

# Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | Fall 2016



# Student service abounds!

Top left, nursing students recently raised funds for St. Joseph's Social Welfare Board; top right, the Organization of Student Social Workers annually hosts A Walk for the Homeless, an informational event for the community; middle and lower left, students in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation host elementary students for the annual American Heart Association's fundraiser, Jump Rope for Heart, and the Golden Age Games for area nursing home residents; bottom right, the Department of Music students and faculty entertained the campus and community once a month throughout the year at Midday Melodies in the Kelley Commons and the Food Court.



## | President's Perspective |

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, one word comes to mind: BIG. And I think of BIG for two reasons.

First, by the time you receive this magazine, Missouri Western will be home to one of the largest video scoreboards in NCAA Division II – 2,500 square feet. Photos and an article about it are on p. 20, and more photos are on the back cover.

That is an outstanding component of the new Spratt Memorial Stadium that was completed this past spring. If you haven't visited campus lately, you'll definitely want to come back and see the new stadium and scoreboard. Our football and soccer fans will really appreciate the new facilities and video board, which will create an amazing gameday experience.

Secondly, I think of BIG because of the Walter Cronkite Memorial. The happenings this year regarding the live, multimedia shows are very exciting and yes, BIG.

This past spring, we created a third show, "King & Cronkite," that delves into the lives of Walter Cronkite and Martin Luther King, Jr. Combined with the previous two shows, "Cronkite" and "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons," the three shows are collectively called "And That's the Way It Is: Cronkite's Journey."

We were honored and grateful that the King family gave Missouri Western permission to create the show.

And there was more BIG news. By the end of September 2016, the live, multimedia shows will have been shown at the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri; Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri; in New York City and at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. That's BIG.

If you haven't seen all three shows, check out the website – missouriwestern.edu/wcm – for performance dates.

We will also celebrate what would have been Walter Cronkite's BIG birthday – his 100th – on Nov. 4 with a number of activities. On Saturday, Nov. 5, the public is invited to a special birthday party in the Memorial.

More information about the Memorial and the live performances is on p. 13.

Thank you for your interest and support of Missouri Western. I hope our BIG news on several fronts makes you proud that Missouri Western is your alma mater.

Sincerely,

*Robert A. Vartabedian*

Dr. Robert Vartabedian  
President, MWSU

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, far right, is pictured at the performance of "And That's the Way It Is: Cronkite's Journey" at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri. With him from left, is George Guastello, president and CEO of Union Station; and actors in the performance, Ken Remmert, Jim Korinke and Walter Coppage.



**ON THE COVER** | Soccer and football student athletes in front of Spratt Memorial Stadium's new video scoreboard. Photo by Patrick P. Evenson.

**SECTIONS**

- 3 Campus News
- 20 Sports
- 31 Alumnotes

**FEATURES**

- 16 **Missouri Western at your service**  
A student organization, an employee and an alumna have found a variety of ways to serve on campus, in Washington, D.C. and in the Philippines.
- 24 **Rockin' Retirement**  
Is retirement in your near future? You might want to check out tips for enjoying your retirement and see how others are making the most of their golden years.



16



20



30

*The Missouri Western Magazine is a publication of the University Advancement Office for alumni and friends of Missouri Western State University and its predecessor institutions.*

**FALL 2016  
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*Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.*

# University will offer MBA in 2017

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education recently authorized the Craig School of Business to begin offering a Master of Business Administration degree in fall 2017.

“This is a very important development in the evolution of our university,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s president. “It will provide a wonderful continuing educational opportunity for many local leaders and business people in our community and beyond.”

Dr. Mike Lane, dean of the Craig School of Business, noted that the

program is accredited by AACSB International, which is the most prestigious business accreditation organization in the world.

Missouri Western will offer three concentrations within the MBA program: forensic accounting, enterprise resource planning, and animal and life sciences. Each concentration will require 18 credit hours of core courses in finance and accounting, marketing, management, analytics and communication, and 12 hours in the concentration area. Classes will be offered in the evening.

The MBA program is the second graduate degree in the Craig School of Business. The school began offering a Master of Information Management in Enterprise Resource Planning in 2014.

For information on the MBA program, contact Logan Jones, director of the program, at (816) 271-4351 or jjones81@missouriwestern.edu.

The MBA is Missouri Western’s 17th master’s degree program. The Graduate School also offers seven graduate certificate programs. For more information on Missouri Western’s advanced degrees, visit [www.missouriwestern.edu/graduate](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/graduate). ■

## | *Western Playhouse* |

Missouri Western’s summer theatre program, Western Playhouse, presented “Fiddler on the Roof” to large audiences in June. The Playhouse recognized Dr. Joseph Friedman '39, who had starred in the production on Broadway and recently passed away.



## Campus Kudos

- A poster created by **Janelle Anderson**, a graphic design major, was accepted for display in the National Student Show and Conference 12, sponsored by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications. Anderson was one of only 14 students nationwide from more than 1,400 entries submitted who had a poster or poster series accepted into the poster category of the exhibition. Anderson's poster, "128 Lives," was a response to the Paris terrorist attacks of Nov. 13, 2015. The poster portrays 128 terrified faces stacked in the shape of the Eiffel Tower.
- Student **Yuko Yamaoka** was selected to attend the 2016 TOMODACHI Daiwa House Student Leadership Conference in Dallas. The conference is for Japanese and American undergraduate and graduate students to come together for leadership and development training.
- **Teresa Harris '82** was Missouri Western's recipient of the 2016 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. Harris, associate professor of art and director of graphic design, received her award at a luncheon with Gov. Jay Nixon in April in Jefferson City, Missouri. In addition to her teaching, Harris's work has been accepted into more than 60 juried international, national and solo exhibitions and has been honored with numerous awards, including a first place at the South Arkansas Arts Center's juried exhibition last year.
- In April 2016, **Colleen Kowich**, director of Alumni Relations, was named the 2015 Kiwanian of the Year by the St. Joseph Kiwanis Club.
- The Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society that was hosted on campus is a finalist for a ChemLuminary Award for Outstanding Regional Meeting. **Dr. Mike Ducey** is the Department of Chemistry chair.
- The Fountain City Brass Band won first place in the Championship Division at the 2016 North American Brass Band Association Competition in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. **Dr. Lee Harrelson**, associate professor of music and department chair, is a founding member of the group. He also conducted the Fountain City Youth Band, an ensemble made up of high schoolers from the Kansas City area that claimed first prize in the Youth Division.
- Twelve graduate students in the Master of Information Management with an Enterprise Resource Planning concentration in the Craig School of Business passed the TERP10 exam and are now SAP Certified Associates. The pass rate was 80 percent; the pass rate for all people taking the exam in 2014 was 69 percent.
- The NCAA and MIAA recognized Griffon Athletics' efforts in the community with an NCAA Division II Award of Excellence. Missouri Western Athletics received an NCAA Division II Award for Excellence for a bone marrow drive that was organized by the Griffon volleyball team this past fall. The team hosted bone marrow donor registrations on campus in support of 3-year-old Kennedy Holcumbrink's battle with leukemia. Holcumbrink's parents were both student athletes at Missouri Western. The team also sold t-shirts during the event with all proceeds benefiting the Ronald McDonald House of Kansas City, Missouri.

- **Jen Bagley Trotter**, Missouri Western's head softball coach, was named a YWCA Woman of Excellence in the Woman in the Workplace category at the YWCA's annual luncheon. Also nominated in the category were employees **Dr. Judy Grimes** and **Annette Weeks '87**.
- **Eliot Swope**, video communications specialist in the Instructional Media Center, received a bronze Telly Award for "Am I Interrupting?" a promotional video he created for the Student Success Center. The Telly Award is the premier award honoring videos and films.
- **Karen Luke** of the Center for Academic Support was named the Student Employment Supervisor of the Year for the 2015-16 academic year.
- The following were recipients of the 2016 Faculty and Staff Awards that are sponsored by the MWSU Foundation:
  - Award for Teaching Excellence: **Rebecca Foley, Dr. Reza Hamzaee, Dr. Jennifer Hegeman** and **Dr. Elise Hepworth**
  - Staff Service to Colleagues Award: **Tracy Sharp '94**
  - Staff Service to Students Award: **Carolyn Schindler**
  - Staff Service to University Award: **Diane Holtz**
  - Dr. James V. Mehl Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship: **Susan Bashinski**
  - Dr. James J. Scanlon Award for Staff Service to Community: **Tara Stoll '00**
  - Dr. James J. Scanlon Award for Faculty Service to Community: **Dr. Maureen Raffensperger** ■

## Student creates museum exhibit

History major Ashley Coats didn't know who Ruth Warrick was when a St. Joseph Museums staff member suggested she create an exhibit about Warrick last spring. But Coats, an intern at the museum, dove in and researched Warrick, and she created an exhibit that opened in June at the Wyeth Tootle Mansion – Fame and Politics: The Life of Ruth Warrick.

And who is Ruth Warrick, you may ask? Most people know the St. Joseph native as Phoebe Tyler on the daytime soap opera "All My Children." She held that role for 35 years until she passed away in 2005 at the age of 88.

But Coats said Warrick was a fascinating personality who was not only a well-known actress in her day, but also very involved in politics. Warrick, who lived in St. Joseph until she was a senior in high school, made her film debut in "Citizen Kane" in 1941, and went on to have roles in several other movies. In the 1950s and 1960s, she had roles in the soap operas "The Guiding Light" and "As the World Turns," and the television series "Father of the Bride" and "Peyton Place."

Coats said Warrick's family donated several boxes of memorabilia to the museum when she passed away, including jewelry, photos, and letters from Presidents Clinton and Carter. She noted that Warrick was also involved in many social causes, such as women's mental health, childhood leukemia and others.

"She used her fame to publicize issues," Coats said. "The more I read, the more I realized it was obvious she cared about people."

The Missouri Western junior said her internship experience included being involved in everything it takes to set up an exhibit, from writing grants to fund it (she received \$1,500 from the Missouri Humanities Council) to research, figuring out what to include and what not to include, drawing a floor plan, designing invitations and buying

supplies for the opening reception, and giving presentations about the exhibit.

"I had so much fun working on it and planning it," Coats said. "The people at the St. Joseph Museums were amazing. They taught me so much."

The exhibit, on the second floor of the Wyeth Tootle Mansion at 11th and Charles in St. Joseph, opened on June 29, which would have been Warrick's 100th birthday.

Coats credits her advisor, Dr. Orion Teal, assistant professor of history, with helping her secure the internship.

"He gave me excellent advice and was very encouraging. I don't really like public speaking, but Dr. Teal made me do it twice," she added with a laugh.

Since she wants to work in a museum or at a historical site after she graduates in December 2017, Coats said she was glad for the internship experience. But the best part was, the St. Joseph Museums director hired her to work part-time when her internship was completed. ■



Ashley Coats

## Missouri Western announces retirees

Congratulations to the 2015-16 retirees. Best wishes for the future!

Dan Eckhoff '91, Business Office, 25 years

Nancy Gray, Purchasing, 32 years

Brenda Griffith, Department of Economics, Political Science and Sociology, 11 years

Stena Hinkle, Department of Psychology, 34 years

Denece Huffman '00, Business Office, 20 years

Karen Keller, Registrar's Office, 32 years

Jeanie Manning, Department of English and Modern Languages, 11 years

Susan Modlin, Physical Plant, 12 years

Greg Monach, Physical Plant, 9 years

Dr. Phil Nitse, Craig School of Business, 5 years

Judy Noland, Library, 20 years

Dr. Dennis Rogers, Department of Music, 37 years

Julia Schneider '67, Library, 44 years

Dr. John Tapia, Department of Communication and Journalism, 40 years

Jamie Willis, Western Institute, 25 years ■

*Thank you for  
your combined  
357 years of  
service!*

## Dr. Mark Laney receives honorary doctorate

Missouri Western conferred its highest honor, an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, on Dr. Mark Laney, CEO of Mosaic Life Care, during the Spring Commencement ceremony May 7. Missouri Western's Board of Governors unanimously approved the honor during its regular meeting Feb. 25.

"Since his arrival in the community seven years ago, Dr. Laney has been a remarkable champion for this University and community," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "His contributions and service to Missouri Western are numerous."

Dr. Vartabedian noted that Dr. Laney and his wife, Mary Margaret, are serving with Dan and Dale Boulware as co-chairs of the Centennial Capital Campaign. Additionally, Mosaic has

generously supported the University's science and health programs.

Under Dr. Laney's leadership, Mosaic Life Care made two significant gifts to Missouri Western: \$500,000 for scientific equipment in Remington and Agenstein halls, and \$1.5 million to create the first endowed professorship in Missouri Western's history. Mosaic also continues to provide substantial in-kind and direct financial support for Missouri Western through shared personnel, scholarships and other means.

Dr. Laney also dedicates his time by serving on boards, including the Innovation Stockyard, the Community Alliance of St. Joseph and the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce. He is a past chair of both the Chamber of Commerce as well as the Missouri Hospital Association. ■



Dr. Mark Laney receives a Doctor of Humane Letters.

## Students educate about suicide prevention

A group of social work students created a suicide awareness and prevention campaign as part of a project in their Social Work Practice III course last fall.

Jana Frye, assistant professor of social work, said a requirement of the class is for students to select a social issue and plan a project around it. Students have come up with some great projects in the past, she said, including the Walk for the Homeless, helping homeless animals and working on the Safe Haven program.

"The class gives them an opportunity to find something they have a passion for and walk through the process of how to fix it," she said.

Last fall, six students wanted to initiate a campus-wide campaign for suicide awareness and prevention. Social work major Dana Stickley said they were all concerned about the

high numbers of suicides in the state, especially among the college-aged group.

They found a 10-minute online training course on Missouri Western's Counseling Center web page, and they decided to encourage the campus community to take the test. The training, Ask Listen Refer, is a statewide college-based program. The center offered three \$100 gift cards to the campus bookstore for a drawing among those who completed the training.

"Most suicides are preventable," Stickley said. "People just have to be aware and notice the signs."

They set up a table in the Blum Union to encourage students to take the online training. A good number stopped to visit with them, but Frye said her students were surprised at the reaction they received from some.

"They were shocked by the number of people who very blatantly said, 'I don't want to talk about it,'" she said. "There is still such a stigma that people can't talk about it. It was quite an aha! moment for the students."

She said going in, the students knew there was a stigma about suicide, but they didn't realize it was that significant.

The group also met with Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, who had created a chart for University personnel to better understand the signs of a suicidal person.

Frye said the students feel like they had some success, but there is a long way to go. "If we can take the stigma of suicide away, we can keep people safe."

Stickley said she hopes a future class will continue to make the campus aware of resources that are available. "There's a lot more to do." ■

## Center for Entrepreneurship serves community

This past spring, the Center for Entrepreneurship in the Craig School of Business partnered with American Family Insurance to offer Entrepreneurship Week, a week-long series of workshops and events for the St. Joseph community. Entrepreneurship Week was targeted toward local business professionals, aspiring entrepreneurs, college students, high school students, and those curious about the skills needed to run a small business. More than 500 participated.

"The purpose of the week was not only to celebrate entrepreneurship, but to offer workshops to help business owners or prospective business owners learn about owning a business," said Annette Weeks '87, director of the Center.

Missouri Western business professors from multiple disciplines offered small, personalized sessions throughout the week. Examples of the sessions included How to Write a Business Plan, Artists as Entrepreneurs, QuickBooks for Beginners, Advanced QuickBooks, Social Media Tools for Small Businesses, Protect Your Business Idea and Using Excel for Beginners.

As part of the week, the MECA Challenge Kansas City Youth Competition for high school students was held on campus. The week ended with a lunch featuring a presentation by Steve Craig. Students had the opportunity to meet with Craig for a question-and-answer session prior to the lunch.

Also this past spring, Weeks conducted a three-day training for members of the new North Central Missouri Business Facilitation group in partnership with Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation. ■



Steve Craig speaks at the lunch to cap off Entrepreneurship Week.

### Center for Entrepreneurship: By the Numbers

- 2 years old
- 250 Clients
- 18 New businesses started
- 7 Expanded businesses
- 10 Retained/Acquisition
- 47 Jobs created
- 30 Jobs retained
- \$6.8 million in estimated new sales
- \$3.1 million in invested capital

All services are free and confidential.

### New franchise owners

Stephanie Tripp '12 and Katie Parra '16 are the newest store owners in the Craig School of Business's franchise program. Parra won first place and will own a Yogli Mogli yogurt franchise in Wheaton, Illinois. Tripp placed second and will open an Auntie Anne's pretzel franchise in the East Hills Mall in St. Joseph, Missouri. Additionally, Allen Hoover '13 will take over operation of the St. Joseph Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Aspen Leaf Yogurt stores. Ernest Chamblee '11, who competed last year and has been operating the stores in St. Joseph, was awarded an RMCF in Woodbridge, Virginia. A celebration dinner was held the evening before the competition with over 120 in attendance. Attendees included 15 owners and their spouses/guests, Frank Crail, RMCF founder and president; his wife, Ruan; Casey Crail, who works for RMCF; and Missouri Western benefactor Steve Craig.



## Gamers enjoy new class offering

A class offered for the first time this past spring might sound like it's just for fun, but the students in the new Game Design class knew that there was a lot more to it.



Peter Britton, assistant professor of art, joined the Missouri Western faculty in the fall of 2015 to teach classes in the digital animation program. He had taught a game design class at a previous university and thought it would be a great class for Missouri Western students. He noted that there is a trend for students wanting to do more game design, and he hopes to offer the class each spring.

Most students said it was a very tough class, but that they enjoyed it, Britton said. Those who had the advanced modeling class had an easier time with the game designing, so he said that class would most likely become a prerequisite for the game design class.

The class used Unreal Engine 4, a suite of game development tools. Britton noted that familiarity with Unreal Engine 4 would prepare students for a job that used any game development tools.

"We were the beta testers for the class," joked digital animation major Adam Carroll, referring to the software

development term for the second phase of software testing where an intended audience tries the product. "I really enjoyed it."

Carroll, from Dearborn, Missouri, said he signed up for the class because he would love to work for a game studio after he graduates. "I now have something to show on my portfolio. Companies want to see your experience."

He was on a team with Kaitlyn Gales and Amanda Francis, who both graduated with digital animation degrees this past May. The three developed a fantasy game set in a medieval castle. Each student planned out a different level: Carroll, a "creepy"

dungeon; Francis, a library, or a wizard study area; and Gales, outdoors, with a courtyard, maze and tower.

"It was a lot of work, but it was a fun class. It was what I expected and then a lot more," Francis said. "Missouri Western gave me the right tools to succeed. They gave me a solid foundation of digital animation."

"We learned a lot of techniques," Carroll said. "Peter Britton knows a lot about what goes into game design; it's a totally different technique for games."

Gales said she took the

class to learn another aspect of digital animation. She would love a career in environmental design, character design, gaming, movies or animation.

"Actually, I'm open to where my degree takes me."

The requirement by the end of the class was to create content and know the process of content creation for games, Britton said.

This past summer, he began working with several students, including Carroll, to create a game. They are continuing to work on it during the academic year and plan to finish it and publish it next summer.

"One of the main hurdles to get into the field is that employers say, 'have you published a game?' With this they can say they have that experience, and it will be a big plus when graduates are trying to get hired," Britton said. ■

Amanda Francis, Kaitlyn Gales and Adam Carroll



## Rotary scholarship fund moves to Foundation

The St. Joseph Eastside Rotary Club established a scholarship fund for Missouri Western students about 40 years ago, and the MWSU Foundation will now assist the service organization with choosing recipients and administering the funds.

Jack Steury, scholarship chair for the group, said it was getting more and more difficult each year to publicize the scholarship and get applicants, so the club recently voted to secure an endowment worth more than \$50,000

with the MWSU Foundation, which will disburse the scholarships through the system already in place for Missouri Western scholarships.

Additionally, by having an endowment fund with the MWSU Foundation, individuals can now donate to the fund and gain a tax benefit, and the club can add to it as well. Steury also noted that the Foundation's investment strategy will generate interest for the fund, and an endowment will ensure that the fund will always be able to provide scholarships.

The group provides scholarships to nontraditional students at Missouri Western with a financial need, and the scholarships are renewable if the applicant re-applies each year. The recipients have been required to attend at least one Eastside Rotary meeting per year to report on their academic progress, and that will continue, as well.

"Giving is in our blood," said Shelly Hulet, president of the St. Joseph Eastside Rotary. "It's the core of what we believe in." ■

## Ambassadors art up atrium

The MWSU Ambassadors' 2016 Night at the Ritz, "Picasso's Night at the Ritz," offered guests a fun and artistic experience while raising money for scholarships for nontraditional students. The Remington Hall atrium on campus was transformed into an art gallery with Picasso reproductions, large murals and

art-related silent auction items. Artist-in-residence Eric Fuson '88 created a large, Picasso-like painting that hung from the second floor mezzanine.

Along with the silent auction, the reception included Spanish tapas, a cash bar, a raffle and a roaming troubadour who serenaded guests in Spanish.

The MWSU Ambassadors hosted Picasso's Night at the Ritz in May.



Those who attended were also given the opportunity to try their hand at reproducing Picasso works. Scholarship recipients from the 2015-16 academic year assisted at the event, and more than \$11,000 was raised for scholarships.

"This year's event was more than a reception with great food and fellowship," said Diane Holtz, MWSU Ambassadors liaison. "It was a fun experience that guests will long remember, and it was all for a good cause."

Next year's Night at the Ritz has been set for Thursday, May 4, and the theme is Night at the Ritz Hall of Fame. It will be held in the Hall of Fame Room in the newly renovated Spratt Memorial Stadium.

The MWSU Ambassadors are a group comprised of campus and community members who serve as a bridge between Missouri Western and the area. The Ambassadors focus on raising money for scholarships for nontraditional students, and since 1989, the group has distributed nearly \$388,000 to more than 620 nontraditional students. ■

# College of Professional Studies snapshot



Evan Ross '16 recently earned a Masters of Applied Science in Assessment – TESOL from Missouri Western. He teaches at Robidoux Middle School in St. Joseph.

## Career preparation

Preparing students for well-defined professional roles is a major hallmark of the College of Professional Studies. Many students selecting majors in Professional Studies have very specific careers in mind, such as a nurse or teacher. In several programs, students must demonstrate their knowledge on licensure or certification examinations to enter the field. Missouri Western graduates maintain high pass rates on these examinations.

## High-demand careers

Teachers, law enforcement and corrections officers, social workers, nurses, physical therapist assistants, fitness, sport, and wellness experts; health information managers; engineering technologists; and the military: these are some of the many high-demand careers for graduates of the College of Professional Studies, led by Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, dean.

## By the numbers

- 5 departments: Criminal Justice, Legal Studies and Social Work; Education; Engineering Technology; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; and School of Nursing and Health Professions
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program since 1971
- 1,750 declared majors and pre-majors
- 15 programs and concentration areas
- Awarded 380 baccalaureate degrees, 31 associate degrees and 33 graduate degrees in 2014-15
- Approximately 70 faculty and staff

## Hands-on learning

- The School of Nursing and Health Professions has a high-tech simulation laboratory where students can practice technical skills and engage in life-like scenarios.
- Engineering Technology students spend significant learning time working with equipment and materials that they will experience in their careers.
- Education students begin interacting in area schools during their sophomore year, applying teaching methods they have learned in the classroom.
- ROTC students engage in weekend drills and summer training camps to complete tactical training exercises and develop leadership and managerial skills.

## New school and program

The School of Nursing and Health Professions was recently established and is housed within the College of Professional Studies. Fiona Sansone '94 was hired as the endowed director of the School's newest program, Population Health Management. Other programs in the school include graduate and undergraduate programs in nursing, and undergraduate programs in health information management and physical therapist assistant.

**“Changes occur rapidly in industries such as health care, construction, manufacturing, criminal justice and legal professions, and our graduates are prepared for the realities of the workforce they will be entering.”**

- Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, dean

## Accreditation

Every department in the College of Professional Studies undergoes review by national accreditation organizations, state regulatory bodies, and national review such as the U.S. Army review of the ROTC program.

## Outstanding faculty

Faculty members in the College of Professional Studies are active in professional organizations and are selected to present at national and international conferences, and publish in peer-reviewed journals. Faculty conference presentations have included many in the United States and in countries such as Canada, China, Philippines, Romania, Turkey and India.

# Department of Education: Preparing Teacher Leaders

Whether it's Common Core, test score accountability or new technology, Dr. Dan Shepherd says Missouri Western's Department of Education is prepared to meet the challenges of change and prepare its students to be great teachers. The assistant professor and chair of the department has seen

**“We steer young people on a path they often didn't know they could go. We love inspiring young people to see the possibilities of what good teaching can mean in the lives of their students. Our department succeeds at that.”**

- Dr. Dan Shepard

“Changes have been fast and furious, but on balance, the changes have been good,” he says.

Dr. Shepherd is in his third year as department chair at Missouri Western. Even with all the changes from state

and federal levels, he and all the education professors love what they do.

“Everyone in the department is passionate about training the next generation of teachers,” he said. “Few things are more important, and we believe in what we do.”

The 12 professors in the department once taught high school, middle school or elementary school, and students say they appreciate their professors' passion, along with hearing examples from their experiences.

Education professors also speak at conferences and write many papers every year. In 2015, Susan Bashinski, associate professor of education, published four articles in three peer-reviewed journals and

published a paper in an international conference's proceedings. She also gave seven presentations of her research on learners with multiple disabilities at conferences in Canada, Chicago, Virginia and Romania.

Currently, there are approximately 400 undergraduate and graduate students seeking degrees in the education field. The department boasts a high placement rate for its graduates, and Dr. Shepherd said he is proud that the majority remain in the region.

Missouri Western's teacher preparation program has been a model for programs across the nation, because students start observing in area schools their sophomore year of college. The amount of time in area schools increases each year and culminates in full-time for 14 weeks of their last semester as a student teacher. Under the classroom teacher's supervision, the Missouri Western student does everything the classroom teacher would do.

Dr. Shepherd noted that students additionally spend time in area classrooms for their reading methods, math methods, special education and early childhood courses.

“We steer young people on a path they often didn't know they could go,” Dr. Shepherd said. “We love inspiring young people to see the possibilities of what good teaching can mean in the lives of their students. Our department succeeds at that.” ■



Kaleb Johnson '15 was hired at Lindbergh Elementary School in St. Joseph shortly before he graduated with his elementary education degree.

## Education student coordinates math camp

This past summer, elementary education major Amanda Harris thought it would be great if she could work with children and practice what she was learning in her math methods class, but the elementary schools' summer school schedule didn't line up with the Missouri Western class. As a foster parent of five, Harris knows how children who don't understand a math lesson feel and the peril of falling behind in math.

"I know a lot of kids are behind in math, and I thought we should do a math camp," said Harris, who is earning her degree online and at classes at Missouri Western's Kansas City Northland location. Her professor, Charlotte Foster, thought it was a great idea and asked her to coordinate it. Harris readily agreed.

She created flyers and distributed them to area libraries and was happy with the response – 19 children from kindergarten to sixth-grade, including six home-schooled children, enrolled in the free math camp that was held June 1-30 at the Northland location.

Harris, with help from fellow student Cristina Contreras, organized and planned the program for each day. Harris purchased one of the "necessities" – snacks – and Foster agreed to purchase the second "necessity" – t-shirts.

The Missouri Western course was three hours a day Monday through Friday in June, and the elementary students attended the last 90 minutes every day. The young children worked on math problems and received one-on-one tutoring from the college students. The first day Harris planned a mini-assessment for each student, and on subsequent days, campers reviewed what they had learned in the past year and worked on the math skills they will learn in the coming year.

Harris said they received great feedback from both the parents and



Missouri Western students Mayra Pingleton and Katie Keith work with one of the youth who attended a month-long math camp at the Northland campus. The camp was organized and run by Missouri Western education students.

children. Some of the parents said they didn't really want to sign their children up for summer school because they were only behind in math, so they really appreciated the exclusive focus on math skills.

"The kids were excited and the parents were thankful," Harris said.

She said she really benefited from the camp, as well. Going into the methods course, she wasn't comfortable explaining some of the math concepts to the older elementary students. But

by the end of the camp, she had gained a lot of confidence from working with students at all levels.

When Harris advertised the camp for June 1-30, she didn't realize the college course ended June 23. But she still held it until the 30th, planning some extra fun activities and ice cream for the last week.

"I'm so glad it turned out well," she said. "It was better than I imagined. I hope it will continue." ■

### Engineering Honors Three

Brenten Davis speaks at the 2016 Engineering Technology Advancement Committee annual banquet, where he received the Student Excellence Award. Also honored at the banquet were Altec Inc. employees Tom Richmond and Wade Wetlaufer, recipients of the Engineering Technology Excellence Award.



# WALTER CRONKITE MEMORIAL NEWS

## Walter Cronkite Memorial launches third performance

The Walter Cronkite Memorial recently debuted its third live, multimedia performance – "King & Cronkite," which features the words of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and the reflections of Cronkite on the civil rights movement.

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, conceived the show and wrote the script.

That show, along with "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons" and "Cronkite" create a trilogy titled "And That's the Way It Is: Cronkite's Journey." The shows, approximately 22 minutes each, have been created by staff in the Instructional Media Center and the Western Institute. Tara Stoll '00 and Jake Kelly '08 of the IMC run the live shows.

Three equity actors, all from the Kansas City, Missouri area, perform in the shows: Jim Korinke plays Cronkite, Ken Remmert plays Truman, and Walter Coppage plays King.

The following performances have been scheduled for the shows:

- Sept. 23, "And That's The Way It Is: Cronkite's Journey," 7:30 p.m., New York City.
- Sept. 25, "Cronkite," 2:30 p.m., Newseum's Knight TV Studio Performance Venue, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 4 and 5, 100th anniversary of Walter Cronkite's birth, Walter Cronkite Memorial on campus.



Niel Johnson, Jim Korinke and Ken Remmert pose at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri. "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons" was performed there for more than 150 people, including Clifton Truman Daniel, Truman's grandson. Johnson is a reenactor for the presidential museum and library. Korinke plays Cronkite, and Remmert plays Truman in "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons." Missouri Western artist-in-residence Eric Fuson '88 created an exhibit for the museum that examined the parallel lives of Truman and Cronkite and featured Cronkite's Lifetime Achievement Award and a Thomas Hart Benton painting, both courtesy of the Cronkite family.

## Press Association visits Memorial

The Northwest Missouri Press Association held its annual meeting at Missouri Western, and members were treated to a talk about the history of the Memorial and a personal tour from Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. They also viewed "Harry & Walter: Missouri's Native Sons." ■

## Object spotlight

In March 2016, the Memorial accepted a loan of hundreds of objects from the Cronkite family, which are currently undergoing the inventory process. Among the new objects is an American flag that was flown in space. It was given to Walter Cronkite as a gift of appreciation from a former NASA administrator in 2001. ■



# CENTENNIAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: TRANSFORMING LIVES

## CAMPAIGN BUILDS MOMENTUM



Students in the School of Fine Arts were excited to see a spruced-up Potter Hall when they returned from summer break this fall.

The hall, which is a focus of the Centennial Capital Campaign and home of the School of Fine Arts, received

several improvements in the common areas – hallways were painted, and new ceiling tiles and carpeting were installed. Not readily visible but important just the same, there were improvements to the heating and air conditioning systems.

The upgrades are laying the groundwork for the next phases of the Potter Hall project – a \$5 million classroom renovation and expansion and a \$10 million addition of a performance facility and lobby.

Jerry Pickman '85, vice president for University Advancement and executive director of the MWSU Foundation, noted that fundraising is still underway for the

next phases, but the work already done provides momentum for the next steps.

“We’re very excited about the progress of our Centennial Capital Campaign to date,” Pickman said. “We appreciate our donors’ support and look forward to future improvements to Potter Hall.”

The updates were provided by state funding that was earmarked for capital improvements in common areas, the donation of the 2015-16 dues from the Missouri Western Arts Society and private campaign contributions that were designated for the Potter Hall project. Pickman noted that work in Potter Hall will proceed as funds are donated to the Missouri Western State University Foundation.

To support the Potter Hall project and the Centennial Capital Campaign, call Kim Weddle '00, director of Development, at (816) 271-5648. ■



## FACULTY AWARD MOVES TOWARD ENDOWMENT

Jan Mehl recently gave a gift to the Missouri Western State University Foundation to begin the process of endowing the Missouri Western Foundation James V. Mehl Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship.

Mehl was a long-time faculty member and chair of the Department of Communication Studies, Theatre and

Humanities. When he died in 1998, the James Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholar Award was established in his memory. It has been given to a faculty member every year since.

Director of Development Kim Weddle '00 said the Foundation has been supporting the award since it began, but Jan Mehl wanted to make

sure it was endowed so the award would always be given. She pledged \$4,000 to begin with and hopes to add to it to enable it to reach the \$10,000 endowment requirement. If anyone is interested in donating a gift to the fund to help it reach its endowment, please contact Weddle at (816) 271-5648 or weddle@missouriwestern.edu. ■

### *Foundation Appreciation Reception*

Approximately 200 attended the MWSU Foundation's appreciation reception in the spring. Pictured at the event are left, Teresa Harris '82 and Julie Woods '96, a member of the Foundation Board of Directors; and right, Kelly and Kathy '92 Crawford. The reception featured a showcase of student work and research.



## DONORS ESTABLISH THREE NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Three families have recently established scholarships with gifts to the MWSU Foundation.

Karen '76 and Mark Kerford established the Kerford Family Education Scholarship, Pete Burchett established the Harold “Pete” and Betty Burchett ROTC Scholarship, and Michael and Mary Plumly of Cary, North Carolina established the John (Jack) and Dorothy Carmody Scholarship.

The Kerford scholarship is in honor of Catherine, Edmonia and Doris Kerford. Catherine and Edmonia spent their entire careers teaching in St. Joseph, and Doris taught in Kansas City.

Karen, who also taught for 33 years in St. Joseph, said she and Mark wanted the scholarship to benefit Missouri Western juniors and seniors who are education majors to assist them in finishing their degrees. The Kerfords donated \$10,000 to endow the scholarship and ensure that it will always be available to help students. Preference is given to applicants who have graduated from high schools in St. Joseph.

She hopes that former students will want to add to the scholarship fund as a tribute to the Kerford teachers.

Burchett, who served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, established the scholarship for ROTC cadets in the Military Science program at Missouri Western. His wife, Betty, passed away in April 2015. Burchett plans to regularly contribute until the scholarship reaches the endowed \$10,000 level.

Applicants must be a full-time student and a participating cadet in the ROTC program with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

The third scholarship was established for full-time incoming freshmen or sophomores in the manufacturing engineering technology program.

The Carmody family lived in St. Joseph, Missouri for 16 years, where Jack was the manager of the Peachtree Windows and Doors St. Joseph plant. Dorothy worked for East Hills Shopping Center management and the American Heart Association. When he retired, Jack was a substitute auto mechanics teacher at Hillyard Technical Center, so preference will be given to scholarship applicants who attended Hillyard.

For information about establishing a scholarship for Missouri Western students, contact Kim Weddle '00, director of development, at (816) 271-5648. ■

### *University's First Ladies' Legacy Scholarship*



Joslyn Spears, a May 2016 graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, is the first recipient of the University's First Ladies' Legacy Scholarship. She received it for her last semester. The scholarship is an endowed fund created in 2015 in memory of Dorsey Looney and Lauren Scanlon. It was established by a gift from Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian for nontraditional students. Other private donors have given to the fund as well.

## PHONATHON CALLED A SUCCESS

Missouri Western's 2015-16 phonathon to support Missouri Western's Annual Fund was a great success, according to Rachel Graves '03, development officer.

More than \$82,000 was pledged, which included 154 new donors. Additionally, 280 alumni gave a second gift to the Annual Fund through the phonathon.

“We truly appreciate all the support from our generous alumni and supporters throughout the phonathon,” Graves said.

“Gifts to the Annual Fund truly benefit our students.”

She noted that the money raised is used to fund scholarships, student programs, bringing guest scholars to

campus, supporting students to present their research at conferences, and more.

The 2016-17 phonathon will begin this month. Thank you in advance for your support! ■



# Missouri Western at your service

Since its earliest beginnings, Missouri Western has been a great community partner when it comes to volunteering. Whether it's students, alumni or employees, community service is a cornerstone of Missouri Western's mission. ■

## Sigma Alpha Iota: Service and song

Appreciating music and performing community service go hand in hand for one organization on campus. Sigma Alpha Iota, an international music fraternity, made sure that community service was an integral part of their mission last year. For their efforts, they were awarded the 2016 Excellence in Philanthropy Award from the MWSU Foundation. The group's advisor, Carol Hare, also received the Outstanding Advisor award from the Student Government Association.

"Our national objective is 'service through music and community,' and we thought it was important to branch out into the community," said Maddie Marx, an elementary education major from Kansas City, Missouri who served as president of the fraternity last year.

Last fall, the group met and decided to add a service requirement to their goals, and each of the 10 members was required to complete five hours of community service per semester.

"We really didn't need to make it a requirement," Marx said. "We all like to do community service."

By the end of the academic year, the group had logged 199 service hours volunteering at the Department of Music's Madrigal Feaste, visiting nursing homes, working in the campus food pantry, ushering at theatre events and helping out at a Girl Scout merit badge day. The women also raised funds for their national philanthropy, People to People.

"It's good for college students to get out in the community and do service,"



Marissa Sunderland and Maddie Marx accept the MWSU Foundation's Excellence in Philanthropy Award from board member Pat Dillon.

**"We really didn't need to make it a requirement. We all like to do community service."**

- Maddie Marx, president, Sigma Alpha Iota

said Marissa Sunderland, a psychology major from Kearney, Missouri who is currently serving as the group's president. "It makes you feel like you accomplish something, and it's so rewarding."

The fraternity also held a 35th anniversary party to celebrate when it started on campus, and they learned about their history from alumni, some of them charter members, who attended. ■

## MWSU Community Service Facts

- Students and employees give more than 120,000 hours of community service each year.
- Every year, Missouri Western hosts more than 5,000 elementary, middle or high school students on campus for workshops, camps and clinics.
- Last year, Missouri Western hosted more than 13,500 guests for conferences, camps, events and meetings.
- Missouri Western has hosted both its Lifetime Sports Academy for children and the Chemathon for high schoolers since 1973.

Missouri Western at your service

## Tara Stoll '00: Advocating in Washington, D.C.

An alumna who is also a Missouri Western employee spent two days in Washington, D.C. this past spring advocating for those with Down Syndrome.

Tara Stoll, the video communications producer in the Instructional Media Center, was invited to be part of a group from the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City, an organization that provides support and resources for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families. She has been a member and a volunteer since her daughter, Olivia, was born with Down Syndrome in 2008.

"I felt empowered. I felt like I was making a difference for my family," Stoll said. "The energy in that city is amazing."

The trip was part of the annual National Down Syndrome Society's Buddy Walk on Washington Advocacy Conference. On the first day, Stoll and others from across the United States met with the national group to learn

about the legislative agenda and asks for this year. On the second day, she visited legislators' offices.

"It was great because it was national. Every state has its own issues, but we can all come together and agree on the things that can help," she said.

Staff members in the offices she visited were friendly and supportive of her cause, she said.

The advocacy focus this year was to ask legislators to co-sponsor the bipartisan ABLÉ to Work Act to increase the amount of yearly assets that a disabled person receiving federal benefits and is employed can save in an ABLÉ account. The ABLÉ (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act that was passed in 2014

made a tax-free savings account available to individuals with disabilities, and the ABLÉ to Work Act will raise the annual

contribution limit for those who work and earn an income.

Stoll said she also spent time educating staff in the Washington offices about Down Syndrome.

"We try to squash those old stereotypes about what Down Syndrome means," Stoll said. "We're just trying to live our lives like everyone else. Our kids might be different, but they deserve a chance at independence."

She said she would love to return for the Buddy Walk on Washington next year and advocate again for those with Down Syndrome.

"I have endless energy when it comes to advocating for my kids." ■

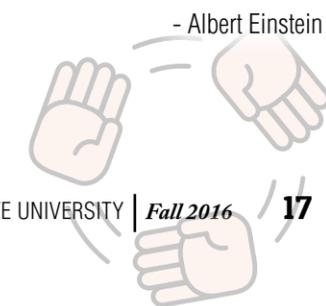
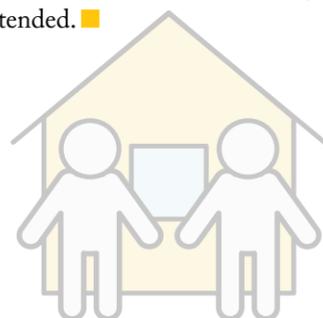


Tara Stoll '00 in Washington, D.C.



**"Only a life lived for others is a lifeworthwhile."**

- Albert Einstein



## Cayetana Maristela '09: Building a library

When Cayetana Maristela '09 left her hometown of Pililla in the province of Rizal, Philippines in 1974, the city of approximately 60,000 had no library. Every time she visited since, she kept thinking she would see a library. Finally, in 2011, she decided that if she wanted a library there, she would have to build it herself. And that's just what she did.

She took a sabbatical from her job and returned to Pililla in July 2014. In February 2015, her long-time dream of a library for the children of Pililla came true, thanks to Maristela, her brother, her brother's friends who helped build it, and many, many people who donated books. (The children learn English in their schools, so the books are written in English.)

Maristela graduated from Missouri Western with a Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing and is a

teacher for English language learners at Indian Creek and Redbridge elementary schools in Kansas City, Missouri.

She has been shipping books that were donated to her relatives in Pililla for the past five years. The books were donated by families from her schools and her fellow parishioners at St. Francis Xavier Parish in St. Joseph, Missouri. She also received funding from her church to pay to ship several boxes of the books.

At first, Maristela thought they could use one of the buildings on her family's property in Pililla for a library. However, her brother, an architectural engineer in Indiana, deemed the building unsafe. It was demolished, and a new building for the library was built on the site, thanks to funding from Maristela and her brother.

The property offers room for children to run, and there is even a small kitchen so they can serve snacks to those who visit. Also, the one-story library was built

with the idea that a second floor could be added in the future. Hopefully, in the near future, she says.

Currently, Maristela's cousin and her niece run the library, holding story hour, arts and crafts, and tutoring every day when school is out for the summer, March to early June.

As a long-time teacher, Maristela knows the importance of books and the value of reading, and she couldn't rest until her hometown had a library. And if children don't return a book, that's okay, she says. "I think they probably needed that book."

This past July, Maristela returned to Pililla to make sure things are going well at the library. She says she would like to obtain funding to hire someone to cook healthy snacks or a light lunch, and other needs vary: sometimes she needs books, sometimes she needs funds to ship the books. Maristela says she would love to see volunteers from the United States work in the library as part of a mission trip.

But no matter what, thanks to Cayetana Maristela, Pililla now has a library. ■

**In February 2015, her long-time dream of a library for the children of Pililla came true, thanks to Maristela, her brother, her brother's friends who helped build it, and many, many people who donated books.**

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*

- Winston Churchill



## Brett Goodwin '98: Championship Coach

In today's world of "everyone is a winner," and everyone gets a trophy for participating, a St. Joseph high school girls' basketball team showed the state what a true winner and a real champion looks like. And a Missouri Western alumnus coached them every step of the way.

In March 2016, Benton High School girls' basketball team, guided by Coach Brett Goodwin '98, won the Class 4 state championship and finished with an undefeated 31-0 season.

"It was a lot of luck, but we worked incredibly hard for it," Goodwin said. "The girls put in the time and effort it takes to have a season like that."

It was about midway through the 2015-16 season that Goodwin said he began to believe the team might see a repeat of the 30-0 2006-07 season, except he knew that this team could play a total of 31 games.

"This is a rare thing. When we did it in 2006-07, I said there will never be another undefeated season," Goodwin said. "That just doesn't happen. But the way we were able to do it again made it that much more remarkable."

The championship game against the Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School was nothing short of amazing. Goodwin's #6 player, a freshman, was injured in the semi-final game, and one of the starters was injured five minutes into the championship game.

The game went into double overtime before the Benton girls sealed the deal. Goodwin noted that his two seniors scored 34 of the 42 points in the championship game.

"We were two kids down and we found a way."

One of the first to give him a hug when the game was won was his daughter, who is a cheerleader for Benton. Goodwin said that made the moment more special.

Goodwin played both baseball and basketball as a freshman at Benton High School, but focused on basketball for the next

three years. In his senior year, the basketball team lost in triple overtime in the quarterfinals to miss out on a trip to state. That makes winning the championship twice and making it to state four times as a coach extra sweet, he said.

Goodwin transferred to Missouri Western from Graceland in Iowa to play basketball for longtime Missouri Western Coach Tom Smith. The team played in the NCAA tournament two years and had three seasons with 21-plus wins.

Goodwin said he appreciated his high school basketball coach Mike Ziesel, Graceland coach Rich Harrop, and Smith, who each brought different strengths to their coaching. He said he learned from each and applied the lessons to his own style.

"My days at Missouri Western are still very dear to me. I wouldn't be where I am today without them." ■



Coach Brett Goodwin '98

## Coming Events

**Sept. 13** | 23rd annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues featuring political commentator Cokie Roberts, "Insider's View of the 2016 Presidential Election," 10 a.m. in the M.O. Looney Complex, free and open to the public.

**Sept. 17** | Griffons vs. Central Missouri, Family Day  
Golden Griffon Marching Band reunion

**Oct. 1** | Griffons vs. Northeastern State, Hall of Fame Game

**Oct. 14** | Alumni Golf Outing  
Alumni Awards Banquet

**Oct. 14-16 & 20-22** | "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" student theatre performance, Potter Hall Theater

**Oct. 15** | Homecoming parade, Arts, Beats and Treats, reunions, and game vs. Pittsburg State University (see brochure)

**Nov. 3** | 48-Hour Film Festival screening, open to the public.

**Nov. 5** | Griffons vs. Emporia State, Senior Day

**Dec. 1-4** | "Blur" student theatre performance, Kemper Recital Hall, Spratt Hall

See [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com) for all fall sports schedules.

See [missouriwestern.edu/alumni](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni) for event details.

See [mwsutix.com](http://mwsutix.com) for theatre production times and tickets.

# Video scoreboard: Go big or go home



It's big and it's on campus. Missouri Western is now the home of one of the largest video scoreboards of all schools in NCAA Division II.

Back in June, eight flatbed trailers caravanned from Corona, California to St. Joseph with the video scoreboard components. The St. Joseph News-Press and KNPB even sent a reporter, Alex Flippin, to travel with the trucks and report live on the road. After overnight stops in Las Vegas and Silverthorne, Colorado (where they visited alumni entrepreneurs), the components arrived on June 9, where a press conference and celebration were held.

Steve Craig, founder and CEO of Craig Realty Group who contributed \$1.1 million of the estimated \$2.6 million project, coordinated the caravan and was on hand for the celebration when it arrived on campus. Also attending were Alex Birner and Louis Troiani from MultimediaLED, the group that conceived and engineered the design of the scoreboard.

## Missouri Western's Video Scoreboard Facts:

- One of the largest video scoreboards in NCAA Division II and larger than Faurot Field's board at the University of Missouri
- Largest scoreboard in the MIAA
- 2,500 square-foot display
- Missouri Western becomes one of nine MIAA members to have a video board at its football facility
- Craig's gift is the largest by an individual in the history of Griffon Athletics

"Steve Craig's mantra, 'Go big or go home,' has guided the entire video board process from its very beginning," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "We are so grateful for his vision and support, and proud to



have such an outstanding addition to the stadium."

Private donors have pledged the rest of the cost through the Centennial Capital Campaign. The video board debuted Sept. 1, when Griffon football hosted University of Nebraska-Kearney. ■

# 2016 Athletics Hall of Fame Class announced

Seven former student athletes will be inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame class of 2016: Michael Cobbins '07, George Hayward '75, Jill (Johnson) Brock '08, Eric Keeler, Sherri (Lang) Pendergras '02, Eric McDowell '04 and Lindsey (Predovich) Christenson '07. All seven will be inducted during a banquet on Sept. 30 and will receive their rings during a ceremony at halftime of the Oct. 1 football game against Northeastern State.

Cobbins was a three-time first-team All-MIAA defensive lineman for the Griffon football team. He was named honorable mention All-American by Don Hansen Football Gazette in 2005 and 2006 and D2Football.com in 2006. He ranks second all-time at Missouri Western with 50 career tackles for loss. Cobbins was a captain on the team

for three seasons, including Missouri Western's first-ever Division II Playoff team in 2006.

Hayward is being recognized for Meritorious Service. He lettered three times on the football team between 1970 and 1974 and once on the baseball team. He went on to spend 42 years as a football official. After 17 years in Division I and II, he served as an NFL official for 25 years. His career there included 23 playoff games, four league championship games and Super Bowl XLI. In all, Hayward worked 425 NFL games before retiring after this past season. Throughout his career, Hayward has continued to serve as an ambassador for Missouri Western and has been a longtime member of the Gold Coat Victory Club.

Brock was a four-year standout for the women's basketball program, earning All-MIAA honors three times. She was also named to the MIAA All-Academic team each of those three seasons. In 2008, she was named second team Daktronics All-South Central Region. She ranks fifth all-time at Missouri Western with 1,472 career points. Her 330 made free throws are fourth all-time, and her 734 career rebounds are sixth.

Keeler was an integral part of beginning an unprecedented run of success for the men's basketball program. Following the 1996-97 season, he was named first-team All-MIAA and second-team NABC/Sears All-South Central Region. He led the team in scoring both seasons, averaging 14.8 points per game in 1995-96 and 18.2 in 1996-97. Keeler finished third in the MIAA that season with 4.9 assists per game and 2.0 steals per contest. He

also helped lead his team to the NCAA Division II tournament.

Pendergras was a member of the 1997 and 1998 volleyball teams that went a combined 46-21. She was named first-team All-MIAA both seasons and the MIAA Commissioner's Academic team following the 1998 season. She led the team in kills both seasons, with 486 in 1997 and 464 in 1998. Her 3.66 kills per set in 1998 rank third all-time at Missouri Western.

McDowell transformed from walk-on to All-American at defensive end, eventually breaking the career sacks record at Missouri Western. He earned first-team All-MIAA honors in 2001 and 2003 and was also a second-team Don Hansen All-American both seasons. McDowell was twice named All-Region. His 15 sacks in 2003 are still a school record, and his 41 career tackles for loss are fourth all-time.

Christenson was a standout player for the softball team and a member of the program's first-ever NCAA Regional qualifier in 2006. She was a two-time first-team All-MIAA selection, as a designated player in 2004 and a utility player in 2006. She was named MIAA Freshman of the Year in 2004 after earning MIAA Player of the Week honors twice. In 2005 and 2006, Christenson was named second-team NFCA All-Region as a designated player. Her name appears all over the record book as career leader in games played (238), games started (236), at bats (751) and RBIs (164). Her 252 career hits, 56 career doubles and 383 total bases are second all-time. In the circle, Christenson ranks second all-time with 545 strikeouts. ■

## Softball sweeps MIAA championships in record-breaking season



2016 softball championship team

It's customary for Griffon softball to have an outstanding season, but the 2016 Griffons exceeded expectations. Picked to finish fourth in the MIAA, Coach Jen Trotter's team earned both the MIAA regular season and tournament championships, finishing the season 45-13.

The team's 23 MIAA wins were the most ever for the program and tied for the most ever in MIAA history. The Griffons' 45 wins was the third most in program history, and the team broke program records for doubles, runs scored and RBIs. Nine Griffons were named All-MIAA, the second most in program history, and Trotter picked up her fourth

MIAA Coach of the Year award. She also earned her 500th win this season.

Third baseman Katie Klosterman was named first-team All-MIAA, first-team NFCA All-Region and MIAA Co-defensive Player of the Year. Morgan Rathmann, center, was named first-team All-MIAA and second-team NFCA All-Region. Both started in all 58 games. Taylor Hamilton was named second-team NFCA All-Region.

The season ended with a 2-2 weekend at the NCAA Division II Central Regional where the team fell in the championship game to Southern Arkansas University. ■

## Coach Verduzco reaches 500; baseball earns third regional appearance

In his 17th season leading Griffon baseball, Coach Buzz Verduzco reached his 500th win on May 14 at the MIAA Tournament. The Griffons defeated Emporia State 6-5 to earn the longtime coach his milestone. The next day, the team earned a spot in the MIAA Tournament Championship game.

With the program's second most wins ever, 38, the Griffons earned their third-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Central Regional. The team was knocked out of the regional by top seeded St. Cloud State University, but broke a number of offensive records along the way.

Eleven Griffons were also named All-MIAA with four adding NCAA

## Athletics adds six new sports

At its June 2016 meeting, the Board of Governors approved the addition of six new sports to Missouri Western's athletics program: men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, and men's and women's cross country. The sports will begin competing in 2017-18.

The addition of the six sports involves funding 18 scholarships and hiring a head coach, assistant coach and three graduate assistants. Because NCAA Division II relies on a partial-scholarship model to administer athletics-based financial aid, the additional expenses are projected to be offset by the increase in tuition and fee revenue from up to 70 additional student athletes. ■



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Division All-Region honors. David Glaude was named first-team All-MIAA, first-team All-Region, and second-team All-American by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers. He was twice named MIAA Hitter of the Week. Landon Mason was named first-team All-MIAA and second-team All-Region. ■

## Women's golf competes at national championship

It was a season for the ages – the Griffon women's golf team qualified for the Division II National Championships in Aurora, Colorado. The team finished 12th at the national event with outstanding freshman Shi Qing Ong finishing tied for 34th, individually.

The team made history when it earned its first-ever bid to the NCAA Division II Central Regional, also. There, the Griffons won a playoff to finish third and qualify for nationals. Ong was named MIAA Freshman of the Year, first team All-MIAA, and All-Region. Madison Romjue and Celine Lim were named honorable mention All-MIAA. Greg Dillon is head coach. ■



2016 women's golf team

## Great season for Griffon tennis

A record-breaking 2014-15 campaign for Griffon tennis was eclipsed by another in 2015-16. First-year coach Shawn Becker led the team to a 10-6 overall record with a 5-5 mark in MIAA play. The team finished sixth in the MIAA standings and qualified for the MIAA Tournament for the second straight season. Three Griffons were named Honorable Mention All-MIAA. ■

## Illum joins football coaching team

The Griffons hired former Evangel University head coach Brenton Illum to guide their defensive line, but head coach Jerry Partridge '86 will serve as defensive coordinator.

Illum had served as defensive coordinator under Missouri Western's current offensive coordinator, Todd Throckmorton, when he was head coach at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. ■

## Jordan and Thorup honored at banquet

Griffon football's Michael Jordan was named Male Student Athlete of the Year and volleyball's Jessie Thorup Female Student Athlete of the Year at the 17th Annual MWSU/St. Joseph News-Press Student-Athlete Honors Banquet.

The two were selected from 11 nominees who were named for each sport: Yasmine El Ghazi (women's tennis), Ryan Hand (men's golf), Shi Qing Ong (women's golf), Leslie Grier

(cheer squad), Janie Smith (softball), Cosimo Cannella (baseball), Sydney Andrews (soccer), Kevin Thomas (men's basketball) and Sarafina Handy (women's basketball).

The Tom Smith Career Achievement Award went to Jordan and Yomi Alli (football), Raphael Spencer (football), Jordan Chohon and Thorup (volleyball) and LaQuinta Jefferson (women's basketball). ■

Student Athletes of the Year Michael Jordan and Jessie Thorup with Athletic Director Kurt McGuffin



# Rockin' retirement

## Making the most of your golden years

### Tips for a happy retirement

**Claudia (Hinton) James '89** says when you're thinking about retirement and how you will fill your days, think about Steven Covey, known for his bestseller, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." The author has also written about how to determine your purpose in life and how to create a personal mission statement.

James, who is a presenter/curriculum developer and owner of James Educational Meetings and Seminars, Inc., says retirement should be an extension of your personal mission statement, "an expression of who you are. You need to figure out your heart's desire."

Like many people, she had to think about her retirement sooner than she expected when the recession caused a downturn for her business. James says she wasn't ready to retire, and she went through a slump.

"I was forced into looking at myself and my life and what I wanted to do," she said. "I thought, 'What do I want the next 10 years to look like?'"

She decided to semi-retire and start working on her bucket list, which includes learning more about photography, traveling with People to People and traveling in general, and volunteering with civic groups. "I want to utilize my skills to give back."

James notes that "making the most of retirement" looks different for each person.

"It all comes back to the continuity of life. People need a personal mission and purpose," she says. "You have to know yourself and position yourself throughout your life based on who you are. I'd definitely encourage people to take that spiritual journey that Covey suggests."

#### Galen Clark '54

Editor's note: Shortly after the centennial issue of the Missouri Western Magazine came out in January 2015, Galen Clark '54, sent me an email: "When I turned to page three my eyes were immediately drawn to the photo at the lower left. I never knew that the Junior College had a ukulele band. When I showed the photo to my wife she remarked, 'That's just like your ukulele banjo.' If you can find out the date or any other information about the photo on page three, I would like to read about it."

The photo was from the 1921 yearbook, and the caption information was fairly slim: "Uke Club." I emailed Clark back and told him I couldn't find



any more information about it. Shortly after, I received the following article from him:

#### Ukuleles are still hot!

"The Ukulele Club photo in the centennial issue caught my eye. Several of the young women were holding ukulele banjos – and I have one! And I play it daily. For several years I have played in senior citizen's ukulele groups and often carry a ukulele with me when I attend church meetings. My dentist also plays and she attends the same congregation my wife and I do. We discovered a deacon in the church also plays. Approaching our pastor, we asked for a room where we could practice and invite others to join us. We pitched it as a fellowship opportunity and a learning experience. Our pastor jumped on the suggestion and we found the church's music director wanted us to form a group.

At our first meeting we had people who didn't have a ukulele but who wanted to learn. And people keep showing up to join us. I'm the only retiree. Besides the dentist we have a CPA, a school teacher, a church elder, a church trustee, choir members and a teenager.

So far we have accompanied the church choir, presented special music for worship services, provided the music for one of the Christmas Eve services, and led the worship service.

Uke Club from the 1921 Griffon Yearbook



Finally, several other members of the group are so captivated by my little ukulele banjo that they are acquiring one, too!"

Galen added that he retired in 1998 and moved to Texas when his wife, Diane, got a new job there. He did some consulting work until she retired and then they both did consulting together for a few years.

"I fiddle some (every Sunday afternoon at a local venue IF I want) and play in the local senior citizens ukulele group, as well as at the church," Galen said. "I volunteer one morning a week in the church office doing whatever the administrative assistant needs done, and I lead chapel for the Parents Day Out kids."

#### Dr. Jerry Aschermann

Dr. Jerry Aschermann, professor emeritus who taught in the Department of Education from 1971 to 2004, sent the following about his interesting retirement activity:



Dr. Jerry Aschermann

"What do retired professors do other than sitting around reading books? For several years, I was busy gardening and downsizing that included moving from St. Joseph to Union, Kentucky (15 minutes from downtown Cincinnati).

In 2012, an opportunity was presented by the McLain Association for Children, an organization that has a

number and variety of programs in the Republic of Georgia (macgeorgia.org).

I traveled to Dzevri, Georgia in 2013, 2014, and 2015, and plan to return this fall, helping English teachers teach English and offering teacher education assistance. Georgia wants to join Western Europe and the U.S., but to do so they need to discard their Soviet/Russian occupation of 70 years and the learning of Russian. Learning English is a necessity.

A problem exists because the teachers of English only know 'book English,' and many do not know the correct pronunciation of English words nor everyday conversational English. So, my task has been to work with students and teachers in learning verbal English."

#### Lorrie Beck '81

Lorrie Beck '81 spent her entire career serving others, and that didn't change when she retired in 2014.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Leisure Management - Outdoor Recreation, Beck spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho, Africa. Combined with an internship while a student, her volunteerism helped her secure a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that turned into a three-decade public service career.

In 1993, she began working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and was stationed in Missouri, Alaska, Kansas and Colorado throughout her career. She retired in 2014 to care for her mother, Shirley Beck '71.

One of the main recipients of Lorrie's volunteer time has been Habitat for Humanity. In 1997, she was driving to Florida and decided to visit a demonstration site for Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia. Since then, she has

traveled to South Africa, India, Mongolia, Thailand, Haiti, Peru and all over the U.S. to work on Habitat homes, one week at a time.

"When I'd be talking to kids in my job about nature, we'd talk about habitats," she said. "I was trying to save animal habitats and I realized that habitats for humans were important, too. Folks don't do well without a decent place to live."

She currently lives in Wichita, Kansas and serves on its Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors.

This past summer, Lorrie volunteered three weeks for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., and also worked a week with the Carter Work Project in Memphis, Tennessee, which is part of Habitat for Humanity.

"I always try to have my vacations include a component of giving back," she said.

Lorrie is also an avid volunteer for Kansas Food Bank's Food 4 Kids program, the Birthday Backpack program, Wichita Alternative Gift Market (alternativegifts.org), and her church.

When she was growing up, Lorrie's father was in the military so the family moved quite a bit. When it was time to go to college, the family was living in Gower, Missouri. Lorrie enrolled at Missouri Western, but she took some time off after her first year. She returned when her sister, Denise Beck '81, started attending. Denise graduated with an accounting degree and recently retired after a 34-year career with DuPont. She assists Lorrie in the care of their mother.

"I really had a great time at Missouri Western," said Lorrie, who played softball, basketball and volleyball.

"I loved the coaches. We were a close-knit family." ■



# Yevgeniy Kondratenko '03: Engineering excellence

For Dr. Yevgeniy Kondratenko '03, his experience in graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign made him realize that he had received a great undergraduate education in the Department of Chemistry at Missouri Western.

After graduation, Dr. Kondratenko was accepted into the PhD program in chemical engineering at the University of Illinois, which was ranked in the top 10 in the nation. He said he had to catch up a little because his undergraduate degree was in chemistry and the graduate degree was in chemical engineering. However, his hands-on lab skills made up for the slight lag.

"It was interesting to watch my peers from MIT, Caltech, Cornell, Stanford, and other high-ranking universities. They were definitely ahead of me in engineering theory, but they had to catch up in practical laboratory experience," Dr. Kondratenko said. "My time in Illinois definitely highlighted the strength of undergraduate education at Missouri Western. It made me appreciate all the extracurricular activities and all the laboratory work that I was able to do there."

At the University of Illinois, he was named Outstanding Teaching Assistant and Outstanding Graduate Research Mentor. He also presented his research at the annual graduate research symposiums of the department and won for three consecutive years.

Today, he is a process engineering subject matter expert at BP America – BP U.S. L48 Onshore in Houston. He started his career at BP as a process/facilities engineer after earning his doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Illinois in 2009. Dr. Kondratenko noted that his job



**"I thought the science and math departments were in great shape when I was at Missouri Western, but now they are absolutely phenomenal."**

- Dr. Yevgeniy Kondratenko '03

responsibilities fall into two major categories: design and troubleshooting of oil and gas equipment.

"While oil and gas has been produced for more than a century, it is still very challenging," he said. "Just because everything works great today doesn't mean that a year from now everything will work just as well. Like a deflating balloon, the well is a dynamic system. Flow of fluids from the well changes all the time and we have to constantly adjust the equipment."

That, he says, is what keeps his job interesting and challenging. "I enjoy the fact that I always have to look ahead and never solely rely on my existing

knowledge and current skills. My job definitely requires embracing a lifelong learning approach."

He says he still uses the knowledge he learned at Missouri Western in his job, even pulling his undergraduate textbooks off the shelf at times to help solve a problem.

At BP, Dr. Kondratenko has received three managerial awards for excellent project delivery and won second place at BP's TechnoFest poster competition for young engineers.

Dr. Kondratenko was born and raised in Belarus, a small country between Russia and Poland and north of Ukraine, and spent his free time exploring nearby parks and forests with his parents, Vladimir and Yelena Kondratenko. This experience sparked his interest in learning more about science and nature.

"My mom always loved to read, and I was blessed with a large library of books. In our book collection we had an encyclopedia set that covered broad areas of science and engineering. I became fascinated with physical sciences and spent countless hours reading and learning."

Toward the end of high school, he met an American family, Rick and Patsy Hartman from Dekalb, Missouri, through the Baptist Association. They helped him come to the United States, and he enrolled at Missouri Western.

"I always felt a part of their family," Dr. Kondratenko said. "I can definitely say that family is not limited by the family tree."

Dr. Kondratenko began at Missouri Western as a biology major, thinking he wanted to be a medical doctor, but he quickly realized that he really loved the research environment, and he switched to chemistry instead.

"The chemistry department had excellent equipment and small classes," he said. "The combination of small group learning, direct access to professors for help and an abundance of hands-on practical experience definitely helped me develop very strong scientific skills. Most semesters I was doing research projects with different professors trying to get a broad exposure to different areas of chemistry."

As a student, Dr. Kondratenko also presented his research at a number of regional and national conferences, and he completed two summer research internships at two different universities. He also earned minors in physics, math and business while at Missouri Western. All those experiences, he says, helped him solidify his interest in pursuing a PhD in chemical engineering.

"The combination of research, Alchemist Club events, and 18 credit hours during most semesters definitely provided an excellent and diverse amount of activities," Dr. Kondratenko said. "Visiting Baptist Student Union and attending Honors Program events were two nonscientific activities that I enjoyed on top of my chemical endeavors. I can definitely say I had a blast at Missouri Western!"

Amidst classes, labs and outside activities, Dr. Kondratenko met his wife, Lanell, at Missouri Western, and they married shortly before graduation. They have two children, London and Justin.

When he's in the area, Dr. Kondratenko tries to visit campus. He is impressed with all the changes, especially to the science and math facilities.

"I thought the science and math departments were in great shape when I was at Missouri Western, but now they are absolutely phenomenal." ■



St. Joseph Junior College a cappella choir in front of the Missouri building at the World's Fair, New York City, 1940.

## A look back

Throughout its history, Missouri Western and the St. Joseph Junior College have always been renowned for their music programs. One piece of evidence of that is the Junior College's a cappella choir's performance at the 1939-40 World's Fair in New York City.

Raymond "Pop" Elliott, music teacher and director at the Junior College from 1930-46, created the a cappella group in 1933, and by 1940, there were 60 members. He told the story of the invitation and subsequent trip to the World's Fair in his book, "Out of the Night the Angels Sang." Below is an excerpt:

*"In 1938, I had met and hobnobbed with Arthur Keegan in Chicago while attending a two-week conference on school music materials. Arthur was director of music at the Lincoln High School in Jersey City, New Jersey. Every day I bombarded him with the wonders of the Junior College a cappella choir.*

*When he had had his fill, he said, 'Look, if that choir is so damn good, why don't you bring them to the World's Fair and sing in the Temple of Religion? You're from the Show-Me state. Deliver!'*

*Not to be outdone, I spread it on thick-Texas-wise.*

*'Why, man, we wouldn't consider it without an official invitation.' (Hundreds of groups were begging for the opportunity.) 'That might be arranged,' Arthur retorted. 'My uncle is on the board.'*

*The invitation came in January of 1940.*

The choir took the train to New York and gave two performances in the Temple of Religion, one of which was televised.

By the start of 1942 with enrollment down because of WWII, Elliott noted that the chorus had dwindled to a quartet, and that was the last year for the a cappella group under him. ■

## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

This is a great time to be associated with Missouri Western; so many good things are happening. As the first Association president living outside the St. Joseph/Kansas City area, I am excited to serve you this year and travel the 300 miles to participate in our events. Missouri Western has given me so much that I am totally happy to give back.

As my term begins, my major goal is to get more alumni involved in the University and the events planned by the Association. Last year we developed a strategic plan, and the board worked diligently to make the plan a great working document for the Association. Involvement is very important to the board and the University – we are only as strong as our membership.

As part of the involvement, we will be sending out special notifications on events and activities. The board is also planning webinars on everything from social media to getting your first job, interviewing and staying active after retirement. These will help make the alumni base stronger and help them gain additional skills. We are always open for new ideas, so please share your thoughts.



Mary (Sprake) Vaughan '79

Of course, Homecoming is scheduled for Oct. 9-16, 2016. Our theme this year is “Griffons Bring Home the Gold.” This is a great opportunity to show your spirit as well as reconnect with your fellow graduates. Many activities are planned around Homecoming so be sure to watch your email, mail and Griff Gab

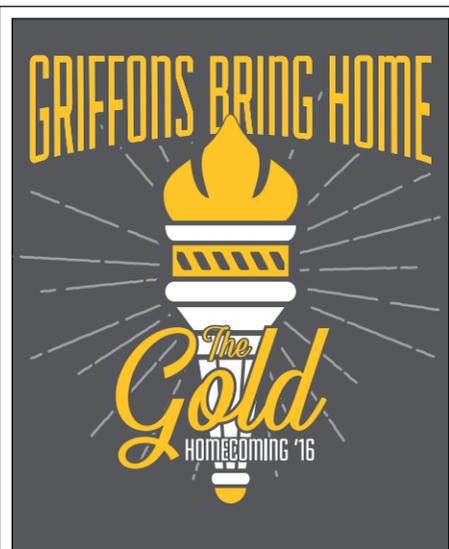
e-newsletter. A brochure with all the information is also included with this magazine.

Additionally, alumni activities and events are planned around the Griffon sports teams. Missouri Western has some of the best teams in the state and country; watch for opportunities to see them in action.

Our alumni are Missouri Western’s greatest assets. No university is strong without having passionate and committed alumni. So make a plan today to get involved, show your spirit and be a part of this outstanding University and alumni association. You can be a part of the excitement!

Sincerely,

Mary Vaughan '79



**Homecoming 2016  
Don't miss out on  
the fun –  
October 9-16**

**We would love to have you join  
us for our 2016 Homecoming  
celebration! All the information is in  
the brochure that was mailed with  
this issue. Details are also available  
at [missouriwestern.edu/alumni](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni),  
or call (816) 271-5646.**

## | Alumni Choir |

Last spring, the Department of Music hosted 60 alumni for a day of music making in the Fulkerson Center. The purpose of the day was two-fold: to honor alumni and to honor long-time professor Frank Thomas. The singers rehearsed for a total of four hours, commencing with a public concert shared with the Missouri Western student ensembles. Pictured are the three guest conductors: Kim (Evans) Carson '08, Charles Bruffy '81 (right) and Steve Perry '83 (left), with Thomas (center) and Dr. Elise Hepworth, assistant professor of music and director of Choral Studies (second from right).



## Alumna checks item off her bucket list

When Adrienne Collins '14 saw a notice last fall about an opportunity that included the words “international travel,” “bucket list” and “performing,” she knew she had to pursue it. Answering the call led her to being featured on a reality show and performing center stage at the Strasbourg Opera House in Strasbourg, France last April.

“This was an unbelievable

as Christine, the lead. In the opera, Christine had a humble upbringing and her father was deceased.

“Music is Christine’s way of honoring and remembering her dad, and I feel a close connection with that story,” Collins said.

Her father passed away when she was 13 years old. “It’s been difficult, he was my #1 fan,” she said. “Not having him here makes me work twice as hard, and I honor him when I pursue my dreams. That’s what he would have wanted me to do.”

DEFY liked her story and interviewed her several times. In February, they told her to get her passport ready to fly to France in April. They had selected 26 people for the show out of nearly 1,000 applications, and Collins’ was

the 20th episode.

Her application noted that she wanted to perform at the Palais Garnier, the opera house in Paris that was the setting for Gaston Leroux’s 1910 novel, “Phantom of the Opera.” When that wasn’t available, DEFY procured the use of the Strasbourg Opera House in Strasbourg, France, for her performance. Collins arrived on April 12, and the episode was filmed April 15. The opera house provided a headdress for her, a surprise makeover and a tour, all while the cameras were rolling. The show is hosted by Sebastian Terry, who wrote the 2009 book, “100 Things.”

“It made me feel like a queen for the day,” she said. “Anything that I hadn’t thought of, they did, and it made it the best day ever.”

The highlight, of course was performing “Queen of the Night’s Vengeance” aria from Mozart’s “The Magic Flute,” which Collins performed in on campus in 2013.

“A lot of the crew had never heard opera before, and they loved it,” she said. “It’s kind of a show-offy piece.”

Collins called the Strasbourg performance “liberating. I felt like I could spread my wings and soar.” She hopes the exposure of her performance when the episode airs will lead to more acting and singing opportunities for her.

After her filming, the production company was heading to Paris to film another episode of “100 Things,” and Collins had been invited to travel with them. She spent three days touring Paris before heading home.

**“... she’s accompanied by a pianist and you’ll see she’s actually incredible. She’ll blow your socks off. Hey, I cried, she was just that powerful. I kid you not, she sings like an angel.”**

- Sebastian Terry, host of “100 Things”

Collins, who had never before traveled overseas, said she would not have explored the opportunity to perform in France had it not been for her four semesters of French at Missouri Western. Her professors, Dr. Susie Hennessy and Claudine Evans, gave her tips on navigating Paris and suggestions on what she should see.

Collins also credits Dr. Susan Carter, professor of music and director of vocal studies, for the training and confidence to sing opera. “I would not have done it without Dr. Carter. This experience would not have been possible without the support I receive from my alma mater.

“It was like living a dream. I look back at it now and think, ‘Did that really happen?’ It was such an enriching, life-giving trip.”

*This article is dedicated to the memory of David Benz and Dr. Joseph Friedman '39.*



experience,” said Collins, who graduated with a music vocal performance degree. “It was without a doubt a dream come true.”

The notice she saw was from DEFY Media, a production company headquartered in New York City. According to its website, DEFY Media is the top creator, distributor and owner of millennial-focused digital content. The company was seeking submissions for an original series it was creating, “100 Things,” to air on go90 and YouTube. They were looking for people with a “unique #1 bucket list item” and a compelling story to go with it. Collins knew immediately what she wanted to write about on her application.

As a freshman at Missouri Western, Collins, from St. Joseph, had performed in Maury Yeston’s “Phantom”

# Megean Weldon '11: The zero-waste nerd

For Megean (McCloud) Weldon '11, it really all started with a walk around the neighborhood on Earth Day in April 2015. Weldon liked to mark Earth Day with an environmentally friendly activity, so that year, she and her husband, Ben, decided to take a walk around their neighborhood and pick up litter.

Ninety minutes later, their usual 30-minute walk had yielded five full trash bags of litter.

But the real eye opener came when Weldon went to put the bags in their large trash container and the bags wouldn't fit because of their week's worth of trash.

"I was mad. I couldn't believe people could be so disposable and careless," Weldon said. "But then I realized I was just as wasteful. How could I call myself an environmentalist?"

And so began her journey to reduce the trash in her life. She and her husband set a goal that day – to halve their trash and cut out nearly all plastic use by Earth Day 2016.

They started with the easy stuff: reusable water bottles (no more buying water by the case), cloth bags for groceries and cloth produce bags, less fast food, and

reusable rags and cloth napkins (no more paper towels). Cooking involved simpler meals with fresh produce, homemade tortillas and homemade bread. They started a small compost bin for paper, cardboard, vegetable peelings, yard waste, etc. that turns into nutrients for their garden soil. They bought food in bulk and stored everything in glass



Megean (McCloud) Weldon '11

jars. (The kitchen, Weldon says, is the biggest culprit for waste.)

The Weldons were doing so well eliminating trash, Megean was ready to take it a step further.

"I thought, 'What if we don't have to put our trash can out at the curb

for an entire year?' she said. "Even saying it sounded crazy, but I started researching to find a way."

Every week from then on, the Weldons generated less and less trash, and Megean decided to start a blog about it to keep herself accountable – Zerowastenerd.com.

Today, her blog has 10,000 followers and her Facebook page has almost 1,000 likes. One of her most popular reads is "30 Days to Zero Waste."

"It's been a lot of fun. It's one of those things you find in your life that you were meant to do," she said. "It's one of the greatest things I've ever done."

Fast forward to Earth Day 2016. The Weldons met their goal of not having to set the trash can out at the curb in the past year. And, there was a bonus – her husband had lost 25 pounds, thanks to the limited fast food and healthier eating.

It was now time for a new goal: only generate enough trash that will fit in a one-gallon jar. In a year.

(Pause for jaw drop.)

By this time, there was an interesting challenge to go along with their pledge – Megean was pregnant with their first child. But they weren't deterred. The family invested in cloth diapers, glass baby bottles, homemade baby lotion and reusable cloths instead of wipes. At her baby shower, Megean requested only wooden toys, no plastic.

The Weldons even remodeled a bathroom during their zero-trash pledge. The task was accomplished by buying secondhand and finding a place that recycles construction waste, she said.

Megean noted that reducing trash in your life is a conscious lifestyle choice, and they are very happy with that choice.

"It's grounded us, and it has brought a lot of pleasure back to eating," she said.

Not surprisingly, Megean says a lot of her cooking, canning and methods to reduce waste were learned from her grandparents and great grandparents: she makes her own toothpaste, shampoo, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies.

"It's a bizarre, disposable society," Megean said, noting that on average, each person in the United States generates 4 ½ pounds of trash every day.

"I'm happy that I've inspired a lot of people. That's the end goal. I know not everyone has the resources to go zero waste. But everyone can start by doing just one thing." ■

## 1970s

**Kayla (Morgan) Schoonover '77** was appointed to Missouri Western's Board of Governors by Gov. Jay Nixon in June. Schoonover, from Fairfax, Missouri, is a special education instructor for Mound City R-2 Schools. Her term will end on Oct. 29, 2017.

**Dave Scheer '79** was inducted into the St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame as a coach. Scheer coached baseball for 25 years at Union High School and was a teacher and coach for the Union R-XI School District for 35 years. He was inducted into the Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2012.

## 1980s



**Michael Finkenbinder '80** retired from Carlisle Barracks Police Department in Carlisle, Pennsylvania as watch commander.



**James Beesley '81** received the Silver Beaver Award by the Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America.

**Marc Evans '82** started a new business in Kansas City, Missouri: TeamLogic IT. Evans, who has more than 33 years of IT experience, provides a full range of technology services to small and mid-size businesses.

**Michael Hoffman '82** is the campus minister and director of religious life at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. His wife is Nancy (Imlay) Hoffman '80.

## 1990s

**Dr. Robert Sigris, '95** is the principal of Savannah High School in Savannah, Missouri. He earned his EdD from University of Missouri and spent 13 years as an assistant principal at Central High School in St. Joseph. His wife, **Kim (Koehler) Sigris, '93**, recently joined the staff of Missouri Western, serving as the executive associate to the president.

**Dr. Duane Bruce '99** is special assistant to the vice president for student affairs at LaGuardia Community College in New York City.

## Two alumni in Baseball Hall of Fame

Two alumni were inducted into the St. Joseph Baseball Hall of Fame at the June 25 Mustangs game at Phil Welch Stadium: Cheri Kempf '85 and Dave Lau '89.

Kempf is the Hall's first softball inductee. She led the Griffons to the 1982 NAIA National Championship and was named Tournament MVP. She worked as a softball analyst for ESPN, FOX Sports, MLB Network, Cox Sports, Comcast Sports and the YES Network. Kempf was owner of a softball training facility for many years and is currently the commissioner of National Pro Fastpitch.

Lau played baseball for Missouri Western and was named honorable mention NAIA All-American in 1985 and second-team NAIA All-American in 1986. He signed a free-agent contract with the New York Mets in 1986, and played three seasons for the organization between the Columbia Mets and the St. Lucie Mets. In 1998, he became the St. Joseph School District's first softball coach, at Central High School. He is currently the activities coordinator at Central.

Also inducted was the 2007 Benton High School baseball team, coached by Mike Musser '84. The team is the only baseball state champion in St. Joseph's history.

## 2000s

**Jeffrey Jungers '00** was named 2015 Salesman of the Year for Yamaha Golf-Car Company. He also received the award in 2012, and is the only district sales manager to be a two-time winner of the award.

**Jodi Deering '01** is the executive administrative assistant to the executive director, human resources director and finance director at Community Action Partnership in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Eric Faes '02** is a bridge auditor for the Lake of the Ozarks Community Bridge Transportation Development District.

**Farouk Aregbe '03** was named manager for Academic Retention Services at University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to this position, he was coordinator for Student Government Services at MU for 10 years.

**Chris Roepe '03** joined John Bardgett & Associates, a law firm in Jefferson City, Missouri as an associate. Roepe will serve as a lobbyist for the firm. Previously, he served as chief of staff to Sen. President Pro Tem Charlie Shields for eight years.

**John Fabsits '04** is the Director of Field Service/Chief Operations Officer for the Boy Scouts of America in Cleveland.



**Denise (Johnson) Heimer '04** will celebrate her five-year anniversary at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois.

**Candice (Day) Quarles '05** was elected to serve on the DeSoto (Texas) City Council. She received 66 percent of the vote and is currently the youngest member of the Council.

**Merrill Atwater '06** is the aviation director for the Kansas Department of Transportation. He will oversee KDOT aviation programs and work with the Federal Aviation Administration and aviation stakeholders across the state.



**Valerie (Lee) Paul '06** and her husband, James, announce the birth of a daughter, Sophie Sue, born Oct. 10, 2015.

**Jordan Reilly '07** was named one of Ingram's Magazine's Heroes in Healthcare in 2016. Reilly is a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph.

**Atia Styles '07 and Tyrone Kenney, Jr.** were married May 16, 2015. Atia is a case manager for the State of Maryland.



**Koren (Dailey) Wills '08** and her husband, Cody, announce the birth of a daughter, Coralie Jessamine, born March 4, 2016. She joins big brother

Ian, who is 2.



**Tiffany (Zimmerman) '08 and Cody '09 Austin** announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail Jean, born Nov. 30, 2015.



**Kelli (McBee) '08 and Nick '08 Oldham** announce the birth of a son, Reid Henry, born Jan. 4, 2016.

**Brandon Holtz '09** graduated from the FBI's six-week Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama, becoming a certified bomb technician. Holtz has served as a police officer in Columbia, Missouri for six years and is a member of the Mid-Missouri Bomb Squad.

**Garrett Holtz '09** and his wife, Maureen, announce the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Christine, born May 7, 2016. She joins two older brothers, Patrick and Luke.

## 2010s

**Molly Smith '11** is an associate accountant for the city and county of Denver.

**Lee Bradley '12** is the head coach of Marceline High School's (Marceline, Missouri) Black Rage wrestling team. He is a 2006 graduate of the high school and had been a member of the wrestling team as a student.

**Jannie Castanada '14** is the recreation programs coordinator for the City of St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Department.



**Whitney Stubbs '14 and Jonathan Hobbs '15** were married April 16 in Leavenworth, Kansas. They remembered their alma mater while they were honeymooning in Jamaica.

**Aubry White '14** is the marketing assistant in the Office of Public Relations and Marketing at Missouri Western.

## Women of Excellence

Several alumnae were honored at the YWCA's annual Women of Excellence luncheon in June. Eleanor Langemach '46 received a Lifetime Achievement Award. The following were nominated in the Woman in the Workplace category: Sarah Hardin '07, Betty Hellerich '76, Karen McCoy '07, Stacia Studer '02, Annette Weeks '87 and Shannen White '06. Jessica Jackson '13 was nominated in the Woman in Support Services category and Natalie Byergo '05 for Woman in Volunteerism. Nominated in the Emerging Leader category were Amber McKnight '04 and Kristin Wyckoff '15. Congratulations!

## In Memory

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](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu).

**Darline (James) Adkins '69**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 10, 2016.

**Steven Bachman '03**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 28, 2016.

**Donald Bailey '09**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 18, 2016.

**Susan Bennett-Ward '87**, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 4, 2016.

**Donald Joseph Boyes '87**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 18, 2016.

**Clara (Yurko) Breuckmann '62**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 21, 2016.

**Barbara Budine '81**, Faucett, Missouri, June 29, 2016.

**Darlene Caw**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 15, 2016. Caw was a former employee; she worked for the physical plant.

**Shirley Ann (Conard) Couldry '94**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 30, 2016.

**Jeannetta Danford '52/'72**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 28, 2016.

**Pat Dexter '78**, St. Joseph, Missouri, July 1, 2016.

**Dr. Solon E. Haynes**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 23, 2016. Dr. Haynes taught in the Department of Education at Missouri Western for 38 years.

**Carolyn Jones**, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 20, 2016. Jones was a former employee; she worked in Human Resources.

**Donald Kagay '51**, Columbia, Missouri, June 25, 2016.

**Terry King**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 5, 2016. King was working for Missouri Western's physical plant when he passed away.

**Charles Matt**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 10, 2016. Matt was working in Missouri Western's Telephone Services Office when he passed away.

**Barbara (Callaway) Miller '87**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 6, 2016.

**Charlene Rainey**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 6, 2016. Rainey had worked in Missouri Western's Business Office for over 25 years.

**Rachel Scroggins '98**, St. Joseph, Missouri, June 17, 2016.

**El Dora (Castle) Schmidt '42**, St. Joseph, Missouri, December 12, 2015.

**Darleen (Boleski) Shelton '60**, St. Joseph, Missouri, May 21, 2016.

**Perry Scott Smith '87**, St. Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 23, 1962.

**Ellis Daniel Thomas '59**, St. Joseph, Missouri, April 20, 2016.

# In memoriam: Dr. Frances Flanagan '35

Dr. Frances Flanagan '35 passed away on May 13, 2016, just three days shy of her 101st birthday.

Dr. Flanagan, a native of Easton, Missouri, graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College in 1935 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Mount St. Scholastica College, now Benedictine College, in Atchison, Kansas. She earned her master's and doctorate from the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Dr. Flanagan was an elementary teacher in the St. Joseph School District, and is fondly remembered by many of her students. She joined the faculty of the St. Joseph Junior College in 1963. She taught English at the Junior College and Missouri Western, serving for six years as department chair. She retired in 1980.

In 1982, Dr. M.O. Looney, Missouri Western's president from 1967-1983, asked the professor emerita of English to research and write Missouri Western's history, covering 1915 to 1983. She was given just nine months to complete the task. The result was "Missouri Western State College: A History 1915-1983," which serves as an invaluable reference book to this day.

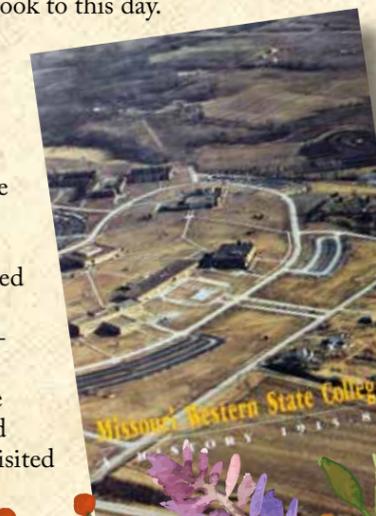
As part of the Centennial, Dr. Flanagan's book was formatted for Kindle and is also available online on the University's website.

On May 16, 2015, Dr. Flanagan celebrated her 100th birthday. Also in 2015, she self-published a book of photos from her more than 30 years of world travel. Dr. Flanagan visited spots all over much of the globe, capturing interesting angles and beautiful images



Dr. Frances Flanagan '35

of sights and people. She preserved her favorite photos in a book she titled "Art Along the Way." The book contains more than 50 full-color photos, accompanied



by statements that help the reader see the world as she saw it.

One of the photos from her book that was taken in Greece, "Through the Shadowed Passage," was featured in the Centennial alumni art exhibit in the Potter Hall Art Gallery in 2015.

Dr. Flanagan received the Missouri Western Distinguished Alumni Award in 1988, and in 2015, the YWCA recognized her with a Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

She was an active member of St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Joseph. She researched and wrote the church's history, and she also wrote a number of prayers for the parish.

On a personal note, I met Dr. Flanagan in 2011 when we filmed her for Missouri Western's Centennial video. Off and on since then, I visited with her about different Centennial-related projects, and I was very happy for the opportunity to get to know her.

Dr. Flanagan was very intelligent and had a wonderful sense of humor. Just a

few weeks before she died, Dr. Flanagan quoted Shakespeare to me to make a point. She was an English teacher to the end!

Dr. Flanagan is survived by two brothers and their spouses, several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was such an inspiration to me, and I know many, many people who feel the same way. Dr. Flanagan touched a lot of lives in her 100 years, and she is missed by those who knew her.

Diane Holtz  
Editor



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# The video scoreboard's journey: California to Spratt Memorial Stadium

Missouri Western's new video scoreboard for Spratt Memorial Stadium arrived in style in June! A reporter from St. Joseph News-Press/KNPN rode along with the eight-truck caravan that made the 1,600-mile, three-day journey from Multimedia LED in Corona, California to campus.

The caravan made overnight stops in Las Vegas and Silverthorne, Colorado, arriving with great fanfare on campus on June 9. A press conference and reception was held, and the more than 200 who attended watched the unloading from the newly renovated Stadium Club in the stadium. For more details, see p. 20.

