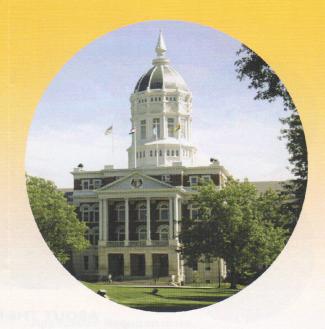
## **ABOUT COLUMBIA**

Graduate students have found it to be surprisingly affordable in Columbia with reasonably priced housing and many diverse things to do. Columbia is a city of over 108,500 residents and has a vibrant social and cultural life. Centrally located between St. Louis and Kansas City, and only 2 hours either way, there is a wealth of additional places to visit for the day or the weekend. The lively downtown area adjacent to campus features ample opportunities for dining and shopping, as well as concerts, art galleries, movies, annual festivals, and events. In addition to cultural events, there are a variety of outdoor activities in the Columbia area. With a number of nature areas andparks, as well as the MKT and Katy Trails, outdoor recreation opportunities abound in Mid-Missouri.

Additionally, MU has a significant impact on the community, as it presents such activities as SEC Conference athletic events and the University Concert Series.





## **ABOUT MU**

Founded in 1839 as the first state university west of the Mississippi, the University of Missouri has a rich academic history. MU, as it is also called, is one of only five institutions in the United States with law, medicine, veterinary medicine and a nuclear research reactor on one campus, allowing for a plethora of interdisciplinary research opportunities. MU has a diverse enrollment of almost 35,000 students from every county in Missouri, every state in the nation and over 120 countries. MU's nationally prominent faculty bring discoveries into the classroom, publish more than 1,600 books and scholarly articles each year and receive \$235 million annually from scientific research awards; they account for 70 percent of the research dollars flowing to Missouri public universities.