

# MIZZOU

mizzou.com | Winter 2019



*The Lens of  
Jodi Cobb*

Unforgettable images by a  
renowned *National Geographic*  
photographer **18**

**First Prize**

George Smith wins  
Nobel in chemistry **6**

**Dream House**

New novelist  
reimagines the  
American Dream **34**



### **FIRST LOOK**

**MORNINGS BEFORE DAYLIGHT** Mark Twain's masterpiece *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has long inspired the photography of Kayla Huett, BFA '15, as she documents lives and landscapes in Southern Missouri. The title of the Poplar Bluff native's latest collection, "We Caught Fish and Talked," quotes Huck as he and Jim flee down the Mississippi River on a raft. Huett imagines the duo floating near her childhood home because, in the following chapter, they land in the river town of Cairo, Illinois, roughly 80 miles away. "This small section perfectly captures the tone that I have toward Poplar Bluff. A deep sincerity of its traditions, a humor for the people, and a deep beauty for where I came from," Huett told the *Southeast Missourian*. "I have a deep longing for this region, this ancient mountain range that spans diagonally from Missouri to Oklahoma, which makes me think that I have a lot of ghosts here." Through the Art on the Move program, a partnership of the MU School of Visual Studies and MU Extension, Huett showed her work in August at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. *More: [kaylarenehuett.com](http://kaylarenehuett.com)*

## GOOD NEWS\$

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70	5.6%	5.1%
75	6.2%	5.8%
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85	8.3%	7.8%
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### FROM THE PUBLISHER



## Belonging at Mizzou



support my family. That was how people in movies did it, and, as a first-generation college student, I had little other frame of reference.

Like many students today, thoughtful mentorship changed my trajectory through higher education. Several faculty members I respected and admired showed me that I was capable of doing what they did as scholars. There is so much power in that type of recognition and willingness to show the way.

To this day, I cherish the award from my department that dubbed me the “most promising student” — an honor that gave me the confidence I needed to succeed. The award sits in my office today to remind me of the influence we all can have on students and others around us. This is exactly what we do at Mizzou, not only in the classroom but also in our labs and through service activities on and off campus.

Our shared commitment to being role models and mentors to students — particularly first-generation students — goes a long way toward ensuring that everyone feels like they belong and

can succeed here. This collective responsibility goes beyond mentoring. We seek to create role models so that when our students go home — whether they live in rural Dunklin County, the city of St. Louis or overseas — they can inspire others, too.

We take seriously the responsibility to create role models, and we want to help our students move along that path. Our revised Land Grant Scholarship renders college more affordable to aspiring scholars, which can make a huge difference in their lives. It could mean taking on one fewer part-time job, or participating in one more student organization or class. We are also enhancing advising and designing an infrastructure that allows students to worry less about resources and focus more on their education.

I am thrilled to be part of a university that values higher education as a gateway to success for our students today, just as it was for me 30 years ago, and I appreciate the continued support of Mizzou alumni in this important mission.

— Chancellor Alexander Cartwright

↑ MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright chats with incoming freshman Sean Skoff; his mother, Doris; and his brother, Michael, of St. Louis during the Freshman Interest Group move-in day Aug. 15, 2017.

See student success stories on Page 28.

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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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## MORE MIZZOU ONLINE



**Kayla Huett Slideshow:** Inspired in part by the writings of Mark Twain, Kayla Huett's show "We Caught Fish and Talked" appeared in August at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Missouri. View more of her images at [tinyurl.com/poplar-bluff](http://tinyurl.com/poplar-bluff).

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## CONTRIBUTORS



**Jodi Cobb**, BJ '68, MA '71, is the only woman ever to hold the title of *National Geographic* staff field photographer in the magazine's 130-year history. A retrospective of Cobb's images appears on Page 18 with a profile by Scott Wallace.



**Scott Wallace**, MA '83, is a regular contributor to *National Geographic* and the bestselling author of *The Unconquered: In Search of the Amazon's Last Uncontacted Tribes*. He profiles photographer Jodi Cobb on Page 18.



**Mark Godich**, BJ '79, a *Sports Illustrated* editorial veteran, profiles basketball leaders Sophie Cunningham and Kevin Puryear on Page 44. Godich is the author of *Tigers vs. Jayhawks: From the Civil War to the Battle for No. 1*.



**Stephanie Powell Watts**, PhD '98, is a novelist and associate professor of English at Lehigh University. Her novel, *No One Is Coming to Save Us* (excerpted on Page 36), was named a best book of 2017 by *The Washington Post*.



### About the cover

Photographer Jodi Cobb captures a performer bedecked in traditional Korean hanbok dress. View more of Cobb's images and read a profile of her career on Page 18.

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As they lean into their senior seasons, Mizzou basketball stars Sophie Cunningham and Kevin Puryear reflect on their careers, their friendship and memories made off the court.

STORY BY MARK GODICH, BJ '79

↑ For her story on the nature of human beauty, Jodi Cobb traveled to Garoka in the highlands of Papua New Guinea to photograph the annual Sing-sing festival, where tribes gather to promote traditional culture, dances and music.

CHILDREN: KAYLA HUETT; SANBORN FIELD: ROB HILL  
NANCY SULLIVAN



← On Dec. 10 in Stockholm, Sweden, Professor Emeritus George Smith, left, became the first MU faculty member to receive a Nobel Prize.

# Mizzou's First Nobel Prize



Just days before this magazine went to press, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, resplendent in white tie and tails, stood before the assembled members of the Royal Swedish Academy and handed George P. Smith, an avuncular molecular biologist who has spent the whole of his 43-year career at Mizzou, a hand-lettered diploma and a medal struck in gold. *Pro pace et fraternitate gentium*, that medal read: “For the peace and brotherhood of men.”

The 2018 Nobel Prize for Chemistry was awarded to Smith, now a distinguished professor emeritus of biological sciences, along with two fellow researchers, Caltech's Frances Arnold and Sir Gregory Winter of Britain's MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, on Dec. 10. The prize was announced Oct. 3.

Arnold, an engineer who is just the fifth woman to win the chemistry Nobel, was honored for her insights into how a “directed” form of natural selection could help engineer enzymes. Smith and Winter shared the second half of the prize for their use of bacteriophages, viruses that infect bacteria, in “evolving” antibodies and other proteins into promising therapeutic and research tools. The Swedish Academy called Smith's contribution “ingenious” and “brilliant in its simplicity,” though in this case simplicity is a decidedly relative term.

A bacteriophage (phage for short) consists of a small chromosome encapsulated in a shell of coat proteins. Working with a particularly malleable class of phages, the filamentous phages, Smith had a flash of insight. If he inserted a gene for an extra “guest” protein into the gene for one of the phage's coat proteins, this guest protein would, because it resided on the surface, retain its ability to bind to a target

receptor or antibody. It also, thanks in part to its naturally infectious tendencies, could be propagated into vast numbers simply by using it to infect fresh bacterial cells.

Smith's next step was crucial: connecting these phages to specific receptors or antibodies of interest to researchers. In his lab in MU's Tucker Hall, Smith and his assistants poured one of these new libraries into a Petri dish, hoping a few of the guest proteins might bind to a receptor immobilized on the dish's surface. When this, in fact, happened as planned, Smith's team then washed out the dish leaving only the immobilized phages behind. Because those phages were far too few in number to analyze directly, his team propagated them using the technique described above.

The genius of the scheme, which came to be called “phage display,” was that it combined two essential features of natural evolution: diversification, in this case the creation of immense artificial libraries of phage-borne proteins; and selection, scientists' ability to artificially select useful phages by exploiting their binding affinity.

“Evolution in a test tube,” Smith called it during a packed press conference at MU's Memorial Union. “You very much simplify it. And also — and this is important — you don't let nature's natural selection create the pressure on survival. You, the experimenter, decide.”

Phage display has since been deployed by thousands of researchers around the world. Smith's co-Nobel recipient Greg Winter was among the first to recognize its value, using it to develop antibodies that eventually led to successful treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel diseases. Future phage-enabled discoveries, the Royal Academy said, are poised to “promote a greener chemicals industry, produce new materials, manufacture sustainable biofuels, mitigate disease and save lives.” — *Charles E. Reineke*

## TIGER'S EYE

### Old Field, New Ideas

Jesse Hall. Memorial Union. The White Campus. They're iconic features in the Mizzou landscape, but Sanborn Field predates them all. During its 130 years, experiments on the 7-acre research facility have produced a wealth of information about best practices for crops, crop rotation and fertilizer use. Corn, wheat and soybeans. Sorghum, red clover and native grasses. All grow in Sanborn Field's 1/14-acre plots located at College Avenue and Rollins Street. This living laboratory, the oldest continuous field experiment station west of the Mississippi River, continues to produce valuable data, says superintendent Tim Reinbott. “Sanborn Field is not stationary. It's not stuck. It is moving forward.” — *Joe McCune*



#### NATIONAL LANDMARK

In 1964, Sanborn Field became a National Historic Landmark. Although more than 90,000 sites appear on the National Register of Historic Places, Sanborn is one of only about 2,500 national landmarks.

#### EPONYM

The field, established in 1888, is named for **J.W. Sanborn**, who directed the Missouri Agricultural Experimental Station and served as dean of MU's College of Agriculture. A year after establishing the field, Sanborn left the university, though he returned as an honored visitor in 1923 when MU changed the name from Rotation Plots to Sanborn Field.



#### MAKE IT GROW

Manure from Mizzou's dairy and equine facilities fertilizes some of Sanborn Field's **45 plots**. Researchers compare the manure with modern fertilizers to discover which produces the most crops on a particular plot and to gauge how fertilizers affect the soil's organic matter. In at least one instance, a corn plot fertilized with manure tolerated drought better than one using commercial fertilizer.

#### FUNGUS AMONG US

In 1948, Mizzou soil scientist William A. Albrecht discovered a gold-colored fungus in the soil of Sanborn Plot 23. Nicknamed the golden mold, *Streptomyces aureofaciens* became the basis for **Aureomycin**, a tetracycline antibiotic that physicians prescribed widely from the 1940s to the mid-1980s for people with bacterial infections and diseases. Aureomycin, like penicillin, eventually became less effective in humans



as antibiotic-resistant bacterial strains evolved, but veterinarians still use it to treat animals. Because of Aureomycin's history as a life-saving drug, the **Smithsonian Institution's** collection includes a sample of the Sanborn soil.

#### WORKING THE CHANGE-UP

Although **crop rotation** is now common practice in the U.S., 130 years ago it was in its infancy when research began at Sanborn. The experiments have shown, for instance, that a plot growing corn, wheat and red clover in a three- or four-year cycle is healthier than a plot growing only one species.

HENRIK MONTGOMERY/GETTY IMAGES; FIELD: ROB HILL; J.W. SANBORN: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHS; C0766; THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI; HORSE: SHUTTERSTOCK



## Bryson Bruce Gets His Shot

Bryson Bruce was sitting on a plane headed to New York City when he put his earbuds in and pressed play. Normally, he'd fall right asleep. But within the first few bars of *Alexander Hamilton*, Bruce was hooked. The musical "Hamilton sucked me in and didn't let me go," recalls Bruce, BA '14, a working actor in the Big Apple.

Bruce spent the rest of the plane ride trying to figure out how Daveed Diggs fit so many words into so few seconds, an exercise that came in handy when, a few months later, he landed an audition for the national touring company of the Tony Award-winning show.

Instead of relying on technical skills to rap at lightning speed, Bruce leaned on interpretive skills he learned in his musical theater classes at Mizzou. During Professor (now emeritus) Jim Miller's class, students would bring in a song to perform, after which Miller would ask a barrage of questions: What are you saying there? What do you mean by that? Are you embodying the emotions you're saying?

"He made it a point to have us connect to what we were saying and to use the words and the music to bring out the inner emotional life of the characters," Bruce says. "I did the same for *Hamilton*. At the end of 'Washington On Your Side,' at first listen, I barely heard any of the words. But once I looked them up and figured out what they were saying — Jefferson's saying he's in the cabinet and complicit in what's going on — I realized

↑ Bryson Bruce, center, performs as Thomas Jefferson and Marquis de Lafayette in the national tour of the Tony Award-winning musical *Hamilton*.

it's not just a whole bunch of words. The more meaning I could find in every song, the easier it was to sing."

Bruce nailed his audition and has been performing as both Thomas Jefferson and Marquis de Lafayette in the national tour of the musical since June 2018.

For the first couple of weeks, it was difficult to play two characters. It was even harder learning to pronounce the word "anarchy" in Lafayette's French accent. It was outright demanding to go from Jefferson's "What I'd Miss" to the first of the "Cabinet Battles."

His ability to perform quick and technical raps hasn't gone unnoticed. *Washington Post* chief theater critic Peter Marks praised the show's "sharp portraits of such men as Marquis de Lafayette and Jefferson, both played to sparkling effect by Bryson Bruce."

Now halfway through his national tour, which runs through June 2019, Bruce is still pinching himself. "To be on stage with such a talented cast — it is so surreal, and it's been a journey to try to have enough confidence in myself to say I do belong here. I bring my own energy and flavor to the show. I feel very intertwined now in *Hamilton*." — *Kelsey Allen, BA, BJ '10*

### THE GOOD AND BAD OF BREAKUPS

Breaking up and getting back together can be a good thing, says Kale Monk, assistant professor of human development and family science. "Breaking up can help partners realize the importance of their relationship, contributing to a healthier, more committed union." But on-again, off-again couples could be different. When Monk and his colleagues studied more than 500 people in relationships, an increase in on-off cycles was associated with an increase in psychological distress symptoms such as depression and anxiety. Such couples should examine their relationships and take steps to maintain them or safely end them, he says. "This is vital for preserving their well-being."



↑ Jon Hamm, BA '93, weathered numerous breakups in his role as Don Draper during the Emmy-winning series *Mad Men*.



## IT'S PERSONAL

Everyone told her she was crazy. Her husband and daughter were in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, yet Latha Rachmand was in suburban Chicago pursuing a doctorate in finance from Northwestern University. She already had bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Bombay, in India, where she grew up. But she wanted a doctorate. She wanted to earn it in America. She had dreamed of that since she was 10 years old. "Don't ask me why," says Ramchand, who started as Mizzou's new provost in August. "Probably because I was a total geek."

Ramchand isn't the kind of person who gives up. She threw herself into her studies, returning to Oklahoma on weekends once or twice a month. Her only moment of doubt came when her daughter, about 4 years old at the time, asked if she was divorced, because her friends in preschool said that's what parents are who don't live together. For Ramchand, this pit-of-the-stomach memory is baked into how she approaches her responsibilities in higher education.

She knows that each student represents an extraordinary deposit of trust in a university — a belief that the sacrifice they and their families are making will be worthwhile. For her, that kind of sacrifice has to be matched by a commitment from administrators. "Everything we do has to be personal," she

← As a first-generation college student, new Provost Latha Ramchand believes in the power of education to transform lives.

says. "It can't be transactional."

When Ramchand was the business dean at the University of Houston, the position she left to come to Mizzou, she always told her colleagues, "We don't just admit students; we adopt them." Using the question *What would you do if this was your kid?* as her North Star, Ramchand raised millions of dollars for existing scholarships, created new ones that helped students finish degrees, started money-management programs to help students budget — "anything we heard about that helped student success."

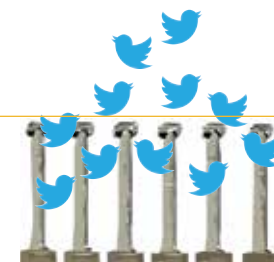
She brings that same commitment to Mizzou, as well as the faith of a first-generation college student in education's transformative potential. "Knowledge is the ultimate source of power," Ramchand says, "a means to addressing inequalities like nothing else can." — *Erik Potter*

### Needed: Mizzou Mentors

Cecelia Bolin had only been out of school a year when she volunteered to work with students in the Mizzou Alumni Association's new Mizzou Mentoring Program. Bolin's job was far from the corner office, but her work is rewarding — event planning and coordination for Team USA in Colorado Springs, Colorado — and she had already pondered how she'd chart her academic course differently if she could do it over again.






"Things haven't changed a ton at Mizzou since I was there, and it is still so fresh in my brain," says Bolin, BS '17. So, when the mentoring program paired her with sophomore Jordan Kallet, who asked for advice on whether to continue her double major or change one to a minor, Bolin was ready. "Job interviewers are going to be looking at your experiences rather than your degree," Bolin advised her. Kallet says that simple piece of advice relieved some stress and let her focus on the big picture.

The web-based Mizzou Mentoring Program is open to Mizzou alumni, faculty and staff. Mentors provide information about their careers, which is displayed on the site. Students then browse a list of potential mentors until they find a match. "The experience has prompted me to reflect on the great pieces of advice I've received in my life," Bolin says. "Someone poured into me, and I'm excited to pour into others in the same way." More: [mizzou.com/mentoring](http://mizzou.com/mentoring)



## LET THE COLUMNS TWEET

Turns out the Columns can speak — and peck out chipper tweets — and are liable to comment on anything from snowy weather ("if you really love us you'll bring us blankets to keep warm") to Mizzou spirit ("everyday is homecoming if u never leave!"). Check out @mizzoucolumns:

-  Feb 17  
a selfportrait ;  
lllllll
-  Sep 13  
y'all ever stand  
up for 125years??
-  Sep 4  
you might  
think that you hav no  
friends... wrong ! you  
have six
-  Aug 19  
we ar  
greek too !
-  Jul 4  
happy inde-  
pendent day ! america  
is independent from  
britan and we are  
independent from  
building
-  Jun 2  
who started  
the rumor thst we set  
the fire at jesse hall??
-  May 6  
we always can  
tell when its finals  
week because of the  
faint screams drifting  
across campus....  
hang in there mi small  
sweet tigrs. you can  
doit !



# 13 PERCENT RISE

Mizzou is one of two Southeastern Conference universities to experience double-digit growth in new freshmen for fall 2018, while some others saw single- and double-digit declines. Mizzou welcomed 4,673 first-time college students this fall, up from 4,134 in 2017. The 13-percent surge is its second-largest in the past quarter-century.

During the past year, the university introduced a suite of new scholarship and affordability initiatives, implemented an initiative to double research funding over the next five years and completed a plan to deal with the greatest challenges facing Missourians. “Enrollment increases like this do not happen by accident,” says Chancellor Alexander Cartwright. “These numbers show me that our commitment and efforts to prepare the university for the future are paying off.”

The university’s freshman class is more diverse and academically gifted than before. First-time college student minority enrollment grew to 1,015 from 778 last year, with increases in enrollment among African-Americans, Hispanics and those who identify as multiracial. The class retained the university’s strong ACT average of 26, which is significantly higher than the state average of 20.4 and the national average of 21. At the same

time, the university logged a record retention rate of 87.3, meaning that nearly nine out of 10 freshmen from 2017 returned to Mizzou this fall.

Mizzou is also receiving support from alumni and friends of the university. For example, the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign has raised more than \$278 million for student support and scholarships.

## LECTURES HIT THE ROAD

Flipped instruction is a growing practice in which teachers send students home to study traditional lecture material and spend in-class time on practice and discussion. In a study by Corey Webel, associate professor of education, fifth-grade students watched videos and other lecture material at home and then worked on problems and discussed them in class. This approach helps teachers spot students’ needs and respond, he says. Hauling home learning material, particularly videos, was a boon to parents, too. “Many parents have difficulties helping with math homework because instructional approaches have changed,” Webel says. “But when they have access to the same videos and tutorials as their child, they can learn alongside them and provide better help.”

## Twitter Buzz About #Mizzou

@glh918

At @Mizzou you'll find the Director of Financial Aid and the Director of the News Bureau changing a student's tire. Reason 874 why I love #Mizzou. #Mizzou22 #MizzouMade

@KLJones\_Science

Forget the excuse of your dog eating your homework. My dog ate my PhD. #baddog #sciotothedog #Mizzou #Neuroscience



@PunkinArt

I couldn't be on campus to celebrate my colleagues award of a Nobel Prize yesterday so I am giving tribute the way I can... George P. Smith, Curators Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri, 2018 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry



@MizzouFootball

#Mizzou's 50-17 win is its largest road victory in conference play since Oct. 4, 2008 when #Mizzou beat Nebraska, 52-17. #MIZ #ShowMe 🏈🏈

MICHAEL CALLI: TWITTER

TURPIN: ROB HILL; BAND: NICHOLAS BENNER



## Silicon Valley Comes to Mizzou

Bill Turpin is a teacher, CEO and MU administrator — all at the same time. Each spring and fall semester, he teaches Venture Investing and Startups in the Trulaske College of Business. As president and CEO of the Missouri Innovation Center (MIC), he helps entrepreneurs grow their technology-based startups through mentoring, business connections and outside investment. As the recently appointed interim associate vice chancellor of economic development for MU, he leads a team that will link students and faculty with industry partners.

To each of these roles, Turpin, BS EE '78, brings the insights of a seasoned venture capitalist plus a nationwide network of technology experts and investors. Students who take his class can expect to be immersed in business theory and real-world experience. “Each semester I form the students into teams, then I unleash them to investigate 20 to 30 companies that are applying for an investment from the MIC,” Turpin says. “Their evaluations are considered when the MIC investment committee makes its funding decisions.”

Turpin’s students may be 2,000 miles from Silicon Valley, but their Cornell Hall classroom is a direct link to the epicenter of 21st-century venture investing and high-tech entrepreneurs. During Turpin’s 24 years there, he gained renown creating programs, apps and companies. Early on, he developed a Windows application, which was acquired by Borland. After working at a top Silicon Valley venture capital firm — Redpoint Ventures — he went on to become an angel investor and a mentor to numerous companies, a role he continues in today. — Jack Wax, BS Ed '73, MS '76, MA '87



## TANTARA!

The Barry siblings of Carrollton, Missouri, model new Marching Mizzou uniforms that debuted at Homecoming 2018. Put your hands together for, from left, freshman biology major Payton on baritone, junior music major Samantha on trumpet and junior engineering major Jackson on trombone. Leaving behind traditional wool fabric, the new regalia features cool, moisture-wicking material and graphic treatment that puts Marching Mizzou among the first college bands to turn out in a truly modern uniform. The ensemble has grown by 25 since the arrival in July 2017 of Amy Knopps, BS Ed '01, director of athletic bands. She has retained more the group's upperclassmen with the help of new scholarships — \$400,000 over four years — donated by MU Health Care. See more of the uniforms in the videos section of Marching Mizzou's Facebook page.

## Briefly

• MU named new residence halls for **Lucille Bluford** and **George C. Brooks** and an atrium for **Gus T. Ridgel**. Bluford was denied enrollment to the School of Journalism in 1939 because the university didn't accept people of color. The university awarded her an honorary doctoral degree in 1989. The Bluford Hall atrium was named for Ridgel, MA '51, MU's first African-American graduate. Brooks, M Ed '58, directed financial aid at MU.

• The College of Education's **eMINTS National Center** has received \$18.6 million from the U.S. Department of Education and \$3.8 million in private sector matching funds to expand its educational technology program into rural schools in Missouri and Kansas. The grant will help MU increase STEM education over five years in 58 high-need, rural middle schools. More than 406 educators and 26,796 students are expected to benefit from new technology and an academic structure built to engage learners.

• Roughly one of every 40 individuals in the U.S. carries the gene for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), which causes nerves to die and muscles to weaken. In 2014, **Chris Lorson**, associate dean of research in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and his team developed a molecule that was effective in animal models with SMA. The finding recently led to the founding of Shift Pharmaceuticals and the possibility of developing drugs to treat the disease.



# Focus and Efficiency

↑ UM System President Mun Choi rolled out a five-year strategic plan that benefits students, faculty and the citizens of Missouri. The university's campuses sit, clockwise from top left, in Kansas City, St. Louis, Rolla and Columbia.

The four campuses of the UM System are moving forward with a five-year, \$260 million strategic plan to increase student success, boost faculty research and improve the lives of all Missourians. UM System President Mun Choi outlined the plan in a September state-of-the-university address. Choi framed the initiative as a countermeasure to the “crisis in confidence in higher education and the value we provide.” The system needs to move away from “being all things to all people,” Choi said, and invest in priorities “that lead to excellence for students, faculty and staff, and Missourians.”

Approved by the Board of Curators in July, the plan calls for reallocating existing funds and raising new money to support five strategic areas. Each campus is expected to match and seek philanthropic support to expand the system's investment. The five areas are:

**Student success** (\$120 million), comprising \$75 million for need-based scholarships, \$25 million for merit-based scholarships, and \$20 million to grow distance and online learning

**Research and creative works** (\$112 million), comprising \$50 million for precision medicine

initiatives and the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, \$50 million to fund intercampus collaborations that could garner external grant funding, and \$12 million to attract high-impact faculty members

**Engagement and outreach** (\$11.25 million), comprising \$10 million for medical research tools and \$1.25 million to expand statewide a Kansas City program that connects small businesses to needed resources

**Inclusive excellence** (\$8.75 million), comprising \$8.5 million for the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives and \$250,000 to host American Public Square events, which bring together people with differing views on important issues for fact-based conversations

**Planning, Operations and Stewardship** (\$7.5 million), which will fund employee orientation and professional development programs

Outside of funded programs, the plan also calls for continuing decreases in the cost of textbooks, easier intercampus course enrollment and expanded internship opportunities in cooperation with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce.



## BETTER HEIFERS

When asked to join a project aimed at improving herd production efficiency through technology, Missouri cattlemen are apt to say, “Show me the money!” The Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program, now in its 20th year, gives them an eyeful. Compared to traditionally bred heifers, Show-Me-Select heifers sell for \$200 more per animal on average at sanctioned sales, and the effort's overall economic impact surpasses \$150 million.

However, higher prices at auction aren't the program's primary purpose or benefit, says founder David Patterson, professor of animal science. “What Show-Me-Select hangs its hat on is its educational foundation. It's been a very effective conduit for introducing technology to beef production, which, as an industry, has been slow to adopt it.”

To improve genetic stock and reproduction management — and to maintain or raise Missouri's No. 2 ranking, behind Texas, in beef cow numbers — Show-Me-Select practices include genomic testing, pelvic exams, timed artificial insemination (common in dairy farming but not in beef production) and ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy. Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer qualification standards result in far fewer calving assists, and, as it turns out, cows that breed and calve easily typically produce more pounds of beef.

Started at Mizzou and privatized in 2004 as a nonprofit operating with university support, Show-Me-Select is nationally recognized, and smaller-scale versions — including Kansas' Sunflower Supreme Replacement Heifer Program — follow its model. Patterson is quick to point out that MU was uniquely positioned to launch such an initiative, pulling from multiple disciplines and resources including veterinary medicine, animal science and agriculture economics units as well as regional extension offices. For states with fewer resources at hand, the university has secured grant funding to plan the National Center for Applied Reproduction and Genomics (NCARG), a training site and certification program. — Dawn Klingensmith, BA, BJ '97

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: UMKC STRATEGIC MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS; UMNSL MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS; SAM O'KEEFE/MISSOURI S&T; LIZZ CARDWELL  
HEIFERS: LOGAN JACKSON, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES; THOMPSON: ROB HILL

## Tiger WWII Spy Is Honored — Finally



In the decades following World War II, Jim Thompson steered clear of the American Legion and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. When family, friends and even fellow veterans asked about his service, Thompson had to be vague. He couldn't talk about it.

That is until 2008 when the U.S. government declassified Thompson's name along with those of nearly 13,000 other Americans who composed the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a WWII-era precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency. Thompson's reward for keeping his secret for 73 years was the Congressional Gold Medal, which he received in March 2018.

Thompson was drafted out of Columbia and shipped to Camp Crowder, just south of Neosho, Missouri, where he was recruited into the top-secret program. He was versed in cryptography and Morse code and then sent to the Pacific. Thompson was breaking codes from the Philippines when the Japanese surrendered in September 1945. Soon thereafter, President Harry S. Truman disbanded the OSS.

After two years working at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo, Thompson came home and enrolled at Mizzou where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1951. He used the training as a psychologist in the Air Force, globetrotting from Maine to North Africa to Germany to Washington, D.C., to Vietnam, where he was a targeting officer for the Missile Squad during the infamous Tet Offensive.

Eventually, Thompson moved back to Missouri, to Marshall, where he raised a family and kept his secret as the ranks of OSS veterans dwindled. At 91, Thompson is one of fewer than 100 left. But at least he can now talk about it.

“It was pretty exciting,” Thompson told the *Marshall Democrat-News* in April. “It didn't really seem too long though, looking back on it.” — Tony Rehagen, BA, BJ '01



↑ For decades, Jim Thompson's participation in the Office of Strategic Services, or OSS, had to remain secret.





# Equal to the Task

↑ Larissa Anderson will try to extend the Missouri softball team's streak of 12 straight NCAA regional appearances in her first year coaching the Tigers.

Growing up in Lake George, New York, Larissa Anderson and her siblings learned early on about hard work. As an 8-year-old, she started as a dishwasher in her parents' establishments, the East Cove Restaurant and The Garrison bar and grill. "I worked my way up to salad girl, bus girl, waitress and bartender," she says. "My parents instilled a tireless work ethic in me long before I could even drive a car."

In her new role as Missouri's softball coach, Anderson is trying to establish a similar work ethic and well-rounded skill set in her players.

"She's very hard-nosed and hard-working," says senior pitcher Danielle Baumgartner. "She believes every player should know how to play all aspects of the game."

Anderson spent the past four years as the head coach of Hofstra, where she went 130-73-1 and guided the Pride to two NCAA regional appearances. Anderson was content to stay at Hofstra but found a kindred spirit in Mizzou Athletics Director Jim Sterk, who she says is adamant about winning "the right way."

Anderson says her first task after taking the job in late May was re-recruiting the current Missouri players and building relationships with them. The Tigers have qualified for NCAA regionals for 12 straight years, but they have some rebuilding to do

after finishing at the bottom of the Southeastern Conference last season.

To climb the SEC standings, Anderson will focus on the process of improvement she learned as a girl.

"Winning is a byproduct of all the life lessons that athletics teaches," Anderson says. "That's the foundation. I'm educating these young women that you have to be self-motivated, self-disciplined. Winning will take care of itself if you focus on those little things."

— Joe Walljasper, BJ '92

## HER NAME IS IN BLOCK LETTERS

If there is a Missouri volleyball record with the word "block" in it, the name next to it is usually Alyssa Munlyn. The 6-foot-2 senior from Suwanee, Georgia, passed Whitney Little as the Tigers' all-time leader in total blocks when she posted her 542nd in a match against Ohio State Sept. 8, 2018. Munlyn finished her career with 634 total blocks and also holds the career record for block assists with 516 and blocks per set with 1.27. She is one of only six Southeastern Conference players since 2001 to surpass 600 total blocks.



# LEGACY SECURED

With one game left in his college career — a New Year's Eve date with Oklahoma State in the Liberty Bowl — Drew Lock has cemented his status as one of the best quarterbacks in school history. His signature game came Nov. 3 when he led Missouri to a 38-17 victory at 11th-ranked Florida, a win that propelled the Tigers to an undefeated November. Lock also will leave his mark on the MU and SEC record books.

# 11,820

Lock's career passing yards, which ranks **second in Missouri history** to Chase Daniel (12,515) and **second in SEC history** to Georgia's Aaron Murray (13,166)

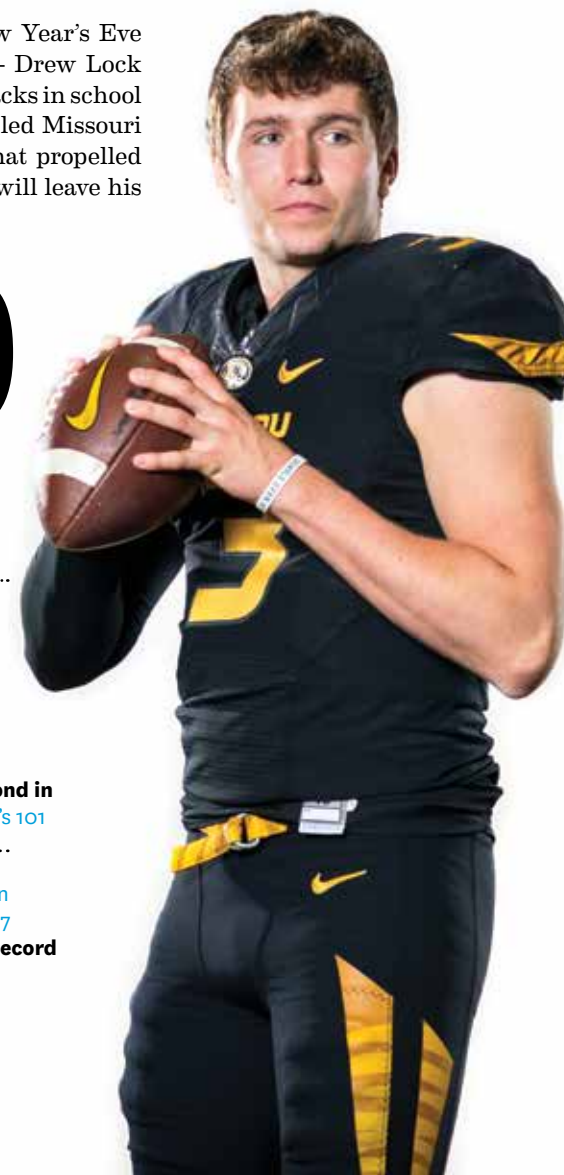
# 521 | 96

Lock's passing yards against Missouri State in 2017, a **school record**

Lock's career touchdown passes, which ranks **second in school history** to Daniel's 101

# 44

Lock's touchdown passes in the 2017 season, an **SEC record**



## THE VOICE OF ROD

Rod Kelly was the man who put many of the greatest moments in Mizzou basketball history into perspective. He was the radio analyst for Coach Norm Stewart's Tigers from 1975 to 1989, working alongside the likes of future stars Bob Costas, John Rooney and Kevin Harlan. Kelly, BA '72, M Ed '90, a lifelong Columbia resident, died at age 67 July 19, 2018. He served as a mentor to many young broadcasters and set an example with his combination of honesty and affability. "Rod would say, 'You're lucky Norm hasn't killed you, much less not played you,'" says Tom Dore, a 7-foot-2 role player for the Tigers from 1977 to 1980 who went on to become a broadcaster. "Then there were other times he would come over and put his arm around me with a big smile and pat me on the back. You always were a little better after you had a conversation with Rod."

## Scoreboard

**300** — Number of strikeouts Washington Nationals pitcher **Max Scherzer** compiled during the 2018 season. Scherzer, BUS '06, replicated a feat accomplished only 17 times since 1900.

**6** — Number of Tiger alumni inducted into the University of Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame Oct. 19, 2018. They are **Dominique Bouchard**, BA, BS '14, swimming; **Marcus Denmon**, BGS '12, men's basketball; **Lorraine Ferret**, Arts '83, women's basketball; **Mike Magac**, Arts '59, football; **Glenn Ogden**, BS ME '70, MS '71, track; and **Chelsea Thomas**, BS '12, M Ed '13, softball.

**1** — World championships won by former Tiger wrestler **J'den Cox** after beating Belarus' Ivan Yankouski 4-1 in the finals of the 92-kilogram weight class Oct. 22 in Budapest, Hungary. Cox, BA '17, a three-time NCAA champion at Missouri, won bronze at the 2016 Olympics and the 2017 world championships.

**8** — **Sophie Cunningham's** rank on the MU women's basketball team's career scoring list through the first nine games of her senior season. With 1,699 points, Cunningham needs 428 more to eclipse **Joni Davis**, BS Ed '85. For more on Cunningham, see Page 44.

# Mizzou: Our Time to Lead

CAMPAIGN UPDATE



Thanks to a recent gift from the **Walsworth family**, the **South End Zone Facility** project is marching down the field toward the goal line. The University of Missouri System Board of Curators voted unanimously to rename Memorial Stadium's Columns Club the Walsworth Family Columns Club in honor of a **\$10 million gift** from the Marceline, Missouri, family. The gift will support the South End Zone Facility currently under construction at Memorial Stadium, as well as future department projects.

**Don Walsworth, BS Ed '57**, is the chief executive officer of Walsworth, an 80-year-old family-owned company that ranks as the nation's 26th-largest printing firm and among the top four yearbook publishers. Walsworth served a six-year appointment to the Board of Curators, including a stint as its chair. His wife, Audrey, graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1956. In total, the Walsworth family has contributed more than \$25 million to Mizzou Athletics.

"Don and Audrey have been incredibly generous and loyal to the university and, in particular, Mizzou Athletics.

We are eternally grateful for their unwavering and passionate support," says Jim Sterk, director of athletics. "On top of their annual contributions to Mizzou Athletics, this is the third transformational gift that the Walsworths have given to ensure that our student-athletes enjoy continued academic and athletic success."

The South End Zone Facility will open before the **2019 football season** with an array of upgrades and amenities:

- The new football operations area will include **locker rooms**, an enhanced **sports medicine facility**, a **weight room**, **team and position meeting rooms**, **coaches' offices** and a **recruiting lounge**.
- The addition will feature suites, a field-level club, an indoor club area and general seating for more than **1,300 fans**.
- A **new concourse** will link the stadium's east and west sides and provide new restrooms and concessions for all fans.
- **New video boards** will enhance the Mizzou game-day experience.



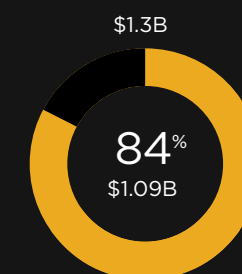
## Top Priorities

The Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign seeks to raise \$1.3 billion for the university. The question isn't whether the Mizzou family will meet the goal but how far we will run past it. To make the best use of this remarkable generosity, the campaign focuses on four priorities:

- 1 Endowment** — Building MU's endowment to compete with other institutions will enhance our ability to attract and retain stellar students and faculty.  
**\$1.05 billion of \$1.2 billion goal**
- 2 Signature Centers and Institutes** — Interdisciplinary centers and institutes will be engines of research growth that attract additional funding and raise our profile in the Association of American Universities.  
**\$93.4 million of \$100 million goal**
- 3 Campus Renaissance** — New and renovated facilities will propel Mizzou to global leadership in education and research.  
**\$179.8 million of \$250 million goal**
- 4 Student Support** — Providing Mizzou students access to world-class learning opportunities, in and out of the classroom, will ensure they thrive on campus and throughout their lives.  
**Goal to be determined**

Taken as a whole, these priorities represent the path to securing Mizzou's standing as one of the nation's elite public universities. Learn more about the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign and the role of philanthropy on campus at [giving.missouri.edu](http://giving.missouri.edu), and follow Mizzou Giving on Facebook and Instagram.

Overall Campaign Progress



\*As of Nov. 7, 2018.



# Through the Lens of Jodi Cobb

*A National Geographic  
photographer looks back  
on an extraordinary career.*

BY SCOTT WALLACE • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JODI COBB



# E

## arly in her career, Jodi Cobb faced an agonizing decision, one that would end up changing the course of her life.

**The year was 1975.** She was four years out of Mizou, where she'd earned both a bachelor's and master's degree (the latter in photojournalism), and she stood at a crossroads.

She'd just been offered a sought-after staff position at a major metro daily when she got a call from Robert Gilka, director of photography at *National Geographic*. Cobb had been attending photography workshops run by Gilka, and he'd been impressed by her grit and persistence. For her part, Cobb was honing her visual storytelling skills alongside some of the most accomplished photographers in the business. But he had counseled patience and urged her to keep at it.

Now, he was on the phone. He wanted to know if Cobb was available to take a trial assignment photographing California's Owens Valley for a story about the place that supplies water to the city of Los Angeles. It was a one-off deal. No guarantees of future work. She was torn: Go for the security of the staff job, or pursue her dream no matter the outcome?

She decided to take the assignment. "I didn't know if it was my first assignment for *National Geographic* or if it was going to be my *only* assignment." All she knew for sure was that she had to make the most of it.

Cobb's hard work paid off. When she returned to the *Geographic* headquarters in Washington, D.C., several weeks later, Gilka reviewed her images and liked what he saw, especially her willingness to engage human subjects in her images. He offered her a new assignment — to photograph in the coal mines, on the rivers and in the misty hollows of West Virginia.

Cobb, BJ '68, MA '71, was off and running at the start of a career that has spanned five decades, including 30 years at *National Geographic*. She is among the most successful and widely published female photographers on the planet, the only woman ever to hold the coveted title of *National Geographic* staff field photographer in the magazine's 130-year history. In the process, she has visited 65 countries on nearly every continent to complete dozens of groundbreaking assignments for the magazine.

Her book on the hidden life of geishas in Japan was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Her work is featured in the traveling exhibition *Women of Vi-*

*sion: National Geographic Photographers on Assignment*, and one of her photographs from the West Virginia assignment was loaded aboard the spacecraft *Voyager*, currently traveling out into the universe on the ultimate open-ended journey.

At first, her assignments were all domestic and nearly all set in the South: the Suwanee River, Nashville, and Plains, Georgia, home of the then newly elected president, Jimmy Carter. They centered on a particular place, with no obvious storyline — an old *Geographic* staple that has all but disappeared as readers have grown more familiar with the world and come to demand more sharply focused stories. "They were quiet places," Cobb says, "but they did let me do evocative photographs."

**T**hen Communist China opened to the West in the late 1970s. Following a long stretch of successful, award-winning assignments, Cobb was one of just five photographers assigned to the country for a special book project. She would be the first American photographer to travel across China since the triumph of the Maoist revolution in 1949. In the course of two extraordinary months, she covered 7,000 miles by train on her way deep into the country's remote interior. There was no phone, no way to communicate with the outside world. "It was just me and my government minders," she says, thinking back on some of the trials and absurdities of this remarkable assignment. "I got on the train, and the minders said I couldn't photograph the train."

Little by little, Cobb won over her main guide with gifts and kindness. "I thoroughly corrupted her," she says with a laugh. "I painted her fingernails and gave her Western clothing. We bonded." That proved decisive when disagreements arose with other minders over what she could photograph. "They'd say: 'You can't do this. You can't photograph that. That doesn't exist.' She ended up taking my side."

Even when Cobb was allowed to take pictures, she found that her status as an outsider involved other challenges as well. "Most people had never seen a Westerner before," she remembers. "Babies burst out crying. I only had photos of screaming babies because they thought I was a ghost!"

The resulting book, to which she contributed a chapter, was a magnificent, leather-bound volume entitled *Journey into China*. Published in 1982 and reprinted in five subsequent editions, the book stands as an enduring and definitive record of the world's most populous nation on the brink of momentous change. It was a turning point in her career. "I proved to the editors I could really do it." She had also proved to herself that she could handle a big assignment in a foreign country, one that kept her out in the field on her own for weeks on end.



↑ Clockwise from top: In the early 1980s, before private cars were allowed in China, a police officer directs bicycle traffic in city of Chengdu while the likeness of Mao Zedong presides over the scene. • Village women in Yunnan Province play a ball game with diminutive feet, a traditional sign of beauty. For centuries, girls' feet were bound and deformed to produce the desired look. • Returning to China, Cobb found an openness to Western notions of beauty on the Bund in Shanghai. • Such attitudes are worlds apart from her first visit, when cyclists had the streets to themselves, and residents' laundry hung over passersby.



Stay tuned: Cobb is preparing a book-length retrospective of her photographs.





→ The daughter of a Texaco executive, Cobb grew up in the oilfields of southern Iran, where she attended a traditional wedding party with her mother.



COURTESY JODI COBB



↑ Middle: During Christmastime in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Cobb captured this ominous moment of children huddled in Halloween masks amid soldiers policing the streets in the birthplace of Jesus. • Bottom: In protest of an Israeli soldier's killing of two worshipers, a Palestinian woman prepares to hurl a stone at uniformed Israelis in the Holy City of Jerusalem. "Let's go!" Cobb's guide said. "The next rock will be for you."

**C**obb's curiosity and propensity for adventure date back to her early upbringing. The middle child of a Texaco oil executive, she grew up in Iran on a desert island bounded by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Cobb's parents gave her a Kodak Brownie, her first camera, when she was 9. "My dad loved photography," Cobb recalls. "He always had a camera with him. He took photos of us at the pyramids and at the tombs of the kings in Persepolis."

By the time she returned with her family to the U.S. at the start of high school, Cobb was already a global traveler. She'd crossed the Atlantic twice by ocean liner, flown across the Pacific in a luxury Pan-Am Clipper and visited 15 countries. "It was the golden age of travel," she says. "I loved the flying and the travel. It was so glamorous and exciting."

Some might assume the same of traveling the world for *National Geographic*. But it has been far from easy, in part because of photojournalism's traditionally macho culture. "As a woman, I was always having to prove myself," she says. At times, Cobb has managed to turn gender to her advantage, helping her gain the trust of subjects and get access to hidden realities for stories as diverse as the nature of love, the enigma of human beauty and 21st-century slavery.

Not long after her China assignment, Cobb signed on to cover the most disputed place in the world — the holy city of Jerusalem. The city captivated her. "I just dug in," she says. She was spellbound by an almost kaleidoscopic confluence of so many different things: the history, the passion of the people, the quality of the golden evening light on the white stone of the buildings. "It was beautiful, evocative, disputed and violent and spiritual."

Mayhem erupted one day when she was photographing at the Dome of the Rock. After an Israeli

**"I went in with my Western feminist biases and stereotypes," she says, "and I learned how those women viewed their own lives."**

soldier killed worshipers, Palestinians protested by hurling stones at uniformed Israelis. "I was in the middle of it — being shot at, teargassed," Cobb says. "I understood what conflict photographers and correspondents feel — the adrenaline rush and a sense that the rest of the world looks sort of dull after that vivid experience." But war photography was not her calling. "I didn't get addicted."

As her career progressed, Cobb found she was acquiring more than just a greater confidence in her ability to reveal meaning through her photographs. She was evolving a deeper understanding of how the world works. She was also gaining an awareness of how the process of making photographs was changing her. She found herself moving away from sweeping stories about place and geography and zeroing in on intimate subjects that required a suspension of judgment and large doses of empathy.

Photographing the cloistered lives of women in Saudi Arabia or the secret realms of geishas in Japan, she was challenged to rethink preconceived notions. "I went in with my Western feminist biases and stereotypes," she says, "and I learned how those women viewed their own lives." Where Cobb had first seen the oppression of women, she came to understand that they didn't see it that way themselves. Saudi women, for example, showed her that the veil also served to protect them from the covetous stares of strangers and the blinding swirl of desert dust storms.

After her striking image of a fully painted geisha was chosen for the cover of the 1985 book *A Day in the Life of Japan*, Kodak awarded her a grant to return to Japan to take a deep dive into the world of the geishas. She took a leave from the magazine and spent all her vacation time over the next three years documenting the vanishing cul-

→ Top: The sealed lips of a geisha woman in Japan represented for Cobb a potent symbol of a secret world hidden from outsiders. It also led to a three-year project that pulled back the curtain on the geishas, culminating in a book nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. • Bottom: Backstage before a performance, two geishas browse an astrology magazine.





ture of the fabled female consorts. Her book, *Geisha: The Life, the Voices, the Art*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and continues to earn high praise from Cobb's former editors.

"They're more than portraits, more than a look inside a hidden world," says Bill Allen, *National Geographic's* editor-in-chief from 1995 to 2005, of Cobb's geisha images. "They are something that reveal the essence of a culture in 1/125th of a second." What impresses Allen most about Cobb's work is her insight into what makes a strong photograph. "She'll wait for the right moment," Allen says. "She is able to anticipate a glance that will raise the level of a photograph from good to extraordinary."

Other editors who have worked with Cobb have remarked on her versatility. "What I love about Jodi is that she's very strong in the extremes," says former *Geographic* photo editor Elizabeth Krist. "She is very comfortable in lavish, high-society situations, but she's also drawn to the most desperate situations. She's compassionate of people who have to worry about whether they will have enough to eat or where they will sleep for the night."

Cobb says her experiences as an outsider in countries and cultures throughout the world have challenged her to dig beneath the surface — and to overcome fear of the unknown. "The more you understand something, the less scary it is."

**"She'll wait for the right moment," Allen says. "She is able to anticipate a glance that will raise the level of a photograph from good to extraordinary."**

† In the eye of the beholder: For her story on the nature of human beauty, Cobb traveled to Garoka in the highlands of Papua New Guinea to photograph the annual Sing-sing festival, where tribes gather to promote traditional culture, dances and music. In the early morning before the festivities got underway, Cobb found Asaro Mudmen and boys covered in ash-laced clay to simulate spirits and scare their enemies.



† Clockwise from top: For her groundbreaking story on human trafficking and 21st-century slavery, Cobb photographed women toiling under huge stacks of bricks at a kiln near Bihar, India. Entire families can be trapped in debt bondage for generations. Two-thirds of the world's 15 to 20 million captive laborers are debt slaves in South Asia. • Women trafficked from Nepal and the countryside are forced into the sex trade along Falkland Road in Mumbai's red-light district. • In Bosnia, notorious brothel-owner and human trafficker Milorad Milakovic allowed Cobb to photograph him at his compound. Cobb trembled as she snapped her images of a man she saw as the "embodiment of evil." • A baby lay in a crumpled cardboard cradle in Guatemala, where dire poverty was feeding an underground trade in kidnapped children. Social workers told Cobb this child was at high risk for being sold or abducted.

**B**ut sometimes hair-raising moments just come with the territory. Like when Cobb photographed her trailblazing 2003 *National Geographic* story, "21st-century Slavery." The reportage spanned 10 countries and brought into focus the millions of people worldwide who every day are bought and sold, held captive, brutalized, and exploited for profit.

The assignment eventually led Cobb to the town of Prijedor in post-war Bosnia and the heavily guarded door of a notorious gangster and sex trafficker named Milorad Milakovic. The one-time railroad official operated a number of brothels, staffed by prostitutes trafficked from the countries of the former Soviet Union whom he held as debt-slaves. Women who tried to escape were hunted down, beaten, burned with cigarette butts.

Cobb was surprised to find Milakovic at home and even more surprised when he consented to be photographed. Pit bulls prowled the compound under the watchful gaze of two caged tigers. She had the unnerving sense that she was beholding pure evil. "I hid behind the camera," she recalls.

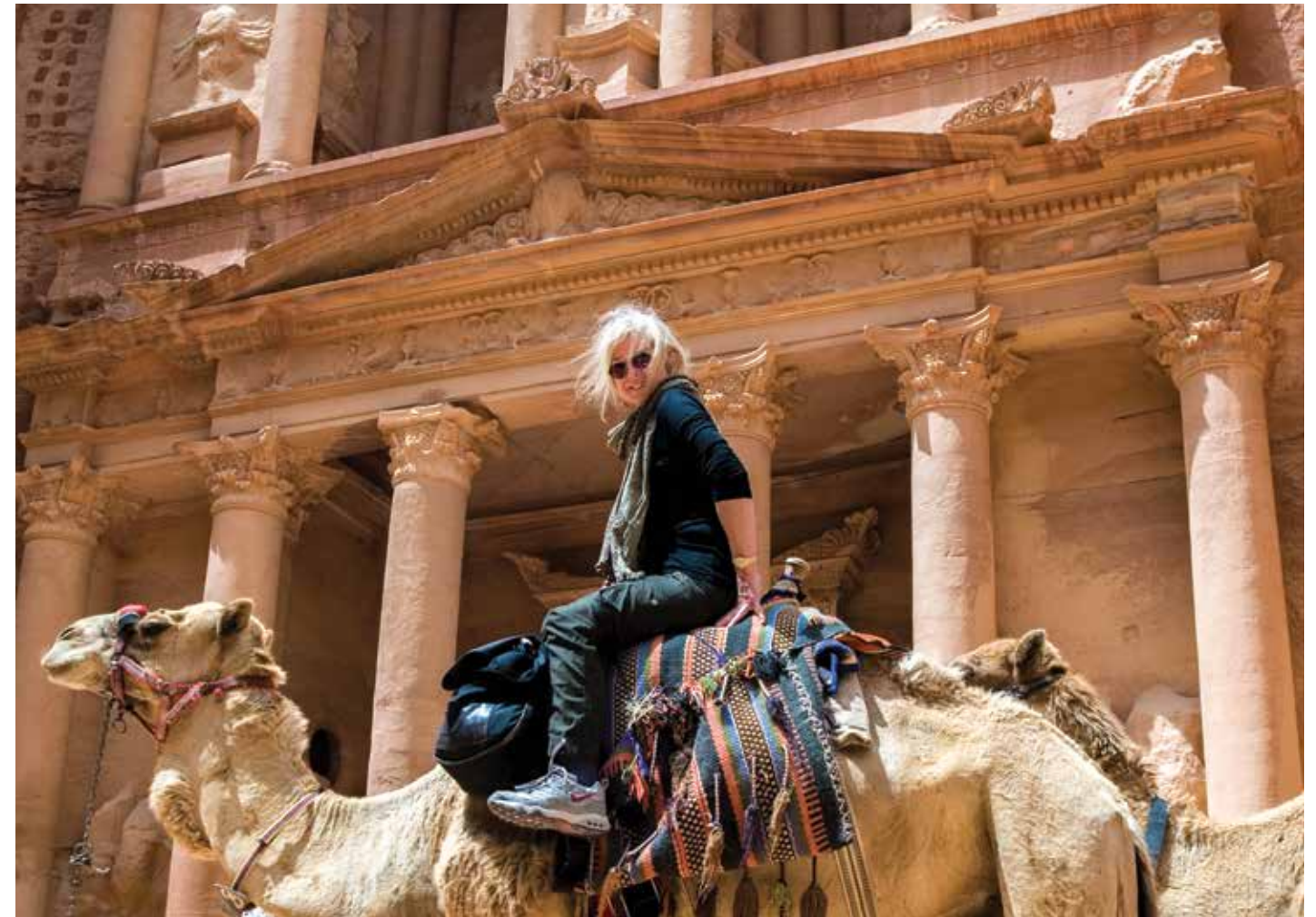
Milakovic invited her to stay for lunch. "I choked down the food as quickly as possible. I was anxious to get out of there." After that, she and her guide had the uneasy feeling they were being followed. "It wasn't a danger you could see or run away from. It was this undercurrent."

Cobb is now piecing together a retrospective of her work, going through her archives of 40 years, taking notes. The task has given her time to think — not only about her past but about what the world will look like for the next generation of photojournalists.

What advice does Cobb have for young photographers starting out today? "Find out what moves you, what motivates you to become a photographer," she counsels. "Research that and find other photographers doing similar things. Take workshops, study with them." **M**

*About the author: Scott Wallace, MA '83, is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Connecticut and a frequent contributor to National Geographic. He is the best-selling author of The Unconquered: In Search of the Amazon's Last Uncontacted Tribes.*

† Cobb enjoys a camel ride in the ancient city of Petra, Jordan.



COURTESY JODI COBB

MIZZOU ❁ WINTER 2019

# Students

A new, comprehensive approach to ensuring that students succeed is “ship-shape” — mentorship, leadership, entrepreneurship, scholarships and much more. Story by Erik Potter

# on the Move

**W**hen Chancellor Alexander Cartwright was a college student, his biggest obstacles were not in the classroom. Instead, they had to do with paying for school, navigating higher education’s complex financial and administrative structures, and feeling that he did not fit in as a nontraditional student.

About a decade later as a professor and mentor, some of his students were experiencing similar issues. During his office hours, they told him about challenges, such as managing work and school schedules and living with family members who did not understand the demands of college. Some students faced food and housing insecurity. These difficulties had a big effect on their academic experience.

During Cartwright’s administrative career, he kept returning to such issues, wanting to understand how institutions could help those students succeed in the academy and in life.

As the provost and executive vice chancellor of the State University of New York, he led a program that improved graduation rates of academically and economically disadvantaged students. The initiative holistically addressed difficulties inside and outside of the classroom to help students with creative solutions and support.

Now, in his second year as chancellor at Mizzou, he has launched a comprehensive student success initiative using academic and extracurricular strategies to increase the number of students who enroll at Mizzou, the quality of their education, and the percentage who not only earn a degree but also land a job or pursue more education after they graduate. He has also made funding the student success initiative a priority in the

\$1.3 billion Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign.

The initiative is one piece of a five-part, five-year strategic plan centered around five compacts with Missourians — excellence in student success; research and creative works; engagement and outreach; inclusiveness; and planning, operations and stewardship.

But the plan goes far beyond numbers, explains Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies. In the home of the Missouri Method, Mizzou is pledging that every student, whether rich or poor, a fourth-generation Tiger or a first-generation college student, will have at least one high-impact educational experience, such as an internship, externship, study abroad trip, undergraduate research project or opportunity to present research at a conference. Those opportunities have always existed for Mizzou students, but under the new initiative, in collaboration with faculty, they will be integrated intentionally into the curriculum, Spain says. They will become an expectation, not a lucky break.

The initiative addresses the needs of graduate students, including increasing the number of “four plus one” programs that allow students to earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in five years, says Jeni Hart, associate vice chancellor for graduate studies. It also includes individual development plans, which help graduate students define their academic and career goals and track them throughout their programs so they are best prepared for careers inside or outside of academia.

“We’re going to have to become more efficient to fund these things and ensure we’re delivering on our promise,” Cartwright says. But the result will be a university that has a more profound effect on the lives of its students. For him, that makes it all worth it. “Everything we do should be about our students.” ➔





## Lessons of the Emerald Isle

By the end of her six-week stint in Galway, Ireland, organized through Mizzou's Office of Service Learning, Maggie Fellabaum had learned how little you know until you know someone. A confident, outgoing senior studying health sciences, she discovered while working in an adult day center for people with disabilities that you can't treat everyone the same.

"Some people could pick up on sarcasm and some couldn't," says Fellabaum, whose nature is to smile and tease. "Sometimes I had to go back and apologize and communicate my point in a different way." She learned that motivations vary, too. She could coax some people to undertake an activity, such as brushing teeth, if she did it with them. But that made others uncomfortable.

The observations she made and the lessons she drew were orchestrated through the service-learning curriculum, which integrates community service and student instruction. Before going to Ireland, the students attended a month of biweekly classes on their roles as temporary volunteers and on the people they would serve. During the trip, Fellabaum met with her 14 fellow volunteers and talked through ways of handling the situations they were facing. Faculty members on the trip also offered advice.

Before Ireland, Fellabaum had worked only with children, and she was nervous about connecting with adults. "But I came out really loving it," she says. "I'm trying to get involved now with Special Olympics."

Mizzou students have many opportunities to learn and serve outside the classroom, including faculty-led study abroad trips and student-led service organizations such as Mizzou Alternative Breaks.



## HOME WORK

Koby Gooden sits down in the third-floor lounge for his MIZZOU interview. A student walks past in the hallway behind him.

"Shoot," Gooden says, looking over his shoulder. "I missed him."

Gooden hates to pass up an opportunity to say hello to any of his "kids" in the third floor of Hawthorn Hall. A sophomore in psychology from Macomb, Illinois, Gooden is a residential adviser (RA) for the floor.

Gooden wants to become a social worker, and he approaches his RA job with the earnestness of an apprenticeship.

"I've learned so much about myself," he says. "I thought I was confrontational before, but we had kids throwing a party, and I wasn't as confrontational as I wanted to be, so another RA helped me."

Mizzou offers a variety of student employment and internship opportunities that help students grow outside the classroom. Many can be found at HireMizzouTigers.com.



## Research GEM

Dominic Romero was a young undergraduate student at Mizzou. Bioengineering Professor Sheila Grant was a star faculty member. Romero had never met her, but he wanted to work in her lab. He worked up the nerve and reached out to her. At first, he sat in on her lab meetings. Then he volunteered with graduate students on their projects, then he became a lab fixture, working there until he graduated last May with a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. Although Romero hadn't planned on graduate school, he had discovered a love for research and didn't want to give it up. At Mizzou, he was a member of the IMSD-Express program, which helps involve students from underrepresented backgrounds in research. Through the program, he discovered (and later won) the national GEM Fellowship, which pays for graduate school. He now studies nanotechnology at the University of Arkansas. "Working with Dr. Grant helped me see the value and importance professors have in mentorship and guiding undergraduate students," he says.



## Maximizing the Missouri Method

Karina Zaiets sits alongside her editor, Katherine Reed, in the *Columbia Missourian* newsroom.

Together, they go over every word and every punctuation mark in Zaiets' stories. "She sits with me for half an hour," says Zaiets, an international graduate student from Kyiv, Ukraine. "She really cares, and she tries to make the story the best it can be."

Zaiets earned a bachelor's degree in television reporting from Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts. She came to Mizzou in fall 2018 on a Fulbright scholarship and expects to graduate in May 2020 with a master's degree in journalism.

The science journalism student has wasted no time taking advantage of the Missouri Method, joining the *Columbia Missourian* staff as a public safety and health reporter. Zaiets sees her writing skills improving, despite working at the paper for just a few months. She also feels "more free" talking to people by phone and in person, a task that used to scare her.

As part of its student success initiative, Mizzou is committed to every student participating in at least one Missouri Method-style experiential learning opportunity, such as an internship, undergraduate research project or study abroad program.

Zaiets' career goal is to create an international media company dedicated to science reporting. "This is a challenge — to read through complicated research, digest it and then put it simply so a common person would be engaged and think it's interesting," she says. "I like challenges like that."

— Sarah Sabatke

FELLABAUM: COURTESY MAGGIE FELLABAUM; GOODEN: NICHOLAS BENNER

ROMERO: ©2018 UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS; UNIVERSITY RELATIONS; ZAIETS: ROB HILL

**Now Appearing**  
in  
**Las Vegas**



**Anthony Blatter paced** outside the hotel conference room, waiting for his final-round performance in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) lower-classmen collegiate competition. When it was his turn, Blatter walked to the front of the room and announced his song — “If I Were a Rich Man” from the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Then he lowered his head, closed his eyes and gathered his thoughts. He looked up and began to sing.

Two years before, Blatter didn’t imagine being in college or singing competitions. He was a St. Louis high school junior with poor grades. “But in music, I would get A’s all the time,” he says. A music teacher saw Blatter’s talent and desire and pushed him to develop it. His success fueled the rest of his studies, taking him to Mizzou in fall 2017.

He joined the Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity. Music had been a lifeline for Blatter; he wanted to toss that line to anyone who needed it. In his second semester, he became diversity chair. He focused on building an open, trusting community. Eight to 12 of the brothers talked weekly about race, class and other prejudices in society. “It started opening people’s eyes to what [increasing diversity] should be all about,” Blatter says — namely that it works from the inside out. To attract a diverse group of new members requires current members “to know our stuff and be accepting.”

By the end of his second semester, a week before the Las Vegas competition, Blatter still didn’t think he’d be performing there. He didn’t have the money to go. A friend suggested he start a fundraising campaign online. Blatter raised \$1,200 in four days, bought the plane ticket and made the flight.

After he finished the song and heard his name announced as the winner, he remained stoic. But when he returned to his hotel room, the tears poured out. “I did this,” he thought. “Life is so cool.”

**Affordability!**

Starting in summer 2019, new rates for dining plans and residence halls cut prices for about 83 percent of students, who’ll live and dine on campus for as little as \$850 a month — nearly \$150 a month less than this year’s lowest rates.

Affordability measures have priced 70 percent of textbooks at less than \$55, and low-cost digital materials included in course fees have saved students \$3.3 million.

UM System need-based and merit-based scholarships will increase \$75 million and \$25 million, respectively, over five years.

The Missouri Land Grant Compact covers otherwise unmet tuition costs for Pell-eligible Missouri students.

An expanded Black and Gold Scholarship gives out-of-state legacy students with ACT scores of 25 or 26 a \$7,500 award. Those scoring 27 and up continue at in-state rates.

**THE POWER OF HEALING**

In a family assistance center full of recovery resources, a teenage girl lingers outside the entrance to the play area. Her father had just been at the concert where the Las Vegas mass shooting happened. Lindsey Murphy, M Ed ’12, sees her from inside. “I could tell she wasn’t sure if it was the place for her,” she says.

Murphy is the co-founder of Child Life Disaster Relief, a nonprofit that helps send certified child life specialists to traumatic events to assist children. She is also a doctoral candidate in human development and family science at Mizzou.

As a certified child life specialist, Murphy decided after the Joplin, Missouri, tornado to start a nonprofit that met children’s therapeutic needs in the midst of disasters. First, however, she enrolled in a doctoral program. She had no plans of becoming a faculty member; rather, she wanted to learn how to win grant money and how to apply science-based methods to her interventions. Working with her mentor, Associate Professor Sarah Killoren, Murphy has learned how to conduct and consume research, write grant proposals and describe the value of her organization.

Since Child Life Disaster Relief started in 2016, the network has responded to dozens of disasters, including the Las Vegas shooting, where Murphy eventually coaxed the young girl to come inside the play area. Another young girl joined them. They simply played cards. When her mother arrived to pick her up, the girl hugged Murphy with tears in her eyes. “Thank you,” she said, “for letting me see that others are going through the same thing I am.”



↑ Clockwise from top right, Lindsey Murphy served as associate director of the Family Assistance Center after the Las Vegas Route 91 Harvest Music Festival mass shooting. She worked with Director Katie Nees and child life specialists Balilea Scanlon and Samira Moosavi.

BLATTER: ROB HILL; DISASTER RELIEF: COURTESY LINDSEY MURPHY  
LAMBERT: SHANE EPPING; DOHENY: CLINT HESS; BAG: DALE SMITH



**TEACHING FOR LEARNING**

**A professor wraps up** an energetic class period. The students were engaged, inquisitive and clearly mastering the material. Tori Mondelli wants MU’s new Teaching for Learning Center to be the place professors go to share that success story. “Remarkable teaching for learning goes on at Mizzou every day,” says Mondelli, the founding director of the center. “I want to raise the visibility of these experiences to strengthen this culture of excellence.”

Mondelli is only a few months on the job, and the center is still a year or two away from having a physical location on campus. Its future is still on the drafting board. But Mondelli has a vision, one where the center is an easy-to-use link to resources already available for instructors on campus; where it convenes instructors to share, learn and grow from one another’s experiences; and where it develops innovative programs that support unmet instructional needs.

The bulk of the center’s work will be promot-

ing the latest evidence-based teaching and learning practices — proven strategies that just need to be adapted to the Mizzou environment. Some of those, such as high-impact practices requiring meaningful faculty interaction and learning outside the classroom (for example, service learning courses and credit-based internships), are applicable across all disciplines. Others are program-specific.

The center will also push the boundaries, exploring an R&D Lab to innovate and test new approaches to teaching and learning. The big-picture goal is that, by engaging faculty and graduate instructors in critical reflection on the learning experience inside and outside of the classroom, the center can help boost student learning, which contributes to rising retention and graduation rates.

↑ Law Professor Thom Lambert won a 2017 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.



**Help Finding That First Job**

Already, 90.4 percent of recent Mizzou graduates have a successful career outcome, either finding employment, continuing their education, joining the military or joining a public service organization such as the Peace Corps. That rate is higher than the Association of American Universities public-institution average (75.6) and the Southeastern Conference average (75.5). But Mizzou’s not done. As part of its five-year strategic plan, the university is pushing to achieve a 95 percent rate of successful career outcomes.

The MU Career Center already offers alumni access to web-based job boards and other career search tools. They are now developing partnerships with recruitment firms that specialize in recent graduates. Amanda Nell, senior student services coordinator for the Career Center, says Mizzou plans to roll out a new partnership next year with a firm known for its quality assessment of graduates’ skills and interests. “We are making partnerships with people who can help our students find their way into the labor market in a way that they will be happy and successful in their roles,” she says.

**Baubles, Mentors and Beads**

**The biggest lesson** Bea Doheny’s alumna mentor taught her was actually a feeling. Kelsey Meyer Raymond, BS BA ’11, president and co-founder of Influence & Co., a Columbia-based content marketing firm, had started in college helping local businesses improve their marketing efforts. That work grew into a business that now employs more than 60 people. Doheny met Raymond through the Entrepreneurship Alliance program in the Trulaske College of Business. Doheny had been making astronomy-themed jewelry since high school, and through the program, she received seed money to build up an inventory and launch her hobby as a business. But that takes confidence, and she had doubts. *Who am I to do this now? I’m just a student.* Connecting with Raymond, discovering that they had attended the same St. Louis high school, that they graduated only a few years apart and that Raymond had started assembling the building blocks of her business while “just a student” like her, gave Doheny the confidence she needed. Doheny, BS BA ’18, now runs Astronobeads full time in San Diego.





## HOUSE ON THE HILL

Novelist Stephanie Powell Watts lives and limns personal versions of the American Dream and meets Sarah Jessica Parker along the way # Story by Dale Smith



The story opens on a house — a grand one compared to others nearby — and its owner who left town poor almost a generation ago. He has returned now, wealthy by some mysterious means, in pursuit of a reckless dream: to recapture the heart of a woman, now married, whom he loved all those years ago.

If the plot's beginnings sound reminiscent of *The Great Gatsby*, you were paying attention in English class. But this particular house sits in *No One Is Coming to Save Us* (Ecco, 2017), the first novel of Stephanie Powell Watts, MA '98, PhD '03. F. Scott Fitzgerald himself would have been thrilled with the stellar reviews Watts has enjoyed by *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and others.

The new book isn't a *Gatsby* clone, but rather it's "in conversation" with the Jazz Age masterpiece, Watts says. The novel is set in a small town in North Carolina, a primarily black community similar to where she grew up as the first of five children in a modest household. She explores what the American Dream looks like to characters in her parents' generation and her own. One of the elders, for instance, grew up during the Jim Crow era and feels successful in owning a home in a black neighborhood and in having a job where she is respected.

Watts spent her youth "in the same Southern landscape but with different experiences." The responsibilities were similar to the earlier generation, but she saw new possibilities for her path. "Writing had always been part of my life, but it wasn't until I was senior in college that I thought I would try it out as profession," she says. "I wanted to become a professor, which would allow me the opportunity to write. I wanted to take care of myself and contribute to my family." Her father worked for decades

at one of the town's dwindling furniture-manufacturing jobs as local factories closed one after the other and flattened the economy. Whatever Watts chose to do, it had to work. "I didn't have the luxury of coming home to live with my parents."

The aspiring writer visited MU with support from the McNair Scholars program, which helps first-generation college students and those from underrepresented groups prepare for graduate school. "Of the schools I visited, Mizzou felt most encouraging and supportive, so that's where I ended up." Yet she arrived in MU's English department feeling that she lacked something.

In a mismatch of dreams and identity, she believed she was not truly a *writer* but merely "someone who writes things." Fortunately, the program had a strong community of writers. "And a number of professors helped me a lot," she says. Among them, Anand Prahlad, Curators' Professor of English, was a model. "He was a professor, wrote poetry and essays, and had a family. He was an African-American from similar circumstances doing what I wanted to do and doing it well." Prahlad's example proved it was possible to declare oneself a writer, first and foremost. "People need mirrors in the world," she says.

The success of *No One Is Coming to Save Us* has conferred on Watts a certain celebrity. "It's been insane," she says. In addition to taking the novel on a promotional tour, she met National Book Award-winner Charles Frazier, author of *Cold Mountain*. She also spent time with actor and book bellwether Sarah Jessica Parker, who made *No One* the inaugural pick for the American Library Association's Book Club Central. Watts was nervous meeting the fashion-forward star. "But she was wonderful. Very down-to-earth. A for-real reader. We talked books, and she reads everything!" Such luminary moments feel "surreal and strange," she says. But good.

These days, Watts at last counts herself as a bonified member of the writing profession — one who happens to teach English at Lehigh University and who lives with her husband, award-winning poet Bob Watts, PhD '03, and their son, Auden, in a house on a hill with a white picket fence in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

# NO ONE IS COMING TO SAVE US

BY STEPHANIE POWELL WATTS

How might *The Great Gatsby* read if set not in the upper-crust, flapper-era East but rather in the down-and-out, post-segregation South? The debut novel by Stephanie Powell Watts offers a glimpse into the hopes, dreams and loves of such characters. Read Chapter 1 below.

The house he's building is done mostly. All that's missing now is the prettying, stain on the sprawling deck, final finishing inside. At least that's what they say. This house has been the talk around our small town. Not much happens here but the same, same: a thirteen-year-old girl waiting for the baby her mother's sorry boyfriend gave her; the husband we wanted to believe was one of the good ones found out to be the worst kind of cheater with a whole other family two towns over. The same stupid surprises, the usual sadnesses. But this thing is strange. The boy we all saw grow up came back to us slim and hungry-gaunt like a coal miner. With money. JJ Ferguson made it. The poor child who lived with his grandmother, dead for years now, the ordinary boy we all fed when he wouldn't leave at dinnertime, looking like he was waiting for somebody to ask him to play. We had no idea.

JJ was the newest resident on Brushy Mountain road. The car they say is his was parked on the long driveway most mornings until evening while JJ worked alongside the Mexican men he hired. Every town has a section where the people are rich and their lives so far from yours you almost expect them to speak another tongue. Brushy Mountain Road is that place for us. You can't help but get quiet driving on that road, like even your noisy breathing might disturb the beauty or rupture the holy calm that order and clean create. When we were young we used to love to see the houses, all lit up with their curtains and blinds open, glowing yellow like sails of ships in the black faraway on the ocean. If we went slow enough we could see the brilliant colors of their decorated rooms, their floor-to-ceiling bookcases and fine furniture, the floral designs with wallpaper you couldn't get at the regular hardware store festooning the entryways. We might even get a glimpse of one of them sipping from a mug or snuggled into a chair staring out into the darkness. Though we knew they lived among us, bought white bread and radial tires like the rest of us, we loved the proof of them. *I see him. I see him with my own eyes.* We breathed in the houses, dreamed about the ones that would have been hours of our lives had run in different directions, if we'd had different faces, if we'd made all the right choices.

SHUTTERSTOCK



When they were young Sylvia and her husband, Don, would drive the road that curled like a potato peel all the way up to the almost top to experience some of what those people had. Don pretended he didn't want to do it, *who gives a shit how them people live*, he'd say, but he was as interested as Sylvia. He was careful not to be staring if a body stood in the yard or looked out at him from the window. You can't let people know what you dream—especially if you can't get it. You knowing that they know opens a wound in you, an embarrassing naked space that you can't let just anybody witness. If the rich see a woman looking, fine. A woman can want. But nobody alive could claim to have seen longing on Don's face. You got to be immune, Mr. Antibiotic or else you hurt all the time.

Why they looked at those places, neither of them could exactly say, since when they came down from the mountain to their own dark little house that they'd fought hard to have and harder to keep, their space felt smaller, meeker, and as tear-filled as a broken promise. Habit is one explanation. Sundays, when they were apt to get lazy and the last thing you need is boredom, a slowed mind, the leisure to think about the man you love-hate, the face that won't stop looking tired no matter how much you sleep, that thing you do, whatever it is—the driving, the crying, the sinning—calls to you, begs to you to keep getting it done, keep at it, don't think, keep at it.

But habit is only part of it. The sting of not having or not having enough bores a pain black hole that sucks all the other of life's injuries into one sharp stinging gap that you don't need a scientist

even if they could afford to buy there. At least we didn't have to believe that we'd done everything wrong and were not the ones that God had chosen.

So much has changed since we were just starting out. The furniture plants that built the town are all but empty. The jobs on the line turning yellow pinewood into the tables and beds for the world are mostly gone. Without the factories there is little work to do. What a difference a few years can make. The jobs that everybody knew as the last resort or the safety net are the jobs nobody can get anymore. Used to be at 3:30 p.m. the roads from Bernhardt, Hammary, Broyhill, and Bassett were hot with cars, bumper to bumper, the convenience stores full of mostly men, but women too with cold ones (Coke or stronger) in one hand, Nabs or Little Debbie cakes in the other for the ride home. These days, go anywhere you please at 3:30 with no trouble. Here's a math problem for you. How many casinos does it take to make a town? Are you calculating? Got it? No, sorry that's a trick question. No number of casinos make a town. But if you want a stopover, a place to throw your balled-up trash out the window as you float by in your car, you just need one good casino. Don't get me wrong, we love a casino and wish for one like the last vial of antidote. We believe despite all experience to the contrary in easy money and our own fortunes changing in an instant like the magician's card from the sleeve. If one quarter came miraculously from behind the ear, we would milk that ear for days for the rent money. We believe. We hope for the town to morph into an all-resort slick tourist trap, looking like no real person had ever lived here. We are full of the fevered hope of the newly come

When that house was done, Sylvia knew JJ would be knocking at her door. Years ago that boy had spent too much time in her kitchen, on her back porch and staring at her beautiful child Ava. That JJ had loved Ava was obvious.

to remind you may be bottomless. Returning to their house means returning from those mountain drives to their sagging furniture that was old when they got it twenty years before and to a yard that looked even smaller than they remembered. That beautiful house is just a street away, but as out of reach as the moon. But that house-pain is just one lack, and everybody knows one pain is far better than a hundred. That is the mercy. That is the relief—the ache of one singular pain. It was hard not to believe that we, the black people in town in dog trots and shotgun houses at the bottom of the mountain, houses stuck in the sides of hills scattered like chicken feed, weren't the ugly children. What a relief that in our hearts we knew that no coloreds, no Negroes, no blacks, were welcome,

to Jesus. We can reinvent. We can survive. At least some of us think so. What choice do we have?

Still the rich have moved from the center of town and the near hills to other places in the county. Their homes are estates where their windows look onto the rolling acres of kings. The houses, the once mansions in town that they and their kind left behind, belong to the flippers to turn into cramped and oddly configured apartments or raze altogether. The message was clear as day, the richest person doesn't live in our midst anymore and what the rich had now, we couldn't ever see it for ourselves. Even so, even though we know all that, Brushy Mountain Road loomed in our thinking, in our childhood imaginings. You think you forget those dreams? You get old, but



the dreams remain, spry and vigorous. Swat them and they come back like gnats, like plague. You can't kill them. They can't die.

The first thing JJ did on that mountain was cut out a whole new road up to his house. Heavy machines of industry, Kubotas and Deeres, used to make the path dotted the hills for weeks, like kids' toys abandoned in the weeds. Men in town speculated about the tons of gravel and the weight of red clay they had to shift from one place to another to level the hills. The women didn't care about the road. They knew from their own yards how difficult it was to make a way to get from there to here. They'd dug their own paths, moved their own dirt and rocks in the stubborn Carolina soil. What excited the women was the river rock foundation, the big beautiful windows, the walls rising up like raptured dead.

Most days, JJ would be up there himself, walking around the site, talking to the Mexican men or working hard himself judging by the reports of his sweat-soaked clothes, his close-cropped hair grayed with sawdust. Living in a small town means knowing the news, the broad strokes as well as the lurid minutiae of your neighbor's life. Your dirty kitchen, cancer treatments, drugged-out child all on the sandwich board of your back, swirled around the body with a stink you could not outrun. JJ was from another small town and did not have nearby family. Few people knew JJ to give out too many details. We are not surprised. We knew too little about him when he lived in Pinewood as a young man. But soon he would show his face. When that house was done, Sylvia knew JJ would be knocking at her door. Years ago that boy had spent too much time in her kitchen, on her back porch and staring at her beautiful child Ava. That JJ had loved Ava was obvious.

That Sylvia loved JJ too, like a son, like Devon, her own son, was just as clear. Her son was Devon pronounced like Levon from the Elton John song, though Sylvia was embarrassed to admit that fact to anybody. Devon was her firstborn baby, the baby she wasn't supposed to have. She never had any romance about being a mother and knew that having a baby was easy if your body was willing. Girls, hardly older than the ones Sylvia passed at the school bus stop at the end of the road every morning, became mothers. But Sylvia's body had been unwilling until Devon came. She was almost thirty, old in those days and sure that her baby days were long past. It wasn't that Sylvia loved Devon any more than her daughter, Ava, but Devon was the child that changed her status, the child that made her look at the ordinary world as a big and dangerous paradise. JJ was so like her Devon: both calm boys, funny children with soft voices, with the same warm puddled eyes like they'd been caught crying and they were trying to recover.

Almost a generation had passed, a long time any way you look at it, but Sylvia knew that the feelings were just there under the pancake make-up of the surface. JJ felt them too, how could he not? He had left them, but he was back. That counted. Of course it counted.

They used to say if you love something set it free. Don't you believe it! Love means never letting anything go, never seeing it stride on long confident legs away from you. You think love leaves? You think you are ever free? Then you are a child or a fool. Flee in the dark, spend a lifetime away, never say its name, never say its name, but one day, or if you are very unlucky, every day, it will whisper yours. And, you know you want to hear your name. Say it, love. Please say it. **M**

**Books by Stephanie Powell Watts**  
*We Are Taking Only What We Need* (BkMk Press, 2011)

*No One Is Coming to Save Us* (Ecco, 2017)

**Awards**  
Pushcart Prize, 2008

Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, 2012

Whiting Award, 2013

SHUTTERSTOCK

# MARKING 50 YEARS



The Legion of Black Collegians has helped the university improve by advocating for its goals. The group has served not only as a voice for black students at MU but also as a place to receive mentoring, learn leadership skills and commune with fellow students dealing with similar issues. Ten leaders from across the decades explain what the organization has meant to them.

BY KELSEY ALLEN

Despite the intervening five decades, some seminal details of founding the Legion of Black Collegians, or LBC, remain clear in the mind of Michael Middleton, BA '68, JD '71, deputy chancellor emeritus, professor emeritus of law and former interim president of the University of Missouri System.

The name itself materialized quicker than a hashtag during a conversation among Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity brothers. "Some of us Alphas were sitting in the student union in the corner that they had set aside for us and bemoaning the fact that we didn't have an organization that spoke for all black students," Middleton says. "Howard Taylor said, 'We need a legion of black collegians.' We said, 'That sounds pretty good. Let's form one.' That became the name."

Around that time, Middleton recalls, a galvanizing moment took place in the stands at a home football game. Middleton and his fraternity brothers were seated behind another body of students, and both groups had brought flags to wave. For years, he says, the other group waved a Confederate flag while Marching Mizzou played *Dirie* at halftime. "We got tired of it," Middleton says. In response, a black student brought a black flag, but they never got to wave it. "A policeman came scooting down our row with his hand on his side, appearing to be on his weapon, demanding that we give up our flag," Middleton recalls.

The students had no idea their countermove would prompt that reaction, but they weren't shocked, either. The first black student enrolled at Mizzou in 1950, and nearly two decades later, fewer than 500 black students attended MU. Neither were there black professors nor a black studies department. Until LBC launched in 1968 and became a formal student government in 1969, no organization focused on the black student population and the larger issues it faced at Mizzou.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Legion of Black Collegians, and its mission — "to develop a lasting appreciation of social, moral, intellectual and, most of all, cultural values that will uplift the black student in the pursuit of academia and heighten the cultural consciousness of all students in all aspects of student life" — is as important as ever.

"There were struggles in 1978, and there are struggles in 2018," says Lt. Col. Al G. Keeler, BA '82, who was active in LBC during his time at Mizzou, as was his son Al Keeler Jr., BS BA '07. "I've been proud of the African-American students at Mizzou for sticking up for fairness and for doing what's right. There's a heritage of that at Mizzou."

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Brenda Wilson Etheridge, BS Ed '75, M Ed '77, grew up in Wardell, Missouri. Her sister attended MU, and when Ether-

idge came to Columbia 10 years later, she quickly connected with the Legion of Black Collegians. As activities chair, she made sure that social and educational events were open to everybody, whether they were members of Greek Life, African students, African-American students or white. "We tried to build a community where we could learn from one another's giftedness and abilities," she says. "It helped us to raise our heads from the books and be conscious of the greater world."

## FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY

An Army brat born in Germany and raised in Waynesville, Missouri, at Fort Leonard Wood, the elder Keeler arrived at Mizzou in the late 1970s on an Air Force ROTC scholarship. "LBC was active in those days," Keeler recalls. "I saw them trying to fight for fairness and doing a lot of positive things around campus. LBC was trying to do things to make campus more hospitable to black students as well as give us a better chance to graduate."

In addition to calling for MU to increase the number of black faculty members, recruit black students and set aside scholarships for black students, LBC also brought concerts, speakers and films to campus. Etheridge remembers that poet Nikki Giovanni and political activist Angela Davis came and spoke about how racism affected black students. When Keeler was a student, LBC brought American civil rights leader and executive director of the NAACP Benjamin Hooks to Mizzou. "That was a big deal to see a black man come to campus and to talk about all the things that were going on in the world at that time," Keeler recalls.

## INSPIRING CHANGE

Many LBC alumni recall Sundiata Cha-Jua, who directed the Black Studies Program starting in 1991. "He was a big inspiration to me and was helpful in terms of encouraging me to voice my views, stand up for what I believe in and try to make a difference," says Timothy Smith, BS BA '93, who served as president of LBC during his time at Mizzou. "There were other African-American administrators on campus: Dr. Keener Tippen [assistant director of admissions], Dr. Clarence Wine [coordinator of student diversity programs in the business school]. They understood."

"I don't think that most people in the majority culture can really understand or appreciate this — not because of any fault of their own but just because they haven't walked in these shoes," Smith continues. "It is totally different when you are a part of a small minority group on campus and the campus is geared toward the majority. When you are 18, 19, 20 years old and you are away from home for the first time and you're in



+ Facing page, LBC members danced the night away Oct. 18 at their Homecoming gala. During Homecoming week, students also participated in service and entrepreneurship activities. At left, Michael Middleton was a founding member of LBC 50 years ago.

## LBC MILESTONES

**1968:** The Legion of Black Collegians is founded to improve the climate for black students. A year later, MU recognizes LBC as a student government.



**1969:** MU creates the Black Studies Program with the help of Arvarh Strickland, the university's first tenured African-American faculty member.

**1971:** MU establishes the Black Culture House at 511 Turner Ave.



Jill Young-Menears, Arts '72, is crowned the first black Homecoming Queen.

**1972:** LBC charges that MU has been discriminatory in its recruitment of black students. The university responds with efforts to improve minority recruitment, increasing the number of black students from 375 in 1971 to 655 in 1974.

**1973:** The Office of Minority Student Programs develops as a result of pressure LBC applies to the MU administration.

lecture halls where, out of 300 students, there are maybe one or two individuals who look like you, it can be uncomfortable and intimidating. LBC was there. LBC brought African-American students together. It was a great support system. It helped African-Americans understand that we're more effective when we move as a group or take action collectively rather than individually."

Kim Rogers Crouch, BJ '93, saw college — through her involvement in LBC — as an opportunity to make change. She participated in a sit-in at the chancellor's office to fight for the university to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday. In 1992, the year she was president, Crouch successfully campaigned to get students to give LBC 50 cents from each student's activity fee, which resulted in the LBC budget going from \$2,378 to \$17,000. "We spent a lot of time talking to fraternities and sororities, to athletes, to everyone," Crouch recalls. "We tried to make clear that LBC wasn't a competitor to MSA [Missouri Students Association]. Many of us in LBC were also in MSA. We recognized the importance of the partnership between those organizations."

For Jason Hill, BJ '95, who was LBC president during its 25th anniversary, the group was more of an informal network. "The students who were involved were seasoned students," says Hill, referring to his mentor, Smith. "People were hanging out in Brady Commons. We were downstairs in the LBC office studying or talking about things that were relevant in society at the time. You had older students who were on the path to success. That made me feel good about being a black student at Mizzou."

MICHAEL CALI

MIDDLETON: COURTESY MICHAEL MIDDLETON; STRICKLAND: MISSOURIAW FILE PHOTO; YOUNG-MENEARS: SAVITAR

## LEGION OF BLACK COLLEGIANS

**1974:** LBC successfully advocates for the removal of Confederate Rock from the corner of Ninth and Conley. The United Daughters of the Confederacy presented the memorial to Columbia in 1935.

**1978:** LBC creates the Big Eight Council and Conference on Black Student Government. Now known as the Big XII Council on Black Student Government, the national meeting annually attracts students who focus on issues related to black students in higher education.

**1978:** The Black Culture House relocates to 823 Virginia Ave. and becomes the Black Culture Center.

**1988:** LBC protests the Homecoming theme, "Show Me Ol' Mizzou," which reminded the group of a past that was not supportive of black students, and organizes its own festivities with its own theme, "Show Me a New Mizzou: Black to the Future."



**1990:** Led by LBC, more than 150 students march to Jesse Hall to stage a sit-in at the chancellor's office to compel the university to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a recognized holiday on campus. A year later, it becomes a campus holiday.

**1993:** LBC celebrates its 25th anniversary, and the Black Alumni Organization sponsors a yearlong celebration of the black experience at MU.



↑ Clockwise from top, in 1998, a 12,000-square-foot Black Culture Center was dedicated on campus at 813 Virginia Ave. In 1990, Tim Smith, seated second from left, discussed diversity in Homecoming activities with George Walker, standing left, then executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association. In 2004, Lamont Walker soloed at Memorial Union with the LBC Gospel Choir, which he directed from 2000 to 2003. The choir won the national Baptist Student Union choir competition in 2002.



### LIFTING VOICES

Lamont Walker, BA '08, wanted to be part of the LBC Gospel Choir ever since he saw them perform at a church in his hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. "I came from a very religious background, and I wanted to stay connected to that while I was away from home," Walker says. "And they seemed like they were having a lot of fun." Walker directed the LBC Gospel Choir from 2000 to 2003, eventually changing majors from business to music. "I had discouragement from family to go into music," he says. "But something about it gave me so much life. LBC became a community and support system for things I needed while I was at Mizzou."

As a high school student, Al-pachino Hogue, BJ '04, toured the newly constructed Black Culture Center during Summer Welcome and made a mental note to check it out when he became an MU student that fall. "It was a think tank for how the student experience could be improved at Mizzou," Hogue says. "I don't know if I would have developed the same voice as I have now if LBC didn't exist. I have an awareness of things that hang in space and that people either aren't acknowledging or aren't aware of. There are structures that exist. Mizzou isn't the only entity that deals with it. LBC helped me develop a vocabulary I didn't have going into college."

### MOLDING LEADERS

In fall 2015, some black students, including members of LBC, formed Concerned Student 1950. A reference to the year the first black students were admitted to the University of Missouri, CS

1950 demanded that the university create policies and reform that could further shift the culture of Mizzou, echoing the Legion of Black Collegians' original demands presented in 1969 for the betterment of the black community.

Kelsie Wilkins, a senior journalism major from Chicago, was a freshman at Mizzou during the protests of 2015. "I like to make a community wherever I go, and I was at Mizzou," Wilkins says. "I wasn't going to change schools." She joined LBC's Freshman Action Team, which encourages involvement in campus and community and links freshmen to a network of resources. The group, designed to groom students for leadership roles, propelled Wilkins to the presidency. "My freshman year made me realize the potential we had on this campus to be the best we can be and to make sure we're getting the same tools and resources as everyone else," she says. "It made me want to do more and

be more."

In addition to planning the Welcome Black Block Party, Black Love Week, LBC Homecoming and the 50th-anniversary festivities, LBC leaders are preparing to host the Big 12 Conference on Black Student Government Feb. 21-24, 2019.

Crouch calls LBC a training ground: "It made me into the leader and the successful person I am today. It taught me how to interact with institutions: How do you collaborate with people who have no understanding of what life is like as a person of color? How do you get beyond those things? LBC is one of the main reasons that I have such

**"LBC is one of the main reasons that I have such love of and loyalty to MU. It allowed me to see the university in a different way, through a network of students who I made lifelong friendships with."**

— Kim Rogers Crouch

love of and loyalty to MU. It allowed me to see the university in a different way, through a network of students who I made lifelong friendships with."

LBC is not only an organization that fosters friendship. It also supports the academic values of the university. "We advocate for our black students," says Kierra Jones, junior political science major and LBC vice president. "It's not easy trying to get a degree in four years. It's not common for black students and underrepresented students to go to a [predominantly white institution] and get out in four years. LBC is a place where you can feel comfortable. It's easier to come up to students who look like you when you need help."

Crouch agrees. "One of LBC's greatest gifts to us was the ability to connect with people like you, so you knew you were not alone," she says. "We then worked to make sure everybody made it through."

### WORKING TOGETHER

As interim University of Missouri System president in 2016, Middleton appointed Kevin McDonald the system's first chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. Middleton charged him with implementing the Inclusive Excellence Framework and appropriated about \$3 million in initial support to spearhead the effort. At MU, McDonald is vice chancellor for inclusion and diversity. McDonald notes a growing desire among the UM System, MU administration and the campus community to collaborate. "We're done overpromising and underdelivering," he says. For example, in fall 2018, UM System President Mun Choi committed \$8.5 million to the Missouri Compact for Inclusive Excellence. The money is for recruiting and retaining diverse faculty, students and staff and creating a climate that is supportive and respectful and that values varied perspectives and experiences.

"LBC is a strong partner in the diversity and inclusion efforts at MU," McDonald says. "They are the boots on the ground, have a strong understanding of what the student population needs and desires, and are an important partner helping us identify not only issues that exist or gaps that need to be filled but also solutions that can be led by the administration, by students or collaboratively. I appreciate the LBC leadership because they allow the administration to engage, and they challenge us in ways we can be better."

Middleton also sees collaboration as the path forward. "We are all citizens of a country that is tainted by this history of slavery, racism, marginalization, Jim Crow, white supremacy," he says. "It is as much a problem for the majority as it is the minority. And we have to work together to get through this." **M**

## Making Excellence Inclusive

In summer 2017, MU and the University of Missouri System adopted the Inclusive Excellence Framework, which strives to embed diversity, inclusion and equity into the fabric of MU. In fall 2018, UM System President Mun Choi committed \$8.5 million to the Missouri Compact for Inclusive Excellence. The initiative works toward recruiting and retaining diverse faculty, students and staff and creating a supportive and respectful climate that values varied perspectives and experiences. The strategic plan, Mizzou 2020, outlines ways of enacting the university's commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning, living and working environment. Its goals include:

### Diversify Faculty

MU aims to increase faculty from underrepresented groups to 15 percent in 2023 from 8 percent in 2017. Strategies include implementing inclusive hiring practices and onboarding orientation materials and mentoring new and midcareer faculty from underrepresented and underserved groups.

### Reduce Graduation Rate Gap

When it comes to the gap in the six-year graduation rate for underrepresented undergraduates, the goal is to reduce that gap to less than 5 percent by 2023 from a three-year average of 13.1 percent in fall 2018. One approach will be to leverage involvement in Men and Women of Color, Honor and Ambition programs (MOCHA/WOCHA programs). These systemwide initiatives not only foster a sense of community among students of color but also provide personal, academic, cultural, social, professional and leadership development.

### Boost Underrepresented Student Enrollment

MU will continue promoting the Land Grant Scholars Program, which helps make college more attainable for low-income students from all backgrounds. A goal is to increase historically underrepresented undergraduate student enrollment to 20 percent by 2023 from 14.6 in 2018.

### Become a Leader in IDE Scholarship

Along with a goal to increase cultural competencies of all faculty and staff, MU seeks to become a leader in inclusion, diversity and equity scholarship. The Faculty Institute for Inclusive Teaching fosters a campuswide network of faculty who learn about inclusive pedagogy, explore promising practices, and develop skills for managing diversity and inclusion in the classroom.

**1998:** A new 12,000-square-foot Black Culture Center opens at 813 Virginia Ave. Two years later, the center adds the name Gaines/Oldham in honor of Lloyd L. Gaines and Marian O'Fallon Oldham, civil rights pioneers at the University of Missouri.

**2004:** Students gather outside administrative offices in Jesse Hall with a list of grievances calling for, among other things, a renewed commitment to minority recruitment.

**2013:** The Black Studies Program officially becomes the Black Studies Department, offering nearly 100 black studies courses.

**2015:** Students from LBC and beyond form Concerned Student 1950 and demand that the university create policies and reforms that could further shift the culture of Mizzou. Alumni organize to relaunch the Mizzou Black Alumni Network.



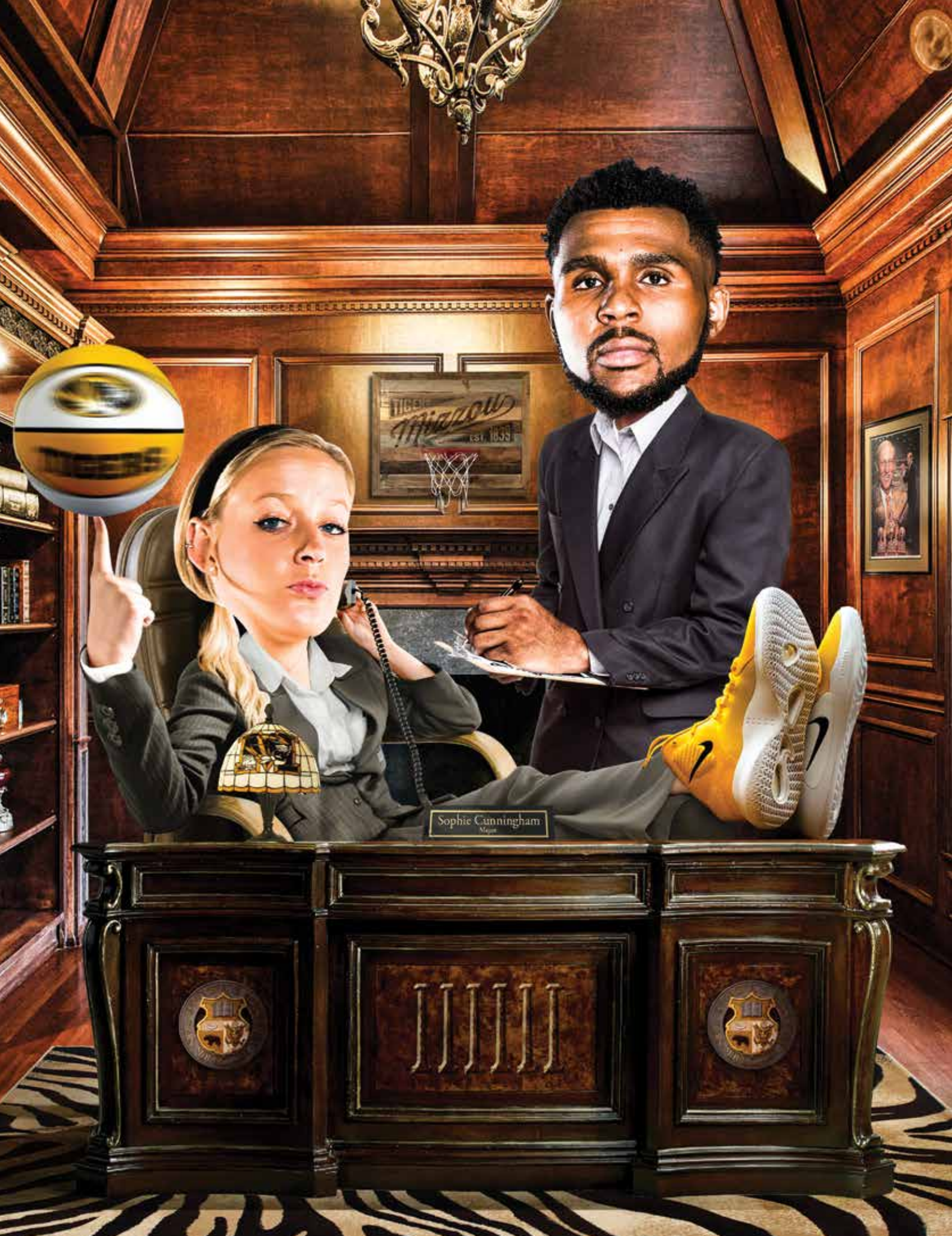
**2016:** MU hires its first chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer, Kevin McDonald.

**2017:** MU and the UM System adopt the Inclusive Excellence Framework.

**2018:** UM System announces \$8.5 million for Missouri Compact for Inclusive Excellence.



**2018:** MU dedicates the Lucile Bluford and George C. Brooks residence halls and the Gus. T. Ridgel Atrium in honor of three African-American trailblazers who shaped Mizzou's history.



MIZZOU WINTER 2019

THE  
MAYOR  
AND THE  
CITY MANAGER

STORY BY  
MARK GODICH

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ILLUSTRATION BY  
BLAKE DINSDALE

As they lean into their senior seasons, Mizzou basketball stars **Sophie Cunningham** and **Kevin Puryear** reflect on their careers, their friendship and memories made off the court.



**They were high school seniors, both chasing state championships. Both were bound for the University of Missouri. She was on her way to her fourth consecutive title. He was on the verge of collecting his first. It was March 2015, and as they passed one another between games just off the floor at Mizzou Arena, they would make eye contact, even exchange a shy word or two.**

“They would always play after us,” he says. “I’d walk by Sophie, and she’d go, ‘Good game.’”

“I’m like, ‘Good game, Kev,’” she repeats in a whisper, reliving the scene from almost four years ago.

Laughter ensues. There is a lot of laughter on this fall morning in the bowels of Mizzou Arena as Sophie Cunningham and Kevin Puryear reminisce. There is plenty of introspection, too. They were high school stars who have become great friends, kids who pledged to the home-state (and hometown, in Sophie’s case) school when they could have signed virtually anywhere and wouldn’t have been blamed if they had. Now they are college seniors, unquestioned leaders of basketball programs they have helped put back on the map, champions on campus and in the community. They are, in a word, special.

“Two kids who check every box,” says Brad Loos, an assistant athletic director at the university who recruited and then coached Kevin for two seasons.

For both, the decision to attend Missouri was an easy one. Sophie’s parents, Jim, BS Ed ’82, and Paula, BJ ’89, were both Mizzou athletes (as were an aunt and uncle and grandfather) and live six minutes from campus. She committed as an eighth-grader, before she had even dribbled a basketball for Rock Bridge High School, and counts UConn among the programs she turned down.

“Once I started winning championships, I was like, ‘Dang, I can get used to winning championships on this floor,’” Sophie says. “We kept winning. My senior year, I was like, ‘Next year this is going to be my home. I want the same feeling on this court.’”

Although Kevin’s mother, Vicki, encouraged him to look around, he knew all along where he belonged. Even as his star rose at Blue Springs South

High School, he idolized Laurence Bowers and Marcus Denmon. He envisioned bringing his winning ways to Columbia, continuing to build a legacy, if you will. It was also important to stay close to home so his parents and two sisters could attend games.

“My experience here is assurance I made the right decision,” Kevin says. “When I met Sophie early in my senior year, I told her, ‘You know, Mizzou is going to be a really cool place.’ I already had some friends, like [Tigers tight end] Kendall Blanton. He and I grew up together. I love the state of Missouri. I think Missouri is pretty freaking cool, especially Kansas City and St. Louis.”

“And Columbia,” Sophie interjects.

“Of course,” Kevin says. “I love Columbia.”

The 45-minute conversation is lively and would take many twists and turns. Good friends that they are, each is asked to describe the other’s game. But because they are both well-known for their grit on the basketball court, there’s a caveat: Tough and toughness are off limits. Kevin jumps right in.

“Mean,” he says, undoubtedly aware of the reaction his response will elicit.

“Whatever, Kev,” Sophie says with a laugh and a tap on his right arm.

“No,” he adds, “she’s extremely skilled. There aren’t many words you can say about Sophie’s game. You just have to watch it for yourself. The legacy she’s built here, the best women’s player we’ve ever had. That’s super impressive. I say mean, though. Mean in a good way.”

Sophie is quick with her characterization.

“You’ve overcome a lot in your career,” she says. “Your perseverance is amazing. You’re just fierce out there. You’ve got that edge to you, a little bit of cockiness going. You’re a blue-collar worker. Nothing has been handed to you. You’re also a great leader. The people on his team look up to him. He’s the one who gets the crowd going. We’re both similar in that way: We’re crowd-pleasers, we’re energizers, we’re just that motor, that dog out on the court.”

“I like that,” Kevin says, with a nod and a grin.

Would he like a mulligan?

“Mean,” he replies with a chuckle. “And energetic.”

As much as anyone, Sophie appreciates what Kevin has been through. After winning 97 games during his high school career, he arrived on campus with much fanfare. Without so much as a pause, he remembers his first opponent (Wofford) and how many points he scored (a team-high 20).



But aside from a buzzer-beating three-pointer and a career-high 30 points in an overtime victory over Auburn in the first round of the 2017 SEC Tournament, the highlights were few and far between. Mizzou would win a combined 18 games in Kevin’s first two seasons, home games usually contested in an arena so empty “you could hear yourself talk,” he says. “I remember when Sophie and the women’s basketball team were the only ones in the student section.”

He considered transferring. “It was shell-shocking to me to lose this much after I had won so much,” Kevin says. “And it didn’t seem like it was going to get any better. I thought my sophomore year was going to be better, but we still had trials and tribulations. I’m amazed to be here, I’ll be honest. I’m also blessed to be here because this was the school I always wanted to go to. With everything my class has been through, it was rough. But I think it made us better people and better players and really changed my perspective on life. I’m glad it happened. It’s just part of my story.”

For Sophie, the challenge as a freshman was all personal. The Tigers were coming off of a 19–14 season — their third consecutive winning campaign — and an appearance in the Women’s NIT. There was comfort in having her older sister, Lindsey, as a teammate. Yet on her first day of fall

camp, Sophie was ready to walk away.

“In high school, you think you’re working so hard,” she says. “The first day of conditioning, I told them I was going to quit. I said, ‘I’m not made for this.’”

Seriously? The same woman who would score a program-record 42 points in a game as a freshman, the woman who has already been a two-time all-SEC first-team selection, the woman who will leave Mizzou as the greatest player in program history?

“Yes, I was on that trail over there, and I was about to quit,” she says. (Kevin finds humor in the revelation.) “I just had to remember what I was trying to get done here. Our coaches demand excellence in the classroom, the community and definitely on the basketball court. I’ve grown so much.”

The discussion turns to food. College kids have to eat, after all, and Columbia is by no means short on options. So, Shakespeare’s or Booches?

“I’m going Booches,” Sophie says.

“Yeah, Booches,” Kevin agrees.

Flat Branch or Shiloh?

“Flat Branch, for sure,” Kevin says without hesitation.

**“In high school, you think you’re working so hard. The first day of conditioning, I told them I was going to quit. I said, ‘I’m not made for this.’”**

— SOPHIE CUNNINGHAM



**“The games are fun, but going on the road with your teammates, your brothers, you can’t beat it. We find something to laugh about every two seconds. It’s really entertaining.”**

—KEVIN PURYEAR

Sophie ponders the question for a good 10 seconds before responding. “Dang, I don’t know,” she says. “Honestly, I might go to both that night.” More laughter.

As for their favorite establishments, the Cunningham clan, which has numbered in the neighborhood of 45 at home games and has been known to take over visiting arenas, often convenes at a quaint Italian haunt on the south side of town. “If we can’t decide where we’re going, we’ll say, ‘Everybody meet at Angelo’s at 7.’” Sophie says.

Kevin has a go-to breakfast spot. When the Tigers aren’t practicing on, say, a Sunday morning, he likes to round up teammates for a trip to Cracker Barrel for “the best breakfast money can buy.” His eyes light up as he reels off his favorite fare. “The pancake breakfast, with two over-easy eggs and some turkey sausage.”

Weigh the two programs together, and has Missouri basketball ever been in a better place? Playing in the most competitive conference in the country, the women are coming off their third consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance. The pieces are in place for another tournament run, but the Tigers aren’t standing pat. After watching her team get run ragged by Florida Gulf Coast in a first-round upset last March, Coach Robin Pingeton is implementing a position-less style of play. With a slew of perimeter weapons, the Tigers will play faster. Sophie will continue to pop three-pointers, but at times she might move inside next to 5-foot-11 junior Amber Smith. Senior point

guard Lauren Aldridge returns, along with juniors Jordan Chavis and Jordan Roundtree. Among the new faces on the roster are Haley Troup, a red-shirt freshman transfer from South Carolina, and Grace Berg, a freshman from Iowa who was the 37th-rated recruit in the country last season.

Sophie never seems to be at a loss for words, but she is succinct when asked about her ambitions for her last hurrah: “SEC championship. I take one day at a time, but I want that Sweet 16, Elite Eight.”

Last season, the women played before big crowds — a home game against Tennessee drew a program-record 11,092 fans — and Kevin at long last ran out of the tunnel to packed houses. “My freshman year, my mom used to pray all the time that Mizzou Arena would get filled,” he says. “She would always say, ‘I have a really good feeling about this year.’ Now when I come out on the court, it amazes me every time. I don’t take anything for granted. I remember.”

No Tiger hit a bigger shot in 2018 than Kevin, whose three-pointer against Mississippi State gave Missouri an overtime victory after the team had squandered a 12-point lead in the final 97 seconds of regulation. The utter joy on Kevin’s face after he hit the shot and the reaction from the players on the bench was a sight to see. Basketball was fun again. Given up for dead after a back injury sidelined freshman star Michael Porter Jr. two minutes into the season opener, the Tigers were one of the biggest surprises in the SEC if not the country, finishing 20-13 and earning their first NCAA Tournament bid since 2013 under first-year coach Cuonzo Martin. They are hungry for more, but now they are coping with another significant injury — the season-ending loss of sophomore big man Jontay Porter to a torn ACL and MCL during an Oct. 21 scrimmage. Kevin and sophomore Jeremiah Tilmon will be asked to pick up the slack inside. “Of course, we want to one-up the year before, achieve something we haven’t accomplished,” Kevin says. “We’re playing college basketball to compete for a national championship.”

They are both sport management majors who, after careers in professional basketball, envision a future in broadcasting. (Note to SEC Network execs: Sophie and Kev on the same anchor desk would be something.) But first they intend to soak up every moment of their senior years. It will be bittersweet, naturally, and it prompts the question: What are they most excited about?

“The games are fun, but going on the road with your teammates, your brothers, you can’t beat it,”

Kevin says. “We find something to laugh about every two seconds. It’s really entertaining.”

“Being done with school,” says Sophie. There’s a sense of relief in her voice as she turns to Kevin and says, “I’m surprised you didn’t say that. But I’m not looking ahead. I’m trying to take and embrace one day at a time. I try to take it all in because there’s something different about your senior year. I’m looking forward to the basketball, of course, but just the relationships you build here and not taking those for granted. Be the best teammate, the best daughter, the best personality in the community I can be every day.”

When stressed, she has typically turned to Lindsey, who was a graduate student manager last season and is now an assistant director with the Tiger Scholarship Fund. “It’s going to be a little different without her on the bench,” Sophie says. “I don’t know if you watch the games, but I do get a little feisty. Sassy. She was always the one to calm me down and tell me to focus up. We’ll see who that is this year. God bless ‘em. Pray for ‘em.”

Kevin turns to assistant coach Chris Hollender. “He’s my dad away from home,” Kevin says. “He can always tell when my disposition or body language is changing. Every time something is up, he knows. I can’t hide it from him. During the game he’s always in my ear: Good, good. And when he wants to yell at me, he does that, too.”

They could talk for hours, but Sophie has to get to class. There’s time for one last inquiry: What’s one thing people would be surprised to learn about each of you? Known around town as the Mayor, a mention that elicits a groan and a roll of the eyes, Sophie, like any good politician, is happy to have the final word. (That would make Kevin the City Manager, though before he can share his nickname she is quick to point out that he goes by Teddy Bear or Fat Boy. “Whatever,” he says.)

“I’ll go with both of us on this one,” Sophie says. “Kevin and I are both fierce competitors. We’re feisty, we’re hard-nosed, we don’t take stuff from anybody. But when we’re off the court, we’re two of the goofiest, light-hearted, down-to-earth people. We really are. Aren’t we?”

Another nod from Kevin. Another grin.

“We’re kids pretty much,” Sophie says. “But we probably should grow up soon. We are seniors.”

The comment generates one last laugh, and with that, they are on their way. **M**

*About the author: Mark Godich, a 1979 graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, is a senior editor at The Athletic and a former senior editor at Sports Illustrated.*

MIZZOU ATHLETICS

ROB HILL

# REDEEM TEAM

A quarter-century ago, the Tigers emerged as one of the Big Eight’s best teams ever, an outcome no one would have predicted after an early-season rout.



What did Nolan Richardson know? In the dedication game at Bud Walton Arena, the Arkansas coach had just watched his Razorbacks inflict a 120-68 beatdown on the Missouri Tigers.

“We won’t play that good again,” Richardson said when it was over. “Missouri was not a very good basketball team tonight, but I think they will be.”

Said Missouri Coach Norm Stewart: “I told Nolan they’re really good. I couldn’t tell tonight how good they are because we’re not very good right now.”

It was an ominous start to the 1993-94 season. The number of points surrendered and the 52-point margin of defeat were both dubious program records. Although the Tigers entered the game as a 12-point underdog, it’s not as if they were without talent. They were picked to finish third in the Big Eight behind Oklahoma State and Kansas. Missouri then struggled to beat Jackson State, SMU and Coppin State at home, prevailing in those three games by a combined 10 points, but the Tigers kept winning. And winning. The season turned with a 108-107 triple-overtime victory over Illinois in the annual clash in St. Louis. In fact, after being humiliated in Fayetteville, Mizzou would win 22 of its next 23 games, the only stumble coming in a four-point loss at Notre Dame in mid-January.

Most impressively, the Tigers ran the table in the Big Eight, finishing 14-0 and becoming just the third team in conference history to go undefeated. They were a blend of experience and youth. Melvin Booker was named the Big Eight Player of the Year, while Kelly Thames was honored as the conference’s top freshman. The team also got a lift at midseason with the addition of Paul O’Liney, a walk-on transfer from Pensacola [Florida] Junior College who, legend has it, had watched the debacle against Arkansas on TV and decided the Tigers could really use his help.

Even after losing in the semifinals of the Big Eight tournament, Mizzou earned the first and only No. 1 seed in program history. The Tigers were shipped to the West Regional, but after victories over Navy, Wisconsin and Syracuse, they fell to second-seeded Arizona. A victory would have sent Missouri to its first Final Four and a semifinal meeting with ... Arkansas.

Stewart was right about the Razorbacks, who would win it all. Missouri, meanwhile, finished 28-4 and ranked fifth in the country. Turns out Richardson was right about the Tigers, too.

# Full Circle

**Faculty-Alumni Awards highlight accomplished Tigers.**



Judge E. Richard Webber, BS BA '64, JD '67, is about to reveal something you'd never guess by his actions or how others speak of him. "I used to think I was a real hot shot," Webber says unassumingly. Objectively, he was — and is. Starting in 1967 as a small-town lawyer in Memphis, Missouri, he rose through the ranks as a prosecuting attorney to his current post as a federal district court judge

for the Eastern District of Missouri. Before his appointment in 1996 by President Bill Clinton, he served for 17 years on the circuit court, presiding over high-profile cases. The decade prior, Webber built his net worth (including a thousand acres of farmland) and, with it, his self-image as a hot shot.

The farm crisis of the 1980s eroded both. His reversal of fortune led Webber to God and set him on the path to what he now considers his life's purpose. Following the letter of the law, Webber over the course of his career has sentenced to prison disproportionate numbers of African-American men, all because of social pressures that make gainful employment a stretch and gangs a substitute for family. "I kept sentencing and sentencing and sentencing, until one day I realized I was part of the problem," Webber says.

In the courtroom, he began forming full-circle relationships with criminal defendants. "You're smart and ought to be in

school. If I recommend classes in prison, will you take them?" he asks nearly all sentenced offenders, many of whom have received far too few votes of confidence in life.

Then when they're released, though a decade may have passed, Webber meets with every person he ever sent to prison. Sidling up close to them, he wryly offers, "If you want to take a swing at me, here's your chance." After that icebreaker, he tells them all the programs available to help them. He shows them he cares. "It's the best time I spend as a judge," Webber says. It's led to so many success stories. It's the reason he has a framed picture on his desk of himself and a former inmate whose mother told Webber, "You gave me back my son." It's the reason Webber, who raised two children, can count on receiving more than two calls on Father's Day.

Webber has himself benefitted from compassion and generosity. Badly injured in a tractor accident on his family's farm in 1955, he received funding for college from the organization now known as the Center for Human Services. Webber had visited MU along with his high school FFA group. "I never dreamed I could go somewhere that magnificent, and it completely changed my life — academically, socially and financially." Webber chokes up, recovers himself and says with conviction, "Everything I've ever achieved or gained traces back to the University of Missouri."

Perhaps that's why winning the 2018 Faculty-Alumni Award means more to him than his numerous other accolades. As for his greatest achievement, "I can objectively say that I've changed the lives of a substantial number of people," the judge says. "That's the most important and rewarding thing I've ever done." — Dawn Klingensmith, BA, BJ '97

## FACULTY-ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

### 63rd Distinguished Service Award



**Catherine A. Allen, BS HE '68, DHL '05,** Chairman and CEO, The Santa Fe Group

### 59th Distinguished Faculty Award



**James A. Birchler,** Curators' Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences

### 51ST ALUMNI AWARD



**Glenn A. Blumhorst, BS Ag '85, MPA '87,** President and CEO, National Peace Corps Association



**James R. Fitterling, BS ME '83,** CEO, Dow Chemical Company



**Elsa J. Hennings, BS ME '82,** Chief Engineer for Parachutes, U.S. Navy



**Bobbette K. Ranney, BA '65,** Physician, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics (retired)



**Bruce P. Whittle, DVM '94,** Veterinarian, Honey Creek Veterinary Hospital

### 51ST FACULTY AWARD



**Lori S. Eggert,** Professor of Biological Sciences



**Anne-Marie C. Foley, BA '82, MA '84, MA '86, PhD '92,** Founder and Director, Office of Service-Learning



**Rafael Gely,** James E. Campbell Missouri Endowed Professor of Law



**Debra Parker Oliver, MSW '85, PhD '00,** Professor of Family and Community Medicine



**James Sanford "Sandy" Rikoon,** Dean, College of Human Environmental Sciences



**Stacey Woelfel, BJ '81, MA '90, PhD '06,** Professor of Radio-Television Journalism



## The Power of Momentum

Turning the calendar to a new year provides a natural time to count blessings and make plans for growth. I had the opportunity to communicate with many of our members in 2018. Sharing Mizzou's story is one of the many joys of my position. We are so grateful for your support and dedication to MU.

I've been thinking a lot about the example of a flywheel that Jim Collins describes in his book *Good to Great*. At first, it takes great effort to turn a heavy flywheel. But every effort builds momentum. As we push in the same direction again and again, each revolution of the wheel builds upon earlier work and compounds the investment of effort. Eventually, the flywheel is spinning at breakneck speed, though it's impossible to point to a particular push that made the difference. Collins' flywheel is a wonderful metaphor for the power of momentum at Mizzou.

This fall, we marked a record year of fundraising, welcomed a freshman class representing the largest one-year enrollment increase ever and topped it off by celebrating Mizzou's first Nobel Prize winner, Professor Emeritus George Smith.

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright is fond of saying that he "would put our alumni up against any in the country." He is so right! Every gift of time, talent and treasure adds up. Thanks to you and countless others, Mizzou's flywheel is spinning hard and fast. I can't wait to see where that momentum takes us in 2019!

**TODD MCCUBBIN, M ED '95**  
executive director, Mizzou Alumni Association  
Email: [mccubbint@missouri.edu](mailto:mccubbint@missouri.edu)  
Twitter: @MizzouTodd

## Class Notes

### 1960

**John P. Miller, BA '65,** of Sedalia, Mo., wrote *Love and Compassion: Exploring Their Role in Education* (University of Toronto Press, 2018).

**Jack Bick, BJ '67,** of Alton, Texas, wrote *Be Mission Critical: Own Your Dream Career* (Jack Bick, 2017).

**Patrick O'Connor, BA '67,** of Naples, Fla., wrote *Justice on Fire: The Kansas City Firefighters Case and the Railroadings of the Marlborough Five* (University Press of Kansas, 2018).

**Mary Clearman Blew, PhD '69,** of Moscow, Idaho, wrote *Ruby Dreams of Janis Joplin* (University of Nebraska Press, 2018).

**Kenneth Suelthaus, JD '69,** of St. Louis was named a Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers 2019.

### 1970

**William "Bill" Walker, BJ '70,** of Glenmont, N.Y., received the Frank L. Ashmore Award for Service to CASE and the Advance-ment Profession.

**William "Bill" Bay,**



## Recognizing your generosity

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The Columns Society honors those individuals who contribute \$2,500 cumulatively during an academic year (July 1 - June 30).

Annual support includes cash gifts to various University programs such as athletics, the Mizzou Alumni Association, academic units, and matching gifts. The Columns Society is evidence that gifts of any size make a significant impact.

For more information about the Columns Society or your personal giving history, please contact The Columns Society at 573-884-3672 or [columns-society@missouri.edu](mailto:columns-society@missouri.edu).



## Events

### January

**8**, Basketball vs. Tennessee [mutigers.com](http://mutigers.com)

### February

**1**, Faculty-Alumni Award nomination deadline [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**1**, Legally Blonde, The Musical concertseries. [missouri.edu](http://missouri.edu)

**8-13**, Tourin' Tigers, Iceland — The Northern Lights [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**12**, Basketball vs. Arkansas [mutigers.com](http://mutigers.com)

**22**, Richard Wallace Faculty Incentive Grant application deadline [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**28-March 3**, True/False Film Fest, Columbia [truefalse.org](http://truefalse.org)

### March

**1**, Governing Board nomination deadline [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**1**, MAA returning-student scholarships deadline [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**1**, Traditions Plaza paver deadline for installation by Commencement [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**13-14**, Mizzou Giving Day [givingday.missouri.edu](http://givingday.missouri.edu)

### April

**10-13**, Tourin' Tigers, The Masters Golf Tournament [mizzou.com](http://mizzou.com)

**BA '74**, of St. Louis was appointed chair of the American Bar Association House of Delegates.

**David Eden, MA '75**, of Beachwood, Ohio, wrote *My Pashtun Rabbi: A Jew's Search for Truth, Meaning, and Hope in the Muslim World* (David Eden, 2018).

**Steve Wiegenstein, BJ '76, MA '82, PhD '87**, of Columbia wrote *The Language of Trees* (Blank

Slate Press, 2017).

★★**Richard Bien, BS PA '79, JD '83**, of Versailles, Mo., was appointed to the Governing Council of the American Bar Association's Center for Innovation.

**W. Eric Cunningham, BA '79**, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., is president of the Missouri Municipal Attorneys Association for the 2018-19 term.

### 1980

**Dan White, BJ '80**, of Kansas City, Mo., was named the 2018 Daniel Pearl World Music Days journalist in residence.

**James Baggett, BJ '83**, of Des Moines, Iowa, was named to the hall of fame of the Association for Garden Communicators.

★**Gordon Paulus, BJ '83**, of Gulf Breeze, Fla., is state president of the

Florida Public Relations Association.

★★**Major Garrett, BA, BJ '84**, of Washington, DC, wrote *Mr. Trump's Wild Ride: The Thrills, Chills, Screams and Occasional Blackouts of an Extraordinary Presidency* (All Points Books, 2018).

★**Mike Bartolacci, BA '85, JD '88**, of St. Louis was named a Best Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers 2019. Bartolacci is a partner at Thompson Coburn LLP.

**Yesim Darici, PhD '85**, of Miami is director of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies and assistant provost at Florida International University.

★**Kelvin Simmons, BA '86**, of Kansas City, Mo., is a co-founder of Nexus Group.

★**Ben Loeb, EdSp '88**, of Columbia wrote *Next-level Coaching* (River Grove Books, 2018).

**Cal Worth, BA '89**, of Quantico, Va., is brigadier general of the U.S. Marine Corps.

### 1990

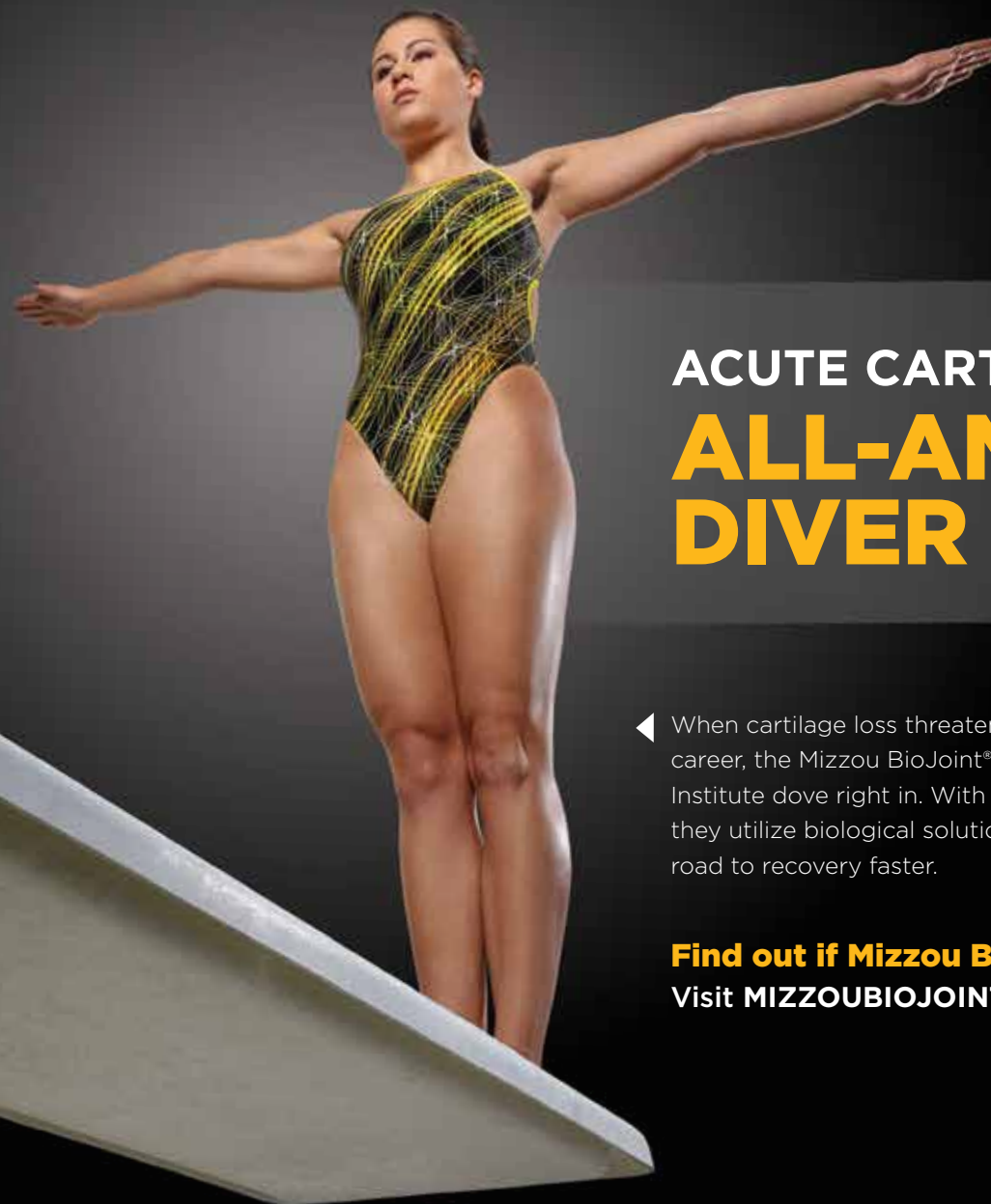
**Mark Cooper, BA '91**, of Rochester Hills, Mich., was recognized among the 2019 Best Lawyers in America. Cooper is an attorney at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, P.C. in Southfield, Mich.

★**Stacey Paine, BS Acc '91**, of Kansas City, Mo., is president of Crown Center Redevelopment Corp. and executive vice president of real estate for Hallmark Cards, Inc.

**Christopher Scott Edwards, BA '92**, of Los Angeles is director of data science at NBCUniversal.

**Daniel Hoyt, BJ '92, MA '94**, of Manhattan, Kan., wrote *This Book Is Not for You* (Dzanc Books, 2017).

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“The courses at Mizzou gave me a combination of math and education. It is a blend that is entirely unique to this program. I was learning information that I could immediately apply to my classroom.”

**Rebecca Polasek**  
Topeka, Kansas  
Mathematics Education



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## MIZZOU ALUMNI NEWS

**Daniel Karpel, BS Acc '93**, of Ballwin, Mo., is executive vice president and chief financial officer at Save-A-Lot.

**Mamata Reddy, BA, BJ '93**, of Evanston, Ill., is owner and executive director of Spoonfoolery Creative Cooking and Baking, a teaching and demonstration kitchen.

**Matthew Pearce, BA '93, EdD '07**, of Republic, Mo., was appointed to the board of directors of the American Heart Association, Midwest Affiliate.

**David Haley, BS '94**, of Nashville, Tenn., is vice president of sales at Fox.

**Stephanie Raleigh, BA '94**, of Scottsdale, Ariz., is vice president of human resources at Honeywell Aerospace.

**Evan Kinser, BS '97**, of Dallas is vice president of milk supply at Dean Foods.

**Robert Bowers, BS BA '99**, of Chesterfield, Mo., is the vice president of strategic growth for Concourse Sports.

**2000 Natalie Cauldwell, EdD '00**, of Ozark, Mo., was named 2018-19 High School Principal of the Year by the southwest region of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

**Joshua Loftus, BS BA '01**, of Spring, Texas, is president of Mexica Pacific Limited LLC.

**★William “Bill” Medley, BJ '01**, of Kansas City, Mo., was named assistant vice president and public information officer for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

**Patrick Clemens, BA '02**, of Columbia is director of dining services with Fresh Ideas Food Service at Stephens College.

**★Bradley Finnegan, BA '03**, of Seattle is CEO of Cascadia Strategies.

**Mary Jane Judy, BA '03, JD '06**, of Kansas City, Mo., is president of the board of Kansas City Parks and Recreation commissioners.

**David Factor, BS BA '04**, a physical therapist from St. Louis, owns and runs

Factor Physical Therapy with his brother Matt, BS CHE '05. WebPT ranked this independent practice No. 1 among 2,831 practices nationwide for its quality of care and patient outcomes.

**Cameron Duff, BS BA '07**, of Smithville, Mo., is a partner at Bird Dog Industrial.

**★★Shannon Ferguson, BS Acc '09**, of Columbia is one of the vice president's for Zeta Tau Alpha's National Council for the 2018-2020 biennium.

**Mark Gum, BA '09**, of Kansas City, Mo., is an associate at Lathrop Gage.

**Lori Lefcourt, BS BA '09**, and **Elise Lefcourt, BS BA '12**, of Chesterfield, Mo., are co-founders of Unicreamer, a plant-based coffee creamer.

**2010 Lindsay Barnes, BA '11**, of Sedalia, Mo., is a social media account coordinator for Callis Integrated Marketing.

**John Drury, BS Acc '13**, of St. Louis is a manager at RubinBrown's Business Advisory Services Group.

**★★Breanne Brammer, BS '14, MS '17**, of Salisbury, Mo., received the On the Ball Award from the Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. Brammer is an agricultural teacher and FFA adviser at Salisbury High School.

**Kayla Huett, BFA '15**, of Denver displayed her photo exhibit “We Caught Fish and Talked” at the 2018 Missouri State Fair. See Page 1.

**Trevor LeClair, BS FW '15**, of Versailles, Mo., participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Costa Rica.

**Curtis Strubinger, BS Acc, M Acc '15**, of Charlotte, N.C., is an associate at Robinson Bradshaw.

**Abby Warner, BFA '17**, of Columbia is a member of the design team at Visionworks Marketing Group.

**Christopher Paul, MPA '18**, of Randallstown, Md., was appointed to the Federal Transit Administration as a presidential management fellow for 2018.

**Births**  
**★Adam Harris, BS BA '07**, and **★Stacy Cantu-Harris, BS BA '06**, of St. Louis announce the birth of Keira Addison Aug. 9, 2013, and Tristan Blake July 26, 2017.

**Weddings**  
**★Ben Daniels, BA '14, MPA '16**, and **★Sami Telling, BS '15**, of Stanford, Calif., July 7, 2018.

**Faculty Deaths**  
**Abraham Eisenstark**, of Columbia Aug. 28, 2018, at 98. He was an emeritus research director of the Cancer Research Center and professor emeritus of the Department of Biological Studies.

**Dennis Dierker, MD '62**, of Columbia Sept. 19, 2018, at 81. He worked at University Physicians.

**Deaths**  
**★★Katheryn Wheeler, BS HE '40**, of Chestnut Hill, Mass., March 17, 2018, at 98. She served in the WAVES during World War II as an intelligence officer.

**Howard Duward Lewis, BS ChE '41**, of Florence,



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Ala., Sept. 5, 2018, at 99.

★**Anne McKee Niles, BA, BSN '47**, of Northampton, Pa., April 5, 2018, at 95.

★**Emil M. Cross Jr., BS BA '48**, of Bella Vista, Ark., Aug. 17, 2018, at 98. He was a member of Kappa Alpha and a U.S. Army World War II veteran and served in the military for 33 years.

★★**Jo Ann Jones, BA '48**, of Overland Park, Kan., Aug. 29, 2018, at 92. She worked as a secretary for the College of Agriculture's Office of Resident Instruction.

★**Billy I. Ross, BJ '48**, of Lubbock, Texas, Oct. 8, 2018, at 93. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran.

★**Wanda Lura Smith, BJ '48**, of Wichita, Kan., April 3, 2018, at 93. She worked in radio and TV advertising and owned and operated an audio/visual business with her husband.

★★**Nelda McCrory, BS Ed '49**, of Columbia July 9, 2018, at 92.

★★**Donald Patton Carter, BS BA '49**, of Lake Forest, Ill., Dec. 27, 2015, at 88. He was a member of Phi Kappa

Psi and the Navy ROTC and served in the U.S. Navy.

★**Leslie W. Rogers Jr., BS BA '49, MA '50**, of Huntsville, Ala., Aug. 5, 2018, at 92. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran who held various positions in the Army and federal government.

★★**Mary Jane Bailey, BA '50**, of Warrensburg, Mo., March 2, 2018, at 90. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi.

★**Walter Lee Pruitt, BS BA '51**, of St. Louis Aug. 2, 2018, at 88. He was a Korean War veteran and owned and managed

World Finance Co. for more than 50 years.

★**Roy Thomas Waltrip Jr., BA '51, MA '53, BS Med '55**, of Sikeston, Mo., Aug. 21, 2018, at 88. He was a family practice physician for 52 years.

★**George Haydon Beaumont, BS BA '52**, of Overland Park, Kan., June 1, 2018, at 84. He was a U.S. Navy Korean War veteran and held various senior-level positions in marketing and advertising.

★**David Cattle, BS Ed '52, M Ed '59**, of Belton, Mo.,

Aug. 11, 2018, at 87. He was a U.S. Army Korean War veteran, taught high school math and was a high school principal.

★**James Curtis Frisby, BS Ed '52, BS AgE '56**, of Columbia Aug. 21, 2018, at 87. He was a member of the Army ROTC and Marching Mizzou and was a U.S. Army Korean War veteran.

★**J. Coleman Weber, BA '52**, of St. Louis June 7, 2017, at 86. He was a member of Phi Kappa Theta and the Air Force ROTC.

★★**Floyd Bly, BA '53**, of

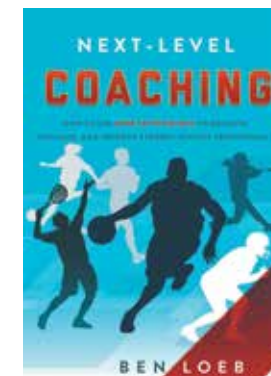
**ALUMNI BOOKSHELF**

**Mizzou Alumni Writers Rack Up New Titles**

Mizzou alumni keep banging out the books. To be considered for coverage, mail your book published in 2018 or scheduled for 2019 to Dale Smith, MIZZOU magazine, 109 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Missouri, 65211.



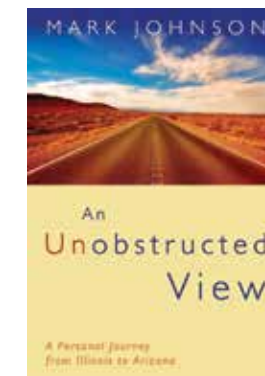
**30 Before 30: How I Made a Mess of My 20s, and You Can Too** by Marina Shifrin, BJ '10 (Wednesday Books, 2018). Shifrin, whom comedian and author Moshe Kasher dubbed “a millennial David Sedaris,” narrates short essays about the travails of bucket-listing early in life — “donate hair, buy real furniture, live in a different country, fall in love (for real).” She writes with the self-deprecating humor of someone who bears the middle name Vladimirovna.



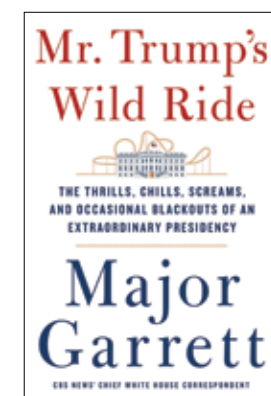
**Next-level Coaching** by Ben Loeb, Ed Sp '88 (River Grove Books, 2018)



**This Book Is Not for You** by Daniel Hoyt, BJ '92, MA '94 (Dzanc Books, 2017)



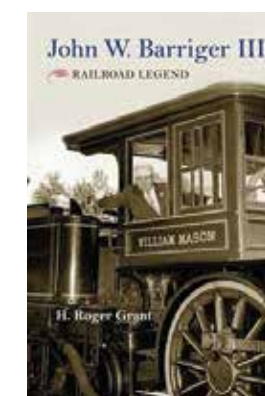
**An Unobstructed View** by Mark Johnson, BJ '79 (Blues and Greens Press, 2018)



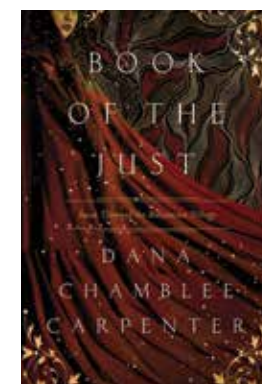
**Mr. Trump's Wild Ride: The Thrills, Chills, Screams and Occasional Blackouts of an Extraordinary Presidency** by Major Garrett, BA, BJ '84 (All Points Books, 2018)



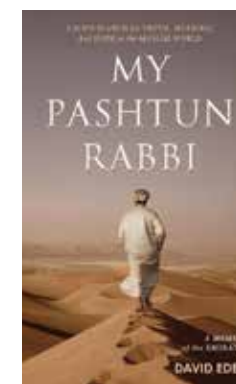
**Justice on Fire: The Kansas City Firefighters Case and the Railroadings of the Marlborough Five** by J. Patrick O'Connor, BA '67 (University Press of Kansas, 2018)



**John W. Barringer III: Railroad Legend** by H. Roger Grant, MA '67, PhD '70 (Indiana University Press, 2018)



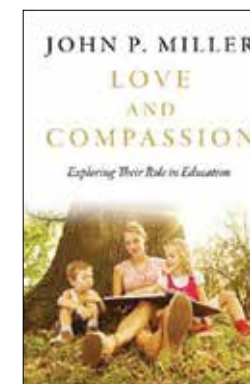
**Book of the Just: Book Three of the Bohemian Trilogy** by Dana Chamblee Carpenter, MA '93 (Pegasus, 2018)



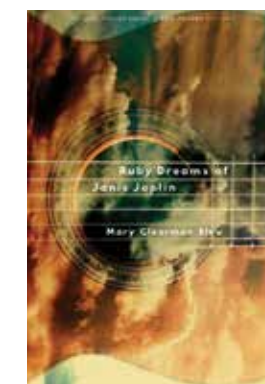
**My Pashtun Rabbi: A Memoir of the Emirates** by David Eden, MA '75 (David Eden, 2018)



**100 Things Missouri Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die** by Dave Matter, BJ '00 (Triumph, 2018)



**Love and Compassion: Exploring Their Role in Education** by John P. Miller, BA '65 (University of Toronto Press, 2018)



**Ruby Dreams of Janis Joplin** by Mary Clearman Blew, PhD '69 (University of Nebraska Press, 2018)



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## BY THE NUMBERS

### Usher Them In

The Mizzou Alumni Association hosted a trio of traditions welcoming the 2018 freshman class of 4,673 Tigers, which was an increase of 13.1 percent over 2017.



**4,200\***

Freshmen participated in the inaugural First Roar, where they heard from Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and athletics coaches, got up to speed on campus traditions and scored a free T-shirt commemorating the event. Mizzou Athletics and New Student Programs co-hosted the event.

**1,000**

Paint-slinging students who, serenaded by Marching Mizzou, whitewashed the rock M at the north end of Faurot Field



**5,000**

Scoops of Buck's Tiger Stripe ice cream doled out during Tiger Walk



**4,600**

Freshmen scampered through the Columns toward Jesse Hall during Tiger Walk, an annual event symbolizing entry into university life

Columbia Feb. 8, 2018, at 87. He was a member of Zeta Beta Tau and the Air Force ROTC. He worked in the furniture business.

★**Mary Maddox, BS Ed '53**, of Harlingen, Texas, Sept. 18, 2018, at 87. She was a member of Alpha Delta Pi and was a teacher for more than 35 years.

★★**James Price, BS Ag '53**, of Florence, Ore., May 21, 2018, at 87. He was a member of Farmhouse.

★★**Dorothy Elaine Arnote, BS HE '55**, of Prairie Village, Kan., Jan. 31, 2018, at 84. She was a member of Phi Upsilon Omicron and worked as an executive at Hallmark Cards.

★**John McCarthy, BS '55**, of Belleville, Ill., April 26, 2018, at 82. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of Delta Tau Delta.

★**Irwin "Irv" Rosen, BJ '55**, of Loda, Ill., Nov. 26, 2017, at 84. He was a member of Zeta Beta Tau.

★★**Robert Wallace Edmonds, BA '56**, of Chesterfield, Mo., March 7, 2018, at 84. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and served as a state and national leader for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

★**James Wilbert Stein, BS BA '56**, of Clinton, Mo., Oct. 27, 2017, at 87. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

**Jean C. Chisholm, BS HE '58**, of Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 4, 2018, at 81. She was a member of Chi Omega and a registered dietician.

★**Ronald Dean Dozier, BS Ag '58**, of Monument, Colo., Aug. 3, 2018, at 82. He was the senior vice president for Farm Credit Services.

**Archie Murdock, MS '60**,

\*All attendance figures are estimates.

★ MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBER | ★★ LIFE MEMBER

# Meet St. Louis Power Couples

When thinking of power couples, your mind might jump to the likes of JAY-Z and Beyoncé, Barack and Michelle Obama, or Tom Brady and Gisele. But there is another kind of power couple — inspiring pairs who are highly accomplished as individuals and commit as a couple to looking outward and giving back. These two couples are from St. Louis.



## Hometown Missionaries

Jack Galbraith and Dana Patterson Galbraith started dating the way most medical students do — by studying together. But midterm prep soon precipitated something more. They married right after he graduated, did their family-practice residencies in Columbia, then moved to St. Louis and started a practice.

“People think we’re crazy” to work together as spouses, says Jack, MD ’06. “But since we have the same training, we can help and support each other.” It also helps that Dana, BS ’01, MD ’07, is a like-minded business partner. The Galbraiths view medicine as their calling, their means of service. They have gone on several international medical mission trips, which led them to adopt four children internationally and one locally in St. Louis.

Their first mission trip was during medical school. “You think you’re going to help people, but you get more than you give,” Jack says. “The people you minister to are really ministering to you. You’re learning about medicine, yourself, the world.”

On international trips, they focused on providing patient care collaborating with local doctors to build the capacity to meet patients’ needs. But there’s a limit to what you can do in a short time. Starting their own family practice gave them the means to pursue that same mission over the long term. “Working as a team to take care of patients — that was a real draw to us,” Jack says. “In family medicine you develop that relationship with the family, so you see them grow up and work through issues.”

The Galbraiths’ service ethos originates in their Christian faith, but it was reinforced at Mizzou, both by the medical mission work of senior classmates and the devotion of their faculty mentors. “You see your medical school professors pour their lives into their students — I was being served every step of the way,” Jack says. “It’s a neat way we were trained to serve others.” — Erik Potter

## Change Makers

Jeff and Mindy Mazur have been married since 2002, and in that time, they’ve created a tremendous amount of change. While Jeff, BA ’99, was in law school at Georgetown, Mindy, BA ’99, worked as a legislative aide to former U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton, BA ’53, JD ’56. “I loved doing work I felt was helping people and making a difference,” she says.

In 2004, the couple moved back to mid-Missouri after Mindy successfully managed Robin Carnahan’s campaign for secretary of state and became her chief of staff. Jeff served as an adviser to former Gov. Jay Nixon, BA ’78, JD ’81, and as executive director of the Missouri and Kansas council of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Mindy also later served as chief operating officer of the nonprofit Missouri Health Connection.

They enjoyed being back in Tiger country. With twin daughters in tow, Jeff and Mindy went to every home Mizzou football game and reminisced about Jeff’s stints on the Homecoming Steering Committee and Mindy’s work with Greek Advocates. They also reflected on how Mizzou laid the groundwork for their careers.

“I was involved with the Student Unions Programming Board, and that’s really where I had my eyes opened to diversity and how to be intentional about putting together programs that would make Mizzou a place of inclusion,” Mindy says.

In 2017, Jeff and Mindy both accepted executive director positions at nonprofits in St. Louis. Jeff leads LaunchCode, which helps companies find skilled, new tech talent by offering job seekers education, training and paid apprenticeship job placement. Mindy headed up Brazen St. Louis, which supports women entrepreneurs, before leaving at the end of 2018 to start her own business.

“Everything we’ve done has been driven by mission, trying to identify something that we could get up out of bed every day and go to and be excited about,” Jeff says. — Kelsey Allen, BA, BJ ’10



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**PhD '63**, of Lebanon, Mo., May 18, 2018, at 84.

★**John S. Pugh, BS ME '60**, of Louisville, Colo., April 10, 2018, at 80. He was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and served in the U.S. Navy.

★**Weymeth Stipp, BS Ag '60**, of Springfield, Mo., Aug. 29, 2018, at 79. He worked in quality assurance at Hiland Dairy for 17 years.

★**Myrna P. Gorelick, BS Ed '61**, of West Chester, Pa., Oct. 17, 2017, at 77.

**Donald L. Jones, M Ed '61**, of Belleville, Ill., April 26, 2018, at 82. He served in the U.S. Army and was a choral music teacher at Belleville West High School for 29 years.

★**Mary Richter, BS HE '64**, of St. Louis Oct. 7, 2017, at 74.

★**David Davis, BS BA '65, MBA '66**, of Austin, Texas, July 7, 2018, at 77. He was a member of Delta Sigma Pi and a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran.

**Steven McCollum, BS Ed '67**, of McMinnville, Ore., June 4, 2018, at 73. He was a U.S. Army veteran and taught in cities around the world.

★**Kenneth "Gary" Kombrink, BA '68, JD '73**, of Bloomington, Ill., March 27, 2018, at 72. He was a member of Sigma Chi, a Tiger quarterback in 1966 and 1967, and a U.S. Army veteran.

**Tom Miltenberger, BJ '69, M Ed '71**, of St. Louis April 19, 2018, at 71. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and had a 27-year career with Edward D. Jones & Co.

★**Jeanne Stephens Lee Blackmar, M Ed '70, PhD**

'78, of Belleair, Fla., March 16, 2018, at 97. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

**Richard Gebhart, EdD '71**, of Menomonie, Wis., June 21, 2018, at 87. He was a U.S. Air Force Korean War veteran, a high school teacher and a trainer for North American Aviation.

★**Cecil Ray "Corky" Lewis Jr., MS '74**, of Lee's Summit, Mo., June 2, 2018, at 72. He owned a computer consulting company and wrote software for Kansas City-area businesses.

★**P. Ferman Milster, BS ME '75**, of Iowa City, Iowa, July 23, 2018, at 69. He was a member of the Navy ROTC and served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years.

★**George Sorensen, PhD '76**, of Lebanon, Mo., July 23, 2018, at 81. He taught dramatic arts at secondary schools and colleges in Texas.

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← Back in 1958 during the School of Journalism's 50th anniversary, the U.S. Post Office Department issued a stamp commemorating press freedom. L. Rohe Walter, left, special assistant to the U.S. postmaster general, presented a sheet of the 4-cent stamps to Edwin D. Canham, editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, who accepted them on behalf of the journalism profession.

## Going Postal on the Press

Mizzou has a way of popping up unexpectedly. But Newark, Delaware? Simon Pursifull, an unabashed bibliophile, was vacationing back east recently and found himself in Lead Graffiti, a hand-printing shop, one of whose owners is a trafficker in big ideas. This fellow, Ray Nichols, had printed fliers commemorating the 550th anniversary of the death of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the movable-type printing press and, by extension, the father of mass communication and sustainer of its notable offspring — democracy and the free press.

“He handed me a sheet about the 1958 Freedom of the Press stamp, I started reading, and there was Mizzou!” says Pursifull BA, BA '89, who lives in St. Charles, Missouri.

It turns out that, in 1958, the U.S. government chose the School of Journalism's golden anniversary as the mountaintop from which to shout its admiration and support of the Fourth Estate. It's medium of choice: a postage stamp. And so, 60 years ago this fall, L. Rohe Walter of the U.S. Post Office Department visited campus with high purpose:

“Today, the Post Office Department salutes the proud profession of journalism by dedicating a commemorative postage stamp to a basic American right — our American free press — and to a Missouri institution which has helped safeguard it for 50 years,” Walter told a gathering at the School of Journalism. “We do so at a time when the need for information, enlightenment and leadership has never been greater. We do so at a time when those Americans dedicated to the dissemination of news face not only a golden opportunity but an awesome responsibility to help secure the peace, preserve human dignity and strengthen cooperation between freedom-loving peoples.”

Walter, the special assistant to the postmaster general, inlaid his remarks with quotations amplifying the celebra-

tion's theme, “A Stronger Free Press for a Better Free World”:

“When the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.” — Thomas Jefferson

“Our republic and its press will rise or fall together.” — Joseph Pulitzer

By 1958, the post office had had a long history of carrying the news to readers. Early carriers hauled papers across the nation by overland trails, and they'd helped the penny press thrive. “Currently,” Walter said, “the Post Office Department carries close to 3 billion copies of newspapers a year in the furtherance of its traditional position as handmaiden to the nation's free press.”

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing prepared 120 million of the Freedom of the Press emblems to highlight the contributions of journalism to America's welfare. The stamp's designers were Lester Beall, who spent childhood summers in Missouri and was the first graphic designer to have a one-man show at the Museum of Modern Art, and Charles Goslin. For a time, Columbia's post office canceled the stamps using the outline of the Columns.

As of this writing, an ample supply of the 4-cent stamps can be had online for a song. — Dale Smith, BJ '88



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