

The Magazine of the Mizzou Alumni Association

MIZZOU

One in a Million

Mizzou '39 recognizes outstanding seniors.



Alison Schwartz is part of the 2013 class of Mizzou '39, a group of 39 seniors, chosen by the Mizzou Alumni Association, who represent MU's values. Photo by Rachel Coward.

Story by Kelsey Allen

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When ESPN College GameDay visited Francis Quadrangle for the 2010 Homecoming football game, Alison Schwartz shot a 45-second video for the Dr Pepper's

Million Dollar Tuition Giveaway contest. With her face painted like a Bengal tiger and a Mizzou flag-cape billowing behind her, the Lee's Summit, Mo., native begged for a scholarship.

Out of 10,000 submissions, Schwartz's made it to the top five. Next, under the tutelage of quarterbacks Blaine Gabbert and James Franklin, Schwartz sailed a football through a hole in a human-sized Dr Pepper can at the Big 12 Championship game and won the scholarship. If you drank a Diet Cherry Dr Pepper in 2011, Schwartz's face was probably on the can.

"The best part was the support I got from the entire Mizzou community," Schwartz says. "I no longer felt

like just a number.”

But this year, she feels honored to be just a number — 39. Schwartz is part of the 2013 class of Mizzou '39. Each year, the Mizzou Alumni Association chooses that many seniors who represent MU's values through academic achievement, leadership and service.

When the biochemistry and English major graduates in December 2013, she hopes to go to medical school to become a gynecologist.

“Literature has much to offer about understanding humanity,” she says of her seemingly unusual combination of majors. “As a physician, it's important to communicate, relate and empathize. There is a disconnect between the science world and the world we live in. I want to bridge that gap.”

Topics: Arts and Humanities, Sciences and Engineering, Sports, Web Exclusives

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