



UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
TRADITIONS

WELCOME TO UofM

Since 1912, our University has proudly sent well over 100,000 graduates into the world. These scholars have gone on to shape our community and our future, and they have each played a part in writing our history and creating our traditions.

The UofM Alumni Association welcomes you to our Tiger family. We charge you to uphold these traditions and write your own story during your time on campus. Use this guide to learn about our Tiger Tales.

For over a century, UofM has inspired and united the city of Memphis. Join together with your classmates to complete the activities in this guide before you graduate. Take those memories with you after you leave and continue to spread your Tiger Pride. Remember, wherever you are, you're a Tiger!



- **September 10, 1912** West Tennessee Normal School opens with Dr. Seymour Mynders as president.
- **1912** First football game is played at Red Elm Park pitting the WTNS Normals against the Memphis University School Turtles and ending in a 0-0 draw; school colors of blue and gray officially chosen.
- **1913** John Willard Brister becomes second president.
- **1914** Normal School women play their first interscholastic basketball game against Whitehaven High School, winning 24-0.
- **1916** Football "Normals" defeat Somerville High School 115-0, the highest scoring game in Memphis history.
- **1918** Andrew A. Kincannon becomes third president.
- **1925** Name changes to West Tennessee State Teachers College.
- **1929** Football "Teachers" post an 8-0-2 record and win the school's first conference championship; President John W. Brister unveils the new Alma Mater, which he composed that spring.

UofM COLORS

UofM's official school colors of blue and gray were chosen in an effort to show unity in a nation that was still recovering from the divisive effects of the Civil War. The student body thought that by picking the colors of the North and South, the school could set a positive example and foster a spirit of togetherness.

● **1930** The school's name is changed to State Teachers College, Memphis.

● **1938-39** is the first perfect season for Memphis football in the history of the school. The team finishes 10-0 and is the highest scoring team in the nation that year.

● **1939** Richard Claiborne Jones becomes fourth president; the tiger is named the official mascot of the college.

● **1941** Name changed to Memphis State College as it becomes a full four year institution.

● **1943** Dr. Jennings Bryan Sanders becomes fifth president.

● **1946** J. Millard Smith becomes sixth president.

● **1957** Name changed to Memphis State University.

● **1959** The University accepts its first eight African-American students, known as the Memphis State Eight.

● **1960** Dr. Cecil C. Humphreys becomes seventh president; Pouncer becomes first costumed mascot.



Brister Hall, 1935

ALMA MATER

Stand Firm, O Alma Mater
Through All The Years To Come;
In Days Of Youth And Beauty
Thy Halls Have Been Our Home.
In Time Of Preparation
Great Lessons Didst Thou Teach
Till Now O Alma Mater,
The Stars We'll Strive To Reach.

Lead On, O Alma Mater
Thy Sons To Higher Ways,
Give Light And Truth Unto Them
For All Their Coming Days.
To Thee We'll Give All Honor,
Our Hopes Abide In Thee,
For Thou, O Alma Mater,
Hast Made Us Ever Free

● **1963** Tigers enjoy their 2nd ever undefeated football season. The city throws a parade down Main Street to celebrate.

● **1965** Tiger football begins playing home games at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium.

● **1972** A Bengal tiger cub named TOM makes his first official appearance as mascot at the MSU-University of Cincinnati football game in Memphis. The Tigers win 49-24.

● **1973** Dr. Billy Mac Jones becomes eighth president.

● **1980** Dr. Thomas Carpenter becomes ninth president.

● **1982** Memphis basketball is voted No. 1 in the country by both the Associated Press and UPI polls for the first time.

● **1984** The Student Ambassador Board sponsors the inaugural Mudball Tournament.

FIGHT SONG

Go Tigers Go, Go On To Victory,
Be A Winner Thru And Thru;
Fight Tigers, Fight 'Cause We're
Going All The Way –
Fight, Fight
For The Blue And Gray And Say –

Let's Go Tigers Go,
Go On To Victory.
See Our Colors Bright And True;
It's Fight Now Without A Fear,
Fight Now Let's Shout A Cheer,
Shout For Dear Old Memphis U.

(Yell)
Go Tigers Go
Go Tigers Go

● **1985** Tiger basketball, with a 31-4 record, competes in NCAA's Final Four.

● **1991** V. Lane Rawlins becomes tenth president.

● **1992** Basketball standout Penny Hardaway is named one of eight collegiate players to train with the Dream Team, and they win a gold medal in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

● **1993** MSU goes online with one of the first college/university websites in the nation.

● **1994** Name changes to University of Memphis; First Frosh Camp is organized.

● **1998** Lady Tigers basketball team finishes the season with a 22-8 record.

● **2001** Dr. Shirley Raines becomes eleventh president.

● **2004** Men's soccer wins Conference USA championship; Basketball Tigers move to the FedExForum.

TOM THE TIGER

When West Tennessee Normal School first fielded a football team in the fall of 1912, no one had selected a nickname for the squad. Early references to the football team included the Blue and Gray Warriors, the Normals and the Teachers.

After the final game of the 1914 season, participants in a student parade shouted, "We fight like Tigers!" The nickname was born.

In 1922, under Coach Lester Barnard, Memphis' football team gave a ring of truth to that old student yell about Tigers. The team adopted a motto "Every Man a Tiger" and went on to score 174 points while allowing its opponents just 29 points. The Tiger nickname continued on with students and alumni, eventually being adopted as the official nickname for the university in 1939.

In 1972, a live tiger cub was adopted by the Highland Hundred Football Boosters. A naming contest was held and TOM ("Tigers Of Memphis") emerged the winner. TOM the Tiger passed away in 1992 after serving as the mascot for 19 years. That year, tiger cub TOM II was introduced as the new mascot. TOM II succumbed to cancer at the age of 17 in 2009. TOM III was adopted in 2008 and attends all Tiger Football home games and other University events throughout the year. UofM is one of two universities in the U.S. that feature a live tiger as a mascot.

MASCOT

UofM also has a costumed mascot lovingly known as Pouncer. Freshman J. Wayne Johnson was the first to wear the mascot costume in 1960.



● **2007** Stan Bronson, Jr., sets a Guinness World Record as the “Most Durable Batboy,” a position he has occupied with Tigers baseball since 1958.

● **2010** The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law moves to the city’s original Customs House downtown.

● **2011** The University begins offering classes at what was formerly Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee.

● **2012** The University of Memphis celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

● **2015** Dr. M. David Rudd becomes twelfth president.

● **June 9, 2016** The FOCUS Act is signed allowing the UofM to have an independent governing board.

UofM SEAL

The object in the middle is a mace. Flanked by laurel leaves, the mace itself, a symbol of leadership and authority, is a visual embodiment of tradition in academic circles. The Roman numerals MCMXII represent 1912, the year the university was founded. The words “imaginare, cogitare, facere” are Latin for “dreamers, thinkers, doers.”



Academic Logo



Athletic Logo



Alumni Association Logo

Driven by doing.

University Motto

HOMECOMING WEEK

One of our University's longest standing traditions is Homecoming. Each fall, alumni return to their alma mater and join students for a spirited week-long celebration. Join a student organization to create a float and circle the campus at the annual Homecoming Parade, followed by singing the Fight Song and cheering our Tigers to victory at the pep rally. From games to 5Ks to music to step shows, students and alumni have an almost endless variety of activities to choose from—all culminating with the Homecoming game at the Liberty Bowl.



BLUE FRIDAYS

Every Friday, UofM students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters are encouraged to wear Tiger Blue, no matter where they are. But remember, it's not just blue, it has to be TIGER BLUE.

BRONZE TIGER

To commemorate the school's 100th anniversary, UofM commissioned a bronze statue of a tiger in front of the University Center. The statue is an exact replica of TOM III, right down to the stripes.

UofM didn't want a snarling tiger, but an approachable one. TOM was rendered "at ease" with one foot set just over the edge of the base, toes curling over it. The base was designed to have the tiger moving upward and forward, to symbolize graduates moving into the world beyond school.

In recent years, it's become campus tradition to rub TOM's front paw for good luck (especially before exams!).



TIGERS AROUND TOWN



In honor of the University's Centennial, the Alumni Association placed life-size Tiger statues around the city of Memphis in January 2012. Each statue has been uniquely decorated with artwork by Mid-South artists, students and alumni. The Tiger statues are sponsored by local fans, alumni and businesses and are currently on display at their chosen locations and on the UofM campus.

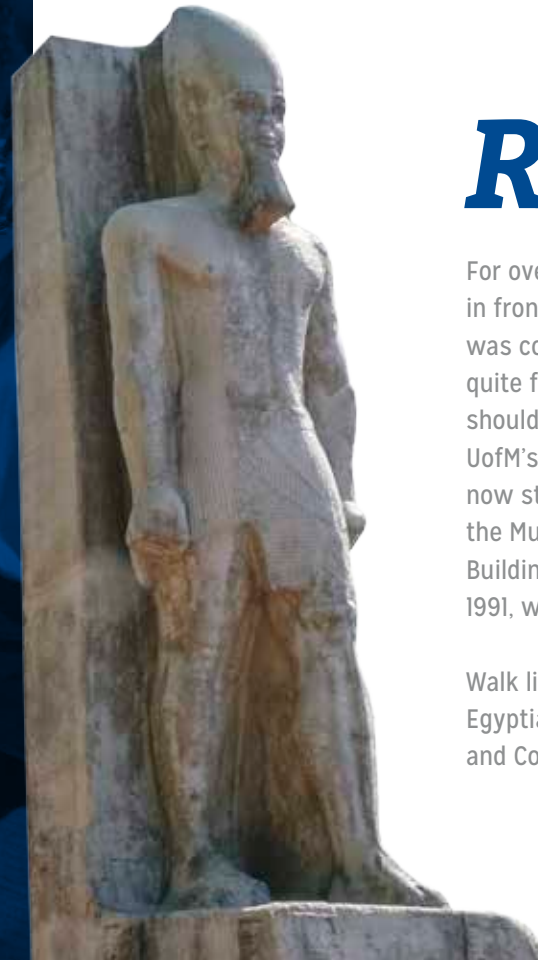
All students are expected to take a selfie with all 100 tiger statues (and post on social media tagged with #tigersaroundtown) by the time they graduate.



UP 'TIL DAWN

Up 'til Dawn was founded here at UofM nearly two decades ago. Since it began, it has spread to over 250 schools nationwide and now generates nearly \$5 million annually for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Up 'til Dawn unites students, staff and the Memphis community, all with the goal to help the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Individuals or teams work together all year long to raise money. At the end of the program, campuses host a Finale Event and stay "Up 'til Dawn" celebrating their achievements and honoring the patients at St. Jude.


Since the program began, UofM Up 'til Dawn has raised more than \$2 million for St. Jude. Visit Memphis.edu/uptildawn to learn how you can get involved.



RAMESSES II

For over 20 years, this statue of Egypt's pharaoh-god stood in front of the Memphis Pyramid arena. When the Pyramid was converted to a Bass Pro Shop, Ramesses II didn't quite fit the store's theme, so it was decided that UofM should be his new home (quite appropriate considering UofM's renowned Egyptology program). Ramesses II now stands right off of Central Avenue, between the Music Building and the Art and Communication Building. The 25-foot fibreglass statue, built in 1991, was a gift from the Egyptian government.

Walk like an Egyptian over to UofM's Egyptian Gallery, located in the Art and Communication Building.



FROSH CAMP

Frosh Camp is a four-day, extended orientation program for incoming UofM freshmen, held every year in Pleasantville, Tennessee, at Camp NaCoMe. Frosh Camp is a great way to meet new friends, to learn about getting involved at UofM and to get connected to campus before classes even begin. Meet lifelong friends and make memories that you'll never forget!



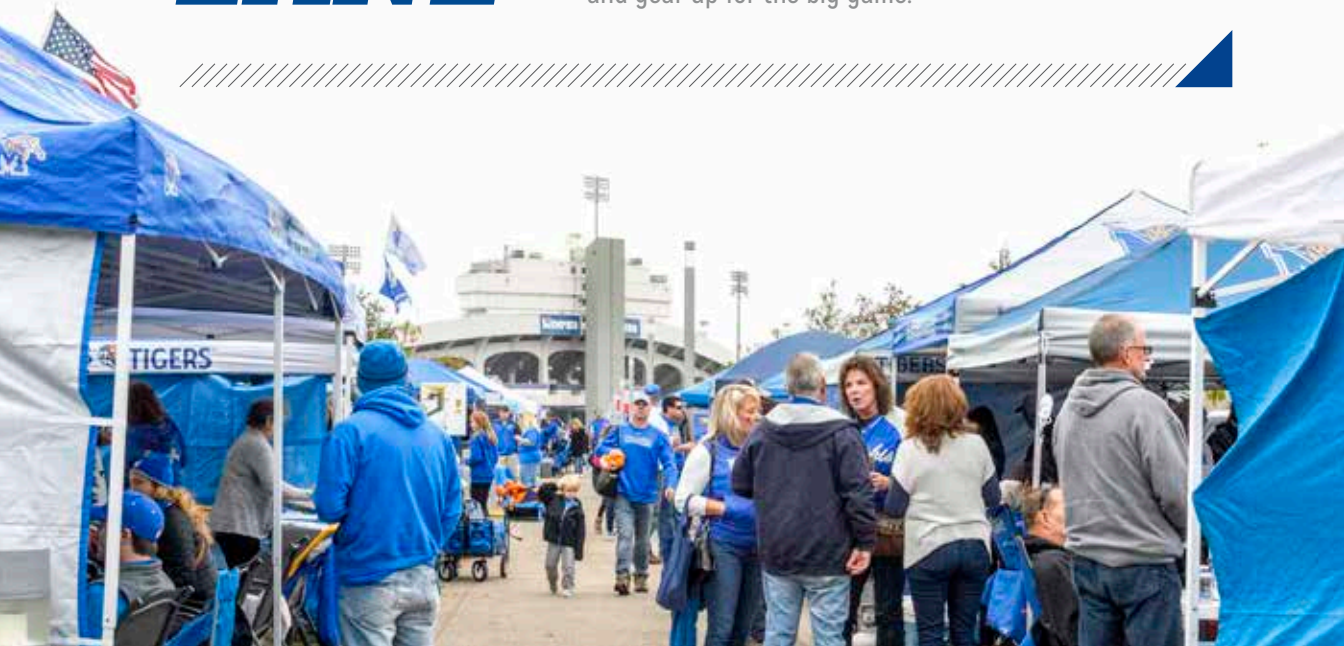
RING CEREMONY

The Memphis Ring is a timeless, tangible symbol of the bond between all UofM graduates and the institution. Before they're distributed, each ring is taken to TOM III's habitat and "blessed" for good luck. Pouncer then presents each recipient with his/her ring at the annual Memphis Ring Ceremony, held the weekend of each December Commencement. Students who have completed 90 or more credit hours are eligible to purchase a Memphis Ring.



TIGER LANE

Tiger Lane is where thousands of UofM football fans cheer on our team in Blue. The spirited entrance to the Liberty Bowl is located on East Parkway. Students, alumni and fans join together to play games, eat BBQ and gear up for the big game.



TIGER TAILS

Ever wonder where all those tiger tails on campus come from? After New Student Convocation (which takes place on the first day of classes), the UofM Alumni Association treats new students to UofM spirit raining down from the sky—literally! Tiger tails are dropped out of a helicopter over campus, making students scramble to catch one before they're all taken.

TIGER SPIRIT

There's no denying it, Memphis is a sports-crazed town. And UofM is a sports-crazed campus. Tiger basketball at the FedExForum is an obsession. Tailgating at Tiger Lane with thousands of blue-clad Tiger Football fans is a must. Whether it's football, softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, golf or tennis, UofM has a sport for every fan.



LIVE PERFORMANCE

Some of the most accomplished musicians and performers in the world teach at and attend UofM. At any given time, there's usually a live performance happening on campus (it's even rumored that Elvis once performed on campus!). Choral ensembles, orchestra, bands, theatre, performance art, dance, opera—you name it, we've got it. Most performances are free for students with student ID.





INTERNSHIPS

Every year, nearly 5,000 UofM students set out for internships all over the Mid-South in Fortune 500 offices, art galleries, community programs and research labs. In fact, UofM is ranked in the top 10 in the nation for internships.* Top spots include FedEx, International Paper, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, AutoZone, ServiceMaster and the Memphis Grizzlies.

*U.S. News & World Report, 2013



COMMUNITY SERVICE

UofM works hard to cultivate a campus-wide culture of service and stay connected to the needs of our community. There are countless ways for students to give back through weekly volunteer initiatives, Alternative Spring Break, tutoring programs and Service on Saturday. Go to memphis.edu/service to see all the ways you can get involved.

ALUMNI PROGRAMS

FAM (Future Alumni of Memphis) is the student extension of the UofM Alumni Association. Basically, FAM expands your social circle and gives you access to alumni networking (crucial in today's job market!). All current undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to join.

The UofM Young Alumni program is a division of the UofM Alumni Association that's priced for recent grads trying to get their foot in the door and their career off the ground. Grads who received their diploma within the past five years are eligible to join.

Making all of this possible is the UofM Alumni Association. When you join UMAA, you're not just giving back to your alma mater. You're giving back to a community and a vibrant, growing network. UMAA helps alumni stay connected and help each other out, while providing student scholarships, alumni programs and events.



DAILY HELMSMAN

The Daily Helmsman, an independent, award winning student-run newspaper began as a protest newspaper in 1931 called The Tiger Rag. The name was changed to The Helmsman in 1972, and again in 1981 to The Daily Helmsman, when it began publishing four days a week.

Be sure to pick up a copy Monday-Thursday to see the latest news and upcoming events on campus.



NAME CHANGES

On September 10, 1912, **West Tennessee Normal School** opened in Memphis (a normal school is a school created to train high school graduates to be teachers; its purpose is to establish teaching standards or norms, hence its name). The name changed in 1925 to **West Tennessee State Teachers College**. In 1941, the school was changed to **Memphis State College**, when the college expanded its liberal arts curriculum. In 1957, the school received full University status and changed its name accordingly to **Memphis State University**. On July 1, 1994, Memphis State University changed its name again to the **University of Memphis**.

MIGHTY SOUND OF THE SOUTH

Love the Tigers' fight song? Thank this group. The **Mighty Sound of the South** is UofM's school band. The band performs at Tiger football games as a marching band and at Tiger basketball games as a pep band. The band is officially charged with preserving the traditions of the Memphis Tigers and for performing "Go! Tigers! Go!," the University of Memphis Tigers' fight song.



MEMPHIS STATE EIGHT

In the fall of 1959, some 4,500 students enrolled at Memphis State University. Among them were eight African Americans, the first to break the University's color barrier. They were Bertha Mae Rogers (Looney), Rose Blakney (Love) and Marvis Kneeland (Jones), graduates of Hamilton High School; Luther McClellan and John Simpson from Manassas High School; Ralph Prater and Eleanor Gandy from Douglass High School; and Sammie Burnett (Johnson) from Booker T. Washington High School. They became known as the Memphis State Eight.

These pioneers set Memphis State—now the University of Memphis—on a new path of equality, fairness and acceptance that has remained a hallmark of the University. In 2009, the University presented the Memphis State Eight with the Authur S. Holmon Lifetime Achievement Award.

For the past decade, the University has been recognized as one of the nation's top institutions for African-American graduates with baccalaureate and advanced degrees. And the percentage of African-American graduate students at the UofM is more than double the national average.



UofM LAMBUTH

Founded in 1843 by the Memphis Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, Lambuth University achieved a national reputation as a premier liberal arts university.

In 2011, Lambuth became part of the University of Memphis system and has since grown into the most comprehensive four-year public university in Jackson, Tennessee.





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ASSOCIATION