

Kim's Top Ten Tiger Pride Points

Mizzou provides solutions for a better life and teaches the people who change our world — that in a nutshell is Missouri's flagship university. Although it's difficult to capture the many ways MU fulfills its mission of teaching, research, service and economic development, here are some key pride points that I hope you will share with fellow alumni, legislators, neighbors and anyone else interested in one of the nation's great universities.

1. TOP-FLIGHT STUDENTS

Thanks to the quality and unique education offered at a major research university, MU broke enrollment records this fall for first-time freshmen (4,838) and for total enrollment (28,253). Mizzou works hard to make college affordable for students and families. Since 2000, total student enrollment has increased by 21 percent while University expenditures for financial aid have increased by 42 percent to \$69* million. In addition, Mizzou's six-year graduation rate has consistently been the highest among the state's public institutions. It's no surprise that the 2006 freshman class boasts an ACT average of 25.3, compared with the national average of 20.9 and the state average of 21.5. Nearly one-third come from the top 10 percent of their high school classes.

** Figure does not include loans or employment.*

2. MISSOURI FIRSTS

MU's founding in 1839 as the first public university in Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase territory started a long tradition of firsts. Mizzou has the world's first and finest [journalism school](#), Missouri's first and only [College of Veterinary Medicine](#) and the first [engineering](#) program and [state cancer center](#) west of the Mississippi River. More recently, the College of Engineering opened the first American environmental and energy technology office in China.

3. SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER LIFE

To use a sports analogy, Mizzou and Washington University are in the "NBA" when it comes to research. Together, they account for 84 percent of all university research and development expenditures in Missouri. In fact, based on the most recent data from the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF), MU is No. 1 among all institutions in the [Association of American Universities](#) in growth of federal research funding from 1994 to 2004. NSF also has recognized MU as one of the top ten universities in the country for successfully integrating [research into undergraduate education](#).

4. ECONOMIC ENGINE



Kim Voss, President of the
MU Alumni Association

From 1996 to 2006, MU scientists spent \$1.8 billion in research funds, most of which came to Missouri from outside the state. Those funds had an economic impact on Missouri of \$3 billion. It takes MU's high-quality faculty and infrastructure capacity to attract multimillion dollar federal research grants. The state has built this capacity, or "critical mass," at MU. In fact, every week Missouri's economy benefits as MU brings in an average of \$2.2 million in private donations, spends \$9 million on payroll and wins \$3.5 million in outside funds for research and related activities.

5. DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

More than 1,000 faculty scientists at MU are working to improve human and animal health, food and the environment. Mizzou boasts some of the world's leading scientists in wheat, corn and soybean research and is among the top 15 universities in the nation in life sciences research funding from NSF. Recent faculty contributions include gaining a better understanding of how exercise can improve vascular health; the discovery that grapes can help reduce brain damage in stroke victims; the creation of gold and silver nanoparticles that can greatly improve the diagnosis of cancer; development of a noninvasive system for detecting breast cancer earlier than mammography; and the invention of a new drug to combat ulcers and heartburn.

6. ONE MEDICINE FOR ALL

MU is a national leader in comparative medicine, in which researchers share discoveries, innovations and treatments benefiting both animals and humans. An example is MU's Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory at the Coll

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