**00:00:03 Announcer**

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

**00:00:09 Emily Letterman**

Get ready Bears and Bear fans, we’re on the cusp of an extra special weekend at Missouri State University — it’s homecoming.

Slated Oct. 20 and 21, current students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members are invited to come together for a host of events. Everything from the annual parade to Breakfast with Boomer the crowning of a king and queen. Plus, a couple of new surprises.

I’m Emily Letterman.

Today, I’m joined by Greg Fansler, executive director of engagement and alumni relations at Missouri State.

Themed “To Maroon and Back,” this year’s student festivities with have an atomic spin. For alumni, Fansler and team are looking forward to welcoming back a host of different groups.

**00:00:51 Greg Fansler**

This year, we're excited to bring back the class of 1973, so that’s their 50th year anniversary and we have a committee of alumni, including the class president, Gary Collins, who's kind of spearheading that group. They’re busy hitting the phones right now, calling classmates and encouraging folks to return. So, we have the class 60, 73 excuse me with their 50th. We also have a number of other organizations returning the Alpha Chi Omega sorority is coming back for their 40th reunion. The wrestlers will be returning here for a reunion. And just like the class of 73, there they are, reaching out to their former wrestling buds and we're expecting a very large crowd back for them. They're going to be here Friday and Saturday and recognize at the game.

Golden Bears is our tradition. That's been back here for some time. That's the group that have celebrated the 50th reunion and beyond. So all the way up to the 80th anniversary which we have people that return.

And then we also have Grand Bears. So once you've reached 90 years old or your 70th anniversary, you become a Grand Bear. We also will be bringing back our Black Alumni Council or the leadership group there as well as the Latino Alumni Council. Those leaders are bringing back alumni and the and the spirit and guys over the Latino alumni network and Black Alumni network.

**00:02:21 Emily Letterman**

On the agenda are some familiar favorites, but also a new event launching this weekend.

**00:02:26 Greg Fansler**

For new program, we're excited to have a focus on reaching out to young alumni. We've have launched an alumni chapter program and we've been out visiting alumni across the state and across the across the country, we we've detected that yet young alumni have had those who have moved from Springfield haven't really had a chance to come back. And we're really leveraging Homecoming as an opportunity to encourage that.

And so we have a BeAR Crawl, capital B, lowercase E capital AR bear crawl that will take place after the game, after we take care of business on the field. And so we'll be going through downtown Springfield at a variety of stops.

And there's going to be some pretty cool experience.

**00:03:14 Emily Letterman**

For returning alumni, homecoming is also an opportunity to explore the changes at their old stomping grounds.

**00:03:20 Greg Fansler**

And boy, we experienced that last year at the 50th for the class of ’72. There was a few classmates who returned for the first time in 50 years.

And that was an eye-opening experience, as you can imagine, to see how the pride that is exuded in the student body, how buildings and in the infrastructure has evolved in the grounds and it is, a great place to return into, into for homecoming, to be the catalyst for you.

Another program that has become a big tradition here is, is Breakfast with Boomer. It occurs at Foster Rec and we encourage families. You know, one of the fondest memories I have when my my first year here was following a young family and the kids, they were asking mom and dad about where they were. And mom and dad were like, well, this is where we met, you know, this is campus and, you know, they were here and they're showing their kids. Where life began for them.

**00:04:22 Emily Letterman**

Fansler says before you head to campus, check out the homecoming website at alumni.missouristate.edu/homecoming for campus construction projects, updates on events and to register to attend.

Uphold tradition, our school we hold so dear,
We will be loyal, throughout our college years,
FIGHT FOR VICTORY, while we stand up and cheer,
Let's hear it for the Bears.

That was a verse from the Missouri State fight song.

I’m Emily Letterman for the Missouri State Journal.

**00:04:54 Announcer**

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397, the Missouri State Journal is available online@ksu.org.