UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

TIGERS

2018 HOMECOMING GUIDE

A SPECIAL HOMECOMING PUBLICATION BY THE COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN
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Contents

6 Schedule of events
Check out the schedule so you don’t miss your favorite events.

16 Parking map
Make sure you know which parking lots are available during Homecoming weekend.

20 House deces map
Check out the house deces map to know which ones to visit.

32 Tailgate food
Get some inspiration for your next tailgate.

42 Royalty candidates
Meet the 2018 Homecoming queen and king candidates.

54 Football seniors
Get to know the seniors on the football team.
Game day is only steps away!

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Traditions that spark the best memories for Tigers

By Nicole Mondragon, Trevor Rowland // news@columbiamissourian.com

Homecoming. The word carries serious weight at MU and goes far beyond the excitement at Faurot Field.

Homecoming is a service effort and a celebration of community, history and tradition. It’s also a time to appreciate the many aspects of the MU experience that make it special to many former students.

As alumni and MU football announcer Randy Moehlman put it, “I don’t know if anyone does it better.”

While it’s doubtful that Chester Brewster imagined students racing electric scooters when he came up with the idea of a “Come Home” game in 1911, he would certainly be proud of how the tradition has grown in the past 107 years.

For many alumni, the fondest memories of MU are centered around the annual celebration of history, tradition and school spirit.

Thinking back on his freshman year, Rusty Martin, class of 1984, said Homecoming was when he “really started to feel being a part of a bigger place (than high school).”

Both Martin and Moehlman were involved in Greek life and said they made some of their best friends and memories participating in the annual competition between pairings of fraternity and sorority houses.

Now calling games as MU’s public address announcer, Moehlman said, “There’s no better high than sitting up there and being part of the game-day experience.”

Recounting his time as a student, Moehlman said his “favorite memories aside from sports are the traditions around Homecoming. … Being Greek and being heavily involved with the pageantry that surrounds Homecoming with the blood drive and all the raising of money for charity and then being part of the day of Homecoming — all of that involvement was special, times I’ll never forget.”

“The (last night) of house decorations was crazy fun,” Martin said. “Me and my partner from the Delt house that led the house dec … were on the 10 o’clock news talking about the experience of what it takes to pull something like that off. It sticks in my mind, especially when I called my parents and told them to watch the news because I was going to be on it that evening.”

However, the MU experience does not just revolve around the oldest Homecoming tradition in the United States.

“No matter where you go, there's always an activity,” said Mujtaba Alhaddad, class of 2016. “The best memories I have about Mizzou include the friends I made, the classes I attended and the social events that are always available on campus.”

Being a student is not always easy. Ginny Algaier, class of 2016, remembers that “the community and education continuously pushed me out of my comfort zone,” but it “was exactly what I needed.”

The most important part of her time as a student was the opportunity to meet people from cultures and backgrounds far different than her own, she said.

“Mizzou is a place that brings groups of people from different places and cultures together, yet many have goals in common,” Algaier said. “These experiences and relationships at Mizzou also taught me that you don’t necessarily need to go anywhere else to expose yourself to new things, ideas or people to find a new outlook on the world.”

Although Algaier didn’t need to leave Columbia to broaden her perspective, the opportunity to represent MU around the world is the highlight of many student experiences.

Along with being a Summer Welcome leader, Amy Knopps, class of 2001, “was involved in our top wind ensemble summer, which is our top concert band at the University of Missouri.”

Knopps had the opportunity to represent Missou on an international platform when the ensemble toured Australia in 2000.

“We played in Sydney Opera House, we performed at the Australian wind summer camp and other places around Sydney. That was a very special international trip.”

As the black and gold prepares to repeat a 1999 performance, Homecoming is a time to enjoy celebrating everything that makes MU special.
Mums the word: MU tradition brings a pop of color to Homecoming

By Liv Jackson // news@columbiamissourian.com

For many alumni, an honored Homecoming tradition was wearing golden mums on the day of the big football game.

“Mums were very, very popular in the ’30s, ’40s, ’50s and ’60s,” Homecoming Tri Director Jenna Cederblad said. “Students would wear them to the football games and all around that day.

“They used to get super dressed up. They would pin the mums to their lapels.”

In recent decades, the tradition became less popular among students who adopted more casual dress for football games.

Tia Odom, an MU alumna and wife of Missouri head coach Barry Odom, was disappointed by this decrease in popularity.

In 2016, she collaborated with the Mizzou Alumni Association to bring the golden flowers back to campus.

They’re mostly worn by alumni now, but they’re available for the public to purchase.

Cederblad said she is hopeful for a resurgence of students wearing mums for Homecoming.

“On Homecoming everyone gets dressed up, so I could see people wanting to buy them,” she said.

Mums can be purchased online at mizzou.com/hocomums2018 or during the tour of campus decorations the Friday night before Homecoming on Saturday.

“Mums were very, very, popular in the ’30s, ’40s, ’50s and ’60s. Students would wear them to football games and all around that day.”
**TIGER FOOD FIGHT**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sept. 28
In front of Student Center
Members of the Mizzou communities make a significant contribution of canned food to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

**HOMECOMING 5K**
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Oct. 7
Traditions Plaza
Wear your favorite black and gold athletic gear to get in the spirit for Mizzou Homecoming.

**THE BLOOD DRIVE**
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Oct. 8 - 11
Hearnes Center
MU is home to the largest blood drive in the state of Missouri, collecting over 3,000 units of blood annually.

**TALENT SHOW**
6:30 p.m. Oct. 15 - 17
Jesse Hall
Check out 12-minute Homecoming-themed skits, dancers and singers during the three-day run of the Homecoming talent show.

**SPRIT RALLY**
8:30 p.m. Oct. 19
Traditions Plaza
Get those vocal cords ready to cheer with Truman the Tiger, Marching Mizzou and the Mizzou Spirit Squads the eve before the big game.

**HOMECOMING HEADQUARTERS**
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oct. 19
Traditions Plaza
Grab some Homecoming merchandise, participate in giveaways and pick up some free kettle corn courtesy of the Bates County Mizzou Club.

**STEP SHOW**
7 p.m. Oct. 19
Jesse Auditorium
National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations will face off once again to see which fraternity and sorority can stroll and step the best.

**HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON**
11:30 a.m. Oct. 19
Reynolds Alumni Center
The University of Missouri will honor and induct three notable alumni into the traditional honor roll.

**CAMPUS DECORATIONS**
6 - 9:30 p.m. Oct. 19
MU campus
Hit the streets of Greektown to check out what the paired fraternities and sororities curated based on this year’s Homecoming theme. Stay to watch the skit they perform in front of the decorations.

**DECORATE THE DISTRICT**
4 p.m. Oct. 19 - 2:30 p.m. Oct. 21
Downtown Columbia
Wander endlessly through downtown and check out the storefront paintings and decorations. Each spirited design is curated by a participating MU organization.

**HOMECOMING PARADE**
9 a.m. Oct. 20
MU campus and downtown Columbia
Kick off Homecoming with the parade that features local marching bands, fancy floats and cool cars.

**HOMECOMING GAME**
Kickoff at 3 p.m. Oct. 20
Memorial Stadium
Cheer on your favorite college team as it takes on the Memphis Tigers. Stay for halftime to see who will be crowned the 2018 Homecoming king and queen.

Source: MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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October 12-13, 2018 // Columbia Missourian // Homecoming // 7
Talking to Greg Miller: Alum and online personality shares his love for Mizzou and Homecoming

By Seth Boester // news@columbiamissourian.com

Greg Miller, a 2005 MU graduate, has kept his Tiger pride intact over the 13 years since.

“I still get choked up when I see Mizzou commercials run during games,” he said.

Miller has made a name for himself in the video games industry as an online personality with IGN and KindaFunny.com, but he was once just another journalism student at MU.

A Chicago native, Miller attended the university from 2001-05 where his sights were set on the Missouri School of Journalism.

“I had a teacher in high school that said ‘If you’re serious about journalism, you should take a look at this’ and handed me a Mizzou summer program flier,” he said. “I flipped it over, scoffed at the price and made a note to look into it for college. A few years later, it was the clear choice.”

After graduating from the journalism school, Miller landed a job at IGN, one of the world’s largest video game/entertainment websites.

There, he began to develop a following on various podcasts and shows. Looking to capitalize on this success, Miller and three of his co-workers — Tim Gettys, Colin Moriarty and Nick Scarpino — left IGN in early 2015 to form Kinda Funny, a YouTube-based video company that focuses on “nerd culture” content.

Even with his success as an internet personality, Miller said he has never forgotten his MU roots. He often wears Mizzou apparel, and he is known to sip from Shakespeare's cups on camera.

“People think I’m actually from Missouri the way I talk about it so much,” said Miller, 35, who lives in San Francisco.

Yet Miller said it took a little while to ease into the student lifestyle at MU. He remembers walking into Memorial Stadium at the start of the season during his freshman year to attend a football game alone.

But once he settled into campus and realized why he came to the university in the first place, Miller felt...
more at home.

“I always wanted to be a part of something greater,” he said. “This is what drew me into Mizzou — why I made this choice. I was being indoctrinated into this tradition.”

The transition became easier during his freshman year when he joined The Antlers, the men’s basketball super-fan organization. It provided most of Miller’s tailgating memories during his time at Mizzou, and by his senior year, he was the group’s “Grand Poobah,” or leader.

As an alum, Homecoming is what draws Miller back to Columbia.

“Homecoming is about seeing everyone come back,” he said. “It’s about seeing the former Antlers return, getting to see my Missouri family again and being able to hang out with them.”

Miller also values Homecoming as a time to visit the Columbia spots he hasn’t been to since college.

“It’s about coming home and doing the things you took for granted when you went here, like ‘Oh we have to go to Shakespeare’s and CJ’s!'” he said.

For Miller, returning to Columbia is like picking up where he left off during college. For his wife, Genevieve, a Quebec native, it has been an all-new experience.

“Gen was blown away,” he said. “To have never even heard of tailgating or Homecoming, she was floored at the way Missouri went all out on both accounts. She fell in love with Columbia instantly.”

Showing his wife the old Columbia stomping grounds and traditions has become just as important as reliving his memories.

“For me, it’s about taking my wife around, showing her the streets and places we used to go to, touching the columns with her,” he said. “That is what Homecoming means to me.”

Miller provided the narration for last August’s “Show Me Mizzou” video, but he has his eyes set on more ambitious dreams.

“About a decade ago on an IGN podcast, I said that I achieved my lifelong dream of working for the company,” he said. “We then set a new goal: being the Mizzou Homecoming grand marshal. I’d be there in a heartbeat.”

While he certainly understands his success as an online personality, Miller knows he’s not on the short list of former MU students like Jon Hamm, Cheryl Crow and Brad Pitt.

“Maybe someone like Sheryl Crow gets special treatment when they come back,” he said with a laugh. “I don’t.”

Regardless, what’s most important to Greg is coming back to the place that made him who he is.

“Homecoming is the most literal definition for it. It really is people like me coming home,” he said. “They say you can never go back home again, but that week proves it wrong.”

As far as actually coming home to Columbia for good? Miller said he has considered it.

“Gen and I talk about it often,” he said. “It would be many years from now — maybe when I’ve successfully nudged the kids toward Mizzou for their own degrees — but it’s definitely possible.”
HOMECOMING GAME DAY ETA

How long will it take you to get to the game?

As MU football’s kickoff time nears, a migration to Memorial Stadium from downtown and MU’s campus begins. Fans come from near and far for game day in Columbia, but some of the city’s hotels have better access than others. The Tiger Hotel and the Broadway Columbia can be found in the heart of downtown while the Hampton Inn & Suites is closest to the stadium. See how long the commute will take you this homecoming.

Source: MISSOURIAN REPORTING

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### Homecoming traditions at MU and the University of Memphis

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Mizzou</th>
<th>Memphis</th>
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Sources: UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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University of Memphis has its own list of homecoming traditions

*By Matt Noworul // news@columbiamissourian.com*

When it comes to Homecoming, MU has more than a century of traditions leading up to the big game.

But how does the University of Memphis, this year’s Homecoming opponent, compare with its Homecoming festivities?

- For starters, both MU and Memphis have an entire week devoted to Homecoming, which features activities for students and alumni to participate in. Both schools share events such as a tailgate, a pep rally, a step show and campus decorations.
- Both schools have Homecoming parades, but Memphis puts a spin on it. Memphis has “walk around” parades, where the floats are parked around the Alumni Mall, and students are free to view each float while enjoying the music from a live band or DJ.
- Another Memphis Homecoming tradition is “turning the fountain blue,” where the water in the main fountain on campus is dyed blue to kick off Homecoming week. This is a fairly new tradition at Memphis, but it has already gained the approval of the university’s president.

The university president “liked it so much he suggested doing it before every home game,” said Kristie Goldsmith, the director of the Memphis Alumni Association. “In addition, blue lights on the administration building dance after every win.”

- Memphis also has a “Build-a-Tiger” event, where students can build their own stuffed tiger mascots to take home. This event is similar to “Build-a-Bear,” but a tiger is used instead.

“We try to have fun and unique things for the students and alumni to do,” Goldsmith said.
Try something new with these three nontraditional ways to celebrate Homecoming

By Antranik Tavitian//news@columbiamissourian.com

Homecoming is filled with a multitude of events ranging from parades, football games and a 5K race. But if you’re looking for even more variety, here are a couple of events for you.

**Legion of Black Collegians**
For 50 years, the Legion of Black Collegians has been supporting MU’s African-American student body with a black community-focused Homecoming. Events throughout the week include the annual Homecoming Ball, Royalty Court and guest speakers.
One member of LBC, Kayla Johnson, remembers going to the Royalty Court event during her freshman year and seeing nominees performing skits of popular ‘90s sitcoms.
“It helped me have a sense of belonging,” Johnson said. “It makes me feel good that I have an organization like that, that I can come to.”

*If You Go*
*When:* Oct. 22-26
*Where:* TBD

**Taste of Asia**
MU’s Asian American Association holds a street market-style Asian foods and traditions event at Lowry Mall open to the general public.
Guests can earn meal tickets for participating in traditional games and dances like Tinikling — a Philippine dance “similar to jumping rope,” except with long bamboo poles held low to the ground and rhythmically clicked together, said Will Jones, co-chairman of the association.
Tokens can be used toward snacks and drinks like Japanese mitarashi dango, skewered grilled mochi balls covered in a sweet soy sauce; boba; and the Indian baked and stuffed pocket food, samosas.
“It provides a good alternative,” Jones said. “A chance to see a different side of campus than what is normally represented in Homecoming events.”

*If You Go*
*When:* Oct. 22-26
*Where:* TBD

**love Your Body Week**
The Women’s Center holds “Love Your Body Week,” a week-long celebration of body positivity. Last year, Mike Veny gave a talk focusing on mental health for college students during stressful times. The center also held a sharing session at Speakers Circle and discussions about modern beauty standards.

*If You Go*
*When:* Oct. 22-27
*Where:* TBD

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This year, it’s a tail of two tigers

By Meredith Lehman // news@columbiamissourian.com

MU and the University of Memphis both have tiger mascots, meaning even more spirit and competition on game day. Here’s a look at the two tigers.

Truman the Tiger

In 1890, after the first football team was organized at MU, a tiger was chosen as the mascot. It was a nod to “The Missouri Tigers,” a group that defended the town of Columbia from guerrilla attacks during the Civil War.

Originally, MU had two tigers, a male called “Big Tiger” and a female called “Lil Tiger.” They made frequent appearances at football and basketball games.

Columbia native Deb Snellen, class of ’79, remembers her time as “Lil Tiger” fondly. “I’ve been a Tiger since day one,” Snellen said. “I just thought it would be an awesome way to represent my school spirit and be a part of all that was Mizzou.”

She was “Lil Tiger” during her junior and senior years and recalls visits to the children in the hospital and other interactions with kids as favorite times. “Truman is such a positive symbol for Mizzou,” Snellen said. “He brings smiles to people’s faces.”

Susan Bierman, class of 1961, agrees. Bierman spent her sophomore, junior and senior years as the tiger mascot for MU, and she loved every minute of it.

She says the memory that stands out most for her is her senior year trip to the Orange Bowl, where MU defeated the Navy Midshipmen.

She also says a prominent memory is one game where she removed the tiger suit head.

“Truman really is the spirit of Mizzou,” Bierman said.

In 1984, the MU cheerleaders held a tiger-naming contest. The winning submission came from a student and honored Missouri native Harry S. Truman. In 1986, Jack Lengyel, the athletic director at the time, led a movement to redesign Truman the Tiger.

Originally, the mascot costume was “a piece of gold, cotton cloth with black stripes painted on, a papier mâché tiger head, black gloves and white tennis shoes,” according to Bierman.

With the help of assistant athletic director Dick Tamburo, Truman was given a new look and character. The new Truman made his debut at the Missouri-Utah game in 1986.

Truman makes 35 monthly appearances, including every MU football and basketball game, other athletic events, hospital and school visits and more. He has won “Best Mascot in the Nation” twice, in 2004 and 2014.

“Truman is just a very important part of our traditions and of our heritage,” Snellen said. “I’m just pleased to have been one of the few to know what it’s like to wear that suit.”

TOM III

TOM has been the University of Memphis mascot for over 40 years. Memphis is one of only two universities to have a live tiger mascot (the other is Mike the Tiger at LSU).

On Nov. 9, 1972, a live Bengal tiger arrived at the university after traveling from a dog kennel in Michigan City, Indiana. C. Cleveland Drennon, president of the Highland Hundred, the football boosters for Memphis, approved the purchase of the tiger for $1,500, and TOM was introduced as the mascot on Nov. 11, 1972, during a Memphis-Cincinnati football game.

A contest with over 2,500 entries was held to name the tiger, and TOM was chosen to stand for “Tigers of Memphis.” As TOM I aged, the Highland Hundred decided to adopt a new tiger as the mascot. TOM I died in February 1992.

On Nov. 16, 1991, TOM II was introduced during a Memphis-Alabama football game. He lived in a custom-designed tiger house in Collierville, a suburb of Memphis, until the construction of a new facility in 2005. TOM II was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 17 and died on Oct. 15, 2008.

TOM III was introduced to the university shortly afterward during a Memphis-Central Florida football game. TOM III serves as the mascot for the University of Memphis and weighs 450 pounds.

TOM is transported in his own custom, climate-controlled trailer with a police escort. The tiger attends every home football game and can be found at other events across campus.

A Tail of Two Tigers

The universities of Missouri and Memphis both boast tiger mascots. Truman has won two “Best Mascot in the Nation” awards, and TOM III is one of only two live tiger mascots in the U.S.
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LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

With level of involvement, all organizations are encouraged to participate in celebrating the 107th MU Homecoming. Below are the four levels with lists of participating organizations.

BLACK & GOLD

• Little Sisters of the Gold Rose
• Mizzou Students for Life
• Arts and Science Student Council
• Student Unions Programming Board
• Marching Mizzou
• Delta Sigma Pi
• Mizzou Down Syndrome Advocates

COLUMNS

• Catholic Student Organization
• AASB
• Delta Upsilon

TRUMAN

• Sigma Eta Rho
• Alpha Phi Omega
• Alpha Kappa Psi
• Phi Sigma Pi

TRADITIONS

• Alpha Chi Omega
• Phi Delta Theta
• Alpha Delta Pi
• Delta Chi
• Tau Kappa Epsilon
• Alpha Phi
• Delta Tau Delta
• Chi Omega
• Lambda Chi Alpha
• Delta Delta Delta
• Alpha Epsilon Sigma
• Delta Sigma Phi
• Gamma Phi Beta
• Alpha Sigma Nu
• Kappa Delta
• Delta Kappa Epsilon
• Alpha Kappa Lambda
• Delta Kappa Epsilon
• Sigma Kappa
• Sigma Nu
• Sigma Sigma Sigma

Royalty
Nominate someone from your organization to potentially be the next Homecoming king or queen.

Services
Each group will be asked to provide 25 volunteers at the Homecoming Day of Service. Participants will have service opportunities through the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

Blood drive
MU has the largest student-run blood drive in the country, and it has the power and potential to benefit over 15,000 patients. The blood drive will take place 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 8-11 at the Heames Center.

Decoration
Each grouping will be partnered with a local establishment in downtown Columbia to decorate its storefront with MU spirit. The group will show their creativity by incorporating the grouping’s overall theme.

Flag football
In the flag football game each organization has the opportunity to display MU pride. Participants will set up a small tailgate while participating in the flag football tournament.

Parade
Any student organization recognized by MU, residential hall, community organization or business may enter a decorated car, float or walking banner on other entry as allowed by the parade committee.

Banner
Residence halls, campus organizations and Greek chapters create banners that will be judged and scored, showing MU spirit with their overall theme.

Talent
An organization participating in the Traditions level of involvement will be performing on one of the following dates: 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 15-17

Campus Decoration
Campus decorations will inspire students, alumni and faculty by covering the campus with MU spirit while preparing for Homecoming festivities: at 4 p.m. on Oct. 19.

SOURCE: MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

XIAOYU WEI/Missourian
Meet the Tiger’s Lair

By Lauren Brocato // news@columbiamissourian.com

If you want to be among the loudest, proudest and most passionate MU football fans, then look no further than the Tiger’s Lair. They’re always loud. They’re always proud.

This select group of football fans is the official student fan section for all MU home games. The group is responsible for pumping up the players from the sidelines as they showcase their rehearsed chants, stunts and cheers.

From an outside perspective, they look like a typical herd of amped-up students yelling “M-I-Z” after a touchdown, but there’s more to them than their black and gold body paint.

Tiger’s Lair senior Georgi Gnibus has been cheering with the group for four years. Gnibus’ lifelong envy of ESPN super-fans inspired her to join the group as a freshman.

“It’s like being part of the game without officially being a part of it,” she said.

“It’s all about the little moments that happen at every game. It’s almost indescribable.”

N. Andrew Dent III // Missourian

Truman the Tiger poses in front of the Tiger’s Lair student section on Sept. 8 in Memorial Stadium as Missouri football faces off against the Wyoming Cowboys. The Tigers won the game 40-13.
2018 MU HOMECOMING HOUSE DECORATIONS

Decorations will be on display from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Oct. 19. The locations for Sigma Sigma Sigma/Theta Chi and Kappa Alpha Theta/Alpha Gamma Rho’s decorations were not available.

Gamma Phi Beta
Alpha Tau Omega

Delta Gamma
Delta Sigma Phi

Delta Delta Delta
Alpha Epsilon Pi
Phi Kappa Psi

Sigma Kappa
Sigma Nu

Alpha Phi
Delta Tau Delta

Zeta Tau Alpha
Beta Sigma Psi
Sigma Tau Gamma
Beta Upsilon Chi

Pi Beta Phi
FIJI

Kappa Delta
Delta Kappa Epsilon
Alpha Kappa Lambda

Chi Omega
Lambda Chi Alpha

Alpha Delta Pi
Delta Chi
Tau Kappa Epsilon

Kappa Kappa Gamma
Alpha Gamma Sigma
Zeta Beta Tau

Phi Mu

Alpha Chi Omega
Phi Delta Theta

SOURCE: MIZZOU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MAURA HEALY AND JOHN HENIFF/Missourian