

# MIZZOU

The magazine of  
the Mizzou Alumni Association

[Home](#) » [Summer 2012](#) » [Features](#) » [S-E-C](#) » MISSISSIPPI STATE



## MISSISSIPPI STATE

Founded as the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State of Mississippi in 1878, it was renamed Mississippi State College in 1932 and Mississippi State University in 1958.

**Town:** Starkville (pop. 28,388)

**Enrollment:** 20,424

**Nickname:** Originally the Aggies, they became the Maroons in 1932 and settled on the Bulldogs in 1961. In 1905, after they defeated Ole Miss, students marched with a bulldog pup on top of a coffin through town in a military funeral parade to celebrate their rival's dead athletic spirit.

**Colors:** Maroon and white

**Traditions:** Fans celebrate victories by ringing cowbells because of a story about a dairy cow wandering onto the field years ago. Another tradition is the gathering of students and alumni in what is today called the **Junction**. The center of football tailgating on campus, the green space is where train tracks once crossed the campus; original rails are still embedded.

**Eats and treats:** In 1938, when dairy science department head F.H. Herzer wanted to manufacture a cheese that would draw attention to MSU, he decided on three-pound cannonball Edam cheese. It



**HAIL STATE!**

Miles from CoMo  
**579**

Starkville, Miss.

**Stop by a tailgate for ...**  
Mugshots' burgers,  
Bulldog wings, Lazy  
Magnolia Southern  
Pecan brew

**NOTABLE ALUMNI:**  
John Grisham, author  
Janet Marie Smith, architect  
Jonathan Papelbon,  
baseball player

**Mascot:**  
**Bully**

**TUITION**  
**\$5,805\***

\*In-state, two semesters' tuition and required fees. Source: U.S. News Best Colleges 2012.

is still made and sold at the **MSU Cheese Store**. Breakfast is king at the **Starkville Café**, and for fine dining and atmosphere, try **Restaurant Tyler**.

**Places and spaces:** Start on **Main Street** for boutique shopping, then work your way through the Southern-style architecture in the **Cotton District**. Early ROTC cadets had morning and evening drill at the **Drill Field**, a popular meeting place at the center of campus.

Alternate content



**Share your comments with Mizzou magazine at [Mizzou@missouri.edu](mailto:Mizzou@missouri.edu).**

*Note: If published, feedback may be edited for length, style and clarity.*

---

 [Follow us on Twitter](#)  [Join us on Facebook](#)  [Subscribe to our feed](#)

---

Published by MIZZOU magazine, 109 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-5916  
| E-mail: [Mizzou@missouri.edu](mailto:Mizzou@missouri.edu)

Opinions expressed in this site do not necessarily reflect the official position of MU or the Mizzou Alumni Association.

Copyright © 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/affirmative action](#) institution.

**Last updated: Feb. 15, 2013**