



FAMILY TIES

Laura Stevenson pinpoints her grandmother, Vivian Fuller Bradford, BJ '31, in the 1931 Savitar. When Stevenson of Lakeland, Fla., can't go home for holidays, she stays with her grandmother who lives in Rolla. Stevenson, a member of the third Bradford generation of Mizzou alumni, has seven relatives who attended Mizzou.

LAURA STEVENSON, 18, of Lakeland, Fla., is at Mizzou thanks to her sister, mother, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, great-aunt and great-uncle.

"My kids probably will come here someday," says the early childhood education major.

The legacy of a Mizzou education is strong for Stevenson, who has seven relatives

who are Mizzou alumni. She is the daughter of Eugenia Bradford Stevenson, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in education in 1962, and Gerald Lee Stevenson. Her sister, Lynne Anne, will graduate from the Journalism School in 1987.

"I wanted to be with my sister," Stevenson says. "I spend a lot of time with her."

Stevenson's sister also is her sorority

sister. They're members of Pi Beta Phi. As in high school, Stevenson enjoys tennis, playing on the sorority's intramural team. She also puts in nine hours a week at the sorority house studying sociology, algebra, political science and classroom communications.

Just as having her big sister here opened some doors, Stevenson thinks attending Summer Welcome was especially helpful for this

WHY THEY CHOSE MIZZOU

FOUR OF THE 3,500 IN THE CLASS OF 1990 TELL WHY THEY PICKED MIZZOU AS THEIR UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE. SOME SEARCHED FOR A SPECIFIC ACADEMIC PROGRAM AMONG MIZZOU'S 251. OTHERS FOLLOWED IN FAMILY FOOTSTEPS, CONTINUING A HERITAGE OF ATTENDING MIZZOU. FOR SOME STUDENTS, MIZZOU MADE THEM A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL-AID OFFER THEY COULDN'T REFUSE.

Story
by KAREN WORLEY
Photos
by LARRY BOEHM

out-of-stater. "It helped me orient myself with the Campus. I met some kids there, and it helped me have a better view of the school."

Her favorite part of college life is meeting new people. "People here are so hospitable. People have been so welcoming to me."

If she could change anything, she'd move the University closer to her parents. Unlike her Missouri friends, "I can't run home on weekends and do laundry." But then, neither do her Missouri friends come back from break with a gorgeous Florida tan. □

TERRI PALMER, 18, of St. Louis was searching for something different from her small, all-girl Catholic high school.

"Mizzou wasn't too far away from home, the J-School is noted and I wanted something different," says Palmer of the large, state-assisted, coed university. Despite the fact that 40 percent of Mizzou's freshman class is from metropolitan St. Louis, Palmer found Mizzou's bigness somewhat intimidating at first. "I knew five or six people from my high school, plus my cousin" when she first stepped foot on Campus.

To get a handle on Mizzou's size, Palmer has taken advantage of a variety of programs.

During the Minority Journalism Workshop last summer, "I learned a lot about the J-School and the Campus. Director Robert Knight is a really friendly person," says the aspiring television reporter or broadcasting company owner. During the workshop, she learned of the Black Theatre Workshop and the mentor program that matches upperclassmen by gender and major with freshmen. On moving-in day, she attended a picnic near her residence hall, and early in the semester,

the MSA Activities Mart. Her cousin, Kim Banks, a senior from St. Louis and member of Delta Sigma Theta, introduced her to some Greeks.

"You can go to what you want to," she says of the extracurricular activities.

Another help in getting to know the Campus is a new Honors College course called The Freshman Experience. The teachers, Drs. Marvin Rogers, associate professor of political science, and Andrew Twaddle, professor of sociology, "really care. They talk with, not at you."

"We can bring up anything—questions, comments, statements. They're always willing to talk about whatever problems we're having." The class voted to extend class a half hour "because we never have enough time to talk."

In addition to The Freshman Experience, Palmer is taking ethics, political science, math, French and art appreciation.

"I like the freedom of college," says the daughter of Katrude and Harold Palmer. "It's my responsibility to get where I want to be. My parents taught me well enough that I haven't made too many mistakes." □

IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE

The School of Journalism's excellent reputation brought Terri Palmer of St. Louis to Mizzou. Someday, Palmer wants to be a television reporter or own a broadcasting company.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Matt Frerking of Concordia, Mo., researched all the angles. When it came to picking a college, the engineering major chose the one that made him the best financial-aid offer.



WHEN MATT FRERKING, 18, graduates from Mizzou, the engineering major hopes to build machines or computer programs. He's always enjoyed technical drawing and number crunching.

Frerking chose his college based on numbers—Mizzou made him a better offer. His Curators Scholarship is worth \$1,410 this year. Valedictorian of his 39-member Concordia (Mo.) High School class, Frerking had a 3.96 grade-point average. He must maintain at 3.75 GPA for full renewal of the Curators Scholarship throughout college.

Frerking also netted a \$1,000 Wal-Mart Scholarship, \$2,000 Joe Mann Leadership Award, \$800 Lyons Scholarship and \$75 Concordia Bank award for being the top math student.

"That pretty much takes care of this year," Frerking says of his expenses, but the



MAPPING THE FUTURE

"I never thought about enrolling in agriculture," says Elizabeth McRobert of Kansas City. The future genetic engineer is an agronomy major with an emphasis in genetics. "When it came right down to it, Mizzou had the best offering."

heat is on to do well in math, chemistry, engineering graphics and computer programming.

Frerking pledged Farmhouse fraternity, ranked second academically among fraternities, for winter semester 1986. A requirement is four hours of studying a night.

Fraternity life is his favorite part of college. "It's a bunch of small-town people like me. I've made so many new friends in a short time."

Frerking, son of Robert and Carol Frerking, is finding college more difficult than high school, where he was active in basketball, football, baseball, Student Council and National Honor Society. His greatest need is to learn to study effectively. But he likes Columbia's atmosphere. "It's a beautiful Campus. The people are friendly, and it's only an hour and 15 minutes from home."

ELIZABETH McROBERT, 18, never thought she'd be an agriculture major at Mizzou.

"Mizzou was the last place I was going. My brother had been here. My dad had been here. And I'm stubborn," says the agronomy major with an emphasis in genetics.

McRobert is the daughter of Max and Boo McRobert of Kansas City. Her dad graduated from Mizzou with an AB in 1954, and her stepbrother, Mike, earned a BS in agronomy in 1982. McRobert planned to buck tradition.

During high-school years filled with soccer, music and debate, McRobert's career ideas bounced from orthodontics to oceanography. Then Dr. Diana Helsel, assistant dean, plant breeder and cytogeneticist, and Dr. James Oblinger, associate dean, visited North Kansas City High School and brought her career goals into sharper focus.

"I knew I was going to Missouri. They both really impressed me. They explained what the ag school has to offer and explained what they did."

This fall, McRobert is enrolled in Helsel's class, University Learning Development. Offered for the first time, the class covers study and writing skills, student organizations, use of the library and assigned readings. It also includes presentations by campus resource people and successful alumni and administrators.

"The class shows you that it's not only all work and no play. It's a lot of both, but you need to know how to manage both on your priority list."

Another favorite is an Honors College class, Can You Trust This Food?, taught by food scientist Oblinger. It focuses on food microbiology and food safety. McRobert's other classes are botany, math, history and agronomy. She studies six to seven hours a day and is an Alpha Gamma Delta pledge.

"I've loved it down here so far." □

BEAN(IE) NICE TO KNOW YOU

A FLYER POSTED on Mizzou bulletin boards harangues "skum of the earth, boobs, fat heads, simps, idiots, snakes, loosebound tramps, simpletons."

It sounds like a verbal attack on Kansas before a physical one on the gridiron. But actually the words were directed at Mizzou freshmen in 1920.

More than a half century later, freshmen occupy a more elevated status. Summer Welcome, a new-student picnic, a special advising program and special classes are all part of a sophisticated student recruitment-and-retention program.

In the 1920s, customs insulted freshmen, but resulted in increased class spirit and Campus pride. When an official Student Senate poster declared, "Freshmen shall not walk on the grass on the Campus," it was law, says Walter D. Keller, AB '25, MA '26, PhD '33, professor emeritus of geology.

"There was no Frisbee playing on the Campus," says the 86-year-old. "Sophomores thought it was their duty to enlighten the freshmen since they had been refined the year before." Second-year men had various ways to hammer the conceit out of a freshman and endow him with an aura of humility.

If freshmen blatantly ignored the no-walking-on-the-grass rule, they'd be reprimanded on the backside. "On Red Campus, the engineers would form a double line from Jesse Hall to Switzer Hall," Keller remembers. "Paddlers would stand far enough apart so they could swing the paddle without hitting the next paddler." On White Campus, the Aggies enforced the rule, forming paddle lines from west of Schweitzer Hall all the way to Memorial Union.

"It took a minute or so to run the paddle line," Keller says. "The guy would get the swats." Although the custom sounds barbarous, there was honor among the paddlers: "You wouldn't hit a guy while he was down."

Being a woman student had certain advantages in 1921. Odds for dating were in their favor: There were 854 first-year men and 265 first-year women. The women also were immune to paddling as well as the freshman tradition of wearing beanies, tiny caps with narrow visors in a color designated for one's school.

Journalism students, appropriately,

wore yellow beanies. Premed students wore black, arts and science red, agriculture white, law purple and engineering green. When a sophomore or upper-classman said, "Button, freshman," the student would put the index finger of his right hand on the button of the cap and curtsy.

Freshmen endured the beanie humiliation until the eve of the Homecoming football game, when the beanies were thrown into the bonfire. The custom kindled "group spirit, individual college and school spirit, and University spirit," Keller says.

He recalls a pep-rally speaker nicknamed "Hot Air Nelson" who was "almost evangelistic in his effort to arouse support and loyalty for the football team." Attendance at the game was taken for granted. "You had to be out there, otherwise you were a traitor to the team."

Freshmen also didn't wear high-school letter sweaters. "That was frowned upon," Keller says. "The Tiger and the M were all that could be recognized here."

Another degrading custom in 1913 was known as penny pushing. Sophomores would pit two freshmen against one another and, with the threat of a hefty paddle, encourage a nose-pushed penny race.

Perhaps it's best that freshmen were kept busy pushing pennies, because they couldn't hold class meetings during fall semester, smoke or chew tobacco on Campus, or go to a pool hall before Thanksgiving.

Each fall, freshmen whitewashed the Memorial Stadium's large stone M, which they built in the 1930s. The July 1936 *Missouri Alumnus* reads, "No freshman feels he is a member of his group until he has swung a bucket with the rest of the fellows."

Keller fondly remembers when walking on the grass was "one or two notches below besmirching the stars and stripes." Students, faculty and administrators alike, he feels, had more respect and pride in the institution. "This University represents a peak in the educational process of the state," he says. "It operates with honor. We must not blemish this honor."

Keller supports the current efforts to welcome freshmen to Mizzou. "We're making it easier for the student to go to the University now. That is good."

But he can't help but long for the freshmen of yesteryear. "I wish that there'd be a feeling of pride put back into the scheme. Freshmen should do well in their studies and set an example for future freshmen so that they would add prestige to the University in return for the welcome mat." □

