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MWSU



FALL 2018

16 Snyder Pavilion Dedicated

20 Active and Involved

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FALL 2018

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■ ON THE COVER

Coach Bill Snyder and his wife, Sharon, in front of Missouri Western's new Bill Snyder Pavilion. Photo by Patrick Evenson.

■ FEATURES

16 Snyder Pavilion Dedicated

In July, the University dedicated a new pavilion by the end zone of Craig Field in Spratt Memorial Stadium. It was named in honor of St. Joseph native and Kansas State Head Football Coach Bill Snyder.

20 Active and Involved

Activities and organizations abound on campus, all in an effort to keep students involved and successful. Read about the intramural program and its longtime director, and two faith-based organizations.



**FALL 2018
VOLUME 16/NUMBER 3**

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Missouri Western State University
is an equal opportunity institution.

president's PERSPECTIVE

Dear Friends,

In August we kicked off another fall semester. Of course, we do that every year, but it's good to remember that it is something new and exciting for our incoming students. We always want to make them feel welcome while ensuring that we are preparing them for future successes.

With that in mind, fall 2018 marks the launch of a new five-year strategic plan for the University. The overarching goal of the plan, "Pathways to Excellence," is student success, and we have created a new mission statement and vision statement:

Mission Statement

Missouri Western State University is a student-centered learning community preparing individuals for lives of excellence through applied learning.

Vision Statement

Missouri Western will be the premier open access regional university, known for transforming the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

The plan lists key indicators to define student success in relation to our open-access status. Those indicators include the percent of Pell-eligible students obtaining a credential, the six-year graduation rate, the retention rate and the employment/placement rate of graduates.

By measuring those indicators, we can check our progress and make sure we are meeting the objectives of the strategic plan. Those objectives include:

- Providing a learning experience that is affordable, engaging and barrier free.
- Creating a culture that demonstrates our values and affirms the role of every employee as an educator.
- Expanding partnerships that meet regional needs and enhance learning opportunities across campus.
- Providing quality programs that are future-focused, meet workforce needs, and prepare students for success.
- Ensuring excellent stewardship of our resources and achieving long-term financial stability.

The strategic plan was developed over a two-year period where we sought input from members of both the campus and community. We are proud of this document which will serve as a guideline for our future.

As we begin another school year, we are poised for a great future with high hopes and clear direction. Thank you for all you do for our University.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Vartabedian

President

Missouri Western State University



At the annual entrepreneur dinner in June, Dr. Robert Vartabedian awarded Bill Severn (right) and Sherry Sansone Scott (left) the Champion of Entrepreneurs Award. Pam Klaus '03, director of Franchise Programs, is pictured with Dr. Vartabedian and Sansone Scott.



Agreement may lead to campus land development

In March 2018, Missouri Western reached an agreement with T&G Real Estate Solutions, LLC to begin planning for the possible development of University-owned property.

The agreement with T&G covers approximately 80 acres of land at the northeast corner of 50th Street and Mitchell Avenue, which is east of the main campus and across 50th Street from the residence halls.

Their first report was delivered this past summer and included a variety of ideas for retail, residential and student recreation.

The planning for possible land development began in 2014, when the Missouri General Assembly passed and Gov. Jay Nixon signed into law a bill sponsored by State Rep. Kenneth Wilson '89, giving universities in Missouri the

opportunity to enter into long-term lease agreements of their property.

Missouri Western's comprehensive master plan that same year identified several parcels of land on the 723-acre campus that could feasibly be developed, and the 80 acres was one of those identified.

Dr. Cale Fessler, vice president for financial planning and administration, said the development project has three goals – generate revenue, create more connections with the community and offer more services for the students.

The Missouri Western Foundation will pay the planning cost of just under \$50,000.

EMS Memorial

Because of the change in the long-term lease law, the University

recently signed a 99-year lease with the Missouri EMS Memorial Foundation to locate a memorial honoring fallen emergency medical service providers on campus. The memorial will be located on the south side of campus, near Mitchell Avenue, on land where the president's house once stood.

The memorial will be a pavilion approximately 50 feet by 50 feet with flagpoles, benches and stone markers. A Memorial Wall of Honor will feature the names of 27 EMS providers who have died in the line of duty in Missouri.

The memorial will be visible from Mitchell Avenue and accessible from a parking lot on the south side of campus. The Missouri EMS Memorial Foundation will be responsible for the construction, maintenance and repairs of the memorial and its landscaping. ■

Holi



The International Center once again hosted Holi, an Indian festival of colors, and participants enjoyed the color extravaganza.

Chris Wallace to speak at 25th annual Convocation

Award-winning journalist and television host Chris Wallace will be the featured speaker at the 25th annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues this fall. His presentation, "A View from Washington," begins at 10 a.m. Nov.



Chris Wallace

13 in the Looney Complex arena and is free and open to the public. Wallace will also be the featured guest at the annual Convocation Luncheon at noon Nov. 13 in the Fulkerson Center.

Currently the host of "FOX

News Sunday," Wallace previously reported from the ABC News desk as a senior correspondent for "Primetime" and "20/20," and as an anchor on the longest-running show on television, NBC News' "Meet the Press." The author of the bestseller, "Character: Profiles in Presidential

Courage," Wallace has won every major broadcast news award, including three Emmys, the Peabody Award and the Dupont-Columbia Silver Baton Award.

"I wanted the Convocation primarily for our students. But

secondarily, I wanted to bring our community and University together for a common purpose – to learn and grow together," said Dan Boulware, for whom the Convocation is named. "Bringing national speakers to our University enhances the reputation of Missouri Western both regionally and beyond. It augments the educational process in a number of positive ways.

"It is appropriate for our 25th annual Convocation on Critical Issues that we have secured another high-profile speaker who I consider to be widely respected and viewed as the leading journalist in the country today. His presence here right after the midterm election is perfect." ■

Nold awarded RMCF store

Nathan Nold, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in May, won an opportunity to own and operate a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in Petaluma, California.

Nold, of Savannah, Missouri, was one of the finalists from a senior-level applied entrepreneurship class this past spring who prepared business plans and presented them to a panel of judges that included Steven L. Craig, benefactor of the Craig School of Business, other business leaders and Missouri Western graduates who won franchises in previous years.

Nold joins 17 owners who have opened 27 businesses across the country. In 2017, the businesses

boasted 361 employees, sales in excess of \$13.7 million, and a payroll over \$2.4 million. ■



Jacob Blaylock '17, Steve Craig and Nathan Nold '18. Nold is the latest alumnus to be awarded a store through the University's entrepreneurship franchise program.

ET joins the Craig School of Business

Effective this fall, the Department of Engineering Technology will join the Steven L. Craig School of Business to form the Steven L. Craig School of Business and Technology. Dr. Jeanne Daffron, who had been serving as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, noted that this will help the University be more effective in addressing regional business and technology needs.

"Our engineering technology programs work closely with the area business community to provide internship opportunities to our students," Dr. Daffron said. "Those partnerships will thrive and grow in the Craig School of Business." ■

New options and lower tuition rates for military personnel

Missouri Western is now a participant in the U.S. Air Force Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU-ABC) Initiative. As a member of the AU-ABC, the University now offers a completely online bachelor's degree to members of the Air Force. They can transfer their Community College of the

Air Force degrees or other military credit to use as the base of Missouri Western's Bachelor of Science in Technology degree.

Last year, Missouri Western became a part of the General Education Mobile Program with the CCAF. That partnership means members of the Air Force can take general education courses online

through Missouri Western to earn their Associate in Applied Science degree from the CCAF.

Additionally, the University now offers in-state tuition to all military-affiliated students, spouses and dependents who qualify, regardless of where their state of residency is.

For more information, go to missouriwestern.edu/military. ■

Entrepreneurs recognized

At the Craig School of Business's annual entrepreneur dinner, two people received the Champion of Entrepreneurs Award in recognition of their support of young entrepreneurs: Bill Severn and Sherry Sansone Scott (photo p. 2). Three alumni of the franchise program, Leslie Burris '11, Cassandra Cyril '07 and Erica Ricker '09, were honored with the Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award for paying off the loans for their stores.

Pam Klaus '03, director of the franchise program, noted that the program alumni contributed almost \$79,000 to the CSB in 2018, and more than \$260,000 since the program began in 2009. ■

Griffons4Hire revamped for students, alumni and employers

The Career Development Center is making it easier for employers to find employees, thanks to a makeover of its Griffons4Hire online career management portal, missouriwestern.edu/careerdevelopment.

Dr. Vincent Bowhay, the center's director, said he and his staff have worked to make the site more user-friendly and intuitive for employers seeking new hires and students and alumni looking for jobs.

Employers are invited to post job openings on the site for free, as well as arrange for on-campus interviews.

Dr. Bowhay said the site is not just for students, alumni at any stage of their careers are welcome to visit the site and take advantage of its resources.

The center's website also includes interview and resume tips and access to CareerSpots career tips. It also includes over 100 free career-readiness videos.

Dr. Bowhay has been visiting with several employers in the community to identify their needs. "Partnerships with the community is how we

want to operate. That is key."

Employers can contact Dr. Bowhay at the Career Development Center, (816) 271-5854, or vbowhay@missouriwestern.edu. ■

"Partnerships with the community is how we want to operate. That is key."

- Dr. Vincent Bowhay



Get a Griffon debit card and help us earn money!

Citizens Bank & Trust is now offering a Griffon Visa debit card. For every purchase made using the card, Missouri Western will receive five cents. The card is free; you just need a Citizens Bank & Trust checking account to get one. Learn more at gocitizens.bank. ■

University personnel changes

Provost retires

Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75, provost and vice president for academic affairs, retired on June 30, 2018, but will continue working part-time for a year to assist in the transition.

Dr. Doug Davenport, associate provost for research, planning and institutional effectiveness, is serving as interim provost. A national search for a permanent replacement will take place next year.

Dr. Daffron joined Missouri Western in 1977, and had been serving as provost since 2009. She oversaw the creation of two new schools (the School of Fine Arts in 2013 and the School of Nursing and Health Professions in 2016), the growth of graduate programs, and numerous successful accreditation and reaccreditation efforts.

Also under Dr. Daffron's leadership, opportunities for applied learning experiences for students expanded, and the University has signed cooperative agreements with a number of universities in the U.S. and abroad.

She began her career as a faculty member in the Department of Nursing. She chaired the department in 1996-97, and then served as dean of the College of Professional Studies from 1997 to 2004. Dr. Daffron became assistant vice president for Academic and Student Affairs in 2004 and twice served as interim provost and vice president before being named to



Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75

the position permanently in 2009. She also served as interim dean of Graduate Studies when the first graduate degree programs were offered in 2007.

"It has been one of the true highlights of my career to work side by side with Jeanne for the last 10 years," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president.

In addition to her duties at Missouri Western, Dr. Daffron was active in professional and community organizations, including the Missouri Life Sciences Research Board, the Northwest Missouri P-20 Council and the Heartland Foundation board of directors. She also served on the board of directors for the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce from 1998-2005, including a term as chair in 2004.

Changes in dean positions

Dr. Kathleen O'Connor retired as dean of Professional Studies on June 30, 2018. She became a member of Missouri Western's faculty in 1980, and had been in the dean position since 2013. Prior to that, she chaired the Department of Nursing for 15 years, leading the development of the University's Master of Science in Nursing program and helping create a partnership with Metropolitan Community College for an RN-to-BSN program.

With the retirement of Dr. O'Connor, **Dr. Ben Caldwell** became dean of Professional Studies, but continues to serve as dean of the Graduate School.

Dr. Dan Shepherd will continue as chair of the Department of Education, but assumed additional responsibilities as assistant dean of Professional Studies. Additionally, last spring, **Dr. Crystal Harris** was named associate dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions within the College of Professional Studies.

Dr. Logan Jones, a business faculty member who had been director of the MBA program, became dean of the Craig School of Business on July 1, 2018, replacing **Dr. Michael Lane**, who retired June 30 after five years.

Dr. Lane's accomplishments include guiding the creation of the Center for Entrepreneurship and the re-accreditation of the CSB.

Dr. Jones joined Missouri Western in 2015 and has served on the Graduate Council and the Faculty Senate. ■



Missouri Western launches Finish in 4

As part of ongoing efforts to reduce costs for students and help them finish college in a timely manner, Missouri Western reduced the number of credit hours required to earn a bachelor's degree from 124 to 120, effective this fall semester.

Credit requirements within majors or minors will not change, but the number of elective hours needed will be reduced.

The change comes as Missouri Western launches a new program called Finish in 4 to help more students finish their degrees in four years. Finish in 4 will give qualified first-time freshmen who meet program requirements a clear four-year plan to graduation.

The program provides a "roadmap to success" for incoming

freshmen, said Dr. Paul Orscheln, associate vice president for enrollment management and retention. It gives them a plan to finish in four years and the tools they need to persist to graduation.

Finish in 4 also helps students stay on track academically with an Early Intervention System. Participating students will also receive priority registration for the next semester's classes.

Additionally, if students follow the plan and meet all the requirements of Finish in 4 but don't finish in four years because of course-offering conflicts, the additional classes they need to take to graduate will be free.

Finish in 4 and the reduced credit hour requirement are both part of Missouri Western's efforts

to bridge the affordability gap in higher education, Dr. Orscheln said.

"We want to do everything we can to make sure that a high-quality education is attainable for the students we serve."

Other recent measures to help make Missouri Western more affordable include using the superscore method to evaluate ACT and SAT scores for admissions and scholarships, making some incoming freshmen eligible for an additional \$1,000 to \$1,600 in scholarships per year.

Missouri Western also recently extended the area for the Griffon Rate scholarship, allowing students in 13 states to pay in-state tuition if they meet certain academic requirements. The University is also discussing ways to address the affordability of textbooks. ■



"We want to do everything we can to make sure that a high-quality education is attainable for the students we serve."

- Dr. Paul Orscheln

Campus Kudos

The Missouri Interscholastic Press Association honored **Dr. Bob Bergland**, professor of journalism and advisor for Griffon News, with its 2018 Taft Award for outstanding service to scholastic journalism. The award honors Dr. Bergland's advocacy for Missouri's Cronkite New Voices Act, which aims to protect the First Amendment rights of student journalists in public high schools and universities. Dr. Bergland has been working with state legislators for two years to try to get the bill passed into law.

GriffsGiveBack organized a week of activities to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, including dodge ball, Swishes for Wishes, and Stacks with Max, a pancake dinner. The group raised more than \$1,850.

The **Organization of Student Social Workers** won the 2017 Best Fundraising Event from the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness for its Walk for the Homeless. The funds are raised for the St. Joseph's Social Welfare Board. Over the last six years of the Walk for the Homeless, OSSW has raised close to \$20,000.

The **Fountain City Brass Band** won the 2018 North American Brass Band Championship this past spring. The ensemble has won eight U.S. Open Brass Band Championships and now seven North American Brass Band Championships since it formed in 2002. Members include Dr. Lee



Dr. Pam Clary



Pictured with their award are OSSW officers Teresa Flougher, Kati Wertz, Holly Hurd and Christy Simmons. Officers not pictured include Precious Leonard, Kayla Saltsgaver and Nichole Oswald.



Claudia Baer, student employment coordinator in the Career Development Center, presents Evan Banks with the Missouri Western Student Employee of the Year Award.

Harrelson, associate professor of music and department chair, who founded the group.

The Missouri Western Foundation awarded its annual Excellence in Philanthropy Award to the Greek Fraternity **Phi Delta Theta**. The group raised funds for ALS and Toys for Tots, and supported a local child with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, a type of brain tumor.

Dr. Pam Clary, director of the social work program and assistant professor of social work, was named the University's recipient of the 2018 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. Dr. Clary has been on Missouri Western's faculty since 2007. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from Kansas State University, her Master of Social Work from the University of Kansas and her Ph.D. from Kansas State University. In addition to her teaching experience, she has more than 17 years of direct clinical experience.

Dr. Corey White, assistant professor of psychology, was part of a multi-university collaboration on testing the replicability of effects in psychological science, and their work was published in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, one of the premier science journals.

History major **Evan Banks** was named 2018 Missouri Western Student Employee of the Year, and Missouri Student Employee of the Year by the National Student Employment Association in conjunction with the Midwest Association of Student Employment Administrators.

Banks was also one of two winners of the national Alpha Chi Gaston Scholarship competition for his submitted paper, "Breathing anarchy into luftballons: The role of music in European cold war history." He earned a \$3,000 scholarship.

Alpha Chi is a national honor society that invites the top 10 percent of juniors, seniors and graduate students to join. Banks is the president of Missouri Western's chapter, which is the Missouri Lambda chapter of Alpha Chi.

Political science major **Egnoma Fataki** was a policy and advocacy intern in Washington, D.C. last year. While there, he was invited to participate in the National Student Leadership Forum. He visited with Rep. Emanuel Cleaver about the issues facing refugees. According to its website, the National Student Leadership Forum has been convened by Members of Congress and other prominent U.S. government leaders since 1990, and invites young people of diverse backgrounds and aspirations to put aside their differences and learn together how to better lead in their spheres of influence. (photo p. 29)

The Missouri Western chapter of **Pi Sigma Alpha**, the National Political Science Honor Society, was recognized with a National Best Chapter Award for the 2017-18 academic year. This is the third time in four years that the chapter has been recognized for their scholarship and active commitment to the discipline of political science. ■

2017-18 Retirees

Congratulations to Missouri Western's retirees in the past year:

Belinda Ball, Western Institute
Robert Bidding, University Police
Dr. Carolyn Brose, Nursing
Dr. Susan Carter, Music
Dr. M. Susan Clafin, Education
Michael Clark, University Police
Dr. John Courington, Economics
Dr. Jeanie Crain, English
Dr. Jeanne Daffron, Academic Affairs
Tammy Durbin, Foundation Accounting

Dr. John Ellis, Education
Rodema Gnuschke, Library
Dr. Chris Godfrey, Physics
Dr. Michael Lane, Craig School of Business
Dr. Timothy Miller, Mathematics
Susan Montee, Business
Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, Professional Studies
Jon Recob, Physical Plant
Dr. Michael Smith, Education
Dr. Dan Trifan, History ■

2018 Missouri Western Foundation Faculty and Staff Awards

Teaching Excellence:

Dr. Edwin Taylor III, Political Science; Dr. Heather Kendall, Nursing; Dr. Nathanael May, Music

Staff Service to Students:

Fumi Matsumoto Cheever, International Center

Staff Service to Colleagues:

Judy Chambers, Registrar's Office

Staff Service to the University:

Shelle Browning, Physical Plant

Dr. James V. Mehl Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship:

Dr. Julie Jedlicka, Biology

Dr. James J. Scanlon Award for Staff Service to Community:

Kathy Kelly, Craig School of Business

Dr. James J. Scanlon Award for Faculty Service to Community:

Kip Wilson, Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academy

Student Employment Supervisor of the Year Award:

Teresa Crist, Student Affairs ■



HPER students utilize the new high-tech treadmill in the remodeled Health and Exercise Science lab.

HPER creates new lab and upgrades another

There's a new look in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, making its hands-on labs more appealing and even more functional than before.

The Looney Complex now contains a new Personal and Commercial Fitness Lab and a remodeled Health and Exercise Science Lab with new equipment.

Dr. Justin Kraft, department professor and chair, said they wanted the new lab as part of their personal and commercial fitness concentration in the physical education major that began last fall. At the same time faculty members in the department were planning the lab, Human Resources was looking for a location to hold its wellness programs, so the two areas collaborated to create the new space. Human Resources received funding from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City to help pay for the lab. HPER contributed, along with the MWSU Foundation.

The Personal and Commercial Fitness Lab is located in Looney 114. The former classroom space has been converted into a half classroom and half lab, with new flooring in the lab area and all new equipment: a treadmill, two elliptical machines and two exercise bicycles.

Dr. Kraft noted that there are several hands-on, practical courses as part of the personal and commercial fitness track, and the labs are a large part of those courses.

The Health and Exercise Science Lab, used for high performance exercise testing in a number of courses, is in the same space as before, but with a completely updated look and open feel. Wall dividers were removed and a large television and projection system are now part of the lab, along with two new EKG monitors and a new, high-tech treadmill. An upcoming purchase will be a metabolic cart, which is used by personal trainers to create training programs for their clients.

"We're undertaking serious scientific endeavors, and now we have great new equipment to do that. This shows that we value what happens in this space," Dr. Kraft said.

The lab upgrade cost more than \$50,000. The department has been saving up for several years, and Dr. Kraft credited the fiscal management of the department's former chair, Dr. Brenda Blessing, in starting the planning. "An investment in the equipment is an investment in our students," he said.

Dr. Kraft says he now makes sure prospective students tour the two new spaces. "It's an important recruiting tool. It shows them and their parents that we are going to provide the resources they need to learn their profession." ■

Dr. Greg Vecchi: Bringing the FBI background

When criminal justice students are mulling over career choices, their go-to professor for all things Federal Bureau of Investigation is Dr. Greg Vecchi, assistant professor of criminal justice. Missouri Western hired Dr. Vecchi in 2016, who brought a background of working 18 years for the FBI.

His last position with the FBI was special agent in Rapid City, South Dakota, where he conducted field hostage negotiations and investigated violent crimes and organized crime. That position, which he held for three years, also included serving as a consultant for security personnel working the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally that draws more than 100,000 visitors for the 10-day event.

Prior to that position, he worked at FBI headquarters in Virginia as a Unit Chief-Supervisory Special Agent in the Behavioral Science Unit. He said students love to hear about those experiences with behavior analysis and criminal profiling. "There's a method to using behavior and manipulating behavior in order to catch a guy, and that fascinates students."

In 2003 and 2004, he supervised FBI Rapid Deployment Teams that respond to acts of terrorism, a stint that included spending several months in Iraq.

When he retired from the FBI, Dr. Vecchi started a consulting firm that conducts threat assessments for potential violence in workplaces and schools, behavior analysis, and firearms and combatants. He currently holds a U.S. Government Top Secret Security Clearance with credentials as a U.S. Department of Defense Contract Investigator.

He also recently passed the Peace Officer's Standards and Training (POST) test and is a reserve deputy for Buchanan and Clinton counties.

Dr. Vecchi had taught college courses throughout his law enforcement career, so coming to Missouri Western wasn't a big stretch. "Teaching keeps me on my game, it makes me grow and become better," he said. "Missouri Western wanted someone with practical experience and a federal background, so it was a good fit."

Most of his Missouri Western students want a career in law enforcement, and Dr. Vecchi is very happy to share information with them, making sure they realize that their careers won't be like the television shows "NCIS" or "CSI."

"The students are motivated. I want to help mentor them and teach them. I like to keep it real for them."

This past spring, his courses included Modern Police Procedures, Criminal Justice Concepts and Issues, and Administration and Planning. He also taught several sessions in the University's Law Enforcement Academy, which he said was a big draw for the Missouri Western position.

Several students have taken independent research courses with Dr. Vecchi, including one where they learn to role play by manifesting mental health disorders or criminal pathologies. Those students then travel with him when he conducts training exercises for law enforcement agencies throughout the region. The bonus, he says, is that the students have the opportunity to



Dr. Greg Vecchi

network with potential employers.

Students also role played as offenders so a probation class on campus could conduct practice interviews.

Dr. Vecchi, a native of Des Moines, joined the Army after graduating from high school so the GI Bill could pay for his college. He says his goal was always to join the FBI ever since he watched the television show "Mission Impossible" and James Bond movies as a kid. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Management/Human Resources from Park College (now Park University) in Parkville, Missouri, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from The University of Alabama and a Ph.D in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

"I have very high expectations of my students," Dr. Vecchi said. "I want the right people to go into law enforcement. You don't belong if your heart's not in it." ■



Teaching 英语 in China

Although his interest in China was piqued as a 15-year-old watching the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, student Robert Evilla never thought that interest would lead to a teaching position there.

But even though he hasn't graduated yet, Evilla spent most of his spring 2018 semester and summer teaching English at the Guizhou Forerunner College, a two-year college in the Guizhou Province in China. And before he left to come back and finish earning his degree at Missouri Western, he was hired to teach there for two more years once he graduates.

Although the Olympics inspired him to start studying Chinese

history and culture, that might have been the extent of it until he registered late for classes in 2014 and realized that his only foreign language option was Elementary Chinese.

"I figured it was a sign I was ready to learn Chinese, but long story short, I hated every second of it," he said with a laugh.

But Evilla said that Lian Jianhua, who was teaching at Missouri Western as part of the University's exchange program with Xidian University in China, "refused to give up" on him. "I ended up passing and spent the summer going over what I had learned."

Then he signed up for another semester of Chinese and had a much better experience.

In the summer of 2016, he studied abroad in Shanghai, and then he knew he wanted to return to China someday to teach English.

That opportunity arose in 2017, when Tammy Norris, Missouri Western's study abroad coordinator, discovered that there was a high demand for English teachers in China. She knew Evilla from the Shanghai trip and gave his name to Guizhou Forerunner College, one of the universities in Missouri Western's exchange program, and he was hired.



Evilla taught beginner English and English Special Interest (music), which adds a cultural component of the language for the students. He taught students American songs from different eras, and then put the songs in historical context. The college also held an English Learning Festival.

At GFC, Evilla said, the instructors also teach off-campus, visiting families of the villages, orphanages and low-income

“Through all of this it is remembering why I came here that makes it better. I studied language and it changed my life. I have overcome barriers that I wouldn’t have been able to cross without my former professors. Today I am the language instructor and it is my time to give back. I am here to be to my students what my teachers/professors have been for me over the years.”

Evilla said the school also sent

until 2015, when he became an English 100 workshop leader in the Department of English and Modern Languages.

“I absolutely loved working with the students, watching them become better writers and being someone who could be there to say, ‘I have been where you are, and it will be okay,’” Evilla said. “What really sold me was the spring publication ceremony and seeing one of my students who struggled a lot at first being honored.”

Along with Norris, he credits several faculty members for encouraging him to pursue the Chinese opportunity and helping him graduate on time – Dr. Eduardo Castilla-Ortiz, instructor of Spanish, Dawn Terrick, instructor of English, Dr. David Kratz Mathies, associate professor of philosophy, Dr. Ali Kamali, professor of sociology, and Dr. Dawn Drake, associate professor of geography.

“Nothing feels more rewarding than hearing someone say ‘I always struggled with this until you showed me,’ ‘you’ve inspired me to not give up,’ or just hearing ‘you made a difference today.’” ■

“I absolutely loved working with the students, watching them become better writers and being someone who could be there to say, ‘I have been where you are, and it will be okay.’”

- Robert Evilla

neighborhoods to teach English and provide charity work. Evilla said seeing the widespread poverty and how it impacts families was probably his biggest shock when he arrived in Ghizou.

“It is hard to witness the hardships the people go through,” he said. “It is hard to see my students struggle even though they are trying with everything inside them.

him to some cities and towns to learn about Chinese history and culture, including Qing Yan, which has several shops of local artists and craftsmen, and re-enactors.

As a Missouri Western student, Evilla changed his major several times before deciding on sociology with an international studies minor. He didn’t consider a teaching career



Ring in a new tradition

Missouri Western athletics started a new tradition last year, and it looks to be one with some staying power.

In 2017, head football coach Matt Williamson '96 hadn't been on the job very long when he was pondering what could be Griffon football's tradition.

Williamson fondly remembered his time as a student athlete at Missouri Western when the team, families and fans gathered under the Victory Tree behind the Baker Family Fitness Center after the win. Unfortunately, the construction of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex brought the football office and locker room from the fitness center to the GISC, ending the longtime tradition of singing the school fight song under the tree outside the football locker room.

"I was just sitting there in my office one day looking out the window thinking about what we could do differently and I saw that bell hanging under the video scoreboard (new in 2016)," Williamson said. "Ryan Menley and I walked around looking at different ways to enter the stadium and I just kept seeing that bell. I wondered if anyone had rung it and how loud it was. Then I thought, let's make people hear it!"

With that thought, a tradition was born.

On Sept. 7, 2017, Williamson led his team to the bell after a 45-7 home opener victory over Missouri Southern. Senior safety Jonathan Owens became the first Griffon to officially ring the bell.

What may have seemed like a spontaneous call from a rookie head coach resonated with the Griffon nation. Two weeks later when the team won its second-straight home game, the football team found two lines of the Golden Griffon Marching Band, Griffon Cheer Squad and the Mystics Dance Team forming a tunnel from the field to the bell. Quarterback Dom Marino rang the bell that Saturday and the tradition was set.

"I was just looking for something to bring everyone together after a win like I remembered the old Victory Tree when I played here," Williamson said. "I didn't realize it would catch on so quickly and then spread to other teams. It's really cool and shows just how tight-knit things are here at Missouri Western."

Soon after the football tradition began, Athletics ordered a bell for the teams that don't play on Craig Field in Spratt Memorial Stadium. Griffon volleyball rang the bell in the Looney Complex following the program's first-ever MIAA regular season championship. Griffon soccer made a habit of ringing the bell in the stadium on the way to its first-ever trip to the NCAA tournament.

The tradition spread like wildfire and became a calling card for Griffon victories, even a hashtag on social media. The second bell was mounted to a cart for easier transportation and became a part of baseball and softball series sweeps.

Baseball head coach Buzz Verduzco became the first to ring the bell at the Spring Sports Complex when



he passed Doug Minnis as the all-time wins leader in Griffon baseball history. The first-year cross country and track & field teams even made it a habit to head for the bell as soon as they returned to campus following a win.

“There is nothing better than a tradition that begins naturally and comes from the students. It’s what gives traditions staying power and makes them so special,” said Josh Looney, director of athletics. “What began with our football team ringing the bell quickly evolved into our other sports programs. The next thing you know, faculty and staff are ringing the bell when our teams win on the road, and it is now even part of our spring commencement celebration.”

From now on, every Griffon will not just celebrate a win or an achievement, they’ll gather together to ring the bell. ■

#ringthebell

Golfer qualifies for nationals

For the second year in a row, Griffon women’s golfer Shi Qing Ong played in the NCAA Division II National Championships in May 2018. The junior birdied a three-player, one-hole playoff for one of the final two individual qualifying spots. Ong finished the tournament in a three-way tie for fifth place after turning in the second lowest score of the third and final round of the NCAA Division II Central Super Regional.



Shi Qing Ong

She played four rounds at the NCAA Division II National Championships at Bay Oaks Country Club in Houston May 16-19, finishing with a four-round total of 313. That score merited an 11-way tie for 38th place. ■

New coach named

Yuriy Litvinski was named the new head coach of men’s and women’s cross country and track & field teams in July 2018. He had been the assistant at Idaho State University, an NCAA Division I school, since 2016, and prior to that, assistant women’s coach at Angelo State University in Texas.

Litvinski directed meet management in addition to coaching sprints and horizontal jumps, and assisting pole vaulters. In 2017, nine of the athletes he coached turned in Big Sky All-conference performances.

He was a three-time national qualifier in the triple jump at University of Northern Iowa (Div. I) and took fourth at the national event in 2006. He was also a six-time national champion in his native Bulgaria. Litvinski earned a bachelor’s degree from UNI and a master’s from University of Central Missouri. ■



For all Griffon sports
schedules, check out
gogriffons.com

NEW PAVILION NAMED FOR BILL SNYDER

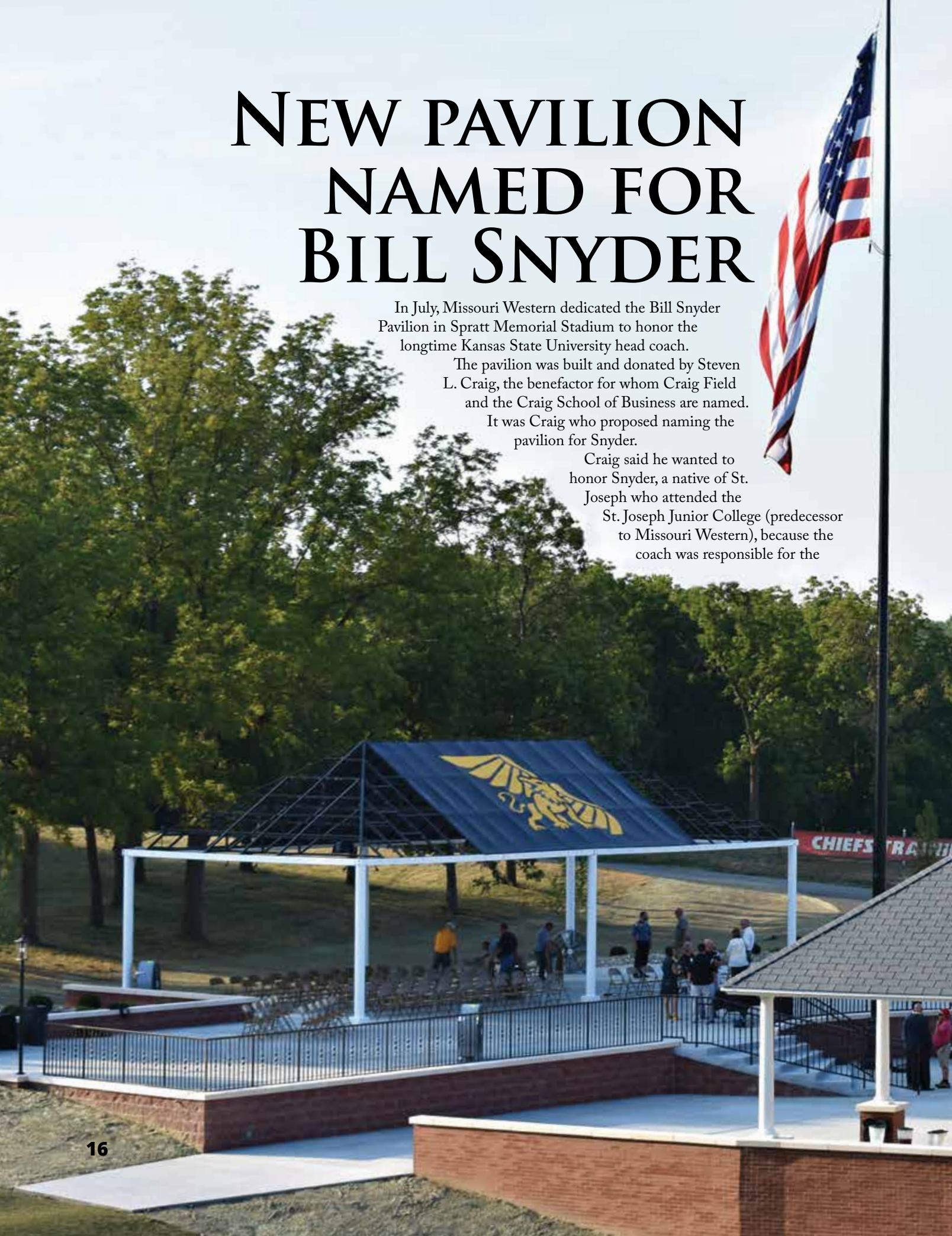
In July, Missouri Western dedicated the Bill Snyder Pavilion in Spratt Memorial Stadium to honor the longtime Kansas State University head coach.

The pavilion was built and donated by Steven L. Craig, the benefactor for whom Craig Field and the Craig School of Business are named.

It was Craig who proposed naming the pavilion for Snyder.

Craig said he wanted to honor Snyder, a native of St.

Joseph who attended the St. Joseph Junior College (predecessor to Missouri Western), because the coach was responsible for the





Page 16 and below, the new Bill Snyder Pavilion on campus. At the time of the dedication ceremony, the roof over one of the structures was not complete; the Griffin banner was in place to offer some shade for the ceremony. Above, ribbon cutting for the Bill Snyder Pavilion included James Jeffers '73, Alumni Board president, Mayor Bill McMurray '70, Dennis Rosonke, Foundation Board president, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, president, Bill Snyder, Steve Craig, Kelly Crawford, E.L. Crawford Construction, and David Liechti, Board of Governors chair.

most remarkable turnaround in all of Division I.

In 1989, Snyder took over a struggling Kansas State program that had just become the first Division I program to lose 500 games and had gone winless in two consecutive seasons. In a short time, he turned the Wildcats into a national championship contender that advanced to 11 straight bowl appearances and tallied six 11-win seasons over a seven-year stretch. He retired in 2005, but

“THE ST. JOSEPH JUNIOR COLLEGE WAS TRULY THE SPRINGBOARD AND THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ENTIRETY OF MY UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AND THROUGH MY LIFELONG CAREER.”

- Bill Snyder

returned to the Kansas State sidelines in 2009, adding his seventh 11-win season and second conference championship in 2012. Overall, his record stood at 210-110-1 at the end of the 2017 season.

“I am truly humbled,” Snyder said at the dedication ceremony July 12. “I know it’s what everyone says, but I mean it. The St. Joseph Junior College was truly the springboard

continued on next page



NEW PAVILION NAMED FOR BILL SNYDER

continued from pg. 17

and the foundation for the entirety of my undergraduate education and through my lifelong career.”

Snyder said he attended the University of Missouri-Columbia his first semester of college, but came home to the junior college, which gave him a “re-start.”

“It opened doors for me to have the opportunities I’ve had. St. Joseph will always hold a special place in my heart, and Missouri Western likewise. I am so proud of this university.”

The pavilion, on the west end of Craig Field opposite the video scoreboard, features two different levels for hosting outdoor events and an 80-foot flagpole displaying a 30-foot by 20-foot American flag. The pavilion features a bronze plaque honoring Snyder, as well as a plaque by the flag pole to honor students and alumni who have served in the United States military.

“Several years before the video board (completed in 2016), I envisioned a grand gathering space on this hilltop,” Craig said at the dedication ceremony. He said the pavilion creates a “bookend” to the scoreboard.

Snyder is the son of Marionetta Snyder and grandson of George and Marie Owens. He graduated from Lafayette High School in 1958. After attending St. Joseph Junior College, Snyder received his bachelor’s degree from William Jewell in 1963. He earned his master’s from Eastern New Mexico in 1965.

Snyder is a member of eight Halls of Fame: the College Football Hall of Fame, Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, William Jewell Hall of Fame, Lafayette High School Hall of Fame, Austin College Athletic Hall of Fame, Holiday Bowl Hall of Fame and Kansas State Hall of Fame. He received Missouri Western’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.

He has been active in many organizations and has returned to St. Joseph many times for fundraisers and events supporting education and the YMCA.

“Coach Snyder has never forgotten his humble beginnings or his hometown, and he has continued to give back to this community over and over again,” Craig said.

Snyder and his wife, Sharon, have two sons and three daughters. They also have eight grandchildren and one great-grandson. ■



Above, members of the ROTC and the 139th Airlift Wing raise the new pavilion flag. Below, seated, Marla Ross and Sharon Snyder. Behind them are Linda Linin, Debbie Stubblefield and Linda Vance. Ross and Linin are Missouri Western and Kansas State alumnae.

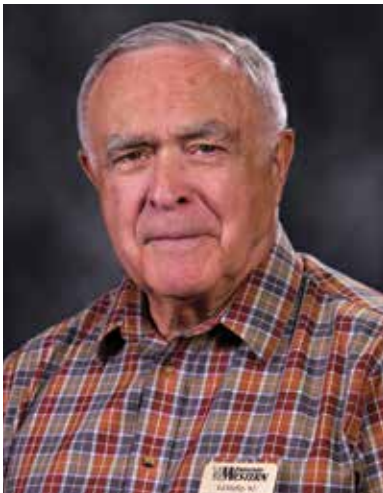
Supporter passes away

Edward H. Haffey '62 died on May 9, 2018. He served on the MWSU Foundation Board 2011-17, and had recently served as vice chair of the Board's Investment Committee. Haffey was also a member of the Clock Tower Society and received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007.

Haffey, a U.S. Navy veteran, is survived by his wife, Jan, daughter Kimberly McEvoy (Mike), son Christopher Haffey (Amanda) and four grandchildren.

Haffey was born Jan. 6, 1942 in St. Joseph, Missouri, the son of Elberta Haffey and George B. Haffey. He graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College and George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

In 1970, he received a J.D. degree from the University of Colorado School of Law and practiced law for 35 years, primarily as a partner/shareholder of Anderson, Campbell and Laugesen, P.C. ■



Edward H. Haffey '62

Millie Maloney '78 joins Clock Tower Society

"At my stage in life, I look back and I think, 'What were the key things that made a difference for me?' And when I look at my time at Missouri Western and the Junior College, it makes my heart warm."

That, said Millie (Marable) Maloney '78, was the reason she recently joined the Clock Tower Society, notifying Missouri Western that she has made the University a beneficiary of her estate. "It's important to give back," she said.

Maloney graduated from Bishop LeBlond High School in St. Joseph and attended the St. Joseph Junior College for one year before she moved out of the area. When she returned to St. Joseph a couple of years later, divorced with a young son, she decided she wanted to finish her degree. She got a full-time job as a paraprofessional in the college library and started taking night classes. Seven years later, she earned a degree in elementary education.

"I've always treasured my years there, both as a full-time paraprofessional in the LRC and as a student," she said. "Life wasn't easy and would have been impossible without the help of my caring family and friends. I really depended on my family and my college family. I was blessed."

She credits Dr. Solon Haynes, professor emeritus of education; Helen Wigersma, dean of the Hearn Learning Resource Center; Dr. Leo Galloway, who taught biology; Dr. Ruth Galloway, professor emerita of English;



Millie Maloney '78 and her husband, Michael.

Maj. L.B. Snyder, Julia Schneider, library director emerita; and many others for her success. Maloney noted that it was an interesting time on campus in the early 1970s as the new campus emerged and grew. She also liked being on campus in her dual roles of student and employee.

Maloney took undergraduate library courses from Northwest Missouri State University to become a certified school librarian, and taught and worked in school libraries for several years in Missouri, Ohio and California before she went to work for Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles. The company changed ownership and was known as Raytheon when she retired after 27 years of service.

"My degree from Missouri Western held me in good stead through varied, yet related careers," she said. "It would not have been possible without the credentials I earned." ■

Active and Involved

Whatever buzz word you choose to use, everyone knows it's always a good thing when you're keeping college students busy and engaged.

Shana Meyer, vice president of Student Affairs, said several years of research have shown that there is a strong correlation between student involvement and student success, so her office staff understands the importance of busy, engaged students.

"We want our students to learn through hands-on experiences, inside and outside of the classroom," she said. "They have the opportunity to learn about themselves through introductions to different ways of thinking, new experiences, and interactions with students and staff of varying backgrounds and heritages. University life is all about learning and growth, and much of that occurs outside the classroom."

Even the name of those activities outside the classroom has changed over the years. Meyer said they used to be called extra-curricular, but now are called co-curricular because the activities work side-by-side with academics.

"Students who are involved on campus have higher rates of persistence and positive outcomes. We want our students to succeed, so we're here to help provide opportunities that will help."

And the choices for students to get involved at Missouri Western are as varied as the students themselves,

she said. Two enduring activities since the University's early days are the intramural program and faith-based organizations.

Intramural fun

Although the term "intramurals" isn't used in the 1920-21 Griffon Yearbook, a photo and article about the Sports Club for women sounds like what would be called an intramural program today. The article says that this is the second year for the organization, and 30 members were listed. The aim of the organization was "the encouragement of good healthy sports among the girls," and activities included basketball, swimming, tennis and roller-skating.

Intramural mentions do appear in the Griffon yearbooks over the next several decades, including a 1935 entry that mentions ping-pong as the most popular winter sport and includes photos of intramural field hockey, tennis, basketball and shot put. A 1942 yearbook mentions the addition of track, touch football and swimming; and several yearbooks from the 1960s contain photos of men's intramural basketball.

In 1980, Faye Burchard was hired as the first full-time intramural coordinator for the College. Wonda Berry '84, the Recreation Services Director today, said the program wasn't very robust when Burchard started, but Burchard began to grow the program, both in offerings and participants. In fact, she began the intramural all-nighter, which continued into the 1990s. She also introduced beach volleyball, pillow polo and soccer on scooters. During Burchard's tenure, many faculty and staff participated in the intramural sports, as well.

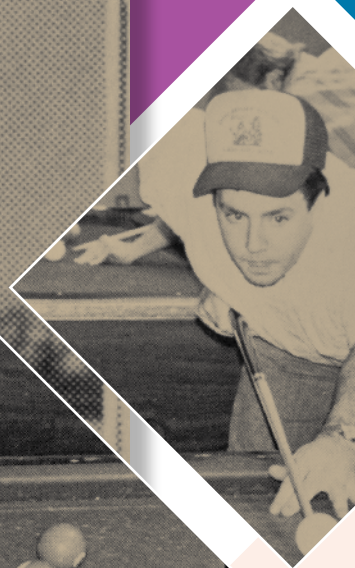
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Rachel Hagen and Megan Jensen, members of the Catholic Newman Center, help deliver food to the Second Harvest Community Food Bank.

"You want to keep everybody active. This gives them a social place to go and a break from their studies. A lot of students are in athletics in high school, and this gives them a place to play and have fun."

- Wonda Berry '84





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Berry, who was a pitcher for the softball team that was the national champion in 1982, was a work-study student in the intramural office under Burchard. "I told her if she ever left, I wanted her job. She told me, 'Oh, Wonda, you don't want this job,'" Berry said with a laugh.

But apparently, she really did, because Berry has been in the position since 1989. "This is where my heart is. I enjoy the college atmosphere," she said.

Burchard left in 1988 and Ron Ferment was hired and worked at Missouri Western one year. Along with the usual intramural sports, he offered Mud Fest, volleyball in knee-deep mud; Monkey Golf, golfing nine holes with one club that was blindly picked; Mooshy Gooshy Marshmallow Mouth Stuff; and throwing a frozen turkey down a hallway to knock down plastic bowling pins (yes, a frozen turkey). The next year, Berry, who had been serving as assistant softball coach at Missouri Western, took the helm of the program and has been keeping students busy and active ever since (but without the frozen turkeys).

After all these years, she says flag football, basketball, volleyball and other team sports are still the most popular intramural activities, but she is always looking for different ideas to attract more participants. Two years ago, she added a gingerbread house-decorating contest, and it was a hit with both students and staff. Offerings have also included a pumpkin carving contest, pigskin picks, card tournaments and more. When the disc golf course was created in the 1990s, that was added to the intramural lineup.

"You want to keep everybody active. This gives them a social place to go and a break from their studies," Berry said.

"A lot of students are in athletics in high school, and this gives them a place to play and have fun."

On the job for



Three BSU members enjoy Stacks with Max – Eliza Testorff, Alex Davis and Lindsey Morris.

almost 30 years, Berry says she sometimes thinks about retiring. "But every time I think about it, a former student comes in and says, 'I wouldn't be where I am today without you. I can't tell you what you mean to me.'" And thoughts of retirement go right out of her head. "I've met a lot of great people."

Organizations with a side of faith

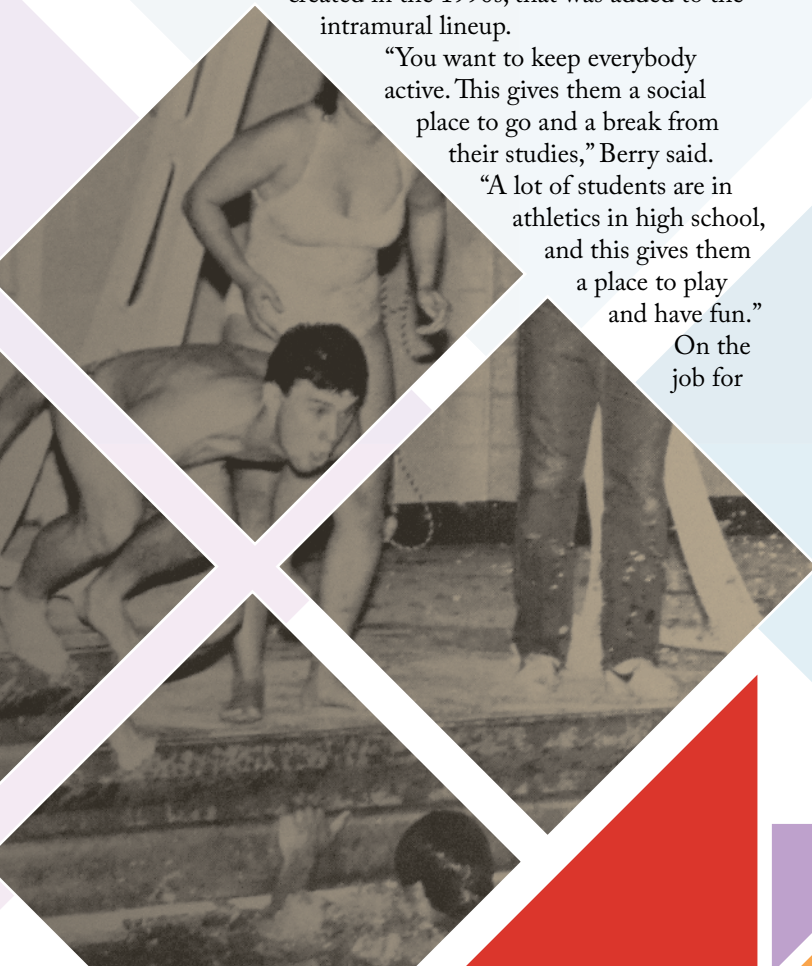
The first mention of a faith-based organization is in the 1949 Griffon Yearbook, where there is a group photo of members of the Baptist Student Union. A 1951 yearbook contains a photo of the Newman Club, but the 1956 yearbook notes that the Newman Club started on campus

Attention, BSU and CNC alumni!

**Want to reconnect?
The current members want
to hear from you.**

**Baptist Student Union:
mowestbsu@gmail.com**

**Catholic Newman Center:
saberer@missouriwestern.edu**



in 1946. Although information about the groups is sparse for several years, both started up again in the mid-1970s and have remained mainstays on campus ever since.

Throughout the school year, the Baptist Student Union and the Catholic Newman Center, both located in houses across from the main campus entrance on Mitchell Avenue, offer several weekly activities and fun events around holidays. For the BSU students, Baptist churches from a five-county area provide a weekly meal during the school year.

Sarah Aberer, president of the CNC, said their weekly men's and women's group meetings usually end around 8:30 p.m., but most of the participants stay and visit with each other until the center closes at midnight.

"The Newman Center has become my favorite place to be," she said. "It has given me a place where I can build Christ-centered relationships. It's my home away from home and I thank God for it every day."

Adam Le said his friend encouraged him to join the BSU when he arrived on campus, and now he is a student

"I was a member of the Newman Club throughout my years at MWSU. One of my fondest memories was shortly after I joined the club. I was a member of the Air National Guard and was deployed the Gulf War. I had previously attended Rockhurst University and had participated in the Appalachia Service project in which we volunteered in the Appalachia Mountains. When I started at MWSU and joined the Newman Club, I pitched the idea of a service project ... the club embraced it. Unfortunately I was called to duty and could not attend.

Throughout my deployment in the Middle East the club inundated me with letters and VCR coverage of the project. Even after they returned back home from the mission trip they sent letters and pictures to keep my spirits up. At a time when tensions were high, there was a threat of biological war and the intensity of being in a foreign country at war, the pics and VCR tapes from the Newman Club gave me a sense of calmness and support."

- Rodney Hummer '94

leader for the group. "Having a community is cool; I didn't have that before," he said. "I like to be able to talk about my walk with Jesus and the struggles. I like being with people who are going through the same thing."

"There's a bit of comfort finding kids who you relate to on a spiritual level," said Paul Damery, full-time director of the BSU for the past 13 years. "I like seeing students grow up in their faith and really take ownership of it."

Leeds Haroldson has been the director of the CNC for eight years. "I hope the students continue growing as faithful and joyful disciples of Christ in order that they develop a greater love of God and neighbor," he said. "As the students' knowledge of other academic disciplines matures, so too we see it as important for the students to develop a mature understanding of God and their faith."

At the Student Government Awards Banquet at the end of the spring semester, the CNC won two awards – most outstanding faith-based organization and most active organization. The group is perhaps best known for a project they started a decade ago – the Flex Food Drive. Every spring as the semester draws to a close, students across campus have the opportunity to donate unused dollars from their meal plan (flex) accounts, and the CNC purchases food from Aramark Campus Dining for the Second Harvest Community Food Bank. In 2018, the group raised \$7,700, bringing their total raised over 10 years to more than \$44,000.

Damery said the BSU members engage in community service through the churches they attend, but the group

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also volunteers on campus, from helping with move-in day for freshmen to working with GriffsGiveBack to host “Stacks with Max,” a pancake dinner to help raise money for Make a Wish Foundation.

“It’s a community and a group of friends who are all encouraging,” said Brad McClintick, a student leader at the BSU.

“Religion is a big part of my life. You need people who share your values, and here, you can be your authentic self,” Aberer said.

For Meyer, the goal of Student Affairs is student engagement on campus. “Campus involvement helps students attain their educational objectives while gaining the skills and competencies employers will want once that student graduates.” ■

“I attended MWSU from 1986 to 1991. I lived in the dorms for two of those years, and the Baptist Student Union saved my skin during that time. I couldn’t attend church anymore because I had a job on the weekends, but needed it more than ever!”

I used to go to the meeting the Baptist Student Union had. It was nice to know that during those tough years, there was a group to which I could turn to for friendship and fellowship.”

– Jenine Williams ’91

BSU members volunteer at a Guatemalan orphanage over spring break 2018.



From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

It is a wonderful honor to serve as the Alumni Association president and I am excited to work with alumni and the board. As one of the first graduating classes of Missouri Western, I have many fond memories. We have seen many changes for the better.

I am from St. Joseph and have lived and worked here my entire life. I worked at two fine St. Joseph companies, Quaker and Sealed Air, and also run a chauffeur service to KCI. My wife, Frances, and I have two daughters who have completed their master's degrees. Melissa graduated from MWSU in Healthcare Leadership, and Katie is working on an internship in counseling at MWSU. As a hobby, I enjoy playing bagpipes with the Buchanan Highlanders.

I want to thank Natalie Redmond '00 for a job well done as president last year.

There are many ways in which we can make our University an outstanding one. First you need to "come home to Missouri Western," whether it be giving a gift or volunteering. It can also be your destination for a Chiefs camp visit, going to a play, a swim or library visit, many sporting events, or just to visit and walk this beautiful campus.

We look forward to the events we have planned. Please come join us for Homecoming Week activities Oct. 7-13. We have something for everyone.

We welcome any ideas or feedback that can make us better: jimjeffers25@gmail.com or (816) 390-1605. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

With Griffon Pride,



James D. Jeffers '73
President of the Alumni Association

P.S. Last year we hosted our first Legacy Day, and with your help we met our \$10,000 goal. Join us again on Oct. 8-9 to help us achieve our new goal of \$12,000 to provide opportunities to future generations of Griffons.



James Jeffers '73

Griffons in Israel

Alumni and friends enjoyed a trip to Israel this past May that was hosted by the Alumni Association and Dr. Jimmy Albright, pictured in the bottom photo. Top, Farrah Seckel and Karen Seckel '72 at Caesarea; middle, Dennis '01 and Connie Merritt.





GRIFFONS UNDER THE THE BIG TOP

Homecoming 2018

OCTOBER 7-14

MISSOURIWESTERN.EDU/ALUMNI/HOMECOMING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Forever Griffons Luncheon

Noon arrival, lunch at 12:30 p.m.

\$15 per person

Hall of Fame Room in Spratt

Memorial Stadium (Park in Lot I,
watch for signs)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 –
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Legacy Day

Noon-Noon

Donate to the MWSU Foundation and
continue your Griffon legacy!
missouriwestern.edu/legacyday

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Griffon Employee Alumni Breakfast

7-9 a.m., Blum Union Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Support a Griffon Business Day

Visit or shop a Griffon Business today!
For a list of participating Griffon
businesses, go to [missouriwestern.edu/
alumni/homecoming](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni/homecoming)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Alumni Golf Outing

9:30 a.m. Registration;

10 a.m. Shotgun start

Fairview Golf Course

\$50 per person or \$200 per team
of four

Drink cart sponsored by Norty's
Bar & Grill

Alumni Awards Banquet

5:30 p.m. Reception,

6:15 p.m. Dinner and Program

Fulkerson Center

\$35 per person

- **Distinguished Alumni Award:**
Dr. Keith Evans '78
- **GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade)**
Award: Dr. Brian Dow '11
- **Herb '35 & Peggy Iffert Award for**
Outstanding Service to the University:
Drew Brown
- **Distinguished Faculty Award:**
Dr. Bill Church '89, Department
of English and Modern Languages
- **Great Griffon Awards:** Craig School
of Business – Jaime Habersat '99;
Liberal Arts and Sciences – Kristi
Bailey Rasmussen '00; Professional
Studies – Dr. Rachel Pepper '03; School
of Fine Arts – Patrick Larsen '15
- **Student Leadership Awards:**
Clifford Hughes '55 Award –
Alexis Williams '18; International
Student of the Year – Sanhith
Chinta '18; Graduating Student
of the Year – Mariatul Dianah
Hidzir '18

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Parade

9:30 a.m., Downtown

Arts, Beats & Treats

Free family fun

10:30 a.m., Remington Hall

Free Tailgate

10:30 a.m., Parking Lot H

Football Game

Griffons vs. UCO Bronchos

1 p.m., Craig Field at

Spratt Memorial Stadium

**IN ADDITION TO THE
ACTIVITIES ABOVE, PLEASE
JOIN US FOR THE BLACK
ALUMNI REUNION EVENTS:**

Thursday, October 11

Etiquette Dinner sponsored by

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Friday, October 12

Evening social off campus after the
Alumni Awards Banquet

Saturday, October 13

Black Dinner of Excellence

6 p.m., Spratt Hall Enright Rooms
214/216

Old School/New School

Game Night/Student Social

8 p.m., Fulkerson Center

Sunday, October 14

Church Service, time and
location TBA

Farewell Brunch

10 a.m., Spratt Enright Rooms 214/216

Campus Tours following brunch

Cost for all activities is

\$125 per person

A portion of each registration fee
will go toward the Clifford
Hughes '55 Scholarship.

LOCATIONS AND ACTIVITIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PLEASE CHECK MISSOURIWESTERN.EDU/ALUMNI/HOMECOMING FOR MORE INFORMATION.

1970s

Bill McMurray '70 was elected mayor of St. Joseph, Missouri in April 2018.

Dr. Julie Albee '76 was awarded the Parkway Distinguished Professor Award from Parkway Baptist Church in St. Louis. The award is for outstanding professional and personal contributions to Christian education. Dr. Albee is a professor of education and director of student learning improvement at Hannibal-LaGrange University in Hannibal, Missouri.

1980s

Lisa Larson '89/'92 is the first assistant dean of academic affairs at the new University of Kansas School of Nursing campus in Salina, Kansas.

1990s

Diane Hook '90 received a Women's Justice Award for 2018 from the Missouri Lawyers Weekly. Hook is a founding member of Hook McKinley LLC law firm in St. Joseph and has been practicing in St. Joseph for 15 years. She is one of seven general practitioners across the state to receive the award.



**Answer
the call.
Phone-a-thon**
Calling this fall!



Col. Grace Link '92 was named executive director of the Missouri Veterans Commission, which has 1,750 employees and operates seven veterans homes, five veterans cemeteries and a veterans service program. It serves 485,000 veterans. She is the first woman to head the agency. In the photo above, Col. Link is speaking at the Engineering Technology Advancement Committee Banquet where she received the Engineering Technology Excellence Award in March.

Jeff Wallace '90 is the head football coach at Plattsburg High School in Plattsburg, Missouri.

Dr. Terri Godfrey '92 is the principal at Central High School in St. Joseph, Missouri. She had previously been assistant principal at Central.

Dr. Robert Sigrist '95 is the director of non-academic support and student services for the St. Joseph School District. Previously, he had been serving as principal of Savannah High School in Savannah, Missouri.

Brett Goodwin '98 is the athletic director at Benton High School in St. Joseph, Missouri.

2000s

Gini Fite '01 is a 2018 winner of the Drug Free Sport Continuing Education Award. She is a Park University adjunct faculty member and an athletic trainer for the Smithville School District.

Jeff Carter '05 was awarded one of 52 James Madison Fellowships by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation of Alexandria, Virginia. The fellowship will fund up to \$24,000 of Carter's course of study toward a master's degree.

Brice Garnett '06 won his first PGA Tour title at the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship in the Dominican Republic in March 2018 with a final-round 70. He led the tournament from start to finish. Garnett turned pro in 2006 and is sponsored by GreatLIFE Golf & Fitness. He now has six professional tournament wins on his resume.

Jacob Schoonover '08 is the linebackers coach for Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

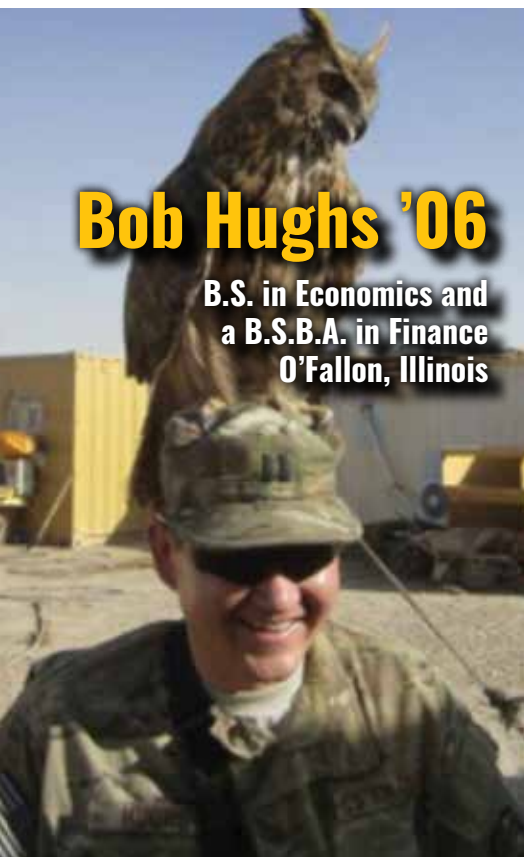
2010s

Michael Hill '12 joined ReeceNichols Ide Capital Realty as a realtor.

Tony Dougherty '15 sang the National Anthem at the NCAA Division I women's basketball championship in Kansas City, Missouri in March.

Jessica Frogge '15 was named the YWCA 2018 Women of Excellence Woman in Support Services. Frogge works for Missouri Western's Student Government Association.

Student Regents/Governors: Where



This is the first of a series to catch up with former students who served as the representatives on the Board of Regents or Board of Governors. It's fitting that Bob Hughs '06, is kicking off the series, because he served 2004–06, one year as the last Student Regent and one year as the first Student Governor as the college transitioned to a university. He is currently a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Q. What is your current job title? Please give a description of your duties.

A. Patient Movement Subject Matter Analyst, Scientific Research Corporation. I am a global patient movement process subject matter expert providing guidance for a global process improvement effort for the Department of Defense Joint Interoperability for Medical Transport Missions (JI-MTM) project responsible for improving moving wounded warriors, veterans, dependent, and humanitarian patients globally.

Q. How did Missouri Western prepare you for your career?

A. The ability to conduct research and the opportunity to hone my leadership abilities prepared me for my military duties that led me to my present job as a defense contractor.

Q. Talk about your experience as a student regent/governor; what stands out?

A. Harnessing the energy and background of many students, we hand-delivered letters to every state senator and representative in Jefferson City to ask for their support in making Missouri Western a university. I was able to meet and gain the support of a core student team of about 20 students inspired by the vision of “It’s All About U” and they worked tirelessly toward that goal. For instance, Brian Parrish '05 helped me solve the whole computer issue and letter generation. After the bill was passed, the students returned to Jefferson City and delivered thank you cards to all those that supported and opposed the bill, and invitations for all to visit campus.



In 2005, MWSU students visited the state Capitol to say thank you to legislators for university designation. Pictured are Bob Hughs '06, Abby (Houseworth) Gerling '06, (we're not sure who this is, can someone help us identify him?), Tay Triggs (former employee), Luke Herrington '09, Tari (Elder) Ross '06, Erica Neier '08, Michael Stevens '07, Josh Baker '05, Sen. Charlie Shields, Ryan Wear '05, Ken Cheadle '06, Luke Gorham '06, Adam Kling '06, Barbara Black '05, Seth Logston '08, Sylvester Brandon '05 and Nancy (Diederich) Willoughey '09.

are they now?

Q. Talk about your family.

A. My wife, Jennifer, is a 2003 graduate and we have four children: Dylan (15), Aubrey (12), Evan (9), and Owen (8). Dylan was a baby when I was finishing up at Missouri Western and would often be on campus when I was running around.

Q. Any other comments?

A. The list of faculty that gave me the chance to succeed is long. Dr. Bill Church would be the first who made an impact on my success. After returning to school full time in 2004, Dr. Reza Hamzaee and Denise Smith gave me the chance to do research that not only funded my education, but gave me the chance to present at conferences and get published. Tom Williamson mentored my leadership to the school and prepared me as an officer in the Air Force. Dr. Jim Scanlon, Beth Wheeler, and the University front office were faithful to my dedication to the school and my community. Just as in the military, great personnel make the mission great.

If you are a former Student Regent or Student Governor, contact Diane Holtz at holtz@missouriwestern.edu to be a part of this series! ■



Paul Granberry III, second from right, is Missouri Western's newest student governor on the Board of Governors. In the photo, Granberry, a junior political science major, is shown on his last day as an intern in Washington, D.C. last year. Second from left is Egnoma Fataki, a political science major who also completed an internship in Washington last year.



What is the last book you read?

"A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-torn Skies of World War II," by Adam Makos with Larry Alexander.

What would your autobiography be called?

"There Must Be a Pony in Here Somewhere!"

What is your favorite movie?


"Rocky."

What is something about you that would surprise most people?

I still have the card from the Barbara Sprong Leadership Challenge where everyone wrote what they thought of me.



Life changes in an instant



When Sarah (Cool) McCauley '08 was getting ready to play the piano at her church's service on New Year's Day in 2017, she never dreamed that by the time the service was over, her life would be changed forever and just one year later, she would be married and living 3,600 miles from home.

The change agent was the guest speaker at the First Baptist Church in St. Joseph that morning. Cole McCauley, assistant director

at the Casa de Mi Padre (Home of My Father) Orphanage in Santa Cruz, Del Quiche, Guatemala, spoke about his mission work there, asking for support and prayers from the church members.

Sarah enjoyed speaking to Cole after the service, and they realized they had grown up less than a mile apart. She immediately signed up for the orphanage's online newsletter, and of course, she and Cole became friends on Facebook that day.

They continued to keep in touch until Cole returned in May, when they went out on a few dates and met each other's families. In July 2017, Sarah spent a month serving at the orphanage.

"When it was time for me to leave, we decided to do lots of praying and some fasting to seek God's will regarding our relationship," Sarah said.

They continued to keep in touch long distance, and when Cole returned to the United States in September, he came with a



Sarah '08 and Cole McCauley (far right) gather with a group from Missouri Western's Baptist Student Union when they visited the orphanage over spring break 2018.

wedding proposal. The couple was married Jan. 14 of this year.

It was a whirlwind full of "God's blessings" and a lot of Spanish lessons all along the way, Sarah says.

After a Hawaiian honeymoon, Sarah and Cole returned to Guatemala and began their missionary work as a couple, she as a "Cole-acclaimed" co-assistant director.

They are responsible for raising their own financial support, so they travel back to the U.S. every three months to speak at churches and share the story of their mission work.

Cole, who graduated from Savannah High School, visited the orphanage for the first time in 2014 during a weeklong spring break

mission trip with Missouri Western's Baptist Student Union (a group from the BSU returned in 2018). He went back in 2015 for three months to determine if it was a place where God was calling him to serve, Sarah said, and he began working there full time in January 2016.

The orphanage is affiliated with Midland Ministries, a nondenominational Christian organization based in St. Joseph, Missouri. There are usually about 20 children living there, and many remain for several years.

"We teach them about the Bible to help them overcome their tough past so they can have bright futures," Sarah said.

The McCauleys rent a house and have hot and cold running water, which is rare in their village. Sarah says the electricity is fairly reliable, just dimming every once in awhile. They have access to a lot of good food, she said, but they often ask groups who come down from the St. Joseph area to bring along some Kansas City barbecue sauce.

"The area kind of reminds me of the 1950s, there's not much technology here and families do a lot together," she said. "People are very friendly and more laid back than Americans."

Sarah, who was homeschooled, graduated from Missouri Western with a music education degree. She started singing with the Griffon Junior Singers in seventh-grade, was in the youth orchestra in 10th-grade, and started playing the viola in the Missouri Western orchestra as a junior in high school. As a college sophomore, she began teaching violin through the Western Institute and was selected to play in the St. Joseph Symphony as a violinist.

After graduating, she was an adjunct violin teacher for Missouri Western, worked for the St. Joseph Symphony and the St. Joseph School District, and taught one semester at St. Joseph Christian School last fall.

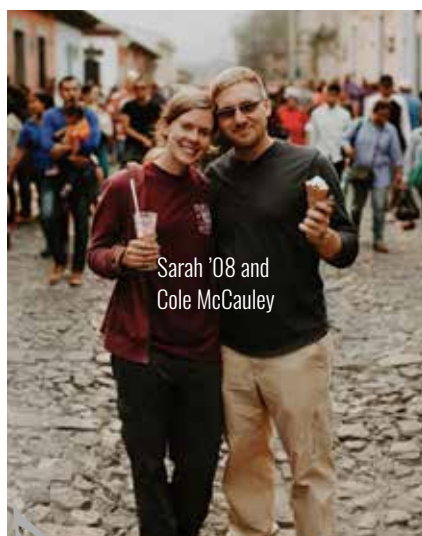
And what does the future hold for the McCauleys? Sarah says their future is at Casa de Mi Padre. In fact, they are looking forward to a new resident in November – their baby!

"I prayed that God would help lead me into a career path that would be glorifying to Him and helpful to other people," Sarah said. "We are amazed at how God used our past experiences to prepare us for working in an orphanage ministry in a foreign country." ■

You can support the Casa de Mi Padre!

For more information, go to savingkids.net.

Groups are always welcome to make Casa de Mi Padre a mission trip destination. Email coleandsarahm@gmail.com.



Sarah '08 and Cole McCauley

Tina Brinton '76/'89: Healthcare leader

The day Tina Brinton '76/'89 passed her nursing boards with her associate degree, her colleague in the intensive care unit at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Joseph, Missouri told



Tina Brinton '76/'89

her she was taking a two-week vacation, starting the next day, so she wouldn't be there to help Brinton learn the ropes.

"It was baptism by fire, but I loved every minute of it," Brinton said.

Ever since then, Brinton never stopped stepping up into increasing responsibilities and moving forward. Today, she is a founding partner and chief operating officer of Dynafios, a company headquartered in the state of Washington that provides advanced analytics and consulting to healthcare

systems across the United States.

Brinton continued to work at St. Joseph's for several years, and in the fall of 1986, Missouri Western began offering a bachelor's degree in nursing. By then, she was in a management position at the hospital and wanted to earn the higher degree.

"I had the best experience at Missouri Western. It wasn't just about memorization; they really wanted you to learn," she said. "I asked a lot of questions, and no was ever annoyed with me."

Brinton said she still remembers how the football players (were) volunteered to be the nursing students' test subjects for inserting IVs and injections. "I'll never forget trying to put an IV in a huge linebacker," she said with a laugh. "But they were so kind."

She noted that in both the associate and bachelor's programs the

faculty members made her appreciate the opportunity and the obligation of nursing. "I owe the success that I've had to Missouri Western," she says. "It really prepared me."

Several years into her nursing career, she became a senior consultant and partner in two consulting firms before co-founding Dynafios with Steve Elliott in 2004. The name was derived from *dyna*, meaning power, and *fios*, meaning knowledge.

She explained that the company works with hospitals and healthcare organizations, arming them with data so they can reduce costs and increase quality. The company has created two software products to that end.

"I'm still a nurse, but this allows me to do nursing on a much larger scale. I'm affecting thousands and thousands today. It's so gratifying that a person from a small town in Missouri can impact thousands." ■

In Memoriam

We remember those who have passed away. If you want to include someone in this listing, please call (816) 271-5651, mail the information to Diane Holtz, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or email holtz@missouriwestern.edu.

Aaron Ahles-Iverson '11, Gladstone, Missouri, July 13, 2018.

Benjamin Ahles-Iverson '04, Taylor, Wisconsin, March 4, 2018.

Charles S. Brown '78, Union Star, Missouri, March 5, 2018.

Arnel R. Bruce '82, Kansas City, Missouri, March 3, 2018.

Marjorie Ann (Schuske) Brumback '46, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 23, 2018.

Gloria T. Crouch '94, Lathrop, Missouri, April 17, 2018.

Gregory S. Drennen '91, Kansas City, Missouri, April 7, 2018.

Laura G. Farr '93, Stewartsville, Missouri, May 2, 2018.

Michael K. Farris '81, Platte City, Missouri, April 26, 2018.

Linda L. Gaines '80, Breckenridge, Missouri, March 27, 2018.

Dr. Matt Gilmour, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 1, 2018. Dr. Gilmour began working for Missouri Western's Department of Music in 1969 and retired in 2014. He was department chair for 35 years.

William H. Guenther '48, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 21, 2018.

Roger H. Horn '74, Charlotte, North Carolina, May 10, 2018.

Carolyn S. (Rosenauer) Johnson '75, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 17, 2018.

Larry J. McClintick '75, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 8, 2018.

Amy M. Mefford '97, Cameron, Missouri, May 11, 2018.

Howard Larry Niemoeller '75, Ocean View, Delaware, Dec. 13, 2017.

Dixie B. Ozenberger '53, Kansas City, Missouri, April 18, 2018.

Patricia "Patsy" Remington '79, St. Joseph, Missouri, July 25, 2018. Remington Hall is named for Patsy and her husband, Wes.

Charles O. Roe '06, Osborn, Missouri, May 19, 2018.

Stephen K. Showalter '86, South Carolina, May 25, 2018.

Shirley F. Smith '79, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 3, 2018.

Cathy A. Stanton '98, Bethany, Missouri, April 1, 2018.

William Thedinga '43, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 20, 2018.

George Zanter '75, Kansas City, Missouri, April 7, 2018. ■

A year in history: 1968

Missouri Western College News

The campus was annexed by the City of St. Joseph.

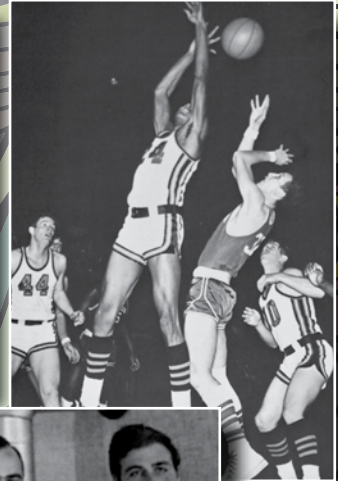
Construction of the new campus was underway.

The conditions that were set out in Missouri Western's four-year legislative bill that was signed in 1965 are deemed met, and Missouri Western officially became a four-year college on Oct. 22.

Missouri Western became the first institution in the country to initiate a model for a three-phase in-school experience teacher program.

The Continuing Education program began.

A Veterans Club formed on campus.



The Veterans Club in 1968

National news

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated

President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

The Beatles released "The White Album."

The Gateway Arch in St. Louis was dedicated.

543 Americans were killed in the Tet Offensive in Vietnam.

The 911 system started in the United States.

The 1st Big Mac went on sale at McDonalds for 49 cents.

The 1st ATM was installed. ■

1968 Prices

1st class stamp	5 cents
Gallon of gas	34 cents
Dow Jones high	985
Movie ticket	\$1.50
Federal hourly min. wage	\$1.60/hr.





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Looking Back: The Golden Griffon Marching Band

The Golden Griffon Marching Band has been enhancing the football game-day experience since its first performance at a football game in 1971, the second season for Missouri Western football. That first year, Dr. Oren Duvall directed the group. According to the 1972 Griffon Yearbook, Dave Hickel was the drum major, and Linda Filkil and Karen Kight were majorettes. There were 32 members.

Bill Mack was hired as the first full-time marching band director in 1977 and remained in that position until 1985. Rob Dunham directed from 1989 to 1994, when Jeff Hinton was hired. He directed the band for 19 years until Dr. Nathan Gay took the helm in 2014.

By 1988, there were 80 band members, and last fall, there were 111.

In 1986, the marching band hosted the first Tournament of Champions high school band competition, and it has been held ever since. ■

