

FALL 2009

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University

40 *years*

Western celebrates 40 years of 4-year!



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



Dear Friends,

This month, Western marks a milestone – 40 years as a four-year baccalaureate degree-granting institution, or, to put it more simply: 40 years of four-year designation. Our students will “Go Back in Time to '69” during Homecoming to celebrate this occasion, and as we look ahead and plan for Western’s future, I find myself joining them on their journey.

For those of us who grew up in that era, we know that 1969, like 2009, was a time of unrest. The nation was at war, we experienced uncertain economic times, and our culture was slowly changing. In 1969, students attending Western were excited about the new campus. As man walked on the moon for the first time and interest in space soared, students made good use of their brand new planetarium. In a time of unrest across the country, the new campus was a symbol of hope.

Interestingly enough, many of the initial goals set forth by Western back in 1969 ring true today. These goals included an “open door” policy in order to transform lives through higher education as well as the promotion of regional cultural development.

While our senior college curricula was long ago established and accredited, we continue to develop new and innovative graduate programs while maintaining a strong commitment to providing a college education to all who seek one, thus continuing our “open door” policy through our open enrollment practices. We also continue to be committed to the cultural development of the region through our partnerships with various St. Joseph arts organizations and our own campus arts programs.

We do all of this with an eye toward expanding our facilities and developing a campus master plan. Dr. Marvin Looney, who was Western’s president in 1969, expressed to me that when he opened the doors to three buildings in September 1969, he never envisioned a time when our circle drive would be too small to accommodate our educational needs, our demand for athletic programs would exceed our facilities, and our demand for on-campus housing would outnumber our available beds. It is a testament to Dr. Looney, Dr. Janet Murphy-McCarthy, Dr. James Scanlon and their governing boards that Western has grown in ways unimaginable in 1969, yet has maintained its commitment to its core values and goals. I look forward with great anticipation to the next 40 years.

Robert A. Vartabedian

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

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Whether it was to study and teach, learn about businesses or serve in a mission, students and faculty have had outstanding experiences abroad.

14 Western Celebrates 40 Years of 4-year

It was 40 years ago this fall when 2,536 students stepped on to the new Missouri Western College campus for the first time with the new opportunity to earn a four-year degree. Read about two legislators' contributions to that milestone, alumni memories of the new campus, the president's vision for the future, and a painting that is now back on campus.

25 Student Makes “MADE”

Cliff Selsor, who graduated in May, was part of a recent episode of MTV's reality show, “MADE.”



10

Western to Wall Street

Five finance majors' visit to New York City last spring included some special tours and visits, thanks to two alumni. Steve Koenig, who played football for Western and is currently managing director and co-head of Latin America Sales and Training for J.P. Morgan, set up appointments for the group at both J.P. Morgan and BGC Partners. Esther George '80, first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Mo., arranged an appointment for the group at the New York Federal Reserve Bank.

"When I heard Missouri Western students were coming to New York, I asked if they wanted to come to our offices," said Steve, who lectures in

business classes at Western at least once a year. "I wanted them to get an insight into what it's like to have a Wall Street job."

At J.P. Morgan, Steve arranged a meeting between the students and Joyce Chang, managing director and global head of the firm's emerging markets and credit research group. Joyce has been named by *Institutional Investor* magazine as the No. 1 emerging markets strategist for seven consecutive years.

At the Federal Reserve Bank, students toured the vault, which holds about \$70 billion in gold. The New York location is the only one that stores gold in its vault. The group also met with the vice president of bank supervision who spoke with them

about the current state of the economy.

"I was happy to be able to arrange the visit, knowing from my own college experiences that some of my best learning took place outside the classroom," Esther said. "I had the benefit of professors who encouraged that kind of learning, even 30 years ago."

"These opportunities would not have been available without Steve and Esther," said Carol Roeber, interim dean of the Craig School of Business who accompanied the students. "Thanks to their help, our students met privately with a number of people who provided key insights into finance and the current economic crisis." ■

Law Enforcement Academy serves region

With a change in the curriculum for criminal justice degree programs, Western students can now attend the Western Institute's Law Enforcement Academy as part of their bachelor's or associate's criminal justice degree requirements, earning 18 hours of credit. In the past, the academy was separate from the degree program.

Kip Wilson, associate professor of criminal justice at Western and interim academy director, said students who earn the academy certification along with their degree will be more marketable when they graduate.

He noted that in the past, area law enforcement agencies would hire a new recruit and pay for them to go through the academy, so it really wasn't an issue that the academy was separate. But the agencies don't have the funds to do that anymore and they usually hire only those who have graduated from the academy.

Another advantage is that now that the academy is part of the curriculum, students can receive financial aid for it.

Kip also believes the change will eventually increase enrollment in the academy, which will give law enforcement agencies a better pool of candidates from which to choose.

Today, law enforcement officers are required to receive 600 hours of training and to become certified by the Missouri Department of Public Safety's Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Program.

However, Western's academy offers more than 900 hours of training, giving students additional certifications.

The course includes a great deal of hands-on training.

"We try to merge academics and training," Kip said. "It's not designed for a trade but a profession. They (the cadets) get theoretical background along with practical training, and it's a better academy because of the extra hours."

"A lot of area professionals have been teaching at the academy for a long time," he added. "They're some of the best trained officers in the state." ■

Law Enforcement Academy cadets are instructed by Kip Wilson at a staged crime scene.



Convocation on Critical Issues 2009

Environmental activist and attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will be the

featured speaker at the 16th annual Convocation on Critical Issues. His speech, titled "Our Environmental Destiny," will begin at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 1 in the M.O. Looney Complex. The Convocation is free and open to the community.

"We have endeavored for years to bring a diversity of issues to these Convocations," said R. Dan Boulware, a former Western regent in whose honor the Convocation series is held. "I am pleased that we will for the first time address issues about the environment and its impact on the world and our economy. Robert Kennedy Jr. has been very well received on college campuses bringing his perspective on these issues."

Robert is senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and president of the Waterkeeper Alliance. He is also a

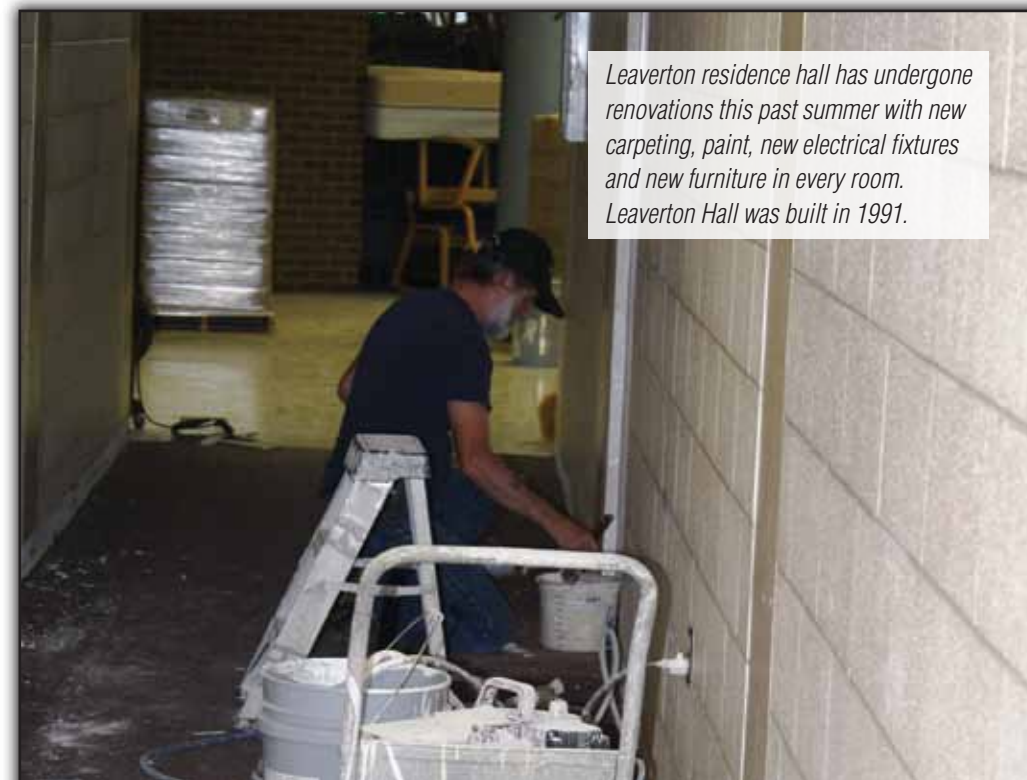
clinical professor and supervising attorney at Pace University School of Law's Environmental Litigation Clinic and is co-host of "Ring of Fire" on Air America Radio. Earlier in his career, he served as assistant district attorney in New York City.

The environmentalist has published several books, including the New York Times bestseller "Crimes Against Nature" in 2004. His articles have appeared in numerous

national and regional publications, and many have been included in anthologies of America's best crime writing, best political writing and best science writing.

Robert is a graduate of Harvard University. He studied at the London School of Economics and received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. He also received a master's degree in environmental law from the Pace University School of Law.

The Convocation is sponsored by the MWSU Foundation. ■



Leaverton residence hall has undergone renovations this past summer with new carpeting, paint, new electrical fixtures and new furniture in every room. Leaverton Hall was built in 1991.

Strings in the spring

After one year off, the St. Joseph International Guitar Festival returned in May with a record number of competitors, internationally known performers, jam sessions and masterclasses.

"It is one of the most progressive guitar festivals in the world," said Anthony Glise, instructor of music at Western and festival founder and director. "In addition to the outstanding concerts and masterclasses, our competition is one of the most original in the U.S. — no age limit, no required pieces, and complimentary home hosting for competitors."

Anthony said festival performers at the past six festivals have come from all over the world.

The three winners in the 2009 competition, two from the United States and one from Serbia, received more than \$7,000 in prizes and merchandise.

The final round of competition was open to the public, and the audience was given the opportunity to vote for the final three competitors. The guitar festival was sponsored by the music department and the St. Joseph Music Foundation. ■

Students selected for internships

Two mathematics majors were selected through very competitive processes for actuary internships this past summer. Senior Brock Schmutzler completed an internship for Allstate insurance company in Chicago and Jeremy Riley, a senior, interned at Coventry Health Care in Kansas City, Mo. Sixty candidates were invited to Allstate's headquarters in Chicago to interview for 15 internship positions. By the time Brock was interviewed, there were 18 candidates competing for three remaining spots. Coventry was only hiring one intern for the summer and selected Jeremy. ■

National first-place project aids abuse victims

Victims of domestic violence in Buchanan County are now able to seek protection from their abusers online through a web development project that earned a team of Western students first place in a national competition.

Working with the YWCA of St. Joseph and the Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the students developed a web site called St. Joe Safe, which helps victims of domestic violence complete the application for an order of protection in the privacy of their own homes.

Dwight Scroggins '76, Buchanan County prosecuting attorney, said they have always struggled to find a way for victims to apply for orders of protection without having to be in public at the courthouse for extended time periods. "This has always been a barrier to applying and a risk factor while they are here. The new web site will allow these to be done in privacy and safety while being at the courthouse only long enough for a judge to review the application."

Additionally, the paper application used a lot of legal jargon and was difficult for victims to understand. The online version developed by the students offers help boxes that are written in simple language for every field on the application. They also designed it so that those filling out the application can click on an icon at any time and be immediately taken to a different web site, in case they get interrupted by their abuser. The site is also designed to erase the application from the computer's history when it is completed.

Twelve Western students designed St. Joe Safe during a Systems Analysis and Design course taught by Connie Hecker '93, instructor of computer science, last fall. A Web Application Development class taught by Deborah Becker, instructor of computer science, in the spring actually built the site. Then, a

summer Security class planned to complete the project. Deborah noted that St. Joe Safe is more complicated than a regular website, as it needs the capability to accept the application and store information on a database.

"They have done a wonderful job of creating a site custom-made to our specific need and vision," Dawn Berryman '03, volunteer coordinator at the YWCA, said of the students' work. "I am impressed with their work and professionalism. They have been as vested in this project as we have."

"We have already had interest from other jurisdictions," Dwight said. "Just within Missouri, I would expect this effort to benefit thousands of domestic violence victims."

In the spring, the students entered the web site into a web development competition at a national collegiate conference in Oklahoma City, Okla., and won first place, their second first-place award in that category in as many years. The conference drew more than 600 from student chapters across the country. ■



Computer Class Draws Crowd

To fund the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) student group's trip to a national conference in Oklahoma City, Okla., the group held a basic computer class for the community last spring. The three-hour class was free, but sophomore Derek Spalding, president of AITP, produced a manual to sell for \$5. He made 50 copies of the manual before the class and hoped he wouldn't have too many left over.

Ten minutes before the class even started, there was standing-room only in the 80-seat classroom and he had a long waiting list for his manual.

Additionally, the audience of more than 100 requested that the group offer more classes in the future, so that's on the agenda for this fall. ■

Student Derek Spalding teaches a basic computer class for the community.

New Learning Communities director

When Western began its Learning Communities program in 2003, Dr. Bill Church '89, instructor of English, was a member of the original group that attended a Learning Communities Institute. He has presented at national Learning Communities conferences and he has taught at least one class in a Learning Community each year.

So there was a very small learning curve for Bill when he was named the director of Learning Communities this summer when the former director, Dr. Diane Goreyca, retired.

"Bill has wonderful experience. He's been very successful in Learning Communities as a faculty member, and he has a lot of passion for Learning Communities," said Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75, interim vice president for academic and student affairs. "He's open to new ideas and is willing to take on a challenge."

In the Learning Communities program, a group of first-semester freshmen takes two classes together. The faculty members teaching those classes collaborate so that the courses

are somewhat integrated with each other, and the group may plan activities together outside the classroom.

"Universities have discovered that connections are important for students – connections with faculty and with each other," Bill said.

He said although Western's Learning Communities have had a lot of success over the years, including studies to show that students who were involved in them have 10 percent higher retention rates than those who were not, he has a lot of plans and ideas for the program.

The number of communities has dropped in recent years, and he wants to see the numbers rise. This fall, only 10 Learning Communities were offered to incoming freshmen; at one time, more than 20 were offered.

He also wants to encourage Learning Communities to engage in more service learning projects and more activities outside of the classroom. He plans to offer faculty training and perhaps expand Learning Communities beyond the first semester.

"It's going to be fun," Bill said of his new position. "I love it. It's very exciting." ■

Incubator gets new tenants and funding

Four tenants now occupy the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator. IMULAN, an emerging animal health company whose first commercial product is the only approved treatment in the United States for feline leukemia virus and feline immunodeficiency virus, started operating in the incubator in April. DT Search and Designs LLC, a firm that researches and develops products in military telecommunications, animal waste management and other industries; and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), a non-profit organization dedicated to controlling

animal diseases in the U.S., joined IMULAN in May. The Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences (IIALS) also has space in the incubator.

There is about 10,000 sq. feet still available in the 25,000 sq.-foot building, which could accommodate eight to 10 tenants.

Additionally, due to the work of Rep. Sam Graves, the incubator was awarded \$285,000 from the federal government in March to be used for the purchase of equipment for a regulated lab for training. ■

New nursing graduate program approved

A master of science in nursing, health care leadership degree program has been approved by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education and will begin Fall 2010. The program is designed to prepare nurses for leadership and management roles within a variety of health care facilities. A second purpose for the program is to prepare nurses for doctoral-level study.

Graduates of this program will be prepared to fulfill leadership roles in a variety of health care facilities, organizations and nursing education programs. They will have knowledge and skills related to the organization such as financing of health care, fiscal management, utilization of research, health care policy, health care ethics, roles of advanced practice nurses, the use of theories from nursing and related fields, human diversity in health and illness, health promotion, and disease prevention. ■

Western receives donation

The MWSU Foundation was recently notified that it is the beneficiary of approximately \$500,000 from the John Vaselakos Charitable Remainder Trust. The funds are unrestricted, so the Foundation Board will determine the best use of the money.

John died in 1999 and had provided for a Charitable Remainder Trust to be established upon his death, with distribution 10 years later.

One of Western's residence halls is named in honor of John and his wife, Betty. ■



Virtual research

When Drs. Larry and Cathy Lawson put out a call for Western students to participate in their research project, they always get a lot more volunteers than they need. The Lawsons know it's probably not the research focus – risk aversion regarding financial choices – that attracts the participants. They know their research method is the real draw – they pay students to play a video game that the couple has modified.

Larry, associate professor of finance, and Cathy, professor of economics, have come up with a new research method that has taken conventional risk aversion research to a virtual level. Last year, Cathy was researching using video games as a teaching tool when she read about a consulting firm for the Army that had modified the game "Neverwinter Nights" to study the behavior of peacekeeping teams. She realized that modifying a video game could change the way financial risk aversion (one of Larry's research interests) was studied into something that had never been done before.

The professors explained that in the past, almost all research studying financial risk aversion involved giving participants a sheet of paper with 10 different pairs of choices listed, and the subjects select one choice for each pair. For example, the first choice is *A – 10% chance of \$40 and 90% chance of \$32 OR B – 10% chance of \$77 and 90% chance of \$2*; progressing to the last choice, *A – 100% chance of \$40 and 0% chance of \$32 OR B – 100% chance of \$77 and 0% chance of \$2*.

The Lawsons believed that the results of those experiments may be different if people faced one choice at a time, in no particular order, rather than seeing all the choices at once, in progressive order, on the paper. "Choices you make in life are not necessarily in any order," Larry said.

After obtaining permission to modify the Medieval-themed "Neverwinter Nights" for their research, the Lawsons reprogrammed the game into the contemporary town of Santa Catarina, where the characters assist the local police Drug Strike Force. In the game, players are instructed to find and seize nine pairs of crates of illegal drugs hidden in locations around the town.

Above – Rebecca Weddle takes on the character "Morgan" in a video game as part of two professors' virtual research. Right – Freshman Jacob Jones participates in the risk-taking research as Dr. Cathy Lawson monitors the students' progress.

For each pair of crates they encounter, the players are given the probability of the amount of drugs in each crate, which are the same as the first nine probability choices that subjects are given on a sheet of paper in the conventional research.

When students are finished playing the video game, they view all their choices collectively and have the opportunity to change their selections. Then they are paid according to which crates they chose throughout the game.

In their pilot study of 91 participants, the professors found that the subjects' final choices differed in both their risk levels and consistency from their first choices. There was less consistency and more risk-taking when decisions were made one at a time, in random order, as in the video game, than when all choices were given at once on a sheet of paper. Approximately 13 percent of 91 subjects' final choices displayed some inconsistency, which is comparable to other studies, the Lawsons said. However, approximately 42 percent of the subjects' first choices exhibited inconsistency in the video game experiment.

Heather Seever, a junior nursing major who volunteered for the study, said she doesn't consider herself a risk-taker, and the choices throughout the game were pretty easy to make. "I told myself I would take a couple risks and that's all." She said even though she was given the opportunity to change her choices at the end of the game, she stayed with her first instinct and didn't make any changes. Her choices netted her \$39.

Junior Rebecca Weddle said she liked the role playing and was pleasantly surprised at the quality of the game. She was also quite happy with her choices and was heading out to go shopping. She was paid \$43.

"If I'm getting paid to do something I like, why not?" said Richard Sands, freshman, whose favorite

video game is "Call of Duty." "I'm not great at video games, but it was pretty easy once I figured it out." He did admit to blowing up one crate, however, before he got the hang of it. (Disclaimer: the game is nonviolent; the characters in the game wear Kevlar® vests, so no one is injured even if a bomb goes off.) "It was actually a lot of fun; I wanted to keep playing," Richard said. He went home happy with \$38.

The Lawsons said an advantage of the research is that their methods could easily be duplicated by other researchers, as there are many inexpensive video games that can be modified without learning advanced video game programming skills. However, the professors admit that they had a little help and advice on modifying the game – from their teenage son. "Tim helped a lot. He played it several times to see if it was challenging. We tried to make it cool," Cathy said with a laugh.

The professors believe their research has implications beyond the lab.

"Thousands of risky decisions are made by individuals daily," the Lawsons said. "A better understanding of how they do this and how to improve on those choices could lessen the impact of bad decisions on mortgage loans,

energy use or job choice. We believe this research offers a limited but important contribution to understanding and helping to resolve such problems."

In the future, the professors said they plan to make more game modifications, such as changing the background music, lighting, etc., to see if that affects the players' decision making. They also want to expand their test group beyond college students to include bank lending officers, securities brokers, insurance agents, and personal financial planners.

"This type of virtual research tool has the potential to advance understanding across a wide range of experimental topics," Larry said. "We're finding things that are new that will challenge the existing theory." ■



Spring Sports

Softball

Winning became a way of life for the Griffon softball team as they shattered several school and conference records enroute to a 47-12 overall record and an appearance in the NCAA South Central Regional Tournament, their fourth NCAA tournament appearance in the last five seasons.

After a 3-4 start, the club went on to an amazing school and MIAA record 32-game winning streak between Feb. 20 and April 10 and were ranked as high as 19th in the NFCA Division II national poll.

The club had seven All-MIAA selections, including five on the first team - pitcher Allison Jones, Mitchellville, Iowa; Shannon Pivovar, second base, Omaha, Neb.; centerfielder Becky Diehl, Derby, Kan.; right fielder Brittany Douglas, St. Louis; and designated player Sam Buchanan, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.



A.J. Huttenlocker was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in June.

The team is coached by Jen Bagley, who was named MIAA Coach of the Year. She guided the Griffons to a 16-4 record in the MIAA. Jen is in her eighth season at Western and has accumulated an overall record of 267-185 during her career.

Baseball

Griffon baseball continues to set new marks under head coach Buzz Verduzco as the club finished the 2009 campaign with a 34-22 record, the eighth consecutive winning season under Buzz, and the second highest win total in school history. The club won 15 of their last 18 games, including an eight-game winning streak to close out the season.

Five players were named to the All-MIAA team, including three first-team selections: pitcher A.J. Huttenlocker, Buckley, Wash.; outfielder Troy Landi, Blue Springs, Mo.; and utility player Andy Hebrard, Clackamas, Ore.

Griffon Roger Allen signed a rookie free agent contract with the St. Louis Rams.

Golf

Coach Jim Perry's '61, men's golf team had a young squad during the 2008-09 season. A year filled with ups and downs was led by a first-place finish at the Pasta House Drury Invitational last fall and a sixth-place finish at the MIAA Men's Golf Championships to close out the season. Caleb Carter, St. Joseph, Mo., garnered first-team All-MIAA honors.

The women's golf team closed out their season finishing third in the inaugural MIAA Women's Golf Championships. Coupled with the return of all players from this year's squad and a strong recruiting class coming in for 2009-10, the squad looks forward to a good coming season. The team is coached by Cathy Habermehl.

Tennis

The tennis team, coached by Ron Selkirk, closed out its season competing in the MIAA Tennis Championships as part of the MIAA Titlefest. The squad was defeated in opening round action. The team loses two seniors to graduation - Laura Rutten, Carroll, Iowa, and Amber Adams. Owasso, Okla. ■

Athletic facilities update

As work progresses on the new facility for the Kansas City Chiefs training camp, the athletics department has several related facility improvement projects underway.

Improvements to the visitor side seating in Spratt Memorial Stadium began this summer. The visitor side project, scheduled for completion this fall, will add more than 1,500 bleacher seats. Planning for a building for a concession stand and restrooms west of the visitor side bleachers is underway, but construction of that will be coordinated with the training camp project. Dave Williams, director of athletics, said they hope to have that building completed by the 2010 football season. These improvements are being funded by the Max Experience student fees.

A new spring sports complex, scheduled to be completed this coming spring, is in the works since the Chiefs' facility will be built where one of the softball fields was located. Current plans are for the softball and baseball fields to be located east of McCarthy Drive and south of Faraon, across from Everyday Pond. There will also be space for tennis courts, a second softball field and other improvements in the future.

"We looked at a number of sites around campus and determined this was the best site," said Dave.

2009 Hall of Fame class announced

Griffon athletics, along with the Athletics Hall of Fame Committee, are pleased to announce the 2009 Hall of Fame inductees: David Sego '77, baseball; Cheryl Williams '88, volleyball; LeAnn Martens-Francis '86, volleyball and softball; Vince Thomson '86, football; Mike Solomon '81, football; Carl Butcher '72, meritorious service; Myron Unzicker, athletic trainer; and the 1973-74 men's basketball squad.

Hall of Fame weekend is Sept. 18 and 19, with a reception the evening of the 18th and the Hall of Fame brunch and induction ceremony at 11 a.m. Sept. 19 in the Fulkerson Center. The ring ceremony will take place that evening as Griffon football hosts Washburn at 6 p.m. For more information, call 816-271-4481. ■



The Board of Governors gave preliminary approval to the site in May. Construction of the softball fields is funded as part of the Chiefs project and the rest of the complex will be funded by the Max Experience fees. ■

For tickets to any home athletic event call the athletics department at 816-271-5904. To stay up-to-date on your favorite Griffon teams, log on to the official website of Griffon Athletics at www.gogriffons.com.



NEWS Briefs

Banquet honors

Approximately 380 people attended the 10th annual Western/St. Joseph News-Press student athlete honors banquet, where football player Dustin Strickler '09, Bellevue, Neb., and softball player Mandi Nocita '09, Omaha, Neb., were named the male and female student athletes of the year for their outstanding seasons on the field and in the classroom.

Dan Heckman '84, tennis, and Tom Earley '83, football, were this year's recipients of the Silver Anniversary Award. The award is given to those who have exhibited integrity, dedication and leadership with a commitment to excellence and an obligation to serve as a concerned partner in their community. ■

Griffons go pro

All-American offensive lineman Roger Allen signed a rookie free agent contract with the St. Louis Rams, the second Griffon in three seasons to join an NFL team (Gijon Robinson is with the Indianapolis Colts.) Roger was a wfour-year starter for the Griffons.

Standout pitcher A.J. Huttenlocker was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the 44th round of the Major League Baseball first-year player draft in June. AJ is the fourth Western baseball player to be drafted and the first since 1975, when Ron Jones was drafted to the Milwaukee Brewers.

Other baseball players drafted include Robert Verbeck '74, to the California Angels and Greg Kastner '78, to the Atlanta Braves, both in 1973. ■

Basketball attendance recognized

Griffon men's and women's basketball both finished in the top 20 in NCAA Division II for average attendance during the 2008-2009 season. The Griffon men ranked 15th in the country out of 244 NCAA Division II institutions, averaging 2,083 fans per game over 12 home dates, while the Griffon women ranked seventh in the country out of 244 NCAA Division II institutions, averaging 1,637 fans over 11 home dates. Thanks to all of our fans for your excellent support throughout the season! ■

GRIFFONS ABROAD



DEPARTURES:
ECUADOR
INDIA
LONDON
IRELAND

Global viewpoint: Ecuador

From the Andes Mountains to the Amazon rainforest, from Coca-Cola to greenhouses full of roses, to leather markets, 19 business students spent two weeks in Ecuador last spring for their Global Viewpoint class.

"It was a very action-packed trip," said senior marketing major Dominique Leone. "It was amazing. I would do it all again in an instant."

In the Global Viewpoint class, students spend the semester in class, learning all about the country they plan to visit and its business climate, and then spend two weeks at the end of the semester visiting that country. "They get a first-hand experience of the global business economy," said Dr. Faye Smith, professor of business, who taught the class.

So along with all the "tourist" stops, which included visiting an active volcano, hiking to waterfalls and spending a couple days in a native village, the trip also included tours of four companies, several panel discussions with business leaders and a look at villages known for their handcrafted items. They also met with the minister of economic coordination, which is a similar position to the United States' secretary of commerce.

Students even helped dig a ditch for a water line in one village. "It was a lot of work," Dominique said. "These women do this every day and I was dying."

Sonja Streeter '09, who left for Ecuador the day after she graduated, said she enjoyed haggling in the marketplace and getting bargains. "I had to buy stuff just to see how much I could bargain them

down," she said with a laugh. Sonja said she also liked an afternoon they spent with some locals, where they got a taste of coi (guinea pig).

Dominique had taken a previous study away trip to Argentina and was surprised at the difference in the cultures. She was hoping to line up an internship with one of the businesses the group toured in Quito, as she plans to work in South America after she graduates next May.

"It really changes your perspective; it really is a life-changing experience," Dominique said of the trip. "I had the time of my life and I would recommend it to anybody."

Professors teach abroad

According to Don Lillie, assistant professor of theatre, there are two "theatre towns" in the world – London and New York – and he was thrilled when he had the opportunity last summer to teach an Introduction to Theatre class in one of them. Through the Missouri Consortium for International Programs and Studies,

both Don and Dr. Phil Mullins, professor of philosophy, were selected to teach a class at the Imperial College in London.

"It was amazing, it really was," Don said. "We'd be in class every day and for homework we would go to a play. What better atmosphere could you be in to teach Intro to Theatre?"

Don taught an intensive, three-week, three-credit class, but Phil spent the entire Spring 2009 semester teaching Religion and Violence. "I had a good time. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with students in a different environment," Phil said.

Although the professors' environs were foreign, their students were not. They all hailed from universities in the United States, the majority from Missouri. And, Phil taught with five other faculty members from Missouri institutions. He said one of his additional responsibilities that he enjoyed was to accompany the students on field trips as part of their British Culture class.

This spring, Don plans to teach two more classes in London – one on London's fringe theaters and one on musical theatre.

"Study away programs are important," Phil said. "It's a good opportunity for students, and faculty, too."



Students serve in India

Last summer, Dr. Maureen Raffensperger, associate professor of physical therapy, spent a month volunteering in a hospital in India. When she returned to the same hospital this past summer to volunteer, she brought three physical therapist assistant students with her. The group spent three weeks practicing physical therapy at the Good Shepherd Hospital in Puttur, Andhra Pradesh.

For Erin Bass, Amanda Francis and Natalie Jegeris, all May graduates, their service work in India fulfilled one of their clinical requirements for their degree, but they said they learned so much more than just physical therapy.

"You learn so much about the culture and about yourself," Natalie said.

"Their ideas of medicine are very different from ours," Maureen said of their patients in India. For example, she said one patient was fearful of her son having surgery because she thought it would cause brain damage.

Maureen explained that the hospital they worked in practiced "Westernized" medicine, but the students had the opportunity to watch an ancient Indian practice of bone setting without surgery or anesthetic at the world-renowned Bone Setters Hospital.

"It's pretty gruesome," Natalie said of the procedure they witnessed. Although the ancient procedure works sometimes, depending on the injury, some of the patients they saw at Good Shepherd had been treated at Bone Setters and developed problems with their injury.

"You can't change the way they think, but you do your best to provide care," Natalie said. "We tried to be mindful of their religious beliefs and how it plays into their care."

The four estimated they saw about 125 patients for about 375-400 treatments throughout their 16 days of volunteering.

"I really hope I touched people as much as they touched me," Erin said. "I also hope they learned from us, especially the necessity of seeking medical attention."

"It was a fantastic experience," Natalie said. It was a great opportunity for me to provide a service. I love people and I want to care for them."

Maureen said the four of them suffered some illnesses and worked very hard in a challenging environment. "But they rose to the occasion and did great work. When we got ready to leave and looked back at the impact we had made, it was good."

Kerri's Ireland blog

Two Western students spent the Spring 2009 semester studying in Ireland. Below are excerpts from a blog written by senior Kerri Rollins about her experience:

Last fall, sorority sister, Keenan Glise, and I decided to study away. We chose the National University of Ireland in Maynooth, County Kildare. I took like a gazillion pics. I couldn't help it - Ireland is gorgeous!!

continued on page 12



#

Western celebrates 40 years of 4-year

Forty years ago this fall, 2,536 students stepped on to the new Missouri Western College campus for the first time with the new opportunity to earn a four-year degree. On the following pages are articles about two legislators' contributions to that milestone, alumni memories of the new campus, the president's vision for the future, and a painting that is now back on campus.

The long and winding road: JC to MWC

Next time you drive in the main entrance of Western and onto the circle drive around campus, take note of the names of the streets you are driving on – the entrance is known as Ronald Reed Jr. Way, and the circle drive is Downs Drive, named for the late John Downs '35. The four-year institution we know today is the legacy of those two men who served in the state legislature in the 1960s.

Bob Slater, who was a newspaper reporter at that time for what is now the St. Joseph News-Press, said Western would not be a four-year institution today if it had not been for Rep. Reed, who currently practices law at a local firm, and Sen. Downs. "They did a great job without a lot of public appreciation."



Ronald Reed Jr.

In a booklet Rep. Reed wrote, "Reflections on the Founding of Missouri Western State University," he said, "Contrary to what may be the current view, a benign creator did not look down from above and say 'Let there be Missouri Western.' Rather, it was the result of a political struggle, up close and confrontational."

Confrontational, he said, because in the mid-60s, it was well known in the state legislature that Sen. Downs was obsessed with the notion of a four-year college in St. Joseph and was going to do everything he could to see it happen. Unfortunately, Sen. Downs had some enemies in the legislature who

were going to do everything they could do to prevent it.

The first significant step toward establishing a four-year college in St. Joseph occurred in January 1965, when voters in St. Joseph and the surrounding areas voted to establish a junior college district to support the current junior college. That meant the new district was now empowered to levy taxes, issue bonds and build buildings, and a Board of Trustees for the district was established.

A few days later, Rep. Reed and Sen. Downs simultaneously filed bills in the House and Senate to establish a four-year college in St. Joseph. The bill withstood discussion, changes and compromise and was signed six months later by Gov. Warren Hearnes in Joplin, Mo., in July 1965.

"The four-year college bill metamorphosed many times from birth to final passage," Rep. Reed said in his booklet. "Like all compromises, it did not satisfy everyone, but it worked."

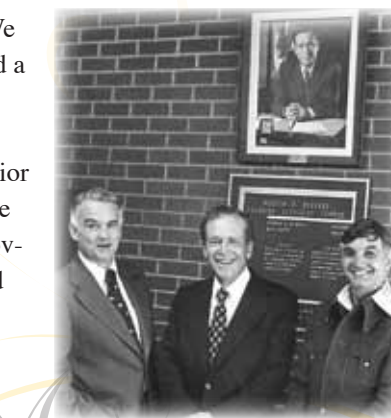
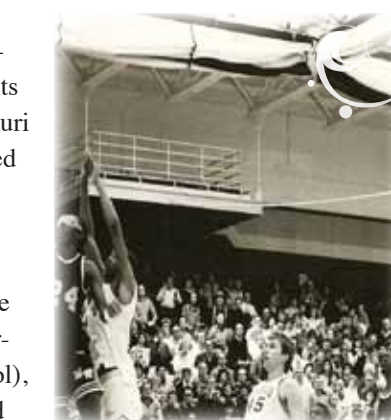
"Their opposition threw up every road block they could," Bob said.

That bill provided for the establishment of an independent state senior college, to be known as Missouri Western College, when the following criteria were met: the junior college acquired a campus, it met the requirements established by the Board of Curators of Missouri University and its enrollment trends constituted sufficient justification.

In February 1965, before the Board of Trustees for the new district had had a chance to organize, Sen. Downs asked Rep. Reed if he thought the 130 acres near 36th St. and Frederick Ave. (west of Bishop LeBlond High School), owned by the St. Joseph State Hospital, would be a good location for a campus. "I don't know if the idea was originally his (Sen. Downs') or someone else's burst of genius," Rep. Reed said. "But I said yes, neither of us having any idea of what was needed for a college campus."

Rep. Reed noted that they were in a hurry to introduce the legislation regarding the campus so that it had time to pass in the current session, so no real study was done on the property. "If we were going to get state land, we had to get something in the works. We were just a couple of legislators trying to build a college."

So Sen. Downs introduced a bill which authorized the transfer of the property to the Junior College District. However, a Senate committee attached a price tag to it, so by the time the governor signed it, the Junior College District had an option to purchase the property rather than just having it transferred to them.



On May 10, 1966, voters in the Junior College District passed a \$6.055 million bond issue to build four buildings on the new campus (Popplewell, Hearnes, Agenstein and Potter). Although no land had been purchased, the 130-acre tract on Frederick Ave. was promoted as the site in the bond campaign.

At about the same time the bond issue passed, Sen. Downs was beginning to reconsider the wisdom of that location because of potential traffic problems, limited entrances, and no opportunity to expand beyond the original property. In June, he convinced the now-established Board of Trustees to look at other properties besides the tract on Frederick Ave.

And the controversy began.

"A lot of people who promoted the bond issue felt that if that's what they said (in the campaign), then that's what you should do," Rep. Reed said. But he explained that the land bill gave the Junior College District only the option to buy the 130 acres, and that was never a "cut and dried" deal.

One board member resigned. The newspaper printed scathing editorials.

"A lot of community leaders stuck their necks out on the original site and didn't get any warning that the board was looking at different sites," Bob said in explaining the rancor in the community. "Everyone was for the college, just the site was the controversy."

"There was quite a bit of furor," said Rep. Reed, "but virtually all of them were mollified once the rationale was explained."

The board studied six other properties in the area, announcing in October 1966 that a 390-acre tract east of Interstate 29 along Mitchell Ave., which was outside of city limits, seemed the most suitable for a new four-year college.

Of the total 390 acres, 135 acres were part of the state hospital's dairy farm, and in June 1967, the governor passed a bill which authorized conveyance of those acres to the Junior College District for \$27,000 and rescinded the option to buy the 130 acres on Frederick Ave. The



balance of the acreage was purchased from area farmers and the total cost of the 390 acres was \$357,200. The land also included a home which housed President Dr. M.O. Looney and his family (it was destroyed by a fire in 1981).

Groundbreaking for the new campus was held Aug. 22, 1967. The conditions set by the legislature for a four-year college were deemed met in October 1968, and Missouri Western College officially became a four-year institution. Classes began in the fall semester of 1969 with three buildings completed and three more under construction.

Today the campus is 723 acres, encompassing land south of Mitchell Ave., west of Interstate 29 to Woodbine, east of Scanlon Hall almost to Riverside Road and north to Faraon. It contains six residence halls, 10 major campus buildings, a conference center, fitness center, nine ponds, nature trails and more than 600 trees.

"John and Ron did a great job in overcoming a lot of opposition and making it happen," Bob said. "No one imagined it would develop into what it is today."

"We had great hopes for what it would do for the community," Rep. Reed said of the college. "But it far exceeded what we thought might happen. Not because we had little hope, it was just hard to envision. It's been fun to watch it grow." ■

Alumni remember early campus

We asked several alumni to talk about their experiences as the first students on the new campus.

Three buildings and a trailer for a student union were open for business when the Fall 1969 semester began on Western's brand new campus east of Interstate 29. Any conversation with alumni who were students at that time invariably starts with talk of the sparse landscape and the wind.

"Believe me, it was really chilly walking between buildings," said Bob Cummings '78. "There were no windbreaks and on a cold day it was like a knife going right through you."

Besides the addition of several buildings, another change to the campus from the early days is the north campus, said Dennis Johnson '73, who today is a university police officer. That area, north of the Mo. Department of Conservation to Faraon St., consisted of a lot of weeds, several dilapidated buildings and a farm house. The agriculture department cleared a lot of the area and maintained a farm on the property. For a short time in 1972-73, exotic animals, including longhorn steers, a miniature mule, pygmy goats and a Sicilian donkey, were brought in from Grant's Farm in St. Louis and housed on campus.

Dave Hackman '73, arrived on a basketball scholarship as a freshman in 1969 and lived with fellow teammates downtown for two years since the residence halls weren't ready until the fall of 1971. The team played in the old city auditorium for one year before the gym in the Looney Complex was completed. "It's unbelievable how much it has grown," he said of the campus. "I didn't ever think it would grow that much."

In June 1969, Jeanne Archer '71, a student at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, married a young chemistry lab instructor at Western, Len Archer. She said administrators convinced her that she needed to transfer to the new four-year campus that fall because they needed students. "It was a real fun time." Len, who still teaches at Western, remembers sharing office space with the art and psychology departments until more buildings were completed.

Jim Jeffers '73, remembers the fountain where the Glenn E. Marion Memorial clock tower now stands. He also remembers when someone put laundry detergent in the fountain. "There were suds all the way to the administration building."

Some things never change. John Burgess '71, talked about the parking problems on the new campus. However, he said they had parking problems of a different sort. "The parking lots were made up of broken concrete, and the sharp edges provided many a flat tire."

"No one can possibly describe how exciting an adventure it has been to see the campus grow from the junior college building downtown to the beautiful campus it is today," Jeanne said. "We feel we have been truly blessed to have been a part of the history." ■

The road to the future

As Western celebrates its 40th anniversary as a four-year institution and reflects on the past 40 years, it's appropriate to envision what the future may hold. On July 1, 2008, Dr. Robert Vartabedian became Western's fourth president since 1969. Since then he has visited with countless alumni, donors, legislators, parents, students, faculty and staff, listening to their ideas and crafting his vision for the university.

"It's important to have a sense of where the university is going, and it has to be a vision shared by the constituents as well," Dr. Vartabedian said.

The president said his vision focuses on four main areas – enhancing academics, growth of the student population, campus beautification and athletics.

Enhancing Academics

Dr. Vartabedian noted that the enhancement of the life sciences will continue to be an important area of development, and the renovation and expansion of Agenstein/Remington Halls and the addition of the science and technology incubator on campus will help meet that goal.

Dirck Clark '85, former chair of the Board of Governors, agreed. "We're going to create the next generation's workforce for life science companies in St. Joseph."

A long-term goal of Dr. Vartabedian's is to develop the fine and performing arts areas into a school of fine arts with its own dean. "I believe you can't have a strong comprehensive university without a strong commitment to the arts." He also wants to see Western establish stronger partnerships with the community art museums and performing arts organizations as well as public school arts programs.

Strengthening the university's online course offerings and bringing more international students to campus are two more elements of his vision.

"A university's foundation has to be its academic programs, and we have tremendous opportunities in academic areas," he said.

Student Population Growth

Although he admits it's a "stretch goal," Dr. Vartabedian's vision includes a student population of 10,000 by 2020. He noted that it is not unrealistic because the university has had five consecutive years of record enrollments, and this fall, the numbers are close to 6,000. Additionally, Western's location offers the potential for more growth because of the large population within 100 miles of St. Joseph.



"This growth reflects a vote of approval from the region, and if we continue to grow we will have a more significant economic impact on the region."

The immediate needs to manage the growth, Dr. Vartabedian said, are the renovation of Potter Hall, which houses the art, theatre, film and music departments, and student housing. Part of his vision for more housing includes upscale student housing. Dirck said he would like to see the development of a Greek village to house the social fraternities and sororities.

Campus Beautification

Dr. Vartabedian said campus beautification goes hand-in-hand with student population growth, because the way a campus looks is one of the top three factors high school students consider when choosing a college.

Three of his campus beautification goals are underway: a permanent sign for the Faraon St. entrance, new building signs throughout the campus and aerator fountains in the three ponds that are visible from Downs Drive and James McCarthy Drive. Funding for the Faraon St. sign was provided by Brent Porlier '82, and Porlier Outdoor Advertising.

"Those things are amazing," said Dr. Vartabedian of the three projects. "They can really change the look of a campus very quickly."

In the future, Dr. Vartabedian's vision for campus beautification includes more outdoor art, an outdoor amphitheater and possibly a golf driving range. "The underlying premise is that we all enjoy more scenic surroundings, and it greatly affects students' decisions of whether or not they'll attend Western," he said. "We have great potential in making this a showplace campus."

Athletics

The athletics department has many exciting events coming in the near future, Dr. Vartabedian said, including the NCAA Elite Eight national women's basketball tournament next spring, the NCAA national softball tournament and the Kansas City Chiefs training camp next summer. "2009-10 will be a banner year. We're doing lots of interesting things that will bring many people to the region." Work also began this past summer on the Spratt Memorial Stadium visitor side renovations, the spring sports complex and the Chiefs indoor training facility.

"I'm very thankful for the work of my predecessors. They did a lot of smart things to put the university in a good position for the future. There are some great opportunities ahead of us." ■



Painting returns to campus

Before it was a college campus, the property that eventually became Missouri Western State University was farm ground owned by the state and several area farmers. Some of the 390 acres were owned by Louis and Margaret Pinkston, and it was their residence that became the president's home when the property was bought by Missouri Western College. A painting that had hung in the Pinkston home has been donated to Western by their daughters, Betty Pinkston Killackey '41, and Noel Pinkston Cormany, and will hang in the university library in the Hearnes Center.

"Mother and Daddy loved that place out there. It was pastoral, just like the painting," said Betty. She said her parents' property is now the south side of the campus. In fact, she said, her dad built the pond by Scanlon Hall and she remembers planting roses around it.

Betty said her son, Louis, suggested they donate the painting to Western. He transferred to the college when it became a four-year institution and graduated in 1971.

"It's comforting to know that people will enjoy the painting even after we're gone," Louis said.

Betty is happy that the painting will now hang close to where it hung in her parents' home.

Betty's father was director of the First National Bank (now Commerce Bank), and was given the painting, "The Plowman," as a gift from the bank. She said it was appraised in 1974 and they estimated its age to be 150 years old. The artist's name, G. Keller, is on the painting, and they know it was painted in Germany.

"Mom and Dad did a lot for the city. This honors my folks for all they did," Betty said. ■

Achieving Greatness

As the new Remington Hall nears completion and the renovation of Agenstein Hall is scheduled, the capital campaign's focus is now on raising funds for equipment and instrumentation for the new labs and classrooms, according to Pat Dillon, retail director at Heartland Health and chair of the campaign committee.

The cost of the construction of Remington Hall and renovation of Agenstein Hall has a \$37.5 million price tag. The state is funding \$30 million, and the balance was part of the \$15 million Achieving Greatness capital campaign, with \$1 million earmarked for equipment. To date, the campaign has raised almost \$6.5 million, but funding is still needed for equipment.

The other components of the capital campaign - Craig School of Business, scholarship endowment and other emerging needs - have surpassed their goals.

Dr. Ben Caldwell, chair of the chemistry department, noted that Remington Hall will almost double the original square footage of Agenstein

Hall, which means there will be more teaching and research labs. That increases the need for lab equipment that is used daily, such as balances and pH meters.

Additionally, a lot of the departments' equipment is becoming outdated and difficult to maintain. "In order to give students the best training, we need up-to-date equipment," he said. The equipment they learn on as students should match the equipment they will be

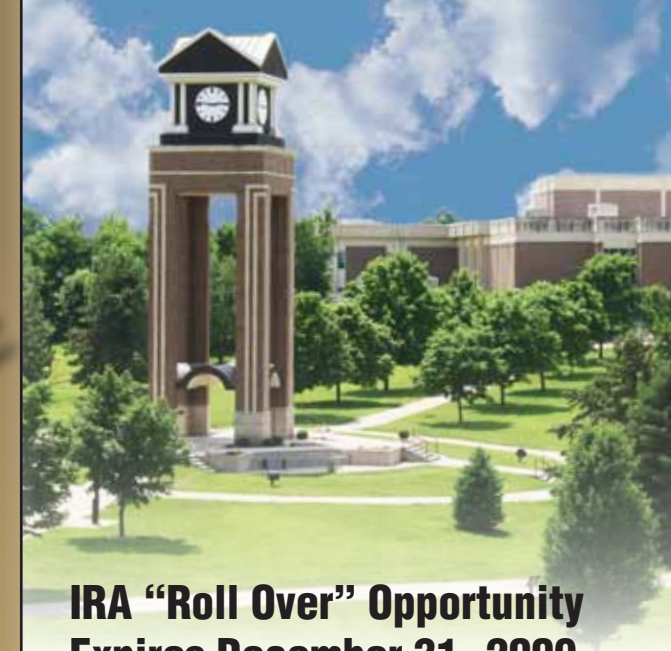
using when they enter the workforce. Also, some of the larger pieces of equipment are becoming expensive to maintain because of their age.

Pat said donors have the opportunity to sponsor equipment for an entire lab or provide funds to purchase a specific piece of equipment.

"There has been a lot of community support, and it's been great to see," Pat said of the campaign. "The community truly sees the value of the university." ■



Remington Hall construction continues on schedule. The planned completion date is December 2009.



IRA "Roll Over" Opportunity Expires December 31, 2009

Thanks to a deadline extension added to the recently enacted Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, if you are 70½ or older you now have the **opportunity until the end of 2009** to use your IRA funds to make a charitable gift to Western *without the amount of the gift counting as a taxable distribution.*

To qualify:

- You must be 70½ or older
- You must transfer your funds directly from your IRA accounts to the charity
- Qualifying gifts are limited to \$100,000 per year
- You must make an outright gift (life-income gifts such as charitable gift annuities or remainder trusts do not qualify)
- Gifts do not generate a federal income-tax deduction

These charitable IRA transfers do not count toward the federal limits on deductible charitable contributions. This makes such transfers particularly attractive if you have made other gifts during the year equal to or in excess of the deductible limits or if you have large unused deductions from previous years carried forward to this year.

If you are eligible to benefit from this opportunity, do not delay. Contact us so we can assist you in planning an IRA gift.

816-271-5647 or
<http://missouriwestern.giftplans.org>

From the Alumni Association President



Gregory VerMulm '89

“Back in Time to ’69.”

This is the theme that our students chose for October’s Homecoming festivities. I cannot wait to see their interpretation of this theme throughout Homecoming week. To some of us, 1969 seems like yesterday; others were not born, but to most of us 1969 was a pivotal year. After

all, man walked on the moon and Sesame Street made its debut in 1969. And, oh yes, Missouri Western College moved from downtown to the current campus and began its journey as a four-year college.

This year, the entire Alumni Association board of directors and alumni volunteers from the Junior College, Greek organizations, the Golden Griffon Marching Band, the Baptist Student Union, and former VIPs have been working since April to plan a Homecoming worthy of this milestone in our history.

We start on Wednesday, Oct. 14 with a new event at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph. Alumni and their guests are invited to join us at our very own wine tasting. Thursday, Oct. 15 is our 27th annual alumni awards banquet. This year, we will honor two Junior College alumni, Charlie ’55, and Patti ’55, Burri, St. Joseph; a graduate from Missouri Western College, Richard Durst ’72, Berea, Ohio; and two from Missouri Western State College, Brent Porlier ’82, St. Charles, Mo., and Dirck Clark ’85, Savannah, Mo.; and one faculty member,

Frank Thomas, music. Tom Schneider ’64, and the rest of the banquet committee promise a new format and plenty of surprises.

On Friday, we will host our first Alumni Association golf tournament, celebrate our junior college heritage as we unveil a plaque at the St. Joseph Junior College building at 10th and Edmond, and hold reunions for Greek organizations, the Golden Griffon Marching Band and former VIPs. Saturday includes the annual parade through downtown St. Joseph, the tailgate and football game and the Baptist Student Union reunion.

Additional plans and surprises are also in the works so don’t miss this year’s Homecoming as we ***“Go Back in Time to ’69!”***

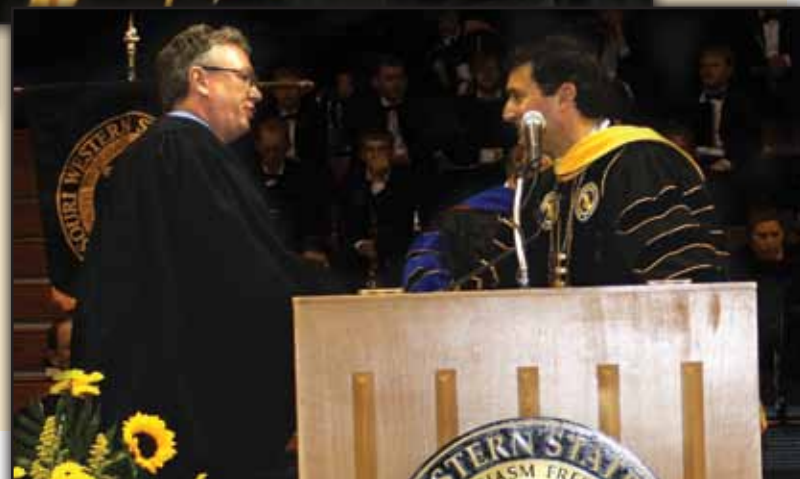
Faithful, Proud and True,

Gregory VerMulm '89
President
Missouri Western Alumni Association

Commencement, Spring 2009



At the Spring 2009 Commencement, Wes and Patsy '79 Remington (above) and Steven L. Craig (lower right) received honorary doctorate degrees. Also, 12 graduate students participated in Western's first hooding ceremony for master's degrees.



President’s Leadership Summit

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western’s president, hosted 18 alumni and friends from Missouri, Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Washington DC for a leadership summit last spring.

The theme for the summit was “Planning for and Managing Growth: A Vision for the Future.” Dr. Vartabedian shared his vision with the group, and the three discussion topics for the day were image, alumni engagement and building and managing resources.

“I thought it went very well,” Dr. Vartabedian said of the day. “Some very impressive people were here with some very good ideas.”

Craig Barnes ’76, executive vice president and chief credit officer for T Bank, N.A. of Dallas, called the day “fast and interesting. It gave me a chance to interact with old friends and make new ones, and I am flattered that my input for the vision of the institution was sought after.”

Dr. Vartabedian said he hopes to host similar summits in the future. “I’m always impressed by the influential people this university has produced.” ■

Western creates memorial bench program

The development office recently created a memorial bench program, and two benches in memory of Dennis Echterling ’86, are in place by one of the campus ponds.

Dennis, who graduated with an electrical engineering technology degree, died in a hiking accident in 2006 at the age of 52. When his brother, Kelly, offered to buy Dennis’ motorcycle, Dennis’ widow, Jerralee, said she wanted to use the money to purchase a memorial for him.

“I wanted to have a memorial in St. Joseph for Denny’s family and friends to visit. St. Joseph was his hometown,” said Jerralee, who lives in Washington. “When I told him (Kelly) that I wanted to use the money to finance a memorial he was thrilled. Kelly set to work finding the perfect memorial for Denny.”

Jerry Pickman ’85, director of development, said the Echterling family wanted a memorial that reflected Dennis’ love of nature, and they suggested a bench by the walking trail on campus. From their suggestion, the memorial bench program was developed. “A memorial bench is the

perfect way to leave a lasting memory of a special family member or friend,” Jerry said.

The six-foot benches are made of cedar-colored recycled plastic with black cast iron legs and are bolted on a cement frame. Several locations around campus have been designated as bench locations. The donor may have up to two engraved 2” x 10” bronze plaques placed on the bench.

“It’s nice to have something to remember him by in St. Joseph,” said Kelly.



“I hope other people take advantage of the program. It would be great to have benches all over campus.”

“Denny was a wanderer and he was adventurous. He was a wonderful husband and father and we always knew how much he loved us,” Jerralee said. “He lived fully and loved deeply.” ■



Several alumni and community members participated in a President's Leadership Summit last spring. Pictured, from left, are Stephen Cotter '78, Ron Auxier '73, Ed Haffey '62, Al Purcell, chair of the MWSU Foundation Board, and Mike Poland '72.

Faithful, proud & true: Dr. Joseph Friedman '39

At lunch one day at the retirement center where he lives, Dr. Joe Friedman '39, sang "The Way We Were" in honor of his table mate's birthday.

"That's what it's all about – memories," Joe said, referring to the first line of the song. "It's a wonderful song to sing."

And indeed, Joe, 89, has a lifetime of interesting experiences and memories. He can easily entertain an audience with stories about his days as a podiatrist, a Broadway actor, a Holocaust liberator and more. And he has always remembered his alma mater, the St. Joseph Junior College, and has been a strong advocate and supporter of the university.

Joe says most of his memories of his junior college days are of going to class, working at a local drug store until midnight or 1 a.m. some nights and then coming home and doing homework. "The junior college had the bare necessities, but they had a wonderful faculty," he said.

After graduating from the junior college, he couldn't afford to continue his education, so he went to work at a local men's clothing store before enrolling in the Illinois College of Podiatry in September 1941. Three months later, Pearl Harbor was attacked and the United States was at war. Joe finished one year of school before he was drafted into the Army.

He has never forgotten his war experiences. "I can't talk about the Battle of the Bulge without crying," he says. And coming upon the concentration camp in Ohrdruf in Germany is seared in his memory. It was the first camp liberated by the Allies, and Joe was one of the liberators.

In the 1970s, he began speaking to groups about his Holocaust experiences. He has spoken many times at Central and Lafayette

High Schools and to many organizations since he moved back to St. Joseph in 1994. "It's a story that needs to be told," he says.

When he finished podiatry school in 1949, he set up his practice in St. Joseph. He was always involved in local community theatre, he said, but had never given a thought to making a career of acting. However, after a performance of "Fourposter" at the Missouri Theater, he was offered a role with a traveling troupe for the following summer. He decided to give it a try.

He had another podiatrist lined up to take over his practice, but the young man cancelled three days before Joe was set to leave. So he reluctantly closed his practice and joined the troupe in Colorado.

By Labor Day when the stint ended, the acting bug had bitten, and Joe headed to New York and enrolled in acting school at the age of 42. Several years of a successful acting career followed in New

York and Los Angeles, including 2,840 performances of "Fiddler on the Roof" as the understudy to the lead, Tevye, acting on Broadway and an Emmy for his research for the 1986 documentary, "Secrets of the Titanic."

He met his wife, Gladys, a singer in New York, in 1964 and they were married in 1969. She died in 1995. "We were married 34 years and we had a good time," Joe said. "When she walked in the room, all eyes turned to her."

Throughout his acting career, Joe has used his singing talent to raise money for a number of causes, including many in his hometown. When he visited in 1991 to receive the Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award, he and his wife decided to perform a concert to raise money for Western's nontraditional student scholarships. He also has entertained at Night at the Ritz, an annual fund-raiser for nontraditional students.

He'll still occasionally sing for someone's birthday party or a church fund-raiser. Songs from "Fiddler on the Roof" are his favorites, and he says "If I Were a Rich Man" is the "centerpiece" of his performances.

On Western's campus, the Alumni Room in the Fulkerson Center bears his name, thanks to his generous donation. And when Western was designated a university in 2005, Joe provided funding for the university to purchase a 4' tall presidential mace, a presidential medallion and six processional banners. They are now used at all formal ceremonies.

"He's never forgotten his alma mater," said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services.

He and his wife also established an endowed theatre and engineering scholarship in memory of his cousin, Joe Droher, who



came to live with Joe Friedman's family as a child. Joe Friedman considers him a brother.

Joe Droher, also an alumnus of the Junior College, earned a chemical engineering degree from the University of Missouri in 1944 and immediately went to work on the Manhattan atomic energy project. He went on to earn a master's degree and became a renowned atomic energy expert.

"He was a brilliant man," Joe Friedman said. Joe Droher died in 1986 at the age of 64.

In 1996, Joe established the Gladys and Joe Friedman Memorial Voice Scholarship, another endowed scholarship.

He is also a member of the Clock Tower Society and the Western League for Excellence, the university's honorary giving societies.

"Joe has had many amazing experiences, and we are proud that he is one of our alumni," Colleen said. "We sincerely appreciate his generosity to Western."

Today, Joe is trying to capture his memories on paper. He is currently working on essays about his first Broadway audition and Joe Droher.

"All we're left with are memories," Joe said. ■

Editor's note: We will be spotlighting a "Faithful, Proud and True" alumnus/alumna in each issue of the Western Magazine. If you would like to nominate someone for this feature, please email me at holtz@missouriwestern.edu or call 816-271-5651. Nominations will be reviewed by Alumni Services Director Colleen Kowich and me, with preference given to those alumni who regularly and routinely "give back" to Western.



Foster's Photography

ABOVE Dr. Joe Friedman '39, poses with an Emmy he received for his research work on a documentary about the Titanic.

ABOVE Dr. Joe Friedman and his wife, Gladys.



Website launch

“Many people have a lot of questions about planned giving options, the tax code or charitable opportunities,” said Jerry Pickman ’85, director of development. “We wanted to help them by making the information easy to find and read about.”

With that in mind, Western recently unveiled its newest web pages that are full of information about planned giving options – <http://missouriwestern.giftplans>.

The site will be updated by planned giving experts with easy-to-understand language and diagrams about giving options, as well as donor stories. It also includes an opportunity for users to submit specific information about themselves and receive personalized calculations based on the information they enter.

“We hope this service will be beneficial to our alumni and friends as they plan their charitable giving options,” Jerry said. ■



Alumni cheered for their favorite team in the state rivalry at the Cards-Royals baseball game in St. Louis this past spring, an event hosted by the Kansas City and St. Louis chapters. Pictured are Christine Ruhling '99, Gini Fite '02, Mary Vaughan '79, and Shelby Coxon '99.



Junior College alumni and friends gathered for their annual reunion in May. Pictured are the Golden Griffon Society members, those who graduated 50 or more years ago.

ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18-19 Hall of Fame Weekend. Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2009 honored at the game Sept. 19 (see p. 9).

September 20 Alumni at Arrowhead! Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders, 8:30 a.m. tailgate, \$69 game and tailgate.

September 26 Tailgate at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan.

October 7 Western Wednesday for St. Joseph-area alumni, 5:30 p.m. Norty's Bar & Grill, 1117 Frederick Ave.

October 14-17 Homecoming 2009 (see p. 29)

November 7 Second annual Football Reunion, call 816-271-5646 for details.

For more information on events, go to www.griffonalumni.org

Drive with pride!

A \$25 donation to Western allows you to purchase a special Missouri Western State University license plate. Call the Alumni Services Office for details - 816-271-5646.



Student makes “MADE”

Under “experience” on his résumé, Cliff Sel-sor '09, can list something that most people couldn't match – a participant on an MTV reality show. And what an experience it was, he says.

Last spring, the health and exercise science major became a personal trainer for a local high school girl who was featured on MTV's “MADE,” a reality show that helps teens reach their dreams. Kristy McCallan

wanted to be prom queen at Lafayette High School in St. Joseph, Mo., and Cliff had just two months to help her get in shape.

“Anyone in my field would want to do this,” Cliff said. “I love to help people. A lot of people are blind to what they are doing wrong or they don't know what to do.”

Along with Cliff serving as her personal trainer, Kristy also had a coach from MTV work with her as well. When that coach wasn't available, Erin McDonald, who graduated in May from Lafayette High School and is now a student at Western, helped out. “I got her to open up and meet people,” Erin said.

Cliff had just earned his personal trainer certification and had started working at Anytime Fitness in St. Joseph about the time MTV made casting calls at the local fitness centers. Since the teen being featured was a female, MTV wanted not only a male, but one who could be a military, drill sergeant type.

Sometimes, Cliff said, he “had to go out of character” to be more like a drill sergeant, but pulling off the military type was easy – he has been a member of the Air National Guard for more than five years.

Cliff gave Kristy tips for eating healthy and he developed a high intensity, calorie-burning training schedule for her. Several times a week, the television camera followed them around as he conducted workouts that included

running on Western's track around Spratt Memorial Stadium and swimming in the university's pool.

“I was nervous at first having the camera there and sometimes we had to repeat things to get it right,” Cliff said. “My friends sat there and laughed at me.”

The experience wasn't always easy. As the semester progressed, he became busier

with school work and job hunting, Kristy had a couple injuries that set her back and they didn't always see results.

“But I'm glad I did it. I had a good time with it. I had never worked with anyone with that level of experience,” Cliff said. “By the end of the two months, he said Kristy was motivated to continue working out and watching her diet.

And the final result? Kristy MADE it; she was Lafayette's 2009 prom queen. The episode ran in May.

“She had the heart and motivation to make it through,” Cliff said. “That's all I ask from anybody I train.” ■



ALUMnotes

1940s

JOYCE (WORD) ROCHAMBEAU '47, was honored as a Y Woman of Merit at the 2009 YWCA Women of Excellence lunch for her service to the YWCA.

1970s

STEPHEN COTTER '78, was promoted to brigadier general and chief of staff at the Headquarters of the Missouri Air National Guard in Jefferson City. The position is second in command in the state Air National Guard.

DAN DANFORD '78, was quoted in "Present Tense," an article by Charles Pasey in the Personal Finance Section of the Wall Street Journal.

1980s

GARY TURBAK '83, received a doctorate in health science from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. He is head athletic trainer and assistant professor of health and physical education at the College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo.

ESTHER (LANDIS) GEORGE '80, was promoted to first vice president and chief operating officer at the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, Mo. She will have numerous responsibilities and will assume the bank president's duties in his absence, including participating in meetings of the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee. Esther joined the bank in 1982.

She received her BSBA from Western and an MBA from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She serves on the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors and was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005. ■

1990s

LYNN (SNYDER) HUBERT '92, and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of a son, Samuel Michael, born Dec. 1, 2008. He joins two older siblings. Lynn earned a doctorate of education from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

DAVID WATSON '95, and Shanna Davis were married Jan. 10, 2009. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.

TERRI HENDERSON '96, is the energy services director for the Green Hills Community Action Agency in Trenton, Mo.



BRENDA (NEELY) LONG '96, and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of a son, Zachary Luke, born March 9, 2009. He joins older siblings Noah, Victoria, Andrew and Nicholas.

KELLY GIANNATTASIO '98, and Paul Narowski II were married June 28, 2008. The couple resides in Richmond, Va.

RENEE COOK '99, is the vice president of Bank Northwest, serving as compliance officer and internal auditor. Bank Northwest has locations in Bethany, Mo., Hamilton, Mo., Polo, Mo., and Stanberry, Mo.

ANN WALLNER '99, and Gary Edwards were married Feb. 14, 2009. The couple resides in Amazonia, Mo.

2000s

JOHN LATIMER '01, and his wife, Kathleen, announce the birth of a daughter, Mikayla Trinity, born May 7, 2009. She joins two brothers, Christopher Lee and Matthew Hunter.

KELI (WEBER) MORRIS '01, is the banking center manager at Bank Midwest's location in Savannah, Mo.

LINDSAY (JONES) '02, and JOSH '02, BARNES announce the birth of a son, Carson Robert, born Oct. 17, 2008. Lindsay is the manager of facility staffing for Eclipse Healthcare, LLC, and Josh is employed by State Street Bank.

JULIA CHANEY '02, and Christopher Faughn were married March 14, 2009. The couple resides in Macon, Mo.

NICOLE (CORDRY) '02 and CHRISTOPHER '02 SHUTTS – Nicole earned her master's in nursing from University of Missouri – Kansas City and is a family nurse practitioner. Christopher earned an MBA from Baker University and is a data analyst for Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health Systems in Lenexa, Kan.

NATHAN CLAIR '04, and TYRIE UPTON '07, were married April 26, 2008. The couple resides in Jefferson City, Mo.

BEN '04, and DANA (WINSLOW) '08, DOORNINK announce the birth of a daughter, Leah Gracelyn, born June 21, 2008.



SYLVESTER BRANDON '05, and his wife, Kelly, announce the birth of a daughter, Zoey Remika, born March 21, 2009.

CANDICE DAY '05, earned a master's in managerial leadership/human resources from Webster University. She works in human resources for the City of Grand Prairie, Texas.



JOSH MORRISON '05 and his wife, Megan, announce the birth of a daughter, Ariella Lynn Marie, born Dec. 10, 2008.

SARAH (WILHOIT) ROBINSON '06, and her husband, Aaron, announce the birth of a son, Cooper Eugene, born Aug. 11, 2008.



Chuck Mullican '08: Dr. Artist

One afternoon when he was a student, Chuck Mullican '08, walked out to the Potter Hall parking

lot with his professor. When Chuck arrived at his car, the professor told him it was the first time she'd ever seen a student driving a BMW. Chuck just wasn't your traditional nontraditional student.

For 30 years, he was a successful physician in St. Joseph, including serving as chief medical officer at Heartland Health for 10 years. When he retired in 2003, Chuck decided to pursue his love of art and enrolled as an art major at Western, graduating with a bachelor of fine arts degree in December 2008.

"It was a great experience. I don't think I would have changed a minute of it," he said. "The teachers were good, the kids were fun, and the acquisition of new knowledge and skills was wonderful. I was impressed with the student talent. Some of them really had the eye."

Sometimes, he said, the wisdom that comes with age and experience came in handy in small group discussions, but he had no advantage over the traditional students in the hands-on studio classes.

Chuck said every once in a while his former career would come up in conversations, and students would occasionally ask for medical advice, but most of the time he was just another art student.

And did observing the young students' eating and sleeping habits make him cringe? Not really. As a father of seven, he said he'd seen his share of unhealthy phases, and as a physician, he's seen plenty of conflicting medical reports on food and drink. "I'm pretty impressed with the resilience of the human body."

But one unhealthy habit he observed on campus did bother him. "The only thing I know for sure is that kids should not smoke, and there are a lot of smokers."

Comparing his experience at Western to his undergraduate years at a small liberal arts college in the middle of Indiana

about 40 years ago, Chuck said he was a much more serious student this time around. He also liked that there seemed to be more small-group teaching going on this time around.

Chuck's art work caught the attention of Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, who talked to Chuck about acquiring some of it for campus. "I saw his work and wanted to display it for a larger audience," Dr. Vartabedian said. Chuck donated three of his art pieces to Western, and they are hanging in the atrium of Leah Spratt Hall.

"I'm very proud we're displaying his art work. He is a great artist," Dr. Vartabedian said. "Chuck's story is a great story of a man who pursued his passion."

"If I could do it differently, I would have still been a doctor but I would have taken art in college and then gone to medical school," Chuck said. "Then I would have had both alongside each other. An education in art prepares you for a much different view of the world." ■

Super signs

Next time you go to a Royals baseball game at the recently renovated Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., if you don't encounter any problems in finding your seats, concessions, restrooms, or your way around the stadium, you can thank Shannon Swanson '06, for that. Or, if you were at the 2009 Super Bowl and knew just where to go, you can thank Shannon for that, too.

Shannon is a graphic designer for Populous and in the past year has worked on signage for both the renovation of Kauffman Stadium and Super Bowl XLIII in Tampa Bay, Fla. Stadium graphics, directional signage, section signs, player images, murals, you name it and Shannon was probably involved in it.

One of her first assignments when she went to work for Populous in 2006 was the renovation of the stadium in Goodyear, Ariz., where the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians hold spring training. Then, last summer, she was

selected to work on the transformation of Raymond James Stadium for Super Bowl XLIII.

"Basically, you're re-signing the whole stadium temporarily. Everything with the team host logo is covered up. It's challenging to make sure you've caught everything because you have one day to make it work," she said. "It was probably one of my favorite experiences because it was so fast paced. I was lucky to be a part of the team."

For several months before the Super Bowl, she worked closely with Populous' Denver office out of her Kansas City, Mo., office, but she spent the month before the game in Tampa Bay. "It got pretty intense. The closer to game day, the less sleep I got."

Shannon has already been selected to work on Super Bowl XLIV in Miami.

Shannon never thought she'd be working on the stadium where she cheered for the "Boys



Signage in the renovated Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

in Blue" every summer as a kid. "It will always be one of my favorite projects because that's my team," she said.

"I really got lucky. I love sports and I love architecture, so it's a perfect blend." ■

2000s continued

JENNIFER HOLLAND '07, earned a master's degree in public administration – health and human services, from Upper Iowa University, Fayette. She is currently working on her doctor-ate in education – leadership and curriculum, from the University of Phoenix, Kansas City. She is a licensed massage therapist and is program manager at the Massage Therapy Training Institute in Lawrence, Kan.

JACEY JOHNSTON '07, and Jesen Merle were married Sept. 20, 2008. The couple resides in Plano, Texas.

NIKOLE LOUBEY '07, and Kaleb Caudle were married Sept. 27, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

HOLLIE SCHINDLER '07, and Clint Keith were married Jan. 3, 2009. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

KRISTIN JAGO '08, and Mike Elder were married Feb. 7, 2009.

GARRETT HOLTZ '09, and Maureen Modlin were married May 30, 2009. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.

JAKE JOHNSON '09, and Melissa Steadman '09, were married May 9, 2009. The couple resides in Arizona.

MATTHEW MCCUBBIN '09, is the owner of Cubb's Contracting in St. Joseph, Mo. ■

In Memory ...

We honor those 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.

JANICE M. (LEFFERT) BEEMAN '76, St. Joseph, Mo., May 20, 2009.

GARY D. BOCKELMAN '74, St. Joseph, Mo., March 15, 2009.

KAREN (GILBERT) COPENHAFFER JC, Leawood, Kan., March 23, 2009.

JEAN (FULLER) DAVIS JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 24, 2009.

LINDA S. GILL-BORING, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 16, 2009.

ROSEMARY A. (SWOPE) EDWARDS '79, St. Joseph, Mo., March 6, 2009.

CONSTANCE J. (BOLINGER) HILL, St. Joseph, Mo., March 8, 2009.

CHARLOTTE (BOWERS) KENNEDY '42, St. Joseph, Mo., April 22, 2009.

WILLIAM A. LEAKE JC, St. Joseph, Mo., April 9, 2009.

CAROL J. (MIDDLETON) KING, St. Joseph, Mo., March 31, 2009.

MARVIN C. MCDONALD, Hindang, Leyte, Philip-pines, Feb. 28, 2009. Marvin served as director of counseling and testing at Western for 16 years before he retired in 1987.

JOHN M.P. "JACK" MILLER '75, Valparaiso, Ind., Dec. 24, 2008.

MARY E. (BLACHLY) MOBLEY, Kansas City, Mo., March 1, 2009.

GLENN W. MUIR JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 18, 2009.

LEONARD B. ROTHSTEIN JC, St. Joseph, Mo., May 28, 2009.

WANDA I. SCOTT '97, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 22, 2009.

GLEN W. SIMPSON JC, St. Joseph, Mo., March 31, 2009.

JOSEPHINE (WYATT) SMURR '36, Los Angeles, April 12, 2009.

MARGARET STANTURF '33, St. Joseph, Mo., April 18, 2009.

EVERETT L. THOMAS JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 19, 2009.

CECILE V. (SCHULER) TRAUTMAN '50, St. Joseph, Mo., May 29, 2009.

C.L. WEAVER '56, St. Joseph, Mo., May 27, 2009.

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____

Make plans to go

Back in Time to '68:

Celebrating 40 Years of 4-Year Designation

October 14-17, 2009

Wednesday, October 14

Alumni Wine Tasting, 5:30 p.m., Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, 2818 Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, Mo.

Thursday, October 15

Alumni Awards Banquet, social at 5:45 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m., Fulkerson Center.

2009 Distinguished Alumni - Richard Durst '72, president, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio; Brent Porlier '82, president, Porlier Outdoor Advertising, Foristell, Mo.; and Dirck Clark '85, chief development officer, Heartland Health, St. Joseph, Mo.

Distinguished Faculty - Frank Thomas, associate professor of music.

Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University - Charlie '55, and Patti '55, Burri.

Friday, October 16

Alumni Golf Outing, details at www.griffonalumni.org.

St. Joseph Junior College Celebration, 2 p.m., 10th and Edmond, St. Joseph, Mo.

Junior College Celebration Tea, 2:45 p.m., YWCA, Terrace Room, 304 N. 8th St.

Homecoming Reunions - Greek, VIPs, Golden Griffon Marching Band - and all-alumni gathering, 8 p.m., Norty's Bar & Grill, 1117 Frederick Ave., St. Joseph, Mo.

Saturday, October 17

Parade, 9:30 a.m., downtown St. Joseph.

Baptist Student Union Reunion, fellowship at 10:15 a.m., worship service at 11:15 a.m., Spratt Hall Enright Room, 214.

Faculty/Alumni Reception, 10:30 a.m., Blum Union Lounge

Craig School of Business Open House, 10:30 a.m., Popplewell Hall

Tailgate, 11:30 a.m., on campus

Homecoming Game, 1:30 p.m., Griffons vs. University of Central Missouri, Spratt Memorial Stadium. Alumni Association award recipients will be honored at halftime.

For all your Homecoming information, visit www.griffonalumni.org.



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It's official – Western is the home of the Kansas City Chiefs training camp!

In June, the state of Missouri gave its final approval to an agreement that will bring the annual summer three-week training camp of the Kansas City Chiefs to Western.

Under terms of the agreement, the Chiefs will bring their training camp to Western beginning in 2010. The Chiefs have contributed \$10 million for an indoor sports and recreation facility, which will include a full-size football field, a 5,000 sq.-foot locker room, weight room, training room, coaches' offices, meeting rooms and a lecture hall where the entire team can gather. The facility will be south and west of Spratt Memorial Stadium, where the west softball field currently is. Two outdoor practice fields are part of the project, also.

"This is a transformational moment for our university and our community," said Dr. Robert

Vartabedian, Western's president. He expressed his appreciation to those who worked on the agreement: Gov. Jay Nixon; State Sen. Charlie Shields; Dirck Clark '85, then chair of the Board of Governors; Dave Williams, athletic director; and Clark Hunt and Denny Thum of the Chiefs.

The agreement calls for the Chiefs to hold their training camp at Western for a minimum of five years, and in the state of Missouri for a minimum of 10 years.

The city of St. Joseph and Buchanan County are also contributing funds to the project, and Western is raising private donations.

Crossland Construction Co., Inc., was selected as the general contractor for the project, and construction is currently underway. ■



Dr. Robert Vartabedian speaks at the June 2009 press conference announcing the agreement with the Chiefs.



Katy Schwartz '08, and her pet get into the spirit at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new sports and recreation facility.



Gov. Jay Nixon, State Sen. Charlie Shields and Chiefs President Denny Thum visit on Western's campus.



Groundbreaking for the new facility was held in June.