1 Founded in 1839 as the first public university west of the Mississippi River, MU had two students in its inaugural graduating class. Today, hundreds of alumni and friends are supporting the $1.3 billion Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign for student scholarships, faculty research and stronger facilities.

2 MU’s 35,448 highest-ever enrollment includes record numbers of high-achieving students, a record retention rate and the most diverse student body in Mizzou history. Tigers graduate, on average, in 4.2 years.

3 Based on quality of teaching, research and scholarship, MU is one of only 34 public U.S. universities — and one of only two institutions in Missouri — invited to membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU).

4 A $2.2 billion global enterprise, MU accounts for about 70 percent of the research dollars flowing to Missouri public universities. Research generates new knowledge and jobs.

5 Known for collaborative, interdisciplinary research, MU has incomparable expertise and resources on a global scale in four areas: Food for the Future, One Health/One Medicine, Media of the Future and Sustainable Energy. We call it the Mizzou Advantage.

6 MU is one of only six public institutions nationwide that can claim a medical school, veterinary medicine college and a law school on the same campus. Mizzou faculty and students also have immediate access to agriculture and engineering colleges as well as the largest nuclear research reactor on any American campus.

7 Ellis Fischel Cancer Center at MU is the first academic health center to join MD Anderson Cancer Network as a certified member. The network gives medical teams access to University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center experts and best practices.

8 MU educates the workforce, including a large number of STEM graduates. Of the record 8,668 degrees awarded during 2014-15, one-third were in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health fields.

9 In 2014-15, more than 50 percent of MU’s student-athletes earned a grade point average of 3.00 or higher. For three years in a row, MU has ranked second in the Southeastern Conference for Academic Progress Rate, determined by eligibility, graduation and retention of student-athletes.

10 As a botanic garden, the historic MU campus offers visitors 42,000 plants and trees in numerous thematic and special collection settings.

Please share these pride points with family and friends.