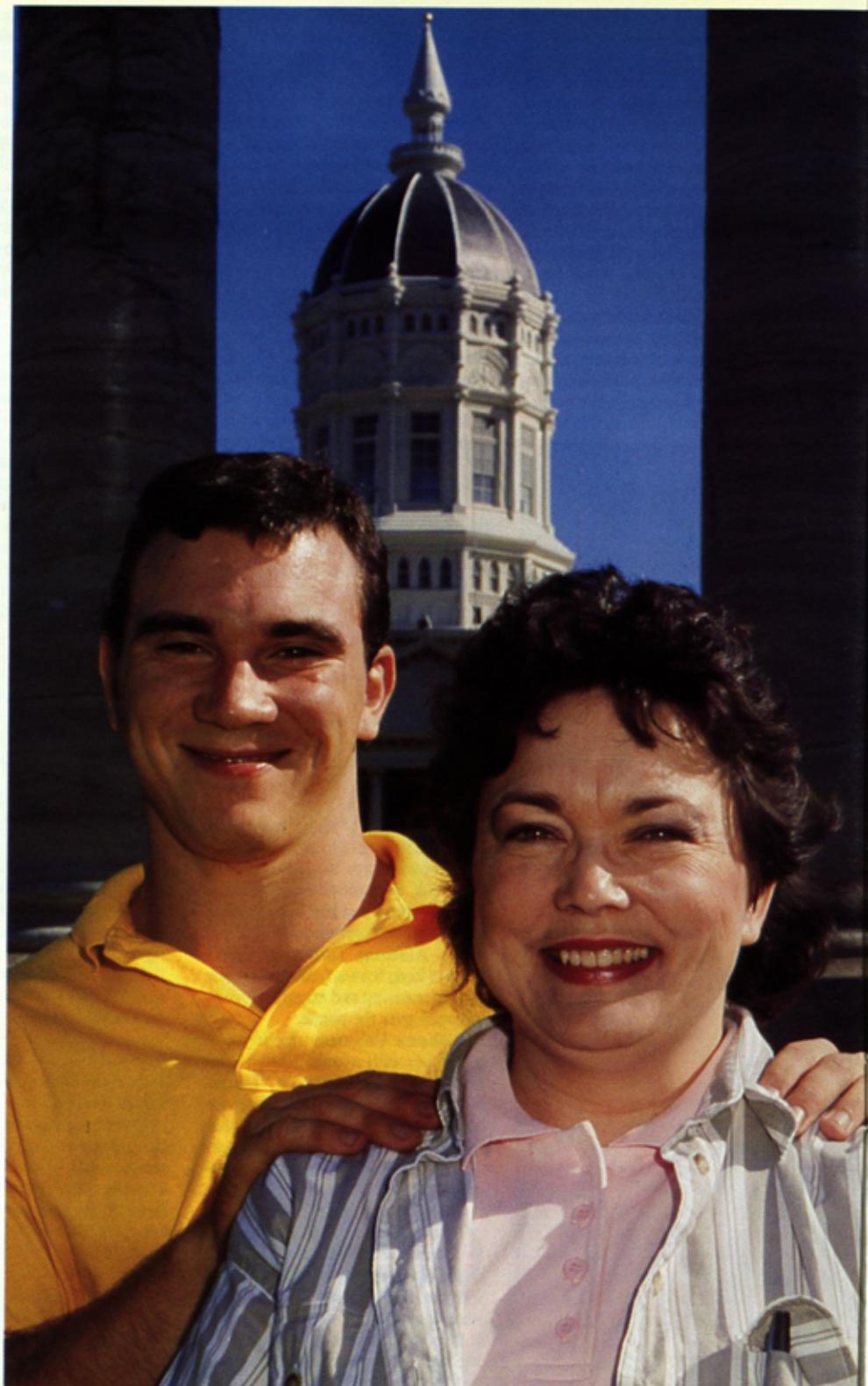


As the sesquicentennial approaches, Mizzou families have special memories. Some wrote letters revealing glimpses of the University's past.



**Mary Ann Bono Gray and her son, Clayton, are just part of the Bono family's Mizzou legacy.**

Jeff Adams

# More Family Affairs

By MARY VERMILLION

**D**id you hear the one about Grandpa Evans? "My grandfather used to tell me a great story about playing the marching band's bass drum under the University president's window. Apparently, he woke him up and quite a chase ensued in and out of the Columns while my grandfather struggled to remove the drum," writes Joan Evans Shields, BS Ed '64, of Raymore, Mo.

Four generations of the Evans family have been enrolled at the University, beginning with Shields' grandfather John Roswell Evans, who enrolled in what was then Missouri State University in 1900, and continuing today with Shields' daughter, Jennifer, who enrolled as a freshman this fall.

That Mizzou legacy is just one example of the 34 families who responded to "Mizzou: A Family Affair," an article in the January-February 1987 *Missouri Alumnus*.

A coupon with that article asked alumni to tell us about their families. Legacies stretched from two family members to 25, when the extended family is included.

The article featured three families with record numbers of children who attended Mizzou: the Capshaws of Chaffee, Mo., with six graduates, the Corwins of Columbia with eight children who attended Mizzou, and the Watkins of Columbia with nine children who are alumni.

In reference to her family's record, Rose Watkins says, "I wouldn't be surprised if there was someone who could beat it."

And, believe it or not, there is.



Mary Etta Angell Small is hatless in her formal 1883 graduation photograph. "My older relatives think that's scandalous," says Mary Ellen McVicker of her great-aunt's attire.

Larry Boehm

Meet the Bonos of Shelbina, Mo. Of the family's 15 children, 10 have attended Mizzou. They are Joseph William Bono, Engr '64; Mary Ann Bono Gray, BS Ed '71, M Ed '78; George Raymond Bono, Arts '69, Grad '79; Harold Bono, BS Agr '76; John Randall Bono, Arts '73, B&PA '76; Hugh David Bono, BS Agr '80, BS EE '81; Richard Bono, BS Agr '83, BS ME '86; Deanna Bono Beckley, Arts '83; Debbie Bono White, BS PA '85; and Carol Bono, currently a sophomore at Mizzou.

"We never thought of it as a record until we went to Parents Weekend last October," Lawrence Bono says. At the annual event, the Capshaw, Corwin and Watkins families were honored.

Lawrence Bono and his wife, Sarah, didn't go to college. "We wanted better for our kids," he says. Mary

Ann Bono Gray of Columbia says scholarships and part-time jobs financed her and her siblings' college educations. "Education was extremely important in our family," she says. "If you came home with a bad grade no one said terrible things to you, but there were no pats on the back."

Gray's son, Clayton, carried on the family tradition when he enrolled at Mizzou last fall.

**W**hile no one challenged the Bono's record, it's impossible to ignore accounts from others like Wilma and Ray Skelton of Cassville, Mo. They tied the Watkins' total for number of children who attended and set the record for number of children who earned degrees from the University. Nine of their 10 children graduated from Mizzou. The Skeltons were named honorary Alum-

An article in the January-February *Missouri Alumnus* prompted 34 families to tell about their Mizzou heritage, ranging from two family members to 25.

ni Association members at their last child's graduation in 1977 and were featured in the May-June 1977 *Missouri Alumnus*.

Esther Lee, BS Ed '53, M Ed '59, and her late husband, James, sent all seven of their children to Mizzou. The family moved from a farm in southern Missouri to Columbia in the '50s, because, "I knew they'd never amount to anything if we stayed on the farm. I wanted them to go to college," she says. In Columbia, the family ran a boarding house on Bass Avenue.

Lee is so proud of her children's accomplishments that she displays their diplomas on a wall in her basement. "Anytime someone comes by I bring them down here to see my collection," she says. Shouldn't her kids have their diplomas? "Goodness, no. They're mine," she says with a laugh. "They have copies."

"Mom definitely was the driving force in our education," says Margaret Lee Hart, BSN '58, of Maryville, Mo. "She and Dad sacrificed a lot for us to go to college."

Then there are the O'Connors of Cameron, Mo., with seven siblings who are alumni. Family lore has it that Neal O'Connor, father of the seven Mizzou graduates, often remarked, "We surely must own one of those buildings on Campus. I wish we knew which one."

Carolyn McGhee Polk, BS PA '56, of Piedmont, Mo., has a father, brother, daughter and three nieces who are Mizzou graduates. She writes that her daughter, Gwen Polk Crites, BS Ed '80, M Ed '84, "used to jokingly tell people she never knew there was any other college in Missouri until I made sure she was enrolled at Mizzou. We are proud of our legacy."

The Waggoners of New Florence, Mo., looked to their family tree to count at least 25 alumni, including cousins, sisters-in-law, nieces, sons and nephews. James Waggoner, BS Agr '50, says no one forces family members to continue the Mizzou legacy. "They just choose it. We want to go first class."

Some letters don't boast numbers, but accomplishments.

In the Schwartz home, there's always a doctor in the house. Elizabeth Schwartz, PhD '38, and her husband, Charles Schwartz, AB '38, MA '40, of Jefferson City both received honorary doctor of science degrees from Mizzou in 1975 for their outstanding work with wildlife. But what makes the family unusual is that, like their parents, all three of their children earned doctoral degrees in addition to other degrees from Mizzou. Their children are Barbara Schwartz Miller, AB '63, MA '64, PhD '71; Carl Bruce Schwartz, AB '65, MD '69; and John Curtis Schwartz, AB '73, MD '78.

Eugene Logan Jr., BS Agr '29, of Sedalia, Mo., hand-delivered a letter detailing his family's record. "Whereas the Logan brothers and sisters did not exceed the numerical performance of the Corwin and Watkins families, we did perform a feat that will be difficult to match and perhaps impossible to exceed," Logan writes.

Of the six Logan graduates, four have attended their 50th class reunions. It is a difficult record to match, Logan says, because graduates must reach at least 71 years of age and be physically able to travel to Columbia for the festivities; must be financially able to afford the trip; and, most importantly, must have the incentive to attend. "It will be interesting to see how many families who attended the University of Missouri have come close to matching this performance," he boasts.

Each family has special memories fostered during its years on Campus. But some of the letters are glimpses of the 148-year-old University's past.

One family traces its Mizzou roots back to the 1850s. Maryellen Harshbarger McVicker, AB '73, MA '75, of Boonville, Mo., great-great-granddaughter of the family's first alumnus, James Madison Angell, says the family has attended Mizzou for five generations. "We never talked about why we chose Mizzou," she says. "Everyone always assumed that's where you'd be."

McVicker, who will finish her doctorate in American art history within a year, says the Angell family emphasized education for women. Their premise: If you educate a man you educate one person, but if you educate a woman, you educate an entire family. One of those women, McVicker's great-aunt Mary Etta Angell Small, graduated in 1883 with a de-

gree in education. Of the 27 University graduates that year, only six were women.

Tragedy also is interwoven with the family's Mizzou history. One relative attended Mizzou in the early part of this century. "Unfortunately," McVicker says, "he was involved in hazing a young man as part of a fraternity initiation and the youth died. My relative suffered a complete nervous breakdown and never completely recovered."

Despite that setback, McVicker recalls that each time she saw that relative he would ask how old she was. "'Nine,' I'd say. He would pause to add up the years, and then say, 'Nine? Only nine more years and you can go to MU.'"

But, perhaps, the family with the strongest tie to Mizzou's past is the Easley family of Columbia. Virginia Easley DeMarce, AB '61, of Arlington, Va., writes, "If you look at Page 256 of Switzler's *History of Boone County*, you will see that a young Boone County farmer named Edward Easley managed to ante up the modest sum of \$100 for the donation which brought the University of Missouri to Columbia in 1839." Residents of Boone County donated \$117,900 in money and land to beat out Cole, Cooper, Howard and Callaway counties in the statewide bid for the University.

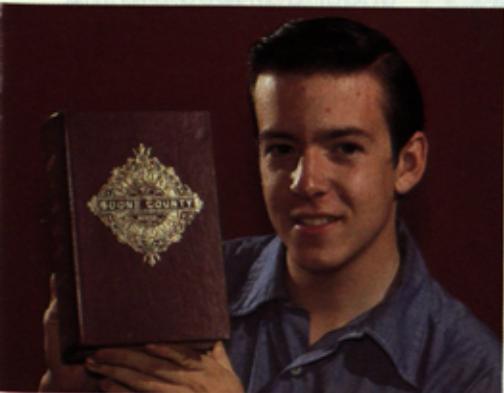
Edward Easley's grandson Edward Everett Easley attended Mizzou for two years before the agricultural depression of the 1880s forced him back to the family farm. Great-grandson William Henry Easley attended the University for one year before he was drafted into the Army for World War I. Virginia Easley DeMarce, William Henry's daughter, was the first to graduate. Today, her son Karl DeMarce continues the tradition. The sophomore rural sociology major lives in Columbia with his grandmother on the Easley family farm, bought in the 1800s by Edward Easley's son John William.

Virginia DeMarce writes, "Overall, I think it is safe to say that Edward's investment in the future education of his descendants has proved to be wise in the long run."

Perhaps, Edward saw beyond his own family. He knew his \$100 was a wise investment not only for his descendants but for hundreds of other Mizzou families, too. □



Larry Boehm



Larry Boehm

Seven of Esther Lee's children attended Mizzou. She proudly displays the diplomas in her Columbia home.

The *History of Boone County* verifies Karl DeMarce's link to Mizzou. His ancestor gave \$100 to get the University going.