

# ADVANCEMENTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION | SPRING 2020

*You are  
helping us lift  
Missouri State*

## ONWARD, UPWARD

Learn what's new since the launch of our biggest fundraising campaign ever — including a gift that will greatly expand agriculture education.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



# ADVANCEMENTS

SPRING 2020

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**Missouri State University  
Foundation**

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# WELCOME TO ADVANCEMENTS

*Your inside look at the Onward, Upward campaign*

### **GREETINGS, FELLOW BEARS. WELCOME TO THE FIRST-EVER ISSUE OF ADVANCEMENTS MAGAZINE.**

What is Advancements?

In October 2019, Missouri State launched Onward, Upward. It's the largest fundraising campaign in university history.

With your help, every one of us at the Missouri State University Foundation plan to transform MSU for the people who matter most — our students and those who educate them.

We're going to put out this publication to tell you the stories of how supporters like you are changing the lives of Missouri State Bears and enhancing our campus.

Thank you for being part of the Missouri State story. We hope through this magazine you can follow along with the university's journey at this transformative time.

In each issue, I am going to share with you a "top 5." I want to tell you more about our work, the campaign, who we are and more.

My first top 5 is a look behind the scenes of It's On, the Oct. 26 event on campus that launched Onward, Upward. We planned and prepared for the event all year. But with anything of this size, humorous and surprising things happen that you can't control. I hope you enjoy this inside look!

If you have any thoughts about Advancements magazine, Missouri State University or leaving your legacy at MSU, feel free to contact me or any member of the foundation.

I give you my heartfelt thanks for being a champion for higher education.

Let's take Missouri State onward and upward! Go Bears!

**W. Brent Dunn**  
*Vice president for university advancement  
and executive director of the Missouri  
State University Foundation*

## MY TOP 5 INSIDER MEMORIES FROM IT'S ON

### THE SHOEHORN SEARCH

When you have a generous, well-known alumnus like John Goodman serving as chairman of the largest fundraising effort the university has ever undertaken, you want to do everything you can to make sure his experience is seamless.

John flew straight to Springfield from L.A. the morning of the event. He was tired; we were tired.

Backstage was busting with nearly 600 performers flowing in and out. We had tried to think of everything. And we did. Almost everything. As Goodman prepared for the show in his dressing room, he had one simple need: A shoehorn. We hadn't thought of that.

Turns out few places in Springfield had them that day, either. We had about 30 minutes before the show.

Foundation staff worked the phones, and found what we are calling "the only shoehorn in Springfield" at a drug store. Now, we're ready. If the need for a shoehorn should arise — we've got you covered.

### THE "BACHELOR" INFLUENCE

It was a great, unexpected surprise that former Football Bear Clay Harbor could join us. It was not until the week of the event we knew he had a plane ticket to Springfield.

His appearance made a huge impact on the event. His influence and his effort in reaching out to get students to come to It's On was incredible. Bears are huge fans of his appearances on "The

Bachelorette" and "Bachelor in Paradise" reality shows!

He even went to the tailgate to get students excited, and promoted the event online.

He was a great advocate for MSU that night, and continues to be so. In February, he was inducted into the university's Athletics Hall of Fame.

Clay is an all-around good guy and great person to spend time with. We loved having him back.

### SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

We worked for months with university units, the city and police and fire departments to make sure we had our "I"s dotted and our "T"s crossed for what we knew would be a fireworks display like none our guests had ever seen.

But on the big night, the parking lot lights would not turn off! Foundation staff got on the phone with university safety, the power house was called, but to no avail — none of us could get the lights to turn off!

Someone in the chain thought a switch in Greenwood Laboratory School would work. University staff went into Greenwood after dark, walking around with flashlights, trying to find a magic, elusive switch.

In the end, nothing we tried worked. It didn't affect the fireworks — the show was beautiful. Better than we could have ever dreamed.

And guess when those lights finally went out? Hours later, during clean-up.

### THAT CROWD, THOUGH

When I tell you I underestimated how many people would show up, I am putting it mildly. It kept me up at night: the worries that despite our greatest efforts,

we wouldn't draw the crowd we wanted.

A line started forming outside Juanita K. Hammons Hall at 3 p.m.

"Brent, come look at this. You won't believe it," Stephanie Smith, senior director of donor relations and special events, said to me.

We had expected and hoped for about 2,000 people. We ended up with almost 5,000. We exceeded the capacity of Juanita K., and hundreds of people stood in the lobby.

I never predicted such a response. I still can't believe it. We have such engaged, excited alumni, supporters and students. I have never been so proud to be a Bear.

### THE ENDURING RESULTS

The It's On event created more excitement, pride and goodwill right off the bat than we could have imagined.

Along with the large party in Springfield, more than 5,000 people watched it live online.

In December, we held a MarooNation event in Washington, D.C. One person there said she wanted to get involved with the campaign because she was impressed while watching the kickoff. I am still so humbled that across the country, people joined us as we announced this undertaking.

I am excited about this momentum. It is truly going to help us make a difference for the next generation.

Now that the campaign is public, I hope donations will come in from all around the country and the globe. After all, we have alumni in all 50 states and more than 90 countries.

We have taken our message about the transformation of the university worldwide! ▼





*You are helping us lift  
Missouri State*

# ONWARD, UPWARD,

Learn what's new since the launch of the largest  
fundraising campaign in university history. One amazing update:  
A gift that will greatly expand agriculture education.







*In October, we announced a bold, historic campaign that will lead us into a new era.*

Onward, Upward: The Campaign for Missouri State University is the biggest fundraising campaign in university history.

The goal is ambitious: Raise \$250 million to create an educational experience like no other.

“In order for this campaign to be transformational, well, it has to be big,” said President Clif Smart. “It has to be our biggest ever.”

Since the announcement, the campus and community have embraced the campaign. In December, a generous gift from long-time supporters the Bill and Virginia Darr family became the first major contribution since the launch of Onward, Upward.

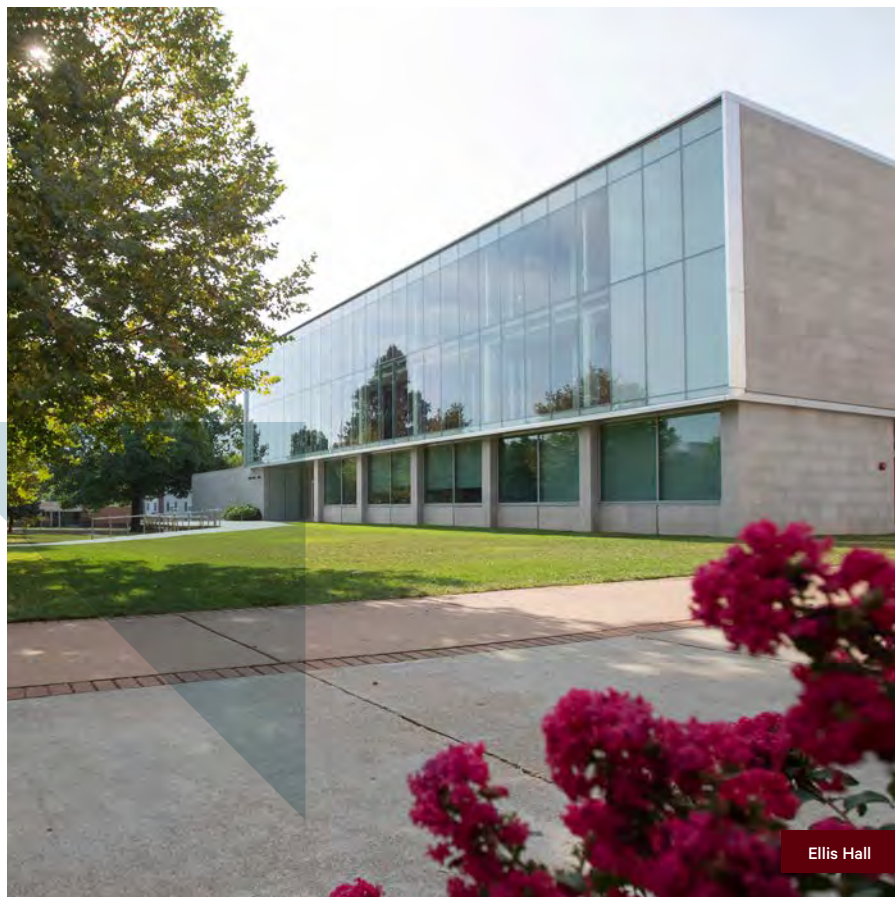
## GIFTS FROM THE CAMPAIGN'S SILENT PHASE

The campaign has been in a silent phase for two years, and the Missouri State University Foundation has already raised more than \$151 million. That includes gifts such as:

- The Betty and Bobby Allison stadiums and recreation fields.
- The Bill and Lucille Magers Family Health and Wellness Center.
- The Davis-Harrington Welcome Center.
- The O'Reilly Clinical Health Sciences Center.
- New facilities at Greenwood Laboratory School.
- Hass-Darr Hall on the university's West Plains campus.
- The McQueary family's gift to health sciences and their naming of the College of Health and Human Services.
- The Robert Gourley Student Success Center at David D. Glass Hall.
- Ellis Hall renovations.
- And much more.

The total also includes more than 220 new scholarships.

The next \$100 million in gifts will “transform every aspect of the Missouri State experience,” said Brent Dunn, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri State University Foundation.







David D. Glass Hall and the Robert Gourley Student Success Center



Magers Health and Wellness Center



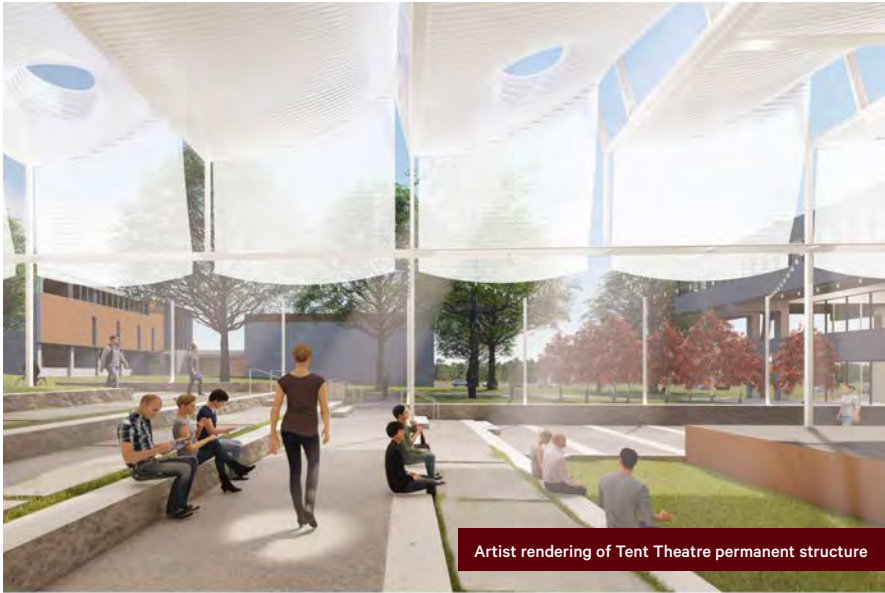
Hass-Darr Hall





John Goodman

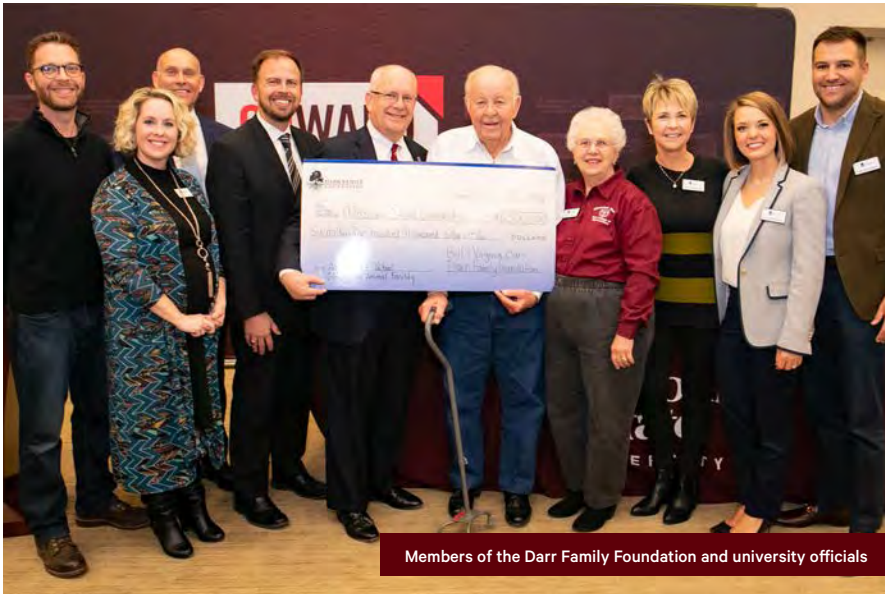




Artist rendering of Tent Theatre permanent structure



Gail and Clif Smart



Members of the Darr Family Foundation and university officials

There are campaign funding priorities related to scholarships, faculty endowments, academic colleges, athletics, student affairs, the IDEA Commons, libraries, the West Plains campus and more.

These gifts will affect many generations to come.

## GIFTS ANNOUNCED AT THE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

■ **Alumnus John Goodman, '75, the campaign cabinet chairman, pledged a significant lead gift to create a permanent home for Tent Theatre.**

Tent Theatre has been an MSU tradition for more than 50 years. Every summer, three different productions are presented under the orange and green tent. Each show usually attracts more than 400 guests, who enjoy performances by our students, guest artists and MSU alumni.

This investment ensures this beloved tradition continues into the future.

"This would be a permanent structure," Goodman said. "Not only to be used for Tent, but a place for (everyone) to go and relax, and listen to music, look at some visual art, some sculpture, paintings, listen to maybe somebody doing a poetry/beat slam."

■ **President Clif Smart and his wife, Gail, made an estate gift to establish new professorships in four academic areas: music, musical theatre, English and political science.**

"We hope many of you will join us in this effort to establish many more new chairs and new professorships," Smart said. "This will energize our faculty. It will improve student outcomes and it will raise the profiles of departments all across campus."

## A GIFT THAT ENHANCES AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Members of the Darr family have been friends and supporters of Missouri State and Springfield Public Schools for many years.

The latest gift from the William H. Darr and the Darr Family Foundation will greatly expand agriculture education and opportunities for both Missouri State and Springfield students.

A \$6.5 million gift will fund the construction of two buildings:

■ **A classroom building to house a new Springfield Public Schools, or**



SPS, magnet school dedicated to agricultural education. A magnet school is a public school with a specific focus on topics such as health care, science or the outdoors. The new SPS agriculture education program is expected to begin in fall 2021. The building will serve approximately 150 elementary students.

- A small-animal education facility for MSU's William H. Darr College of Agriculture. Missouri State offers both a minor and a certificate related to small animals. Students learn about the care, management and biology of pets, and get hands-on experience working with small animals. These are popular programs for students who major in animal science and pre-veterinary medicine, as well as students from across the entire campus.

"Missouri State University has a very strong livestock education program," said Dr. Ronald Del Vecchio, dean of the Darr College of Agriculture. "The small animal facility will allow us to expand existing education. The facility will also provide the only fully equipped teaching laboratory at the Darr Agricultural Center."

The Darr Family Foundation's investment in Springfield students represents the largest known gift in Springfield Public Schools' history.

"This generosity, and our strong collaboration with Missouri State, allows SPS to continue our expansion of choice programming for students and their families," said Dr. John Jungmann, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools.

"The addition of an agriculture magnet school is an important part of a broader effort to enhance workforce development by ensuring our students are better prepared for a variety of college and career opportunities. We sincerely thank the Darr family and Missouri State for making this possible."

MSU President Clif Smart said the university is excited to be a part of a new education option for students in Springfield.

"Gifts from Bill and Virginia Darr and the Darr Family Foundation have completely transformed the Darr College of Agriculture," Smart said. "This gift will allow us to further expand our programs to better serve the needs of southwest Missouri." ▼







The Darr family has long supported agriculture at MSU. Their latest gift will fund construction of two buildings that will benefit both MSU and Springfield Public Schools.



## *Thank you to the campaign cabinet!*

These alumni and supporters play a significant role in Onward, Upward. “They will provide the energy and the momentum this campaign needs,” said Brent Dunn, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri State University Foundation.

**John Goodman, '75,**  
chair, New Orleans

**Tim Foote, '72,**  
Littleton, Colorado

**Matt Harthcock, '77,**  
Sun City Center, Florida

**Gordon Kinne, '75,**  
Springfield

**Bryan Magers,**  
Springfield

**Mark McQueary,**  
Springfield

**Mike Minor, '80,**  
Kansas City, Missouri

**Anna Marie Presutti, '86,**  
San Francisco

**Mary Schrag,**  
Springfield

**Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens,**  
Springfield



*Scholarship plays a supporting role  
so Bears can take*

# CENTER STAGE

**A long-standing award, created by  
alumnus John Goodman, helps graduating students  
who dream of becoming performers.**

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE S. ROSE







***In August, it was announced that alumnus John Goodman, class of 1975, would be the chairman of the Onward, Upward campaign.***

But it's far from the first time that Goodman, a renowned actor, has supported his alma mater.

In 1991, he established the Professional Performance Award, a scholarship that is granted each year to a graduating senior or seniors.

For more than 20 years, this award has given MSU's top acting students the confidence and financial boost they need to pursue their career dreams.

**TRAINING GREAT ACTORS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON BEING GOOD PEOPLE**

Actor training at Missouri State is professional and serious.

"Entrance to our program is based on auditions. We admit 18 to 20 students a year from around the country," said Dr. Kurt Heinlein, coordinator of the acting program and professor in the theatre and dance department.

"Every year, we have more auditionees and get more competitive."

Students train with a variety of experienced faculty members.

"All of our faculty are working professionals, with credits from TV to Broadway to film," Heinlein said. "We're so lucky to have the faculty we have here at Missouri State."

Another standout feature of the program, he said, is a focus on kindness. That's related to MSU's public affairs mission and its emphasis on ethical leadership.

"We want to create great actors who are also great to work with — we try to model that. We want our students to walk out in the real world and know how to fight for their roles, but also be good people. They should be efficient and competitive, but support their peers."

When he talks with casting or acting specialists at student showcases in L.A. or

New York, they tell him MSU students have taken that message to heart.

They also say the program creates prepared entertainers.

"The goal is that when leave us they are equipped to go into professional acting, whether that's in television, film or on stage," Heinlein said.

About 60 percent of graduates go straight to Los Angeles, he said. Many others go to New York or Chicago.

**GIVING STUDENTS THE POWER TO ENTER A TOUGH INDUSTRY**

Goodman's scholarship for graduating seniors can really make a difference.

It goes to students who have demonstrated real promise to succeed in the tough acting industry.

"The students who earn this have shown us unbelievable work ethic and progress," Heinlein said. "They also have shown they have a game plan for once they get out the door."

This support helps them transition away from college.

"It's a huge help for recipients, especially because they are going into a difficult profession in big-city markets," Heinlein said. "It's also a boost for their confidence. They know when they get it, it's a big honor."

**GOODMAN IS A CAREER, PERSONAL ROLE MODEL FOR STUDENTS**

It's not only the monetary aspect of the award that students appreciate.

Goodman has an incredible legacy in the theatre department, Heinlein said.

"Just being a working actor is an amazing accomplishment, and he's gone so far beyond that — he is a household name. When our students come here, they may have seen Goodman in 20 movies. They walk into our classrooms knowing these are the same classrooms he learned in. That is powerful."

Students can look to him as a personal role model as well. Goodman has used his celebrity status to help people and causes.

\$

This scholarship has helped

**52**

students since it was established

**RECENT RECIPIENTS PURSUING THEIR DREAMS IN L.A.**



▲ Cecilia Tripp had several roles in "The Odyssey," which was presented on the Coger Theatre stage in October 2012.

PHOTO BY MSU OFFICE OF VISUAL MEDIA

Continued on page 17



# CECILIA (DORHAUER) TRIPP

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN ACTING, 2014



◀ ▲ Cecilia (Dorhauer) Tripp is now living and working in Los Angeles. She signed with an agent and management team in 2015. PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CECILIA TRIPP



▲ Cecilia Tripp was Anelle in the 2013 Tent Theatre production of "Steel Magnolias." PHOTO BY JESSE SCHEVE

## Why are you an actor?

It's the only thing I have ever wanted to do with my life. I started with a school play in second grade and did theater throughout middle and high school. At MSU I was in plays, films and web series, and was an assistant director for a play. I went to MSU with my now-husband, Garrett Tripp. He was in the film department.

## What was it like moving to L.A. after graduation?

It was terrifying! I moved in August after I graduated. The first year was a whirlwind. I got engaged and started planning the wedding, all while we were both trying to get our careers started.

## How did MSU alumni help?

When we first got here, I produced and starred in a show. It was an entirely MSU-alum production. I had met Troy Metcalfe (an

acting alumnus who has been on "The Middle" and many other shows) at an MSU showcase, and I reached out to him. I said, "I have this idea to do this play in a loft." He went all in, and became the director.

The three actors were graduates of MSU. All of the crew, including my husband, were MSU grads.

We came together and said, "We're going to learn how to do this." We sold out two nights of the show!

## What are some of your career highlights so far?

- I wrote, produced and starred in a short film that made me Screen Actors Guild/union eligible.
- I signed with an agent and management team at the end of 2015.
- Outside of acting, I work as a social media manager and consultant from home. In

2019 I co-founded a boutique design agency, Laurel Canyon Creative. One of our clients is the Casting Society of America. When I started working with that group, it was huge for me. It's opened so many doors.

## What's on the horizon?

Garrett and I wrote a script about our life that we're getting ready to shoot. It has been a goal to work together because I want to act, and he wants to produce and direct. The film is not named yet. We plan to put it online when it's done.

## How did receiving the performance award help as you were starting out?

It's so funny. I tell this story all the time. That amount was the exact amount I owed my parents to buy their car so I could move to L.A.

I legitimately don't think I would have moved to L.A. without this

award, because you can't NOT have a car here. The award played a huge factor in me deciding I actually could be here. I tell everyone John Goodman bought my car!

## What would you say to those who make scholarships possible?

I would thank them profusely.

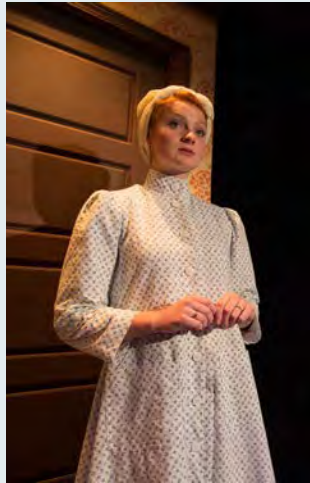
No way would I have been able to go to L.A. without it. Five years later I am still out here, loving it. I have had so many opportunities that I could not have if I weren't here.

It also is great to feel that someone out there thought I could do this. It makes me want to do the same thing. My husband and I talk all the time about starting our own scholarship when we are able. This kind of support shows people who have the passion and fire for something creative like acting that they can and should pursue it.



# KATE PENNINGTON

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN ACTING, 2018



▲ Kate Pennington (left in first photo) starred as Bev and Kathy in “Clybourne Park” on campus in 2017. PHOTOS BY JESSE SCHEVE

## Why are you an actor?

I took my first drama class in eighth grade and just fell in love with it. My teachers strongly encouraged me to pursue it and then I figured I was pretty good at it. From there, it is all I have ever wanted to do!

## What experience did you gain at Missouri State?

I loved Missouri State so much. If I could do it all again, I would choose Missouri State every time. I found a conservatory-style program, without it being at a conservatory. I could pursue my arts degree, but go to football games and be connected to other organizations on campus.

As far as acting, I was able to be in a great variety of art forms. I did main stage shows and worked my way up to lead roles. I branched out by working with film students. I directed shows and student works.

I did a one-woman show. I worked at Tent Theatre.

My professors were so great, and encouraged us to make our own work. My classmates and I took that to heart. It was hard work, but so much fun.

## What motivated you to move to L.A.?

I did a scouting trip by myself in January of my senior year to see if I could picture living here. I fell in love with the city.

Then, I performed in MSU's showcase in L.A., where I signed with an agent. That was pretty much my final green light: Yep, I am going! I moved that summer. Best decision I've ever made.

## What have been some of the highlights of your career so far?

It's a lot of hustling!

- I wrote and produced a filmed comedy sketch that featured my

friend Dana Powell (an MSU acting alumna who has been in “Bridesmaids,” on “Modern Family” and many other shows). She has been a gracious mentor to me out here. I reached out to her and I said, “hey, I am new to L.A.” We hit it off and I really admire her as an actor and a friend.

- I am now studying at The Groundlings, which is a pretty intense improv school. Almost everyone in comedy has studied there.
- I audition a lot. Through networking and mutual friends, I've built a relationship with a casting director and have done some pilot auditions.
- I am in pre-development for producing my first song, and in post for another comedic sketch I wrote. I've become good pals with Garrett Tripp (another MSU alum) and I always request him to direct my projects.

## What's your career goal?

The goal of almost everyone here is to support themselves by just being an actor.

More specifically, I would love a recurring role on a hit TV show, or to be in the movies. I want to tell a really moving story and play a character who experiences a journey. Something that really inspires somebody else.

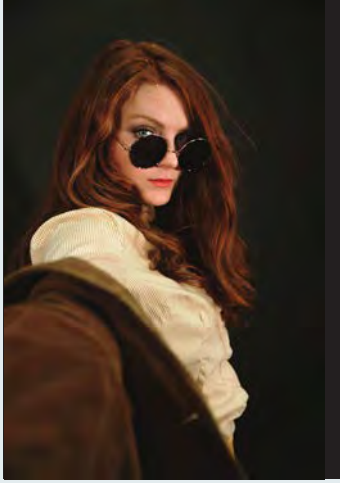
## How did receiving the performance award help as you were starting out?

Financially, it helped a lot. I was saving up for the move, and buying my first car. It made me feel like this is right; this is something I can pursue.

It also gave me encouragement that there were people behind me who believe in me. That means the world to me. It's really hard to be in this business without that feeling!



## RECENT RECIPIENTS PURSUING THEIR DREAMS IN L.A.



▲ Kate Pennington has created her own work, and auditions frequently.

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY KATE PENNINGTON

### What would you say to those who make scholarships possible?

As an artist, there really aren't enough "thank yous" that can be said to people who support what we do and care about our craft. No matter the amount, it makes such a big difference. It's a game-changer. Definitely. So, thank you!



## John Goodman, on finding his own love for acting at MSU

*“I was so fortunate to find that passion here, where there were great, caring people to teach and guide me, to open doors for me, to unlock secrets and guide me to open my eyes and ears and observe life, to awaken and really have an honest look about what was going on around me so I could apply it to my craft, and, later, my life. And I'm so very grateful for the friends that I made at this school. Friendships that were forged through endless hours of rehearsals, study and work — except it really didn't feel like hard work because we were having so much fun!”*

*Continued from page 14*

He was one of the leading voices for rebuilding efforts in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. He has also supported the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and contributed to programs at MSU and his high school alma mater.

“It comes back to wanting our actors to be good people, and he's a genuinely good person. You can't overvalue that,” Heinlein said.

“Acting can be a selfish profession if you allow it to be, but he has not. He models that to them.”

Goodman may come back to campus to work with students, or see friends in the department.

“He is open and available to the students

when he is here. He sat in on a student meeting a few years ago — he just came in and watched from the back,” Heinlein said. “He wants to be there for them but doesn't want to make it about him.”

And “even when he can't be here, he's still around in spirit,” Heinlein said. For instance, he may drop students a line of support when they come to L.A. for a showcase. “That's sincere and the students see that.”

All of these ways he gives his presence and time help his alma mater.

“I don't think you can put all he does for us into words,” Heinlein said. “We appreciate everything so much. It makes a huge difference in students' lives. It means everything.” ▼



# MEET A MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

*Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees are some of the most exceptional supporters of Missouri State University.*

---

**Who:** Mike Ingram

**Career:** Founder and CEO of Ingram Enterprises, parent company of Fireworks Supermarkets, Fireworks Over America, Fireworks World and several investment companies. Fun fact: In 1978, he opened Wet Willy's Water Slide on South Campbell Avenue.

**MSU degree:** Bachelor's in sociology, 1972

**Service to the foundation:** Ingram has been on the Board of Trustees since 2009. He has served as vice chair (2014-15), chair (2016-17), ex officio past chair (2018-19) and chair of the finance/investment committee (2014-15).







# *Mike Ingram's fireworks business lights up the sky across the country*

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

*Where there's a will, there's a way.*

Just ask Mike Ingram.

As a boy, Ingram loved fireworks. The problem was, he couldn't afford any. But that didn't stop him from setting up his own stand one summer when he was 15.

Without asking his parents' permission, Ingram found a supplier in Arkansas who sold fireworks on consignment.

When a truck showed up to deliver the explosives, his parents were not happy — but let him keep them.

Using scrap lumber, Mike and his brother Danny built a makeshift stand to sell their wares. They netted \$150 that summer.

"I considered it a lot of money back then, since I didn't have any money," Ingram said. "And that was the start."

It was the beginning of what is now one of the largest importers and distributors of consumer fireworks in the United States.

## **BOOKING BANDS AND GROWING A BOOMING BUSINESS**

While he was in high school, Ingram built his business a little at a time.

His freshman year at Missouri State, he opened a stand in Springfield. During his senior year, he secured a bank loan, bought out his wholesaler and formed his own company.

But that's not all. While he was still a student, Ingram had a side gig bringing concerts to Springfield.

During the winter, Ingram booked bands. In the summer, he sold fireworks.

In between, he managed to earn a bachelor's degree.

A crowd on campus watches the fireworks that marked the launch of the Onward, Upward campaign. Mike Ingram's company helped make the display possible.



After he graduated, he brought in the Eagles and other big-name bands.

“I never imagined that I’d be doing rock ‘n’ roll concerts, especially to the degree I was doing them, at the age I was doing them. But I really enjoyed it. If I had wanted to expand, I was going to have to leave Springfield and take a position with a bigger concert production company and move. But I’ve lived in Springfield all my life. I’m a Springfield boy.”

So, he stayed and grew the fireworks business. Four years after graduation, Ingram started importing. “That was probably the next point where we really expanded out.”

In 1978, he opened his first interstate showroom. Today, that Fireworks Supermarket store is one of 19 outlets his company operates in eight states.

The company’s wholesale and retail divisions have roughly 150 employees. However, the workforce swells to 900 people during high season.

Now the company is poised to expand again. Ingram has more than 200 private label items that are exclusive to his company, and they are starting to sell display items.

“The consumer fireworks have gotten so good in the last 10 years that a lot of the display people, who shoot the big displays,

have started using our products for parts of their show.”

That’s because it’s easier to get permits and there are fewer regulations for this type of fireworks as opposed to big-shell displays.

In 2018, Ingram’s business tweaked their product for the display industry in conjunction with a company called Pyro Spectaculars, one of the biggest display companies in the nation. Pyro Spectaculars specializes in choreographed shows that Ingram calls “firework musicals.”

Those fireworks were used in MSU’s spectacular display during Homecoming at the announcement of Onward, Upward: The Campaign for Missouri State University. A firework musical choreographed to the music of Queen and the MSU fight song lit up the sky over campus.

### FROM THE EAGLES TO BASKETBALL, HE HAS A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH MSU

Ingram’s support for MSU and involvement with his alma mater is long-standing.

- He received the Alumni Association’s award for Outstanding Young Alumnus in 1991.
- He and his wife Barbara are longtime members of The Founders Club,

Missouri State’s most prestigious organization for donors. They hold a Platinum Medallion.

- The couple established the Mike and Barbara Ingram Endowed Scholarship Fund for Parkview High School students.
- They made a gift to support the Davis-Harrington Welcome Center.
- They are huge basketball fans and frequent the games.

And remember how he brought the Eagles to Springfield while in his 20s? Well, with help from his friend Les Garland, the co-founder of MTV and a Springfield native, the men were able to book the Eagles to open JQH Arena in 2008.

“We formed a little company and ended up getting the Eagles. It’s hard to get, because even though the arena was considerably bigger than the old concert venue, it was not big enough for the Eagles. Les finally convinced them to do Springfield,” he said.

The show sold out in 1 minute and 18 seconds. It was the last concert he ever helped bring to Springfield — and what a way to go out.

“We could have sold it out twice, easily,” Ingram said. “It was an amazing show.” ▼



Missouri State

You will be  
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Get dolled up in your favorite glad rags.  
1920s attire is encouraged!



Boogie to a fabulous, trendy party band.



Enjoy bottomless giggle water and a  
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Take home swag that's the bee's knees!

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» 2020 «

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Ball

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roaring '20s!

May 29, 2020  
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# 5 QUESTIONS with a CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER

## DR. SUSAN SIMS-GIDDENS

**Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens has seen the nursing program at Missouri State grow and flourish since 1998, when she came to the university to teach.**

**She brought years of experience working in settings from hospitals to private offices.**

**She retired as a full-time faculty member in 2016. She has been teaching part-time online since.**

**Now, she's a member of the Onward, Upward campaign cabinet. She will play a vital role in helping MSU meet the goals of the campaign.**

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE S. ROSE

### WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT TEACHING AT MISSOURI STATE FOR TWO DECADES?

Seeing the nursing program grow from a small department.

When I started, we had just begun some of the programs that are now established. We created master's level programs, used new technology and started putting our programs online. This connected us with students who were working professionals with families, or students who were taking our courses in different time zones.

Our flexibility continues now, and allows students to access the programs they want to access.

Also, bonding with faculty during regular Saturday road trips. We had fun, and we would talk about teaching and designing our curriculum. Some of us still travel together!

### HOW IS MISSOURI STATE IN A GOOD POSITION TO ADDRESS THE NATIONWIDE NURSING SHORTAGE?

It starts with recruiting, advising and knowing the profession.

From my experience of being a faculty member, we always tried to be on the cutting-edge.

We were one of the first to put courses online. We were one of the first to expand our undergraduate and graduate programs.

We were one of the first to do this, and that, and on and on.

Missouri State was not afraid to try new things to make us more appealing to students and evolve with the profession. That means when students graduate, they get job offers and are ready to enter the many positions that are available.

That's a good thing, because the need for nurses is so great.

### WHAT ARE A FEW FUN THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

First, I garden. I am an officer in gardening societies. I grow irises and lilies, and that is because of my grandmother. She was a great lover of flowers. She grew dahlias, and I mean the big, dinner-plate size dahlias. They were just magnificent.

Also, I have a home business. My mother and dad collected antiques, and I inherited all sorts of goodies. So, what do I do with all this? I can't keep everything.

I opened up a little online business, Susan's Vintage Home on Etsy. I think of it as my favorite things finding a new home and somebody to love them like I have.

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS?

Anywhere with vegetation and trees.

Our planting beds are always gorgeous. Many times, they are full of maroon flowers.

As a gardener, I notice they're well-planted, well-tended and colorful. I drive around, and I say, "Ooh, look! That's a wonderful grass. Now, I wonder what kind that is?"

Our grounds always look welcoming.

### AS A CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER, WHAT'S YOUR DREAM FOR THE FUTURE OF MISSOURI STATE?

To give the very best experience to our students. From my experience, students come here because Missouri State has a personal feel, even though we are a large university.

We want the best possible resources because we really do care about their success.

## WHY SHE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT GIVING BACK:

*"Nursing education benefits all of us."*





Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens has personally seen the transformative power of higher education.

She was a first-generation college student who went on to earn a doctoral degree.

That's why she gives to Missouri State and is a member of The Founders Club.

"I know how hard our students work today. It's important for me to give back so they can be successful."

She and her late husband, Edwin, a 1999 MSU graduate, established a scholarship in 2012.

The Susan Sims-Giddens and Edwin Giddens Scholarship goes to students who are already registered nurses and are in school to complete a bachelor's degree.

Sims-Giddens also established a scholarship in her parents' names for graduate-level nursing students. She supports other scholarships as well.

"Many nursing students work full-time and have a family, and their financial resources may be stretched. I think they deserve to be here and follow their dream," she said.

"Nursing education benefits all of us because when nurses are fully educated, we all get better health care. I love my profession, and I want others to love it as much as I do. I always get teary when I say that. But that's why I give."



FACES

*of the*

FOUND  
ATION





# LONGEST-SERVING EMPLOYEE HAS FOUND A FAMILY AT WORK

*Alumna Kathy Miller has worked with the Missouri State University Foundation since she was a student in the 1980s.*

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

*A lot has changed since alumna Kathy Miller, '82, joined the Missouri State University Foundation.*

Today, Miller is the gift records supervisor.

But she got her start in 1981, during her senior year of college at Missouri State. It was also the first year of operations for the foundation.

Over winter break that year, the alumni office converted its records from a card file system to a computer system. Miller was a math major and computer science minor. She was in a group of students who worked on the project during their holiday break.

Come spring, she was asked to come back as a student worker.

In 1983, Greg Onstot, the first vice president for university advancement and first executive director of the Missouri State University Foundation, hired her full-time.

"I just feel so fortunate I never had to look for a job," she said. "It's pretty neat. I never had to leave."

## SEEING POSITIVE GROWTH OF MSU

Miller was once a one-woman show, collecting, recording, depositing and tracking donations.

Today, six people split that duty.

Since gifts have significantly increased in the last few decades, no one person could now handle that job.

She chuckles at how things were done back then.

"Going back to the early days, I would write up the deposits and would have to walk them across National Avenue to the bursar's office to deposit our money. Today, we automatically deposit our checks through a machine right here in the office. So that's how much the foundation has evolved from the beginning," she said.

In 1983, gifts totaled \$444,901. In fiscal year 2019, donations exceeded \$20 million.

When Miller started, she was one of five employees, which included Onstot and his secretary. Today, there are more than 40.

Miller is the longest-serving employee in the foundation. During her time, she's seen the organization move from Carrington Hall, to Burgess House, to its current building, the Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center.

A variety of milestones have helped shape the organization and fuel its growth.

She mentions support for programs including athletics, and the completion of facilities such as Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, Hammons Student Center and JQH Arena.

"I think our fundraising changed. We now have directors of development who go out and do fundraising, and I just think the community supports the university. They like what we do."

## A PROUD BEAR, ON AND OFF CAMPUS

When she's not working, Miller loves visiting Silver Dollar City and volunteering at her church.

She attends Southminster Presbyterian, where she is a Sunday school teacher and is in charge of the free lunch program. Twice a week, the church opens its doors for lunch and provides a free meal — no questions asked.

Miller also has season tickets to Lady Bears games and attends shows at Tent Theatre in the summer.

She is a proud Bear.

And why wouldn't she be? She says it was a wonderful place to be a student and is now a wonderful place to work.

There are office potlucks, holiday gift exchanges, parties and a "Stupid Cupid" exchange during Valentine's week.

Her boss, Vice President for University Advancement Brent Dunn, even hosts an annual cookout.

These are the reasons why her eligible retirement date came and went eight years ago, but Miller continues to work.

At the foundation, she is among friends. She is among family.

"We really have a very close office," Miller said. "I have no other family in town. So, my church and my work family are my family." ▼

# TRACK OUR PROGRESS

*The Onward, Upward campaign has been in a silent phase for two years. Thank you to the supporters who have already contributed!*



## RECENT GIFTS INCLUDED IN THE CAMPAIGN

- The Betty and Bobby Allison stadiums and recreation fields.
- The Bill and Lucille Magers Family Health and Wellness Center.
- The Davis-Harrington Welcome Center.
- The O'Reilly Clinical Health Sciences Center.
- New facilities at Greenwood
- Laboratory School.
- Hass-Darr Hall on the West Plains campus.
- The McQueary family's gift to health sciences and naming of the College of Health and Human Services.
- The Robert Gourley Student Success Center at David D. Glass Hall.
- Ellis Hall renovations.

## CRUCIAL RECENT SUPPORT

Supporters donated  
**\$20,083,060**

to Missouri State in fiscal year 2019

Gifts were received in fiscal year 2019 from

**20,369**

supporters like you

This is the second year in a row gifts surpassed

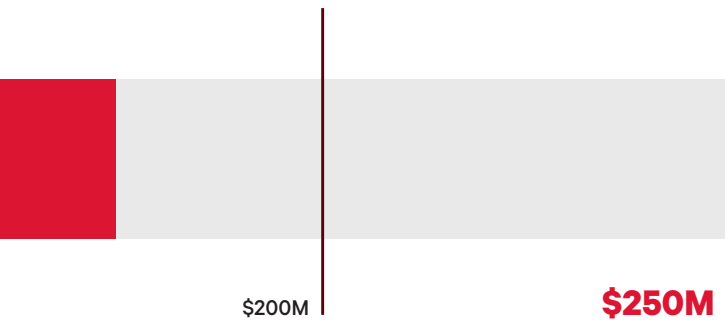
**\$20 MILLION**



OVERALL, SO FAR:

**\$176,228,416+**

raised toward the  
**\$250,000,000** goal



## STUDENT SUPPORT

So far, the campaign includes

**220+**

new scholarships

## FACULTY SUPPORT

President Clif Smart and his wife, Gail, pledged to establish

**4**

new professorships

## CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

A large crowd of

**4,000+**

Bears and supporters were with us to celebrate the announcement of Onward, Upward

# WHEN YOU GIVE BACK, WE ALL MOVE FORWARD

*Be part of  
Onward, Upward*

Any gift you make, no matter its size, will count toward the goal and make a difference for Bears. Thank you!

### Ways to give

We accept gifts in many forms, including:

- Bonds and mutual funds.
- Cash and credit cards.
- Life insurance.
- Matching gifts.
- Personal property.
- Real estate.
- Stocks and securities.

### Talk to us about an estate gift

Considering a substantial future gift, or planning your legacy? We're happy to answer your questions and help you along the way.

### Make your gift today



[MissouriState.edu/OnwardUpward](https://MissouriState.edu/OnwardUpward)



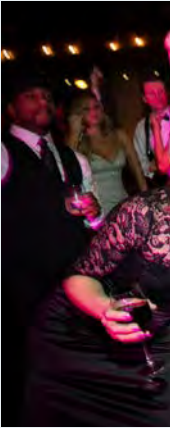
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

*We'd love for you to join us at any of the events we schedule throughout the year. Here are a few you may consider.*

## GIVING DAY

**When:** March 24

**Where:** On campus and online

**What:** We will celebrate MSU's 115 birthday on Giving Day. Join alumni, faculty, students and friends to support current and future Bears. For Giving Day, we are highlighting three funds that address urgent student needs.

- **The Emergency Scholarship Fund:**  
A financial award that helps students who face an unplanned and life-altering situation or hardship.
- **The Bear Pantry:** A food bank that helps those fighting hunger.
- **The First-Generation Student Support Fund:** Did you know about 34% of our students are first-generation college students? This fund helps ensure they have the vital resources they need.

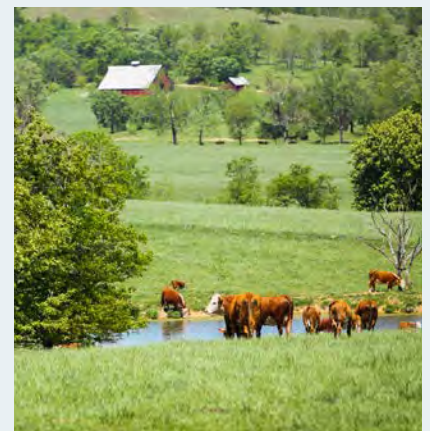
**Support students on Giving Day or get more info: [MissouriState.edu/GivingDay](https://MissouriState.edu/GivingDay)**

## BEARS IN THE KNOW SERIES

Bears in the Know is a luncheon series hosted by the Missouri State University Foundation in partnership with Arvest Bank. At each lunch, you'll learn from expert Bears about topics in their fields.

### UPCOMING TOPICS

- **March 25: Transforming drones from flying cameras to scientific tools for managing the natural resources of the Ozarks**  
*Presenter: Dr. Toby Dogwiler, department head and professor of geography, geology and planning*
- **May 6: The mission and work of Ozarks Public Broadcasting**  
*Presenter: Rachel Knight, interim general manager, KSMU and OPT*
- **July 8: Journagan Ranch cattle operations**  
*Presenters: Dr. Ronald Del Vecchio, dean of the Darr College of*



*Agriculture; Marty Lueck, Journagan Ranch manager; Justin Sissel, farm operations manager*

**Where:** Turner Family Hospitality Room, first floor of the Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center, 300 S. Jefferson Ave.

**Cost:** Complimentary for members of The Founders Club. Otherwise, tickets are \$10 per person per luncheon or \$50 for the series.

**More info: [MissouriState.edu/BearsInTheKnow2020](https://MissouriState.edu/BearsInTheKnow2020)**





## MAROONATION BALL GALA EVENTS

The MarooNation Ball is our signature gala, held each year in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield. It's an unforgettable celebration for a great cause. All proceeds support Missouri State University Bears.

### COMING UP IN 2020: SPRINGFIELD

**When:** May 29

**Where:** The Old Glass Place, 521 E. St. Louis St.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$150 per person. Many sponsorship opportunities are also available, including one table of 10 people and two tables of eight people.

**More info:** [MissouriState.edu/MarooNationBall](https://MissouriState.edu/MarooNationBall)

## BEARS OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

**When:** April 3

**Where:** On campus

**What:** The Missouri State University Alumni Association presents awards of special recognition to distinguished alumni and former faculty and staff. The event includes a reception, dinner and awards ceremony.

**Cost:** \$30 per person.

**More info:** [MarooNation.MissouriState.edu](https://MarooNation.MissouriState.edu)

## A DAY OF CONNECTIONS:

**A MarooNation Volunteer Engagement Forum event**

**When:** April 4

**Where:** On campus

**What:** This is a gathering just for those who volunteer for MSU. At the Day of Connections, volunteers will:

- Network with other MSU leaders, doers and influencers.
- Connect with brand-new Bears as they attend Admitted Student Day. The spirit and excitement of new college students touring academic facilities and interacting with faculty will be truly inspiring.
- Hear from speakers.
- Have fun at social events, including a concert by the group Chicago.

**More info:** [MarooNation.MissouriState.edu/Forum2020](https://MarooNation.MissouriState.edu/Forum2020)

## THE FOUNDERS CLUB 2020 MEDALLION RECEPTION

**When:** Oct. 15

**Where:** Christopher S. Bond Learning Center in the Darr Agricultural Center

**What:** At this invitation-only event, The Founders Club recognizes the university's most generous donors. Each year, medallions are presented to Founders Club members whose generosity meets established levels.

**More info:** [MissouriStateFoundation.org/FoundersClub](https://MissouriStateFoundation.org/FoundersClub)

## SNEAKER SOIRÉE

**When:** Aug. 8

**Where:** Hammons Student Center

**What:** This is our annual fundraiser for MSU intercollegiate athletic programs. Bears fans are encouraged to wear sneakers and enjoy a night of activities, auctions, guest speakers and prizes.

**Cost:** Tickets are \$35 per person before July 20. They are \$40 after that date, or if they are purchased at the door. Sponsored tables for 10, which include recognition and an appreciation gift, are \$1,000. Reserved tables for eight are \$550.

**More info:** [MarooNation.MissouriState.edu](https://MarooNation.MissouriState.edu)



## HOMECOMING

**When:** Oct. 16-17

**Where:** On campus

**What:** Celebrate all things maroon and white! You and more than 125,000 alumni and friends are invited to campus for football, the parade, Breakfast with Boomer, BearFest Village, reunions, gatherings and all the traditional and new events we have planned for you.

**More info:** [Alumni.MissouriState.edu/Homecoming](https://Alumni.MissouriState.edu/Homecoming)







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## *In your next issue of* **ADVANCEMENTS** *magazine*

When you support students, you open up a world of possibilities for future Bears.

Students who earn MSU scholarships have achieved academic excellence or shown a financial need. In some cases, they have done both. Imagine the difference these gifts make for them — not just for now, but for the rest of their lives.

Our fall issue will tell you stories about how scholarships and other gifts for student support help us enroll the most talented and promising Bears.

