

Are You in the Know?

A photograph showing a close-up of a person's hand reaching into the back pocket of a pair of blue jeans. A yellow book is visible in the pocket. The jeans have a small yellow tag with 'MIZZOU' printed on it. The background is dark.

SAVVY GRADUATES WILL KEEP

THESE 10 NUGGETS ABOUT

MIZZOU IN A HIP POCKET.

STORY BY DALE SMITH

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROB HILL
AND DORY COLBERT

1. TWO SCHOOLS IN ONE

Many public universities emphasize teaching accomplishments while others focus on excellent scholarship and research. Mizzou has strengths in both areas. Mizzou is Missouri's only public member of the Association of American Universities, which recognizes excellence in undergraduate education and federally funded research. Mizzou's wide range of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degree programs makes it the only public institution in Missouri to be classified as

Doctoral/Research University.

Extensive by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The upshot: MU is the kind of place that attracts top faculty who create knowledge and students who learn from and conduct research alongside them.

2. GRAPES FOR HEALTH

Many people already take advantage of red wine's heart-healthy effects, and the grape just keeps on giving. MU researchers Grace and Albert Sun discovered that resveratrol, a compound in red wine and grapes, may help minimize brain damage in stroke victims. After a stroke, an influx of calcium generates oxygen free radicals, which can result in delayed cell death. Resveratrol minimizes damage by absorbing the free radicals.

3. NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

When it comes to the vaccine for polio, the history books hail Jonas Salk. But Frederick Robbins, BA '36, BS Med '38, DS '58, was one of the trio of researchers whose work paved the way for Salk. In 1954, Robbins and his teammates won a Nobel Prize for their breakthrough in developing a way to grow poliovirus in a test tube.

IN THE KNOW ABOUT MIZZOU

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2. GRAPES FOR HEALTH MU researchers discovered that a compound in red wine and grapes may help minimize brain damage in stroke victims.

3. NOBEL PRIZE WINNER Frederick Robbins, BA '36, BS Med '38, DS '58, was part of a research team that paved the way for the polio vaccine.

4. SUPPORT FOR EINSTEIN MU physicist Sergei Kopeikin was part of the first team to support an Einstein theory by attempting to measure the speed of gravity.

5. SHARING INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL Each year, extension programs offer more than a million people in many walks of life the latest information in their fields.

That call boosted attendance at Rollins Field to 10,000 and started Mizzou's Homecoming tradition, which was among the first in the nation. That first Homecoming match ended tied at 3-3.

8. GROWING RESEARCH DOLLARS

Having won large grants to study plant genomics and science and math education, MU led Missouri in money awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 2000 to 2004. NSF funds research and education in science and engineering through its awards to more than 2,000 institutions nationwide. Competition is fierce. Units across campus won \$73.9 million from the NSF during that period, compared with \$49.8 million at Washington University in St. Louis.

5. SHARING INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

Mizzou shares its research knowledge with all interested Missourians through University of Missouri Extension. Each year, extension efforts offer more than a million people — teachers, farmers, health care professionals, lawyers, firefighters, police officers and more — the latest information in their fields. MU Extension is also the gateway for online and other nontraditional courses and degree offerings.

6. BLAST FOR SAFER BUILDINGS

Sometimes it's the good guys who blow up buildings. Engineer Sam Kiger directs MU's National Center for Explosions Resistant Design, which researches explosions and the building designs that protect against them. The center's work ranges from writing computer programs that determine a wall's blast-resistant capacity to finding out through experiments that adding a few extra screws to steel stud walls can make them far stronger.

7. COME ON HOME

In 1911, when a new conference rule mandated that football games be played on campus, MU and KU abandoned the practice of competing in Kansas City. Concerned about attendance, MU Athletic Director Chester Brewer sent word for Mizzou graduates to come back home for the Tigers' big game.

4. SUPPORT FOR EINSTEIN In formulating his general theory of relativity, Albert Einstein assumed that gravity travels at the speed of light. But was he correct? Probably. In September 2002, MU physicist Sergei Kopeikin and astronomer Ed Fomalont of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory set out to measure the speed of gravity. They used an innovative technique and a rare alignment of celestial bodies. A prestigious journal published their results, which prompted debate in the scientific community and received worldwide attention.

9. GET THE STORY

For students at MU's School of Journalism, the first in the world, almost anything in Columbia and around the world is a potential story topic. Newspaper and magazine students gain hands-on experience as they produce print and online publications, including three magazines — *Addamite!*, *IDP Global Journalist* and *Vox* — and the *Columbia Missourian* newspaper. Broadcast students train at KBIA-FM, *Missouri Digital News* and KOMU-TV. Strategic communication students create advertising, public relations and marketing strategies for local and national clients.

10. THIS MINI PIGGY COULD SAVE A LIFE

The breakthrough made international science news headlines in 2002 when Randall Prather and other MU researchers, working with Immerge BioTherapeutics Inc., were the first to clone miniature swine that had a particular gene "knocked out" of their DNA. It was a key step toward the urgent task of making animal-to-human organ transplants a reality. Of the more than 87,000 Americans who await donor organs, 17 die each day. ☺

