

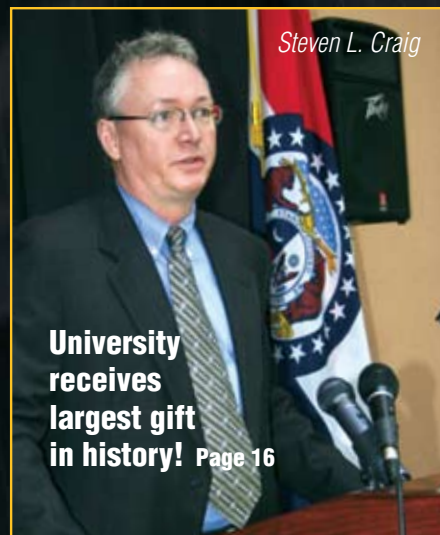
Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University

Western welcomes new president

ROBERT A.
VARTABEDIAN

PAGE 11



Steven L. Craig

University
receives
largest gift
in history! Page 16



The Western Magazine is a publication of the University Advancement Office for alumni and friends of Missouri Western State University and the St. Joseph Junior College.

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WESTERN MAGAZINE

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President's Perspective



Enthusiasm. Excitement. Excellence.

These three words characterize Missouri Western State University. I felt it during my first visit to campus in December and I still feel it today. The people I've met these first few months – students, alumni, employees, friends – all exude enthusiasm, excitement, and excellence.

Enthusiasm. I have great enthusiasm for not only where we are but where we are going. Our future is limited only by our imagination and, from what I've seen, our imagination is limitless. Jim Scanlon provided the foundation for the new American regional university and it is our responsibility to build upon that foundation. We want to create a system of higher education where students apply what they learn in the classroom to real-life experiences through internships, clinicals, independent and faculty-sponsored research, and community service projects.

***Excitement.** This is an exciting time to be at Western and in St. Joseph: New partnerships are being created as small, start-up companies will soon take residence in the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator, our fall athletic teams are competing on the field and on the court, and our students are returning to the classroom and to our community to pursue their studies.*

***Excellence.** From research projects to innovative educational practices, we strive for excellence in everything we do. We measure excellence not only by the achievements of our students but also by the achievements of our alumni and faculty. We are proud of them and I hope they are proud of us. We want to continue to move the university in a positive direction so that our alumni continue to be proud of their alma mater.*

Laurel and I are very happy to be here at Western. We look forward to serving this community with our own enthusiasm and excitement so that we may contribute to its excellence.

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

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*Western welcomes its new president,
Dr. Robert Vartabedian. Photo by
Eric Callow '97/Double E Images.
Inset: Steven L. Craig*

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Computer science students earn national award

An interactive, Internet-based database application project earned Western computer science students a first place award in a competition at the national collegiate conference for the Association of Information Technology Professionals. The students developed an application – Goldpoints – for the biology department to showcase faculty and student awards, presentations and research activities. Conference officials also requested the students’ documentation, which included a 67-page user manual, a 140-page report and 80-100 pages of code, to use as a model for future entrants.

Additionally, a Western graduate student earned second place in the Business Intelligence competition and three students received an honorable mention in the Application Develop-

ment contest. The two faculty members involved in the project, Deborah Becker and Connie Hecker, both instructors of computer science, also gave a presentation at the conference regarding the project.

Deborah said the Goldpoints project began in the fall semester and was a collaborative effort between undergraduate students in two courses - Internet Scripting and Systems and Analysis - and graduate students in the Software Implementation and Integration course. Students met twice a month with their biology department clients.

The scripting wasn’t finished at the semester’s end, so two of the undergraduate students, Mike Stancliff and Tim Coolman, volunteered to continue working on it to complete the project. Deborah estimates they worked 20-30

hours a week during the spring semester. “It took them a long time to overcome some of the problems,” she said. “They did very good work.”

The great value of the project, Deborah says, was that the work was a real project for a real client. “A lot of times in the classroom you tell students that the forms and theories are important, but when you put a live customer in front of them saying, ‘Can we do this?’ or ‘Why doesn’t this work?’ that makes them see that all these things are necessary,” she says. “It makes them the owners, and they are excited to research and learn.”

She said the project continued throughout the summer as her students expanded Goldpoints with student surveys and evaluations, and it is part of the coursework this fall. ■

All’s Fair: Love, War & Politics

James Carville and Mary Matalin are the featured speakers at Western’s 15th annual Convocation on Critical Issues. They will speak at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 30 in the M.O. Looney arena, and the event is free and open to the community.

Co-authors of the national best seller, *“All’s Fair: Love, War, and Running for President,”* they are both key players on the national political stage, having between them worked for every president over the last 25 years. They will give the audience an enlightening and entertaining look at today’s most important political issues as well as a behind-the-scenes look at Washington politics.

“I expect this to be another excellent Convocation and very well attended. Like others who are familiar with Carville and Matalin, I am anxious to see how they play this, but I anticipate a lively exchange spiked with humor,” said Dan Boulware, former Regent president for whom the Convocation is named. “We have the opportunity for lively debate at the height of our nation’s

political process, only weeks before we elect our next president. This should be fun.” ■



James Carville and Mary Matalin

Western Institute dean named

Dr. Gordon Eugene Mapley is the new dean of the Western Institute and began his duties July 1. He was formerly the executive director of institutional research and policy analysis at Youngstown State University (YSU) in Ohio.

"Dr. Mapley's extensive experience in civic engagement and university outreach is an exceptionally good fit for the Western Institute as it expands its role as the university's principal means of outreach and public service to the St. Joseph region and the state of Missouri," said Dr. Joseph Bragin, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. "He is extremely well qualified for the leadership role the dean plays in developing partnerships between the university and the region."



Dr. Gordon Mapley
Dean, Western Institute

Gordon has more than three decades of experience in higher education. In

1985, he moved to YSU, where he held a number of leadership positions, including associate dean and acting dean of the college of arts and sciences, associate provost for academic administration and information services, interim executive director of Metropolitan College, director of operations of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies

and his last position.

He received his doctoral and master's degrees in developmental psychology from Wayne State University in Detroit, and his bachelor's degree in sociology from Oakland University, Rochester, Mich.

New scholarships created

Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin, professor of English, said she remembers being so proud as a child that her mother had a career as a nurse. "She was a role model," Elizabeth said. "She was a wife, mother, daughter and a professional."

When her mother died in 2007, Elizabeth and her sister, Lt. Col. Mary Ann (Latosi) Jernigan, wanted to do something special in memory of both their parents. They established the **John A. and Gertrude F. Latosi Nursing Scholarship**, an endowed scholarship for nursing students beginning their second year in the program who have a 3.5 GPA or above.

Gertrude, who had a 41-year nursing career, met her husband while working in a hospital for tuberculosis patients in Perrysburg, N.Y. They were married for 53 years before he died in 1996.

"It takes a tiny bit of edge off the loss to know other people will be helped," Elizabeth said about establishing the scholarship.

Family members and friends have established the **James E. McCarthy Memorial Accounting Scholarship** in honor of an alumna and former faculty member. The scholarship is for junior or senior accounting majors with a 3.0 GPA.

James earned a bachelor of science in accounting from Western in 1977 and a master's in accounting from University of Missouri-Kansas City. In addition to teaching at Western, he worked for St. Joseph Light and Power, obtained his real estate license and became a licensed nursing home administrator. In 1988, he established a private accounting service in Gower, Mo.

James died April 16, 2008.

LAS dean retires

Dr. Martin Johnson closed the door on a 36-year career at Western when he retired June 30. He began as an assistant professor of psychology and is retiring as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

"Teaching and education are among the most noble of occupations, and I have experienced great satisfaction in helping others develop their potential, gain meaningful employment and become contributing members of society," he said. "I have been able to work with wonderful, dedicated people."

Martin, who was named Dean Emeritus by the Board of Governors in June, became a full professor in 1982, and served as chair of the psychology department from 1978 to 1992, when he was named dean. "I believe the university has a bright future. A part of me would like to be in the midst of the challenges. But another part of me wants a quieter, less stressful life." ■

Students' research read 'round the world

When Western biology and math students' synthetic biology research results were published in *The Journal of Biological Engineering (JBE)*, the news traveled all over the world.

About 1,000 journals are published each month by the BioMed Central group, and Western's research article was included in a press release that selected 15-20 articles from those journals.

When the press release hit the wires, Western's article was picked up and written about all over the world, including newspapers and online sites in England, Russia and Australia. National Public Radio also hosted a 20-minute segment about the research.

The project, conducted jointly with students from Davidson College in North Carolina, involved working with *E.coli* to create a bacterial computer to solve a mathematical problem of flipping DNA "pancakes." (Editor's note: An article about the research project was featured in the Spring 2007 issue.) ■

Western's doors open wider for international students

International students have always been welcome at Western, but a new position and office have made the university more accommodating to those students. Last spring, Huey Shi Chew was hired as the international student coordinator, a newly created full-time position designed to increase the international student population at Western.

"The goal is to have the office serve international students," says Huey Shi, the former associate director for international admissions at Pittsburg State University in Kansas. "But the bigger picture is that it serves all students because international students enrich the classroom and all students get a good experience. At Pittsburg, the faculty always told me they enjoyed international students because of their different perspective."

Huey Shi says the majority of international students who enroll in U.S. colleges and universities today hail from

China, India and Korea. "They want to see America, and an American degree is very valued overseas."

Western's location is ideal for international students, she says, noting the size of the city and the proximity to Kansas City. And, she added, being close to the airport is a major benefit, as that is a very big issue for those schools that don't have an airport nearby.

Huey Shi has begun to build a strong foundation to make it easier for international students to attend Western, which includes working with admissions and several offices on campus. "It (international student recruitment) is so new that there are a lot of things people just haven't thought about." She hopes to eventually create on-campus programs for international students once the numbers are up.

Huey Shi, a native of Malaysia who enrolled in the graduate program at Pittsburg State in 2002, said it's quite an adjustment for international students to attend college in the United States, especially if they enroll right out of high school. She sees her role as helping with that adjustment. "I want them to feel they are ministered to. I want them to say, 'I have someone to look after me, someone to talk to.'" ■



Huey Shi Chew,
International Student
Coordinator

Nursing program shift

Five was good, but four is better. That was the rationale behind the move to reduce the nursing major courses from a five-semester sequence to four, and that schedule began last fall.

Dr. Kathleen Andrews, associate professor of nursing and department chair, said scheduling problems were the main reason for the shift, and the response to the change has been positive. In the previous five-semester program, which nursing students began as second-semester sophomores, the students combined some general education courses with nursing major courses. Since they are required to complete clinicals off campus, it was difficult for them to fit in their general studies courses. With the four-semester program, nursing students begin as first-semester juniors and take only nursing major courses.

"The more we looked at it we thought this would be the best approach for students and faculty," said Kathleen. She noted that transfer students find the four-semester sequence more appealing, too.

For the one-year transition, the number of students accepted each semester was reduced from 50 to 30 for two semesters, and the last group of "fives" and the first group of "fours" will graduate in May 2009. But now that the four-semester sequence is in place, the program is again accepting 50 students per semester.

In 2004, Western began accepting 50 students into the program, 10 more than prior years. At that time, the nursing department formed a partnership with Heartland Health, and the hospital financially supports the extra faculty needed for the increased enrollment. ■



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PE class adapts

Dancing, shooting baskets, dribbling basketballs, running under a rainbow parachute, and plenty of laughter and hugs were all part of Dr. Betty Block's Adapted PE Methods class last spring when it hosted adults from United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of St. Joseph, Mo., in the Looney arena every week. The Western students were responsible for planning the activities for each class and figuring out how to adapt their lessons.

"This is fun. I'm out here having a good time and they are having a blast," said PE major Tommy Bone. He and fellow student Rachel Ricklefs were demonstrating dance steps to the group while music from the musical *Grease* rocked the gym.

Each Tuesday, the class offered physical education instruction to 20 adults from UCP, whose disabilities range from developmentally delayed to physically and mentally handicapped. On Thursdays, Western students taught 30 physically and mentally handicapped children from the Helen Davis State School in St. Joseph.

Betty said the classes benefit both her students and their guests.

Students learn how they need to adapt their teaching methods for handicapped people, and the adults and children from UCP and Helen Davis gain benefits not only from the PE instruction, but from the socialization with the students.

"It's a super opportunity for them," said Beverly Goldizen, adult learning consultant for UCP. "They get exercise, they meet new people, and they get so excited."

"I think it's great what Missouri Western is doing for our consumers," said Rhonda Brook, also an adult learning consultant at UCP. "They love the attention, and it's neat to see them build friendships in the community."

"We were all scared at first; we didn't know what to expect," said Rachel, a PE and health and wellness major. "Now it's amazing. I look forward to class, it's great."

"Every person is different," said PE major Sarah Watkins. "You have to figure out what they are interested in and how

to get them motivated and active."

Rachel agreed. "And when they find something they like, their smile gets bigger and bigger." ■



NEWS Briefs

Board approves alcohol on campus

Last spring, the Board of Governors approved serving beer and wine at specific and approved events. The alcohol usage is limited to the following locations: the Fulkerson Center, Spratt Hall Enright Rooms (214 & 216), and the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator.

The use of alcohol must be approved by a three-member committee consisting of a board member, a faculty member and a staff member. ■

Employee honored by Northland Chamber of Commerce

Venny Pruitt '74, coordinator of the Northland programs, received the Excellence in Higher Education Award from the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce. The award is given to outstanding instructors, professors or administrative staff members who have made a significant contribution to education in their institutions.

She was recognized for contributing to the success of Western's Northland campus in the Tuilleries Plaza at Interstate 29 and NW 64th Street in Kansas City, Mo.

Venny, who graduated with a secondary education degree and enjoyed a 32-year career in public secondary education, started at about the same time the Northland campus opened its current location in August 2006. The facility currently partners with Metropolitan Community Colleges to offer a seamless bachelor of science in elementary education program, and began offering criminal justice and engineering technology classes this fall. ■



Dr. Scanlon honored at retirement dinner



Left: Dr. James Scanlon tries out his new chair, a gift from the Board of Governors. Above: Dr. Scanlon receives a hug from his son, Blake, who traveled from Florida to attend his father's retirement dinner. Right: Gini Fite '01, visits with Dr. Scanlon. Gini gave Dr. Scanlon his first campus tour when he visited campus for his interview.

The Board of Governors hosted a reception and dinner to honor Dr. James Scanlon as he retired June 30 after seven years as Western's president. In a surprise announcement

at the dinner, Dirck Clark '85, chair of the Board and emcee of the dinner, announced that the university's newest residence hall, the Living Learning Center, will be named Scanlon Hall in his honor.

"Dr. Scanlon has been a leader of great vision and character for Missouri Western," Dirck said. "He's had

a tremendous positive impact on the campus and the community, and the

Board wanted to insure that his name will always be associated with Western."

"To finish my career at Missouri Western is a privilege," said Dr. Scanlon after Dirck's announcement. "I've been in five universities during my career in higher education, including some very good ones, but none better than this one."

The dinner in Dr. Scanlon's honor featured testimonials to his vision, leadership and integrity from his colleague, Dr. Barbara Dixon, president of Truman State University; from Lowell Kruse, president and CEO of Heartland Health and a member of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education; from Lauren Scanlon, Dr. Scanlon's wife; and from Dirck. Gov. Matt Blunt delivered a tribute to Dr. Scanlon by videotape, and Chad Higdon '00, a field representative of U.S. Rep. Sam Graves, presented remarks that Rep. Graves placed in the Congressional Record.

"You will be missed," Lowell told Dr. Scanlon. "You've cut a wide swath in this community. We are all better people because of you and Lauren being here." ■

Board of Governors chair Dirck Clark '85, announced at Dr. Scanlon's retirement dinner that Western's Living Learning Center has been renamed Scanlon Hall.



Reelin' 'em in

(And it's not an admissions story)

If you
stock
it,

they
will
come.

That could be the new catch phrase around the Missouri Department of Conservation office on Western's campus these days. Last fall, they stocked a pond on campus with 800 rainbow trout, and except for the student union, it seems to have become one of the most popular spots on campus.

Several years ago, the university and the conservation department split the costs to upgrade two campus ponds — South Pond, located by Scanlon Hall, Western's newest residence hall, and Everyday Pond, by the Faraon St. entrance. The ponds were drained, silt was removed, basins were reworked, and work was completed on the dams.

Then last summer, a floating dock, restrooms, a parking area and a walkway to the dock were added to Everyday Pond. The pond was

immediately stocked with bass, blue gill and channel catfish and began to see some use. But when the trout were added to it in the fall, the hook was set for those who like to fish, and crowds really began to gather at the pond.



"People just love trout. Trout are just those kind of fish that draw a tremendous amount of interest," says Harold Kerns, fisheries regional supervisor for the conservation department. "They can often present more of a challenge to catch than other fish."

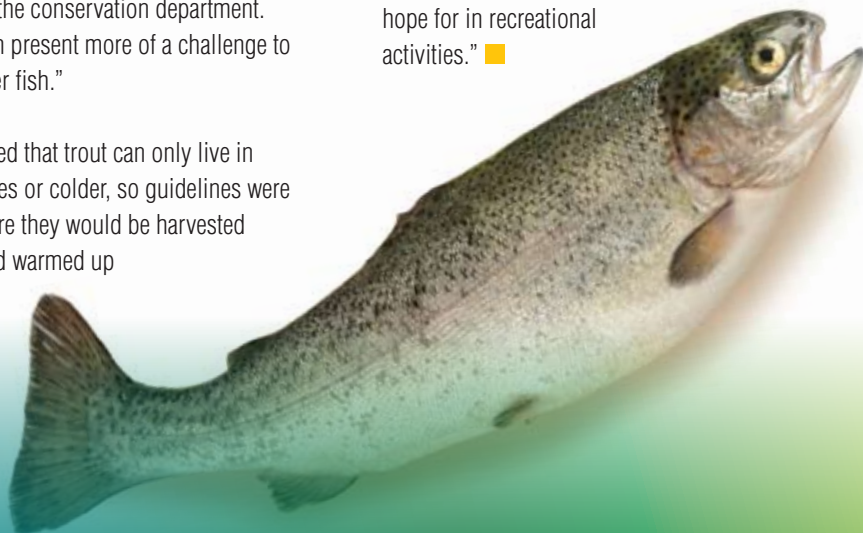
Harold explained that trout can only live in water 70 degrees or colder, so guidelines were set out to ensure they would be harvested before the pond warmed up in the summer. From October

to January, anglers could only catch and release the trout and use certain types of bait, but starting in February, they were allowed to keep their catch, and the bait restrictions were lifted. Harold said the program has been so popular, they plan to continue it this fall as well. "We have yet to hear anyone complain, but a lot of people have asked if we plan to continue it."

The Everyday Pond is open to the public, but South Pond is reserved for educational activities only and has been used by schools and organizations in the area. It was stocked with bass, blue gill and channel catfish as well.

Western's 744-acre campus actually contains nine ponds. Canoe Pond is located near the M.O. Looney Complex, and six are hidden in the 200-acre wooded area near the conservation office. Several biology classes make use of the ponds, and Canoe Pond is used for the annual Lifetime Sports Academy. All those ponds are open to the public and a map of their locations is on the university website.

"It's been fantastic," Harold says of the ponds project. "It's providing just what we hope for in recreational activities." ■



New athletic director: Dave Williams



This spring, Dave Williams became the sixth director of athletics in Western history, coming to Western from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside (UW-P) in Kenosha, Wis.

"I'm happy to join the Western family," Dave said. "The community and the

campus understand the importance of an athletic department that reflects the mission and values of the university."

Dave had been director of athletics at UW-P since 2001, after serving as assistant athletic director, head men's golf coach and assistant men's basketball coach at the school. Prior to that, he was an assistant men's basketball coach at North Dakota State University and Augustana College in Illinois. His leadership ability was recognized by his peers in 2006, when he was elected president of the Division II Athletic Directors Association, a position he still holds.

During his time at UW-P, the grade point average, retention rate and graduation rate for student athletes all surpassed those of the general student body. Additionally, 13 of UW-P's 15 sports qualified for NCAA postseason competition during his tenure, and the school has won 12 Great Lakes Valley Conference championships.

Dave earned a master's degree in educational administration from North Dakota State University in 1995 and a bachelor's degree in education from Augustana College in 1991. He and his wife, Suzanne, have three children: Cooper, Carter, and Caden. ■



Chiefs work out at Western

Amidst the black and gold and beautiful green stadium turf of Spratt Memorial Stadium, a sea of red invaded in June when the Kansas City Chiefs held an organized team activity there.

Coach Herm Edwards brought almost his entire roster, including running back Larry Johnson, offensive lineman Brian Waters, wide receiver Dwayne Bowe, linebacker Derrick Johnson, and quarterbacks Brodie Croyle and Damon Huard. They entertained more than 5,000 fans with a 90-minute workout and a half-hour autograph signing session.

Chiefs president Carl Peterson and owner Clark Hunt accompanied the team as well. ■

Sports Wrap-up

The Griffon **baseball** team concluded another successful season qualifying for the MIAA postseason tournament in Bonner Springs, Kan. The tournament is the toughest of the MIAA's post-season tournaments, as only four of the 10 conference teams qualify for the event.

The squad finished the season 25-24 overall including winning 14 of their final 17 games to vault them into postseason play. Individually, three players were named to the All-MIAA baseball first-team for their performances throughout the season: Everett Saul, senior pitcher, Cochection, N.Y., third baseman senior Adam Carolan, Sacramento, Calif., and outfielder Ben Toedebusch, senior, Troy, Mo.

Griffon **golfer** Aaron Lisenbee, senior from Savannah, Mo., concluded an outstanding career for the golf team by winning the NCAA Central Region Golf Tournament at Red Hawk Run Golf Club in Findlay, Ohio.

Aaron won the event finishing even par over 54 holes, including a course record-tying 65 during the second round of the event. As a team, the Griffons finished third in the event as they qualified for the NCAA Super Regional Tournament for the seventh consecutive season.

Softball - Freshman pitcher Allison Jones, Mitchellville, Iowa, was named second team All-MIAA and MIAA Freshman of the Year for her performance on the mound. Allison went 16-7 overall with an ERA of 2.24 while striking out 159 batters. ■

Golf classic a success

Fifty-four teams and more than 270 players competed with celebrities from sports teams across the country in Western's sixth annual Johnson Controls Celebrity Golf Classic this past spring. Some of the proceeds benefited the St. Joseph YWCA shelter for abused homeless women and children.

The team of Colman Insurance Services of St. Joseph, Mo., shot the low round in the morning firing a 56, while the St. Joseph Hy-Vee team shot the low round of the tournament with a 51 in the afternoon.

Western also had a private dinner for all of the tournament sponsors and celebrities to kick off the weekend. After the dinner, former Kansas City Royals pitcher Al Fitzmorris and his group, 39 The Band, entertained. There was also a poker tournament at Uncle D's Sports Bar and Grill where the winner won a \$1,000 voucher for a trip to Las Vegas, sponsored in part by Cotter Travel. Steve and Patty Culver hosted the Hy-Vee charity dinner social and auction for more than 300 people.

This event has grown every year. When it began in 2003, 19 teams participated, compared to this year's 54. Next year's classic is set for May 17 and 18. ■

Attention, alumni living outside Buchanan, Platte, Clay and Andrew Counties!

Join the Gold Coat Club and get an Alumni Punch Pass - \$144 Good for 12 admissions to any home athletics event, any combination. Call 816-271-5904

Students and alumni honored at banquet

Football player Patrick St. Louis, Belton, Mo.; and basketball player Jill Johnson, Rockwell City, Iowa; were named the male and female student athletes of the year for their outstanding seasons on the field and in the classroom at the ninth annual student athlete honors banquet this past spring.

One student from each athletic program was nominated, and one male and one female student athlete of the year were selected from those nominations: Kristy Pechous, tennis; Aaron Lisenbee, men's golf; Kim Evans, women's golf; Kristi Warneke, softball; Tommy Bone, baseball; Alyssa Berg, volleyball; Shaylynn Milbourn, soccer; Chavé May, cheer squad; and Keion Kindred, men's basketball. Keion also received the Volunteer of the Year award, and women's basketball player Chemia Woods received the James J. McMillen award given to the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA.

Griffon alumni Mark Lovelace '77, football, 1972-75; and Dr. James Finley '83, men's basketball, 1978-1983; were this year's recipients of the Silver Anniversary Award, given to former student athletes for outstanding achievements since their playing days at Western. Criteria for the Silver Anniversary Award include integrity, dedication and leadership, with a commitment to excellence and an obligation to serve as a concerned partner in the community. ■

NEWS Briefs

Student athletes excel in classroom

Student athletes had an excellent 2007-2008 academic year in the classroom. Out of 237 student athletes, the following totals were achieved:

- 111 earned a 3.0 semester GPA or higher during Fall 2007.
- 102 earned a 3.0 semester GPA or higher during Spring 2008.
- 57 were selected to the Dean's List for a 3.5 – 3.99 semester GPA.
- 33 were selected to the President's Honor Roll for a semester GPA of 4.0.
- 6 were named to the Academic All-MIAA team for achieving a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher while being selected to an all-conference team.
- 2 were named to the MIAA Presidential Scholars list for having a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Congratulations! ■

Attendance soars

Griffon men's and women's basketball both finished in the top 20 in NCAA Division II for average attendance during the 2007-2008 season. The Griffon women ranked eighth in the country out of 244 NCAA Division II institutions, averaging 1,692 fans over 12 home dates. Griffon men ranked 17th in the country, averaging 1,833 fans per game over 14 home dates. Thanks to all of our fans for your excellent support throughout the season! ■

For tickets to any home athletics event - 816-271-5904.
Griffon Athletics:
www.gogriffons.com.



New degree programs respond to techno-changes

The skills needed for today's journalists are rapidly changing, thanks to the Internet, and Western is responding to those changes by offering two new degree programs: a bachelor of science in convergent media and a master of applied arts in integrated media. Courses for both began this fall.

"Technology has made the mass media reconsider how it needs to reach its audience," says Dr. Ken Rosenauer, professor of journalism. He calls 21st century reporters "backpack journalists." They still carry their pen and notebook, he says, but they better have a backpack that contains a laptop, digital camera, digital camcorder and cell phone along with them, too.

"We're taking our traditional journalism program and refocusing it to prepare our students for the way that media today needs to get the information out," says Ken.

The master's program offers interdisciplinary courses in journalism, art, video and music. One option, convergent media, will train students to work in the field of online multimedia products. The second option, integrated media, is for those who seek roles in corporate, commercial and industrial settings.

Western also began offering courses for the new master of applied science in assessment degree program this past summer, with options in learning improvement and writing. ■

Outstanding employees recognized

Last spring, Western recognized six faculty members for teaching excellence and four staff members with presidential citations:

Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award

- Dr. Kaye Adkins, associate professor of English
- Dr. Stacia Bensyl, associate professor of English
- Dr. Robert Bergland, professor of journalism
- Dr. Deborah Bogle, associate professor of education

Faculty Excellence in Teaching of Critical Thinking Award

- Dr. Phil Wann, professor of psychology

Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award

- Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology

Presidential Citation Awards

- *Service to Western Students* - Michael Ritter, disability services coordinator
- *Service to Campus Colleagues* - Barbara Davis, administrative coordinator, college of liberal arts and sciences
- *Service to the University* - Stena Hinkle, administrative assistant, psychology department
- *James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award* - Kelly Sloan, computer acquisition specialist

In June, Carol Roevers, associate professor of business and interim dean of the Steven L. Craig School of Business, was awarded the **2008 YWCA Women of Excellence Woman in the Workplace.** ■

Campus Kudos

- Scott Johnson, graphic arts coordinator in campus printing and design, was one of the top three contenders out of 11,000 entries for the Guru Award from the National Association of Photoshop Professionals at the Adobe Photoshop World Conference. His entry was a panoramic photo of the new field turf at Spratt Memorial Stadium.
- The Fountain City Brass Band won the championship section of the North American Brass Band Association Championships for the second consecutive year. Band members include assistant professor of music Lee Harrelson on euphonium, who is also the band's artistic director; instructor of music Steve Molloy on cornet; and students Tim Thomas on cornet and Joe Hull on percussion. The band also won the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships and has been named the "Most Entertaining Band" three years running at that competition.
- Dr. Glenn Rice, assistant professor of mathematics, taught a graduate course at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln this past summer. He was one of four professors selected to participate. Glenn taught 16 "pre-grads," students who were about to enter their first year of graduate study in mathematics.
- Dr. Brian Cronk, professor of psychology, has developed an online Institutional Review Board (IRB) for students and faculty that greatly expedites the approval process for research projects involving human subjects. He has received many requests from other institutions to use it, so he plans to reconfigure the software to make it available to them. His IRB was listed as a model program in an article in the *Association for Psychological Science Observer.* ■



Western welcomes new president

ROBERT AND LAUREL
VARTABEDIAN



Several years ago, Dr. Robert Vartabedian went on a date with a woman named Laurel, and he said everything about that first date just felt right.

Many years later, in 2007, Dr. Vartabedian visited Western for an interview for the president's position. After he left, he said he had that very same feeling that he had on that first date. "Something felt right; I went home feeling very good about the interviews."

The date turned out alright – he and Laurel have been married for 30 years. And the interview turned out all right, too. Dr. Vartabedian became Western's new president and began his duties July 1. He succeeds Dr. James Scanlon, who retired June 30.

The new president has been spending his first few months at Western getting to know people on campus and in the community. "After getting out and meeting with stakeholders, we'll sit down and map out the future," he says. "I won't necessarily change anything. I'm not one to change things for the sake of change, or change things to have my name on them. I'm content to sustain good ideas, and there are a lot of good ideas here."

One of those good ideas, he says, is the university's focus on applied learning. "Expanding the classroom can be the most memorable aspect of a college career. Applied learning really adds to the educational atmosphere."

Western welcomes new president

Dr. Vartabedian notes that his colleagues at other universities have read about Western's applied learning initiatives on its website, and they want to replicate the ideas. "It (applied learning) has been and will be a major claim to fame for Western."

Another good idea he mentions is Western's focus on students. Dr. Vartabedian says the positions he most enjoyed at his previous universities were those where students were the top priority. "We do everyone a disservice if we lose the central focus of students."

He also plans to continue to maintain Western's strong community partnerships and community outreach, and work toward "creative and persistent revenue generation."

Although he grew up in Fresno, Calif., and most recently served as vice president for academic affairs at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, Dr. Vartabedian isn't too worried about the Midwestern winters. He earned his master's degree in speech communication from Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan., and spent eight years there, moving up from director of forensics to assistant dean of graduate studies.

He has also served as dean of the college of arts and sciences at Western Carolina University and taught speech communication at West Texas A & M University and East Central Oklahoma State University. He earned a doctorate in communication from the University of Oklahoma.

"I've had a lot of titles, but the title of teacher is the one I am most proud of. I will always be a teacher, first and foremost."

Dr. Vartabedian, who sets his alarm for 5 a.m. each morning (he's a former jogger, now a part-time jogger, part-time power walker), says he brings a lot of energy to his position. "I look forward to going to work every day. I love what I do and I hope it shows."

When prompted, he says a distinguishing characteristic of his leadership style is respect for others' ideas. "I'm a firm believer in the creative process. I value others' opinions, and I try to make people feel comfortable giving their ideas. I hope others would say I have a sense of humor."

His wife, Laurel, also received a doctorate in communication from the University of Oklahoma and has been a college professor for the past 25 years.

The couple has two children. Son, Rob, and his wife, Audrey, are attorneys in Amarillo, Texas. Their daughter, Sarah, is attending doctoral school at the University of Texas, Austin. Their cat, Echo, made the move with the Vartabedians from New Mexico.

"I am very happy to be here. I feel like it's a nice capstone experience of my career," Dr. Vartabedian said. "Western is a blossoming state university. The possibilities are limitless." ■

PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION CEREMONY

FOR
ROBERT A.
VARTABEDIAN

1:30 PM.
OCTOBER 17, 2008
MWSU ARENA

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



ADMINISTRATORS SINCE 1915

St. Joseph Junior College 1915-1965

From 1915 to 1925, the St. Joseph Junior College was located in Central High School, and the principal served both the high school and the junior college.

1915-16
FRANK CHARLES TOUTEN,
PRINCIPAL

1916-19
M.C. PRUNTY, PRINCIPAL

1919-20
JOHN W. THALMAN,
PRINCIPAL

1920-23
OSCAR S. WOOD,
PRINCIPAL

1923-24
GLENN R. DEATHERAGE,
PRINCIPAL

1924-25
CALLA E. VARNER,
PRINCIPAL

1925-28
CALLA E. VARNER,
PRESIDENT
DAVID W. HOPKINS,
DEAN

1928 -31
CALLA E. VARNER,
PRESIDENT
LEONARD M. HAINES,
DEAN

1931-57
NELLE BLUM, DEAN

1959-64
MARION E. GIBBONS,
DEAN

1964-65
EDGAR C. LITTLE, DEAN

Missouri Western Junior College 1965-1967

1965-67
MILBURN W. BLANTON,
PRESIDENT

Missouri Western College 1967-1977

Missouri Western State College 1977-2005

1967-1983
M.O. LOONEY, PRESIDENT

1983-2000
JANET GORMAN MURPHY,
PRESIDENT

Missouri Western State University 2005-

2001-2008
JAMES J. SCANLON,
PRESIDENT

2008-
ROBERT A.
VARTABEDIAN,
PRESIDENT



Dr. V. *Fun Facts*

- Has visited all the *presidential libraries* in the United States
- Started his career as a *debate coach*
- Favorite sports hero - *Willie Mays* ("I thought I was a serious baseball player.")
- Co-authored a paper with his wife, Laurel, *about humor in the workplace*



Achieving

“We want to develop the most modern facilities, equipment and other resources at Western to help meet our strategic plan goals for the next five years.”

That, according to Jerry Pickman '85, director of development, is the reason behind Achieving Greatness, a five-year capital campaign that kicks off Sept. 16. Lead gift donors (at press time) included Steven L. Craig, \$5.5 million, and Wes and Patsy '79 Remington, \$5 million.

“We are very excited about these gifts and applaud the generosity of our donors,” said Jerry. “Their faith in Western is gratifying, and we appreciate their lead in this campaign.”

The Achieving Greatness capital campaign is the private funding component of Western's Beyond Excellence Initiative that was announced last year.

Beyond Excellence calls for a major investment of public and private funds to enhance Western's mission, Jerry said. Public funding for the initiative includes \$30 million from the state's Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, which will help fund the renovation and expansion of Agenstein Hall; a \$2.5 million Economic Development Administration grant for the construction of the Christopher S. “Kit” Bond Science and Technology Incubator that was dedicated in May, and \$5.5 million from a bond issue for improvements to athletic facilities (supported by Max Experience student fees).



Greatness

"For this campaign to have the impact on the future of the university that we'd like it to have, we need people to think about giving in a way they've never done before," said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement. "The lead gifts have set the bar high."

He noted that a faculty and staff fund-raising campaign last spring for Achieving Greatness raised more than \$200,000, with more than 76 percent of employees making a pledge or gift.

Money raised in the Achieving Greatness campaign will be used for construction of the Agenstein Hall addition, Remington Hall; equipment for Agenstein/Remington Hall, along with an endowment for the buildings' maintenance; student

scholarships; and undesignated gifts that the Foundation can use as needed (see page 18).

"Undesignated gifts will fund 'emerging needs,'" Jerry explained. "Western's Foundation has very few undesignated funds that can be used to respond to needs as they arise, and there have been a growing number of requests from campus departments for funding. This will make funds available to meet needs that emerge from time to time."

"The campaign is an investment in Western's greatness, and everyone's participation is an important part of this process," Jerry said. "The university's success is a testament to those who believe Western can achieve greatness." ■

"The university's success is a testament to those who believe Western can achieve greatness."



**Achieving
Greatness** 
A CAMPAIGN FOR MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Gift sets new contribution record for

School of Business established



Dr. James Scanlon presents Steve Craig with a bronze Griffon to mark the announcement of his \$5.5 million gift.

Last fall, Western received a \$5 million gift, the largest individual contribution in its history. That record was broken in May, when a \$5.5 million gift was announced. Shopping center developer Steven L. Craig is now Western's largest contributor. His gift supports the creation of a school of business at Western, to be known as the Steven L. Craig School of Business.

"The St. Joseph area is still near and dear to me, and I feel very fortunate to have been raised here," said Steve, who moved to California after graduating from Savannah High School in Savannah, Mo., in 1973. "My own business career started here, and my goal is to create a culture of entrepreneurship at Western by giving students the tools to set out on their own course to accomplish their dreams. I see this investment in Western as an opportunity to make a very meaningful impact on the community."

"This is an investment in Western's greatness," said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement, when the gift was announced. "This empowers the university to continue to do outstanding work. Graduates of the Steven L. Craig School of Business will benefit the economy of the community and our region for years to come."

Steve earned a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Southern California in 1978 and is founding partner, president and CEO of Craig Realty Group of Newport Beach, Calif.

Craig Realty Group, founded in 1995, specializes in the development of upscale factory outlet centers and currently owns, operates and manages nearly 3.5 million square feet of existing retail development in six states, with an additional one million square feet under construction and development.

Prior to founding Craig Realty Group, Steve was president, CEO and director of Chelsea Property Group and a principal and managing partner of Chelsea's predecessor, Ginsburg Craig Associates. During his 10 years at those two companies, he was responsible for the development of 10 retail centers in five states.

Steve believes the roots of his success began in St. Joseph, where, as an "extraordinarily inquisitive child," friends and neighbors took the time to answer his questions and explain how things in the business world worked. "I feel a strong sense of appreciation and indebtedness to them," he says, adding that he got his start in business by operating fireworks stands as a teenager.

He visits the St. Joseph area four or five times a year, as several members of his family and many friends reside here, and he has been an active supporter of the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, the Mount Mora Cemetery Association, the YWCA and other local charities.

Steve has been involved with the department of business at Western for the last decade, said Carol Roeveer, associate professor of business and interim dean of the school of business. He was the keynote speaker at the annual business intern banquet 10 years ago and was recently an invited guest lecturer for an entrepreneurship class.

"I know alumni will ask, 'why does someone who went to USC want to give to Western the largest gift in its history?'" Steve says. "In my involvement with Carol and the business department, I understood what they were doing and it connected with my thoughts and ideas. I knew a donation of this size would make a profound difference and be very significant." ■

Work begins on Agenstein Hall/ Remington Hall

When Deborah Becker, instructor of computer science, was hired at Western in 2002, fellow faculty members were excited about the renovation and expansion of Agenstein Hall, the building that housed math and science departments. They believed that funding for the renovation was imminent, because the Agenstein Hall project was at the top of a state capital projects list. Western had even received a \$250,000 federal grant to begin renovation planning.

But 2002 was the beginning of several years of decreasing state revenues, and the capital projects at state colleges and universities were put on hold. The renovation plan was set aside, but the campus community, especially science and math students and faculty members, continued to hope.

Finally in 2007, the state found a way to fund their higher education institutions' capital projects, and Western received \$30 million from the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative for the Agenstein Hall project.

"We're very excited," Deborah said at the April groundbreaking for the renovation and expansion. "I'm glad I'm going to get to see the project completed."

The project includes an approximately 60,000 sq. ft. addition which will be named Remington Hall, and the renovation of

Agenstein Hall. The addition will be built first, followed by the renovation; all work is scheduled for completion in 2010.

Sophomore Sami Schmuecker said she is looking forward to the additional lab space in Remington Hall, along with the new instruments and updated equipment. "Our capabilities are limited right now for research," she says. "So many students want to get involved but there is not enough room to set up." And Sami, a biochemistry and molecular biology major and math minor, is excited about the new student spaces that will be created as part of the project. "I can't wait. I'll get to see it the whole way through."

The project received a boost last fall when Wes and Patsy '79, Remington of St. Joseph, Mo., pledged \$5 million to be used on the project. The gift, Wes said, is to ensure that workforce development in the animal health and life sciences fields will continue in St. Joseph so the industry can grow even more.

"Achievements of students in all areas at Western have been impressive, and that's certainly been true in the science and math areas," said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement. "I think the new facilities will make Western a major force in the science and technology workforce development in our region. That is very exciting." ■



Professors who teach in Agenstein Hall - Dr. Ben Caldwell, Dr. Jerry Zweerink, Dr. Jason Baker and Dr. Ken Lee - along with Provost Dr. Joseph Bragin (second from left), break ground for the addition to Agenstein Hall, known as Remington Hall.

Achieving Greatness will secure an initial celebration goal of *\$15 million* to address many of Western's long-range needs during the five-year effort.

Construction and Renovation Goal | \$7.5 million

A campaign priority is the expansion and renovation of the current science and mathematics building — Agenstein Hall. More than \$30 million of the total \$37.5 million project has been raised in public funding, and Wes and Patsy Remington have donated \$5 million for this project. The addition will be called Remington Hall.

Endowment Goal | \$1 million

A second campaign priority is to expand support for student scholarships. Investing in need- and merit-based scholarships will further Western's mission of empowering students to succeed.

Steven L. Craig School of Business Goal | \$5.5 million

The department of business is Western's largest degree program with more than 750 students majoring in accounting, finance, management and marketing. Steven L. Craig has donated \$5.5 million for an endowment and program funding to establish the Steven L. Craig School of Business and to attract and retain outstanding students and faculty. (See story on p. 16)

Emerging Needs Goal | \$1 million

An additional campaign priority is to secure support for emerging needs. Undesignated gifts received annually through the Western Annual Fund and membership in the Western League for Excellence help maintain the day-to-day excellence of Western. Investing in the Emerging Needs Fund will allow Western to better prepare students for a competitive workforce by providing additional opportunities for applied learning, research and service.





Far left: Carol Roever, interim dean of the Steven L. Craig School of Business, visits with Steve Craig. Right: Wes and Patsy '79, Remington unveil a plaque in their honor at the groundbreaking of Remington Hall. Above: Dr. James Scanlon and Sen. Christopher S. "Kit" Bond cut the ribbon at the dedication of Western's new incubator.



Campaign Leadership

Honorary Chairs

Steven Craig
Dick '54, and Mignon DeShon
Joe '42, and Anne Gray
Wes and Patsy '79, Remington

Campaign Vice-Chairs

Linden Black
Evelyn Brooks
Dirck Clark '85
Mark Cochran
Steve Cotter '78
Dan Danford '78
Pat Dillon
Daniel Eckhoff '91
Jeff Ellison
Steve Estes
Steve Hamilton
Cindy Hausman
Larry Hausman
Kelly Henry
Jason Horn '95
Linda Kerner '73
Corky Marquart '84
Howard McCauley
Ralph Schank '82
Emil Sechter
Bill Titcomb
Greg VerMulm '89
Zack Workman '74

Campaign Counsel

Todd Bragg, The Steier Group

University Leadership

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

Dan Nicoson

Vice President for University Advancement
Executive Director, MWSU Foundation

Jerry Pickman '85

Director of Development

Achieving Greatness

Healing



Remember when you were a kid and you stole a candy bar from the store?

And remember when your parents found out and made you not only take it back and pay for it, but also apologize to the owner? It was a great lesson, wasn't it?

That was restorative justice in action, and it's a concept that is becoming more and more prevalent in our criminal justice system today.

Joanne Katz, professor of legal studies, has received grants to conduct research on restorative justice programs in Missouri and develop a curriculum for it. She teaches a unit on the concept in her Mediation class.

She says that the practice of restorative justice has been around a long time (it is mentioned in the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, written around 1700 B.C.), but she says what is new is that the court system is becoming involved and more formal programs for restorative justice are developing.

"It is a shift in the way we look at crime," she says. "Ordinarily, we think of crime as against the state, and the victim gets left out of the process. The idea of restorative justice is that the

crime really happened to the individual and that person is harmed.”

Restorative justice gives the victim an opportunity to meet the offender face-to-face in a safe, structured environment and ask questions. The offender then has the opportunity to repair the harm and understand the impact on the victim. The parties discuss the situation and work out a plan for repairing the harm caused by the crime, and restitution is almost always a part of the program.

Participation in a restorative justice program is always approached carefully and with great consideration for the victim, Joanne says. For example, a victim is never ordered to participate, and a meeting would never be set up if the offender was not remorseful. Additionally, a trained mediator meets with both the victim and offender before they meet with each other.

One of her favorite examples of restorative justice involved an elderly couple whose home had been vandalized by a group of young teenagers. The couple was terrified to leave their home, but reluctantly agreed to meet with the offenders. “When the victims walked in, they saw their offenders sitting there,” Joanne says. “They were boys who were so small their feet didn’t touch the floor. That’s who the couple was terrified of.” She said the boys were very apologetic and it turned into a very good experience for the couple.

At least one student in her class every year tells Joanne that they remember the humiliation of having to return that stolen candy bar, and they tell her they vowed to never steal again. She’s not surprised. Studies have shown that when juveniles participate in restorative justice, the re-offense rate is greatly reduced.



Joanne Katz,
professor of
legal studies

“We know when juveniles are called to task it seems to impact them. They better understand the impact it (the crime) had on people’s lives.”

Restorative justice, she believes, can be one of the answers to the United States’ growing crime problem and exploding prison population. “Our system just isn’t working; we are over-dependent on incarceration as a way of dealing with crime. We have to do things differently, and restorative justice is answering a call.”

Joanne has been a proponent of the concept since 2000, when she received a grant to study the extent of the programs in the state of Missouri. In 2006, when she was hired to complete the survey again, she found that the number of programs had increased from four to 13. She also received a three-year grant to study the attitudes of stakeholders toward restorative justice in Missouri and another grant to train juvenile court employees. Additionally, a two-year grant funded a program where Joanne worked with middle school students in the St. Joseph, Mo., School District.

“From all points of view, restorative justice just makes sense,” she says. ■

Excerpt from sample Victim/Offender Mediation

As the mediation session began, Clarice sat stiff and straight in her chair. She stared at William, the 16 year-old restaurant employee who fidgeted and looked away.

“Why,” Clarice demanded, “did you throw my dinner in my face?” She was near tears. The personal humiliation had been far worse than the burn from the hot food.

William tried to explain. It had been an extraordinarily long day. The restaurant was understaffed and he had been working for nine hours in the hot kitchen without a break when Clarice complained about her food.

“I just lost it,” he said, realizing there was no way he could justify what he had done.

William told Clarice his rash action had cost him his job, his car, and his girlfriend. Clarice began to calm down once she understood that William had already “paid a price” for his misdeed.

Because Clarice had no medical expenses associated with the incident, they decided that William would pay Clarice for the wages she lost when she took off work to attend this session.

William later told the mediator he did not realize until he met with Clarice how serious and hurtful his actions had been.

**Retributive
Justice (traditional)**

asks:

What is the law that was broken?

Who broke the law?

How should they be punished?

**Restorative
Justice**

asks:

What is the harm that was done?

How can we repair that harm?

Who is responsible for repairing that harm?



From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Surprise! There's a new picture associated with this article and a new president. I want to thank the past president Jason Horn '95, for his steadfast leadership over the last two and half years. Under Jason's administration, the Alumni Association has grown and expanded in ways inconceivable just a few years ago. We are poised for continued growth in the years ahead.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and several Alumni Association members spent many hours over the last year developing a strategic plan for the Association. If there was a common theme in our discussions, it was this: Alumni are relevant at today's Western. We have the ability to help the university achieve its vision and assist our current students to become alumni of the future.

Look for opportunities to be involved in the following ways:

- Student/alumni engagement – Through career networking programs, athletic events, new student recruitment, and leadership development, we will be working closely with current students.
- Professional networking – What makes great universities great are alumni networking with and hiring other alumni. We will provide opportunities for Western alumni to meet and network with one another both socially and professionally.
- Community involvement - One of the hallmarks of Western is community service. Each regional chapter will be involved in some sort of community service project within their own community, and we invite each of you and your families to participate in these activities.



Gregory VerMulm '89

- Reunion activities and trips – From St. Joseph Junior College to Greek organizations to departmental gatherings, we welcome any and all opportunities for alumni to reconnect. For starters, there's a trip to Branson planned for this November (see next page).

All we need is you. Let me know what you think about our plans. You can e-mail me at gregvermulm@griffonalumni.org or contact the Alumni Services Office at 816-271-5646 or mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.

With Griffon Pride,

Gregory A. VerMulm '89
President, Alumni Association

ALUMNI NEWS Briefs

New board members, officers

At its May meeting, the Alumni Association board of directors elected five new members: Luke Gorham '06, Alyssa Holyfield '05, Bruce Kneib '84, Tom Schnieder '64, and Nichi Yeager '99.

Luke is a graduate student at University of Missouri – Kansas City and works in the Student Life Office there, and Alyssa is a recreation specialist for youth services for the city of O'Fallon, Mo. Bruce is controller at the St. Joseph News-Press, Tom is an adjunct professor of music at Western, retiring in 2005 as supervisor of fine arts for the St. Joseph School District. Nichi is the editor of *Josephine* magazine for the St. Joseph News-Press.

Officers were also elected for the new academic year: Gregory VerMulm '89, president; Diane Hook '90, first vice president – special projects and benefits; and Randy Klein '78, second vice president – events and student involvement initiatives.

A special thank you to outgoing board members, Jeanne Daffron '75, Robin Hammond '93, and Angie Springs '02, for their dedicated years of service to the Alumni Association. ■

Join us online!

Now's your chance to become a part of an online community of Western alumni! Look for our alumni groups on Facebook and LinkedIn. And don't forget our own online community, www.griffonalumni.org. ■

Seasonal Addresses

Do you have a winter home? We occasionally host events in Florida, Texas, and Arizona during the winter months. Don't miss out on your invitation. Update your seasonal address by e-mailing mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu or calling 816-271-5646. ■



Alumni CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 13 Alumni Tailgate
at Northwest Missouri State University.

SEPTEMBER 16 Volleyball match
at UMSL. Meet the team and St. Louis-area alumni following the game at our first chapter family picnic.

SEPTEMBER 20 Hall of Fame game;
Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2008 honored.

SEPTEMBER 24 Western Wednesday
in St. Joseph, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., and St. Louis. Check out www.GriffonAlumni.org/WesternWednesdays for more information.

OCTOBER 11 Alumni Tailgate
at the University of Nebraska – Omaha.

OCTOBER 16-18 Homecoming 2008.

OCTOBER 22 Western Wednesday
in St. Joseph, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., and St. Louis. Check out www.GriffonAlumni.org/WesternWednesdays for more information.

NOVEMBER 8 Alumni Football Reunion.
All former football players are invited to return for Senior Day to meet the seniors, the coaches and the rest of the team. For more information and to register, go to www.griffonalumni.org/football2008. Reunion organizers include Tom Earley '83, Scott Graham '78, Jaime Grayson '99, Jamie Waldren '78, & Zack Workman '74.

NOVEMBER 19-20-21 Second annual Branson trip for alumni and friends! See Andy Williams, Yakov Smirnoff, Tony Orlando and Bobby Vinton, along with the Titanic Museum, the Veterans Memorial Museum and holiday lights. Bus transportation, lodging and all meals included. Early bird special: \$595/double, \$335/single by Oct. 17; \$625/\$365 after Oct. 17. Call 816-271-5646 or go online at www.griffonalumni.org/Branson2008. ■

Join us for Homecoming 2008!

October 16

- **Alumni Association Awards Banquet,**
Fulkerson Center, \$20 per person.
Please join us as we honor the recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards, Alumni Association scholarships, and the Herb and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University.

The 2008 Distinguished Award Recipients

Distinguished Alumni

George Hayward '75, president of Lake Road Warehouse Co. in St. Joseph, Mo., and official for the NFL.

Chris Danford '78, lead counselor at Central High School in St. Joseph, Mo.

Dan Kellogg '82, Buchanan County Circuit Judge, St. Joseph, Mo.

Cheri Kempf '85, owner of Worth Club K softball instruction facility in Nashville, Tenn., and sports commentator for ESPN and Fox Sports.

Distinguished Faculty

Carol Roever, associate professor of business and interim dean of the Steven L. Craig School of Business.

Herb and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University
Stan and Doris '51, Hall.

October 18

- **Parade,** downtown St. Joseph
- **Alumni tailgate lunch** – Reunions for communication studies/theatre majors, physical therapist assistants (10-year anniversary of the program), resident assistants, Student Government Association, Greeks, Ebony Collegians and NAACP.
- **Griffons vs. Emporia State University,** Spratt Memorial Stadium
- **Greek Reunion** – Join us for the second annual gathering of the Greeks! Open to all alumni members of Greek organizations.

Check out the details and register for events at www.griffonalumni.org or call 816-271-5646.



Members of the Golden Griffon Alumni Society, those who graduated 50 or more years ago, gather for a group photo at the Junior College Day in April.



BSU gathers for reunion

Elizabeth Talbot '02, said her involvement in the Baptist Student Union (BSU) had a great influence on her not only as a student, but it shaped her life even after she graduated. When the first ever reunion was scheduled last spring, she knew she didn't want to miss it. "It was

a time we grew closer to God and to each

other," she said of her membership in the BSU. "No other organization on campus did that for me."

Elizabeth, one of the reunion planners, said the committee was pleased with the turnout of more than 75 alumni, family members and friends. They gathered on campus on a Saturday last April for a social, dinner and a prayer service.

"We always had a close bond when we were in school together, and we wanted a chance to reconnect with each other," said Andrea Morris '98, another one of the organizers. She added that she was thrilled to see the campus again, and see how much it has grown. "It makes you proud to be an alumnus."

Both women said they plan to hold another reunion next year. ■

**BSU
REUNION
MWSU-2008**

Karen Havener '01, Carolyn Polston '01, Cara Harrington '99, Janette Leifker '01, and Natalie Woods '01, visit at the Baptist Student Union reunion.



**Alumni Day @
the K!**

Kim Buntin '05, and Kristen Neeley '05, joined 300 alumni and friends at Alumni Day at the K, Cardinals vs. Royals.



All alumni who send in a baby announcement for the Alumnos (with or without a photo!), will receive a "Future Griffon" bib!

1970s

JIM TERRILL '77, was appointed by Gov. Matt Blunt to a second three-year term on the Missouri State Rehabilitation Council in Jefferson City, Mo.

CURTIS DEAN '79, is vice president at Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C.'s tax department.

1980s

MIKE WOLF '80, is the secondary principal for the King City R-1 (Mo.) School District.

TONY JUSTIN '80, is a loan officer at Union Bank's Commercial Banking Group in Lee's Summit, Mo.

KENDELL MISEMER '81, was featured in FB News, a newsletter for the American Farm Bureau Federation. The profile focused on his farming operation and his community involvement.

SUSAN FERGUSON '85, earned a master of arts in English - creative writing from Northern Arizona University. She is self-employed as a writer and manuscript editor in Sedona, Ariz.

PATRICIA (DUNN) NAUMAN '86, retired as vice president of US Bank in St. Joseph, Mo., after 45 years of service.

1990s

CAMMIE NICHOLS '92, is serving as a specialist in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash. She is a dental hygienist at a dental clinic on the post.

GINA MITCHELL '94, received a master of science in nursing from Webster University.

LORIN O'DANIELL '94, and Mary Beth Crouch were married Dec. 29, 2007. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

SUSAN SCHOTTEL '94, and JEFFREY LONG '01, were married Jan. 17, 2008. The couple resides in New Madrid, Mo.

LAURIE (STOOPS) TRICKEL '94, and Craig Frisbie were married Oct. 18, 2007. The couple resides in Trenton, Mo.

HEATHER (HAGER) CLARK '95 and Matt Rivera were married April 4, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

BRANDI (LIPIRA) FRAIZER '95, and her husband, Brent, announce the birth of a daughter, Victoria Marie, born Aug. 29, 2006. The family resides in Kansas City, Mo.

ANDY STUFFLEBEAN '95, is campus director at Vatterott College in St. Joseph, Mo. He has been with Vatterott since 1996, serving as an instructor and director of career services.

ERIN (MCCAMY) '98 and JOE '99, DUIN announce the birth of a son, Reed Matthew, born Sept. 25, 2007. Reed has two siblings, Hannah and Brett.

AMY DUNN '98, and William Cunningham were married March 15, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

HEATHER (PERRY) FENTON '98, was promoted to manager of product resources for TouchNet Information Systems, Inc., Lenexa, Kan.

DANA (MAXWELL) HOOVER '98, is the chief financial officer at Hedrick Medical Center in Chillicothe, Mo.

KIMBERLEY (EVANS) RODRIGUEZ '99, is the K-12 principal at Hale R-1 (Mo.) School.

2000s

BECKY (BRYANT) GALL '00, is the banking center manager at UMB in St. Joseph, Mo.

CAROLYN SANDERS '00, is the human resources manager for the City of St. Joseph, Mo.

KRISTI (BREEDING) BOGSETH '01, and her husband, Kurt, announce the birth of a son, Brandon Charles, born March 22, 2008. The family resides in Ankeny, Iowa.

BRAD NURSKI '01, was one of 17 golfers who competed for one open spot in the U.S. Open and finished in second place, one shot behind the qualifier. Brad finished in first place in the regional qualifier in May. In June, he qualified for one of the top 15 spots in the Missouri Amateur Championships.

JULIA CHANEY '02, graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia Law School and entered private practice as an attorney in Hannibal, Mo.

MARK COLE '02, is the head football coach at Savannah (Mo.) High School. He had served as head football coach at Gallatin (Mo.) High School for six years.

KIM (BURETTA) MEYER '02, attained her MBA in international business from AIU in December 2007 and began a new position in the Business Operations - Finance Department at Boeing, one of the world's largest aerospace and defense corporations.

STACY (CALCOTE) WILLIAMSON '02, was chosen as a workshop presenter at the National Middle School Association's annual convention in Denver. The workshop is on grading practices in middle level education. It focuses on making all students successful by using differentiated instruction.

MIKE KELLAM '03, is the city planner for the City of St. Joseph, Mo. He had served as assistant city planner since 2006.

LACEY CHRISTOPHER '04, and Matthew Beals were married in 2006. Their daughter, Ella, was born June 5, 2007. Lacey graduated from Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa, in May 2007, and passed the bar exam in February 2008.

ERIN MCBRAYER '04, and Shawn Goins were married Sept. 21, 2007. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

2000s continued

JARON MONTEMAYOR '04, and Kristina Otto were married Feb. 13, 2008. Kristina is a student at Western. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

SANDRA LOPEZ '04, and Kody Kemerling were married March 21, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo. Kody is a student at Western.

KATY ALVAREZ '05, and Daniel Seaboldt were married Sept. 16, 2007. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

CHRIS CLARK '05, is a multimedia coordinator for the City of St. Joseph, Mo.

ANDREW DAVIS '05, and ERICA HIDRITCH '06 were married June 14, 2008. The couple resides in Savannah, Ga.

NICOLE HENDRIX '05, and CODY ARCHDEKIN '06, were married Oct. 6, 2007. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

ALYSSA HOLYFIELD '05, received an MBA from Lindenwood University. She is a member of the St. Louis alumni chapter and a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

AMANDA JO GANN '06, and Alan Beers were married Sept. 8, 2007. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

BRICE GARNETT '06, earned a second place finish in a golf regional qualifier, and played in the sectional tournament for a spot in the U.S. Open.

JOHN SEEVER '06, and his wife, Heather, announce the birth of a daughter, Amelia Grace, born Oct. 26, 2007.

MICHAEL COBBINS '07, is playing arena football for the LA Avengers. Michael was a defensive end for the Griffons 2003-2006, and earned All-MIAA, first-team honors his last three seasons.

IAN WHITE '07 and Brandy Voltmer were married Dec. 22, 2007. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo., and Brandy is a Western student.

SHAWNA WRIGHT '08, and Larry Farr were married Dec. 15, 2007. The couple resides in Mound City, Mo. ■

Maliali ministry – Rebekah Needham '05

The first time Rebekah Needham '05, put on a sari, she had help from a friend, and it took her about an hour to arrange the six meters of silk correctly. The first time she put on a sari by herself, it took about half that time. By the time she left India after a 10-month stay, she had the sari in place in 15 minutes.

Sari-tying was just one of the lessons Rebekah learned from the Maliali during her almost 9,000-mile journey from her hometown of Cameron, Mo., to the southwest tip of India. She volunteered at a private, English-speaking school, Bethany Academy, in Vennikulam, Thiruvallur, Karali, teaching communication English skills to 500 students from nursery-school age through ninth-grade.

She says she also learned about virus-carrying mosquitoes (not fun), a little of the Malayalam language (pronunciation is very difficult), all about the three-month monsoon season (it can be pouring rain and the sun will be out), and power outages (monsoon season again). But those were not the most difficult lessons, Rebekah says.

The most difficult lessons and challenges came from within.

"India was a really personal journey for me, but I felt like God told me to go," Rebekah says. "It was difficult to face my insecurities, and I was there all alone. My whole paradigm was challenged, but I became more confident, well rounded and more solid in my faith."

She says it was difficult to adapt to the Indian culture, but it was a necessity since she was there for a lengthy stay. "I'm a very outgoing person and I had to re-adjust and become more reserved and less talkative." And, she says it was hard to rarely go out alone; they are very protective of their women.

"I came back very different because of how I had to change to fit in," Rebekah says.

But no matter the challenges, she has always loved to travel. In 2006, she was crowned Miss Missouri International and became a spokesperson for the Children's Hunger Fund (CHF) for the next year, speaking to churches and organizations across the country, in Mexico and Peru. She wasn't home very

long before she left for India, and then she spent two months in England before returning to Cameron. Additionally, she plans to move to England this fall.

Traveling seems to be a family tradition, as well. Her maternal grandfather was an oil engineer, so as a child, her mother lived all over the world. She met Rebekah's father, a native of England, when she was studying in London. Also, Rebekah's sister, Rachael Green '02, studied in France on a Rotary scholarship the year after she graduated from Western. (Western seems to be a

Rebekah Needham '05



Jason Riley '96- Guitar Hero

When Jason Riley '96, was about six years old, his grandfather started giving him banjo lessons, but Jason says, "It just didn't take." Six years later, his parents were kind of surprised when he asked if he could buy a guitar and take lessons.

That took.

Today, the St. Joseph, Mo., native is a professional guitarist, performing locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Jason has produced three solo albums and six with groups, and has done commercials, and worked with

family tradition, as well. Along with Rebekah and Rachael, their sister, Elizabeth, graduated from Western this past May, and brother, John, is a freshman.)

"Travel broadens your horizons. You have to be open minded. Anyone who places themselves in that position will be forced to grow as a person," she says.

An exciting part of her experience in India, she says, was how her hometown got behind the local Rotary when the group adopted the Bethany Academy as its international literacy project. The Rotary collected several books, CDs and DVDs from the community and sent them to Rebekah for the academy. Rebekah also organized a letter-writing project for her Indian students to correspond with students in Cameron.

Fast forward 10 years – what does she hope to be doing? Definitely two things, Rebekah says – still traveling and still volunteering. "I hope to have a home base but spend most of the year traveling; I want to learn five to 10 languages and conduct leadership programs around the world for children and youth." ■

other artists. He is an adjunct guitar instructor at both Western and Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.

Most weekends Jason can be found with guitar in hand (one of his seven "work horses" - electric, acoustic or classical), performing solo, duo or with one of his bands - Under the Influence, a rock band now in their 16th year that includes his wife, Jolie '93; Soca Jukebox, a Caribbean steel drum band; the Jason Riley trio; or the Nova Project, a group that plays "classical prog" music composed by Western guitar faculty member Anthony Glise.

That group has performed in Europe on several occasions and plans to perform at a musical festival in France this fall. (Check out Jason's complete performance schedule at www.jasonriley.com.)

Jason, who earned a music – guitar performance degree and Western's first commercial music degree, attempted to explain what it's like to perform. "You get into a highly focused space or zone, a special concentration that musicians use that is different from any other kind. It allows you to be aware of everything going on around you; it forces you to be in the moment. It's a great feeling, especially when you are playing with good musicians." And, "of course it feels good when people clap for you."

Today, hundreds of musicians of all ages can attribute some of their guitar knowhow and love of the instrument to Jason, who began giving guitar lessons just four years after he started taking them himself. For several years, he guided and influenced fledgling musicians in Western's continuing education guitar classes.



Jason Reilly '96

"Some of my first students still play. Many people that I gave their first lesson to, now have graduated with guitar degrees. That makes me very proud to know I had a small part in that."

Jason recently began teaching his daughter, Georgia, how to play the guitar. "I asked her what she wanted to play (like she had a choice), and she said she'd start guitar lessons when she was five." And how is she doing? "She's earned a sticker every time." He says he'll wait a few years before starting lessons with his younger son, Benjamin.

"It wasn't my intention to stay in St. Joseph this long, but I couldn't have it any better," Jason says. "I have everything I hoped for. I can't think of anything I want to do that I can't do right here." ■

Editor's note: It was a special treat for me to meet Jason and interview him. Seven years ago, my son, who had never shown the slightest interest in the guitar or any other musical instrument, decided to buy a guitar and enroll in Jason's continuing education class on beginning guitar. Six lessons later, it "took," and my son has become an avid (and very good!) guitarist.

In Memory ...

We honor those alumni who have recently passed away. If you want us to include someone in this listing, please call 816-271-5651, mail to Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or e-mail holtz@missouriwestern.edu.

JANE M. BOWSER '88, St. Joseph, Mo.,
April 25, 2008.

DOROTHY (ROSENTHAL) DEXTER COGEN '39,
Encino, Calif., Jan. 25, 2008.

NANCY J. (NOBLE) DAVENPORT JC, St. Joseph,
Mo., March 2008.

JAMIE A. DAWSON '01, St. Joseph, Mo.,
Jan. 25, 2008.

DOUGLAS W. DWYER JC, St. Joseph, Mo.,
March 27, 2008.

HAZEL C. (WRIGHT) EASLEY '84, Cassville,
Mo., March 15, 2008.

KAREN A. (WHITE) EZZELL '07, St. Joseph, Mo.,
Feb. 29, 2008.

V. LAVONE FEIST '92, St. Joseph, Mo.,
April 25, 2008.

LARRY E. GARTON '73, St. Joseph, Mo.,
Jan. 31, 2008.

MICHAEL GLENN '87, St. Joseph, Mo.,
March 6, 2008.

VIRGINIA (DILLINGER) GLOVER '74,
Chillicothe, Mo., Jan. 29, 2008.

BRIAN CRAIG HALLEY '95 & '99, Maryville,
Mo., March 21, 2008.

MICHAEL J. HALLING '72, Atchison, Kan.,
Feb. 5, 2008.

NELL J. HEATH JC, Edgerton, Mo.,
April 5, 2008.

LOUISE HEES '38, St. Joseph, Mo.,
May 11, 2008.

DOUGLAS E. JOHN '85, St. Joseph, Mo.,
March 18, 2008.

KAREN R. KEMPER '93, Cameron, Mo.,
May 26, 2008.

ANNA L. KNEIB JC, St. Joseph, Mo.,
April 10, 2008.

ANNA LEE LITVAK '41, St. Joseph, Mo.,
March 22, 2008.

JAMES E. MCCARTHY '77, Gower, Mo.,
April 16, 2008.

MARIELLA MANVILLE '42, Wathena, Kan.,
April 25, 2008.

GWYNNETH A. (SWIFT) MEJIA '71, St. Joseph,
Mo., Feb. 18, 2008.

JAMES MODIS '48, St. Joseph, Mo.,
May 22, 2008.

MICHAEL N. O'CONNOR '79, Springfield, Mo.,
March 22, 2008.

SGT. MAJ. RICHARD A. PAQUETTE (RET.),
St. Joseph, Mo., May 11, 2008.

RONALD E. POWELL JC, Sun-City, Ariz.,
March 24, 2008.

FRANCES (MINER) SANSONE SCHELLHORN
JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 17, 2008.

ROBERT F. TINDALL JR. JC, Topeka, Kan.,
April 22, 2008.

TRUMAN E. WILSON '47, St. Joseph, Mo.,
June 11, 2008. Truman served in the Missouri
House of Representatives for two years and in
the State Senate for 20 years. Truman Wilson
Hall on campus is named in his honor.

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____



Western League for Excellence

"We support Western because it is a great university and a great asset to the community, and we are happy to support the Western League for Excellence. The League provides opportunities for students beyond the classroom, as it funds experiences such as conferences and speaking engagements. Also, the League's unrestricted funds give Western more flexibility to respond to needs that arise."

Pete and Staci '92, Gray,
Charter Members of the Western League for Excellence Founder's Circle,
with their sons, Zachary, 12; Alec, 7; and Mitchell, 3.



Appreciating our history – Ronald S. Reed Jr.

This past summer, the campus and community learned a little more about the university's history, thanks to local attorney Ron Reed Jr., who, as a state representative from 1965-1970, worked diligently to ensure that Western would become a four-year institution.

Ron recently gathered his experiences of the legislative struggle that led to Western's creation in a booklet, "Reflections on the Founding of Missouri Western State University," and a book signing and reception was held on campus in June. At the reception, it was announced that the Board of Governors approved a resolution to rename the central campus entrance from Mitchell Avenue to Downs Drive, "Ronald S. Reed Jr. Way."

At the book signing, Ron credited the support of the St. Joseph community for passing a bond issue to buy the land for the new campus and build the first buildings. "St. Joseph voters responded overwhelmingly and magnificently," Ron said. "Missouri Western always has and continues to be a very real community university." ■



Top: State Rep. Ronald S. Reed Jr., second from right, was in attendance when Gov. Warren Hearnes signed the bill that made Western a four-year institution. Bottom left: Ronald S. Reed Jr. signs copies of his book at a ceremony at Western in June. More than 100 attended. Bottom right: Building the new campus. Dr. M.O. Looney, Western's president from 1967-1983, center, surveys work on one of the first campus buildings in 1969.

*"Missouri Western
always has and continues to be a
very real community university."*
- Ronald Reed Jr., state representative from 1965-1970



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