

SIXTY YEARS OF MU TWIRLING

1961-1964
Warren Bass was featured twirler for Maching Mizzou. He was known for his 100-foot high tosses. "I think it's fair to say he was a legend," said Sandy Davidson, BA '68, MA '73, JD '82, and now a communications law professor at the MU School of Journalism.



1958
Women were included in Marching Mizzou



1985
Heather Smith was crowned Miss Mizzou. She was the featured twirler for Marching Mizzou and was also a National Twirling Champion, three-time Miss Marjorette of America and 12-time Missouri State Twirling Champion.

1978
Warren Bass returned to perform at Homecoming.

2010
Beverly Swafford Clevenger returned to do a performance at her granddaughter's first homecoming. She had been a featured twirler for Marching Mizzou in 1961 and had made a bet with her granddaughter, Julia Bosley. If Bosley went to her alma mater, Clevenger would perform a twirling routine during Bosley's first Homecoming.

2016
Simone Esters joined Lindsay McCormick as Marching Mizzou's featured twirlers.

1948
A new organization called the Tigerettes formed. It was a group of 14 baton twirlers created to "provide entertainment at social functions." They would perform during halftime at football games and at other events in Columbia.



1960
14 majorettes marched along with Marching Mizzou

1965
Golden Girls are offically formed. They were originally a twirling troupe that would accompany Marching Mizzou. They got their name from their new golden costumes covered in sequins.



1970
Golden Girls drop the batons and become the dance troupe they are known as today.

1994
Previous featured twirler, Jill Van Stone, judged at the National twirling contest.



1999
Twirler Molly Allen performed along with the Golden Girls and Marching Mizzou at the first annual Concert on the Quad.

2015
Halie Hart won the WOW award at the National Baton Twirling Championship. The award is given to the nation's most outstanding collegiate twirler.

CONTINUED — Esters says her mother has been working nonstop for the past few months to help design and create each of her game day costumes, drawing inspiration from homecoming and prom dresses she finds on the Internet. Fornadel meticulously affixes each rhinestone one by one onto Esters' glamorous getups.

"I always try to find something that would set her apart from everybody else," Fornadel said.

She also flies to Columbia for each home game to watch her daughter perform. Fornadel makes the trek each week because to her, Esters twirling for Missouri is the "icing on the cake" for all of their hard work and dedication.

"I never even thought twice about it," Fornadel said. "I want to be there and experience this with her."

More than Peru, more than Switzerland, Columbia on a game day is where Esters wants to be, twirling for the Tigers.

"I've competed all over the world, done all kinds of stuff, but nothing compares to that," Esters said.