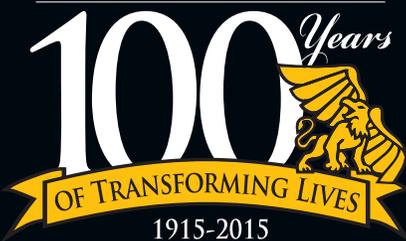




MISSOURI WESTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY





A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY 1915-2015

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Dear fellow Griffons,

Missouri Western State University has a rich history, deep ties to our community and a passion for transforming lives.

We were formed by the determination of city leaders. Through innovation and incredible support from our region's leaders and the Griffon faithful, we have continued to grow, evolve, and improve the lives of an increasing student population. From our founding, we have been committed to serving the needs of our region and providing opportunities for all students.

More than 28,000 alumni have called Missouri Western home, and our graduates are located throughout the world. Their education at Missouri Western has led them to rewarding careers, to leadership roles and to increased engagement in their own communities.

I hope you enjoy this publication, and have the time to reflect upon our remarkable history. Together, we have accomplished much in the last 100 years, and we have much to anticipate for the century to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Vartabedian".

Robert A. Vartabedian, Ph.D.
President, Missouri Western State University

JUNIOR COLLEGE, HERE'S TO YOU!

Founded by the vision of the St. Joseph School District and the St. Joseph Commerce Club, the St. Joseph Junior College opened on Sept. 20, 1915 with 35 students and eight faculty members. Housed in Central High School on 13th and Olive streets in St. Joseph, annual tuition was \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents.

Freshman Tradition



Puzzle: Find the "Green Hat" in each picture.

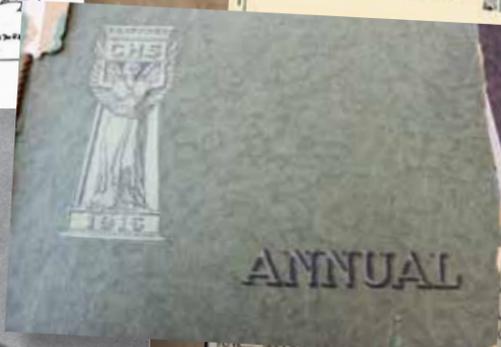


1925-1928

Central High School
St. Joseph, Missouri

MEMORANDUM
DATE: September 20, 1915
TO: The Board of Directors
FROM: The Board of Directors
SUBJECT: The opening of the Junior College

The Board of Directors of the St. Joseph School District are pleased to announce the opening of the Junior College on September 20, 1915. The college will be housed in the Central High School building on 13th and Olive streets. The college will have a faculty of eight members and 35 students. The annual tuition is \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents.



J. Club

of Junior College's outstanding men who have merited either a athletic events, and of course, it is wondering what would Athletics had there been no Huff

The boys in the J-Club will long remember that of their Junior College life, the night of the "J" dinner dance at Greenfield's - pretty girls, good fellows, fine food, divine music, and again - good fellows, for could ask for better men than Jimmie Smith, Tommie, Ed, Blwood Huff, Harry Raley, Markon Sinterden.

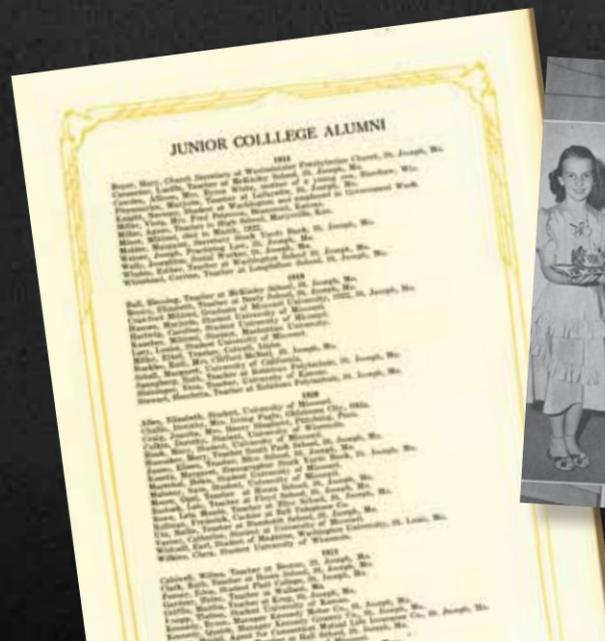
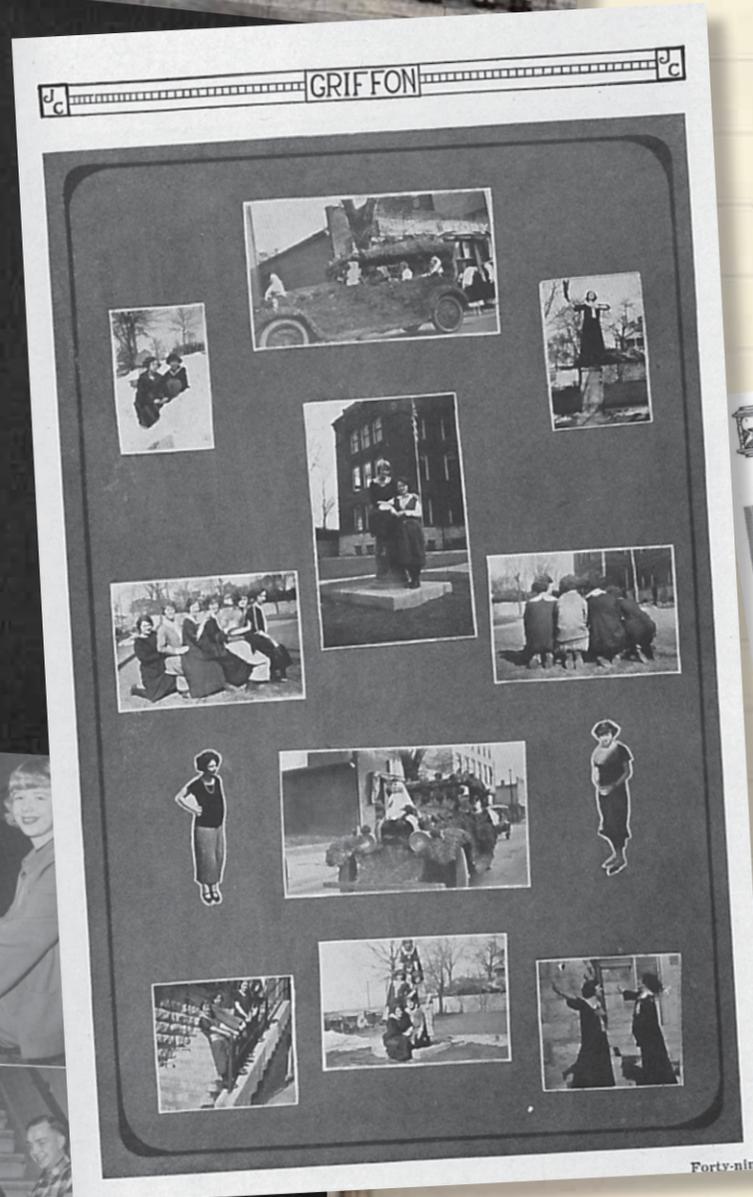


THE PIONEERS

Perched high on a river bluff with a view described as "one of the finest in the state," the St. Joseph Junior College was only the eighth in the nation and the second in the state of Missouri. The first students and faculty members laid the groundwork for all that was to come – and quickly. Faculty members were honored to teach at the new junior college, and had just one week to prepare for the first day of classes.

As David Raffelock '17, a student in the first Junior College class, wrote in the Annual, students entered the Junior College "sailing uncharted seas, for a known port, but over an unknown course." These students, he wrote, "were worthy workers, as all pioneers should be."

The first two principals of the St. Joseph Junior College were Frank Touton, 1915-1916, and Merle Prunty, 1916-1918. Both were principals at Central High School, making them the top administrators of the St. Joseph Junior College. John W. Thalman led the Junior College from 1918-1920. He was then promoted to superintendent of the St. Joseph School District. Capt. Oscar S. Wood, principal from 1920-23, was also the Jr. ROTC Commandant for the high school. G.R. Deatherage became principal of Central High School and the Junior College in 1923 and served for just one year.



STANDARDS GEARED HIGH

The first year of study at the Junior College included coursework in English literature, composition and rhetoric; Cicero's Essays on Friendship and Old Age; European history; French; inorganic chemistry; trigonometry and college algebra. Courses in education and electives were also available.

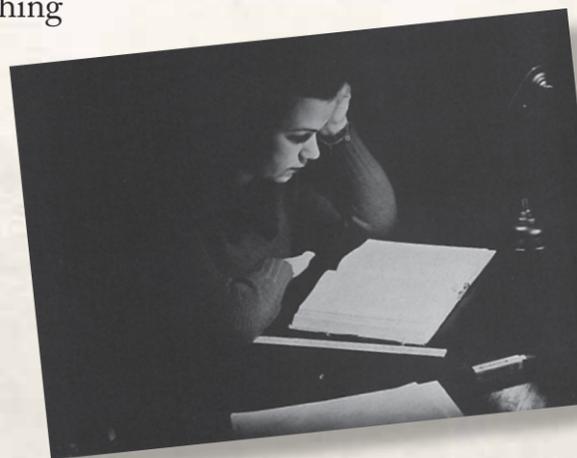
Many of the faculty members who helped form the foundation of the Junior College are still revered. Orrel Andrews, who taught botany, worked with the Natural Science Club to establish a children's museum in St. Joseph, which eventually grew into the St. Joseph Museums. Nelle Blum and Frank Popplewell both have buildings named after them on Missouri Western's campus today.

The success of Junior College alumni was documented early. In the 1922 Griffon, the graduates of the five preceding years were listed along with their occupations, showing that alumni were continuing their education, had completed their undergraduate degrees, were teaching at all grade levels and in college, and one was a lawyer.



Nelle Blum

Frank Popplewell



102 J. C. Graduates Await Commencement Exercises This Spring
 Exercises to be Held at Municipal Auditorium at Eight O'Clock on June 2
TO ATTEND SERVICES
 One-hundred and two students dressed in the traditional caps and gowns will receive their graduation diplomas at the commencement exercises on June 2 if all goes well in the way of grades for these hopefuls.
 The annual exercises will be held in the city auditorium beginning at eight o'clock with Miss Blum presenting the Junior College graduates their certificates. As a part of the commencement program, Frieda Blumar, who was selected for the honor in mid-year, will give a talk, as will representatives of the three city high schools. The general public will be admitted to the commencement exercises with the doors opening at 7:45.
 Baccalaureate services for the graduating class will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Twenty-first and Jules Street, on May 29. Dr. E. B. Whitcomb, pastor of the church, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon. The services will start at 10:30 o'clock, and graduates will wear their caps and gowns to this service also.

BULLETIN
 St. Joseph, Missouri, Junior College Courses.
 Course of Study 1915-16.

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 of
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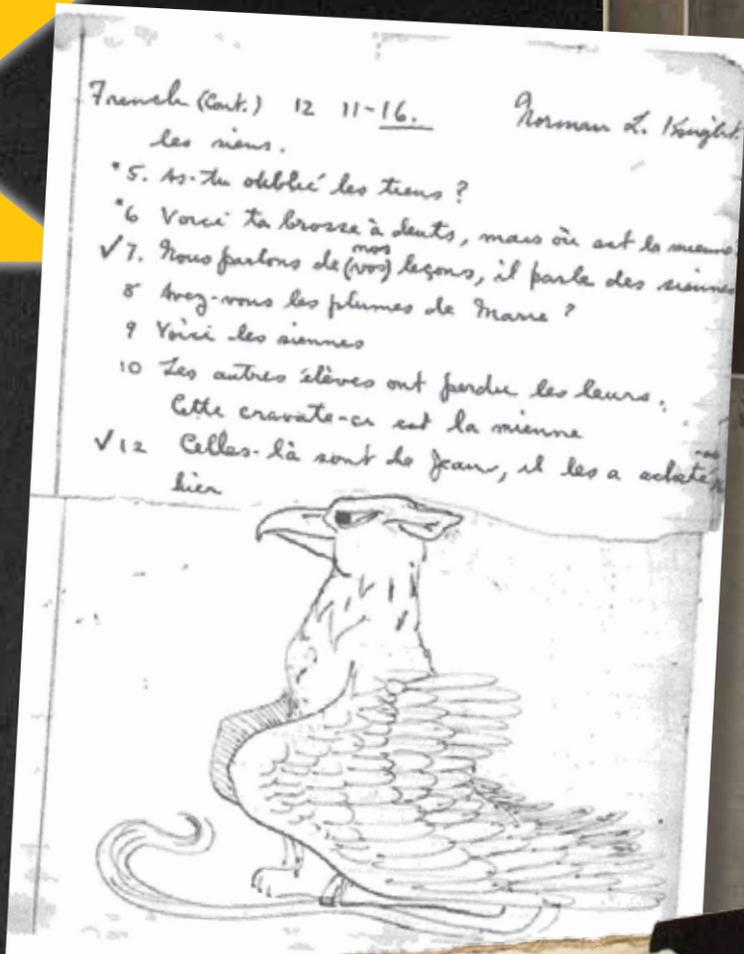
GUARDIAN OF TREASURE

The Griffon, half lion and half eagle, was adopted as the symbol of the College in 1917. Shortly thereafter, the school colors of black and gold were chosen.

The Griffon took on many iterations throughout Missouri Western's history, beginning as a hand-drawn logo and eventually evolving into the Missouri state-shaped Griffon logo, introduced in 1973, that is still used today.

"I can't remember exactly how I decided on the Griffon. I think it was accidental. Somewhere I read that the Griffon was considered a symbol of wisdom and a guardian of buried treasure. It occurred to me that an education could be considered as a sort of buried treasure that one must 'dig for' by dint of hard study."

NORMAN KNIGHT '18, WHO DESIGNED THE GRIFFON, IN A 1970 LETTER.



SARA MALONEY
EDITORIAL BOARD



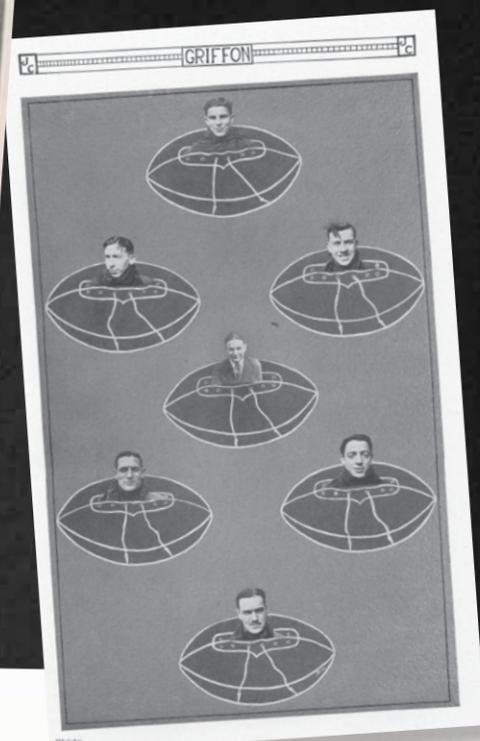
MARY HOUGH
EDITORIAL BOARD



BLACK AND GOLD, KNOCK 'EM COLD

The Junior College athletic program took off quickly. By 1920, sports activities were available for both male and female students. A "gang" of athletic participants was established and activities included basketball, baseball, swimming, tennis and roller skating hikes. It was said of the Athletics Association that every able-bodied student's participation was needed.

A women's sports club was established in 1920, and every male student tried out for basketball that year. By 1922, a football team was formed, and played through 1924. Basketball remained constant, and participation in athletic activities was strong, despite a lack of funding, scholarships, and a struggle to find coaches.

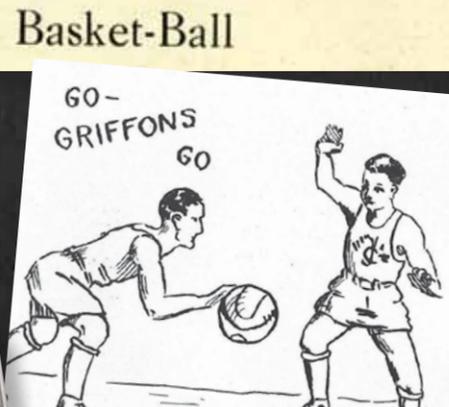


MIKE DONAHUE, Coach

Ping-Pong
Two sophomore boys, Vernon Ruff and D. L. Hopkins, were outstanding in the sport of ping-pong during the year at Junior College. Ruff was the singles champion the first semester, and Hopkins captured the same title during the second half of the school year. Together Ruff and Hopkins also won the doubles title by defeating Hewitt and Fox. Harold Jaffe was the outstanding freshman player advancing to the finals in the school tournament during the second semester and winning the freshman tournament. Other outstanding players were Joe Mungie, Harold Hammond, Harold Frye, and George Keller.

Bowling
The Perles, captained by Robert Henschel, was the Junior College bowling championship in competition with eleven other teams. Other members of the Perles were Herbert Gordon, Roger Briscoe, Edward Vincent, and Evelyn Trachsel. Second position was captured by the Wildcats captained by Jack Fox and composed of Dorothy Ann Eady, Marion Jean Rix, Milton Livak, and John Basset. Wasserkug's Irish followed the Wildcats to take third place. Harold Jaffe finished with the highest individual average of 172.

Intra-Mural Sports
Four teams entered the intra-mural touch football meet last fall with games on the field near the headmaster's team defeated the Wildcats to take first place in this sport which was defeated by the Wildcats. When colder weather conditions were termed to basketball another intra-mural tournament. Briscoe's quiet victory from this tournament by the three other teams by Ralph Minor, and Paul...



Girls' Basketball Team



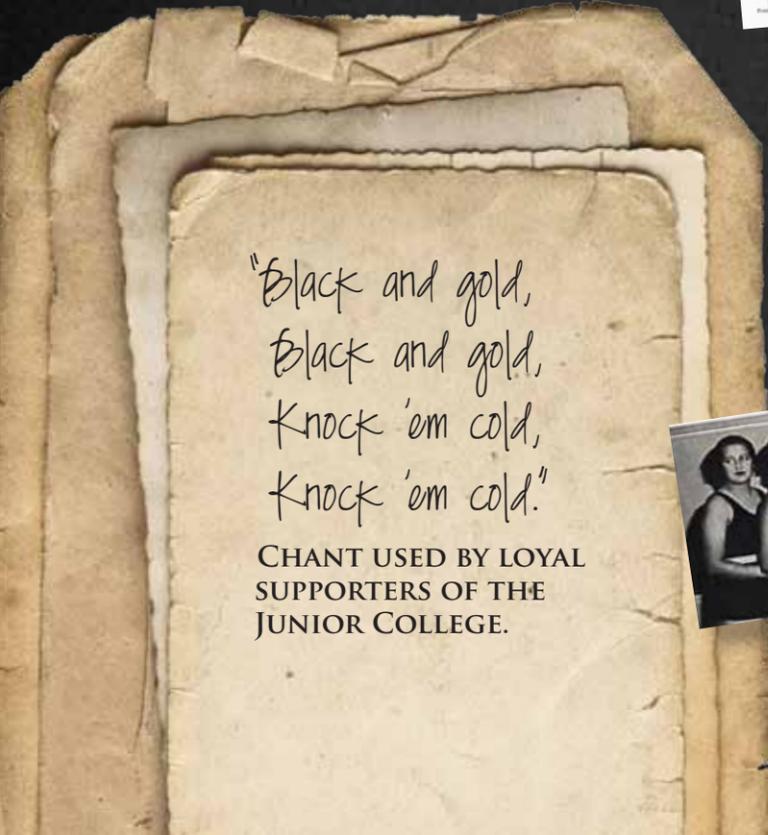
Track Team
Eliot Peterson, Fred Ross, Willie Swain, Harold Jaffe, Paul Kim, Bill Mack, Phil Hewitt, Jimmy M. Back, Ross, Andrew Schweder, Albertson, Max Nelson, James Lyle, Hubert, Herbert Dueser, and Edson.



Basketball Team
Lester Peterson, Fred Ross, Willie Swain, Harold Jaffe, Paul Kim, Bill Mack, Phil Hewitt, Jimmy M. Back, Ross, Andrew Schweder, Albertson, Max Nelson, James Lyle, Hubert, Herbert Dueser, and Edson.

Track
Junior College had a successful track season this year finishing fourth with its small squad at the state indoor meet at Columbia and averaging thirty-five points in a tri-gular meet held at Wentworth. The team also entered the Kemper Invitational Meet. Friday Coach Donahue took the squad to Trenton where they competed in the annual state outdoor meet. Phil Hewitt, hurdler and dash man, and Andrew Schweder, distance runner, were outstanding among Junior College's track men this year. Schweder placed second in the mile

Basketball
The Griffons came very close to capturing the Conference championship this year, leading up to the last season when they lost a sloppy game in a week but inspired Central Wesleyan to end up in third place behind Phil River and Trenton. With a win needed for the title, the Griffons started out in great shape giving up a 16-2 lead, but they became overconfident and let the lead slip away. All in all, however, they had a very successful season, winning seven and losing only three games in conference play. The team, which was capably coached by Mike Donahue, finished with a record of 17-12.



"Black and gold,
Black and gold,
Knock 'em cold,
Knock 'em cold."

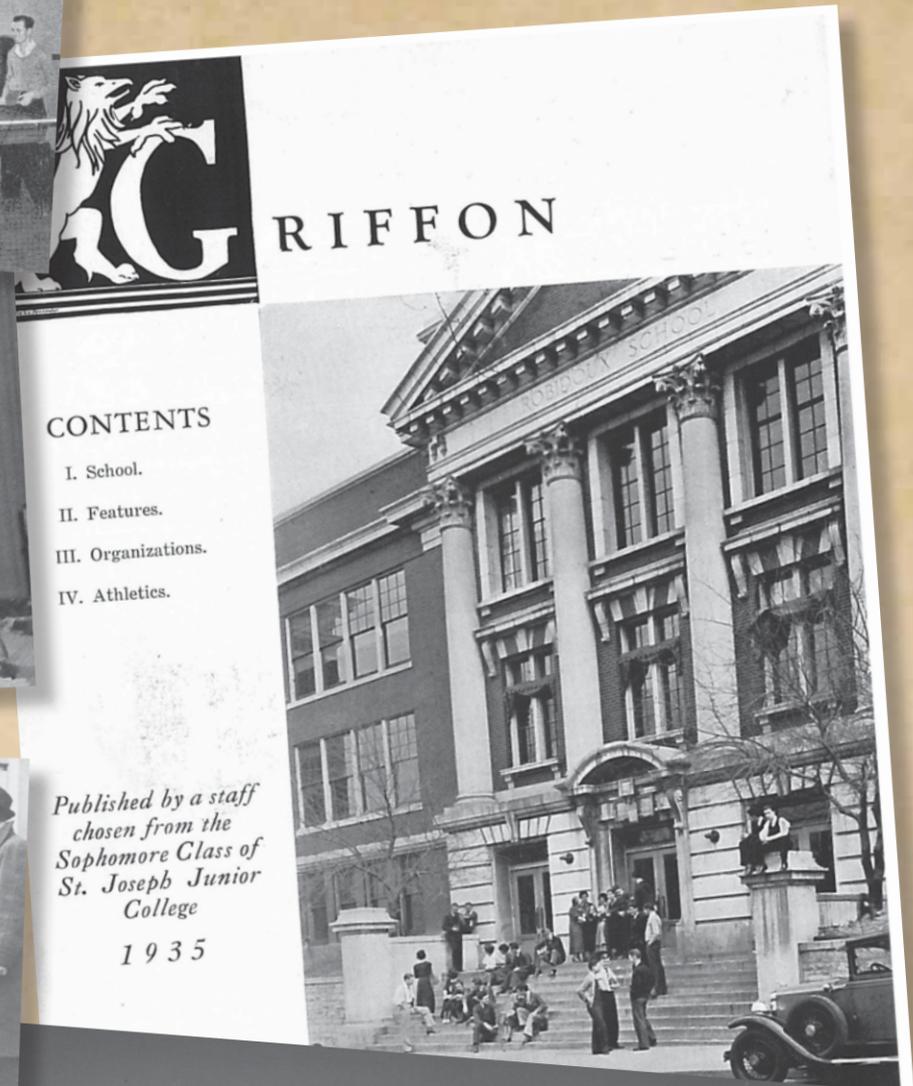
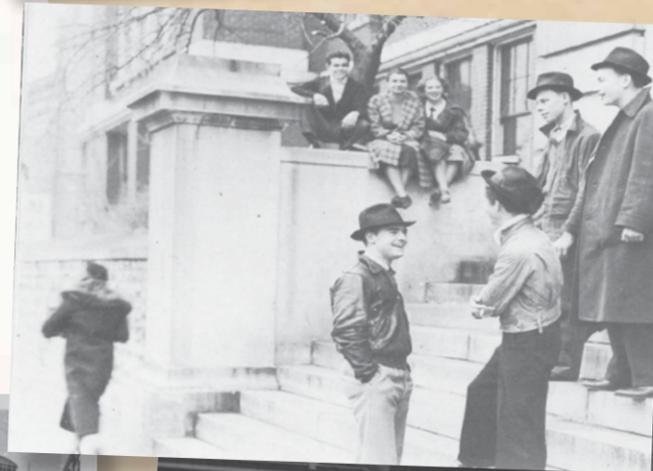
CHANT USED BY LOYAL SUPPORTERS OF THE JUNIOR COLLEGE.



THE CONCRETE CAMPUS

In 1933, the St. Joseph Junior College moved to the former Robidoux Polytechnic School, located on 10th and Edmond streets. This remained the home of the Junior College until 1969.

As enrollment grew, the building, affectionately known as “Edmond Street College” and the “Concrete Campus,” became crowded. Increased enrollment pushed faculty offices into halls and restrooms and classes into sections of the auditorium. By 1954, 398 students were enrolled in the Junior College.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Student life at the Junior College wasn't always glamorous. The women had a special retreat in the early days: the ladies' restroom, with a partition and a rickety couch, some old chairs and tables. It was the hub of student life and a popular place for female students to play cards. When noises and motions indicated the approach of a teacher, the cards were hastily hidden.

Back in the early days of the St. Joseph Junior College, students annually held Prowl Day, a chance to skip school and enjoy the long-gone amusement park at Lake Contrary.

In 1936, Bing Crosby judged the Griffon Annual Beauty Queen Contest. Photos of the women were sent to Crosby and he mailed back his selection for the winner. Rudy Vallee held this honor in 1933 and 1937.

By 1926, the St. Joseph Junior College had 13 organizations – an orchestra, the Cheshire Cheese writing club, the Athletics Association, a YWCA affiliate, Mes Amis, Dramatic Club, Natural Science Club, Boys and

Girls Glee Clubs, La Lucita, Phi Theta Kappa, Le Cercle Francais and the Student Senate. Each organization was a reflection on the need for an academic environment and students' and faculty members' commitment to creating it.

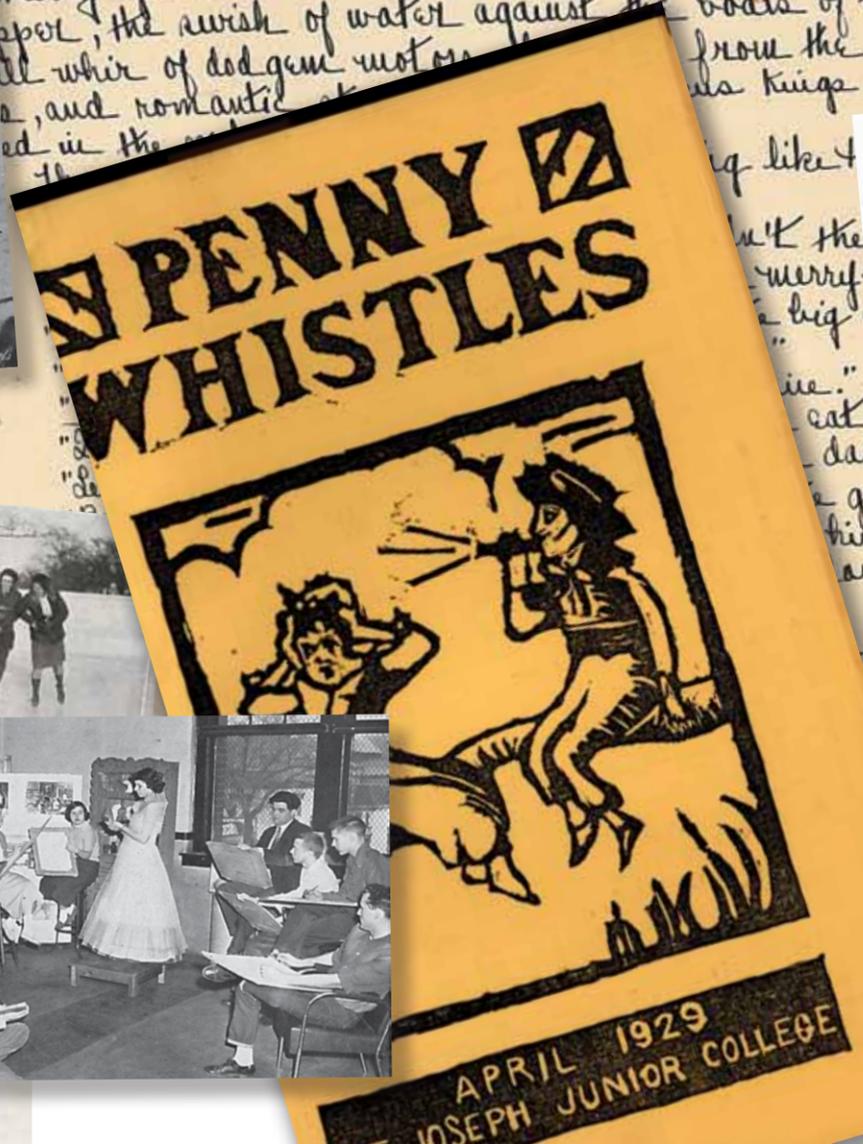
The Student Senate, originated in 1924, provided leadership for students and service to the college. Former members became college presidents, lawmakers, lawyers, physicians, business executives and civic leaders.

The 1945 yearbook reports the creation of a Junior College Red Cross chapter, the only college unit in the Pony Express District of the American Red Cross. The group performed several hours of community service, including preparing Christmas gifts and wreaths for a veterans' hospital.



The crack of a baseball against a bat, the tinkling merrif-go-round, hilarious shrieks from the riders of the merry-go-round, the swish of water against the boats of the old mill, the whirl of dodgem motor cars, and romantic stunts, all ed in the night.

Prowl Day —



ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

The St. Joseph Junior College contributed culturally to the region from its founding. From a 12-member orchestra in its first years to many plays and productions, the Griffons embraced the arts. In 1939, the a cappella chorus went to the New York World's Fair, an incredible accomplishment. Founded in 1930 with 14 students, by 1939 the chorus had more than 60 members.

Footlights, which started in the 1930s and ran through the 1960s, was an extremely popular student-run talent show. The majority of students participated in Footlights, which they planned, wrote and produced.

The Frog Hop Ballroom opened on Pickett Road in St. Joseph in 1928, and featured big name bands and acts for more than 50 years. The ballroom was a popular spot for St. Joseph Junior College students and featured performers like Lawrence Welk and Count Basie.



Dramatic Club



TRANSFORMED BY HISTORY

The St. Joseph Junior College opened during World War I, and one student, Lieutenant William Pinger, enlisted and never returned. Concerns over food, clothing and energy shortages were expressed in the high school-junior college combined newspaper. One teacher suggested that all female students who received candy from young male callers send it in Christmas boxes to soldiers in France. In May 1918, the study of German was abolished in all St. Joseph public schools.

During the Great Depression, salaries ran out for faculty and staff. The Great Depression also meant that more students from rich backgrounds and with high motivations enrolled as their families could no longer afford to send them to Ivy League institutions.

Hundreds of Junior College students fought in World War II, and between 60-70 Griffons lost their lives in battle. A plaque was created to honor them. Students and faculty grew victory gardens and urged each other to buy war bonds. The college donated old lockers and stage scenery weights to the scrap metal drive. Since most male students went off to war, students called the college "Nelle Blum's Young Ladies Academy." The establishment of the GI Bill led to an increase in enrollment from World War II veterans, and an increase in nontraditional students at the Junior College.

Junior College Welcomes Returning Veterans

Seven Veterans Enrolled at Junior College Found That Education Comes in Handy



BACK TO SCHOOL . . . These six young men learned by enrolling in Junior College as a start toward acquiring it. In the front row, Paul Heibel, Paul Klaus and Norman Mauzey; second row, Meana Farris.

Joe Morton, Famous Alumnus Victim of Nazi Horror Camp

Joseph Morton, St. Joseph's famed Associated Press war correspondent, Junior College graduate, and a former editor of the Griffon News was executed in Germany on January 24 of this year according to word released this summer.



JOSEPH MORTON
Editors Note: We will present here from week to week brief sketches of some of J. C.'s well known alumni. We inaugurate this feature this week with a tribute to gallant Joe Morton.

Mr. Morton, who had gone into Czechoslovakia originally on a secret mission to help liberate a group of American flyers shot down behind German lines, and his companions were captured in Slovakia the day after Christmas while resting in a shack from a long trip they had made by foot to keep ahead of advancing German troops.

The party was taken to Bratislava, and later to Austria and Mauthausen which was rated fifth in the list of Nazi extermination camps. The same day that the men were condemned by Ernest Kaltenbrunner, Hitler's right hand man, they were ordered to change their uniforms for prison garb and were led down to the execution room. Their bodies were cremated.

Draftees May Finish Work of One Semester

Many Junior College boys will be interested in this latest addition to educational deferments which relate to selective service. Another new section has been added known as Section 63312-3. It relates to the postponement of induction of college students. It is very different from the one relating to high school students. It provides that any person who enters upon a course of instruction in a college or university before he becomes 18 years of age, and who is ordered to report for induction during the quarter or semester, shall upon his request have the induction postponed (1) until the end of such quarter or semester, or (2) until he ceases to attend continuously and satisfactorily.

Casualty Lists Reveal War's Greatest Cost

Junior College students are being constantly reminded these days of the grim fight now taking place against the enemy as the casualty lists pour in bearing the names of many J. C. alumni.

The number of Gold Stars on the school's war honor roll rose to 35 last week when word was received of the death February 1 of Private First Class Henry N. Spencer. The soldier, who attended Junior College in 1942, died as a result of wounds received in action January 29.

The 21-year-old private was serving with the 298th Infantry of the 190th Division attached to the 7th Army, and had been overseas only since October. He was inducted into the service last February.

Voices Missing Again
Staff Sgt. Randolph Vories, who was at Junior College in 1942 and 1943, is missing in action for a second time in less than two months. Sergeant Vories, a radio operator and waist gunner with a B-24 heavy bombardment crew, (Continued on page 4, col. 1)

KILLED IN ACTION



Henry N. Spencer

"Our dollars in VICTORY BONDS will work wonders for us...!"

COUNTY QUOTA IS \$3,302,900

LET'S ALL DO OUR SHARE!

Townsend & Wall

VICTORY LOAN

Prisoners Are Freed

In the news of the liberation of Captain Ferris Spoor, Sgt. Wilbur Allen, and Sgt. Walter Daffron, all names are now removed from the J. C. roll of prisoners of war. All three of them were members of the 1st Tank Battalion taken prisoner at the fall of Bataan. Captain Spoor attended J. C. in 1932, Sgt. Daffron was here in 1931 and Sgt. Allen was inducted in 1940.

LEAVE FOR SERVICE

Approximately 30 boys left for the armed forces during the summer and their names have been added to the honor roll in the main hall.

Florence Mark Returns

Florence Mark, has just enrolled for her sophomore year at J. C., having been unable to start at the first of the term. Last year she was active in G. A. A., Treble Clef Club, J. C. Choir, and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

A FITTING MEMORIAL

Students are asked to think about a permanent memorial to the 58 young men from Junior College who lost their lives in the service of their country. This would replace the service honor roll in the main hall which has been only temporary. Give your suggestions to Miss Blum, Miss Albrecht or Miss Harvey.

Nine Freshmen Graduate Compete for Position of Head Cheerleader

Yes, Griffons Fight! Fight! Fight!

This and similar yells were overheard in the school gymnasium Thursday as contestants for the position of head cheerleader tried out. Junior students were Miss Clara Albrecht representing the faculty, Miss Ann Wilson, Roxine Fry, Steel, and Shirley Kramer representing the student body.

BELOW THE SURFACE

To the casual observer it would seem that Junior College is a hotbed of dissension and grouching. And although the Gallup poll states that a large share of our population expects to enter war, Junior College is against it. And if this, which is disturbing to so many an elder, is fact, why is it? Is it because as a student body we are decadent? Is it because we are lazy, or even cowardly? No. There are many reasons for the slack support of our country's war preparations but none of the above enter. It is interesting however to examine some of the more common reasons voiced about the halls and juke box joints where free and open student discussion is held.

In the first place many of us grumble against the policies of the President. Because of our geographical location we see no immediate danger. Because of our lack of inside information perhaps, we do not realize the proximity of war. All we know is what we read in the papers and everything does not find its way into print. Doubtless the President is in possession of secret material and all the east is agog with rumors. St. Joseph does not share these rumors and so remains placidly inert.

Many of us stand strongly against England. While by no means do we approve of Germany's ferocities, we still waste no love on England. The raw deals which she has engaged in in the past keep cropping up. Her default of the enormous World War debt, her history in regard to her own period of expansion — in particular the Revolutionary War, place an icy barrier between us.

Many of us want to avoid the sacrifices necessitated by war. Higher taxes, increased costs of living, priority curtailment of luxuries and the resultant gradual lowering of the standard of living are tangible enough to overcome war sentiment.

And again, most boys are passively opposed to military service. Backbreaking drudgery for twenty-one dollars a month does not appeal to most of us especially when we see no immediate need for troops.

Finally, we do not hate anyone enough to fight. Most of us are easy going chaps who would rather cut rugs than cut German flesh with flame throwers or giving them six inches of raw steel is nauseating.

But does it all end here? Would Junior College students go through a war in such a dissenting, passive manner? Would it be necessary for the F. B. I. to collar half the student body an hour after the declaration of war? Just as certain as we are sons and daughters of staunch American pioneers and just as certain as we are staunch Americans ourselves, it would not. We have too rich a heritage, too glorious a history to defend and not. We have deep we have the stuff to rise up and meet the challenge wherever and wherever it is flung. Human nature is such that in periods of inactivity we grumble and find fault, but put to the test we stiffen. At the present we are just enjoying our God given American privilege of disagreeing with the politicians, but all we need is something to regiment our student opinion. Then and there we halt these petty grievances and say "My country, right or wrong."



OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

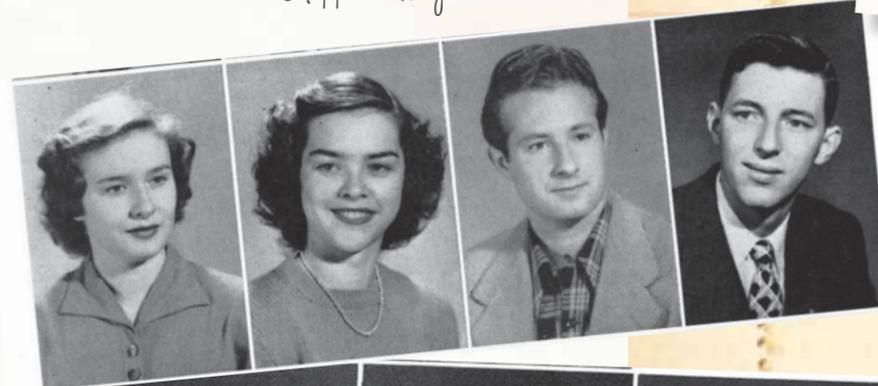
In 1952, two black men attempted to enroll in the Junior College but were refused, because their admittance was forbidden by Missouri statute. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision in the case of Brown Vs. Board of Education of Topeka, declaring that separate but equal schools was contrary to the law as established in the Fourteenth Amendment. After the Supreme Court's decision, five St. Joseph teachers became the first black students to attend Junior College. The Junior College summer session began on June 5, 1954, making it likely that these teachers became the first black students in the country to enroll in a previously segregated state institution.

In 1955, Clifford Hughes became the first black graduate of the St. Joseph Junior College. Don Meredith, John Guyton and Wade Thuston, who played basketball in 1955-1956, are believed to be the first black Junior College athletes.

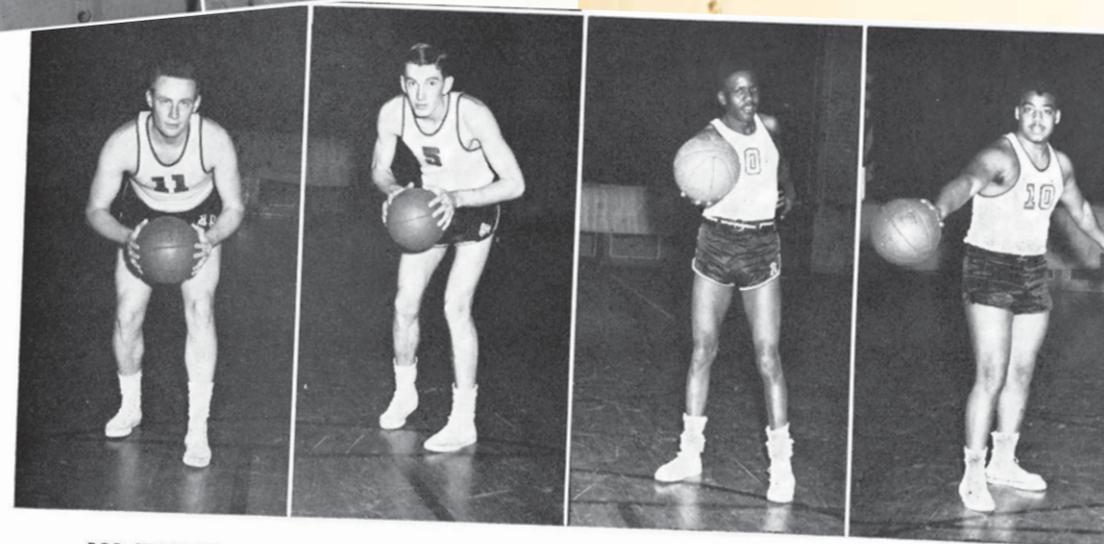
International students studied at the Junior College as early as 1948, when Arso Gligorievitch, from Salonika, Greece, became the first student from a Mediterranean country. Henry Chiang and Mok Tokko from Korea enrolled in 1949 and 1952, respectively.



Clifford Hughes



Geis, Margaret
Gerber, Rosemary
Gligorievitch, Arso
Gloschen, William



BOB STAHLIN

BILL EHLERS

WADE THUSTON

JOHN GUYTON

FFON NEWS

We, whose muscles with white skin, have allowed the slightest in our attitudes. Our the other hand, have proud or arrogant for what has for too long
To accept members of all races on an equality basis is, indeed, a noble goal; and it will help us to achieve that goal if we occasionally remind ourselves that there is absolutely no scientific substantiation for the claim that one race is physically or mentally superior to another. Many of us will have to make adjustments not so much in our thinking as in our feeling.
Education, at long last, is being given an opportunity to prove itself the great common denominator.



"Education, at long last, is being given an opportunity to prove itself the great common denominator."

GRIFFON NEWS, 1954



COLLEGE LIFE

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the St. Joseph Junior College continued its mission of educating its students and preparing them for the workforce. Classes were offered in several vocational fields, along with liberal arts classes for students working on an Associate of Arts degree.

Enrollment at the Junior College continued to grow throughout the two decades. In 1959, a former church building north of the St. Joseph Junior College was purchased. It contained classrooms and a physics lab, and served as a student union known as the Grotto. Classes were also held at buildings throughout the downtown.

Nelle Blum retired as dean in 1957 and Marion E. Gibbins was hired. Edgar C. Little became dean in 1963, and Milburn W. Blanton was hired as Missouri Western Junior College president in 1965.



"More and more we see the need for 'higher education' and we are grateful for the existence of St. Joseph Junior College."

GIFFON YEARBOOK, 1957



Marion Gibbins



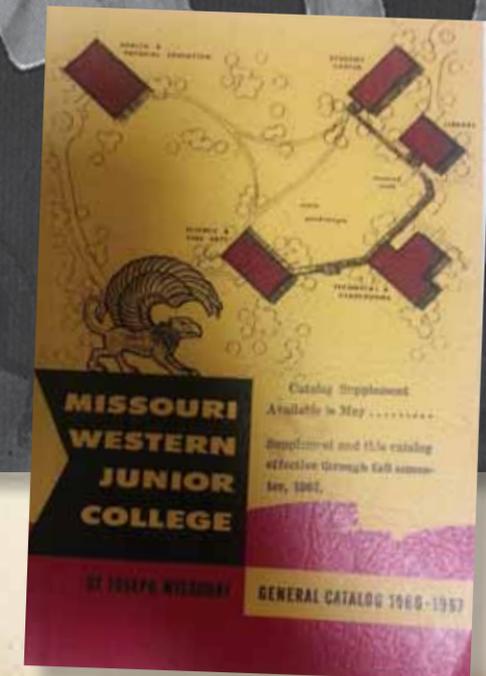
Edgar Little



Milburn Blanton



The St. Joseph Junior College
Student Senate
requests the honor of your presence at
THE 1962 HOMECOMING DAY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1962 9:00
Frog Hop Ballroom
THE NEW DUTCH YOUNG ORCHEST

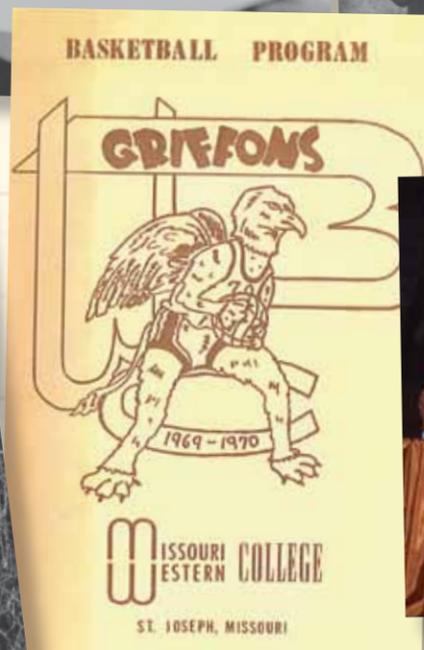
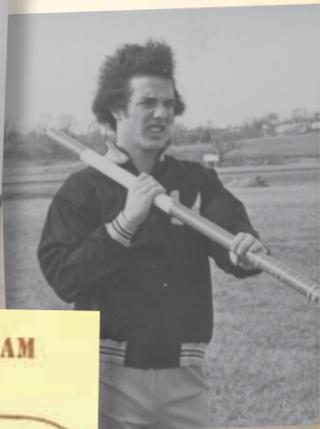
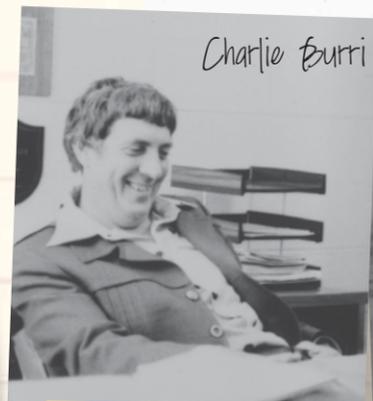
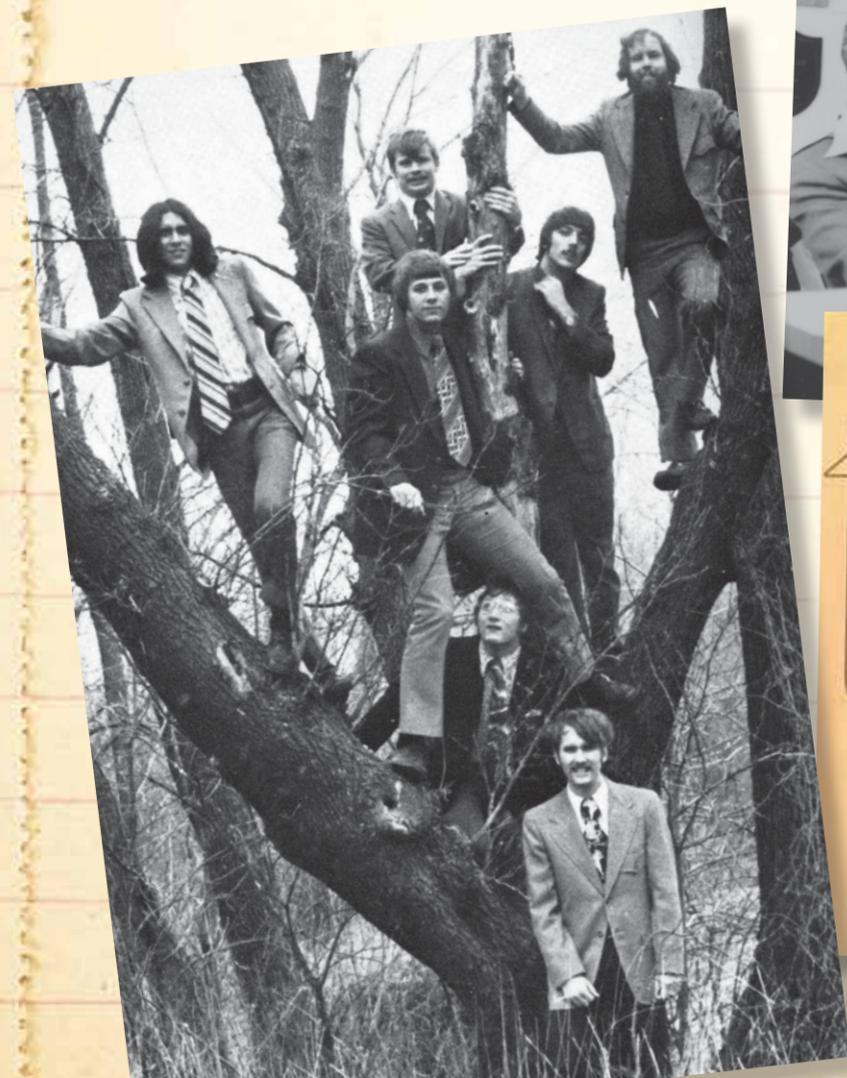


FIGHT ON, GRIFFONS!

In the 1950s, Homecoming, which was celebrated at a basketball game, grew in popularity with the addition of a parade and different theme each year.

Charlie Burri '55 was hired as the college's first athletic director in 1966. There were five men's sports in the 1970s: baseball, basketball, football, golf and tennis.

Missouri Western's current fight song, "Fight On, Griffons," was created in 1979, thanks to the efforts of Dr. M.O. Looney, president, and composer Carl Bolte Jr.



march/up-beat

FIGHT ON, GRIFFONS!

((CHORUS))

FIGHT ON, GRIF-FINS! and you'll win the game. Vic-to-ry! Mis-sou-ri West-ern State. FIGHT ON, GRIF-FINS! you'll go on to fame. Vic-to-ry! Mis-sou-ri West-ern State. Speed like the ea-gle, strong as a li-on; no oth-er team could be half as great. So FIGHT ON, GRIF-FINS! and you'll win the game: Vic-to-ry! Mis-sou-ri West-ern State. Go, black! (clap,clap) Go, gold! (clap,clap). Out front all the way. (spoken: Hooray!) Go, black! (dap,clap). Go, gold! (clap,clap) Win for good ol' No West to-day. (spoken: Hooray!)

State. (spoken: Hooray!)

3/4. ((Note: on re then VERSE))

Copyright © 1979
MARVIN G. LOONEY
CARL E. BOLTE, JR.

"These boys have enjoyed a good season of intramural sports, in which they divided into teams and gave each other real competition. There were no trophies or newspaper headlines, but good, clean sportsmanship and excitement."

GRIFFON YEARBOOK, 1959

THE ROAD TO A 4-YEAR COLLEGE

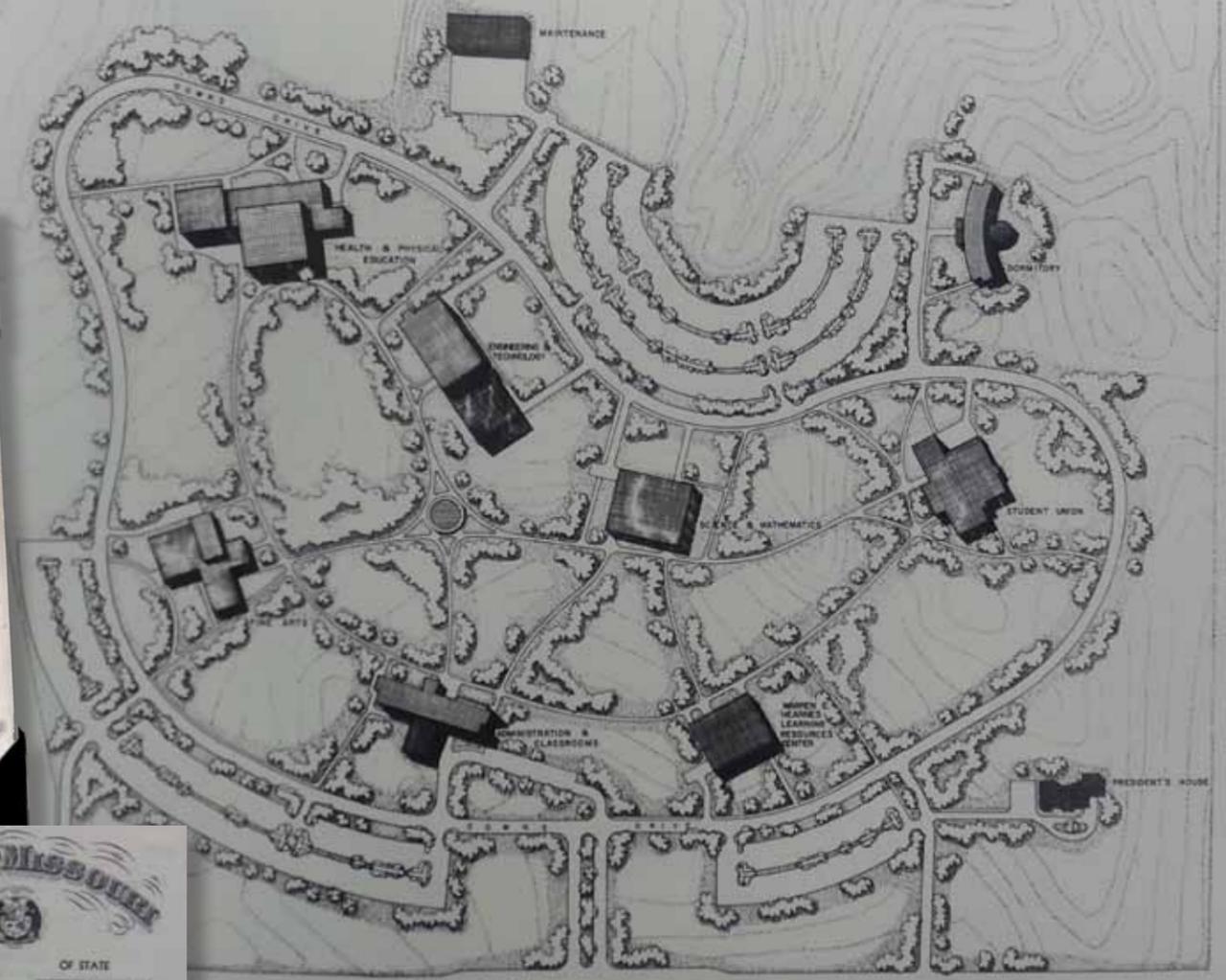
In his monograph about Missouri Western's founding, former State Rep. Ronald Reed called the road to a four-year college "the result of a political struggle, up close and confrontational."

The journey to a four-year institution began in 1961 when state legislation passed that provided for the establishment of junior college districts by a vote of the people in those areas. Such a district was a prerequisite to a four-year college in St. Joseph, and a district was approved by voters in 1965. Later that year, Gov. Warren Hearnes signed a bill to fund a four-year college in St. Joseph. Along with Rep. Reed, State Sen. John Downs deserves credit for his legislative work to establish the four-year college.

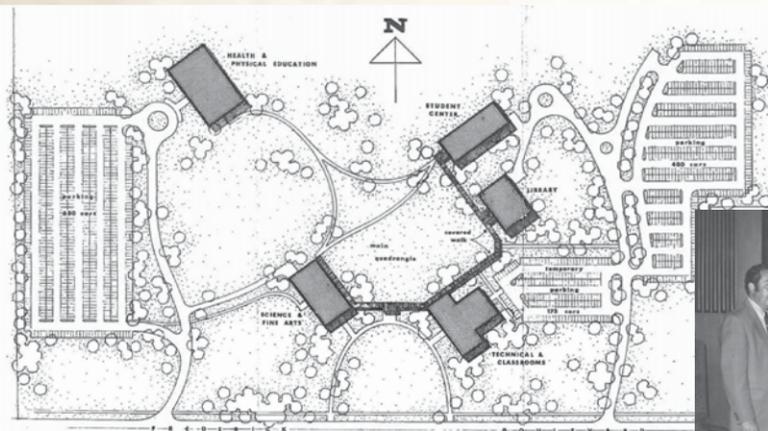
Dr. M.O. Looney became president in 1967. He guided the junior college to a four-year institution and led the development of the new campus.



Dr. M.O. Looney

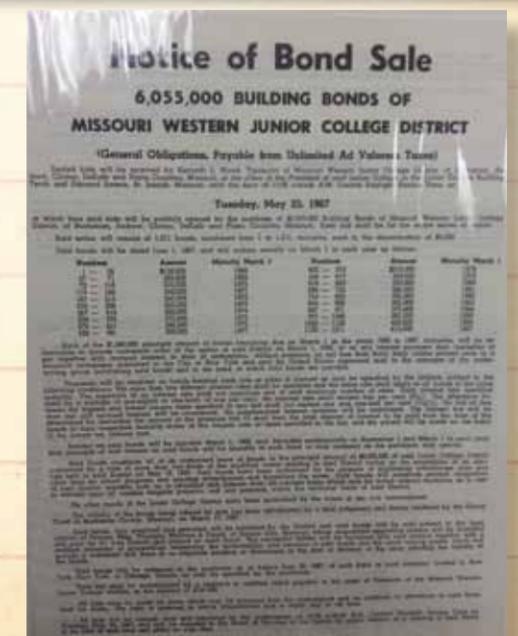
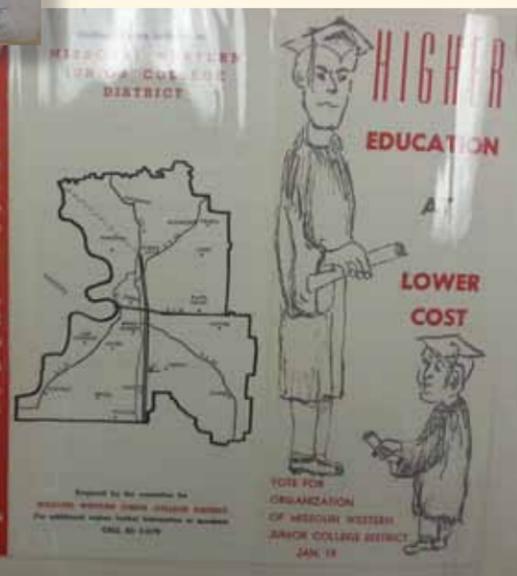
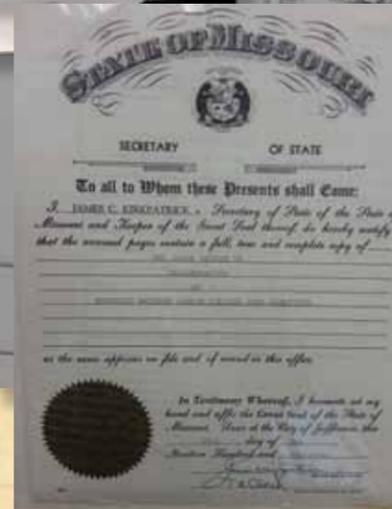


PLAN
MISSOURI WESTERN COLLEGE
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI



Plan for First Campus Construction
Missouri Western Junior College

Frederick Ave. design



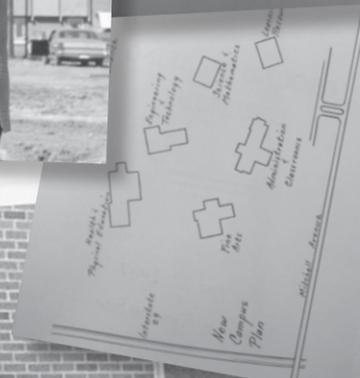
A CAMPUS EMERGES

In 1966, voters passed a bond issue to build four buildings on 130 acres of state property on Frederick Ave. That acreage purchase was later rescinded, and 390 acres were instead purchased east of Interstate 29. In August 1967, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on the new campus, and construction began. Two more buildings became part of the Phase I building, thanks to federal funding and money from the original bond issue.

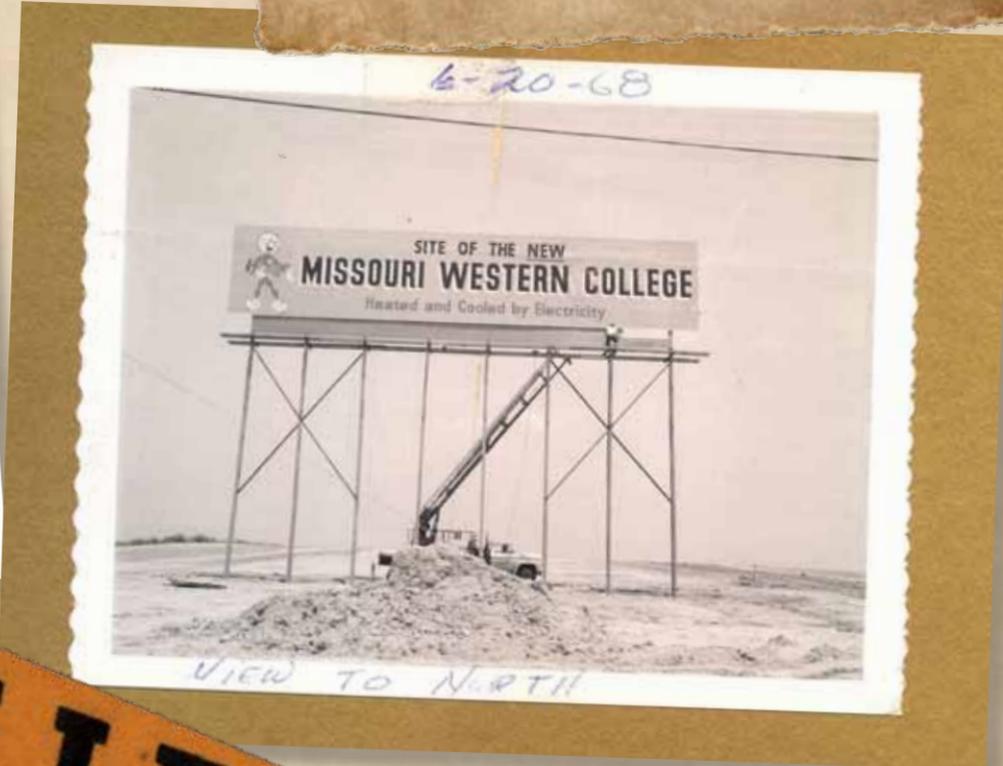
In the meantime, while the new campus was being planned and built, Missouri Western College was working diligently to meet all the conditions for a four-year institution that were set forth by Gov. Warren Hearnes in 1965. Missouri Western officially became a four-year institution on Oct. 22, 1968.



Missouri Western College
 GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
 August 22, 1967
 Mitchell Avenue Site



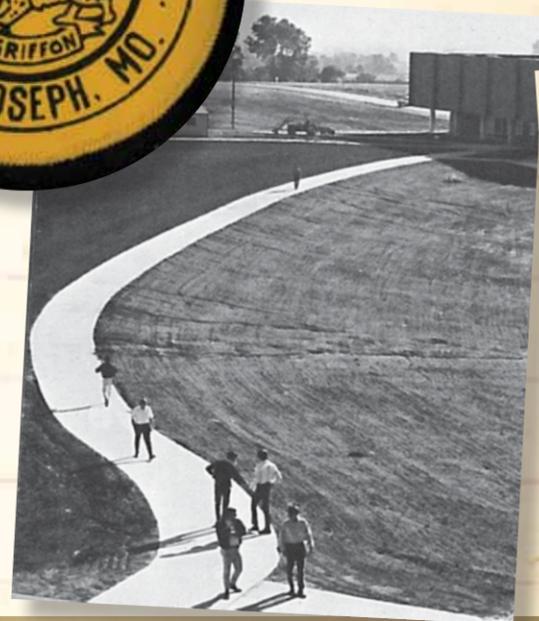
PROGRAM
 Gather at Campus Site
 11:25 a. m.
 Rabbi Myron Meyer.....Invocation
 Dr. M. O. Looney.....Introduce Himself and Distin-
 WWC President.....guish Guest
 Explain Purpose of the Program
 Senator Downs.....Introduce Senator John E. Downs
 Brief Remarks.....Introduce Governor Warren E.
 Hearnes
 Governor Hearnes.....Devell Scale Model of Campus
 Address
 Governor Hearnes.....Turn First Shovel of Earth
 Dr. Looney.....
 Mr. Ehrlich.....
 Dr. Potter.....
 Mr. W. F. Ehrlich, Jr.....Announce Name of Library
 Dr. Thompson E. Potter.....Introduce Acting Mayor Jim Nash
 in Absence of Mayor Douglas A. Merrillfield
 Dr. Looney.....
 Mr. Nash.....Brief Remarks
 Dr. Looney.....Explain Buildings and their Pur-
 poses
 Invite Crowd to Have Close Look
 at Scale Model
 12:00 p. m.
 CLOSING PROGRAM
 Luncheon for Invited Guests
 Father C. D. Ryan.....Prayer



A NEW ERA

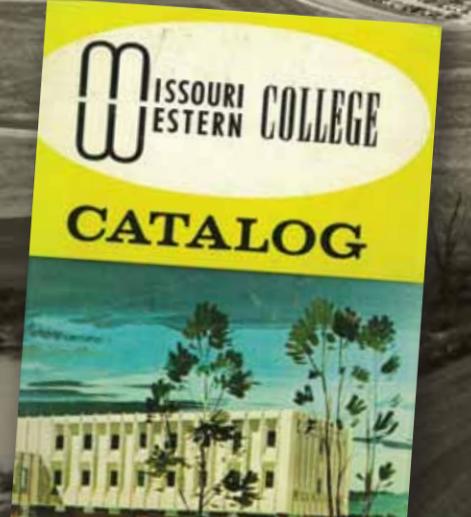
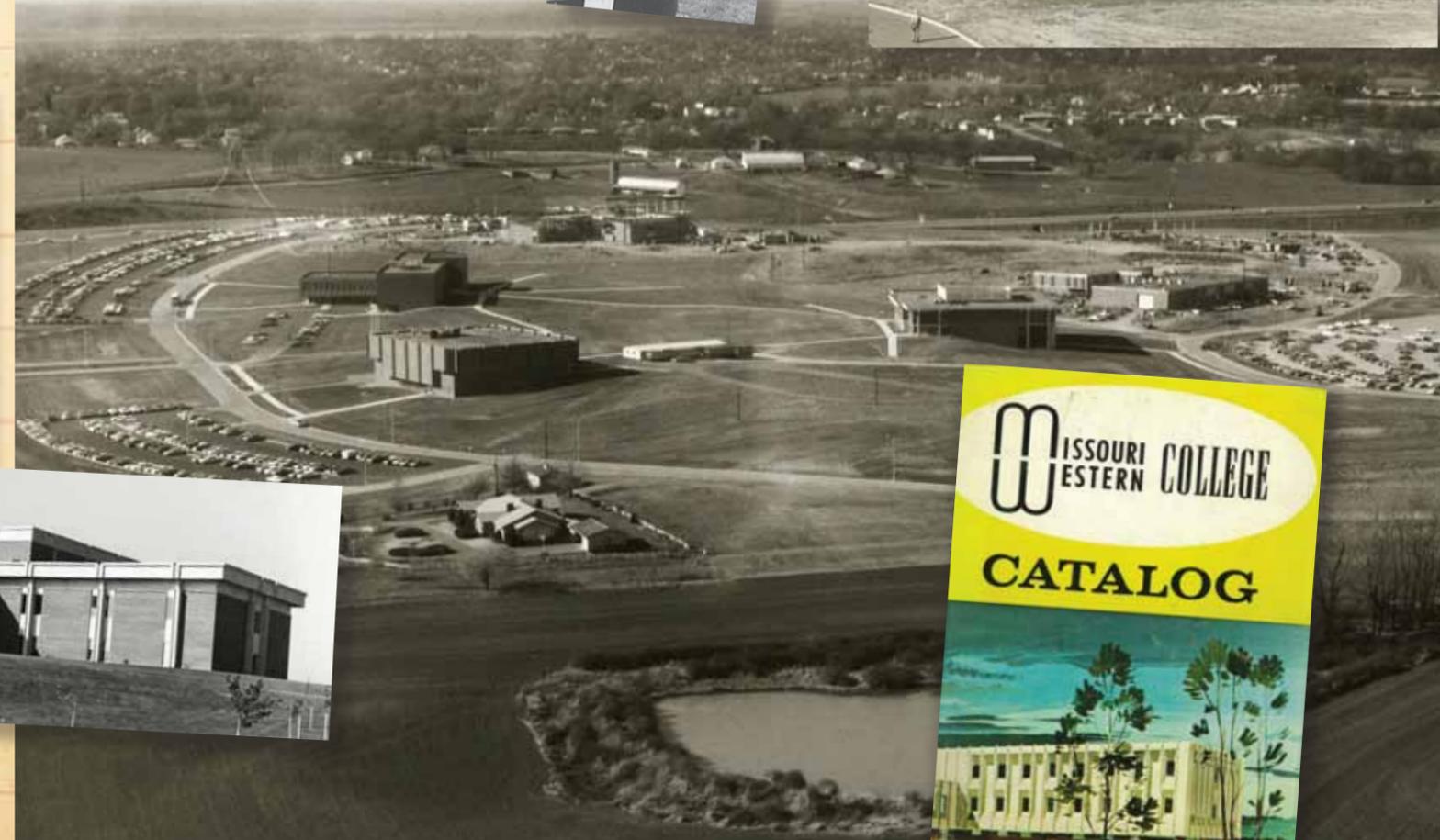
Classes opened for the fall semester of 1969 with 2,536 students on a new campus. Three buildings – Agenstein SM Building (now Agenstein Hall), the Hearnes LRC (now the Hearnes Center) and the Popplewell A Building (now Popplewell Hall) – opened that fall, and three more were under construction – the ET Building (now Wilson Hall), the Potter FA Center (now Potter Hall) and the HPER Building (now the Looney Complex). A dedication ceremony was held in October 1969.

The first residence hall, now Logan Hall, opened in 1971. The original plan was to build four dormitories, the 100s, 200s, 300s and 400s, but the 300s was never built. The 200s is now Beshears Hall and the 400s is now Juda Hall.



"Call it what you will, be it the 'Snack Shack,' the just plain 'Snack,' the 'Grotto,' or more appropriately, the 'Griffon Hut,' this meager building has supplied the students with a place to go for lunch and for snacks between classes. With everything from corn dogs to chicken gizzards and hot Apple Annies, who can complain?"

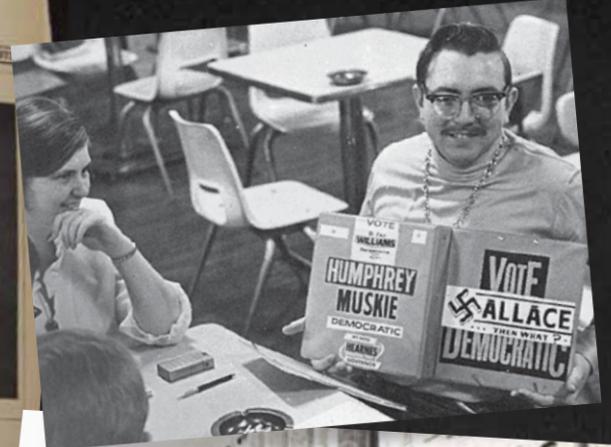
GRIFFON YEARBOOK, 1970



TURBULENT TIMES

Missouri Western and its students were not immune to the turbulent 1960s and early 1970s, which shook the nation with assassinations, the Vietnam War and its protestors, and presidential scandals. War protests on Missouri Western's campus were minimal, but the Student Government Association did mark the deaths of four students killed in a protest at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio in 1970. The SGA told the administration they were going to plant four trees in memory of the Kent State students, but they didn't tell the administration the rest of their plans. As soon as the trees were planted, Missouri Western students axed them down to symbolize the deaths of the students.

"That was radical for St. Joseph," said David Grahl '74,'80. "It was definitely a shock to everyone when it hit the news."



Veterans Club



"We do."



Republican Representatives Visit MWC Campus
 Robert Stone, Washington coordinator for Republicans Speak on Vital Problems, introduced the three representatives present on campus October 10. Rep. Clarence Brown, Jr., R-Ohio, former Journalist, publisher, and William Dickinson, former judge and Harry Smith, R-New Judge, mayor, and bled in the lounge Resource Learning their scheduled ap lecture hall in the Building. Republic Vital Problems h pose: 1. To prese the major issues the local views sues.

On October 15, 1969, students and citizens all over the country who are concerned with ending the war and bringing the troops home made their feelings known in one of the most impressive non-violent demonstrations for peace the world has ever seen. On that day, several Missouri Western students made their feelings known. The climax for the moratorium was the planting of two "trees of life" on the campus. The ceremony took place at 2 p.m. on the north side of the Administration building's west wing. Speakers at the ceremony included Father Charles Jones, Newman Club Chaplain; Mrs. Karen Lutz, a



Anti-War Protest



Nix-O-Mania

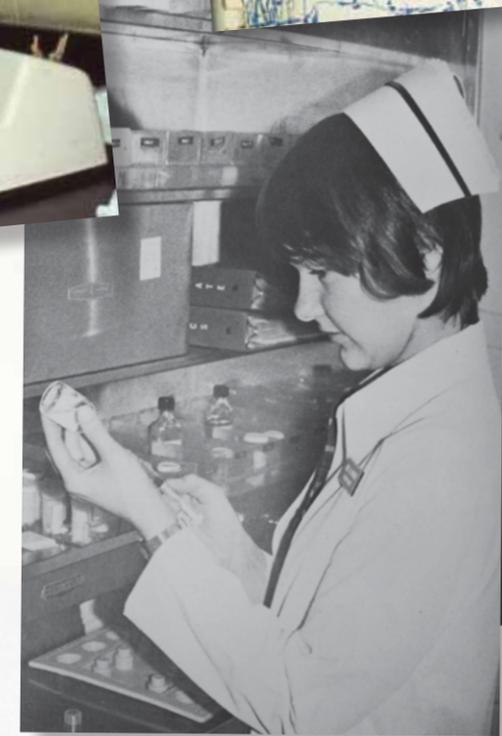
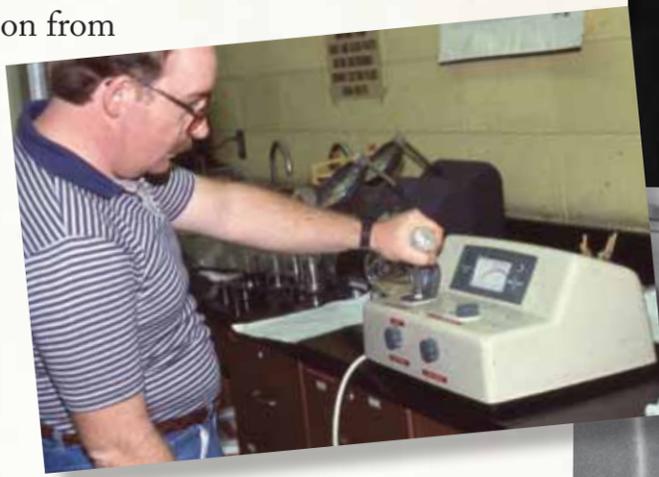
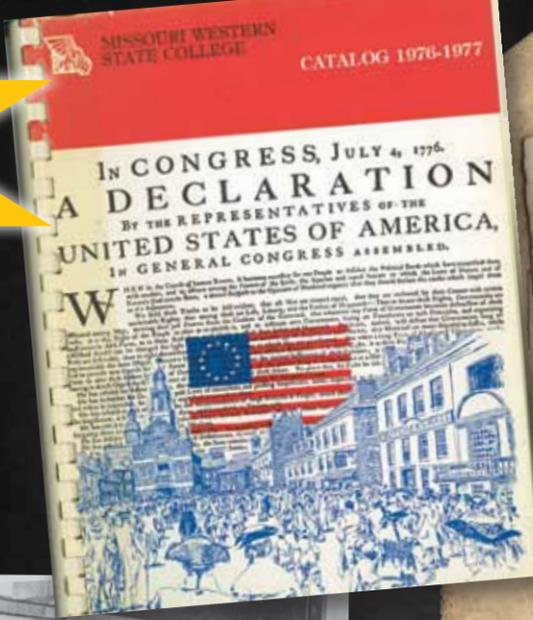


A MISSION OF EDUCATION

The first Commencement ceremony for the four-year college was held in 1970 outdoors by the Hearnes LRC (now Hearnes Center) for 45 graduates. The procession from the Popplewell A Building (now Popplewell Hall) was led by the student body president Dwight Scroggins '76 and vice president Jim Glidewell '71. The speaker was U.S. Sen. Stuart Symington.

In 1971, the college purchased 354 acres, bringing the total campus size to 744 acres. Later conveyances to the Missouri Army National Guard, University of Missouri Extension and the Missouri Department of Conservation brought the campus acreage to 723 acres.

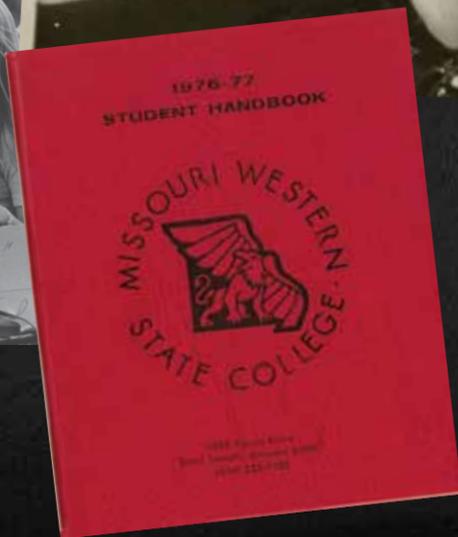
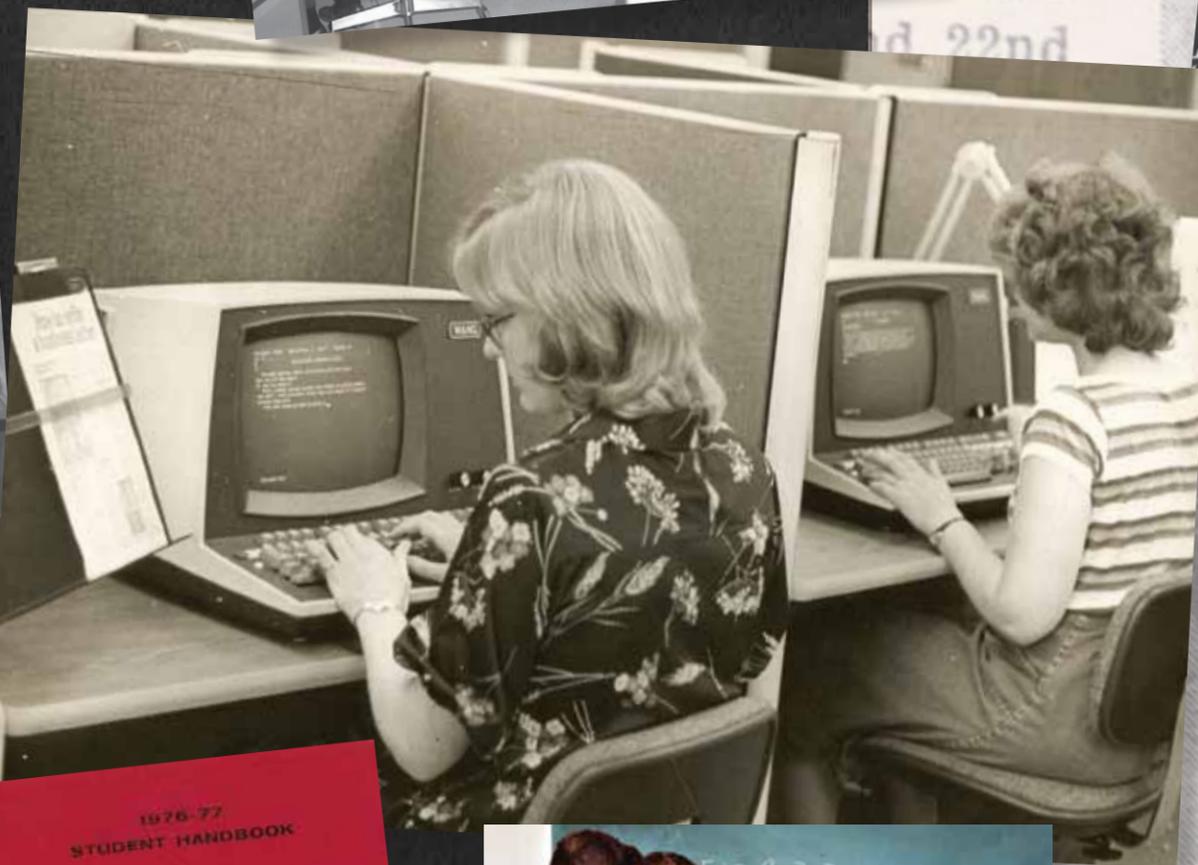
Eder SS/C Building (now Eder Hall) was funded by a second bond issue passed by voters and it opened in 1976.



**SUPPORT TO STUDENTS
PROUD
TO BE A SPONSOR OF...
SCHOLARSHIP!
MISSOURI WESTERN STATE COLLEGE**

IN THE CLASSROOM

As classes continued for several degree programs, computers began emerging on campus in the late 1970s for computer science courses. By 1985, three computer labs had opened on campus and a new mainframe computer was installed. Also, students in the secretarial science program became quite adept at word processing. Missouri Western offered its first televised course in 1985.



Alumni to Honor First Four Year Graduates

The MWC Alumni Association will honor the first four-year graduates with a breakfast on May 29 in the school's temporary student Union building. Invitations have been issued to 45 students who will be graduated that evening. Other guests will include members of the Boards of Regents and Trustees, former deans of the college, members of the school administration and staff, and officers and members of the board of directors of the Alumni Association. The guest speaker will be one of our own alumni, Mr. Elliott C. Spratt, more commonly known as "Duh." The committee in charge of arrangements includes Victor Moeder, chairman; Leah Spratt, Edna Pumphrey, and Herb Woodbury.

COMMENCEMENT 1970

The first baccalaureate degree class will receive diplomas May 29th. The first four-year graduating class of Missouri Western, 42 graduates and four associate degree graduates will reflect pride in their accomplishment and appreciation to far-sighted individuals who established the college. Commencement exercises, scheduled for 8 p.m., in front of the Hearnes Resource Learning Center, will feature Stuart Symington, senior senator from Missouri, as the speaker. Stuart Symington has served three terms in Washington as Senator from Missouri. Now the senior senator, he is the only senator serving on both the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees since 1961. He also is a member of the Aeronautical and Space Sciences, Joint Economic, Appropriations, and

GRADUATES LISTED

- The graduates and their majors are:
- Bachelor of Science
 - Phillip E. Malone, Economics
 - Dennis Marcinko, Business Administration-Management
 - Robert Leo Wagers, Business Administration-Management
 - Rita Sarris, Medical Technology



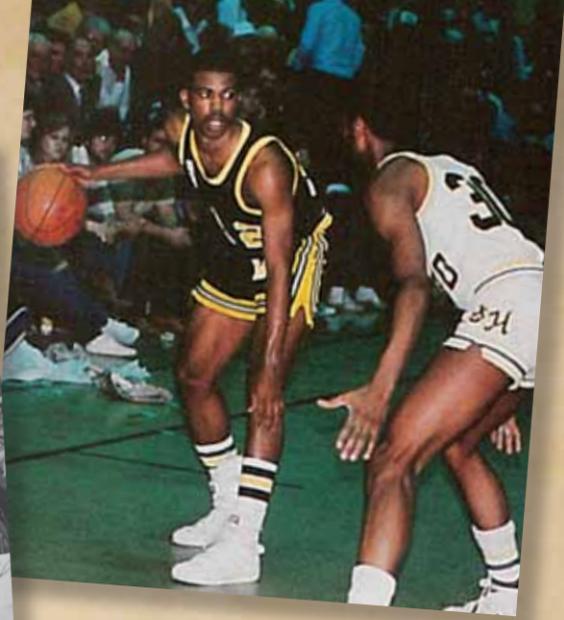
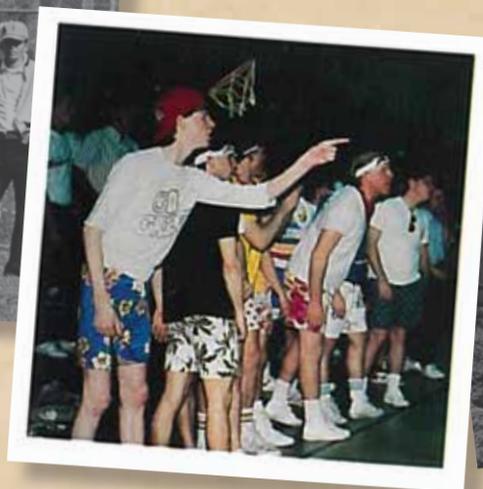
The two youngest members of the MWC Alumni Association Board of Directors, David Fry, left, a junior, majoring in Biology, and George Hammer, a senior, majoring in Social Science—History, and George baseball on the team this spring and is very active in all student functions. He was president of the Student Government Association in his sophomore year. George has been busy with student teaching and is presently the senior class president. Both students are very active in the Alumni Association and they encourage graduates to join the Association.

- John D. McCaskey, Social Science -History
- Kenneth Dee Monach, Social Science-Sociology
- Lloyd Duane Walker, Jr., Electronic Engineering
- Dan Lynn Wright, Electronic E

FIELD AND FIELDHOUSE

Throughout Missouri Western's history, women had always played on a variety of sports teams, but it wasn't until 1975 that women's intercollegiate sports became official. The first women's sports were basketball and volleyball in the fall of 1975, and tennis and softball in the spring of 1976.

Women's sports teams had success right from the start, and in 1982, the softball team won a national championship. The softball team returned to the national tournament the next four years.



The 1973-74 men's basketball team was the first basketball team from Missouri Western to qualify for a national tournament.

In 1975, the baseball team played in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) World Series at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph, Mo., and the football team played in its first Mineral Water Bowl.

Missouri Western became a founding member of the Central States Intercollegiate Conference in 1976.

Spratt Memorial Stadium was built in 1979. In 1980, an addition to the Health, Physical Education and Recreation HPER Building (now Looney Complex), included a new arena.

THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

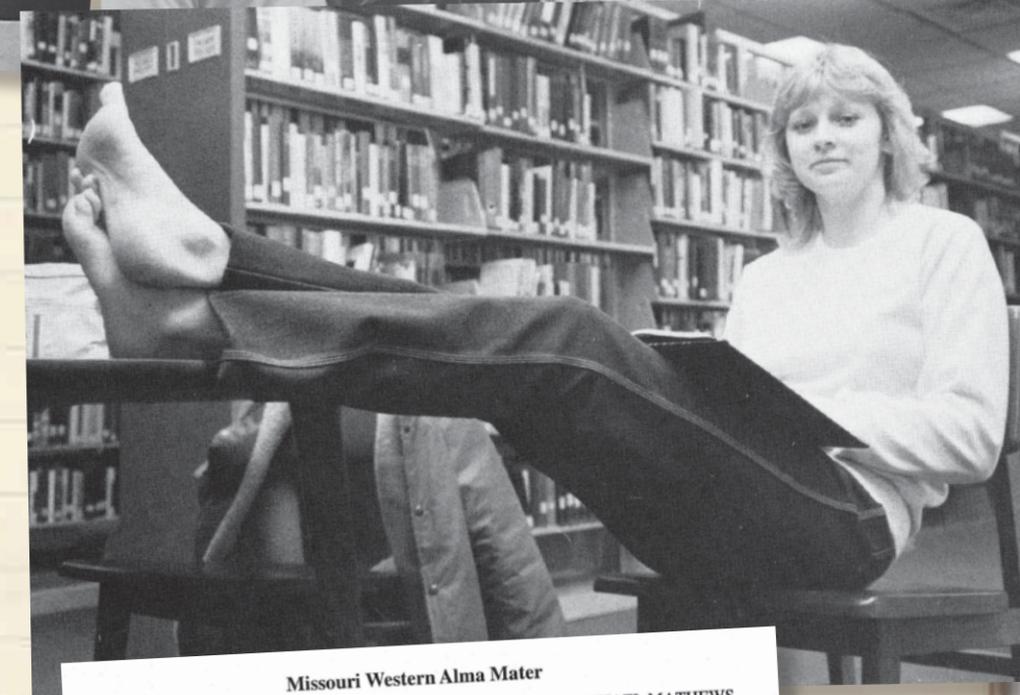
In the 1970s and 1980s, Missouri Western offered a mix of vocational and liberal arts degrees. An agriculture program flourished on more than 400 acres north of the main campus, and students in the automotive technology program in the Agriculture and Technology Building (now Wilson Hall) repaired employee vehicles for free. Both programs ended in the 1990s.

Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy became the first woman to lead a four-year college in Missouri when she replaced Dr. M.O. Looney in 1983.



"Every college requires a period of adjustment, maturation and growth. Missouri Western has gone through this period and has finally reached collegiate adulthood. Even with adults, however, there is always room for improvement. Western is constantly bettering itself."

GIFFON YEARBOOK, 1983



Missouri Western Alma Mater
 Words by: DARYL McDERMOTT Music by: MICHAEL MATHEWS

Gent - ly flows the wide Mis - sou - ri, Search - ing for the sea.
 Take me to my al - ma mat - er, Where it waits for me.
 Though I leave and ev - er wan - der, This I know is true,
 When I dream of old Mis - sou - ri, I'll re - mem - ber you.
 Loy - al hearts to her re - turn - ing, Faith - ful, proud, and true, Mis -
 sou - ri West - ern live for - ev - er. We sing in praise of you.

In 1982, an alma mater was adopted and sung at Homecoming for the first time.



Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy



Tragedy struck campus when the president's home on campus was destroyed by fire in 1981.

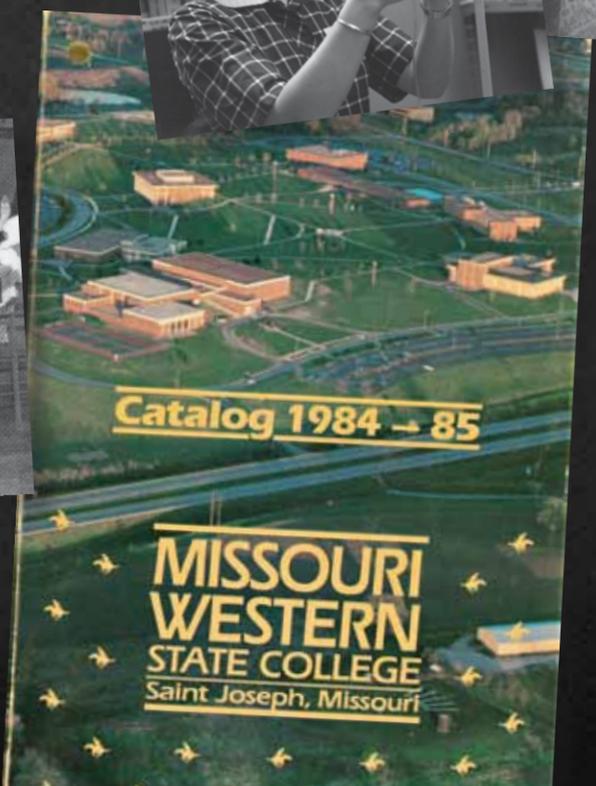
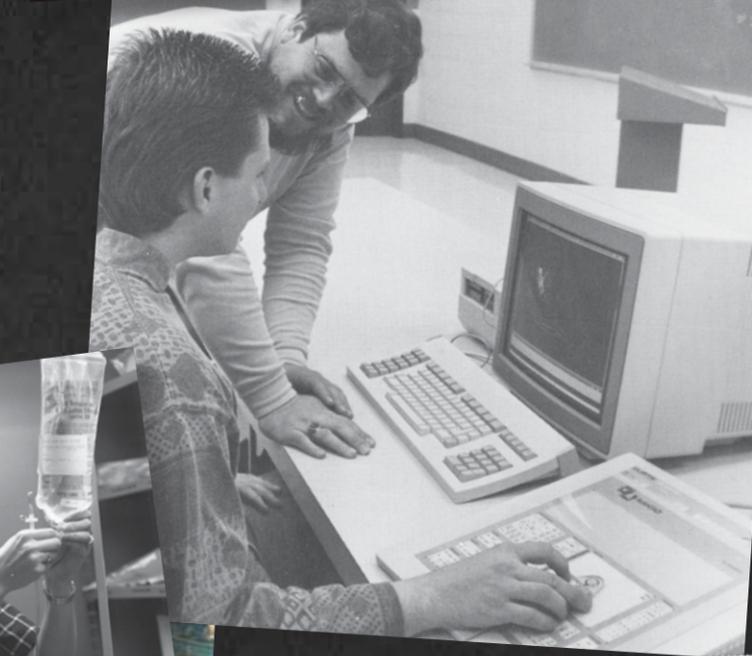


ACADEMIC REPUTATION ON THE RISE

In the late 1980s throughout the 1990s, the College experienced a rise in its academic reputation. The four-year nursing program, honors program, Griffon Edge, Eggs & Issues, Undergraduate Summer Research Institute and the Law Enforcement Academy were all established. Because of increased enrollment, the College also held its first December Commencement ceremony in 1998. The next year, Missouri Western received \$2.2 million to launch the nationally recognized Access Plus program which transformed the lives of thousands of students.

In 1987, the two bonds used to build the original buildings on the campus and Eder SS/C Building (now Eder Hall) were paid off and ceremoniously burned.

In 1985, there were 44 student organizations on record. In 2006, when the Center for Student Engagement opened, the University had 70 organizations. In 2015, the University has nearly 100.



Bonds burned in ceremony

Inside page Academics

The "burning" desire of administrators this year was the retirement of the bonds which financed the construction of the original seven buildings on campus. In a ceremony held March 1 in the Fine Arts Building, President Janet Murphy and Board of Trustees President Evan Agenstein burned the retired bonds.

The day of the ceremony was filled with activities. First, the Richard Luboski Memorial Art Exhibit was opened. Then at 1:30 p.m., the official bond-burning ceremony was held. Following that, a reception was held in the studio theater, and at 3 p.m., the Music and Theater departments performed the stage production, "1940's Radio Hour."

Governor Warren Hearnes officially established MWSC on July 22, 1965. Less than a year later, voters approved \$6,055,000 in bonds for construction of new buildings on campus. On October 8, 1974,



voters approved a bond of \$2.3 million to build the Student Services/Classroom Building.

Melody Manville



curriculum com- additional cost to the college would be very small. Eickhorst said. College Gover-

Melody Manville

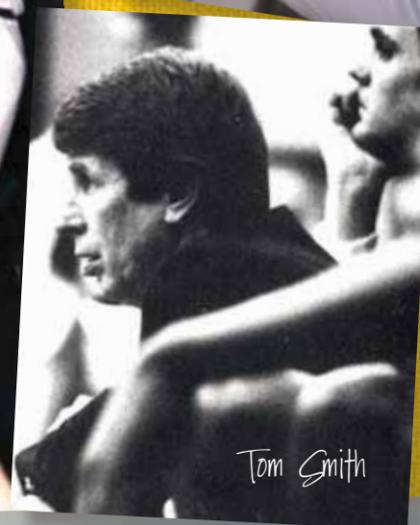
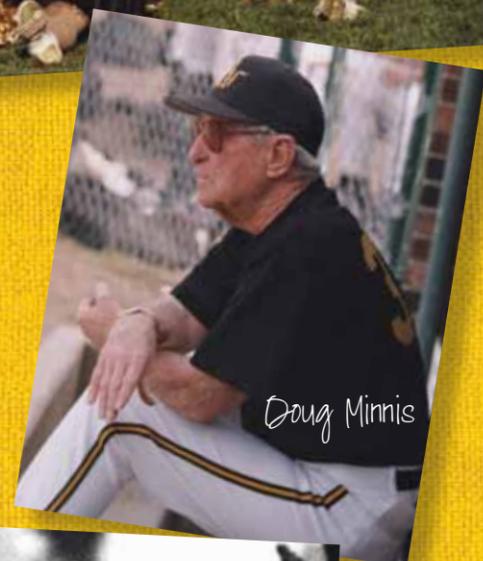
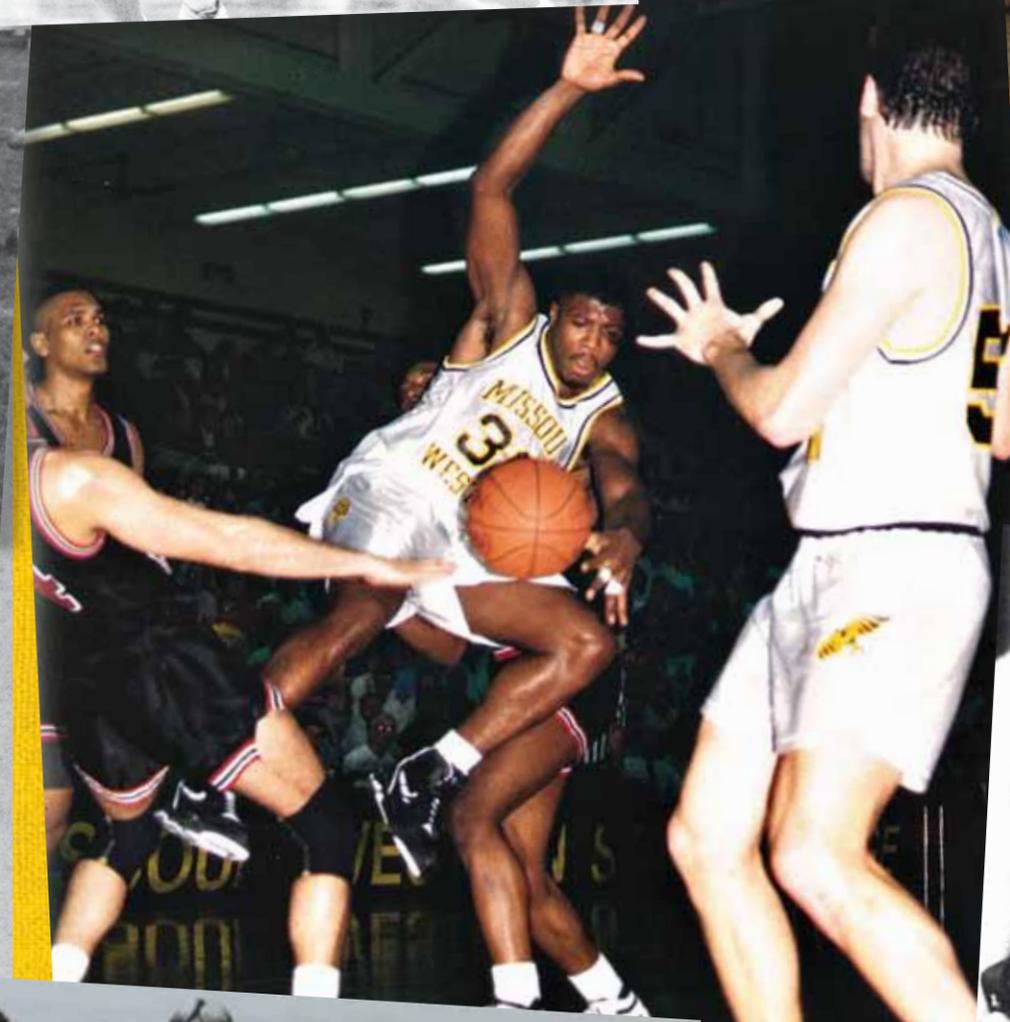
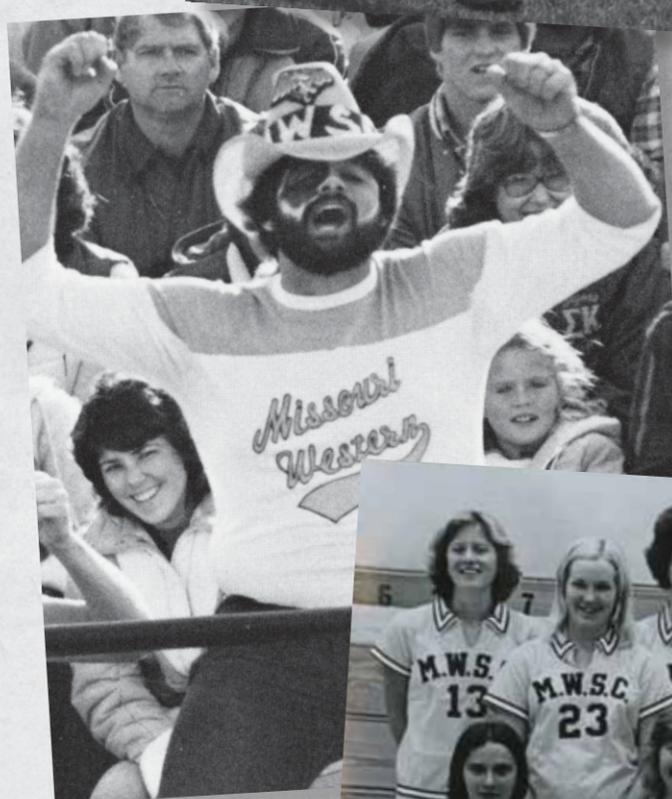
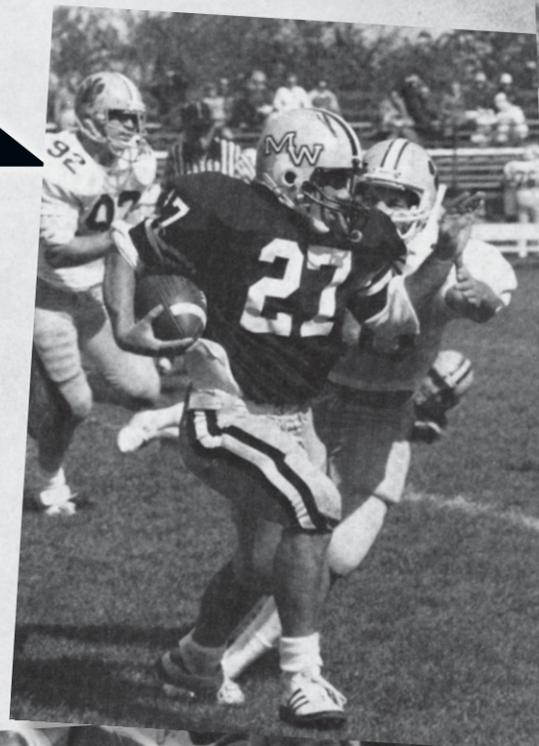
GRIFFON CHAMPIONS

Missouri Western joined the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II in 1988 and the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Conference, now the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association, in 1989. Tom Smith, who served as men's basketball coach until 2013, was hired in 1989.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams saw great success in the 1990s. The women earned a spot in the Elite 8 national tournament two years in a row and were conference champions several years. The men were the conference regular season and postseason champions in 1990, the first season Missouri Western joined the MIAA Conference. They had several great seasons in the 1990s, including a school-record 26 wins in 1994-95 and three conference championships.

The men's golf team was ranked 13th nationally in 1995-96 and the women's tennis team advanced to the NCAA tournament in 1998.

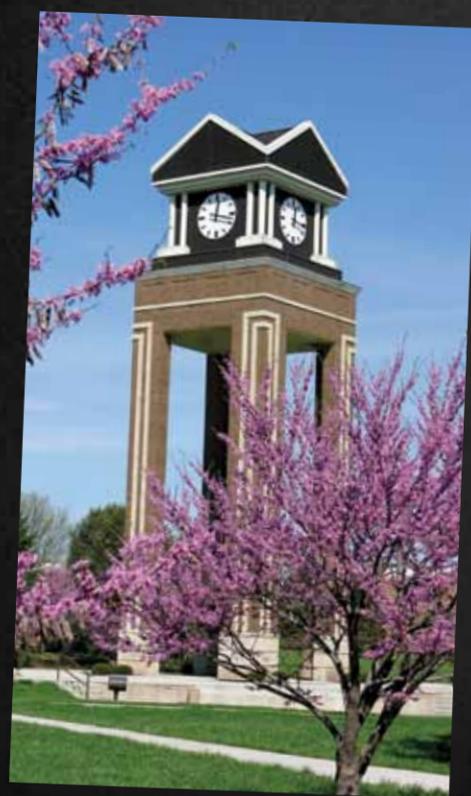
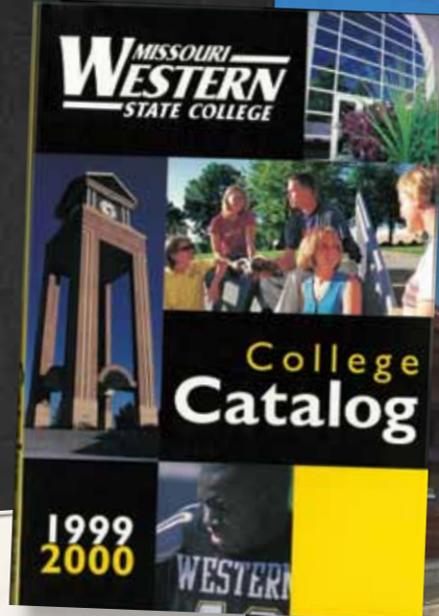
In 1995, the softball team played on campus for the first time. In 1997, football coach Jerry Partridge '86 was hired and two years later, 30-year veteran baseball coach Doug Minnis retired.



CAMPUS EXPANSION

Missouri Western experienced tremendous growth of and changes to its physical facilities beginning in the late 1980s continuing through the 1990s. Additions to the Potter FA Center (now Potter Hall) and the Hearnese LRC (now Hearnese Center) were constructed; Leaverton and Vaselakos residence halls were built; the Missouri Department of Conservation building was added to campus; the Baker Family Fitness Center was constructed, along with improvements to recreational facilities; Blum Student Union underwent renovations; the JGM Academic Center (now Murphy Hall), a new classroom building, opened; and the Glenn E. Marion Memorial Clock Tower became the campus centerpiece.

Missouri Western also made a great technological advance in 1986 when it installed a \$25,000 satellite dish atop the Hearnese LRC, only the second dish like it to be installed on a college campus in the United States. Additionally, an initiative was launched in 1999 to equip every classroom with state-of-the-art presentation equipment.



College President Janet Murphy and Rep. Mark Youngdahl turn the shovels at the library ground-breaking ceremony. Other people who took part included Speaker Bob Griffin, Sen. Truman Wilson and Reps. Millie Humphreys and Tim Keley.



The concrete columns are poured and ready to support the weights of the upcoming structure.

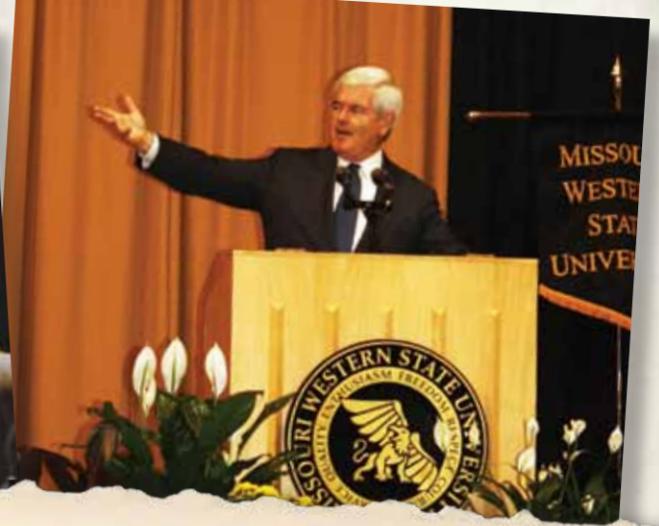
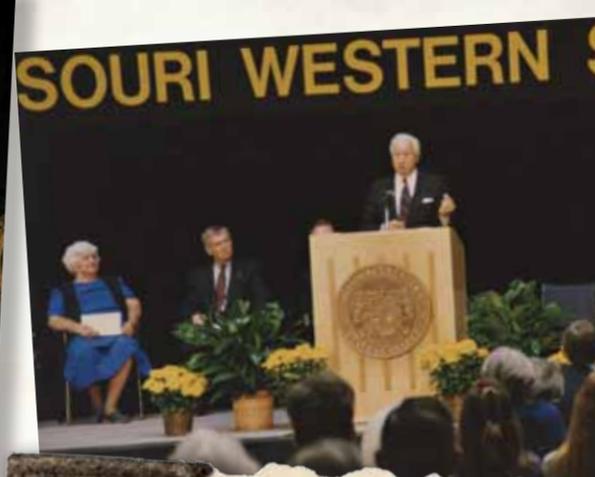


R. DAN BOULWARE CONVOCATION ON CRITICAL ISSUES

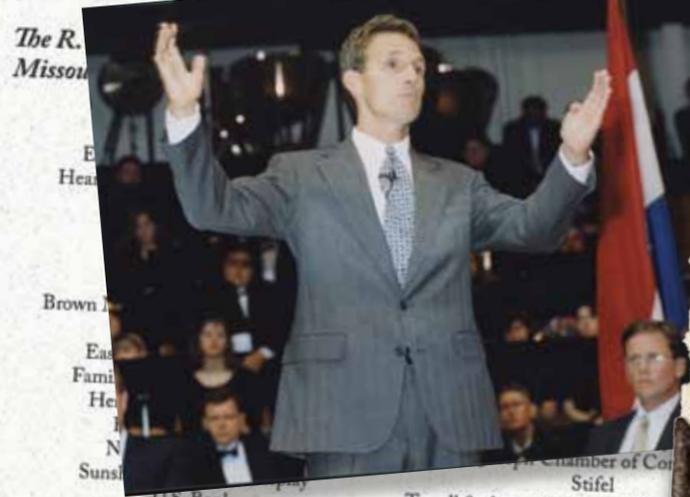
Dr. Murphy worked to strengthen the connection between the College and the community, and one of her best known initiatives is the R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues.

The College's first Convocation on Critical Issues in 1993 featured Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author and historian. His topic was "The Disuniting of America," and it drew approximately 3,000 to the M.O. Looney arena.

In years since, Missouri Western has hosted a Convocation on Critical Issues every year except 1995, when Colin Powell canceled.



Missouri Western State University
R. DAN BOULWARE
CONVOCATION ON CRITICAL ISSUES



Missouri Western inaugurated the Convocation program in 1993 as part of an overall commitment to offer enriching experiences to students while bringing together the University and community. The Convocation is held in honor of R. Dan Boulware, former Regent president.

PAST PRESENTERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1993 Arthur Schlesinger Jr. | 2004 Bob Woodward |
| 1994 Jeane Kirkpatrick | 2005 J.C. Watts |
| 1995 Canceled by Colin Powell | 2006 Steve Forbes |
| 1996 David McCullough | 2007 Sam Donaldson |
| 1997 Colin Powell | 2008 James Carville and Mary Matalin |
| 1998 Bill Bradley | 2009 Robert F. Kennedy Jr. |
| 1999 Jerry Linenger | 2010 Newt Gingrich |
| 2000 Patricia Schroeder | 2011 Thomas Friedman |
| 2001 Daniel Schorr | 2012 T. Boone Pickens |
| 2002 Joseph Nye | 2013 Dr. Doris Kearns Goodwin |
| 2003 David Gergen | 2014 Dr. Douglas Brinkley |



WITNESS TO HISTORY

January 1991 saw the start of the Persian Gulf War, and by the time war was officially declared, 31 students and two staff members had been deployed. Student groups sent care packages, and yellow ribbons hung on posts around campus to honor U.S. military personnel in the Middle East.

When the summer of 1993 brought record rainfall amounts and flooding throughout the Midwest, Missouri Western stepped up to support the region in its time of need. On July 23, Elwood, Kansas was evacuated, and the campus became the temporary home of the Missouri Air National Guard. Missouri Western's parking lots were used for vehicles and equipment, and Air Guard and Missouri Army National Guard members stayed in residence halls. Additionally, the American Red Cross set up a shelter in the lobby of Potter Hall for 30 evacuees from Elwood for five nights. The Instructional Media Center also aired Federal Emergency Management Agency broadcasts to television stations and to more than a million homes on a special channel.

The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 shook the Missouri Western community, and students found ways to show their patriotism and help the victims. More than 3,000 students, employees and community members gathered the evening of Sept. 11 for a prayer service in the Looney HPER Building (now Looney Complex). On Sept. 14, when a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance was declared by President George W. Bush, the campus held a service at the clock tower.

We proudly support the Missouri Western students and employees serving in Operation Desert Storm



Alan L. Bart
Rodd Brian Boyer
Michael Carpenter
Stephen Brian Chamberlain
Linda R. Clark
Randal D. Cook
Brian Scott Flint
Lynn Ann Griffith

Thomas Hodge
Troy Mitchell Keefhaver
Douglas Alan Kline
Andrew Larsen
Dave Melugin
Steve Morabito
Connie Nesmith
Michael Post
Mark Shenfield

Stephen Simmon
Jeffrey Slibowski
Jeffrey Alan Sparks
Valeeta Saltys
Tim Swafford
Carter Tharp
Dale Thornton
Robert Warden



A national guard helicopter descends on campus near the new dormitory complex to aid in flood relief for St. Joseph and the surrounding areas.

Air National Guard operates from campus

Missouri Western State College estimates a \$98,000 loss in revenue

Although the flood of '93 did not physically effect Missouri Western, early estimates show a financial loss of \$98,000.

Deldre Jones
News Editor

As some may have noticed, there was a lot of activity on campus during July and August, especially during the week St. Joseph was without water. When the Missouri River overcame the city of Elwood, it also took possession of Rosecrans Airport, leaving the Air National Guard without a base. July 25 the Air National Guard established a Command Center Operations Post in the Student Union and Learning Resources Center. Many different Missouri Western departments helped out including campus security, the computer center and the physical plant.

"Without Missouri Western I'm not sure what would have happened to the Air National Guard," Sgt. Susan Johnston said.

According to Johnston, Missouri Western provided more than space. They also helped the guard bring about some normalcy to their operations.

"Our first week on campus we did nothing but help the city in the water distribution effort," Johnston said. "We dispatched all the water trucks and portable latrines from the library parking lot."

According to Missouri Western President Janet Murphy and Johnston, the security department was a big help.

They worked around the clock to help the Guard provide radio and telephone dispatch services.

"Security furnished us with walkie-talkies and was always there to help, no matter what," Johnston said.

The Missouri Western computer center provided computing assistance to the Air Guard and loaned computer equipment and software to the Guard's communications personnel.

"Without Missouri Western I'm not sure what would have happened to the Air National Guard."
— Sgt. Susan Johnston

The physical plant provided and prepared a facility for receiving, storing and distributing bottled water. It also provided custodial staffing for the areas used by the various relief agencies.

At least 30 evacuees from Elwood and northeast Kansas were housed in a Red Cross shelter in the Fine Arts Theater lobby for a week.

The campus housing complex was the temporary home of a variety of groups including Rosecrans Airport firefighters, the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard.

According to Murphy, housing space continues to be provided to the families of two college employees whose homes were destroyed by the flooding.

The student affairs office made the student health services complex available to military personnel as a site for the administration of tetanus and hepatitis B immunizations.

"There were several camps that were unable to come due to the flood and with the loss of that income and employee overtime, we did lose a lot of money," Murphy said.

Employees worked overtime, with security alone totalling 140 hours at a cost of \$2,016.

The college staff provided a variety of services in terms of the flood relief effort to the area.

Two security officers canceled their vacations in order to provide their services. Security Director, Jonathan Kelley, worked 33 hours straight early in the week as the Air Guard's operations were evolving.

Murphy also commended the housing coordinator, theater coordinator and physical plant personnel for their help as well.

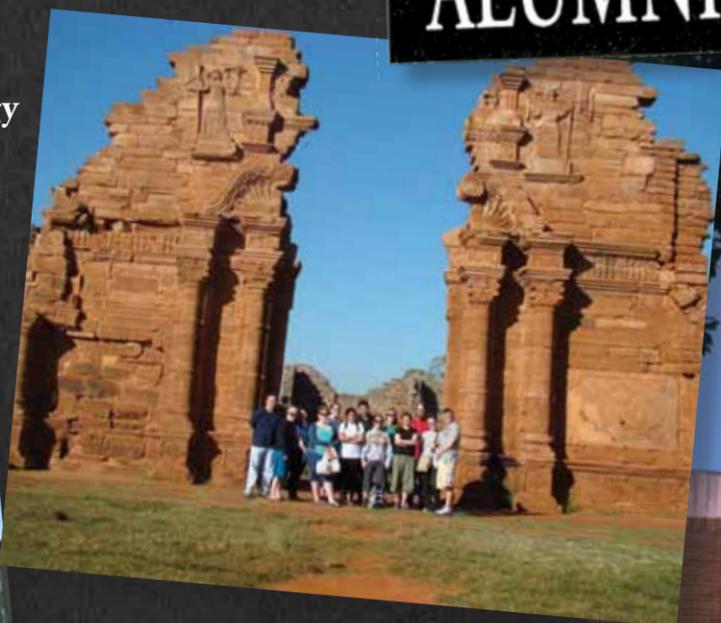
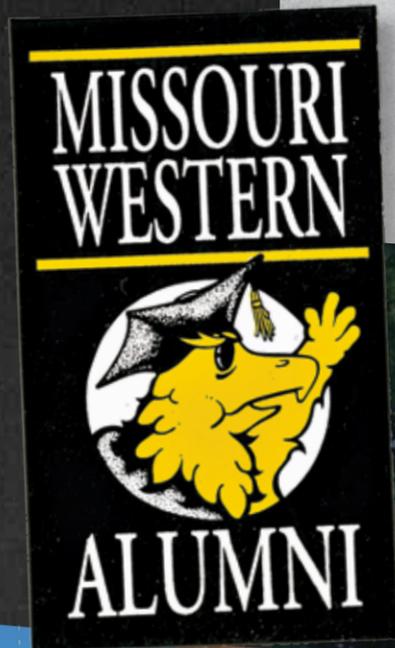
The Air Guard has established a temporary site for their support staff elsewhere, while some full-time personnel have returned to Rosecrans.

According to Johnston, due to the extensive water damage to the buildings and runways, it could be a year or longer before things return to normal at Rosecrans.

THE WESTERN ADVANTAGE

In 2000, Dr. Janet Murphy retired as Missouri Western's president, and Dr. James Scanlon began his tenure as president, serving from 2001-2008. Dr. Scanlon brought several programs to Missouri Western, including the American Democracy Project, Foundations of Excellence in the First Year and Learning Communities. Dr. Scanlon also initiated five-year strategic plans in 2002 and 2007, with strong emphases on applied learning, community service and academic quality. One of Dr. Scanlon's biggest achievements was University designation for Missouri Western.

Missouri Western again experienced substantial growth. The new Commons Building was built for on-campus students; a new event space, the Fulkerson Center, was constructed; one new residence hall was built, the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator joined the campus; and the University Plaza was dedicated. Dr. Scanlon also led the efforts to secure funding from the state for the Agenstein/Remington halls renovation and construction project.



Dr. James Scanlon

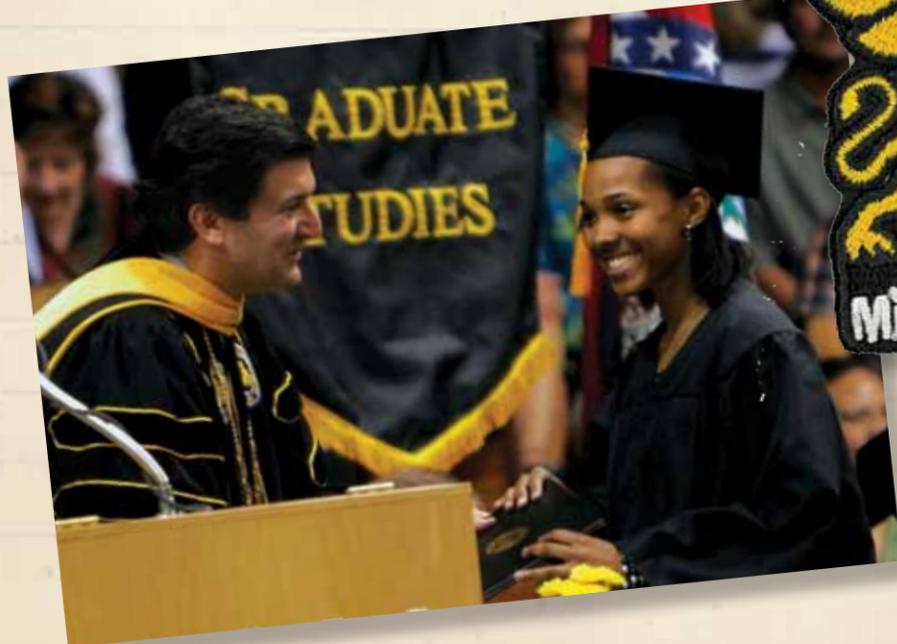


MISSOURI WESTERN: NOW A UNIVERSITY

Gov. Matt Blunt signed legislation in March 2005 to designate Missouri Western a university, the culmination of almost two decades of discussions, legislative bills and hard work by many legislators, Missouri Western administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members.

Missouri Western State College officially became Missouri Western State University on Aug. 28, 2005.

As soon as university designation became a reality in 2005, departments across campus began developing plans for graduate degrees. The graduate degrees were to be professional masters degrees with an emphasis on applied learning. Missouri Western's graduate programs provide advanced disciplinary knowledge while also training in business fundamentals, project management and communication.



PAINT IT GOLD

The decade of the 2000s saw the addition of two new sports – women’s golf in 2002 and women’s soccer in 2005.

The football team advanced to the DII postseason tournament for the first time in 2006, and the 2010, 2011 and 2012 seasons were standout seasons. The team played in the DII postseason tournament all three years, advancing to the quarterfinals in 2012. Additionally, the football team broke more than 40 team and individual records in 2012.

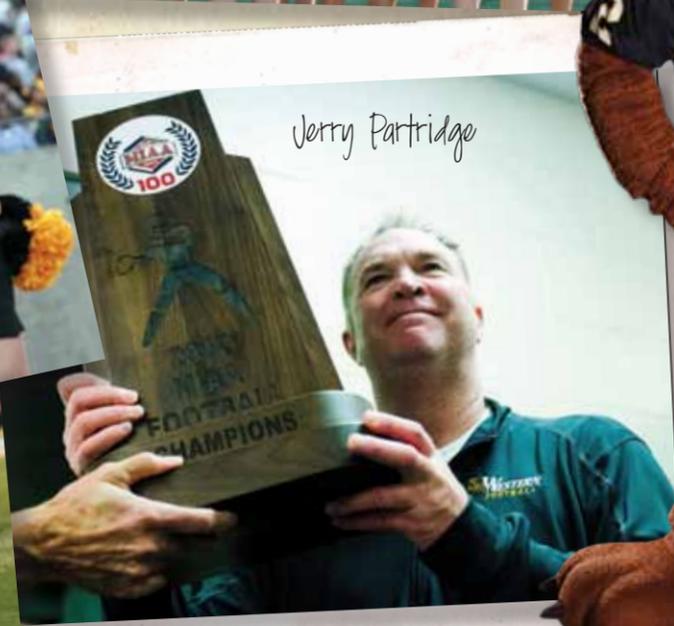
Men’s basketball won the MIAA regular-season title in 2002, and the 2003 team won the MIAA postseason tournament. Women’s basketball won the MIAA championship in both the regular season and postseason in 2002.

In 2005, men’s golf won the MIAA Championship and qualified for the NCAA Super Regional.

In 2009, the softball team had a 32-game winning streak and in 2014, it was named MIAA champion.

In 2013, the baseball team won the conference championship and had a record 40 wins. The team again advanced to the MIAA championship game in 2014.

Also in the fall 2013, more than half of the 279 student-athletes achieved a grade point average of 3.0 or better. The Department of Athletics as a whole achieved a GPA of 2.99, the highest average on record at Missouri Western.



Jerry Partridge



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian became president in July 2008 and remains in that position today. Under his tenure, the Craig School of Business gained accreditation, the School of Fine Arts was established, Western Playhouse began, and international student enrollment experienced exponential growth. In November 2013, guided by Dr. Vartabedian's vision, Missouri Western opened the award-winning Walter Cronkite Memorial, the first permanent memorial to the journalism icon and St. Joseph native son. The Memorial and the multimedia performance "Cronkite" have been recognized by AAA and the Missouri Division of Tourism.

Remington Hall, a new science and mathematics building, was constructed, and Agenstein Hall received a complete renovation; the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex was built for the Kansas City Chiefs Summer Training Camp on campus; the new Spring Sports Complex allowed the baseball team to play on campus for the first time; and Kelley Commons opened in 2013.



Dr. Robert Vartabedian



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1915-2015

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