore Andrew Jones follows in the footsteps of Coffman and 2007 graduate Martin Rucker.

On special teams, Mizzou will again feel Maclin's absence as the coaching staff tries to field a new dynamic kick returner. But the biggest question mark will be replacing the most accurate kicker in NCAA history, Jeff Wolfert. The spring leader is senior Tanner Mills, with punting duties going to returning senior starter Jake Harry.

"I'm not sure you can ever replace a Jeff Wolfert," Pinkel says.

The Tigers finished last in the league in pass defense in 2008, an area they'll need to improve to stay competitive in 2009. Working to fluster opposing signal callers, Mizzou's secondary features returning junior starter Carl Gettis at cornerback and a group of athletic young players such as junior cornerback Kevin Rutland and sophomore safety Kenji Jackson.

Senior noseguard Jaron Baston, a vocal leader on defense, knows they'll have a tough task slowing down the Big 12's offenses.



JARON BASTON
Blue Springs, Mo., 6-1, 305 lbs.

Baston finished the 2008 season with career highs in tackles (49) and tackles for loss (8). The defensive lineman posted a career-best seven tackles against Texas, and he recorded his first career interception against Kansas. A dependable run-stopper in the middle, he can play either inside position, and he is the only returning starter on the defensive line in 2009. Baston was a standout player at Blue Springs (Mo.) High School, which finished the season 13-0 and won the state championship in 2003.

SEAN WEATHERSPOON
Jasper, Texas, 6-2, 245 lbs.

A first team All-Big 12 and third team All-America linebacker in 2008, "Spoon" is one of the most vocal leaders on either side of the ball. His 155 tackles in 2008 were the second most in MU single-season history (to Travis McDonald's 164 in 1994). He was named defensive MVP in Mizzou's 30-23 overtime win over Northwestern in the Valero Alamo Bowl Dec. 29, 2008. Weatherspoon is preseason first-team All-Big 12 and a candidate for the Butkus Award, given to the nation's best linebacker.

KURTIS GREGORY
Blackburn, Mo., 6-5, 305 lbs.

A veteran leader on the offensive line, Gregory has started 28 consecutive games going back to the 2007 season. He graduated with a bachelor of science in agriculture in May 2008 and now pursues a master of science in agriculture. Gregory was second-team All-Big 12 in 2008. He was also a 2008 Big 12/Chick-fil-A Community of Champions honoree, awarded to the best student-athletes for their contributions on and off the field.

DERRICK WASHINGTON
Raymore, Mo., 5-11, 225 lbs.

The versatile tailback rushed for 1,078 yards and caught 29 passes for 277 yards in 2008. Washington prepares for a bigger role in 2009 as the offense welcomes new starters at several skill positions. A second-team All-Big 12 honoree, he was only the seventh running back in Mizzou history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season. He underwent knee surgery in February, but he participated in the April Black and Gold Game and is expected to be at full strength by the Sept. 5 season opener against Illinois.



"Everybody says this team has a target on its chest, but on defense, we feel like we're the underdog every game," Baston says.

And then there's Weatherspoon, who Pinkel calls "the best linebacker in the country, without question." An early favorite for first-team All-America honors, he enters the season with 302 career tackles, putting him within striking distance of James Kinney's Mizzou record of 434 from 2001-04.

Despite a solid spring and an impressive Black and Gold Game, Weatherspoon stops short of saying the team will be defined by its defense.

"I don't think it's safe to say that we're a dominant defense at the moment. I think we've definitely made some strides and come far," he says. "But as far as competitive nature, you can count on these guys every day to compete."

WATCH A BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEO OF THE "SPOON-FED" PHOTO SHOOT. | mizzoumagazine.com



Sunday buffet

Flash back to April 25. Hood stands on stage beaming, the second of six Tigers selected in the 2009 NFL Draft in New York. Together with Pittsburgh Steelers' Coach Mike Tomlin, the new colleagues hold aloft Hood's replica No. 1 jersey, signifying the top pick by the Super Bowl champions.

"Hey, check that out," says Pinkel, sliding a photo of the scene across his desk. The coach is notably nonchalant about former players transitioning from Saturdays to Sundays. "That's kind of cool, huh?"

For the Missouri Tigers, success in the draft does not represent the mountaintop. Too many goals remain — a Bowl Championship Series Bowl game selection, a Big 12 championship and a national championship.

But draft day was a fitting cherry on top for a senior class that accrued 37 victories, played in four consecutive bowl games and achieved the school's first No. 1 ranking in 47 years. Missouri football has entrenched itself in the national consciousness and now

regularly attracts NFL-caliber recruits.

"We play at the highest level here," Pinkel says. "Those [draft] numbers should increase. I think that's normal."

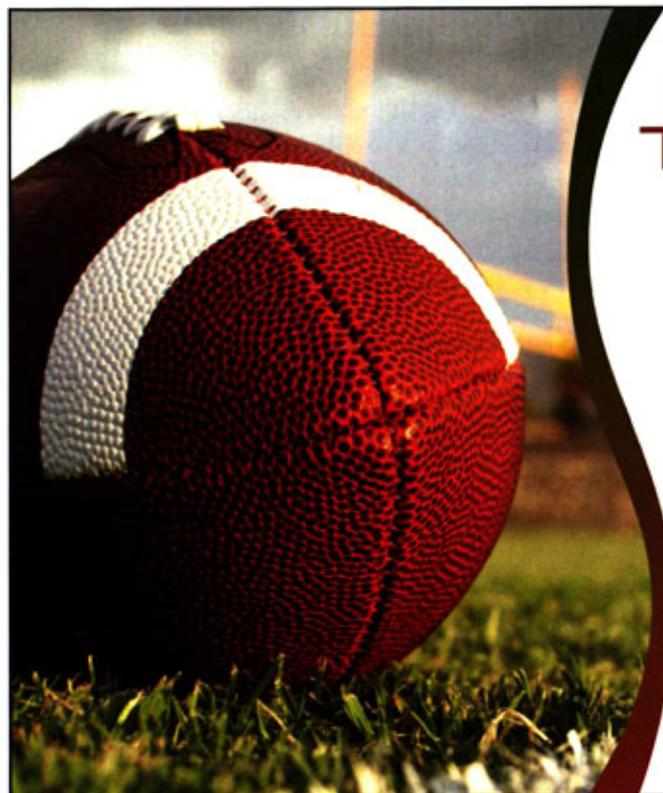
The 2009 squad can expect growing pains as it develops young talent in one of the most competitive leagues in the country, but the Tigers will bring their appetite.

"With success comes expectations," Yost says. "Coach Pinkel is always saying, 'You never arrive.' Because once you think you're there, guess what? Somebody just went by you." ■

TIGER FOOTBALL 2009 SCHEDULE

SEPT. 5	ILLINOIS (ST. LOUIS)
SEPT. 12	BOWLING GREEN
SEPT. 19	FURMAN
SEPT. 25	AT NEVADA
OCT. 8	NEBRASKA
OCT. 17	AT OKLAHOMA STATE
OCT. 24	TEXAS (HOMECOMING)
OCT. 31	AT COLORADO
NOV. 7	BAYLOR
NOV. 14	AT KANSAS STATE
NOV. 21	IOWA STATE
NOV. 28	KANSAS (KANSAS CITY)

Times TBA. Dates subject to change. Home games highlighted gold.



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Hoop legends host homecoming

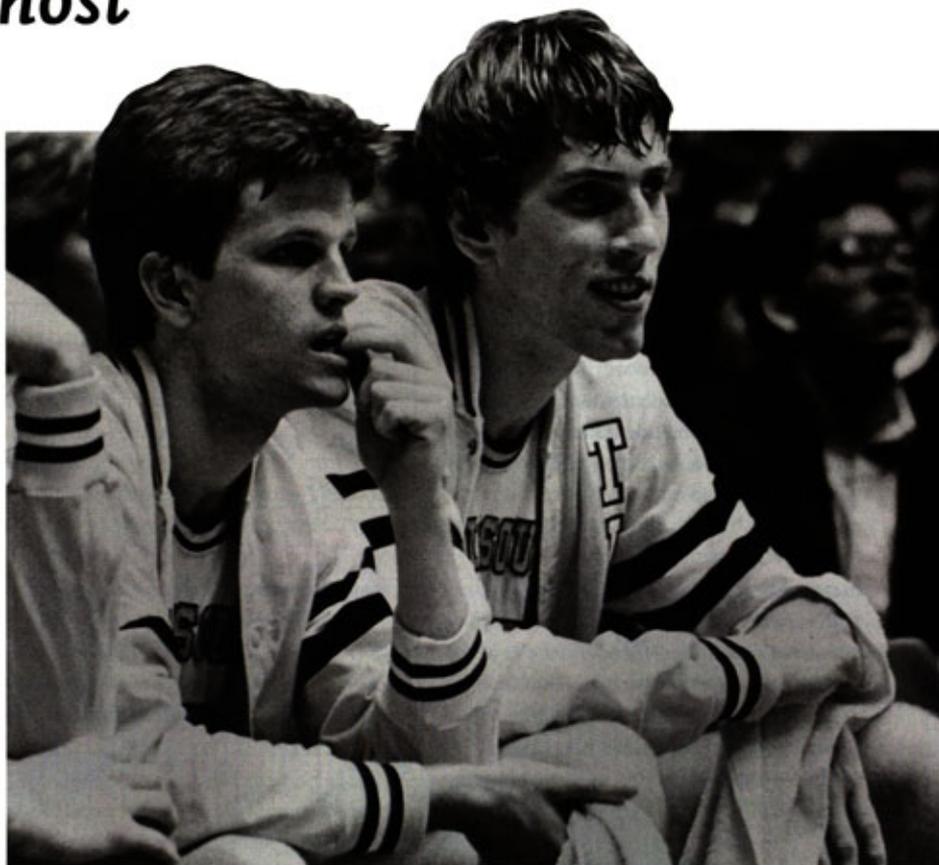
ALTHOUGH HOMECOMING is traditionally about football, the Tigers' recent basketball success makes the 2009 grand marshals popular picks: Mizzou hoops legends Steve "Stipo" Stipanovich, BS Ed '89, and Jon Sundvold, BS BA '83. Among their accomplishments, they are the only two players in Big Eight Conference history to have played on four consecutive league championship teams; they twice reached the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament; and both were inducted into Mizzou's Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame inaugural class in 1990 along with player and coach Norm Stewart.

Stipanovich, perhaps Mizzou's most storied big man, has fond memories of Homecoming as a student-athlete. "Homecoming is always a big deal. It's the biggest event of the year, and there was a lot of excitement in the air."

After Stipanovich finished his college career, he was the second player taken in the 1983 National Basketball Association (NBA) draft, and he played six seasons for the Indiana Pacers. He returned home to St. Louis and now raises money for Westminster Christian Academy, which is building a new campus in Town and Country, Mo.

Sundvold was the first-round pick of the Seattle SuperSonics in the 1983 draft, and also played for the San Antonio Spurs and Miami Heat. In 1989, he set a single-season NBA three-point shooting record. That year, he also established MU's first endowed basketball scholarship.

A first-rate shooting guard, Sundvold always made time for Homecoming. "Being an athlete, you're always



MU Publications file photo

Jon Sundvold, BS BA '83, left, and Steve Stipanovich, BS Ed '89, are 2009 Homecoming grand marshals.

working at your sport," Sundvold says. But there was a buzz during the lead-up to Homecoming. "The activities were quite noticeable — my friends were busy with house decs, and I always visited Greek Town for the house decs on Friday night.

On the basketball team, our world was: Go to class, go to practice and study.

But the weekend of Homecoming itself, with the game and all the activities, was very much like it is today." Sundvold is now president of Sundvold Financial in Columbia.

Both men are ready for

the Homecoming parade and set to cheer the football Tigers against Texas Oct. 24. |||

HEAR STIPANOVICH AND SUNDVOLD'S THOUGHTS ON MIZZOU'S CURRENT BASKETBALL TEAM. | MIZZOUMAGAZINE.COM

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Homecoming events

Saturday, Oct. 3
5K RUN/WALK

Help launch the Homecoming celebration at the annual 5K Run/Walk. Registration by Sept. 17 is \$15 (\$20 afterward). Proceeds benefit MU's Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.
8 a.m. check-in, 9 a.m. start, Stankowski Field
 Register: mizzou.com

Oct. 13–15, 20
BLOOD DRIVE

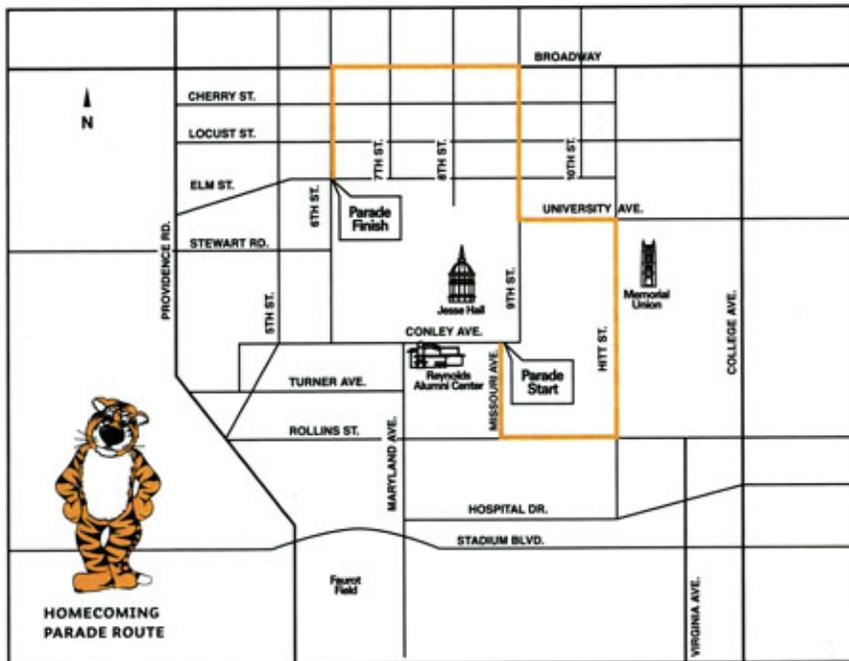
Thousands of students and alumni support Mizzou's Homecoming Blood Drive, one of the largest in the nation. Participate in Columbia or find a satellite drive at mizzou.com.
Noon–8 p.m. Oct. 13–14, Hearnes Center
10 a.m.–8 p.m. Oct. 15
10 a.m.–6 p.m. Oct. 20

Oct. 19–22
TALENT COMPETITION

Check out the range of Mizzou talent on display as students try to sing, dance and joke their way to fame.
6:30 p.m. preliminaries, Oct. 19–21, Jesse Auditorium
6 p.m. finals, Oct. 22
 Tickets: mizzou.com

Oct. 23
CAMPUS DECORATIONS

Gather in Greek Town to watch stories come to life and to peruse vendors' merchandise. Prepare for the following day's football game against Texas at the Spirit Rally with Mini Mizzou, MU Spirit Squads and Homecoming grand marshals Steve Stipanovich and Jon Sundvold.
6–10 p.m. tour decorations, Greektown
7:30 p.m. Spirit Rally, Burnam and Richmond in Greektown


Oct. 24
HOMECOMING PARADE PRESENTED BY CENTURYTEL

Get in the game-day spirit by enjoying the sights and sounds of the annual parade. Check out this year's route on this page or visit mizzou.com.
Time TBA, campus and downtown Columbia

MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER APPRECIATION TAILGATE

Gather with old friends and meet new ones at the Mizzou Alumni Association's Homecoming Tailgate. The event features a pregame meal and beverages, member appreciation gifts and more. Registration is \$10 for association members and \$15 for non-members. Children 12 and under are free.
2.5 hours before kickoff, Hearnes Center
 Register: mizzou.com

HOMECOMING GAME VS. TEXAS

The Tigers kick off against the Texas Longhorns at Faurot Field for the annual Homecoming game. At halftime, watch the coronation of the 2009 Homecoming King and Queen.
Time TBA, Memorial Stadium
 Tickets: 1-800-CAT-PAWS, mutigers.com

The Homecoming parade will follow the streets highlighted in gold. For updates, visit mizzou.com.



Musician recalls 1975 trip to London

CRAIG WORKMAN WAS JUST a freshman in the spring of 1975 when he made the best memory "bar none" of his college career — a trip to England and his 15 minutes of fame.

Highlights: The music major played his alto saxophone during halftime of the England vs. Scotland rugby match March 15 in Twickenham Stadium near London. Queen Elizabeth II of England was patron of the event and may have been there listening. Workman wasn't exactly going solo. About 300 members of Marching Mizzou — musicians, Golden Girls, a twirler and the flag corps — performed at Twickenham and at two other major athletic events in England during a 10-day trip.

"They were all big-time stadiums," says Workman, BJ '78, owner of The Workman Company, a marketing consulting firm in St. Louis. He says the crowds, unfamiliar with marching bands, were accustomed to half-

time entertainment from "a couple of guys in kilts playing national songs." Then in came Marching Mizzou carrying an American flag and playing a program celebrating the United States' upcoming bicentennial of independence from England. "I was just crossing my fingers that we didn't get run out of town."

He needn't have worried. "We got rousing receptions from the crowds and great write-ups in the papers. One columnist even described the style of our whole shtick as 'razmatazz.'"

Marching Mizzou's high-energy performance at an England vs. Germany soccer match entertained 100,000 spectators at London's Wembley Stadium and may have been broadcast internationally on television. But Workman's memories of preparing for the trip are just as vivid as the event.

A St. Louis businessman, George McKay, suggested making the trip, and members of Marching Mizzou raised money to make

it happen. The band recorded an album of Americana including "Yankee Doodle," "Old Missouri" and "Fight, Tiger." All the Marching Mizzou members had to sell 20 copies at \$5 each. The Missouri Banking Association also distributed the albums. "People who went talk about their memories of London, but raising all that money in just a few months and working up a huge new show — that was the real story," Workman says.

As a student, Workman played in a local band called Emerald City, which performed at bars and private parties. He switched his major to journalism when he was a junior. These days he plays music as a drummer in a couple of pickup bands doing classic rock and rhythm and blues. Once in a while he looks back on his sojourn to England: "The trip created quite a buzz around campus. It was one of the biggest things that happened at Mizzou that year." ■



Photo by Nicholas Benner



Marching Mizzou recorded this album and sold copies to raise money for a trip to England in 1975.



**ALL DECKED OUT IN
BLACK AND GOLD**

Students Liz Braun,
Andrew German
and Sally McVey
organize the grand
celebration.

Preparing for the big dates: Oct. 23-24

For the past nine months, this year's student directors have spearheaded preparations for the Mizzou Alumni Association's annual Homecoming festivities. **Liz Braun**, **Andrew German** and **Sally McVey** lead the 2009 Homecoming Steering Committee of 29 students and plan activities ranging from the parade to the blood drive to the talent show. Get to know Braun, German and McVey.

Liz Braun

21, SAGINAW, MICH.

JOURNALISM AND HISTORY MAJOR

Self-description: Organized, optimistic, dedicated

Got involved in Homecoming because: I wanted to be a part of one of Mizzou's oldest traditions.

Biggest challenge: Finding enough hours in the day to get everything done

First thing I thought when I learned

I was a director: I need to buy some more black and gold clothing.

Ultimate dinner companion: Jackie Kennedy, because she reshaped the role of the first lady

Can't live without: My planner

A casual friend would never guess: I love war movies.

Glad I did it but wouldn't do it again: Standing in Tiger's Lair in the pouring rain with my stomach painted as part of a slogan

Biggest fear: Scary movies. No matter how cheesy they are, I still freak out.

Splurge: Anything by Vera Bradley

Dream job: Public relations at a large corporation

Would play you in a movie: Reese Witherspoon, the epitome of a classy woman

Most important quality in a partner: Thoughtfulness. It's the little things that count, like opening a door or calling to see how my day is going.

Favorite quote: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." — Hebrews 11:1.

Andrew German

21, CHESTERFIELD, MO.

BUSINESS MAJOR

Self-description: Outgoing, responsible, passionate

Got involved in Homecoming because: Mizzou has the finest Homecoming in the country, and I wanted to get involved and do something for Mizzou.

What the Homecoming theme means to me: Every Mizzou Homecoming is different but retains important traditions and values. The theme New Fight, Same Bite represents that.

Best idea I've had as a director: I would love for residence halls, Greek houses and classroom buildings to put up gold lights for Homecoming.

Ultimate dinner companion: MU basketball Coach Mike Anderson

Can't live without: My family

Splurge: My 42-inch LCD TV

Most important quality in a friend: Honesty

First purchase after winning the lottery: Porsche 911 Turbo

Dream job: Sports agent

I'd love to read the mind of: Girls. That would make life so much easier.

Favorite game: Football on Xbox 360

Most exciting experience: My bar mitzvah when I was 13. All of the hard work and preparation really made it a special day.

Favorite quote: "My momma always said, 'Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.'" — *Forrest Gump*

Sally McVey

21, KENNETT, MO.

COMMUNICATION AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Self-description: Witty, charismatic, driven

First thing I thought when I learned I was a director: I need to get these rollers out of my hair!

Biggest surprise about college life: How fast my mom got rid of all my stuff in my old bedroom

Can't live without: My planner. Without it, I feel like I'm going to pass out.

A casual friend would never guess: I was a magician's assistant for two years and a competitive bowler for 12 years.

Important qualities in a partner: Cooking skills and a four-wheel drive vehicle

Deal breaker in a friendship or romance: The inability to apologize makes me run the other way.

Biggest fear: The F word — my future

Dream job: First lady, but being a co-host on *The View* is a close second

Best ways to relax: Running and scrapbooking

First purchase after winning the lottery: A parking spot outside Memorial Stadium and a black and gold RV

Have always wanted to: Go to Scotland. It is a breathtaking country with a rich history. And I have a soft spot for plaid and bagpipes.

Favorite quote: "There is more in us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps, for the rest of our lives, we will be unwilling to settle for less."
— Kurt Hahn

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