

MIZZOU

+ mizzou.com | Winter 2023

VHS Players

How a youth spent supporting a father's passion for film inspired a writing career. **30**

Founders' Keepers

The Kinder Institute is reinforcing America's bedrock principles. **24**

Number Cruncher

New men's basketball Coach Dennis Gates brings a data-driven strategy to the Tigers. **40**

PARTS DOCTOR, PARTS ARTIST

Damon Coyle's creations improve medical simulations. | **16**



FIRST LOOK

TIGERS ON PARADE Marching Mizzou (M2) made its Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade debut in grand fashion Nov. 24 in New York City. Helping to open the festivities as singer-actor Lea Michele belted out "Don't Rain on My Parade," from the Broadway revamp of *Funny Girl*, M2 was selected from more than 100 applicants as one of nine marching bands to march in the 96th edition of the annual holiday parade. Later in the televised broadcast, what NBC co-host Hoda Kotb called "the massive and impressive" 350-member Marching Mizzou, joined by the drumline, feature twirlers, color guard and Golden Girls, played alum Sheryl Crow's party jam "All I Wanna Do." Over the 2.5-mile parade route, Marching Mizzou also rocked "Fight Tiger," "Every True Son" and the "Missouri Waltz," sometimes stretching as long as one-and-a-half football fields as it made its way through the city streets. Photographer Allison Davis shot this image during early Thanksgiving morning rehearsals. — *Kelsey Allen, BA, BJ '10*





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FROM THE PRESIDENT

MURR: Saving Lives with Nuclear Medicine



At 2 a.m. on Monday, when most of campus is quiet, a skilled team at the University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR) is beginning their work. Each week a small group of highly trained specialists safely harvests a new batch of radioactive isotopes from the blue glow of the reactor's core.

This early morning routine is the first link in a chain of events that produces 10,000 doses of lifesaving radioisotopes, which are then distributed across the Western Hemisphere.

MURR is the most powerful university nuclear research reactor in the country. It runs 6 1/2 days a week, 52 weeks a year and is the only U.S. supplier of four radioisotopes used by cancer and heart patients. These radioisotopes have a mere 11-day shelf life. If MURR doesn't run, many patients won't receive the treatment they depend upon.

Last year, we experienced the limits of this supply chain. In February 2022, a European reactor briefly shut down, leaving MURR the only facility in the world producing isotopes used to treat pancreatic cancer. I was proud that our team quickly ramped up production to meet global demand.

MURR has operated reliably for more than 50 years, yet as it continues to age, its functional life is limited. To secure our place as a leader in nuclear medicine, we are making several investments to expand MURR and ensure a domestic source of radioisotopes for our nation and the world.

The first of our ambitious plans is a 43,000-square-foot, three-story expansion. Scheduled for completion in 2024, MURR West is a \$20 million addition that will allow for increased production while also accommodating more professional staff and industry partners.

We're also strengthening our collaboration with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) leaders to potentially build a radioisotope processing



† MU students learning on the job at the University of Missouri Research Reactor. It runs 6 1/2 days a week, 52 weeks a year and is the only U.S. supplier of four radioisotopes used by cancer and heart patients.

facility in Columbia. Funded by the DOE, the estimated \$27 million facility would receive isotopes from national laboratories for MURR experts to process and ship.

Looking even farther ahead, we are in the planning stages for a second research reactor that would give scientists the capacity to raise output while developing more groundbreaking discoveries, including new radioisotopes for improved treatments.

MURR sets Mizzou apart and makes Columbia an attractive destination for research, industry and government collaborators. For patients who rely on our radioisotopes — their lives depend on the work we do.

MUN Y. CHOI, PHD
President, University of Missouri

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Statements of Purpose

The Mizzou Alumni Association proudly supports the best interests and traditions of Missouri's flagship university and its alumni worldwide.

Lifelong relationships are the foundation of our support.

These relationships are enhanced through advocacy, communication and volunteerism.

MIZZOU magazine reports credible and engaging news about the University of Missouri community to a global audience.

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Building Better Body Parts Yes, on first glance, many of Damon Coyle's creations for the Sheldon Clinical Simulation Center can be jarring. Combining interests in sculpture and medicine, the MU grad has made hundreds of appendages and more than 20 prototypes, including a kit for ocular procedures, pads of lifelike "flesh" to practice suturing and infant limbs fitted with arterial tubing for neonatal nurses to practice needle insertion. Watch a video of Coyle's work for an in-depth look at his innovations at tinyurl.com/MIZbody.

CONTRIBUTORS



Marina Shifrin, BJ '10, the author of *30 Before 30: How I Made a Mess of My 20s, and You Can Too*, is a comedy writer living in Los Angeles. Growing up as a first-generation Russian immigrant in Chicago, she helped her father produce homemade feature films. Page 30.



Tony Rehagen, BA, BJ '01, has written for *GQ*, *The Columbia Journalism Review* and *Next Wave: America's New Generation of Great Literary Journalists*. He profiles new Mizzou men's basketball head Coach Dennis Gates. Page 40.



Sara Bondioli, BA, BJ '05, is an editor for *HuffPost* and previously served as assistant managing editor at *Roll Call*. She recounts the road that led Marching Mizzou to kick off the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Page 52.



About the cover

For this issue, we commissioned renowned illustrator Violet Frances of Bryan Christie Design to transform a portrait of Damon Coyle, who makes strikingly realistic body parts at the Sheldon Clinical Simulation Center. The original portrait was captured for the magazine by MU photographer Abbie Lankitus. For more on Coyle's work see Page 16.

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In honor of Marching Mizzou leading the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, we open the first issue of 2023 by capturing them on 34th Street.

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Council for Advancement & Support of Education Awards

2022: Bronze, Periodical/Magazine Design
2021: Gold, Feature Writing
("Who Was I in College?," *Winter 2020*)
2020: Bronze, Feature Writing ("Forever Young," *Spring 2019*)
2019: Bronze, General Interest Magazine



Society for Publication Designers Awards

2022 merit awards
"The Long Quiet," *Winter 2021*; "International Reach," *Spring 2021*; *Spring 2021* cover
2021 merit awards
"Eli's Calling," *Fall 2020*; "A Third Act," *Spring 2020*

Features



† Outside of Bourbon, Missouri, Camp Kesem Mizzou connects student-counselors with kids, aged 6–18, who have one thing in common: a parent or caregiver who is either coping with cancer or has been lost to the disease. The camp’s mission: providing joy.

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A man, a plan, a camera: In the 1990s, writer and Mizzou alumna Marina Shifrin's dad, Vlad, harnessed a video camera and a passion for movies to create homemade feature films. Shifrin tells their story.
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Who's Mizzou in '22?

Fall enrollment numbers illustrate the breadth of experiences that this year's students bring to MU. Below, numbers that tell the story.

117
countries

50
states

3,517
cities worldwide

114
Missouri counties (all)

4,983
freshmen

23,752
undergrads

5,937
grad students



ABBIE LANKITUS



From Bomb Shelter to Dorm Room

When Vlad Sazhen left his hometown of Kharkiv in Ukraine in January 2022, he thought he'd be back in four months. Sure, he'd miss his family and girlfriend, but he was eager to study aerospace engineering at Mizzou through an undergraduate exchange program — one of his professors had worked on a space shuttle!

Then, late one February night, he was sitting in his residence hall, discussing the differences between the states with his roommate, when his phone buzzed. He knew something was wrong before he read the text from his girlfriend, Alina Rohulia: It was only 5 a.m. in Ukraine.

We are getting bombed. We are running to the shelter. I will text you later.

Russia had launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Forces were moving into densely populated areas, including residential districts in Kharkiv. Rohulia and her family sheltered for a week in their basement.

"That whole week, I woke up trembling because I didn't know what to expect when I unlocked my phone," Sazhen says. "I could have easily received a message from my mother saying that Alina's house was bombed and they're dead. That's what happens to a lot of Ukrainians. Why should I be an exception?"

More than 5,000 miles away, Sazhen couldn't just wait for updates. He and fellow student Tori Copto organized a fundraiser on campus and collected donations from local businesses to support the nonprofit United Help Ukraine. Sazhen also requested support to bring Rohulia to MU and to extend his stay on campus. With the help of MU's International Admissions and International Programs offices, Sazhen and Rohulia were awarded three-year, nonresident tuition scholarships. They also received financial support from the university's Ukrainian Emer-

gency Fund, to which the Veterans United Foundation made a \$103,282 donation this summer.

In late August, Sazhen picked Rohulia up from the Columbia Regional Airport with a bouquet of flowers and tears in his eyes. "It was so surreal," he says. "I couldn't believe it." At Mizzou, Rohulia is majoring in biomedical engineering. The two spend a lot of time at the College of Engineering, where Sazhen works managing the front desk at the Advising Office. When they're not studying thermodynamics (him) or differential equations (her), they're at Laws Observatory experimenting with astrophotography.

Office of International Admissions Director Ryan Griffin says it's been moving to watch the students return to class and campus after such a challenging semester: "They're inspiring in their persistence in doing everything that they can to try to get their lives back on track, resume their studies and look toward their future careers."

Sazhen says it's easier to focus on his education now that he and Rohulia are reunited, but they constantly worry about friends and family in Ukraine. Sazhen's parents and sister are in Kyiv. Rohulia's mom is in Poltava, and her dad and brother are in the Ukrainian military.

"Even though our bodies are here, our minds are still in Ukraine," Sazhen says. "What keeps us going is we compare ourselves to Ukrainian citizens — our brothers and sisters who are actually under shelling and who can't just close the news app and feel like, 'Oh, I'm done for the day. I'll read more tomorrow.' They are in all of this every day, every second." — *Kelsey Allen, BA, BJ '10*

↑ Mizzou students Vlad Sazhen and Alina Rohulia in the Carpathian region of Ukraine in 2021. In late August, Sazhen picked Rohulia up from the Columbia Regional Airport with a bouquet of flowers and tears in his eyes.

Briefly

- Mizzou's College of Education and Human Development has a new dean: **Chris Riley-Tillman**, who has served in an interim role since December 2021.

- **Catherine Rymph**, the interim director of the MU Honors College, has been named as its permanent dean. She joined the MU history department in 2000.

- The winter issue of **The Missouri Review** ("The Body") features the winners of the journal's 2022 Perkoff Prize for writing about health and medicine, in addition to *TMR's* acclaimed mix of original literary work, reviews and visual features.

- The National Institutes of Health has awarded a three-year, \$1 million grant to researchers at the **Sinclair School of Nursing** that will enable them to study how nursing home staff can securely use text messages to speed up decision-making.

- The MU Veterinary Health Center has welcomed its new director. **Gerelynn Henry** joined the MU College of Veterinary Medicine in November from Charlottesville, Virginia. She'll lead the center after more than 30 years' experience in veterinary, comparative, translational, toxicologic and forensic pathology and more than 15 years' experience teaching veterinary and human pathology to doctoral students.



Double Drummers

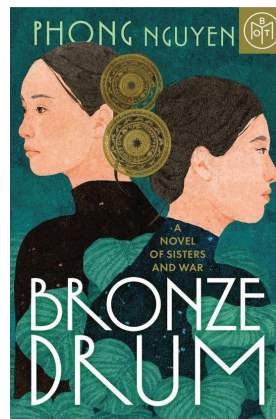
Over the summer, the story of twins Tru'ng Trác and Tru'ng Nhi, real-life Vietnamese warrior sisters who nearly 2,000 years ago helped defend their domain against a Chinese invasion after their nobleman father was executed, roared into the here and now through the work of Phong Nguyen, Miller Family Endowed Chair of Writing in the English department. The sibling protagonists drive *Bronze Drum: A Novel of Sisters and War*, a book that brings to life a story that owes its survival to oral history, as cover notes outline, “shared down through generations for thousands of years, about these warriors and champions of women and Vietnam who heralded a new period of freedom and independence.”

Nguyen’s third novel has earned near-universal kudos. “When Beyoncé asked, ‘Who run the world?’ was she thinking about the legendary Tru'ng sisters?” *Kirkus Reviews* wondered. “The sisters have long been revered as national icons in Vietnam, and this fictionalized account of their rise to military greatness includes extensive, cinematic descriptions of battlefield tactics and imag-

ined scenes of heart-ache and horror while not avoiding references to mistakes in judgment (diplomatic and otherwise) they may have made.”

In a rave review that called Nguyen’s book an “indelible rendering,” NPR critic Thúy Đình wrote that the book’s “nuanced yet visceral reimagining of the sisters’ trajectory fully captures the shifting nature of war and peace, life and death, feminine and masculine.” She continued, “The revolutionaries in this story are not white men expounding on the principles of individual liberty while ignoring the harsh realities of slavery, but clear-eyed Southeast Asian women who understand the cost of war and the fraught legacy of peace.”

— *Randall Roberts, BA '88*



Twitter Buzz About #Mizzou

@RedCrossMO

We had 4 AWESOME days @MU_Homecoming Blood Drive collecting over 4,000 donations! Made possible by our Collections Staff, Student Leaders, Donor Recruitment Team, Mizzou students, faculty, alums & people in local communities. THANK YOU! See you at Greek Week in Apr. '23. M-I-Z

@Kyle_Pinnell_

#Mizzou WR Luther Burden: “When I get mad, that’s when I’m locked in. If I’m not mad, I’m not locked in.” @jarodchamilton: “Does something like a 15 degree night make you more angry?” Burden: “Yes”

@UMGovRelations

The USDA has awarded Mizzou’s @cafnr a \$25 million grant — the largest federal research, education and extension grant ever awarded to MU. The project is aimed at helping Missouri farmers adopt practices that will help improve resiliency of crops and livestock.

@MizzouNews

Using a \$2.6 million grant from @NIH, #Mizzou researchers have taken yet another step in their goal of developing a wearable heart monitor to ultimately help identify warning signs of heart disease.



THE GREAT TIGER SAUCE-OFF

This fall, undergrads in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources had the opportunity to further a tradition that has driven Missourians for generations: creating a barbecue sauce from scratch that might impress discerning tastebuds reared on the thinner, vinegar-driven St. Louis-style sauce; the tangier, sweeter Kansas City-style; or some (non-mustard!) combination thereof. Students concocted recipes, brainstormed product branding and taste-tested their creations. At the end of the semester, judges including MU Executive Chef Eric Cartwright were “tasked” with awarding the winning recipe.



UNBOXING HISTORY

In September, an archivist attending to the decommissioning of Parker Hall found a grimy metal box in the building's cornerstone. Eager to confirm suspicions, researchers consulted contemporaneous news reports on the building's 1899 construction and announced they'd found a time capsule. Upon opening in 1901, the facility (then known as Parker Memorial Hospital) was one of the country's first teaching hospitals.

In early October, the time capsule was the center of attention in the Jesse Hall rotunda. Photographers, TV cameras, students and staff watched as an archivist with tin snips carefully trimmed off the lid. University of Missouri President Mun Y. Choi, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the MU School of Medicine Richard J. Barohn and MU archivists peered inside.

Among the artifacts: a handwritten history of the building's rise; a late 1890s Mizzou course catalog; a handful of coins; a MU medical research report on Texas fever; and a photograph of major donor William L. Parker, who, along with beer man Adolphus Busch, helped finance the hospital's construction.

New at the Mizzou Store

Returning alumni and students in search of Tiger spirit will find it among the black-and-gold shirts, jackets, sweatshirts and merch in the Mizzou Store, located in the MU Student Center. This year, the store is adding a new dimension to its inventory by stocking up on two clothing brands designed by students.

Textiles and apparel management master's student Raven Smith, BHS '20, has collaborated with the store to sell branded shirts that feature her Go COMO logo.

A portion of revenue from those shirts will be donated to Molly's Miles, a nonprofit that supports families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, as well as to other organizations that inspire positive change in Columbia. Two other textile and apparel management (TAM) students, AJ Hayes and Joey White, have also teamed up with Smith to design an ensemble of vintage-style collegiate wear for MU sports fans, which the Champion apparel company now produces.

This past spring, Smith, who works part time as a Mizzou Store buyer, approached several staff with a business proposition: Would the store consider partnering with her on the Go COMO shirts? "We jumped on the idea," store manager Jessica Weir says. "It's a great community outreach program that we are glad to be a part of."

Go COMO grew as an offshoot of a business concept Smith started in 2015 while a senior at Morgan Park High School on the far South Side of Chicago. At the time, Chicago was burdened with the infamous nickname "Chiraq" because of its violent reputation. "I wanted to promote a new image of the city, one that would reflect the hope



↑ Raven Smith, above, has teamed with two other MU students to create an ensemble of vintage-style collegiate wear (left) for MU sports fans, which the Champion apparel company now produces.

and self-worth of the people who called Chicago their home," Smith says.

Starting with Chicago's more upbeat nickname "the Go," she invented and trademarked the slogan "Straight from the Go" and built a line of clothing around the phrase. From Day One, she has donated a portion of the company's revenues to nonprofits supporting families of fallen first responders and victims of gun violence.

Smith's eye for fashion and her knack for inspiring others helped a textile design team of students win Mizzou's College Vault Collection competition. Judges selected designs and fabric selections that she, White and Hayes submitted over those of seven other groups. Their winning line of fan-wear reflects Mizzou styles and logos popular in the late 1920s but with a modern update. Based on the designs, Champion manufactured the team's line of T-shirts, hoodies and sweatpants, which are now available at the Mizzou Store and online. — Jack Wax, BS Ed '73, MS '76, MA '87

Masks with Tasks

Think a tricked-out watch that monitors your resting heart rate is helpful? Imagine a wearable electronic device that can track your glucose and alcohol levels post-Sunday brunch, the ultraviolet intensity on your face during a summer run and your midsleep breathing rhythms.

Zheng Yan, an assistant professor in Mizzou's biomedical, biological and chemical engineering department and mechanical and aerospace engineering department, published a study in the June issue of *Science Advances* demonstrating the capabilities of such an innovative multifunctional product. Not only is it possible, he says. It could be a matter of life or death.

"If we can make affordable, customized electronics and equip our bodies with these devices, we can take proactive actions at the early stages of some diseased conditions," says Yan, whose on-campus lab specializes in soft bioelectronics. "Our future can be dramatically changed and reshaped."

The key factor: Such devices must be soft enough to slip right onto the skin (Picture those sticky patches applied to your chest to monitor your heart rate in a hospital ER.). "A watch is a hard surface, so it's not as effective," he says.

In the wake of the pandemic, Yan and his team

of 20 — half of which are Mizzou students — have also researched and developed a "smart" face mask with similar health benefits. Thanks to the creation of a built-in sensor, someone's health status can be determined based on a mere cough. These findings were published this past March in *ACS Nano*, a journal of the American Chemical Society.

"The sensor can not only physically protect us from foreign bacterial and virus infections but also provide real-time monitoring of our body status," he says, noting that the special product is battery-free, breathable and easy to manufacture.

And yes, these state-of-the-art devices may be coming soon to a shopping cart near you. Although more in-depth academic research and lab results are required, Yan says, "We are confident that these types of mask sensors and biomedical devices will eventually be available in the market." — *Mara Reinstein, BJ '98*



Nighty Nightcap

For years, Mahesh Thakkar heard friends and colleagues casually mention having a drink or two at night to help them sleep. As a professor and director of research in the Department of Neurology who has studied sleep-wake cycles, Thakkar decided to test the efficacy of a nightcap cocktail. He found that alcohol provides the opposite of a good night's rest.

"If you take alcohol one time, you'll have nice sleep," Thakkar says. "But if you take it regularly, you'll need more and more to get that same sleep."

The study, which was published in the *Journal of Neurochemistry*, found that drinking not only starts a cycle of increased consumption that can lead to alcoholism, but also that it actually disrupts sleep homeostasis, triggering insomnia and sleep disruptions. "You might get a good sleep for a couple of hours," Thakkar says. "But you'll have problems during the second half of the night."

Next, Thakkar plans to apply this work to develop a treatment for people with PTSD who drink to go to sleep. — *Tony Rehagen, BA, BJ '01*

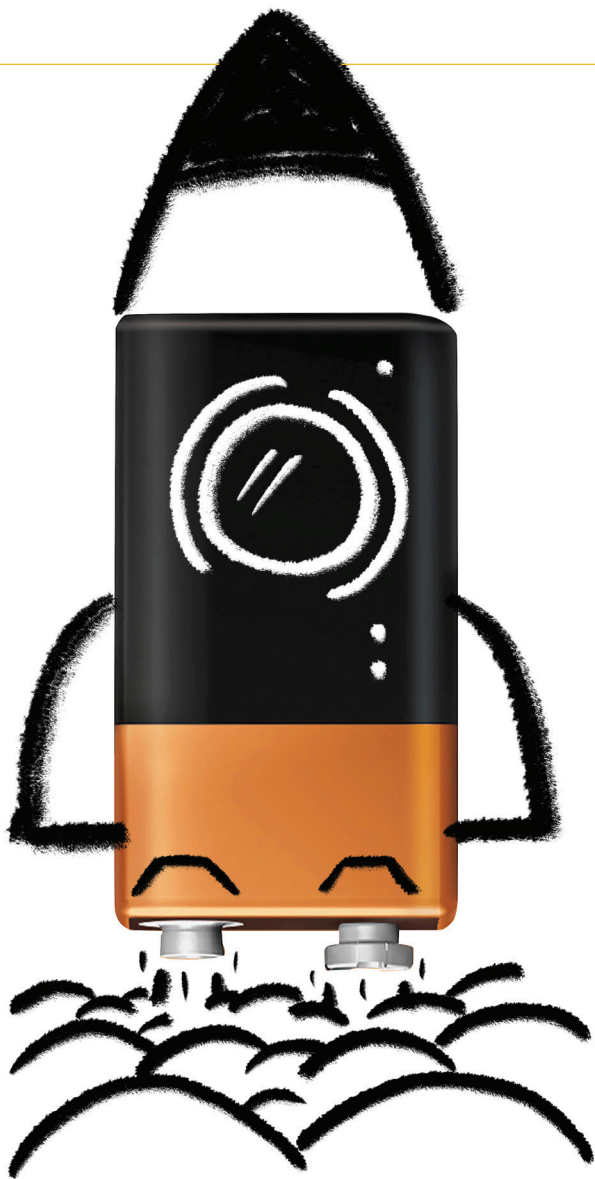
FLORA AND TRAUMA

In 2009, Ron Mittler discovered that reactive oxygen species (ROS), molecules once thought of as only having a toxic effect on life, play a crucial role in signaling stress responses in plants. But it wasn't until the plant scientist came to Mizzou in 2018 that he was able to show *how* plants use ROS to send signals.

Featured in the October 2022 issue of *Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology*, Mittler's research shows time-lapse imaging of ROS accumulation in plants subjected to stress, such as wounding, and the spread of the molecules from the stressed cells to the entire plant within minutes, a process Mittler calls the "ROS wave."

"Everybody thinks that if the plant is stressed, it will stop making ROS and it will start making mechanisms that will prevent ROS from accumulating," says Mittler, a Curators Distinguished Professor in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. "But what we're finding is that it actually makes more ROS and sends it all the way up the plant in a very active process." — *K.A.*





BOOSTING BATTERIES

A team of MU researchers led by Matthias Young, BS ChE, '10, is studying solid-state lithium-ion batteries to determine why the compact energy producers are not living up to their potential. If it can determine exactly what limits the batteries' performance, the team will be one step closer to making these batteries more powerful, quicker to charge and less likely to overheat. Solid-state batteries are already used in some medical devices and are being tested for use in electric vehicles, smartphones and hundreds of other products.

Young, an assistant professor with joint appointments in the Department of Biomedical, Biological and Chemical Engineering and the Department of Chemistry, oversees the research lab that investigates thin film polymer coatings. The National Science Foundation awarded his group a \$500,000 grant to study the interface between the lithium-ion battery cathode and the solid-state electrolyte.

"The key to overcoming critical scientific problems with these batteries depends on a deeper understanding of the chemical and structural characteristics of the interface," Young says. In its search for this knowledge, the group will be zooming in on an atomic-level view of battery components using a specialized electron microscope located in the Roy Blunt NextGen Precision Health building. — J. Wax

New Farming with Old Practices

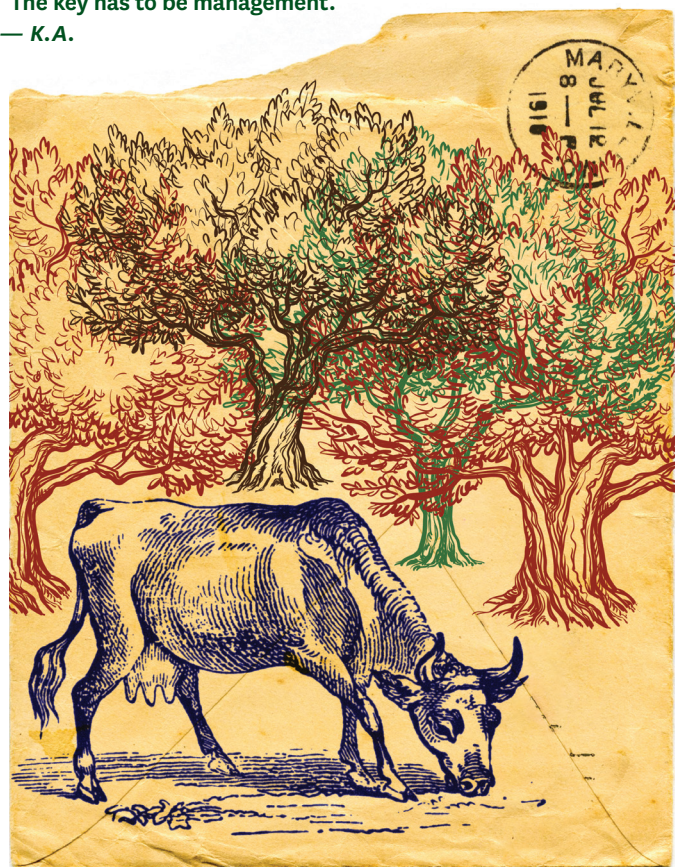
Indigenous communities have known for centuries what scientists confirm today: Grazing animals among trees can improve forest health, increase soil carbon sequestration, provide shade and expand habitat for wildlife.

Agroforestry Assistant Research Professor Ashley Conway-Anderson is working to adapt modern and traditional practices to fit regional needs and teach Missouri farmers how to practice what is now known as silvopasture, either by planting trees in an existing pasture or thinning dense tree stands and planting grasses in the understory. The trees provide water filtration, erosion control and shade, which help livestock manage their temperature and improve their gain, translating to increased profit. In turn, grazing beneath a forest canopy helps create a wooded landscape with less underbrush, reducing the risk of fire.

"For so long, we've had a policy of exclusion: Keep livestock out of the woods," Conway-Anderson says. "By reconnecting some of these dots and connections that have been lost when we separated the systems out, it'll start to re-engage a lot of these engines that rely on synergy and thoughtful integration."

Conway-Anderson is leading a multiyear study at an experimental farm southeast of Rolla where she'll thin out wooded areas, conduct prescribed burning, plant native grasses and then bring in cows to eat in the shade. Her goal is to collect data and develop best practices for farmers who want to move their cattle from open fields into forests. "Unmanaged woodland grazing is not the same as silvopasture," Conway-Anderson says. "The key has to be management."

— K.A.



STEP BY STEP



Coach Brian Smith celebrates 25 years leading the Mizzou wrestling team.

On the west side of the Hearnes Center, an elevator built so that people could effortlessly ascend to the fourth-floor home of the Mizzou wrestling team seldom does so. Days pass without anyone pushing the No. 4 button.

Coach Brian Smith has been taking the stairs for 25 years. So have his assistant coaches and athletes. He doesn't even have to tell the newcomers anymore. The culture he calls "Tiger Style" speaks for itself.

"One of the guys was sprinting by me on the stairs the other day, and I said, 'You're running the stairs?' He said, 'Every day, Coach. I'm running them, not walking them.' That's what happens. It evolves into people doing a little bit more," Smith says.

Before Smith arrived in 1998 as a 32-year-old coach with modest credentials, Missouri had never won a wrestling conference title nor produced an individual national champion. With Smith, the Tigers have won 11 straight conference titles — in the Big 12, the Mid-American Conference and the Big 12 again — and nine individual national titles. Two of his wrestlers, Ben Askren and J'den Cox, won multiple NCAA titles and represented the USA in the Olympics.

The Tigers have finished as high as third in the team standings at the NCAA Championships, and Smith isn't shy about his goal to capture the school's first national title in any sport since the indoor track team did it in 1965. He built this unlikely wrestling powerhouse with a culture that scorns the easy way out, whether that be a skipped class, a cut corner during a warmup lap or an elevator ride to the fourth floor.

All those extra steps add up, and they eventually lead to the top.

"It's like JFK said about going to the moon: We do it not because it's easy but because it's hard," Smith says. "We've won every possible tournament there is in college wrestling except the NCAAs. We have an opportunity to win a national title. And when it happens, it will be a special day."

— Joe Walljasper, BJ '92



Black and Gold Glove

As a freshman in high school, Jenna Laird committed to play college softball for Coach Larissa Anderson at Hofstra University, which is just a few miles from her home in Long Island, New York. When Anderson left Hofstra for Mizzou, Laird had to decide whether to follow the coach to the Midwest.

Laird says she still misses the bagels, pizza and summer days at the beach offered by her hometown, but she has fit right in at Missouri. In 2021, she earned the starting shortstop job and was named the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year. She followed that up by earning All-SEC honors as a sophomore.

“Once I was here, I thought, ‘This is where I

should be. This is where I deserve to be,’” she says.

Laird has a career batting average of .348, and her defense is even better. Last season, she didn’t commit an error in SEC play and earned the Rawlings Gold Glove Award as the best fielding shortstop in the nation.

“We have a lot of philosophies with defense, and basically, you can’t make an error where the ball goes under your glove,” Laird says. “I mean, you can, but if it happens, you have to ‘take a hike,’ which means you have to run to the fence and back. Obviously, I don’t want to run to the fence and back, so I focus on never letting a ball go between my legs.”

— *J. Walljasper*

STUDENT SALES FORCE As Mizzou athletics officials brainstormed ways to increase ticket sales last summer, they realized they had access to a mighty untapped sales force: students. That epiphany marked the beginning of an innovative online ticket sales program that allows students to earn a 20% commission on every single-game ticket they sell to Mizzou sporting events.

“It’s a way to extend our reach, and for those students who have an entrepreneurial spirit, it’s a great way for them to make extra money selling tickets,” says Greg Hulen, a senior associate athletics director. More than 200 students signed up to sell tickets in the first month of the program. At the end of each sports season, the athletics department will send the students a commission check.

“One of the things we want to do with the program is learn from the students,” Hulen says. “Who are the ones who are selling the most tickets, how are they doing it and can we learn from them? Maybe they’ll end up working for the athletics department’s ticket sales team one day.” — *J. Walljasper*



Scoreboard

3 — The number of Linthacum sisters who could be on the court with the Mizzou women’s basketball team next season. **Micah** and **Sarah Linthacum** are current players for the Tigers, and **Hannah Linthacum**, a senior at Jefferson City High School, has signed a letter of intent to play for MU next season.

5 — Career medals won at the wrestling World Championships by **J’den Cox**, who earned silver in the 92-kilogram freestyle division Sept. 17, 2022. Cox previously won gold in 2018 and ’19 and bronze in ’17 and ’21.

6 — Members of the University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame’s Class of 2022. **Yusuf Alli** (track), **J’den Cox** (wrestling), **Jennifer (Sand) DeVine** (gymnastics), **Lynn (Biggs) Malir** (track), **Gary Pinkel** (football) and **Pete Woods** (football/baseball) were inducted into the hall in a ceremony Nov. 18, 2022.

13 — Years between **Arch Rivalry** football games between Illinois and Mizzou in St. Louis. The series went on hiatus after 2010 but is set to resume Sept. 23, 2023. The Tigers won the previous six Arch Rivalry games from 2002 to 2010.



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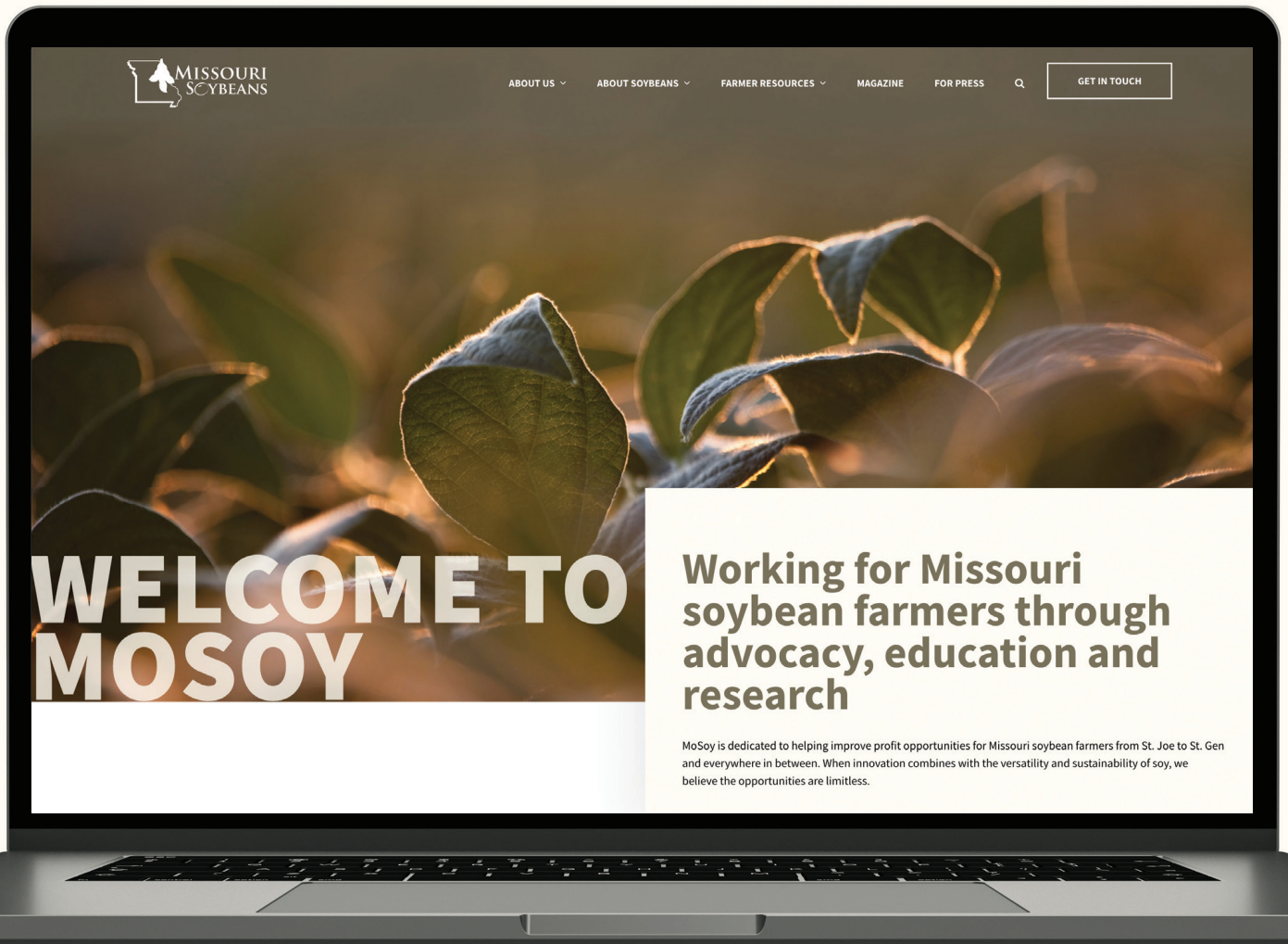
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Innovation specialist **Damon Coyle** sculpts lifelike organs and limbs used to train health care and veterinary medicine students. Fusing medicine and fine arts, he and his colleagues at the Shelden Clinical Simulation Center are molding future professionals.






PARTS DOCTOR, PARTS ARTIST

MIZZOU MAGAZINE | WINTER 2023

 **MARCUS WILKINS, BA '03**

 **ABBIE LANKITUS**

 **VIOLET FRANCES**



Stroll past **Damon Coyle's** workspace on any given weekday and you might feel as if you've stumbled upon a special effects lab.



WHAT APPEAR TO BE glistening crimson organs rest in metal procedure trays and plastic medical tubs. Suture scissors and thumb forceps surround swatches of wounded and partially stitched skin. Tubes of mysterious fluids crawl across blue surgical cloth. Gray cadaver torsos cast elongated shadows, while dislodged fake eyeballs gawk skeptically this way and that.

Although creepy at first glance, the body parts aren't real. This windowless fourth-floor Mizzou studio houses a singular medical innovation specialist. Part artist, part physician — with a dash of fun-loving mad scientist — Coyle, BS, '11, creates strikingly lifelike training devices at the Innovation Lab in MU's Russell D. and Mary B. Shelden Clinical Simulation Center.

The realistic “trainers,” made mostly of latex and silicone compounds that mimic with remarkable accuracy human and animal tissue, are used by students learning clinical procedures in the worlds of health care and veterinary medicine.

As Coyle holds up and rotates an arm to display its surface, a smile of satisfaction cuts across his bearded face as he describes the ability to “intrinsically change the pigmentation of the silicone” that he casts in his studio. “I can make any skin tone,” he says. “I also use what's called ‘flocking’ — very small hairs or fibers of varying colors that you can put in at the mixing stage.”

Coyle's catalog of handmade creations features hundreds of human appendages and more than 20 refined prototypes. He's designed a neonatal intravenous trainer fitted with arterial tubing for nurses to practice inserting needles into the tiny arms and legs of newborns. The ocular trauma kit is an eye mask-shaped section of face featuring removable eyes for easy cleaning. And the multipurpose nursing skills pad allows trainees to refine their injection, intravenous starts and wound-care skills on a square of self-healing “flesh.”

“We started the Innovations Lab in 2019 because there's a gap in the market for how the realistic task trainers look, feel and react,” says Dena Higbee, executive director of simulation at the Shelden Center. “I knew Damon as a medical student, but I didn't initially know that he had a background in sculpting. When I learned that, I thought, ‘This is ideal.’”

The opportunity was not only a perfect confluence of Coyle's talent and experience but a chance to innovate in a job he could help define. And over time, he's honed the definition.

“If I'm at a cocktail party or giving an elevator pitch, typically I tell people I'm a medical sculptor,” Coyle says. “I don't dabble in anything. I tend to go all in with my attention, skills and energy.”

In the world of medical simulation, Coyle's effects are as spe-

cialized as his job title. When tackling complex assignments, he has no similarly tasked innovation specialists to consult at other higher education institutions. “As far as we know, there's no other clinical simulation center that has a dedicated lab to produce refined production pieces,” he says.

Were he to seek peers with whom to trade notes, they would likely be in Hollywood — with a key distinction: “With special effects work, the artists are creating for a very controlled environment, with precise lighting and often to be shown for only a handful of frames.”



BODIES OF WORK

FOR A SELF-DESCRIBED INTROVERT, Coyle is an affable and welcoming host. He flits among his displayed trainers, reaching for handmade body parts to best describe his methodology and process. He's quick to laugh, naturally curious and eager to collaborate. That temperament, paired with Coyle's imagination and know-how, make him uniquely suited to his craft.

If artistic acumen is inheritable, Coyle received it from his grandfather, a talented watercolor and pencil illustrator in the 1970s. Coyle and his two brothers grew up just outside Council Bluffs, Iowa, where his parents enthusiastically encouraged creativity. Someone was always sketching something, and papers constantly littered the bedroom floors.

“In my drawings, I liked to push realism and focus on figures,” Coyle recalls. “So, I decided to take a college-level anatomy course in high school to improve at rendering the superficial musculature.” Coyle and his parents still chuckle about the specificity of his boyhood career aspirations.

“I said I wanted to be a *doctor artist*.”

What seemed like a pretend occupation became real thanks in part to the breadth of educational experiences available at the University of Missouri. Coyle was an exceptional student fascinated by medical science, so an undergraduate biology degree en route to med school seemed like an obvious path. But he continued cultivating his creativity by taking art courses. Specifically, Coyle took a bronze sculpture class with Professor Emeritus James Calvin.

“Damon was quite skilled and interested in figuration and anatomy,” says Calvin, who penned a letter of recommendation for Coyle's medical school application. “He was also committed to developing a wide-ranging skillset in terms of materials. One of the unique things about sculpture is that we're not defined by a particular material; we're defined by a discipline — which I'm sure has served him well.”

Coyle was three years into med school — through what many physicians consider the hardest part — when he had a realization.

“You have to throw a lot of hobbies aside to make room for the rigors of such a difficult education,” Coyle says. “I realized what brought me fulfillment at the end of the day was creating tangible items that somebody else can appreciate, touch, feel and use. Functional art, if you will. If my art could be used to help medical students, all the better.”

Enter Shelden Center Executive Director Higbee. With more



than 20 years of experience in the field of medical simulation and 14 years at Mizzou, she was familiar with the limitations of some of those tangible items.

Higbee and Coyle began discussing the shortcomings of various task trainers used in the medical simulation community. Haptic authenticity (real feel), lifelike coloration, maintenance and durability would be paramount. There was also the matter of economics; Coyle could make replacement trainers and manikin parts at a fraction of the commercial cost. He now cranks out large batches of homemade suture training

+

Part artist, part physician — with a dash of fun-loving mad scientist — Coyle creates strikingly lifelike training devices.

pads that outperform comparable products on the market.

“Our students are always going through a mental process and thinking, ‘This is just a piece of hard plastic, so if I put the needle in here, I know I’ll get [blood flow] return,’” Higbee says. “But if there’s no fidelity — if it doesn’t feel like a real patient — there’s limited transfer of knowledge. In the old days, we would practice putting IV needles in bananas, for goodness’ sake.”

Medical simulation has been around for as long as medical train-

↑ Clockwise from top: Located on the fourth floor of MU’s Patient-Centered Care Learning Center, Coyle’s workspace is part art studio, part laboratory.

Meticulous attention to detail separates Coyle’s trainers from many currently available on the market.

Coyle is able to create any skin tone imaginable by changing the formulation of the silicone.



† Above: Christopher Sampson, professor of emergency medicine, demonstrates for medical residents a procedure using the ocular trauma trainer.

† Above right: (from left) medical residents Abrea Criddlebraugh, Sarah Bohnert and Aaron Brown tend to Susie the manikin during a simulation exercise at the Shelden Clinical Simulation Center.

ing. Ancient doctors taught anatomy on models built of clay, and in 18th-century France, students learned how to deliver babies on cloth birthing simulators. Today's plastic simulation devices are a vast improvement — but Coyle knew he could do better.

He set up a makeshift lab on an old oak table in a spare bedroom at his house. Coyle's first assignment was a uterus for a postpartum hemorrhage procedure, a project that required extensive trial and error to concoct the right rubber formula. It didn't take long for Higbee to find dedicated lab space for Coyle.

"Surgery, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine — these are the disciplines in which simulation performs really well," Higbee says. "So we started pursuing trainers for specific procedures within medical residency programs. And at the Shelden Center, we're always trying to find ways to improve the simulation process."

motion and other vital signs, Hal is part of an exercise that allows medical students to practice their bedside manner while adjusting to changing scenarios tweaked by Runyan and his team from behind the glass in the control room. It's just one of hundreds of simulations carried out at the Shelden Center every semester.

Tim Koboldt is an assistant professor and simulation director of clinical emergency medicine. He says that this kind of training is critical to student success — and could save lives. "We often focus on what are called high-acuity, low-occurrence events," he says. "These things are time-critical, where people need lifesaving interventions immediately. By doing these procedures in a lower-stress environment, with trainers and an opportunity to think through things, it gives medical students a chance to gain some muscle memory."

Future doctors such as Chelsea Broomhead, a senior emergency medicine resident and a Medical Education and Simulation fellow at the School of Medicine, often face circumstances they've only read about.

"There's a sweet spot when doing simulation," Broomhead says. "If you're completely overwhelmed by the scenario, you won't remember anything. But if you're unphased, you won't remember, either. It's also so important for the training devices to be realistic. Imagine trying to learn how to play trumpet on something that didn't feel or act like a trumpet. Fidelity is critical."

Thankfully, the Shelden Center — 25,000 combined square feet in the School of Medicine and the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center — houses thousands of high- and low-tech simulation devices, many of which work in concert with the trainers Coyle develops. For example, silicone specimens for tracheal (windpipe) or gastrostomy (abdomen) procedures can be attached to manikins such as Hal to increase the level of realism.

The centers feature 30 fully equipped examination rooms, 11 multipurpose simulation rooms,



"I realized what brought me fulfillment at the end of the day was creating tangible items that somebody else can appreciate, touch, feel and use. Functional art, if you will. If my art could be used to help medical students, all the better."



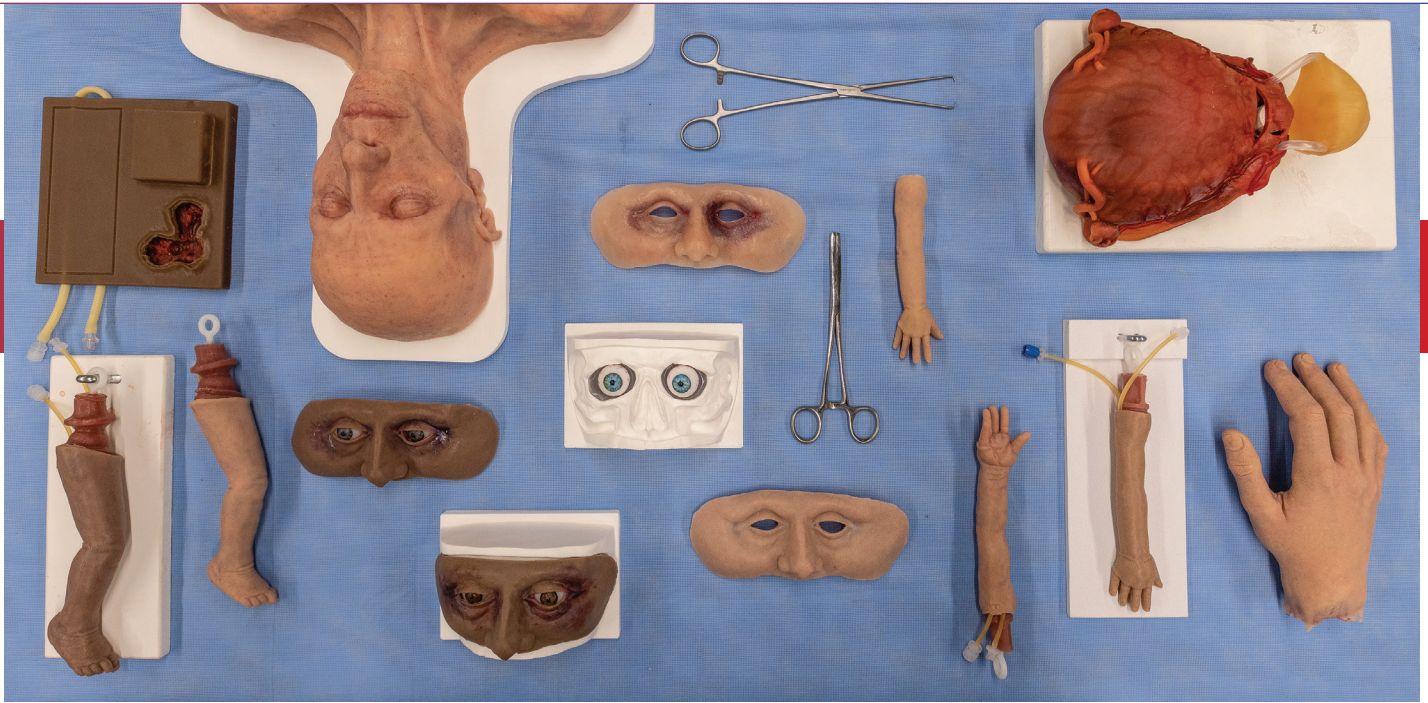
SIMULATION IMPLEMENTATION

HAL WAS BORN READY FOR THIS. Comfortably reclined and swathed in a cotton gown, the patient seems to convey a stoic countenance, one betrayed by the occasional blink as surrounding medical students are briefed on his condition.

Aside from the mirrored glass opposite the door, the setting is a typical hospital room. Monitors, IV poles, respiratory outputs, crash carts and various instruments surround Hal. As the health care team members take their places and introduce themselves, the patient clears his throat and describes his plight.

"I think I just have the flu," says a male voice emanating from a speaker on Hal's bed. "But my wife said because I've been sick so long that I needed to come to the hospital." He adds that he's had severe nausea.

Hal is a patient-care training manikin — in this case, voiced by Marty Runyan, simulation education specialist. Capable of simulated breathing



12 observation and control rooms, and a Cerner hospital “room of the future” featuring the latest in cutting-edge technology. There is also the Mobile Sim unit, a 30-foot vehicle with four computerized patient manikins, virtual reality devices capable of simulating more than 110 medical scenarios and trained staff — all ready to deploy and instruct health care workers throughout the Show-Me State.



SPECIALIST EFFECTS

ONE RECENT DAY IN COYLE’S STUDIO, detachable bellies, placentas, umbilical cords and craniums flank the artist’s coffee mug as he scrolls through detailed medical images online. Like the arresting parts and prosthetics displayed in his studio, Coyle’s passion for his work is impossible to ignore.

Take his canine spay surgical trainer. As he walks through an impromptu hands-on demonstration of how the cylindrical apparatus functions, he enthusiastically urges his visitors to test the realistic tension of the replaceable uteri.

“No assignment is ever typical, but when requests come to me from a department, usually they have been using a crude model or no model at all,” Coyle says. “That’s when I immediately get on the internet and watch procedural videos, or I’ll have the clinicians invite me to a procedure so I can get eyes on things and obtain as much research as possible into what the procedure actually entails.”

Coyle begins sketching the model — sometimes he does so on a digital pad, sometimes with paper and pencil — before sculpting with polymer-based “monster clay” named for its popularity in

cinema. He prides himself on practicality, using everyday hardware products as building blocks for many of his creations (“I go to Menards a lot,” Coyle says). He has even used a mold of his wife’s arm and hand for an adult IV trainer used by a variety of health care students.

As Coyle’s reputation has grown, he and his colleagues have had to be more selective about assignments.

“Prioritizing Damon’s time comes down to who is the end user for a particular device,” Higbee says. “Is it a one-off? How many people can benefit from it? What products would work best for the curriculum, for residency training and hospital training?”

Coyle also places premiums on constructive criticism, trial and error, and nonstop tweaking. As the products are used and abused by trainees, he’s constantly adapting and improving his work.

“Typically, the biggest changes I make in the early stages relate to the softness of the tissues, and that’s a pretty easy fix,” Coyle says. “I have additives that can make our silicones softer or more rigid.”

Coyle draws from his well of medical knowledge daily, so it’s accurate to say he looks back — but never with regret. After all, this Mizzou-made “doctor artist” has realized the dream job he imagined more than 20 years ago.

Still, his approach to work suggests that were he practicing medicine today, no doubt he would be going all in — as he does in every endeavor.

“But if I were a doctor, would I have the reach that I do now? I’m not sure I would,” Coyle says. “At the Sheldon Simulation Center, I’m able to help train the next crop of medical students and have a positive impact on patients and patient care.” **M**

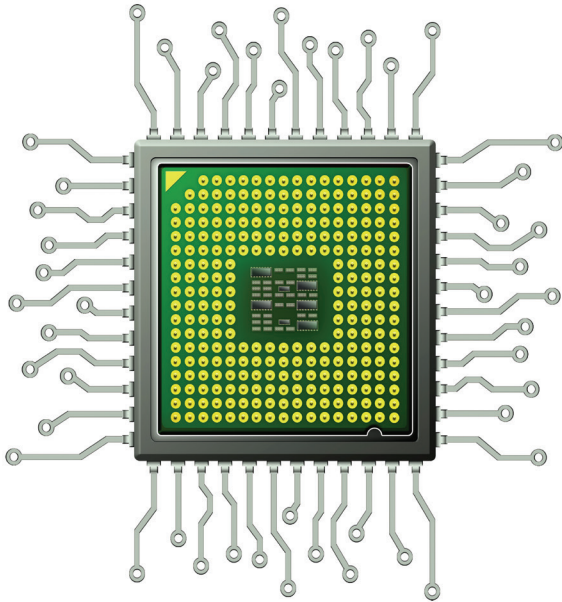
↑ Coyle’s portfolio contains hundreds of appendages and more than 20 prototypes, including a kit for ocular procedures, pads of lifelike “flesh” to practice suturing and infant limbs fitted with arterial tubing for neonatal nurses to practice needle insertion.

Forward March



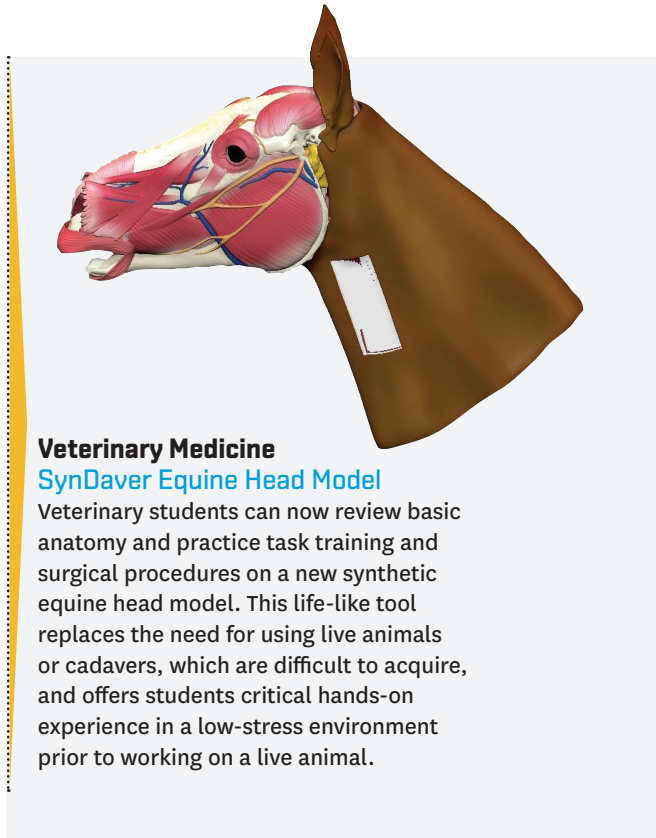
MU announces nearly \$4 million MizzouForward investment in student success.

Mizzou awarded nearly \$4 million to 51 projects that will support student success as part of MizzouForward, a 10-year, \$1.5 billion investment strategy to enhance the university's research and education missions. Among the top priorities were investments in new technologies and physical upgrades to support student experiences. Here's a look at 10 projects that highlight the range of MizzouForward's mission. All projects are set to be completed by springtime. **STORY BY KELSEY ALLEN, BA, BJ '10**



Physics, Astronomy, and Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Mechatronics Laboratory

Students in the mechanical and aerospace engineering, physics and astronomy departments will design, construct and test their own electrical circuits in a new cross-listed lab course that focuses on modern electronics topics, including analog and digital circuit elements, filters, amplifiers, interfacing with computers, micro-controller circuits, and programming for reading sensors and controlling mechanical systems.



Veterinary Medicine SynDaver Equine Head Model

Veterinary students can now review basic anatomy and practice task training and surgical procedures on a new synthetic equine head model. This life-like tool replaces the need for using live animals or cadavers, which are difficult to acquire, and offers students critical hands-on experience in a low-stress environment prior to working on a live animal.



Natural Resources Weather Analysis and Visualization Lab

Meteorology students can practice forecasting, broadcasting and modeling skills in an upgraded Weather Analysis and Visualization Lab that resembles a professional television weather broadcasting facility. The lab includes new computer systems, a state-of-the-art television weather graphics computer and a green screen where students gain the experience they need to enter weather-related careers.



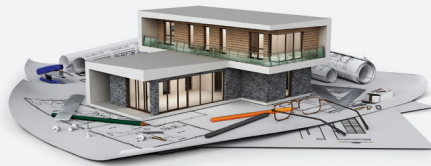
MU Fire and Rescue Testing Institute Virtual Reality System

A new virtual reality system will change how the MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute approaches its training program. The use of VR technology increases the variety of scenarios firefighters face during training, allowing faculty to test student decision-making and critical thinking skills and change outcomes.



Plant Science & Technology
Biotechnology Lab Equipment

Plant biotechnology is a growing field. The newly formed Division of Plant Science & Technology (formerly the Division of Plant Sciences) strengthens its biotechnology emphasis by offering a new course in plant biotechnology and offering hands-on experiences with advanced biotechnology lab equipment to prepare students for success in this modern plant science workforce.



Architectural Studies
Design and Construction Laboratory

Architecture students can evaluate and test large-scale fabrication and design prototypes in a living laboratory of design and construction. Located on the north side of Stanley Hall, this outdoor space will foster experiential learning across 12 courses in design, digital media, construction management and sustainability and prepare students for international design-build competitions.



Engineering and Information Technology
Spot Enterprise

Engineering and information technology students who are not located in Columbia now have access to an enterprise edition of Spot, a Boston Dynamics robot designed to fully automate sensing and inspection in remote or hazardous environments. The Autonomous Systems Lab already owns one Spot robot. Adding an enterprise robot that allows for remote access enables more students to gain important hands-on experience.



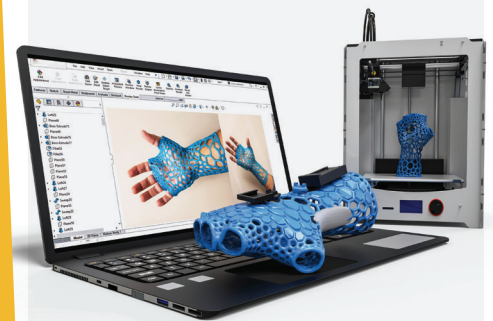
Biological Sciences
Teaching Microscopy Labs

With 24 new high-tech teaching microscopes, biological sciences students can now do what was only conceptual a decade or two ago: view the movement of live cells in real time, labeled with genetically encoded fluorescent proteins that reveal secrets of cellular life. The high-resolution microscopes are fitted with Wi-Fi-enabled cameras so that students can share images in real time with their instructors, classmates and experts and gain real-world experience interpreting what they see.



Political Science
Game-based Learning

Imagine students shuffling into class only to find that they are teamed up inside a virtual escape room to solve an American Government quest through collaborative analysis of clues and artifacts. The political science department is redesigning its general education course to incorporate game-based curriculum, which leverages innovative, experiential and multimodal opportunities for increased student engagement and learning.



Information Science & Learning Technologies
WeMake Lab

The only creative makerspace facility that is open to all students, the WeMake Lab is adding technology to engage students in the maker philosophy and participatory culture and provide learning-by-doing opportunities in computer-aided design, 3D printing and modeling to all students regardless of year, department or major.



Plunkert



“In these troubled times, we need to **empower intellectually independent students** who are prepared to double down on the **American experiment of democratic self-government.**”

— JAY SEXTON, DIRECTOR OF THE KINDER INSTITUTE ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY



Founders’ Keepers

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID PLUNKERT

WHEN RICH AND NANCY KINDER stood to acknowledge applause in the rotunda of Jesse Hall in October, they did so at a unique moment in American constitutional democracy’s history. A heated midterm election in which control of Congress was on the horizon, and the subject of free and fair elections was in the air.

As founding supporters of MU’s Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, the Kinders were at Mizzou to announce that the Kinder Foundation, which they established 25 years ago, would continue to invest in the institute, and the vision of America’s foundational document, through a \$25 million gift.

“I believe that this kind of education grounds people in such a way that they can understand facts and discuss issues more intelligently,” says Kinder, BA ’66, JD ’68. “If you look back at virtually any incident during the founding of the country, there were controversial issues. And if you understand what those issues are, I think it gives you a much better understanding of how we evolved into what we are today.”

During the rotunda announcement, University of Missouri President Mun Y. Choi said: “The Kinder Institute is a story of transformational success at the University of Missouri. Through their generosity, the Kinder Institute has become an international leader in a new era of public discourse — one that inculcates a range of perspectives, free thinking and responsible dialogue across our society.”

All told, the Kinders have given the institute \$60 million, beginning with a \$25 million gift from the foundation in 2015 that initially endowed the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. In 2019, another generous \$10 million investment allowed the institute to offer two new degrees at MU — a Bachelor of Arts in constitutional democracy and a Master of Arts in Atlantic history and politics.

Seven years later, the Kinders’ efforts have enabled MU to harness its middle-of-the-country location to become a center for researching, studying and reinforcing America’s founding principles.

Five Questions for Rich Kinder

In early November, the Kinder Foundation gifted \$25 million to continue its investment in the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. MIZZOU recently spoke to Rich Kinder, BA '66, JD '68, about his and wife Nancy's gift.

When you and your wife committed to your initial 2014 investment that led to the formation of Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, what did you see on the horizon? Given the timing, it's almost like you were a soothsayer.

You give me too much credit. I wanted to do something for my alma mater, and we arrived at this because I felt, even back then, that there was a great lack in teaching about the founding of America and the constitutional democracy that resulted from it. I was a history major, and I continue to have a very vibrant interest in history, and I thought that it wasn't being taught today and that we are educating our youth in ways that don't really help them understand the background of this country. That was the original thought process, and I've been surprised by how well it's done and how prominent it's become not just on campus but beyond.

You've said that understanding the foundations of American democracy isn't a matter of political beliefs, but it's tough to discuss the threats to constitutional democracy around the world without talking about politics. How do you walk that line?

That's a very good question. I believe that this kind of education grounds people

in such a way that they can understand facts and discuss issues more intelligently. There are all kinds of examples of this, but if you look back at virtually any incident during the founding of the country, there were controversial issues. And if you understand what those issues are, I think it gives you a much better understanding of how we evolved into what we are today.

This is not intended to be an effort to brainwash anybody or convince them of one outlook or another. The idea is to educate students so that they understand the country.

Your recent generous commitments suggest that you are happy with the progress. Are you excited by any specific aspects or initiatives?

Oh, yeah, I'm excited. In those seven years we've been able to offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs. We've entered this great partnership with Oxford University. What a wonderful thing for a young person coming out of Missouri in a master's program — to be able to spend a whole summer at Oxford. With the new grant, we're increasingly going to do that with the undergraduates. Those opportunities in partnership with Oxford, the undergraduate and graduate degrees, the Residential College, the D.C. scholars — I could go on and on. We're changing people's lives one by one. That's what you want to see.



↑ Rich and Nancy Kinder on their continued support of the institute's mission: "We're changing people's lives one by one. That's what you want to see."

You've long advocated for continually learning about history. What are you reading right now?

I happen to be reading an excellent book by British historian Antony Beevor, who's written a lot on World War II. He's written a new book simply called *Russia*, which is a story of the Bolshevik Revolution and the war between the Reds and the Whites from 1917 to 1921. Another interesting book for the people of Missouri is called *Life on the Mississippi* — not the Mark Twain version but by a guy by the name of Rinker Buck. He built a replica of a flatboat that the pioneers used to go down the Ohio River and all the way to New Orleans in the days before the steamboat. Buck's a very good writer, and his thoughts and

reminiscences on the history of the Ohio River and the Mississippi are fascinating.

When you were attending Mizzou, did you have favorite hangouts?

I'm so old I can remember the Shack and the Paradise Club and the I Club. I had a great social life. I probably spent too much time on socializing during my undergraduate years, but that was the one time in my life when I was mature enough to realize that I would never again have so much freedom and so little responsibility. That changed when I got into law school, but they were very enjoyable times and, really, a big part of the impetus for wanting to give something back. I thought I could do something that would reward the university for the gifts it gave me.



A More Perfect Union

In less than a decade, the Kinder Institute has become a standard-bearer in the research and study of constitutional democracy.

If a thread runs through Kinder Institute offerings, it could be that experience teaches best. For starters, Institute Director Jay Sexton touts study-abroad programs to England and South Africa, where students form their own seat-of-the-pants take on how other cultures function. On campus at Missouri Debate Union meets, undergraduates grapple with current events in a format modeled on the United Kingdom's parliament. "We are doing it just as well after half a dozen years as those venerable institutions are doing after six centuries," he says. And the institute's speaker series, he adds, may be unmatched at any university, public or private.

The overall atmosphere at the institute? "It's an intellectual hothouse," says Jeff Pasley, institute associate director. The

Kinders' gifts include a recently announced \$25 million directed toward increasing faculty numbers and expanding student programs such as study-abroad and internship initiatives. The gift will provide scholars with more resources to further elevate Mizzou's profile in the field.

Such new knowledge is for all comers. "What I enjoy most is talking about history with colleagues and students," Pasley says, "and I know the students like hanging out where ideas that become books and articles are worked out in front of them." Scholarship should be approachable, he adds. "If it's not fun, you're doing it wrong."

Check out a handful of the institute's recent accomplishments and offerings below. — Dale Smith, BJ '88

Thinking Aloud (and Allowed)

"Speakers are the heart and soul of the Kinder Institute," Sexton says. Forty scholars a year, mostly from outside Mizzou, draw faculty, students and others into "cutting-edge" talks on constitutional democracy. Recently, Lynne Jackson, great-great-granddaughter of Dred Scott, came to town. At such moments, Sexton says, the audience sees vividly the stakes of the past, the legacies both good and bad, and that "history is real and lives with us today."

Will the Union Survive?

Missouri's statehood application opened the battle over whether slavery would extend west of the Mississippi, a searing conflict that threatened the union itself. The crisis severed the nation into slave states and free states, crystallizing issues the Civil War later decided. Pasley and colleagues commemorated Missouri's complicated history by adding

two volumes of new scholarship in *A Fire Bell in the Past: The Missouri Crisis at 200*. "Teaching is key," he says, "but research makes us a university."

Studying in Hallowed Halls

The institute's extraordinary connection to the University of Oxford in England came with Sexton, who taught there. Kinder students can apply to study at Oxford for a month, a summer or a year. "But we don't take them there and teach them ourselves," he says. "We subcontract Oxford faculty. Students are embedded to discover for themselves how another culture examines problems." The experience often shapes career choices, "including international opportunities they had not known existed."

Undergraduates Have the Floor

Unlike the aggressiveness of high school debate competitions, the Missouri Debate Union takes a more collegial approach, says institute student Paul Odu, the pro-

gram's founder. "The atmosphere is interactive and conversational. It's about building knowledge and persuasion skills, not diatribes." All Mizzou undergraduates are welcome at the program's debates, where teams of students trade points of view on topics of the day. Likewise, the union's lectures by local politicians, professors and alumni are open.

Take Me to My People

The institute's Democracy Lab answers a burning question on every freshman's mind: How will I find others who share my interests? By choosing the program, students interested in history and politics not only live on the same residence hall floor but also take the same classes with Kinder Institute faculty members. They quickly become a tight-knit scholarly community exploring constitutional democracy worldwide. And study buddies are never more than a few doors down the hall.

More: democracy.missouri.edu

World Cup
ref **Esse
Baharmast**
“went from
goat to
G.O.A.T.”
at the '98
finals —
and he
credits a
Mizzou
coach for
his hall-of-
fame career.



DESTINY'S CALL

STORY BY TONY REHAGEN, BA, BJ '01

ON JUNE 23, 1998, in the Stade Vélodrome in Marseille, France, Esse Baharmast, BS ChE '77, 2022 inductee to the National Soccer Hall of Fame, made a call that would define his career, the perception of his fellow American soccer referees and, perhaps, the future of human sports officials.

It was the 89th minute of a World Cup match between Brazil and Norway, knotted 1–1. A Norwegian player sent a cross kick into the penalty area in front of his goal where the ball's intended target, Norway striker Tore André Flo, got tangled up with Brazilian Júnior Baiano and fell to the ground. From his position, Baharmast saw Baiano pull Flo down by his jersey.

Before Baharmast signaled for the foul, he paused to consider the weight of the moment. He realized that if Norway won, the team would move on to the round of 16. He understood that Morocco, another country in Group A, would then be eliminated. Baharmast also recognized that, in 1998 France, he was one of the few officials from the United States, a country that was largely perceived as not knowing or caring enough about the sport to even call it by its proper name of football. But he knew what he saw. He blew the whistle, called for the penalty kick, which found the back of the net, and Norway prevailed. The game was over.

Baharmast's nightmare had just begun.

Immediately following the match, his supervisor approached him to confirm the pivotal call. Not only had few, if any, of the 55,000 spectators in the stands seen the shirt-pull, but none of the 16 television cameras relaying the action to reporters, officials and millions of people around the world caught the foul, either. Baharmast thought that surely one photographer saw what he had seen, and it would make it into one of the newspapers the next day.

Instead, he awoke to headlines in French, English and other languages translating to things like: “Incompetent Referee,” “Imaginary Penalty” and “Send the U.S. Referees Home.” “I was accused of scandal, of cheating, of an American conspiracy against an African nation,” Baharmast says. “It was 36 hours from hell.”

The flames only abated a day-and-a-half later, when a Swedish television station published a photo that clearly showed Flo's red jersey stretched back by Baiano's hand. “I instantly went from blind and incompetent to one of the best referees in the world with laser vision,” he says. “I went from goat to G.O.A.T.”

Baharmast credits his being in that position — both in the perfect vantage on the field and in the stadium as a FIFA referee in the first place — to his time at Mizzou. He arrived in



← “I was accused of scandal, of cheating, of an American conspiracy against an African nation,” former World Cup ref Esse Baharmast, BS ChE '77, (above) says of his controversial call. “It was 36 hours from hell.”

Columbia in 1973 to study chemical engineering, but the Iranian immigrant quickly found that soccer was the international language he could speak with fellow students from all over the world. He was a standout center forward and striker who led the Tiger club team in scoring. When he graduated, he stayed at MU as a teaching assistant while driving back and forth to St. Louis to coach and play semiprofessional soccer. It was at one of these games that he broke his leg, effectively ending his playing career. One of his colleagues at Mizzou, engineering Professor Richard Warder, was refereeing that fateful game and suggested that Baharmast buy a whistle. “He said, ‘You know the game, you played, you coached. Why don’t you referee?’” says Baharmast.

He started picking up games in St. Louis and Kansas City, where he soon caught the attention of the fledgling Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL). “He took that player mentality and made it part of refereeing,” says Brian Hall, a fellow referee in MISL and now director of CONCACAF referees. “He was always reading the game, making sure he was where he needed to be to make the right call.”

After working full time for MISL across several seasons, he was eventually named an official FIFA referee. In 1996 alone, Baharmast officiated Major League Soccer’s inaugural match, the first MLS Cup and the Atlanta Olympics. The following

year, FIFA tapped him to work a heated World Cup qualifier between rivals Japan and Korea. His performance in that pivotal game earned him a ticket to France in 1998.

When Baharmast’s call in the Norway–Brazil match was confirmed for all to see, it wasn’t just a vindication of him and his ability but of all U.S. soccer officials. “When they announce the refs, they have their country next to your name,” Hall says. “Baharmast was representing the other 120,000-plus referees in the U.S. When they found out he got this call right, he took the world’s view of our refereeing to the next level.”

Baharmast’s reward back home was to be named head of U.S. Soccer’s referee department and, eventually, a FIFA instructor. He is now head of refereeing for the Colorado Soccer Association, but he frequently speaks with young referees from all over the world and tries to help bolster their knowledge and confidence against perhaps the biggest challenge facing referees today: technology.

“Referees are under the microscope now because of video,” says Joe Machnik, National Soccer Hall of Famer who inducted Baharmast in January. “Young officials are always being questioned and hassled. It takes courage, willpower and mental toughness to stay in the game. Esse has that passion that inspires them to hang in there.” **M**





V L A D H A S S T O R I E S

BY MARINA SHIFRIN, BJ '10

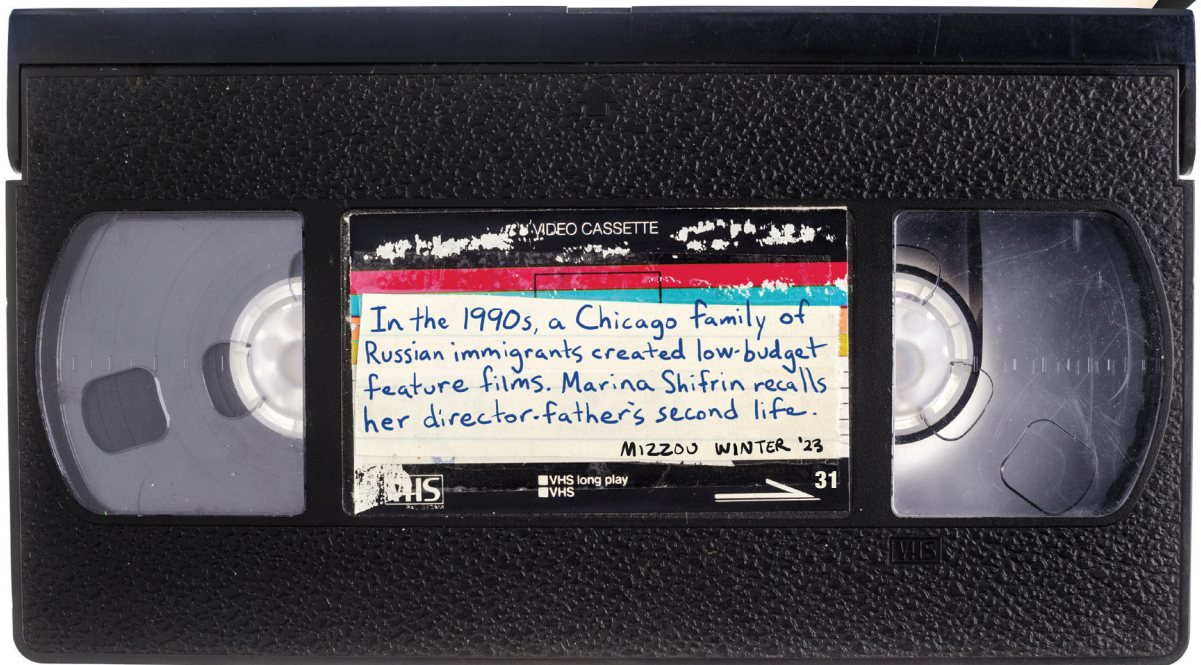


ILLUSTRATION BY BLAKE DINSDALE, BA '99

PROFILE



W

hen my mother lifted me on the roof of my father's Suzuki Swift, I broke free from the size constraints of my 8-year-old body. From somewhere below, my Uncle Fima yelled

“ACTION!” and assorted family members began vigorously rocking the car.

Fighting tremors of motion sickness, I tilted a jug of water and watched as big glugs poured down the windshield. Inside his prized Swift, Vladimir, my father, forlornly stared out the window and into the lens of a Sony Hi8 Camcorder securely positioned in my uncle's hands. Minutes later, my uncle yelled “CUT!” and I melted with relief. My job for the day was complete. I'd made it rain.

Shooting this music video with my family is one of my earliest childhood memories. Although I never appear on screen, I was always close to the action, lurking behind the camera, quietly trying to figure out what was going on.

The “world” premiere of the video, inexplicably titled *Madonna*, was held in front of the big box television in Uncle Fima's living room. For 4 minutes and 35 seconds, we sat silently watching my dad's face flicker across the TV. The credits rolled, and that's when I saw:

“Light.....Marina Shifrin.”

Somehow, my name had made its way *inside* the television. Elation thrummed through my body as my family burst into applause. I clapped harder and louder than anyone.

After filming *Madonna*, my dad and Uncle Fima recruited a third friend, Uncle Mark (it should be noted that I dutifully call my dad's friends “Uncle” like many Soviet children are taught), for their next project.

Together, the three Chicagoland men formed FimFilm, their “production company.” Unlike traditional production companies, the trio only financed their own projects, never hired any staff and always operated at a loss.

Their second film, *The Assassination Attempt*, a 10-minute parody of the real-life assassination attempt on Vladimir Lenin, marked the first time I was allowed on camera. When my Uncle Fima yelled “ACTION!” I couldn't contain my excitement. I began bouncing off the walls, performing half-baked dance moves, doing everything possible to get the camera's attention.

My uncle yelled “CUT!” and it only took one look at my dad's face to know I'd messed up. Big. I was promptly banished to another room, where I had to sit silently for the rest of filming. It took five days of good behavior and lots of moping to regain my place in front of the camera.

Months after we finished shooting, FimFilm premiered *The Assassination Attempt* during a small party of friends and family. Although most of my family didn't notice my blatant absence in the opening scenes, I shrunk in shame. That night, I vowed never to upset the director again.

FimFilm became bolder with their third movie, *The Goyim Are Quiet Here*, a 17-minute loose (I cannot emphasize that word enough) re-enactment of our immigration experience. This film had a narrative arc, costume changes and practical, in-camera effects — we even infiltrated O'Hare International Airport to use as an art-imitating-life backdrop for the arrival scenes.

FILM STILL: FIM FILM



I went full method at O'Hare, eagerly embracing my Fresh Off The Boat role. As we rode the escalators up and down (and up and down), I made sure my jaw dropped lower than my cousin Boris' and that I always knew where the camera was because you gotta know your angles. This time, when FimFilm finished editing the movie, I appeared in every scene.

All told, my dad and his two friends shot nine films. And despite having full-time jobs, needy families and zero moviemaking experience, each year FimFilm's movies became more ambitious and the production even costlier. However, the audience of family and friends remained the same.

If you ask my dad why he spent two decades pouring his free time, money and energy into making movies, he'll just shrug and say, "Because it was fun." Fun would not be the word I'd use. Although the productions were always amateur affairs, the stress-fueled pressure was as professional as it comes. To this day, I can't watch a FimFilm movie without hearing the walls reverberate with the trio's arguments.

Growing up on film sets for movies few would actually see is a confusing experience. When most kids returned from summer break with stories of sleepaway camp and first kisses, I struggled to explain why I spent my free time watching three aging relatives scream about which horse-drawn carriage

My dad and uncles' artistic differences were so expansive that a handful of disagreements nearly ended in fisticuffs.



rental was more appropriate for an 1800s period piece.

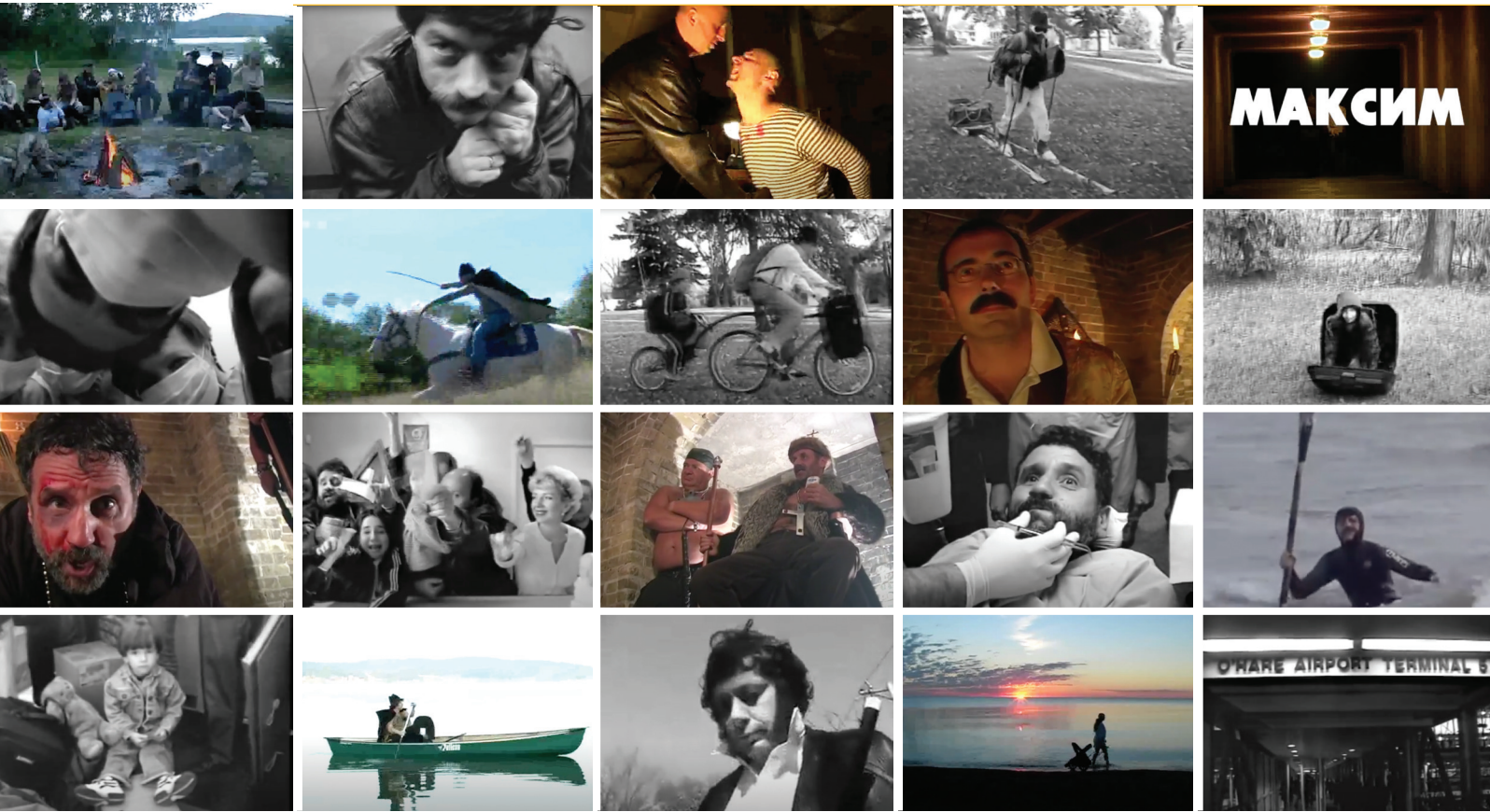
In middle school, I yearned for the kind of quaint familial experiences of my peers — living room charades, bike rides at Lake Michigan. I even would've settled for forced dinner table Scrabble. But my father's imagination is so robust and insatiable that no one was spared from his machinations.

I turned 12 the year they made their fourth film, a prescient comedy titled *The Olympic Chronicles*.

Unlike the previous three movies, where I was desperate to be on camera, this one felt more like a chore. When my dad woke up at 5 a.m. to film a flag ceremony at Chicago's Buckingham Fountain, I slept in. I didn't go the day FimFilm rented an indoor pool for the swimming competition scenes because wearing a bathing suit, on camera, in front of my uncles, sounded as appealing as sucking on a fistful of pennies. I appear in one scene of that movie, and I performed with the enthusiasm of ... well ... a preteen.

My final performance is in *Duel*, a biopic about famed Russian poet Aleksandr Pushkin. FimFilm cast me as a background extra in two scenes. Now a proper teenager, but still without a driver's license, I had no means of escaping. So I begrudgingly squeezed into the black pantyhose and shirt my mother deemed to be a ballerina outfit and slouched onto "set" — in this case, an empty bedroom with a mirrored closet. I still don't quite comprehend why ballerinas were in a

PROFILE



movie about a poet, but I have learned it is best not to study the plot too much.

Had I known that this would be my last opportunity to be in one of my dad's movies, I probably would've savored the moment. But instead, I eagerly awaited my uncle's "CUT!" so that I could return to privately stewing in my teenage angst.

By my junior year at Mizzou, I was too preoccupied with journalism studies to pay attention to what FimFilm was doing. That's why, the day my dad called to offer me a catering job for FimFilm's first-ever Golden Oscar Ceremony, I had no idea what he was talking about. I said "Yes," nonetheless, because I have rarely, if ever, passed up the opportunity to earn \$100.

I learned the Golden Oscar, not to be confused with the Oscars, was a screening-cum-awards ceremony hosted by my father and FimFilm. The only movies shown and nominated were ones FimFilm made, of course. Additionally, FimFilm thought up their own categories and self-selected all the winners. It was a deranged award show, for sure. Aren't they all?

When my dad first offered me the gig — I'd assumed the event would be similar to the premiere parties I'd grown up with — a dozen-odd family members gathered around the biggest TV we could find, supportively applauding an odd piece of film we created together.

However, I arrived at the address, which turned out to be a suburban community center, and was shocked to see what almost looked like a movie theater. My dad and uncles had blown up posters from their own movies to give the room a hint of Hollywood. Once again, an idea of my father's spilled out of his brain and into the world in the most delectably unexpected way.

As the audience arrived, the small vestibule quickly filled up. Twenty people became 40, then 80, and eventually, I was surrounded by hundreds of Chicagoland Soviets I didn't recognize — everyone donning formal attire: fur coats, bow ties, cummerbunds, shimmering dresses. To this day, the Golden Oscar Ceremony is the most luxurious event I've ever been to, fancier than my prom.

The lights dimmed, and the crowd began to migrate into the theater. My cousins and I hung back, stuffing leftover appetizers into our mouths while cleaning up. After 10 minutes of uproarious laughter emanating from the closed double doors, my curiosity got the best of me, and I crept into the theater. I sank into a red velvet chair and watched as my dad glided across the stage like a Roomba, sucking all of the attention from the audience.

Vladimir, wearing a slick black suit and red bowtie, beamed as he took his place behind the podium. When my dad spoke, the audience listened. When he paused, they cackled. And when he finished, they clapped. Vladimir might've had a four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath in the suburbs, but the stage was his real home.

I've spent much of my adult life trying to figure out what inspired my father to begin making films in his 40s. It wasn't for the fame. He never tried to sell the movies, and this was a decade before social media would make virality feasible. It certainly wasn't for the fortune because, and I hate to belabor this point, there is no money in movies written by and starring middle-aged Soviet immigrants. Yet year after year, something brought my father back to that spiral-bound notebook, where he'd scribble all his burgeoning cinematic visions in big Cyrillic letters.

Growing up with a father who processes the world through



writing taught me to do the same. I have hundreds of my own ideas scribbled into copious notebooks. And just this past March, I, too, had the opportunity to turn one of my ideas into a short film. Twenty-five years after my mother hoisted me on top of my dad's Suzuki Swift, I began to understand the motivations behind his hobby.

Standing in the middle of my chaotic living room packed with a production crew, my father's perspective began to crystalize in me. To quote Vladimir, "It was fun." Not only was it fun, but I got to experience the supernatural feeling of physically standing inside a world I created with my words.

My family's history is riddled with difficult plot points — political unrest, government-sanctioned abuse of power, forced emigration. Vladimir created fantasy worlds where assassination attempts were hilarious and being a refugee was even funnier. His movies made a difficult life easier to digest, and I wanted to do the same.

During the shoot, I kept having these surreal moments where I could feel myself embodying my father's commanding persona. I walked around adjusting props, making jokes, sweating through difficult scenes, channeling Vladimir's semi-delusional sense of confidence. Despite my years of fighting for fierce independence from my parents, I'd ended up exactly like my father: escaping the monotonous nature of adulthood with little more than a pen and venturesome friends.

Last month, I was in Chicago for the first time in years. At my parents' kitchen table, the indents from my old geometry homework still visible in the varnish, I sat behind my dad as he watched a rough cut of my short film on the old desktop they inexplicably keep in the corner kitchen. Minutes into the

movie, my dad leaned closer and closer to the screen until I was certain he might fall inside.

Because the film was unfinished, there were no credits at the end, just an empty black placeholder. In the dark reflection of the computer screen, I could see my dad's face crumple into tears. "Wow," he nearly whispered, spinning around to face me, "Wow."

My father turned around to give me a hug. "Wait!" my glass-eyed mom yelled before promptly disappearing into the dining room. A few seconds later, she returned with a bottle of whiskey and three shot glasses. It was the best premiere party I've ever been to. **M**



† The writer's movie-making father (left) and collaborator-uncle striking a red-carpet pose at the inaugural Golden Oscar ceremony.





**Camp Kesem
delivers
stress-free
joy to kids
coping with
a cancer
diagnosis in
their family
— while
teaching
student-
counselors
about
empathy and
service.**

**STORY BY
JACK WAX,
BS ED '73,
MS '76, MA '87**

**PHOTOS BY
ABBIE
LANKITUS**

**MIZZOU
MAGAZINE
WINTER 2023**



TWO HOURS AFTER SAYING GOODBYE to her parents, a youngster blurted out to one of Camp Kesem’s volunteer co-directors, Aliah Kauffman, BHS ’22, “This is already the best week of my life.”

Kauffman, along with her co-director, Ben Belongy, BS BA ’22, and 30 other MU students who volunteer as counselors, spent a week in August running the camp, located outside Bourbon, Missouri. Like other children bunking away from home — some for the first time — the kids at Camp Kesem woke up to full days of sports, games and outdoor adventures, capped by evening campfires with time to reflect on the day’s activities and what being with their new friends means to them. Unlike other campers, these kids, aged 6–18, have one thing in common: A parent or caregiver who is either coping with cancer or has been lost to the disease.

Camp Kesem Mizzou is part of a network of 130 college-student chapters of the nonprofit Kesem organization. Each provides a supportive environment and fun activities where children who may be socially isolated, anxious or feeling hopeless can make friends with others who are going through the same struggles at home. “Don’t think for a moment that Camp Kesem is a sad place,” Kauffman says. “These kids are going through so much yet are the most

positive and uplifting people I have ever met.”

Danielle Grefath, a breast cancer survivor, appreciates the effect Camp Kesem has had on her two children, who attended this summer’s session. “The love, friendship, support and fun they experienced is special and rare,” she says. “K.C. and Junebug’s lives are changed forever.” During his busy week at camp, her 9-year-old son, K.C., was able to forget for a while the uncertainty and stress that a cancer diagnosis and treatment bring to the entire family. “I could just have fun instead of thinking about cancer,” he says. “I can’t wait to go back and be with my Kesem family.”

Since Mizzou started its student-run chapter in 2011, hundreds of children have benefited from their summers at Camp Kesem. Long before greeting the excited attendees on the first day of camp, the Mizzou students receive leadership and relationship training. They also work throughout the year, fundraising about \$90,000 — enough for every camper to attend at no cost. While supporting the camp and the participants, Mizzou volunteers gain valuable workplace and life skills. “I’ve learned time-management skills and can now juggle a lot of different responsibilities at the same time,” says co-director Belongy.

For Mizzou students, though, the experience isn’t only a resume builder, Belongy stresses: “It’s about being part of something special and having an impact on the lives of the children.” **M**

“The love, friendship, support and fun they experienced is special and rare. K.C. and Junebug’s lives are changed forever.”



+ Facing page: Kendra “Counselor Barbie” Sibert, senior biology major from Grain Valley, Missouri, slips and slides at Camp Kesem. Above left: Clare “Counselor Froggy” O’Neil, senior psychology major from Arlington Heights, Illinois, aims a balloon at camper “Huggy Wuggy.” Above right: Laine “Maps” Ritter, senior biology and psychology major from St. Louis with camper “Junebug.” Below: Camper “Tinker” after working with a rainbow’s worth of paint.



MIZZOU



TIGERS

115



WELCOME TO THE **ZOU** WHITTEN FAMILY **DENNIS GATES**

Health Care

Health Care



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5	11/13	1978		MU 80 JSU 76		FG 26.0		FG 27.5			2 TG	22	
6	11/15	1980	5	MU 80 ASU 58		FGA 57.7		FGA 57.5			4 DG	30	
7	11/20	1981	9	MU 82 SMU 77		FG% 450		FG% 478			5 DH	34	
8	11/23	1982	2	MU 64 CSU 63		2P 19.6		2P 21.2			10 NH	40	
9	11/26	1983	2	MU 108 UI 107 3OT		2PA 37.9		2PA 38.1			11 IM	43	
10	11/29	1986	11	MU 78 MU 50		2P% .517		2P% .555			12 JF	50	
11	12/4	1987	4	MU 85 UW 71		3P 6.4		3P 6.4			13 RD		
12	12/10	1988	6	MU 72 SIU 56		3PA 19.8		3PA 19.4			23 AS		
13	12/17	1989	3	MU 63 KSU 43		3P% .321		3P% .327			24 KB		
14	12/22	1990	3	ND 77 MU 73		FT 12.6		FT 14.0			31 BS		
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16	1/4	1993	10	MU 92 ISU 69		FT% .671		FT% .671			45 MM		
17	1/7	1994	1	MU 73 OSU 68		ORB 10.5		ORB 11.1			55 SE		
18	1/11	1995	8	MU 89 NU 73		DRB 24.1		DRB 24.1					
19	1/14	1999	8	MU 79 KU 67		TRB 34.6		TRB 35.2					
20	1/18	2000	9	MU 104 OU 94		AST 13.7		AST 16.5					
21	1/21	2001	9	MU 82 CU 70		STL 7.0		STL 8.6					
22	1/24	2002	12	MU 72 OSU 70		BLK 2.6		BLK 3.4					
23	1/28	2003	6	MU 79 ISU 72 OT		TOV 12.9		TOV 13.5					
24	2/1	2009	3	MU 81 KU 74		PF 19.4		PF 18.3					
25	2/4	2010	10	MU 83 SEMO 61		PTS 70.9		PTS 75.4					
26	2/7	2011	11	MU 99 OU 83									
27	2/11	2012	2	MU 68 KSU 57									
28	2/14	2013	9	MU 80 NU 78		R 19-8		R 20-11					
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Recruited by Norm Stewart as a player, Coach **Dennis Gates** brings a sophisticated, data-driven — and winning — strategy to Tigers basketball.

Story by Tony Rehagen	
BA, BJ	'01
MZU	MAG
W23	
P. 41	

W

hen Mizzou men's basketball Head Coach Dennis Gates arrived in Columbia after landing the job in March 2022, one of the first things he had to do was re-recruit his inherited roster.

Every new head coach experiences a transition period as the players recruited by the old regime weigh their suddenly less certain futures. But we're adapting to the age of the transfer portal, through which student-athletes can jump from school to school on little more than a whim, without the consequence of sitting out for 12 months or losing a year of eligibility.

Many of last year's Tigers had already entered the portal by the time Gates was hired. If he couldn't convince them otherwise, more were sure to follow. So, before Gates could hit the recruiting trail to build a new team, he had to first make his pitch to the remaining members of the one he inherited.

For Gates, this entailed more than meeting the players and visiting with their families. It meant sitting alone or with his assistants in front of a screen for hours on end. He wanted to see the tape, needed to watch last year's games, focus on each individual player and look beyond the traditional stat sheets. Searching for more granular data — hard numbers that he felt would help him unlock a player's full potential — he was convinced that not only would he be prepared to coach up the Tigers who decided to return, but he might also have something extra to entice players who fit into his system to stay.

To Gates, 42, data is much more than a mere recruiting tool; it's an ethos. Over the past decade, advanced analytics — the use of mathematical models to predict player performance and in-game outcomes — has consumed professional basketball and is steadily encroaching on the college game. Gates is at the forefront of this collegiate movement, building his coaching staff, his roster and even enlisting an outside analytics firm, HD Intelligence, to help optimize every Tiger play and player who hits the Mizzou Arena hardwood this winter.

"Analytics is the way of the world," Gates says. "The numbers steer you in the right direction. They help you make decisions as a coach and help players eliminate risk and put themselves in the

right position to succeed."

In other words, Gates is betting that by valuing quantifiables like player efficiency rating, true shooting percentage, and rebound rate over mere points score or assists, he can boost numbers in the most meaningful column on his team's ledger: wins.



IN SOME WAYS, GATES BELIEVED in analytics before the buzzword was ever uttered in a locker room. In fact, he might have been an adherent without even realizing it.

Growing up in Chicago during the legendary 1990s Bulls teams, Gates was far from the only kid obsessed with basketball. But in retrospect, he now realizes that he watched those NBA games differently than most. Like everyone else, he was in awe of Michael Jordan, but he was also curious about why Jordan made the decisions he did. Why did he take the shots he took? How was he able to increase his free-throw rate? Why did he always drive to the right-hand side?

Gates began drawing up plays in Coach Phil Jackson's famous triangle offense. Eventually, he was making shot charts for the Bulls and their opponents, especially Larry Bird and Magic Johnson. "I was preparing for this moment," he says. "I knew I would be a head coach."

But first he was a highly touted combo guard at Whitney Young High School who was recruited by none other than Mizzou's Norm Stewart. Gates instead chose the University of California, Berkeley, where, in addition to being a three-year team captain, he was also a two-time first-team Pac-10 All-Academic. He graduated in three years with a bachelor's degree in sociology, pursuing his master's in education during his fourth year of eligibility as a player. In 2002, he won the Pac-10 Medal of Honor, given to the conference's top graduating student-athlete.

That same year, Gates took his vast knowledge of the game straight to the NBA, where he was a skills development coach for the Los Angeles Clippers. He worked with young players on the court and in the video room and kept in-game statistics, specifically plus/minus (PM), a then-new stat that showed how the team performed — outscoring (plus) or being outscored (minus) while a particular player was on the court. This number would then be used to determine in-game substitutions. "The NBA was just transitioning to the analytical approach," Gates says. "My foundation was set."

After a year in LA, Gates began his collegiate coaching climb. He started as a graduate assistant at Marquette and Florida State, then got on as a full-time assistant coach at Cal, Northern Illinois

X

In some ways, Gates believed in analytics before the buzzword was ever uttered in a locker room.

and Nevada. In 2011, he returned to Florida State, where he would settle in for much of the next decade. At the time, institutional application of analytics and formal analytics departments were still considered too expensive and time consuming for college basketball. Gates still applied his analytical approach, but he also honed his other coaching skills, like building relationships. And this applied to more than players.

Michael Fly was an assistant coach at Florida State before Gates arrived. In fact, Fly left in 2011 as part of the regime that Gates' staff was supplanting. So, he was a little surprised when his replacement reached out to ask for advice. "It was odd at first," says Fly, who is now Gates' director of scouting and analytics at Mizzou. "He didn't call me a lot, but when he did, he would FaceTime me." Fly adds with a laugh: "It was usually early in the morning. The last thing I'd want was to be onscreen, but he wants to connect when he's talking. It showed me how creative he was."

At Florida State, Gates connected with a lot of players and families the same way. He helped lure top-100 players, including four straight top-15 ranked recruiting classes, providing the foundation for four NCAA Tournament berths, three Sweet 16s and one Elite Eight appearance. By 2019, Gates had caught the attention of Cleveland State, which hired him as its head coach after spending the previous two seasons at the bottom of the Horizon League.

Among the first players Gates recruited was Ben Sternberg, a local community college transfer. Sternberg had only made two starts at Lakeland Community College and didn't have the grades to play in the NCAA. But basketball was his life. Gates saw something in him and brought him on board at Cleveland State as a student manager while he worked on his studies. Sternberg watched as Gates taught his players and staff about much more than basketball.

"He'd wake us up early in the morning and take us out to teach us how to change a tire," Sternberg says. "Even as a manager, he treated me with respect, checked on my family and asked me how I was doing. He barely even knew me, but he believed in me. Coach Gates changed my life."

Sternberg watched from the bench as Gates won a share of the Horizon League Coach of the Year, despite finishing with a 11-21 record. By the following year, Sternberg had improved his grades and was playing for a Vikings team that went 19-8, winning the conference and going to its first NCAA Tournament in more than a decade. Gates won 20 games in 2021-22, his final year at Cleveland State, earning a second post-season berth. He did it not only by recruiting the



↑ Top photo: The Whitney Young High School team in 1998. Top row (left to right): Marquis Wright, Kristopher Clemmons, former Mizzou Tiger Najeeb Echols and Corey Harris. Kneeling (left to right): Reginald Jones, Mizzou Coach Dennis Gates and Quentin Richardson. Seated: Cordell Henry.

Middle left: Gates playing at Cal in 2002.

Middle right: Leonard Hamilton, C.Y. Young and Dennis Gates at Florida State.

Left: Gates celebrating his first of two Horizon League regular season titles.



† Dennis Gates' debut against Southern Indiana on Nov. 7.

right players but by building their trust. He made them believe that he would make them better through analysis and reliance on numbers.

"We followed his lead," Sternberg says. "We all saw his IQ. Whatever Coach tells us, we follow."



X

"We followed his lead. We all saw his IQ. Whatever Coach tells us, we follow."

A LOT OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF SPORTS, and even some old-school insiders, hear the word "analytics" and envision a coach as a pure statistician attempting to divine some deeper truth out of a sea of numbers, charts and equations. Data is at its heart, but it is not a cold, robotic science. "You also have to trust your eyes," says Fly, who went on to be head coach at Florida Gulf Coast before joining Gates at MU. "You look at the numbers, use the analytics tools and charts, but then look at the actual games and ask, 'Do the numbers equal what I see on film?'"

For instance, among the first tapes Gates watched after accepting the Mizzou job was that of Kobe Brown. What he saw was a standout upperclassman who had worked his way up from being a highly touted freshman to a stalwart junior who made every start and averaged 12.5 points and 7.6 rebounds per game. But through his analytical approach, Gates calculated potential for much more.

Gates checked stat sheets and wondered why Brown's 3-point percentage was lower than it should have been for a shooter of his caliber. He looked at where Brown was taking his shots. Was it from the point or wing, which are higher percentage shots, or down in the corner, which are

lower percentage? Gates watched for player possession, the amount of time Brown held the ball, and noticed that a lot of the shots Brown was taking beyond the arc were catch-and-shoot, which are statistically less likely to land. He also looked at Brown's assist rate, observing that when Brown held the ball in 3-point range, he often looked to pass it off rather than shoot. Gates tracked when Brown was taking and making his 3s — was it earlier in the game, after coming off the bench, or after a timeout when he had fresher legs? "Kobe is already a good player," Gates says. "This will help him become a more efficient player."

Gates' analytics may well be the key to Brown and his teammates becoming more productive players. It might be the key to re-establishing the Tigers as a perennial NCAA Tournament team. The coach, though, understands that research and data-crunching are useless if the players don't trust him. Analytics didn't convince Fly to join Gates' coaching staff as an assistant after a successful career as a head coach in his own right. Sternberg didn't stop to do the math before following his coach from Cleveland State to Mizzou. And numbers had very little to do with convincing Brown to stay.

"The first thing he told me was, 'If I'm not invited to your wedding, I didn't do my job coaching you,'" Brown says. "That's when I knew it was more than just a job to him. He doesn't just want to use me as a tool to win basketball games. He wants to watch me grow as a person. He is a big numbers guy, but he doesn't believe numbers define who you are." **M**

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR MOM, DAD & GRAD

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Thanks to funds available through the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence, Mizzou was able to act quickly to recruit Dr. Waitman to join the team providing leading-edge research and world-class care. Your contribution can help us continue to recruit researchers as talented as Dr. Waitman.

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Mr. Mendenhall's Missouri Mission

More than 180 years ago, Richard Mendenhall's great-grandfather traveled on horseback to solicit funds for a new state university. That tradition of support for both Mizzou and Columbia has been upheld by the family ever since; Mendenhall, broker and co-owner of RE/MAX Boone Realty and RE/MAX Jefferson City, is a founding member and past president of the University of Missouri Flagship Council and continues to serve on its board.

His impact on Columbia's business landscape has been key to MU's continued growth, and vice versa. As president of the National Association of Realtors, Mendenhall's acumen has made him a transformational leader among the members of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. He also successfully campaigned to create the Women's Network, now the chamber's largest branch. In 2003, Mendenhall received the network's Athena Award — the only man to receive this honor to date.

Before earning his undergraduate degree, Mendenhall enlisted in the U.S. Army, became a member of the Special Forces and served during the Vietnam War. Decades after returning, his advocacy for veterans became a driving force in the creation of Patriot Place, a rent-subsidized apartment complex for homeless veterans. Mendenhall also co-chaired a \$3.6 million campaign for Welcome Home, a 32-bedroom facility serving homeless and transitioning veterans and their families. A member of the Jefferson Club and McAlester Society, Mendenhall is a life member of the Mizzou Alumni Association. — *Theresa Lichty, BJ '12*



FACULTY-ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

67th Distinguished Service Award



Richard A. Mendenhall, BS Ed '70, M Ed '72
Broker and Co-Owner, Re/Max Boone Realty and Re/Max Jefferson City

63rd Distinguished Faculty Award



Angela K. Drake
Professor of Law; Founder and Director, MU Law Veterans Clinic

55TH ALUMNI AWARD



Kia Breaux, BJ '96
Regional Director, The Associated Press



Marcia Chatelain, BA, BJ '01
Professor of History and African American Studies, Georgetown University



Sharon L. Langenbeck, BS ME '74, MS '76, PhD '79
Manager of Mechanical Engineering, Retired, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory



Claire McCaskill, BA '75, JD '77
Political Analyst, NBC

55TH FACULTY AWARD



Amanda Hinnant, MA '99
Associate Professor, School of Journalism



Lori L. Popejoy, BSN '93, MSN '96, PhD '07
Associate Dean for Innovation and Partnerships, Associate Professor and Interim Dean, Sinclair School of Nursing



Chi-Ren Shyu
Paul K. and Dianne Shumaker Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering; Director, MU Institute for Data Science and Informatics



Christina Wells
Enoch H. Crowder Professor of Law, School of Law



Stevan P. Whitt, MD '94
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professor, School of Medicine; Chief Clinical Officer, MU Health Care



Going the Distance

The Mizzou Alumni Association is celebrating its 170th birthday in 2023, and this rich history has produced a Mizzou network that with each decade has an expanded potential to grow stronger. The organization evolves with every generational shift, of course, but has long retained an eye toward the future while remaining tethered to MAA's foundational principles.

This fall, MAA's board of directors approved a new strategic plan that I'm excited to share. While MAA has created annual plans for more than 25 years, this initiative launches at a unique moment. Society is emerging from a pandemic that changed higher education, both in and outside classrooms and research facilities. We took this once-in-a-century occurrence into consideration, as well as demographic shifts and changing social media and communication patterns.

When discussing the plan with our board, I shared an aspirational statement that will guide our efforts as we work with our alumni over the next three years and beyond:

When the strategic plan ends in 2025, Mizzou will be a stronger institution where alumni go for lifelong engagement and a sense of home. Through our celebrations of their achievements, the nurturing of their networks, the cultivation of their friendship and our pursuit to know each one, the Mizzou Alumni Association strives to build on today's momentum toward a MizzouMade future for all Tigers.

The bullet-pointed version? More personalization. Meet alumni where they live by creating communications, media and programming that combine to build a stronger Mizzou network. Our network needs to emphasize the personal and professional enrichment opportunities. How can we help classmates and roommates become lifelong friends? How can we ensure that graduates land more gratifying (and better paying) jobs?

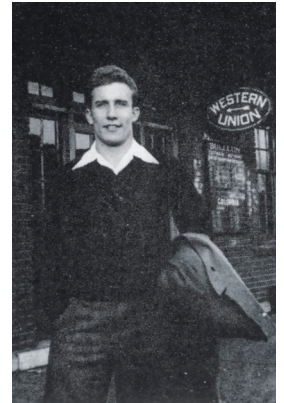
Your support, whether through membership gifts or volunteerism, will help us advance toward our 2025 goal — and to make Mizzou stronger!

TODD MCCUBBIN, M ED '95
executive director, Mizzou Alumni Association
 Email: mccubbint@missouri.edu
 Twitter: @MizzouTodd

Class Notes

1940

Former Mizzou Tigers half-back **Joseph William (Bill) Dellastatious, BS Ed '46, M Ed '47**, who played in the Cotton Bowl and was drafted by NFL teams the Detroit Lions and Philadelphia Eagles, celebrated his 100th birthday on Oct. 2 in Jackson, Tennessee. In addition to being a leader of the 1945 Tigers, Dellastatious has been the president of Kappa Alpha Order, vice president of the Student Government Association and a member of the secret student society the Mystical 7.



Although drafted into the NFL upon graduation, he opted against going pro because of the low player wages, instead returning to Mizzou to earn a master's degree in sports medicine. Moving to Gainesville, Florida, he served as an assistant football coach, and later golf coach, at the University of Florida.

Dellastatious taught sports medicine at Wake Forest University and, for 20 years, at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. He coached football briefly at the former Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University). In later years, he and his wife moved to Jackson to be near their daughter. There, he became active with Habitat for Humanity, and for a year, he and others went on a mission trip to Mexico and built 14 homes for some of the less fortunate locals. Dellastatious currently resides at the Meadows Retirement Center in Jackson.

1950

Marvin Fremerman, BS PA '53, of Springfield, Mo., wrote *Mind Over Sports* (Expand Your Mind Publishing, 2022).

1960

★★**John C. Kelly, BA '66, M Ed '77**, of Columbia, Mo., was honored with Faurot Sportsman of the Year Award.

★★**Michael Friedman, MA '67**, of East Hampton, N.Y., is an assistant professor of English and sports management at Farmingdale State College.

★**Larry Moore, BJ '68**, of Belton, Mo., was awarded

the 70 Over 70 Award by the Greater Kansas City Shepherd's Center for his professional and community contributions.

★★**Ellen Denning Smith, BA, MA '68**, of Alexandria, Va., wrote *The Court-Martial of Captain John Armstrong: Life, Death, and Politics in America's First Regiment* (Xlibris US, 2022).

1970

★★**Steven Bartels, BS BA '72, JD '76**, of Overland Park, Kan., retired from PNC Bank, National Association after 32 years as managing senior counsel in its Midland Loan Services division.

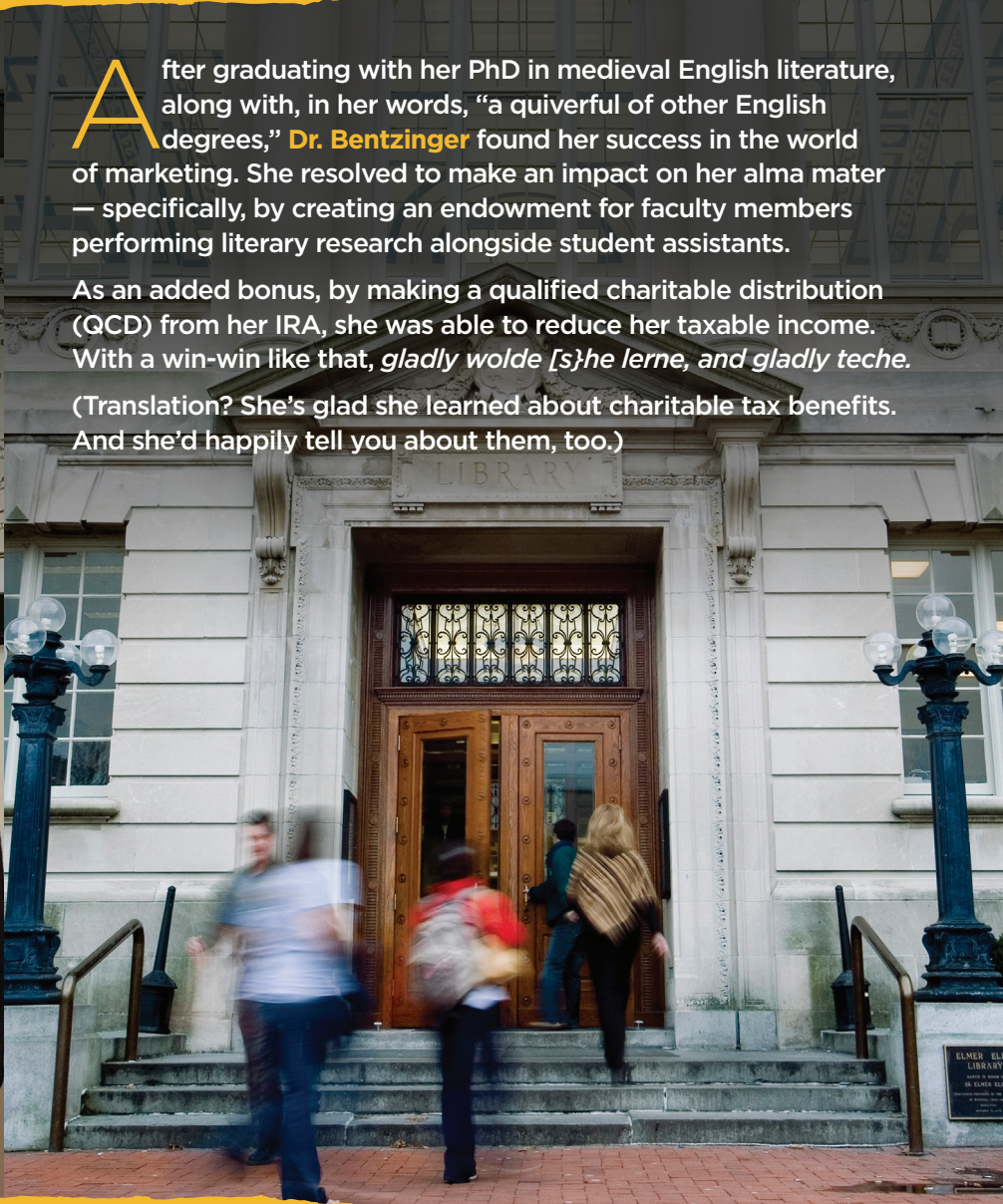
**“There are all kinds of specific needs —
undergrad, graduate, faculty — where dedicated
support can make a significant difference.”**

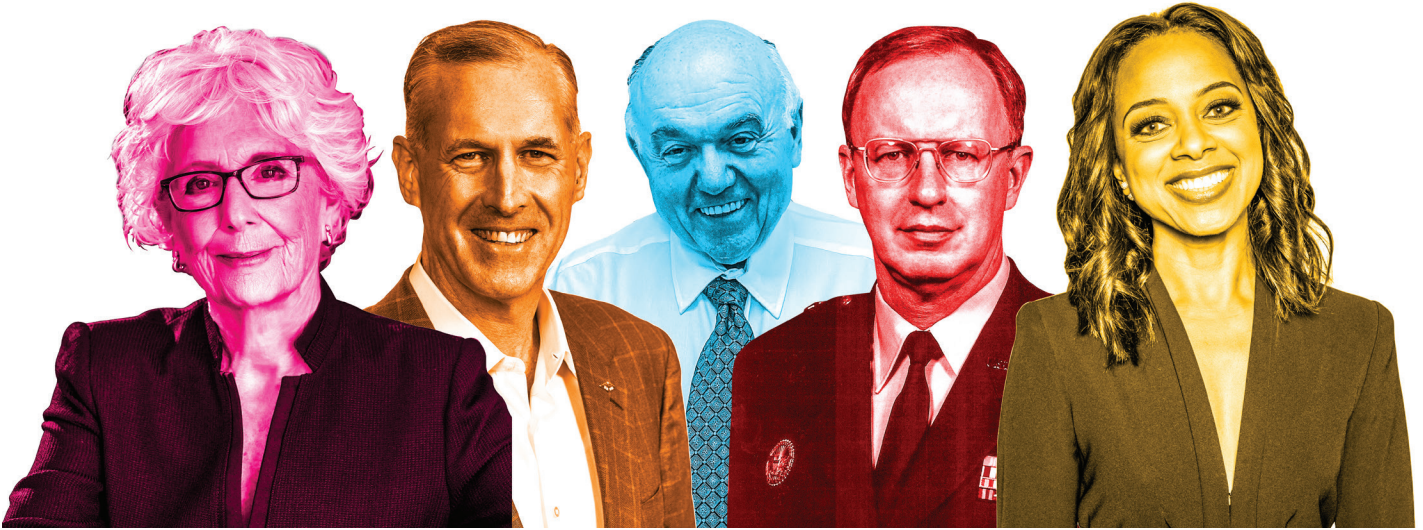
— Susan Bentzinger, BA '72, MA '73, PhD '79



After graduating with her PhD in medieval English literature, along with, in her words, “a quiverful of other English degrees,” **Dr. Bentzinger** found her success in the world of marketing. She resolved to make an impact on her alma mater — specifically, by creating an endowment for faculty members performing literary research alongside student assistants.

As an added bonus, by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from her IRA, she was able to reduce her taxable income. With a win-win like that, *gladly wolde [s]he lerne, and gladly teche*. (Translation? She’s glad she learned about charitable tax benefits. And she’d happily tell you about them, too.)





High Five

MU inducts a chief justice, a chief executive, a general, a veterinary leader and an award-winning journalist into its Hall of Fame.

Ann Covington, former chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, served as the first woman appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals. She became the first woman appointed to Missouri's Supreme Court, as well as its first female chief justice, and was recognized by the American Bar Association as a Women Trailblazer in the Law.

After retiring from the Supreme Court, Covington was a partner at Bryan Cave LLP in St. Louis, and from 2012 to 2015, served on the University of Missouri board of curators. She continues to serve as a member of the Truman Scholarship and Mark Twain Fellowship committees, as well as through mentorship of MU law students. Among many honors, she has received the Mizzou Alumni Association's Faculty-Alumni Award (1993) and Geyer Award (2020). Covington earned her Juris Doctor from the School of Law in 1977.

Jim Fitterling, chairman and CEO of Dow Inc., serves as chair of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste. As a corporate leader, Fitterling is widely recognized for his work supporting LGBT+ workplace equity; he was ranked the world's top LGBT executive by the *Financial Times* in 2018 and inducted into the OUTstanding Hall of Fame in 2021.

Across 38 years with Dow, Fitterling has held many leadership positions and was named chief executive officer-elect in March 2018, a position he officially assumed in July 2018. He served as keynote speaker for the College of Engineering's 2016 commencement ceremony, received MU's Faculty-Alumni Award in 2018 and served on the university's NextGen advisory board. Fitterling is a life member of the Mizzou Alumni Association (MAA) and graduated from the College of Engineering in 1983.

Jim Nave opened Tropicana Animal Hospital in 1974. Today, the Nave Veterinary Group includes more than 21 freestanding veterinary hospitals in southern Nevada and is dedicated to the mentorship of young doctors who share the group's vision of veterinary medicine. Nave is active in veterinary medicine at both the state and national level, serving as past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Nevada Veterinary Medical Association and the Western Veterinary Conference. In 1987, the College of Veterinary Medicine named him their Alumnus of the Year, and in 2001, he received the Mizzou Alumni Association's Faculty-Alumni Award. Nave is a life member of MAA and graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1968.

The late **John Gordon**, former deputy director of the CIA and first administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, retired from the Air Force in 2000 as a four-star general. He served as director of operations for Air Force Space Command, commander of 90th Missile Wing and senior director for policy on the National Security Council at the White House as well as assistant to the president and Homeland Security adviser.

Gordon and his wife, Marilyn (BS Ed '66), met as undergrads at Mizzou, where he earned a diploma from the College of Arts and Science in 1968. He was recognized as an A&S Distinguished Alumnus in 1998, served as grand marshal of Mizzou Homecoming in 2000 and received the Mizzou Alumni Association's Faculty-Alumni Award in 2003 as well as the Golden Quill Alumni Excellence Award in 2019.

Nischelle Turner, co-host for *Entertainment Tonight*, is the first Black woman host in the show's 40-year history and a seven-time Emmy Award-winning journalist. She is the host and producer of *Secret Celebrity Renovation*, which recently concluded its second season on CBS; co-hosts *The Big Podcast with Shaq*, a weekly podcast starring former NBA player Shaquille O'Neal; and is a frequent contributor to various CNN programs.

After graduation, Turner worked at a number of local TV affiliates before landing at KTTV in Los Angeles. She covered Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath for *Good Day LA*, winning several journalism awards for her coverage of the disaster. As a Columbia native, she makes it a point to "talk Mizzou" with any fellow alumni she meets on the red carpet. Turner graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1998.

M2 Takes Manhattan

Marching Mizzou opened the 2022 Macy's parade, adding to its legacy of performances around the world.



You might have seen a familiar black-and-gold logo at the start of the recent Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. That's because Marching Mizzou (M2) made its parade debut on the streets of New York City.

The band took advantage of its first-ever march through Manhattan. The day before the parade, members of M2 appeared on NBC's *The Today Show*. Then, on Thanksgiving morning, the band helped open the festivities when, to a televised audience of nearly 28 million viewers, it supported singer-actor Lea Michele during her opening performance of "Don't Rain on My Parade," from the Broadway musical *Funny Girl*.

M2's appearance was modeled after its usual Homecoming parade sequence of traditional school songs and drum cadences, with the addition of a portion of "Missouri Waltz." Most prominently, NBC and streaming service Peacock featured the band's performance of alumna Sheryl Crow's "All I Wanna Do."

Bringing the group — 350 strong, including band, drumline, feature twirlers, color guard and the Golden Girls — to New York City was a goal for Marching Mizzou Director Amy M. Knopps, BM '01. She has always loved the holiday parade and was a drum major in Marching Mizzou when the group had another memorable performance out east: President George W. Bush's inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. On Thursday, parade co-host Hoda Kotb even gave Knopps a shout-out.

M2's first international trip came in 1975 when the late Alex Pickard, then-director of the band, took the group to England to perform at a soccer match at Wembley Stadium. "They really had never seen a marching band perform before," recalls clarinet player Bill Moyes, BS '75, M Ed '79, EdSp '83, EdD '92. "By the end of the show, we had them on their feet, and they were yelling and screaming."

In 2012 and 2016, the band crossed the Atlantic Ocean again, this time to perform at the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. Brianne O'Sullivan, BHS '18, who was a trumpet section leader in 2016, attended the parade in New York.

"Being able to watch Marching Mizzou on a worldwide stage in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was something I will never forget," O'Sullivan says. "It made me very proud to be an M2 alum!"

Knopps still reminisces about the band's D.C. trip during every presidential inauguration: "Personally, I have that memory. And that's what I'm so excited about for our students: Now, when they get up on Thanksgiving morning, they're going to be like, 'Oh, remember when I was in Marching Mizzou? We were part of that holiday tradition.'" — Sara Bondioli, BA, BJ '05



† Clockwise from top left: Marching Mizzou during their 2016 sojourn to Ireland; the band booming through a halftime rehearsal at the Kansas City Chiefs' 2022 home opener; the Golden Girls surrounding Jimmy Fallon, host of *The Tonight Show*, during the 2022 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade; singer-actor Lea Michele opens the NBC broadcast of this year's Thanksgiving morning parade while flanked by members of M2.

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★**Paul R. Robinson, BS '72, MA '73**, of Katy, Texas, was named a 2022 American Chemical Society fellow.

★★**Garry Weiss, BS BA '76**, of Columbia, Mo., wrote *Red Mercury* (Compass Flower Press, 2022).

★**James E. Fleming, BA '77**, of Brookline, Mass., wrote *Constructing Basic Liberties: A Defense of Substantive Due Process* (University of Chicago Press, 2022).

Kenneth Wells, MA '77, of Chicago wrote *Swamped!* (Koehler Bookers, 2023).

1980

★**Lynne J. Lampe, BJ '81, M Ed '84**, of Columbia, Mo., wrote *Talk Smack to a Hurricane* (Toronto: Ice Floe Press, 2022).

Michael Heim, BS EE '83, of Houston was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

★★**David E. Baker, GRAD '85**, of Columbia, Mo., received an Honorary American FFA Degree from the

National FFA Organization.

Pamela A. Miner, MA '88, of Nashville is vice president of collections at Andrew Jackson's presidential home, The Hermitage.

1990

Darren Wallis, BA '92, of Tulsa, Okla., is vice president of communications and community relations at ONEOK Inc.

★★**Brett Daffron, BS HES '93**, of Kansas City, Mo., shot a hole-in-one on the 10th hole of Staley Farms Golf Club.

April Lynn Langwell, BA '94, of Alexandria, Va., is the director of communications for the United States Marine Corps.

2000

Marcia Chatelain, BA, BJ '01, of Washington, D.C., received a 2022 Public Service Award from the Truman Foundation.

Andrew Bailey, BA '04, JD '13, of Hermann, Mo., is attorney general of the state of Missouri.

The Mizzou Alumni Association is grateful for the support of our partners, whose contributions help sustain and enhance our programming and traditions.

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Nicholas Walker, JD '04, of Independence, Mo., a partner in the labor & employment department at Fox Rothschild LLP.

Daniel Vandever, BJ '09, of Crownpoint, N.M., received the 2022 American Library Association's American Indian Youth Literature Award.

DeMarre Carroll, BGS '08, of Milwaukee is an assistant coach for the Milwaukee Bucks.

Zachary Kinne, BS '09, of Geneva is director of global policy and strategy for Cargill.

2010

Garrett Ozbun, BS BA '10, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., was named to *Forbes'* Best-in-State Next-Generation Wealth Advisors.

Nathaniel Stonner, B Acc, M Acc '12, of St. Louis is a partner at Anders CPAs + Advisors.

Jenny Rabas Damask, EdD '17, of Madison, Wis., is assistant director for high-risk drinking prevention at University Health Services at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Peter Baugh, BA, BJ '19, of Denver wrote *Force of Nature: How the Colorado Avalanche Built a Stanley Cup Winner* (Triumph Books, 2022).

2020

Darville Hutchins, PhD '20, of New Orleans co-wrote *DEI 2.0: A Toolkit for Building Your Own Online Diversity Course* (University of Missouri Press, 2022).

Julian Nazar, MA '22, of New York is a reporter for the *New York Business Journal*.

Births

★★**Mollie Landers Buckler, BA '10, M Ed '12** and ★★**Zach Buckler, MPA '15**, of Sikeston, Mo., announce the birth of Harris Shepherd Buckler, September 30, 2022.

Anniversaries

★★**Joan Waisanen Koppenbrink, BA '71**, and ★★**Walt Koppenbrink, BA '72**, of Paradise Valley, Ariz., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May 2022.

★★**Steve Alan Nickell, BS Ag '74, DVM '77**, and Debbie A. Nickell of Stanberry, Mo., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 14, 2022.

Faculty Deaths

★★**Veralee Hardin, M Ed '57**, Ed D '64, of Columbia, Mo., Nov. 1, 2022, at 97. She was a professor emerita of special education and worked for the university for 51 years.

★**Kent Collins, BJ '70**, of Columbia, Mo., July 14, 2022, at 74. He taught in the School of Journalism for 35 years and served nearly 20 as the school's chair of the broadcast news department.

★**Joe F. Donaldson**, of Columbia, Mo., Oct. 1, 2022, at 75. He was a professor and chair of the department of educational leadership and policy analysis.

Deaths

★★**W.H. Bates, BA '49, LittD '16**, of Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 20, 2022, at 96. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi and served in the U.S. Army.

★**Thomas M. Macdonnell, BS Med '49, MD '50**, of Marshfield, Mo., July 10, 2022, at 99. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Order.



Double Nickels with the Class

For 55 years, one constant presence helped educate children at Mark Twain Elementary School in Carthage, Missouri: Laurel (Brouse) Rosenthal, BS Ed '66.

Rosenthal retired this spring after a 55-year career — 21 years as a teacher and 34 years as the principal — all at Mark Twain. She began as a kindergarten teacher and still follows and knows her kids — even those who are now 60.

The teacher moved to Carthage when she married Carthage native Malcom Rosenthal BS BA, '56, (who died in 2013) after meeting at Mizzou on a blind date. They hit it off immediately, were married for 57 years and raised two sons. Their family also includes two daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

“I had a wonderful marriage, and Carthage was a wonderful town to raise children,” Rosenthal says.

She had a simple philosophy that she instilled throughout her building: Unless they understand that you love and care for them, children won't be motivated to learn. Those five-and-a-half decades also taught her that kindness and empathy are essential because everyone is going through something — even teachers. “I want everyone who comes into this building to know that we really care about them,” Rosenthal says.

Throughout the years, Rosenthal earned many awards and recognitions, and despite being offered promotions, the teacher remained at Mark Twain. “I love being in this school, and I'm very lucky because I've only taught in this school,” she says. “I'm so appreciative of the kindness from many people, superintendents, school boards, staff, students, parents and community members that have helped me along the way.”

She adds: “But looking back, I feel the same as I did when I was at the University of Missouri. I have always loved what I've done. To say I've only worked at one place my whole life is really, I think, something that makes it a little different.” — *Steve Adams*

Blair plays hard, and sleeps even harder. When she woke up crying in the night, her mother knew it must be something serious.

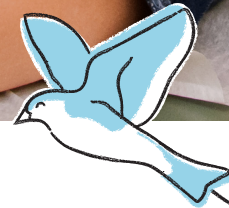
The normally rambunctious three-year-old arrived at Children's Hospital with a fever, full-body rash and reddening eyes. Though she initially tested positive for strep, E. coli and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, none of these diagnoses fully explained her condition, or her lack of response to typical treatments.

Thanks to her team of specialists, Blair was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease — a rare condition — within just four days.

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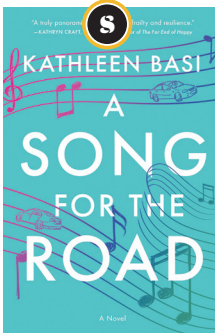
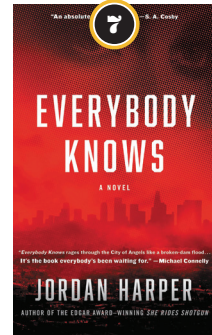
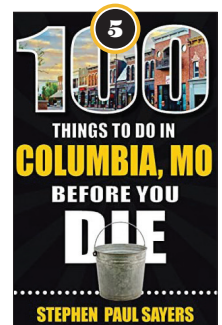
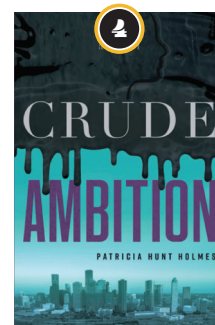
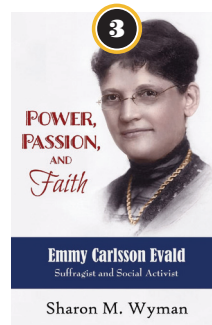
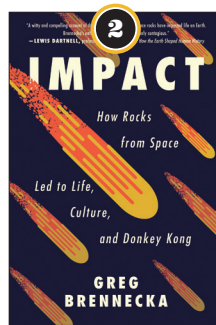
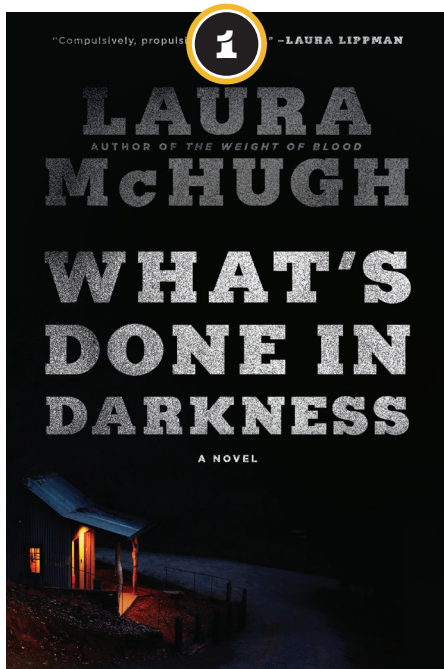
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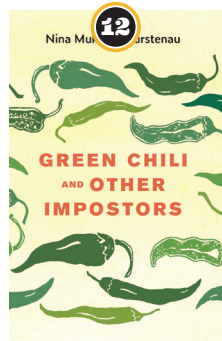
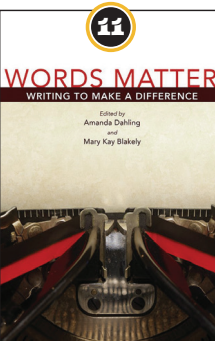
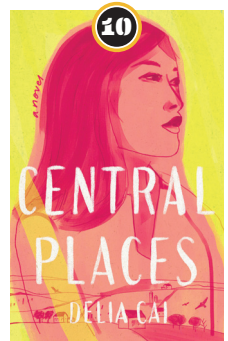
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ALUMNI BOOKSHELF



Mizzou Alumni Writers Rack Up New Titles

It's been a banner year for MU alumni and faculty in the world of arts and letters — and mystery thrillers, biographies and culinary memoirs. Are you an alum with a forthcoming or recently published book? To be considered for coverage, please send a digital copy to randallroberts@missouri.edu or mail a hard copy to Randall Roberts, MIZZOU magazine, 302 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Missouri, 65211.



1 *What's Done in Darkness* by Laura McHugh, MA '99, BA '00 (Random House, 2021)

2 *Impact: How Rocks from Space Led to Life, Culture, and Donkey Kong* by Greg Brennecka, BA '03 (William Morrow, 2022)

3 *Power, Passion, and Faith: Emmy Carlsson Evald, Suffragist and Social Activist* by Sharon M. Wyman, BS HE '69 (Open Books Press, 2022)

4 *Crude Ambition: A Novel* by Patricia Hunt Holmes, BA '69, MA '71, PhD '78 (River Grove Books, 2021)

5 *100 Things to Do in Columbia, MO Before You Die* by Stephen Paul Sayers, associate professor of physical therapy (Reedy Press, 2022)

6 *Boy Meets Girl* by Christie Hodgen, PhD '96 (New Issues Poetry and Prose, 2022)

7 *Everybody Knows* by Jordan Harper, Arts '99 (Mulholland Books, 2023)

8 *A Song for the Road: A Novel* by Kathleen Basi, BA '97 (Alcove Press, 2021)

9 *Constructing Basic Liberties: A Defense of Substantive Due Process* by James E. Fleming, BA '77 (University of Chicago Press, 2022)

10 *Central Places* by Delia Cai, BJ '15 (Ballantine Books, 2023)

11 *Words Matter: Writing to Make a Difference, Vol. 1* (paperback edition) edited by Mary Kay Blakely, professor emerita of journalism, and Amanda Dahling, BJ '05, MA '14 (University of Missouri Press, 2022)

12 *Green Chili and Other Impostors* by Nina Mukerjee Furstenau, BJ '84, MA '07 (University of Iowa Press, 2022)

MIZZOU ALUMNI NEWS

★William Roberts, BS Ed '50, of Lincoln, Calif., Aug. 18, 2022, at 94.

★★Barbara K. James,

BS ED '51, of St. Louis Sept. 12, 2022, at 83. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega.

★★Gene Schillie, BA '52, BS MED '53, of Prairie Village, Kan., Sept. 5, 2022, at 94. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp.

★Glenn Barks, BS Ag '54, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., June 24, 2022, at 89. He served in the U.S. Army.

★★Victor Slaughter, BS Ag '55, M Ed '58, EdD '75, of Olathe, Kan., Jan. 7, 2022, at 88. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma.



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★★**Gail Van Reen Acuff, BS Ed '55**, of Overland Park, Kan., Sept. 22, 2022, at 89. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

★**Barbara Ann Hall, BS Ed '57**, of Tempe, Ariz., Aug. 16, 2022, at 87.

★**Maurice R. Gebhardt, BS Ag '58, MS '65, PhD '72**, of Columbia, Mo., Sept. 17, 2022, at 87.

★**Anthony F. Bonderer, BS CiE '59**, of Fulton, Mo., Oct. 13, 2022, at 85. He was a member of Phi Kappa Theta and served in the U.S. Army.

★★**Susan Turner, BS BA '60**, of Columbia, Mo., Aug. 28, 2022, at 83.

★**Donald C. Wilde, BA '60**, of Warsaw, Mo., Oct. 21, 2022, at 87. He served in the U.S. Navy.

★**Larry Leon Nienhiser, BS Ag '61, DVM '70**, of Lexington, Mo., July 14, 2022, at 83.

★**Angus Rudolph Sinclair, BA '61**, of Bethesda, Md., Sept. 13, 2022, at 86. He served in the U.S. Army.

★★**Gerard J. Grewe, BA '62**, of St. Louis Aug. 8, 2022, at 82.

★★**Louis Hugo Vetter, BS CiE '62**, of Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 4, 2022, at 85. He served in the U.S. Army for 33 years.

★**Charles J. Marlen, MD '63**, of Great Falls, Mont., Aug. 31, 2022, at 84.

★**Patricia Ann Williamson, BS Ed '63**, of Baileys Harbor, Wis., Sept. 27, 2022, at 88.

★★**Nancy Carol Gartman, BS Ed '64**, of More-

head City, N.C., Nov. 4, 2022, at 80.

★**Sanford Luggner, BJ '64**, of Denver Sept. 16, 2022, at 90.

★**Louis Spilka, BS CiE '64**, of Belleville, Ill., Oct. 8, 2022, at 80.

★**Claire A. Capel, BJ '65**, of Midlothian, Va., Aug. 16, 2022, at 79.

★**Albert Erb, M Ed '65, Ed D '83**, of Columbia, Mo., Nov. 6, 2022, at 87. He served in the U.S. Army and taught at various Missouri public schools for 34 years.

★**Linda Snyder Deaver, BS Ed '66**, of Sioux Falls, S.D., Oct. 21, 2022, at 81.

★★**Robert A. Maffitt, BS BA '69**, of Olathe, Kan., Aug. 20, 2022, at 75. He worked in the financial

industry for almost 30 years.

★**Judith Ann Morris, BS Ed '69, M Ed '73**, of Columbia, Mo., Oct. 30, 2022, at 75. She taught at Blue Ridge Elementary School for 30 years.

★★**Burton Newman, BS BA '69, JD '72**, of St. Louis Nov. 5, 2022, at 76. He was an attorney for 50 years.

★**Stephen Wesley Roszell, BA '71**, of Scottsdale, Ariz., Aug. 10, 2022, at 73. He was a member of Sigma Nu, served in the Missouri Army National Guard and was a past president of the executive director of Mizzou Alumni Association from 1974 to 1979.

★★**Robert E. Stadler, BS BA '72**, of Columbia, Mo., Nov. 2, 2022, at 73. He served in the U.S. Army

Reserves and worked for Brown Shoe Company for 37 years.

★★**Ralph H. James, BA '73**, of Gillham, Ark., Oct. 16, 2022, at 71. He served in the U.S. Army.

★★**Patrick Obranovic, BA '78**, of Dallas Aug. 20, 2022, at 66.

★**Lindell Harrison, EdD '81**, of Otterville, Mo., Oct. 8, 2022, at 76.

★★**Ronald Hays, BS Ag '82**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Oct. 10, 2022, at 61.

★★**Roy E. Smoker, PhD '84**, of Laguna Hills, Calif., Oct. 20, 2022, at 79. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 30 years.

★**Paul Saverio Giordano, BA '85**, of Fairway, Kan., Oct. 1, 2022, at 59. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi.



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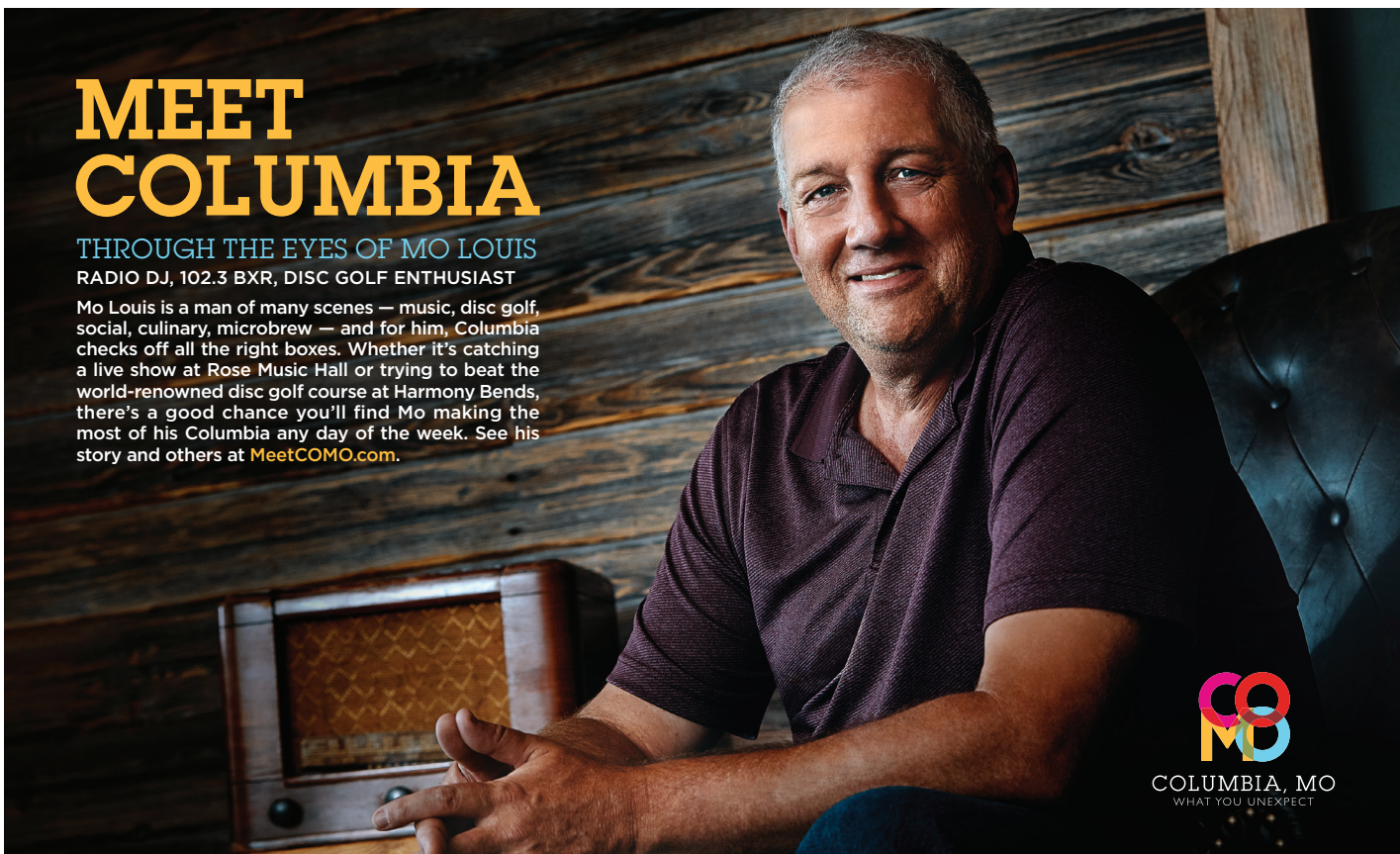
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★**Charles Klinger, BS Ag '90**, of St. Louis Oct. 29, 2022, at 54.

Morgan William Dooley, MA '97, of Taipei, Taiwan, July 21, 2019, at 54. He taught English and drama in Taiwan

for more than 15 years. He was honored by his students at Ming Chuan University with a speech contest in his name.

★**Barbara Ann Mason, PhD '99**, of Olathe, Kan., Nov. 2, 2022, at 84.

★★**Holly Dawn Mattegat, BS '01**, of Springfield, Mo., Aug. 27, 2022, at 46.

★**Brett Knapp, MHA '13**, of Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 16, 2022, at 44.

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BJ, journalism
BS Med, medicine
BSN, nursing
BS, science
BSW, social work

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BS CoE, computer
BS EE, electrical
BS IE, industrial
BS ME, mechanical

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↑ Nearly 50 years ago, two renegades with a bus and a notion helped found Wilderness Adventures, a club that exposed a generation of Mizzou students to the thrills and chills of roughing it.

An Adventure for the Ages

In July 1972, *Deliverance*, the tale of a very disturbing canoe trip, premiered in theaters. Five months later, a group of 22 adventurous — if not totally prepared — Mizzou students headed south for their own canoe trip on the Rio Grande that turned into a grueling weeklong battle with nature.

“*Deliverance* was definitely referenced a time or two on the trip,” David Haubein, BS ’74, says with a laugh.

This is the origin story of Wilderness Adventures, the club that exposed a generation of Mizzou students to the thrills and chills of roughing it. Scott Schulte, BS ’73, MS ’75, who would go on to a long career as a state park superintendent with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, organized the first adventure. He posted flyers on campus inviting students to join him on a winter break outing. One of the first people to respond was Haubein.

Schulte procured a school bus to carry the students, and Haubein towed the canoes behind his pickup truck. Spirits were high as they pulled out of Columbia. But in a bit of foreshadowing, the muffler fell off the bus on the way to Big Bend National Park, where they arrived just in time for one of the worst winter storms in the history of southwest Texas.

“We had every expectation that it would be balmy, that there might be cool evenings, but it would be in the 70s during the day,” Schulte says. “It didn’t turn out that way.”

About half the campers brought tents, but the other half slept under a canvas tarp, which offered little resistance to the wind, rain and freezing temperatures. The inexperience of some campers was evident in their diets. Some lugged around heavy canned food, and one self-proclaimed minimalist brought nothing for sustenance but a case of beer. “I remember he ate the mustard out of my sardine can,” Haubein says.

They covered more than 100 miles on the Rio Grande in five

or six days and then straggled to the bus to begin the long trek back to Missouri over ice-slicked roads in darkness. They hadn’t gone far when Haubein and Schulte, leading the way in the truck, crested a hill and saw flares indicating a roadblock ahead.

Haubein tapped the brakes, and the truck began “gliding through the night,” with the trailer of canoes soon right beside him outside the driver’s side window. The truck ended up in a ditch facing the wrong direction. The bus wasn’t far behind. It skidded the length of the hill and collided with the source of the problem, a jackknifed propane tanker truck. Fortunately, there was no explosion, but the bus was totaled.

While the rest of the students huddled around a toppled yucca plant they set ablaze to stay warm, Haubein took his truck and went looking for help. Power was out across the area, but he eventually followed a light to an oil drilling rig, where the roughneck crew used a two-way radio to call the authorities in a nearby town.

Here, the story diverges (thankfully) from *Deliverance* because the locals could not have been more friendly. The students were hauled to the small town of Fort Stockton, and various residents opened their homes to them and offered beds, food and clothing until they could ride back to Columbia on public buses. Schulte and Haubein accepted the sheriff’s offer to spend the night in an unoccupied jail cell.

“Jail cell or not, I was glad to be warm,” Schulte says.

Despite all this, Schulte and Haubein did it all over again on the Rio Grande the next year, and Wilderness Adventures continued long after they graduated. Schulte and Haubein went on to paddle competitively and tackled many of America’s wildest rivers together, but no story could compare to their first trip 50 years ago.

“That,” Haubein says, “was quite an adventure.” **M**

— Joe Walljasper, BJ ’92

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