

ADVANCEMENTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION | SPRING 2022

**MORE RESOURCES. MORE SERVICES. MORE SUCCESS.
MORE FUN, CAMARADERIE AND MISSOURI STATE PRIDE.**

*We offer even more engagement
to Bears when you support*

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Being a Bear doesn't end at the classroom door. We give students a full, rewarding experience. You can help us as we expand our programs in important, student-centered ways.

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8 YOU HELP US BUILD STRONG PROGRAMS

Being a Bear doesn't end at the classroom door. Our students deserve a full, rewarding campus experience. Our wide range of programs help us meet this goal.

6 BIGGEST-EVER #BEARSGIVE: 36 HOURS THAT CHANGED MSU

Thousands of alumni and friends participated in our biggest-ever giving day in 2021. Thank you for your participation and allowing Missouri State to provide the best possible education!

24 Q&A WITH CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER MIKE MINOR

Alumnus Mike Minor established a scholarship in the name of his grandmother, who attended the college in about 1914. In addition, the C. Minor Recital Hall in Ellis Hall is named in his honor.

20 MEET A TRUSTEE: TONY FOSTER

Foster, an alumnus, has established scholarships in athletics and the College of Humanities and Public Affairs. In 2011, the Foster family made a donation to the university recreation center — which is now named for them.

26 FACES OF THE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION: BRIANNA ELLIS

Brianna Ellis graduated in May 2021, then went to work for The Bears Fund. As a former Lady Bear and scholarship recipient, she loves interacting with donors and sharing her experience.



BRENT'S CORNER

When we were coming up with top priorities for the Onward, Upward campaign, we chose four pillars of support to focus on:

- Scholarships.
- Faculty endowments and support.
- Facilities and the physical campus.
- Program support.

That fourth priority area, program support, is a little different. Programs are activities and opportunities that help Bears have a rich college experience extending beyond the classroom. Missouri State's programs range from athletics to academic services, clubs to culture, fitness to fun — and beyond.

Our programs help students feel they belong at MSU. Nationwide, students' sense of belonging is a top factor in whether they will stay at a university and eventually graduate.

According to our education-consulting firm EAB, the five components most related to a sense of belonging are:

- A seamless student experience, with services they need.
- Resources and culture related to mental health and well-being.
- Active and engaged learning.
- Co-curricular and social engagement.
- Faculty mentoring and support. This includes connections with faculty.

Students who experience all five of these components are much more likely to stay engaged with a university — even after they graduate!

We are lucky to have a campus culture that addresses each of these components through different programs.

We are also dedicated to identifying and expanding programs to make life on campus the best it can be for Bears.

I hope this issue of Advancements moves you to support a program that matters to you. Your gift will allow us to do more than we could ever do on our own.

Thank you, and GO BEARS!



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

FROM EDUCATIONAL TO ENTERTAINING, PROGRAM SUPPORT IS A VITAL PART OF THE MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

5 MISSOURI STATE PROGRAMS I LOVE

THE CATTLE PROGRAM AT JOURNAGAN RANCH

In 2010, the late Leo Journagan and his family made the second-largest single gift in Missouri State's history: A working cattle ranch with more than 3,300 acres.

The gift transformed the Darr College of Agriculture. MSU now has one of the largest herds of purebred Polled Herefords in the country.

Journagan Ranch gives our students hands-on experience through a unique internship program. Students help raise cattle, manage the animals and prepare them for market.

This program has benefited dozens of Bears — and for some, it was their first experience on a farm. This is invaluable experience for those who want a career in agriculture.



Journagan Ranch and its cattle are part of our William H. Darr College of Agriculture. MSU ARCHIVE PHOTO

SUPPORT FOR OUR PUBLIC AFFAIRS MISSION

To us, public affairs is using your skills to make a positive impact on the world around you. This mission is part of everything we do at Missouri State.

Public affairs programming is offered to students, the campus and the public.

The Missouri State University Foundation and its supporters are often sponsors of events that

bring renowned leaders and speakers to campus, like radio and television personality Bobby Bones and former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager.

I have met so many amazing people, including the late Gen. Colin Powell.

Without private support for public affairs programs, these opportunities would not exist for our students and community.

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The late Gen. Colin Powell talked with MSU President Clif Smart in 2014 as part of our public affairs programming. Private support helps us bring top names to campus. PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE



PHOTOS BY OFFICE OF CREATIVE SERVICES

**THIS YEAR,
IT'S OFFICIAL:
YOU'RE INVITED TO
THE CELEBRATION
AT JQH ARENA**

OCT. 29, 2022



Help us paint the town maroon for the conclusion of the largest comprehensive campaign in university history! Mark your calendar now for Oct. 28-29, which will be Homecoming 2022.

More details about this exciting event will be released as the year goes on.

MissouriState.edu/OnwardUpward

#BEARSGIVE:

36 HOURS THAT CHANGED MISSOURI STATE

Thousands of alumni and friends participated in our biggest-ever giving day in 2021. Thank you for your participation and for allowing Missouri State to provide the best possible education!

In 2021, we had our longest-ever #BearsGive event.

For 36 hours, 10 a.m. Oct. 13 to 10 p.m. Oct. 14, we held in-person and online events to bring all Bears together and encourage support of Missouri State University.

The goal was to secure at least 1,905 donors as a nod to 1905, the year Missouri State was founded.

By the end of the day Oct. 14, more than 2,000 donors from around the country and world had made a contribution.

The effects will be felt for years to come. Your gifts added up to make a life-changing impact for students and the entire campus community. Support will help areas such as:

- Student scholarships.
- The Bear Pantry, providing food and hygiene items.
- All types of resources that will benefit Bears.

#BearsGive is now an annual tradition to move Missouri State onward and upward.



→ Top five designations for gifts

#BearsGive will affect almost every part of campus, from academics to student life and services. Here are the top designations donors chose to support.

1. MISSOURI STATE FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

This fund allows us to apply money where the need is greatest.

2. BEAR PANTRY

This food bank combats hunger in the campus community.

3. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS GENERAL FUND

4. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GENERAL FUND

5. EMERGENCY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This assists students who have an unforeseen personal crisis, such as a tornado or house fire.

#BEARSGIVE, BY THE NUMBERS

2,027
total supporters gave

\$733,801
was donated

77
donors made their first-ever gift during #BearsGive

1951:
class year of oldest participating graduate

5%
of gifts were from current students

25%
of gifts were from employees, leading by example

3
donors were from Canada

**ONWARD
UPWARD**



MSU held a grand opening for the Multicultural Resource Center in October 2021. Programs, organizations and amenities like this help us expand and enhance the student experience.

PHOTO BY ERIN HILLERY

**MORE RESOURCES. MORE SERVICES. MORE SUCCESS.
MORE FUN, CAMARADERIE AND MISSOURI STATE PRIDE.**

We offer even more engagement to Bears when you support

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE S. ROSE

WHAT MAKES A UNIVERSITY MORE LIKE A COMMUNITY?

Being a Missouri State Bear doesn't end at the classroom door. Our students deserve a full, rewarding campus experience.

One of Missouri State's missions is to develop educated citizens. Our wide range of programs helps us meet this goal.

Students may join university programs for educational, fun, entertainment or social purposes.

They may be a part of programs that help them gain professional, leadership and career skills.

You can help us as we expand university programs in important, student-centered ways.

What are university programs?

Programs are activities and opportunities that happen outside of the classroom. Programs engage students, complement our curriculum and enhance the university experience. Examples of programs include:

- National Collegiate Athletic Association teams.
- University governance organizations.
- Student clubs and social organizations.
- Arts and cultural organizations.
- Multicultural programs and services.
- Recreation, health and wellness offerings.
- Resources and success centers (i.e., Disability Resource Center, Trio Student Support Services, Counseling Center, tutoring and peer-mentoring).
- Family programs.
- Services for select groups of students, such as first-generation and veterans.
- Career and financial-aid advising.

How do students benefit from university programs?

Common experiences can create bonds for Bears that help them to feel more connected.

Programs positively affect students' emotional, intellectual, social and personal development.

Programs can:

- Lead to more academic success.
- Help us retain students by making them feel empowered and involved.
- Help students make friends and build relationships across campus.
- Inspire commitment to Missouri State's public affairs mission and allow students to make a difference.
- Instill university pride and ensure MSU traditions continue.
- Allow students to gain skills, such as working with others, negotiating, communicating, managing conflict and leadership.
- Celebrate diversity and increase Bears' appreciation for both differences and similarities.
- Enhance skills in critical thinking and time management.
- Help students gain self-confidence and more autonomy.
- Enrich the community through arts and culture events, economic development and productive partnerships.

Why are gifts for programs important?

Your gift will allow us to do more than we could ever do on our own. Donors to programs may help us expand how many students can participate, what types of materials or equipment we can offer, and where we can travel to learn, compete or participate.

Programs also give students more time with faculty or staff mentors.

Lastly, they afford Bears more opportunities for adventures! These include being a student-athlete, education abroad, participating in the arts and more.

Why is now a great time to support university programs?

We think programs are so important that we made them one of four priority areas in Onward, Upward: The Campaign for Missouri State.

With your support, we will be able to show prospective and current Bears that we are dedicated to offering them a campus life that is second-to-none. Thank you!

How your generosity has shaped MSU:

STORIES OF RECENT PROGRAM SUPPORT

John Quiñones, ABC news correspondent and host of "What Would You Do?", was the 2021 Public Affairs Conference keynote speaker.



PHOTO BY ERIN HILLERY

Public affairs support

At Missouri State University, we have a public affairs mission. It's one of the ways we do education differently.

Our students are Citizen Bears. That means they find an emphasis on making the world a better place. No matter their major, Bears learn about ethics and leadership.

Students engage with the mission in many ways, including volunteering, conferences, speakers, leadership programs and education abroad in countries around the world.

Missouri State also hosts the Public Affairs Hall of Fame for our entire state.

Private support for public affairs helps us put the three parts of the mission — community engagement, ethical leadership and cultural competence — into practice. It also allows us to invite the community to campus, extending the breadth and reach of our mission.

A few examples of recent support for public affairs:

- The annual Public Affairs Conference and Public Affairs Convocation brings some of the most compelling speakers of our time to campus.

This year, the conference's keynote speaker was John Quiñones, ABC News correspondent and host of "What Would You Do?" Quiñones' keynote was free and open to the public. The event was made possible by the Missouri State University Foundation with support from KSPR, the local ABC television affiliate.

"John has an impressive ability to connect with his audiences and leave them inspired," said Brent Dunn, Missouri State University Foundation executive director.

"His focus on believing in one's self, maintaining high character and always doing the right thing brought people together."

- All veterans and those who support them are invited to our Veterans Day celebrations on campus. In 2021, we held a complimentary breakfast with live music and a guest speaker. This event was sponsored by Central Bank/Central Trust and the Missouri State University Foundation.

In most years, we also hold a live performance of the musical composition "Taps." This piece is a sign of respect and is played to honor service members. Trumpeters from Missouri State bands are stationed around campus, and play "Taps" in a cascade. All people moving about campus during the performance are asked to stop and wait for the tune to be finished.

"Our veterans exemplify the mission of Missouri State," MSU President Clif Smart said, "and we thank them every day for their service."



Missouri State holds Veterans Day celebrations on campus. These events, which may include meals, speakers and live performances, are often sponsored by private donors.

PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE

Both women's and men's golf teams at Missouri State have benefited from gifts from long-time supporters Pam and Bernie Burrier.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN WHITE



Pam and Bernie Burrier Men's and Women's Golf Endowment

The Missouri State men's and women's golf teams were the recipients of a significant gift from Pam and Bernie Burrier in summer 2021.

The gift is an endowment for both programs that will be used to support the overall budgets of the teams. The Burriers have previously established endowed scholarships for men's and women's golf.

"We can't thank Bernie and Pam enough for stepping up and supporting our program time and again," said MSU women's golf head coach Kevin Kane. "They're always asking what they can do to help. Their support and friendship mean more than they will ever know."

The Burriers are avid golfers in the Springfield community. They are also fans of the Missouri State golf programs and have made numerous gifts to The Bears Fund, the fundraising program for intercollegiate athletics.

"This is truly a remarkable gift to the golf programs," said MSU men's golf head coach Neal Stafford. "Bernie and Pam's generosity, encouragement, support and, most importantly, friendship over the years have been absolutely amazing. Our golf programs are filled with tradition, and the Burriers' gift will make a huge impact on the team for many years to come."

The Burriers have given to other areas of the university as well. They funded a baseball scholarship and have provided support for Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts.



The Pride Band represents MSU on a world stage. Private support helped fund new uniforms for every student.

PHOTO BY JESSE SCHEVE

An updated look for the Pride Band

Generous past members and friends of the Pride Marching Band helped fund new uniforms.

The Pride Band uniform is a source of honor for the students who wear it. These Bears represent Missouri State at home games and parades around the nation and world. They also perform at regional and national marching contests.

The maroon and white uniforms are a visual representation of our university. They have been seen by millions of people as the band travels the U.S. and world.

In spring 2017, a campaign started to update the uniforms, which were 12 years old — adopted in 2005, the year of the university's name change. Normal use of a uniform is eight years, and these were showing their age.

New uniforms cost close to \$500 each. To outfit all 300 Pride Band members would mean a cost of \$150,000.

Missouri State called on all present and past Pride Band members and friends of the band to help.

Together, we reached our goal! More than 260 donors came together to support these new uniforms.

These new looks premiered in fall 2017, just in time for football season.



The Promenaders, a group of square dancers who were Missouri State students, were part of the “Ozark Jubilee” television show.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

The “Ozark Jubilee” Digitization Project

The “Ozark Jubilee” was a country-western variety show broadcast live around the U.S. from Springfield during the years 1955 to 1960.

It helped popularize country music in America, and drew millions of viewers. The host was Red Foley, one of the nation's top country music personalities.

Many music stars began or advanced their careers by appearing on the “Ozark Jubilee,” including:

- Porter Wagoner.
- Patsy Cline.
- Brenda Lee.
- Johnny Cash.
- The Philharmonics.

Many of the regular cast were natives or residents of the Ozarks, and MSU students played a part.

The Promenaders, a square-dancing troupe started as a campus club in the late 1940s, became a regular fixture on the “Jubilee” starting in 1954. Some of the dancers went on tour with big names, and became friends with singing stars.

Until recently, many episodes of the “Ozark Jubilee” were only available in a form of recording called kinescope. Those were preserved at the Film and Television Archive at the University of California-Los Angeles.

In 2017, the “Ozark Jubilee” Digitization Project was launched. The goal is to digitize the show and make episodes available on a YouTube channel.

This is a collaborative endeavor that involves the UCLA archive as well as the Ozarks Studies Institute, a program of the Missouri State University Libraries.

The cost of digitizing each episode is about \$2,500. Private gifts and a grant from the Grammy Museum have supported the project.

In spring 2021, a major gift from the Martin Family Foundation provided resources to complete the massive, multiyear endeavor. Don and Ruth Martin have been lifelong supporters of higher education.

Gifts from the Martin Family Foundation have benefited MSU Libraries in the past. The couple have also supported other efforts by the Ozarks Studies Institute to preserve and promote Ozarks history, culture and life.

Now that funding has been secured to complete this project, MSU Libraries has asked the UCLA archive to digitize the remaining kinescopes. When MSU Libraries staff members receive those files, they will be edited and transcribed, then uploaded to YouTube. When the project is complete, a celebratory jamboree will be held.

Yee haw!



Watch digitized episodes of “Ozarks Jubilee”
[YouTube.com/c/OzarkJubilee](https://www.youtube.com/c/OzarkJubilee)

Sam (left) and Parker Maher were photographed in 2011 in front of their home in Joplin, Missouri, after it was damaged during a devastating tornado. The brothers were among the first Bears to receive support from the Emergency Scholarship Fund.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The groundbreaking for the Terry L. “Bo” Pace Advanced Welding and Fabrication Technology Program was held Dec. 1, 2021.

PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE

The Emergency Scholarship Fund

When Hurricane Ida hit the southern United States in 2021, it disrupted life for Chanel Preyan.

Preyan is a student in Missouri State’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program. She lives in Louisiana and takes all her courses online.

She’s also a professional nurse practitioner, and is married with a toddler. That means she had a lot to juggle even before the storm caused damage to her roof, front door and windows, letting water cascade inside.

“We had to gut the house,” she said.

Preyan and her family had no electricity or internet access.

“I had to drive around to get Wi-Fi to ask my professors for extensions,” she said. “In my mind, with everything that was going on, I said: I can’t do school. I’m just going to sit out this semester. I’ll have to sacrifice and be behind.”

Someone gave her name to Rob Moore,

MSU’s director of financial aid. Moore emailed Preyan.

“He knew I was a student going through a difficult time, and he said we have some opportunities for you.”

MSU has several donor-supported funds for students going through life-altering emergencies or catastrophes.

One of these is the Emergency Scholarship Fund. It’s a one-time award to help students who encounter a crisis that makes them unable to meet college financial obligations. Examples that qualify include the death of a legal guardian, a natural disaster or a fire.

Preyan’s application was approved. Moore also sent her a Wi-Fi hotspot device, and the university shipped it to a relative’s address because her home was too damaged to receive mail.

“I felt that people were concerned and willing to help. They said I didn’t have to worry about the financial aspect — just take

care of yourself and your family, and do what you have to do.”

Students have also earned this award related to events such as:

- The deadly EF5 tornado in 2011 in Joplin, Missouri.
- Historic flooding in 2017 near MSU’s West Plains campus.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, when many students lost the ability to work on campus or at off-campus jobs.

When students earn this scholarship, funds are put into their university account. They can use the money for expenses such as tuition, room, board and books.

“This was an opportunity to still do what I wanted to do,” Preyan said. “Missouri State was definitely very supportive during this time and I am grateful and very, very appreciative.”

Terry L. “Bo” Pace Advanced Welding and Fabrication Technology Program on the MSU-West Plains campus

A transformational gift for the Missouri State University-West Plains campus was announced in December 2021.

It included the naming of the Terry L. “Bo” Pace Advanced Welding and Fabrication Technology Program.

The naming announcement was in the building formerly known as the Broadway Building, which is also now named in honor of Pace, a late local businessman.

Terry L. “Bo” Pace was an avid supporter of education in the West Plains community and advocate of the Missouri State University-West Plains campus.

He served as a volunteer in athletics, on a variety of committees and as president of the Grizzly Booster Club Executive Board of Directors.

This gift allows the university to renovate the building and permanently locate the welding lab there.

Sunie Pace spoke about the memory of her late husband.

“As we honor, celebrate and remember Bo Pace, we feel the impact of this program will present local industries with talented and qualified employees for their workforce. The Terry L. ‘Bo’ Pace Advanced Welding and Fabrication Technology Program will

positively promote the economy of our local communities, making it a cornerstone program that will always be associated with MSU-WP as a successful program.”

Pace was a champion of the campus, said Dr. Dennis Lancaster, chancellor of West Plains.

“To have earned his and his family’s confidence in our fabrication and welding technology program, which will bear his name both for the program and on the building, is an honor,” Lancaster said.

“We are excited about the opportunities this offers our students to be educated in a state-of-the-art facility.”

The Bear Power program

In January 2019, a trailblazing group of eight students began their first semester at Missouri State.

They were the first participants in the university's new program called Bear Power, which stands for Promoting Opportunities for Work, Education and Resilience.

Young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy, can have an immersive university experience through Bear Power.

Program participants enter MSU for five semesters over two years.

They attend classes, live on campus and can be involved in student groups, leadership and academic activities, including internships.

Bear Power students have worked on campus in areas including the citizenship and service-learning office and the Child Development Center.

Others have interned at businesses such as Springfield Little Theater, Bass Pro Shops and Twin Oaks Country Club and Golf Course.

At the end of the program, the participants earn a certificate in an area of emphasis they chose based on career interests. They also walk in the Missouri

State University graduation ceremony with their peers.

The goal of the program is to help them be ready to live independently and be employed.

Traditional MSU students, known as Bear Power ambassadors, help the Bear Power students navigate college life.

Six students from the first cohort completed the program and graduated in May 2021.

The first director of Bear Power was Rachel Heinz, a 2007 MSU alumna.

She has been part of the program since day one. Her son has Down syndrome and autism.

"I started as a volunteer," Heinz said in 2020. "It unfolded into a career path I was not expecting. Now, it's my dream job."

When the program was just starting, she talked about what she hoped the effect on campus would be.

"I think the Bear Power students are going to learn a lot from those experiences," she said in 2019.

"But also, the students at Missouri State are going to learn just as much, if not more, from having those experiences with a student who is not 'a typical college student.' I think diversity on that level helps shape perspective, and teaches you how to work and live with people of all abilities."

Heinz said there are only about 270 schools across the country with programs similar to Bear Power. That's around 6% of colleges and universities.

Bear Power participants have come from as far as Arkansas and Kansas, and families from around the country have shown interest.

Forbes media company included MSU and Bear Power in a 2019 story about schools that offer these pathways.

The program was in its third cohort in fall semester 2021.

"Bear Power is opening doors to new possibilities for many students and their families," Heinz said. ▾

A recent cohort of students from the Bear Power program celebrated their graduation in May 2021.

PHOTO BY JESSE SCHEVE



HOW TO SUPPORT MSU PROGRAMS

Any gift you make, no matter its size, will make a difference. 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.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR GIFT OR PLAN A FUTURE GIFT

GIVE ONLINE


The online giving process is fast, safe and secure. You can choose which areas you'd like to support and complete a simple form. You can make payments or make this a recurring gift.

 MissouriStateFoundation.org

CALL OR EMAIL US

Considering a gift, or planning your legacy? We're happy to answer your questions and help you along the way. Please contact the Missouri State University Foundation.

 Foundation@MissouriState.edu

 417-836-4143

MAIL A CHECK

 Missouri State University Foundation
Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center
300 S. Jefferson Ave., Suite 100
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Missouri State University and the impact of the Missouri State University Foundation

BY THE NUMBERS

FISCAL YEAR 2021

The Missouri State University Foundation set another fundraising record in Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021):

+\$25.8 million

The FY21 total is an increase of **+\$3.1 million** from the last record, set in FY20.

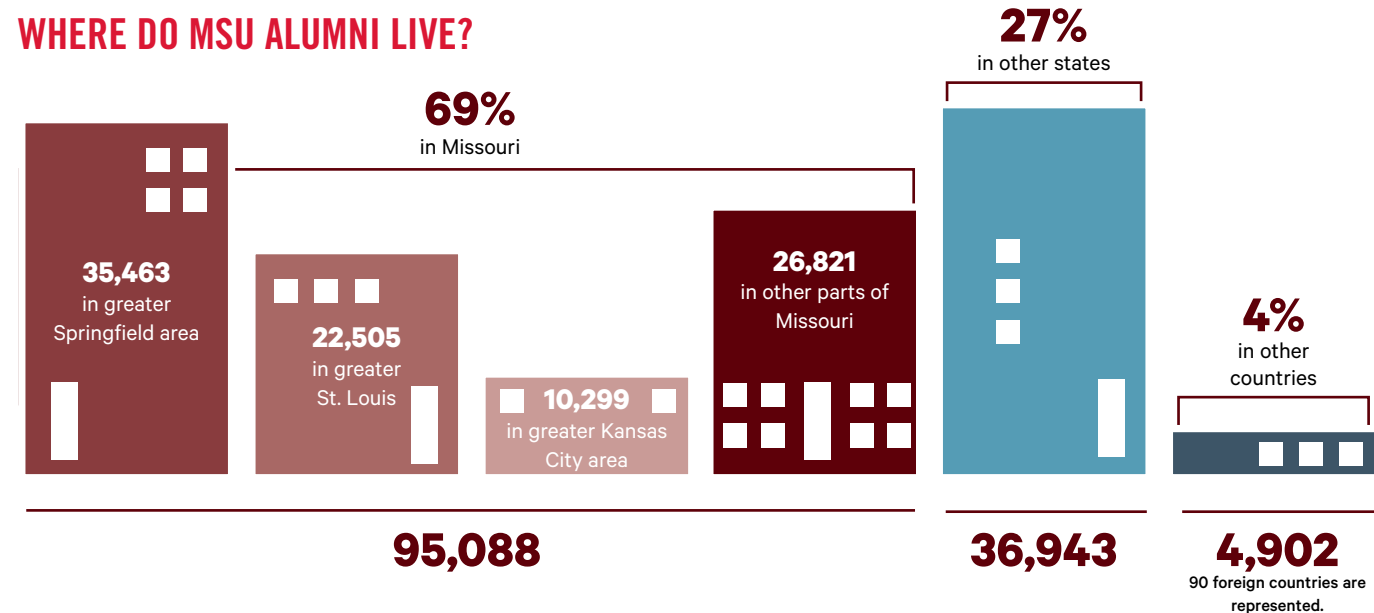
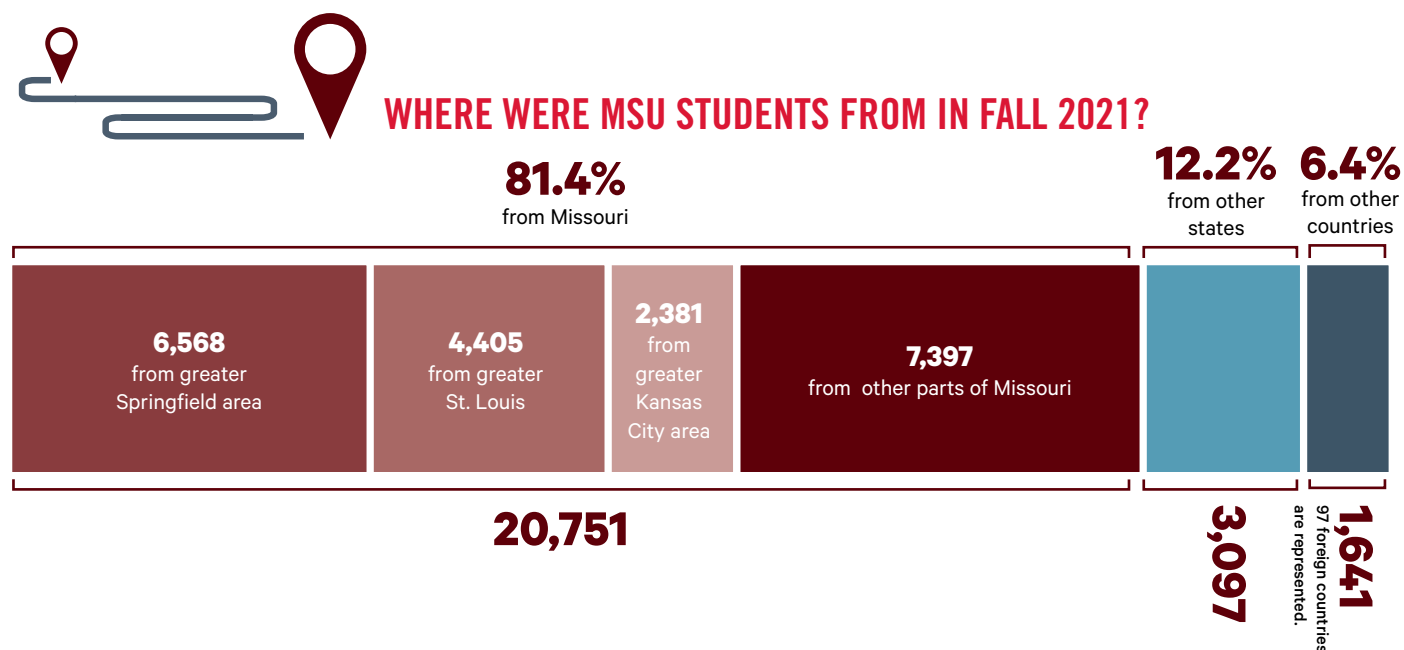
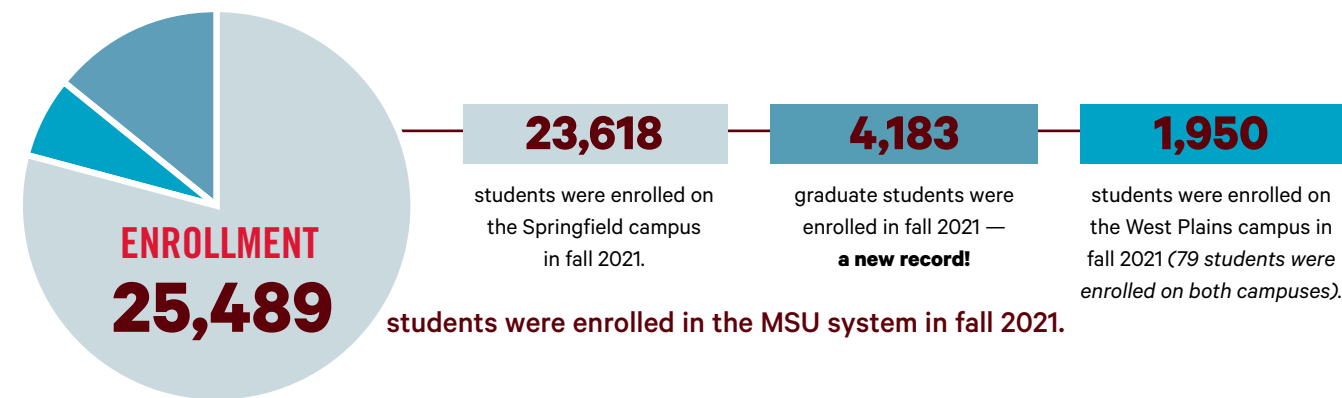
FY21 gifts came from **19,120** donors, an increase in overall donors and alumni donors.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT DEBT

We offer **+\$2.9 million** in privately funded academic scholarships.

On the Springfield and West Plains campuses, **+2,000** students have scholarships.

In the last five years, MSU has seen a **9.3%** reduction in the average student loan obligation held by our students when they graduate.



MEET A MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

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

Who: Tony Foster

MSU degree: Bachelor's in philosophy with a minor in history, 1981

Career: President of Foster Hospitality Group

Support for MSU:

Tony Foster and his wife, Lynette, have established numerous scholarships. Tony's generosity runs in the family. In 2011, the Foster family made a substantial donation to the university recreation center — which now bears their family name. They have made gifts to Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts, Ozarks Public Television, JQH Arena and more. The Foster family received the 2014 Bronze Bear Award, presented to those who have exhibited extraordinary achievement and/or outstanding support for Missouri State.



Alumnus has made gifts that span many areas of the university

Tony Foster has set up scholarships in athletics and in almost every department in the College of Humanities and Public Affairs.

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

Anyone who knows Tony Foster knows “there’s always a story” for everything, he said with a chuckle.

Here’s the first: In 1981, when this Bear graduated from Missouri State, the ceremony was at Hammons Student Center.

“Friends of mine are up there, and after graduation is over, the curtain starts going up. I turned to them and said, ‘If I ever get the chance that I can afford to do it, I’ll give back to this university.’ Because I truly believe Missouri State was very formational for me.”

SHARING ALL THE STORIES BEHIND HIS MANY SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1996, Foster found himself with enough resources to make the first of many gifts to the university.

What makes Foster unique is the breadth of his family’s gifts. Many donors focus on an area that means something to them or a loved one, or establish a scholarship in honor of a family member.

But Foster has set up scholarships in soccer, business, military science, political science, history, philosophy and economics — almost every department in the College of Humanities and Public Affairs.

And there’s a story behind each one.

Foster loves soccer, so he established a scholarship for the sport. His father was also a founding member of The Bears Fund, which supports athletics.

Once Foster established the scholarship, it occurred to him that the funds would only go to a male player.

He batted around the idea of rotating the scholarship so it would switch between men's and women's soccer each year, but then decided to establish a scholarship for women's soccer, too.

"I set up history and philosophy because those are my two areas of study," he said. "Later on, as I was able, I added political science. That's because George Connor, the former head of the political science department, is one of my favorite people. He jokingly asked me many times when I was going to set up a scholarship for political science. I surprised him by actually doing it."

Next, he established a gift for economics, "because I finished an MBA and



The indoor pool, with its Bear logo, is a popular part of the Foster Recreation Center. The center was named thanks to a gift from Tony Foster and family members. PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE

found that economics was my favorite part of my MBA."

And his gift for military science has another story.

"I've always felt uncomfortable that I never served in the military because I believe in direct democracy — that if you are going to live in a democracy, you should serve in the democracy one way or another."

Although Foster did not earn his MBA from MSU's College of Business, he decided to establish a scholarship for the prestigious college.

GROWING HIS CAREER, WITH THE HELP OF HIS EDUCATION

Foster is a Springfield native. He first stepped foot on campus when he was 4 years old to attend a football game. He's been a fan, and he or his family have had season tickets, ever since.

Missouri State has always felt like home. During his college years, he was in Concert Chorale and a chamber singer — music has been a lifelong passion.

"My brother Billy and I were in a Christian singing group as teenagers that toured the country," he said.

In 1981, he graduated with a bachelor's in philosophy and a minor in history. Then he joined the family business. His father, Bill Foster, started Culpepper Place and many nursing homes in Springfield. Tony Foster was an administrator and eventually ran seven nursing homes. In 1996, they sold their nursing homes and Foster took a year off.

His sister called and said they were starting another family business and wanted him

to join. They then started building assisted living facilities. He and his sister, Kaye, are still with the company. They have built or operated more than 20 senior living facilities.

"Missouri State was formative in that it gave me a good base for what I was doing," Foster said. "After I got out of there, I realized how the classes I'd taken in philosophy had helped me whenever I actually went into the profession. You have to deal with ethics every single day of your career in this field and, of course, that's based in philosophy."



Tony Foster (right) attended the 2016 MarooNation Ball in Springfield.

MIXING A VACATION WITH WORK LEADS TO A LOVE STORY

In 2001, Foster was on vacation in Chicago when he had a thought that probably wouldn't cross most people's mind: "Well, gosh, I'm really bored. Let's go look at assisted living facilities. I've never been to a kosher Jewish nursing home. Let's go see what that's all about."

The assistant director of nursing, who was named Lynette, gave him a tour. When it was over, Foster asked her to dinner.

Lynette showed Tony around Chicago that weekend.

"And the story is whenever I came home, both of us couldn't wait to dial the other's phone number. She was already trying to call me when I called her. And we've been together ever since," he said.

Their son Parker was born in 2006. He is a sophomore at Springfield Catholic High School. Like his father, Parker loves music. He sings in District Honors Choir and plays the piano.

Lynette is a nurse practitioner at Trinity Health Care and works in telemedicine for Cox Medical Center.

WATCHING WITH PRIDE AS HIS ALMA MATER GROWS

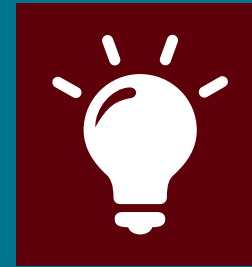
Foster has been a Missouri State University Foundation board member since 2011. In addition to being a trustee, he serves on the finance committee.

He felt he could help the university in this way because his MBA is based on financial management, and he's managed his own finances for 30 years.

Giving back has always been a Foster tradition. He's proud to see the way the university has grown.

"The place is so different than it was when I was there," Foster said. "It's a wonderful place and it keeps getting better. I'm impressed every day by how it's moved forward." ▼

YOU'RE INVITED TO



Lunch with an 
MSU GENIUS

We have many types of geniuses at Missouri State! These include faculty members who conduct research, staff who develop award-winning programs and students who earn national recognition. The Missouri State University Foundation is excited to host a new series of luncheons to showcase our geniuses. You can have personal conversations with MSU personalities and learn about the amazing work and incredible impact they have.

UPCOMING TOPIC



MAY 4: Code talking: Shining a light on war-time heroes

Dr. Bill Meadows, professor of anthropology and Native American studies, is a foremost expert on code talkers. A code talker is the name given to Native Americans who used their language to send secret communications during U.S. wars. Meadows' research and national testimony contributed to the passage of the Code Talker Recognition Act of 2008 and Congressional Gold Medals for code talkers.

HOW TO ATTEND

- All sessions will be offered both in-person and live via Zoom. Registration is required for either form of attendance.
- Lunch will be served around **11:30 a.m.**, followed by the program at **noon**.
- Tickets are **\$10** for in-person sessions. Lunch is included.
- In-person attendees will join us in the Turner Family Hospitality Room on the first floor of the **Kenneth E. Meyer Alumni Center, 300 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65897**
- Complimentary parking is available in the attached garage off McDaniel Street.

Register or explore all upcoming topics: MissouriState.edu/LunchWithAnMSUGenius

Questions? Contact Stephanie Smith, Senior Director of Donor Relations and Special Events:

✉ StephanieSmith@MissouriState.edu | ☎ **417-836-6666**

Q&A *with a* CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

Mike Minor

Mike Minor graduated from Missouri State University in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry education.

He went on to earn three master's degrees, and spent much of his career in information technology. He retired in 2015 and now works in real estate sales.

Minor's passions include skiing (on both snow and water), travel, volunteering, reading and running. He has completed 34 marathons.

"The only international one I've done is the Berlin Marathon. That was a lot of fun. It was not long after the wall came down. I ran on both sides, the former East and West, and ran through the Brandenburg Gate at the end."

Q. YOU STUDIED CHEMISTRY. HOW DID YOU END UP WORKING IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY?

A. My career has had twists and turns.

My last semester of school, I needed two hours of chemistry to graduate. I had a class and it got dropped.

I went to the

chemistry department. We took some students to a career day in Kansas City. I was chatting with a person who turned out to be a recruiter for the Midwest Research Institute.

I got a job there as a junior chemist, and I knew a little bit about computers.

We started getting Apple computers attached to scientific equipment. I started

A few years down the road, a friend of mine said, "Will you help out this small company in Kansas City called Cellular One?"

I thought: I bet cellphones are going to catch on. So, I got a job at Cellular One, which would become Verizon. I was the first programmer they hired.

I eventually became an information technology associate director for a couple of regions.

Q. YOU SUPPORT THE ARTS. HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THIS PASSION?

A. During my time at Missouri State.

My fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, provided ushers for the spring performance of the opera at the school. Before the opera opened to the public, the president would have a performance and invite people to it. They rented tuxedos for us, we would usher, and we got the leftover food.

I volunteered as an usher for a student production of

"Die Fledermaus," by Johann Strauss II, in 1977. As a result, I got interested in classical music.

Q. TELL US ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP YOU ESTABLISHED TO HONOR A FAMILY MEMBER WITH MISSOURI STATE TIES.

A. I did it in the name of my grandmother, Lucile Abegglen Strawson, who attended the college in about 1914 when it was called Missouri Normal School. I decided to put it in her name as a nice remembrance of her. She also took a lot of photographs around campus, which our family has donated to Meyer Library.

The scholarship in her name has three requirements:

- Bring diverse groups together through arts,
- promote volunteerism,
- or do audience-building.

The students who have received the scholarship have written me these incredible letters. I don't feel worthy of these letters. They are so nice.

Q. WHY DO YOU GIVE BACK TO MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY?

A. When I was going to school, college was very affordable. Tuition was free for state residents and we paid only an incidental fee. I could experiment with school: I took classes I didn't need for my major, just because I was interested.

Now, there's all this worry about loan forgiveness or paying for education. Ten or 15 years ago, the Missouri State University Foundation reached out. When they approached me, I said, "Well, why do you need money? It's so inexpensive to go to the school." I had no idea the cost of public universities had gone up so much.

That's one of the reasons I have a desire to be involved with fundraising at the university. I was one of the people who had the ability to take classes, experiment with different subjects and get an education. Later in life, Verizon paid for my master's degrees. I've never known an expensive education. ▽

HOW HE HAS SERVED HIS COMMUNITY

Giving back is a tradition in Minor's family. His father volunteered, was a firefighter and coached both baseball and basketball.

"I am always happy to volunteer wherever I can," Minor said.

Along with his contributions of time to Missouri State, Minor has established a scholarship. In addition, the 250-seat C. Minor Recital Hall in Ellis Hall is named in his honor.

Some of his roles:

- Past president of the Kansas City Symphony Alliance (2017-18) and serving with numerous other art/music organizations.
- Secretary of the Kansas City Symphony Auxiliary Council.
- Trustee for the Missouri State University Foundation and recipient of a Sterling Medallion from The Founders Club.
- A member of the Missouri State University Chemistry Advisory Board.



PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE

Mike Minor is the namesake for C. Minor Recital Hall in Ellis Hall.

PHOTO BY BILL SIOHOLM



department head and said, "There's nothing I can take."

And the department head said, "Well, why don't you do a two-hour seminar on our new Apple?"

I said, "Great. What's that?" It was one of the first Apple computers. I immediately started programming.

My first semester out of college, I served as a supply instructor in the university's

programming, and wound up as the data processing coordinator.

Then, I answered an ad in the newspaper for a printing company working with these things called "barcodes," which were not common at the time. This launched me into a career in factory automation and barcode printing. I would eventually start my own company: Minor Solutions.

FACES of the FOUNDATION



LADY BEAR GOES FROM THE COURT TO THE FOUNDATION

Brianna Ellis graduated in May 2021, then went to work for The Bears Fund. As a former Lady Bear and scholarship recipient, she loves interacting with donors and sharing her experience.

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

Brianna Ellis never expected to land a job at the Missouri State University Foundation.

“Not in a million years, especially right out of college after graduation. But I can say that it has truly been a blessing to stay around and get my feet wet in the ‘adulting world.’ And it feels like home. I knew a lot of staff from being a student-athlete.”

Ellis is now the assistant director of athletic development at The Bears Fund, the fundraising program for men’s and women’s intercollegiate athletics at MSU.

She graduated in May 2021 with a degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in interior design.

She was also a Lady Bear.

Basketball brought the Columbia, Missouri, native to Springfield. She started classes on MSU’s West Plains campus, then transferred her sophomore year.

“I was a walk-on my first full year. Then, at the end of my sophomore year, (former coach) Kellie Harper and her staff granted me a full scholarship. That was really a highlight of my career at Missouri State, and my life in general.”

GOING FROM STUDENT-ATHLETE TO ADVOCATE FOR OTHER BEARS

Today, Ellis raises money for other student-athletes. It’s powerful to her because she knows the impact of that generosity first-hand.

While The Bears Fund may specifically raise money for athletics and organize events for sports fans, “we are all one big team. We need every part of the Missouri State Foundation to be successful,” she said.

And Ellis knows a lot about success. She had two Sweet 16 appearances.

“I’m blessed to say that I come from a very good basketball background, as far as coaches. Two Sweet 16 appearances with two different coaching staffs — it’s a dream. It’s something I never thought I would be able to accomplish in life,” Ellis said.

And they were a team in the truest sense of the word. She even refers to current Head Coach Amaka “Mox” Agugua-Hamilton as a second mother.

“She is literally like a mom,” Ellis said. “And I mean that from the bottom of my heart. She genuinely cares about her players as young women first. That is what makes her so easy to play for, because you can’t go to every university and find that.”

Ellis has been playing basketball since she was 3 or 4. Her mother, who played college basketball, was her first coach.

Sports has always been a part of their family. Her dad and her brother both played college football.

They are a close-knit family, and her parents made it to almost every game during her Missouri State career.

GETTING TO KNOW THE DONORS WHO SUPPORT MISSOURI STATE STUDENTS

When Ellis was graduating, Coach Mox suggested she apply for the open position at the Missouri State Foundation.

Ellis’ degree is in journalism, and her dream is to be a sports broadcaster. But when she heard sports and fundraising was involved, she was excited to apply. Helping others is a part of her faith.

She’s still learning the ropes, but already loves that no two days are the same. Some days she’s organizing an event, traveling and networking, and sometimes she’s stuffing envelopes. It’s in those times The Bears Fund team is building camaraderie.

So far, she said, she feels supported by everyone from co-workers to donors. As a student-athlete, she would previously meet donors at events.

“But now, being on the other side, you really get to know them personally,” Ellis said. “And the common denominator is they love Missouri State, and they care about the student-athletes and students in general. The donors we have are so passionate and generous.”

To her, donors are the people who collectively helped change her life.

“These are ultimately the people who funded my way through school,” Ellis said. “It’s awesome to be able to give thanks to those who helped me gain a scholarship and be debt-free coming out of school.”

“I get to share my basketball journey with a lot of people, including the donors. I think that it makes our relationship more authentic. They understand where I’ve come from and how much they mean to me. Because, ultimately, without their help, I probably would never have received a scholarship.”

Brianna Ellis



MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEES

Members of the Board of Trustees are some of the most exceptional supporters of Missouri State University. Trustees advise us in gift-planning, seeking private gifts and investing private funds given for university projects and programs.



The Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed six new members in early 2022. The new members were invited to an orientation event Jan. 7, 2022, on campus. The four who could attend were (from left to right) Travis Freeman, Beverly Keltner, Jim Kendall and Gary Garwitz. The additional new trustees are Brian Burlingame and Karen Dyson.



















TOP PHOTO BY JESSE SCHEVE







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MORE ABOUT THE TRUSTEES:
MissouriStateFoundation.org/Trustees



The success of Bears teams makes campus a fun place to be! PHOTO BY JESSE SCHEVE

BEARS ATHLETICS

What would campus be without Bears athletics?!

When you give to athletics, you make a difference in the lives of our student-athletes. You are also part of creating a heightened MSU experience.

I have so much to say about how our teams contribute to our community, but I will just leave it at this: It's a great time to be a Bears fan! Many of our teams are performing at amazing levels and gaining recognition on the national stage. GO BEARS!



Our grape and wine programs are gaining international prominence.

PHOTO BY BOB LINDER

GRAPE RESEARCH AND WINE MAKING AT MOUNTAIN GROVE

The Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station is part of the MSU-Mountain Grove campus.

It advances and improves the fruit-crop industry in Missouri.

Faculty and students at the station conduct plant science research. They also give advice about crops and conduct educational programs for the public.

The university's Winery and Distillery is also located at the station. Missouri State wines are produced and bottled from grapes grown there.

Missouri State is gaining an international reputation in cutting-edge research that is likely to change the grape-breeding industry. Agriculture professors and their teams of researchers at the station have been awarded millions of dollars in grants.

In addition, Missouri State's wines and spirits have won 60-plus awards from competitions across the country.

These accomplishments, along with private support for facilities and faculty at the station, help us attract top-tier instructors, researchers and students to our unique wine and grape program.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN THE MEYER LIBRARY

What's the rarest object you've ever encountered? If you've ever been in Meyer Library, you may have been closer to a one-of-a-kind piece of history than you knew.

The Karen L. Horny Special Collections and Archives on the third floor is the home of many significant printed and digital materials. The

staff's goal is to preserve and provide access to these materials, which may be used by students and others for research and inspiration.

The collection includes rare books and first editions, such as:

- A copy of Ovid's "Metamorphoses" printed in Venice in 1502. It apparently was used by students in the 1600s and 1700s, with notes written in various languages.
- A copy of Cicero's "Cato Major" printed by Ben Franklin in 1754.
- A first edition of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," published in London in 1884.

The archival collections dive deeply into specific topics, including Ozarks life and culture, labor unions, French literature, the military, railroads and MSU-specific topics.

In many cases, items for these collections — or the funds that allowed us to obtain them or store them in a climate-controlled facility — were donated by private supporters.

We're honored to be entrusted with the kind of treasures that will benefit generations of Bears to come! ▶



The Special Collections and Archives area of Meyer Library has rare treasures.

PHOTO BY JESSE SCHEVE

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In your next issue of
ADVANCEMENTS
magazine

Your next issue will arrive in early 2023. Learn how Missouri State University moved onward and upward as we usher in the conclusion of the largest fundraising campaign in our history!

And remember, it's not too late to be a champion for Missouri State. Make your gift before the end of the campaign to help us in our final push to reach our transformational goal!



**SAVE THE DATE FOR
THE CELEBRATION:
OCT. 29, 2022!**

We're having an amazing campaign wrap-up event, and you're invited! You can expect special entertainment and a night to remember.

MissouriState.edu/OnwardUpward