



THE ALUMNI CENTER:

NEW CORNERSTONE FOR OL' MIZZOU



Although Alumni Association headquarters are in the Alumni Center, its programs and activities are nationwide. One of the most popular social events is the Shaw's Garden Party, sponsored annually by the St. Louis Club.



In the Alumni Center's Board Room, Curators, President James Olson and the four campus chancellors come to grips with the University's '77-'78 budget.



In nice weather the Alumni Center patio makes the perfect setting for an informal get-together of members and friends of a Mizzou alumni organization.



Savitar photo

Alumnus Mort Walker, creator of the Beette Bailey comic, was marshal of the 1976 Homecoming parade. Here, he congratulates Queen Gayle McFerrin.

When the new Alumni Center is dedicated on September 10, it will mark the culmination of a long-standing dream for some alumni — and the beginning of a new dimension in the alumni movement of the University of Missouri-Columbia for all Mizzou's former students.

The 16,000-square-foot structure is located on a beautiful site overlooking the A. L. Gustin Golf Course on Stadium Boulevard west of Faurot Field. The building itself — and its public-area furnishings — are striking, but, more important, the facility is eminently useful for the Alumni Association and the University community. More than 1,000 alumni and friends contributed \$1 million for the Alumni Center. No tax money was involved in the construction.

Although the Center is not yet 100 percent operational (for example, the equipment for the catering kitchen is not installed), already the building has evoked considerable interest from alumni, University and private groups anxious to use the facilities. The Alumni Center Management Committee is working to establish guidelines for the Center's use.



The fireplace area of the Alumni Lounge should be a popular place for Association and University activities in winter.



Mary Vosevich

More than 200 Tourin' Tigers were impressed with historic and mysterious Stonehenge on the Alumni Association's London Holiday trip held last May.

What is evident now is that the finished Alumni Center successfully meets the expectations of those who envisioned it. The Alumni Center effort first took concrete form in 1970 with the appointment of a joint committee of the Alumni Association and the Development Fund Boards of Directors. After an exhaustive search, which included proposals for renovating existing Campus structures, as well as for purchasing private buildings and fraternity and sorority houses, the University provided the present site. Alumni leaders were pleased with the choice.

At the same time it was determined that a new structure should be built, alumni and University officials also agreed that private gifts should totally finance the facility. This fact alone makes the Mizou Alumni Center unusual. It is rare that such a building on any campus is financed by so many alumni donors.

The fund-raising campaign was officially launched in 1974, and the ground was broken in the fall of 1975.

Not only is the Alumni Center becoming the "living room" for the Campus, receiving visitors and alumni returning "home" in a comfortable and gracious way, the new facility also truly is the "center" for the alumni movement of the Columbia Campus. For the first time in almost 10 years, all the staff service functions are located under one roof: Alumni Activities, which last year involved 30,000 alumni and friends in more than 200 separate activities; the Development Fund, which last year reported gifts of some \$3 million from 14,000 alumni and friends; Alumni and Development Communications, the responsibility of which includes the *Missouri Alumnus* magazine, *Tiger Sports* bulletin and *Mizou*, this newspaper you are reading; and Management Systems, the department responsible for maintaining — and updating — some 125,000 alumni records.

These departments make up the Alumni Relations and Development Division, which actually is the dual responsibility of representing the alumni voice to Campus and University officials, as well as making possible a University involvement with alumni. The division is dedicated to establishing and maintaining a mutually beneficial, dynamic relationship between the alumnus and his alma mater. The Vice Chancellor for Alumni Relations and Development sits on the Chancellor's Council of Deans and serves as chairman of the President's Development Council.

The Alumni Association itself is an independent, not-for-profit corporation which operates a variety of alumni programs from its Alumni Center headquarters. The programs are almost entirely financed by membership dues.

Literally hundreds of alumni are involved in these programs through 10 active committees: the Executive Committee, which directs the Association business between the fall and spring meetings of the Board of Directors; the Communications Committee, which establishes policy and advises in the area of alumni publications; the Awards Committee, which has charge of the prestigious Faculty-Alumni Award, Distinguished Faculty Award and Distinguished Service Award programs; the Tour Committee, which determines the exotic directions taken by the Tourin' Tigers; the Alumni Center Management Committee, which deals with the new building; the Men's and Women's Athletic Committees, which support Tiger athletic programs; and the Alumni Alliance Committee, which represents the Columbia Campus on the four-campus Alliance of Alumni Associations. In addition, other alumni serve on the system-wide Public Resources Committee, the members of which have a special legislative interest. Others serve on County Executive Committees and in divisional alumni organizations and regional clubs.

There's something for everybody. "We have it all for you," both in terms of benefits (see the back cover), and in ways you can become satisfyingly involved in a worthwhile endeavor.

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