

Through Fresh Eyes

STORY BY CAROL HUNTER

PHOTOJOURNALISM STUDENTS TAKE A CANDID LOOK AT THE LARGEST-EVER

FRESHMAN CLASS AT MU.

THERE WERE 4,439 FRESH FACES on campus this fall when Mizzou welcomed the largest freshman class in its 163-year history. To document this milestone, MIZZOU magazine asked members of a capstone journalism course, Picture Story and the Photographic Essay, to photograph freshman life during the first weeks of the semester. MIZZOU provided the film and developing; the students provided the talent and effort. Their teacher, Associate Professor Rita Reed, guided them through the project and graded their work.

MIZZOU editors selected one picture to publish from each of the 15 photo essays. For Erin Barker, a senior from West Des Moines, Iowa, the assignment "brought back memories of the trials we all faced as freshmen, such as living in a new environment with a complete stranger and making new friends while maintaining studies."

Three of the class's eight graduate students — Jean Chung and Yung Soo Kim of South Korea, and Masataka Namazu of Japan — got their first close look at freshman life in America.

Although MIZZOU provided the journalism class with some leads, the photographers identified many of the subjects on their own. Several wished to find freshmen who were atypical, and their quests yielded a 16-year-old girl from the

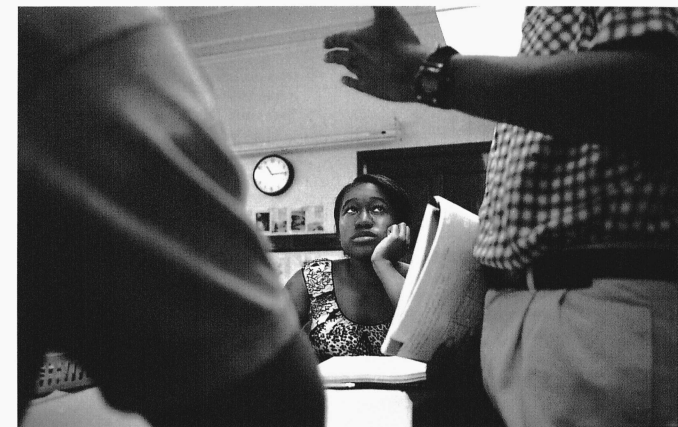


PHOTO BY CORBIN DUKEHART

Ivory Coast in western Africa, a 48-year-old man who is changing careers, and a 20-year-old wife and mother.

Of course, the photographers also captured many typical freshman experiences: attending class, making new friends, working part time, cheering the Tigers, and pledging a fraternity or sorority.

Some aspects of freshman life, however, do change from one generation to the next. Today's freshmen must live in residence halls or Greek houses, for instance. Also, admission standards have increased. MU requires entering freshmen to have

taken four years of high school English, four of math, three of science, three of social studies, two of foreign language and one of fine arts. This year's freshman class has a mean ACT score of 25.5, compared with the state average of 21.5 and the national average of 20.8.

Compared with last year, MU undergraduates are paying about 13.5 percent more in fees, the result of a 10 percent core budget cut to MU's state appropriation. Yet despite higher fees, student retention remains high. More than 83 percent of the 2001 freshmen returned for their sophomore year. ☼

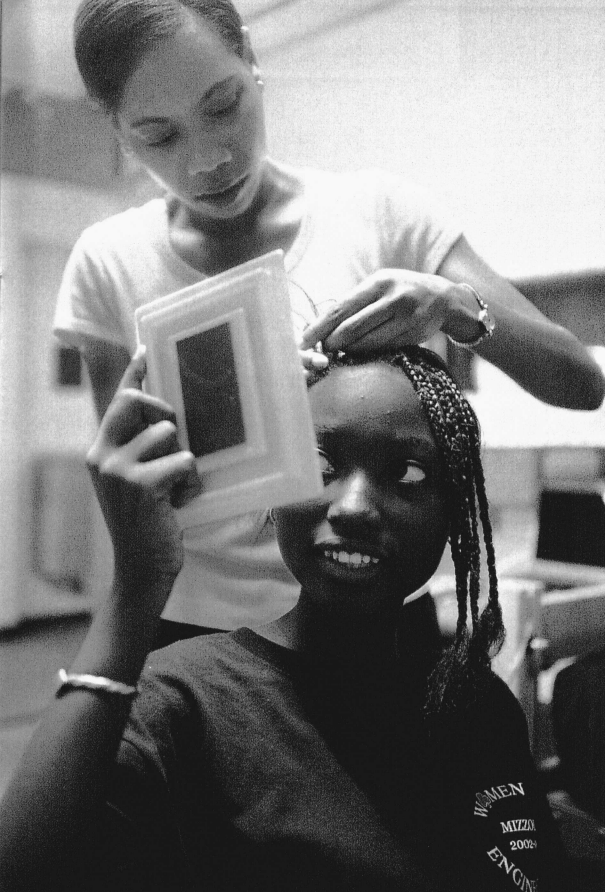


PHOTO BY EAIN BARKER

STUDENT BODY PROFILE

First-time freshmen: 4,439, up 6.5 percent from 2001
African American freshmen: 290, up 27.7 percent
Undergraduate students: 19,408, up 5.3 percent
Graduate students: 4,288, up 5.3 percent
Professional students: 1,146, down 1.4 percent due to enrollment caps
International students: 1,405, up 6.9 percent
Total on-campus enrollment: 24,842, up 4.9 percent
Off-campus enrollment (extension and distance learning): 1,282
Six-year graduation rate: 65.1 percent, highest since records kept
Missouri residents: 78 percent
Gender: 53 percent female, 47 percent male
Most popular undergraduate major: biological sciences



PHOTO BY LIBBY VOLGOYES



PHOTO BY MATT MILKIN

Far left: In Biology 42, Brenda Okpala of St. Louis listens as Teaching Assistant Karthik Ramaswamy explains how to make a poster describing the effects of heat on yeast. Okpala, who plans to be an obstetrician-gynecologist, spends most of her free time studying. This past summer, she participated in Transitions, an MU program that helps incoming freshmen prepare for college.

Left: Mizzou's youngest freshman, Aminata Coulibaly, 16, checks the progress of Sandra Tolbert, a senior from St. Louis, who braids her hair. A native of the Ivory Coast, Coulibaly moved to the United States about two years ago to live with her father in St. Louis. She hopes to be an international physician.

Top right: A sleepy Molly Wheeler — wife, mother, college student and part-time day-care employee — feeds her 3-month-old baby, Haylee. Wheeler, originally from Minnesota, is deciding whether to major in education or broadcast journalism. "I'm pretty much your normal freshman except I have a baby," she says.

Above: At age 48, Doug Ward is Mizzou's most mature freshman. He commutes to campus from his home in Fulton, Mo., leaving at 6:15 a.m. so that he has time to study before classes begin at 8 a.m. Ward, a business major, returned to school after carpal tunnel syndrome limited his ability to operate a fork lift. Eventually, he hopes to become an attorney specializing in workers' compensation claims. After classes, Ward works a late shift at a Dollar General warehouse.

Clockwise from top: Agricultural economics major Adam Brinker of Auxvasse, Mo., spends some weekends working on his uncle's farm.

Alpha Gamma Sigma pledge John Neyes of Kahoka, Mo., right, cleans a bathroom in the fraternity house while upperclassman Mark Claypole brushes his teeth. On weekdays, Neyes and 24 other freshmen rise at 7 a.m. to do chores. Neyes is a mechanical engineering major.

Business major Ashlee Chapman of Columbia, third from left, is one of nine freshmen on the Golden Girl squad.

Twins Jeni, right, and Gina DiSalvo of Kansas City, Mo., share an umbrella, two classes, a room in Schurz Hall and membership in Delta Gamma sorority. They both are undecided about their majors.



PHOTO BY JASON MILLER



PHOTO BY REBECCA KOENIG

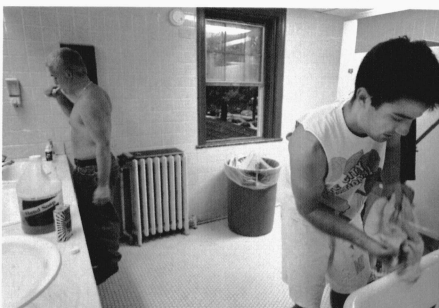
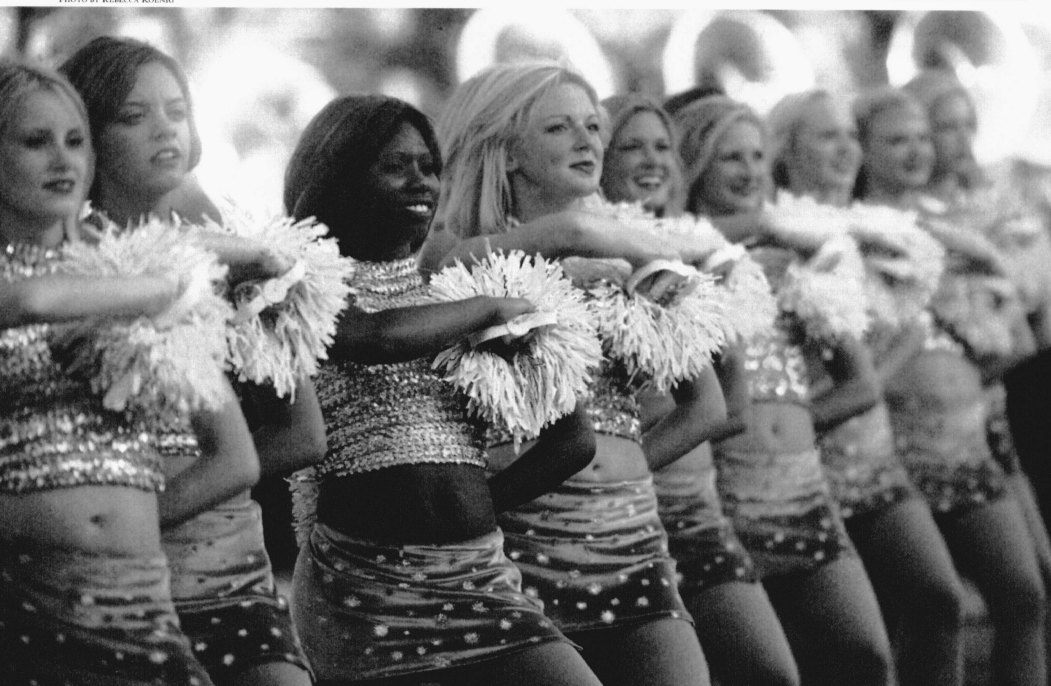


PHOTO BY LORI DUFF

PHOTO BY DIEGO M. RAJZINSKI



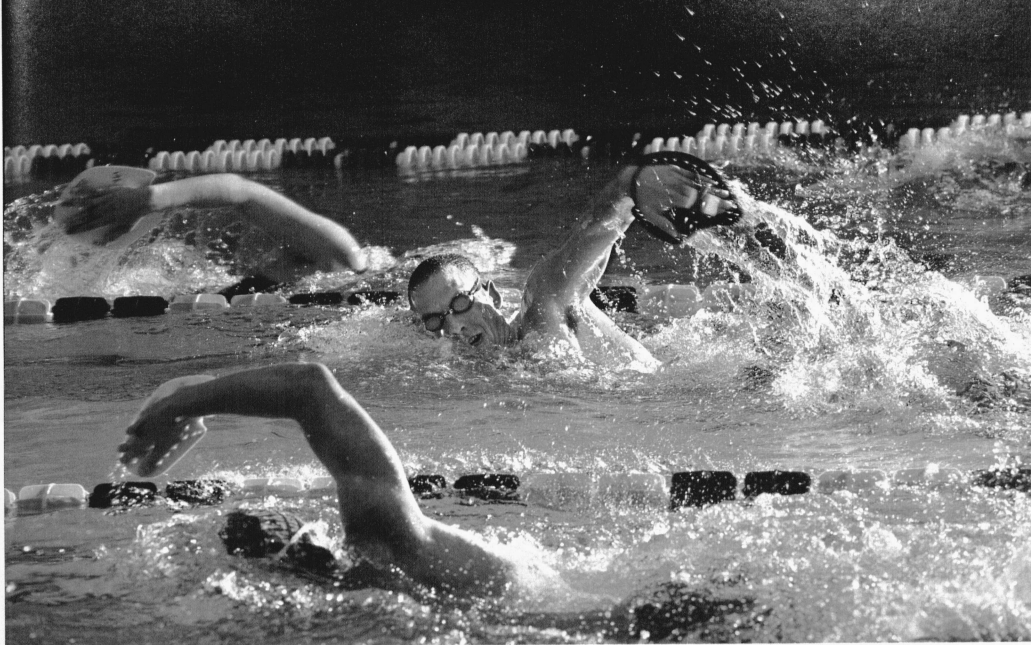


PHOTO BY SARA OLESON

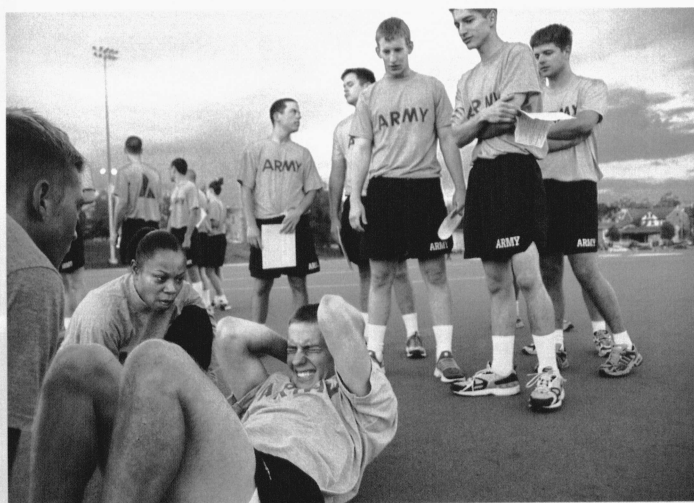


PHOTO BY DIANE PRATA

Above: Chris Lukas, center lane, a freestyle and backstroke swimmer for MU, practices six days a week. The band on his hand builds strength and speed. Lukas, who began competing at age 9 at a swim club in his hometown of Toronto, Ontario, was the Canadian Junior National champion in the 100-meter freestyle last year. He chose Mizzou because it offers strong academics and is in the Big 12, a competitive conference. Lukas is undecided about his major.

Left: Cadet Justin Winn of Hallsville, Mo., keeps pushing himself after completing the minimum number of required crunches during his first ROTC physical test, which began at 6 a.m. on Stankowski Field. Ruth Cheatham, administrative noncommissioned officer, encourages him. Winn is majoring in international business and seeks a career in military intelligence.

Right: Meg Graeff skipped her senior prom in Murphysboro, Ill., last May because it was the same weekend as cheerleading tryouts at Mizzou. Making the squad was worth it, she says. Graeff hopes to major in broadcast journalism.

Center: Cate Hull, second from left, has three younger sisters at home in Wheaton, Ill., and 206 new sorority sisters at the Delta Delta Delta house. Here, she greets Lauren Shackles with a hug. Hull plans to major in journalism.

Bottom left: Kyle Morris, on his bed in Hatch Hall, joins buddies, from left, Kyle Rogers, Danny Keegan and Danny Fletcher to watch the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday Night Football. Morris' roommate, Doug Dodson, wearing earphones, works on a six-page paper. Morris is a chemical engineering major from Blue Springs, Mo., and an Alumni Scholar.

Bottom right: Jessica Kelty of Waynesville, Mo., closes up at Shakespeare's Pizza. She works three days a week to pay her school expenses. Kelty has not declared a major but is interested in anthropology.

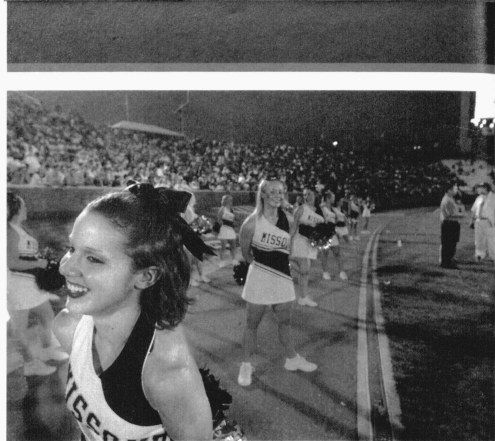


PHOTO BY PETER GEORGE



PHOTO BY JEAN CHUNG



PHOTO BY KAREN LAUDER



PHOTO BY MASATAKA NAMAZU



Left: Christopher Young of California, Mo., second from left, attended a memorial at Peace Park on the first anniversary of Sept. 11. Afterward, he chats with, from left, Jen Jones, Erin Shiloh and Brian Solem as they sit on a base of the Columns on Francis Quad-rangle. The flags on Jesse Hall are at half-staff to honor those who perished in the terrorist attacks. Young, who works part time as a photographer for the California (Mo.) Democrat and the News Tribune Co., in Jefferson City, Mo., plans to study journalism. As a high school senior, he won the Student Journalist of the Year Award from the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association.