



News Release

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WESTERN NAMES 2004 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND FACULTY BANQUET SET FOR FRIDAY, OCT. 8

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 17, 2004— The Alumni Association of Missouri Western State College recently announced the 2004 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Awards. The Distinguished Alumni awardees are Dan Kampen, class of 1981; Sean Nash, class of 1991; Tom Schneider, class of 1964; and Dr. Nannette Wolford, class of 1973; and the Distinguished Faculty awardee is Dr. Steven Greiert, professor of history.

The recipients will be honored at the annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet Oct. 8 as part of Homecoming festivities. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the 6:30 p.m. banquet in the Nelle Blum Student Union, Forrest Hoff Room, 218. To make reservations, call 816-271-5646 by Sept. 29. Cost is \$18 per person.

Since 1997, **Kampen**, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration, has served as president and chief executive officer of U.S. Central, the nation's only wholesale corporate credit union and one of the most highly rated depository institutions in the world. Under his leadership, he has strengthened the corporate credit system, presiding during the most resounding growth period in the history of credit unions.

According to Yolanda Wheat, who nominated him, Kampen has been recognized as a leader in his community and in his church. He has served Reach the Children Foundation, Harvesters Food Network, Junior Achievement, Salvation Army and Children's Miracle Network.

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“Missouri Western provided me with a strong, broad-based business education – an education that prepared me for a career in the world of business,” Kampen said. “In every class, I was encouraged to think, to apply myself and to strive for success. These are characteristics that I apply in my professional life every day.”

Nash has been a high school and middle school science teacher since he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. He has taught at Benton High School in St. Joseph since 1994.

“Sean is widely regarded as one of the finest science teachers in our area,” said Robert Sigrist, who nominated him. Sigrist noted that Nash single-handedly developed a marine biology course for the St. Joseph School District where students cap off a year in the classroom with a week in the Bahamas studying a marine environment.

Some of Nash’s honors over the years include being named Outstanding Missouri High School Teacher of the Year, Distinguished Science Research Teacher of the Year, Teacher Who Makes a Difference and Innovator of the Year.

“I have applied the lessons I learned at Western every single day of my career,” he said. “I teach the way I was taught.”

After attending St. Joseph Junior College, **Schneider** went on to earn a bachelor of music education and a master of music in choral conducting. He is the supervisor of fine arts for the St. Joseph School District, serving full-time in that position from 1989-2003, and now part-time.

“He is sincere and dedicated to the advancement of arts in our schools,” said Peggy Iffert, who nominated Schneider. He has been involved in music throughout his entire career, and currently serves as an adjunct instructor at Western.

Schneider volunteers for several local organizations such as the Performing Arts Association, Boy Scouts of America and St. Joseph Community Chorus; and on several policy-making groups at the state and national levels.

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“I have been successful because people like the professors at the Junior College believed in me and my abilities,” he said. “That recognition of ability and worth that I experienced can only be repaid by passing those same beliefs on to others.”

Dr. Wolford, who graduated with a bachelor of science in health and physical education, has taught physical education to students ranging from kindergarten to college. She is currently an associate professor of health, physical education and recreation at her alma mater, and has been teaching at Western since 1985.

Dr. Wolford has served on a number of state, regional and national committees as well as on campus, in St. Joseph and Gower, Mo., where she resides. She has received numerous awards and honors, including the Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award from Western, Elementary Teacher of the Year, Physical Best Expert and Outstanding Educator of the Year. Dr. Wolford has given presentations throughout the United States and in Japan.

“The professors I had were so professional and caring,” she said. “I learned course work that really helped me become a successful physical educator. The faculty really cared about student success.”

Dr. Greiert has taught at Western since 1982. He served as chair of the department of social sciences at Western from 1988-2000, and as Faculty Senate president for three different terms. He earned a bachelor of arts from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and a master’s and Ph.D. from Duke University, Durham, N.C.

“His student evaluations and peer evaluations have been uniformly excellent, and the student comments on their evaluations of him reflect the enormous influence he has had on their intellectual development,” said Dr. Daniel Trifan, one of Dr. Greiert’s colleagues who nominated him. Dr. Trifan noted that Dr. Greiert always makes himself available to students, even if it means coming to campus for the sole purpose of meeting with a student.

He received the Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award from Western, and has presented at conferences across the nation.

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“I love teaching,” he said. “When former students succeed, and tell my colleagues and me that we assisted them in pursuing their professional goals, it gives us a great amount of personal and professional satisfaction.”

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Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.