Announcer: The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap: Missouri State University Bears everywhere are welcomed home for #BearsHomecoming 2017. Alumni and visitors will get to celebrate tradition and enjoy a host of events on campus October 26 to 28. I'm Emily Yeap.

Lori Fan, MSU executive director of alumni relations, shares highlights of the celebration.

Lori Fan: We're so excited to welcome all of our alumni back in 2017. Some of the new and, different things that are happening is we're having the ribbon cutting ceremony for the brand new, spectacular Glass Hall, that's on Thursday morning. Then on Saturday morning, they'll be opening up the building for some tours and open house.

Emily Yeap: The Glass Hall ribbon cutting ceremony and open house starts at 10 a.m. Thursday and Saturday, respectively. The Welcome Home Party at 5 p.m. Friday in the Davis-Harrington Welcome Center is bigger and better.

Lori Fan: We're fully expanding our Welcome Home Party to give our alums and visitors a chance to gather on Friday evening, kind of make a game plan, but also really to provide some signature Springfield and Missouri State activities for them. Given good weather, that is, we're expanding outdoors for the Welcome Home Party. We are bringing in a couple of food trucks, a deejay. Our folks at A Hip Joint Massage will be there with their massage chairs again. There'll be a caricaturist. We're going to be sampling some Missouri State wines and having a couple of other activities that we really hope our alumni and constituents will come back to visit us that night and help get their Homecoming weekend kicked off.

Emily Yeap: After the party, alumni and friends can head over to Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Rent 20th Anniversary Tour Show at 7:30 p.m. There are also shows on Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from $25 to $65.

On both Friday and Saturday, there are several special events for certain groups of alumni.

Lori Fan: On Friday, we'll be hosting the Class of 1967 Golden Reunion. If you graduated in that year, check our website or call our alumni office for more information on that. Then, of course, you're invited back on Saturday for the Golden Bear Luncheon. That's everyone who graduated 50 or more years ago. We've got a few affinity reunions that promise to be large and fun, so come back and see your friends if you are part of ROTC or the Bear Battalion. They're going to be hosting their annual ball on Friday night. The Black Alumni Council has planned an entire weekend full of activities for black alumni and that kicks off Friday night. I also want to mention the Darr College of Agriculture will host their annual alumni reunion Saturday night as well.

Emily Yeap: The busiest day on Saturday kicks off with the Band of Bears Homecoming Parade.

Lori Fan: Saturday is the big day of them all. We start off with, of course, the parade at 9 a.m. It kicks off down John Q. Hammons Parkway and everybody can come out and watch that. That'll be filled with bands and student organizations and community groups. It's always a great time. Followed by one of our newer activities, Breakfast with Boomer. So, bring the kiddos out to have breakfast and get your photo taken with Boomer in the Meyer Library. Doors open at 9:30. Boomer will arrive around 10 o'clock. It's a kid-friendly breakfast.

Emily Yeap: For basketball fans, do not miss out on the Maroon and White scrimmage at 10 a.m. in JQH Arena. BearFest Village opens from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lori Fan: The Alumni Association hosts the MarooNation Alumni tent. Come by and see us. You can get a free hotdog meal. There'll be a photo booth there and some other activities there at the tailgate tent.

Emily Yeap: The Bears Football Game against Indiana State University starts at 2 p.m. in Plaster Stadium.

Fan says Bears' Homecoming 2017 offers something for everyone.

Lori Fan: We've really been working hard to expand Homecoming to welcome more alumni back, to provide more activities. There's never been a better time to be proud of your alma mater. If you haven't been on campus in even two years, the campus has changed so much. So, come back. Just have a great time on campus. Come see all the great things that are happening here in terms of facilities and opportunities to learn and experience and to find out why you should be proud of being an alum.

Emily Yeap: For everything BearsHomecoming 2017, visit alumni.missouristate.edu/homecoming. I'm Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

Announcer: For more information, contact the Office of University Communications at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.