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Stay and Sing

The Alumni Association Student Board promote singing the alma mater.

Story by Sarah Barr, a senior business major and Alumni Association Student Board member

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Win or lose, we'll stay and sing the alma mater. Or at least we used to. Somewhere along the way, many Tiger fans lost touch with the tradition of lingering after sporting events, particularly football and basketball games, to sing of old, fair Missouri.

In January 2011, a few Mizzou students began a grassroots movement on Facebook to revive the tradition. The Alumni Association Student Board (AASB) adopted the movement in 2013 and is working to raise awareness throughout the student body. The first big effort to promote the cause started the week before the Mizzou-Florida game. Social media, posters around

Barber family

Despite the heat, the Barbers stayed till the end of the 38–23 Mizzou win over Toledo Sept. 7. Christy Barber's son Richard, a junior physics major, sat with his family so he could be with his nephew, 3-year-old Camden Barber, for his first Mizzou game. Clockwise from left: Richard Barber, Sam Barber, Camden Barber and Christy Barber. Photo courtesy of Christy Barber.

campus and word-of-mouth advocacy took root; the Stay & Sing initiative officially launched under Mizzou Alumni Association support.

Because most the students are new to the tradition, it would be beneficial to have a few “vets” help show them how it’s done. AASB is calling upon alumni to stay and sing the alma mater once again. The Homecoming game Oct. 26 provides another opportunity for the student body and returning alumni to sing together.

Christy Barber, BJ '76, shares her fond memories of singing the alma mater after games:

“I have never left a game early, through rain storms, snow storms, freezing temperatures or blazing heat. Staying to sing the alma mater is a wonderful way to show your commitment to your school and to thank the student-athletes who give their all for us. My Tulane-alumnus husband knows the words to the Mizzou alma mater but not Tulane’s. We love to look over at the student side to see our son Richard Barber, a Mizzou junior physics major, who always stays and sings. Our 3-year-old grandson stayed to sing at his first game this year. Ours are hearts that fondly love Mizzou.”

Topics: Alumni, Sports, Web Exclusives

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