

FALL 2010

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University



All-Steinway
page 8



How will you create your legacy?

How can you be sure your family will be taken care of if something happens to you?

What will happen to the wealth you have accumulated?

How can you support Western without making an outright gift today?

**Where there's a WILL
... there's a way!**

Missouriwestern.giftplans.org will help you find the answers!

Learn more about bequest language, click on your age group to use the Life Stage Gift Planner Tool, check out the glossary of terms, and more.

Don't be among the 70% of American adults who do not have a valid WILL!



MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION



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.

FALL 2010 • VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

EDITOR

Diane Holtz

DESIGN EDITOR

Kendy Jones '94

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI SERVICES

Colleen Kowich

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

Roger Swafford '68

ALUMNI BOARD

Diane Hook '90, President

Randy Klein '78, First Vice President

Robert Sigrist '95, Second Vice President

Sheryl Bremer '81, Shelby Coxon '99, Carole Dunn '91, John Fabsits '04, Gini Fite '01, Bill Gondring '56, Luke Gorham '06, James Jeffers '73, Linda Kerner '73, Bruce Kneib '84, Marc Lewis '82, Brandy Meeks '07, Kendell G. Misemer '82, Arthur Montgomery '89, Nicholas Parker '02, Zachary Ramsay '02, Melissa Rewinkel '93, Ralph Schank '82, Tom Schneider '64, Katy Schwartz '08, David Slater '82, Jennifer Stanek '99, Mary Vaughan '79, Greg VerMulm '89, Nichi Yeager '99.

FOUNDATION BOARD

Alfred Purcell, Chair

Jim Carolus, Vice Chair

Peter Gray, Secretary

John Wilson, Treasurer

Ted Allison, David Bahner, Drew Brown, Michelle Cebulko '93, Dirck Clark '85, Stephen Cotter '78, Pat Dillon, Esther George '80, Stephen Hamilton, Cindy Hausman, Judith Hausman, Jason Horn '95, John Jarrett, Jennifer Kneib '89, Chris Looney, Corky Marquart '84, J.L. Robertson, LaVell Rucker '03, Lee Sawyer, Dave Shinneman, Melody Smith '87, Jon Styslinger, Robert Vartabedian, Tom Watkins, Seth Wright, Chuck Zimmerman, Dan Nicoson, executive director.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Kylee Strough '03, Chair

Tommye Quilty '96, Vice Chair

Dirck Clark '85, Dan Danford '78, Lesley Graves, Patt Lilly, Deborah Smith '79, Peter Gregory, student governor.

WESTERN MAGAZINE

4525 Downs Drive, Spratt Hall 106

St. Joseph, MO 64507

(816) 271-5651

email: holtz@missouriwestern.edu

Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

ON THE COVER: Western earned the All-Steinway School distinction this year with the purchase of 13 new pianos, all designed by Steinway. See p. 8. Photo by Eric Callow '97.

Contents

Departments

2 Campus News

12 Sports

20 Alumni News

26 Alumnotes

Features

8 Music Department Hits High Notes

Read about the music department's new pianos and new music technology lab, and a program started by a Western professor and an alumna that is inspiring creative vision in schools across the state.

14 Western Welcomes Chiefs Training Camp

Western was in the red zone this summer when the Kansas City Chiefs held their summer training camp on the university's campus for the first time.

16 Five Years as a University – What has Changed?

Five years after Missouri Western State College became a university, we look back at the Senate bill that gave us that designation and see the changes that came with it.





Barbara and Richard Crumley are pictured at A Ritzy Night in Paris, the 16th annual Night at the Ritz. The event is a fund-raiser put on by the MWSU Ambassadors to raise money for scholarships for nontraditional students.

Fall ushers in new degree offerings

Western began offering several new degree programs, both bachelor's and master's, this fall, and two existing bachelor degree programs are now offered on the Penn Valley campus of Metropolitan Community Colleges (MCC) in Kansas City, Mo.

Master's degrees

The master of applied science in forensic investigations and graduate certificate in forensic investigations programs will be taught by university professors and professionals associated with the Southern Institute for Forensic Science (SIFS). The programs' formats will include weeklong courses through the SIFS.

Kip Wilson, associate professor of criminal justice, said the graduate degree programs are for anyone interested in a career in crime scene investigation, and there is no other program with this format in the state. He noted that, because of the unique format, students could earn their degree while still working full time.

"I'm excited. I think it's going to be good for our students and good for the area," Kip said.

Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, chair of the nursing department, said the development of the master of science in nursing, health-care leadership program was the result of several discussions with healthcare providers in the region who saw a need for such a program.

Dr. George Yang, chair of the engineering technology department, said that was also the case for the master of applied science in engineering technology management degree. Several area business leaders told him the degree would address a critical need in the industry.

Career opportunities for that degree include management and supervisory positions in industry as well as secondary education teachers or college level instructors.

Classes for the master of applied science in assessment with a TESOL (teaching English to speakers of other languages) program will be offered on Western's Northland campus in Tuileries Plaza as well as on campus and online. Several of the courses for the master of

continued on page 21

New residence hall

Western is building a new apartment-style residence hall that will open for the Fall 2011 semester. The residence hall, located south of Scanlon Hall near Mitchell Ave., will be reserved for upperclassmen and will house 200-250.

Sean O'Reilly, interim director of residential life, said students were given several opportunities to offer input about the hall plans, and a housing committee spent months looking at the current and future residential needs of the campus. The committee believes the university has the greatest need for upperclassmen housing.

Each unit will contain four single bedrooms, a kitchen and lounge. It will be the only residence hall to offer kitchens in each unit.

Plans were presented at the February 2010 Board of Governors meeting and an architect, Ellison-Auxier Architects, Inc., was selected at the March meeting. The \$12.1 million bid from Brooner and Associates Construction, Inc., was accepted in July.

The residence hall will be financed by issuing revenue bonds, which is how all of the university's residence halls have been financed over the years.

Western has had record enrollments for the past five years and in Fall 2009, 140 students were on a waiting list for housing. Although all students' housing needs were met, the growing enrollment, along with improved retention numbers, have created a housing crunch. ■

Board of Governors member dies

Diza Eskridge, member of the Board of Governors, died June 29 following a brief illness. Diza, of Weston, Mo., was appointed to the Board in April 2009 by Gov. Jay Nixon. She graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in business administration and then attended summer school at Western to get her teaching certificate. She served on the finance committee and the nominating committee of the Board of Governors. ■

Craig School of Business Accreditation

The Steven L. Craig School of Business (CSB) has achieved accreditation of its degree programs from AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer degrees in business and accounting.

"Accreditation by AACSB International is the ultimate seal of quality for a business school," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "The faculty and staff of the Craig School of Business, including Interim Dean Carol Roever, have been working toward this milestone for more than 10 years, and I thank them for their hard work and congratulate them on their success. The finest business schools in the world are accredited by AACSB International, and we're pleased that the Craig School of Business will now formally join their ranks."

Western joins an elite group of institutions that have achieved business accreditation from AACSB International. Only 593 schools of business, or fewer than five percent worldwide, have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education. Twelve of those schools are in Missouri. Western is one of only 48 schools worldwide and the first

in Missouri to earn AACSB International accreditation with undergraduate business programs only.

To achieve accreditation, an institution's business program must undergo a rigorous internal review and evaluation process. During this period, the school must develop and implement a mission-driven plan to satisfy 17 quality standards relating to faculty qualification, strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students, as well as a commitment to continuous improvement and achievement of learning goals in degree programs.

The CSB currently has approximately 870 majors, making it the largest single discipline at Western. The school offers four undergraduate business degrees and recently signed agreements with the Bloch School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Helzberg School of Management at Rockhurst University to make it easier for Western graduates to pursue master's degrees. Last year, the CSB opened the Koenig-Simmons Trading Room to give students real-life trading experience.

Dr. Philip Nitse became dean of the CSB July 1. ■



Pictured at the AACSB International annual conference where the Steven L. Craig School of Business (CSB) was recognized for its recent accreditation, is Carol Roever, then interim dean of the CSB; Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, dean of the College of Business at Texas A & M University, who was chair of the peer review team from AACSB International; Greg Bruce, dean emeritus and faculty member at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Western's AACSB mentor; Dr. Cindy Heider, Western's associate provost and vice president of academic affairs; Steven L. Craig; and Dr. Larry Lawson, associate professor of finance at Western.

President's Perspective

Dear Alumni and Friends,
Welcome to the new Missouri Western State University. I say "new" because it seems that every day something new is happening on campus. This summer, we broke ground on a new 242-bed residence hall, witnessed the delivery of a new Steinway concert grand piano, and welcomed close to 1,000 new students to Griffon Edge.

We also hosted a little thing called Kansas City Chiefs training camp. Perhaps you've heard of it? St. Joseph and Western took center stage as thousands of Chiefs fans were welcomed on campus this past summer.

Over the last year, you have heard me talk about maintaining excellence during a period of decreasing budgetary resources. You know that the State Legislature cut funding for higher education by 5.2 percent while tuition has remained flat for the last two years. Yet, despite these challenges, Western continues to thrive.

Western has always relied on the assistance of our community, alumni, and friends. We are grateful to those who have supported us for the last 95 years and we are grateful for those who will support us for the next 95. I thank you and look forward to the future we continue to build.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Vartabedian

Robert A. Vartabedian
President



Dr. Robert Vartabedian signs an exchange agreement with the National University of Tainan in Taiwan when four faculty members and administrators from the university visited Western in June.

Community committee supports department

As director of development, Jerry Pickman '85, is used to "making the ask" and encouraging people to support Western and its programs. So he was a little surprised last fall when Al Landes, president and COO of Herzog Contracting Corp., of St. Joseph, Mo., approached Western to talk about forming a committee made up of community members to help raise money for the engineering technology (ET) department.

"We are grateful for the support of these leaders in the business community. I love it when people approach me ready to help the university," Jerry said. "With the present state of the economy and Western's budgetary challenges, this committee's efforts are especially welcome."

"Missouri Western has a philosophy of 'we're here to create a product that the industry can use,'" Al said. "So if we want that product, we need to step up and support them."

The roots of the committee go back to 2008, when Al was serving as president of Beavers, a national heavy construction association. As president of that group, he could designate \$100,000 to an institution for scholarships to further construction education, and he chose Western.

"It was a good start, but I thought that more could be done to accomplish both our goals and Western's goals," Al said. "I wanted to challenge the university to

match the \$100,000." The money raised would be used however the ET department determined was the best use of the funds.

Al quickly garnered the support of three colleagues to serve as co-chairs of his committee – Ron Auxier '73, of Ellison-Auxier Architects, Inc.; Zane Brickey of Lawhon Construction Co., both of St. Joseph; and Ryan Schultz of R/S Electric Construction of North Kansas City, Mo. – and named it the Engineering Technology Advancement Committee. The four chairs' companies have committed a total of \$10,000.

"All of us in the trade think this is an excellent program," Ron said of the ET department. "It has an amazing job placement rate."

The committee serves two functions: fundraising and curriculum advice. The department has had a curriculum advisory board made up of business leaders in the trade for several years, but the fundraising function is new.

At a lunch to announce the new committee last spring, Al told an audience of more than 40 community members that supporting the ET department was an investment in the future. "When you talk about the number one asset of Herzog, it's people. We can have all the equipment and software we want, but we need to educate people for our future. We need to invest in the product that comes out of this

university." He noted that Herzog has hired more than 30 employees with ET degrees from Western.

"You'll be pleasantly surprised with the quality of product you get from Western," Al said. ■

New scholarship for engineering technology students

Patricia Sauer donated \$10,000 to establish the Patricia Ann & Harry J. Sauer Jr. Endowed Scholarship for students in the engineering technology department. Both Patricia and Harry were St. Joseph Junior College students, graduating in 1954. Harry graduated with an associate of science degree in pre-engineering and Patricia graduated with an associate of arts degree.

Harry was a long-time professor of mechanical engineering at what is now the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Mo., and he was honored with the Western Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1989. He died in 2008.

"We appreciate the generosity of Mrs. Sauer in remembering the Junior College and Missouri Western," said Jerry Pickman '85, director of development. "Her gift will benefit many students." ■

Former speaker to speak

Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich will speak at the 17th annual Convocation on Critical Issues at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 7 in the M.O. Looney Complex. The event is free and open to the community.

"Newt Gingrich continues the Convocation's tradition of bringing nationally prominent speakers and thinkers to campus," said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement and executive director of the MWSU Foundation. "I'm certain that our students, faculty, staff and the community will be stimulated by his unique perspective, and the Foundation takes great pride in providing these kinds of programs."

Newt is known as the architect of the "Contract with America" that led the Republican Party to victory in 1994 by capturing a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years. Under his leadership as Speaker, Congress passed welfare reform, the first balanced budget in a generation and the first tax cut in 16 years. In addition, Congress restored funding to strengthen our defense and intelligence capabilities, an action later lauded by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

The former house speaker has authored 19 books, including 11 fiction

and nonfiction New York Times bestsellers. He is chairman of the Gingrich Group, a communications and consulting firm that specializes in transformational change. He



serves as general chairman of American Solutions for Winning the Future, is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a distinguished visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution, honorary chair of the NanoBusiness Alliance and a news and political analyst for the Fox News Channel.

Newt was first elected to Congress in 1978 and served the Sixth District of Georgia for 20 years. He served as House Speaker from 1995 to 1999, and was named Time magazine's Man of the Year in 1995.

Western inaugurated the Convocation on Critical Issues in 1993 as part of an overall commitment to offer enriching experiences to students while bringing together the university and the community. The Convocation program is sponsored by the MWSU Foundation and is held in honor of R. Dan Boulware, former Western regent.

Newt will also speak at the annual Convocation Dinner on Oct. 6. For more information, call 816-271-5670. ■

Clark reappointed to Board

Dirck Clark '85, was reappointed to the Board of Governors in April. Dirck, the chief business development officer at Heartland Health in St. Joseph, Mo., has served on the board since 2004. He was chair of the board from 2007-2009, and in that position, played a pivotal role in securing the agreement that made Western the summer training camp home of the Kansas City Chiefs. His term ends Oct. 15, 2015. ■

NSF awards Western \$600,000 for scholarships

In 2004, the computer science, math and physics department was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for \$294,200 to be used for scholarships. Last spring, NSF came through again, but this time awarding Western more than double that amount – \$599,600. The grant is part of NSF's Midwest Apex Project (MAP): Road MAP for Student Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics project.

Western was one of about 90 recipients from 401 proposals submitted.

"We are extremely pleased for the students. They will be the true beneficiaries of this grant," said Dr. Tingxiu Wang, department chair and project director.

The grant will fund a total of 84 scholarships of approximately \$5,600 each over five years. Additionally, the grant provides for 17 students each year to receive \$600 each over the five years.

Students who are pursuing a degree from the biology; chemistry; computer science, math and physics; or engineering technology departments are eligible to apply for the scholarships providing they meet the GPA criteria. Financial need is also considered.

Tingxiu said the departments plan to host study groups, study sessions, a brown bag lunch series, an annual orientation program, and faculty mentoring for students who are awarded scholarships. Scholarship recipients will also have research and internship opportunities and attend a scholars colloquium series. ■

Students Heather Hummer, Kathleen Niggemeyer and Bridget Janssen work on one of several murals at Mark Twain Elementary School in St. Joseph, Mo. The Student Government Association painted several walls at the elementary school as a service project. This mural was designed by Heather.



Heard around campus ...

"The best wind in Missouri is in northwest Missouri." Ken Hensley, speaking at the Eggs and Issues speaker series on "How to Build and Develop a Wind Farm."

"Is the world going to come to an end if we don't protect our environment? Yes. We are poisoning ourselves and we don't seem to be able to stop. We are living out of tune with nature. With simplicity, we'd be living in tune with nature." Dr. Lisa Newton, speaking at the 2010 Galileo's Legacy Conference, on "Simplicity: The Sustainable Life."

"Be better today than you were yesterday." Stan Pearson II's '02, closing line when he spoke on "The Art of Being You, for Men Only" at the Global Women's Leadership Summit last spring.

"The seeds were planted (for organized crime in Kansas City). All it needed was water and fertilizer. Prohibition was that fertilizer. It was like Congress said, 'How could we put together a piece of legislation that would promote organized crime?'" William Ouseley, speaking at the Eggs and Issues speaker series on "The KC Crime Family: the First 50 Years."

BLOGGING AT THE GRIFFON FILM FESTIVAL

Natalie Miller, a theatre and film major from St. Joseph, Mo., kept a blog of this year's sixth annual International Film Festival, and excerpts from her blog are below. The festival, which ran April 19-23, featured the first films of well known filmmakers, along with several student-directed films. Western students previewed nearly 80 films and videos that were submitted from all over the world.

MONDAY AFTERNOON

Today the featured filmmaker is David Lynch. People started to file in about 10 minutes till 2. There were about 22 people in attendance today. Most faces are familiar but fortunately, there are some new faces as well. I'm glad the word got out!

"Eraserhead" was the name of the movie we watched. It was one very interesting movie. The discussion afterwards was interesting as well. We talked about what we thought some of David Lynch's goals were, and why we thought he did not use much dialogue. Some people liked it and others definitely didn't, but one thing was for sure, we were glad we got the opportunity to watch such a different movie.

MONDAY EVENING

Tonight's film viewing began with a warm welcome again from Kelly Wittenberg (assistant professor of theatre). 27 people were in attendance tonight, and because of some student works, there appeared to be some parents in the audience, which was cool to see.

Even though not one of these movies lasted longer than 15 minutes, each told a well thought out story. "Is it Jazz Yet?" by Fred Weems (a student here at Missouri Western) told a story without any dialogue, just music. Fred said he started out with some dialogue but kept cutting parts out until there was no more. The music did the storytelling, and the words were just not necessary. The film consisted of three original scores that were played on the piano and accompanied by other instruments. It was lovely to watch and listen to.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Today in the Black Box (Theater) we talked about Todd Haynes. 24 people were in attendance with some brand new faces. The movie we watched was a rare film of his that came with some controversy when it first came out. The movie was made without live actors and with a very minimal budget which fit right in with the

No Excuses theme that we have going this year. He made no excuses to get this film made which sets an excellent example for all of us filmmakers out there. If anyone has a story and a camera, we have no excuse!

We also talked after the movie about any parallels we saw in "Eraserhead" and this film, which brought up some great points that were discussed in detail. The discussion lasted about 20 minutes today, which again gave me a feeling of gratitude that these critical thinking workshops are available on my campus.

11 of us hopped over to the Art History room to view "El Mariachi" by Robert Rodriguez. The film was quite long and unfortunately four o'clock came pretty quickly, which forced our discussion time to a minimum. This movie (as all others were) was a perfect example of No Excuses. Rodriguez made this film and then entered a few film festivals, including Sundance, and next thing he knew he had a distribution deal. He was so determined to make his movies he sold his body to science until he had raised enough money to begin filming. Robert Rodriguez had the desire to tell stories and the talent to film them, and that was all he needed to make a movie.

His story, along with every director featured during the Griffon International Film Festival has inspired even me to make a movie. I have no excuse!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Today we watched a film by Michael Moore called "Roger and Me." This was Michael's first film that started his long line of left-wing controversial documentaries. The crowd was a little small today and we discussed afterwards that maybe it is because people don't like him because he is an outspoken liberal. I can't help but think no matter what stance you take politically, or even if you don't take a stance at all, it is our duty to be informed and know all sides of our opposite views. Granted I don't know why there were only 14 people here today, but it makes me wonder.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Erin Williams was our student showcase and our movie ticket winner! Tonight was definitely her night! After the films, Erin spoke briefly about her film, and after making everyone laugh at her film and her speech, she then was chosen to select a winner. She brought the crowd to another round of laughs when she announced, "It's me!"

Tonight was short and sweet with lots of laughs. It's always a pleasure being around people who can make you laugh.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Kathryn Bigalow is today's featured filmmaker. She directed "Near Dark," a vampire movie which really sparked my interest because I just started the "Twilight" series over again for the second time. This film had such vivid colors and awesome action shots. Our discussion went for about fifteen minutes today analyzing the film and how some saw Western meets film noir meets horror. All these genres in one film make one heck of a classic vampire flick.

THURSDAY EVENING

With a head count of 42 tonight, it's the most we've seen so far. There were actually 9 films tonight instead of the listed 8.

The discussion tonight was mainly on our student showcases, which included Keith Roth, Josh Comminellis, Colin Mascal, and Chris Palmer. They all spoke a little bit about their films, and Keith and Chris were the winners of the film contest held last year by Missouri Western's Film Department. The contest provided a budget to make these films, and the filmmakers offered some of their advice when working with a budget. A big thank you was given to Alan Arrivée (assistant professor of theatre) for starting up the film contest and to (Dr.) Marilyn Hunt (department chair) for making it happen. E.J. Tangonan was our movie winner of the evening. It appears his praying that he did ever so publicly paid off. Congrats, E.J.!!!

FRIDAY EVENING

Tonight had a definite theme going, which was comedy. With two student filmmakers in the audience and a dozen or so actors in the audience, it made for a very entertaining evening. "Road Runner" and "Speak the Language" were huge hits tonight.

It is difficult to explain the sort of family environment that Missouri Western's Theatre and Film Dept. has developed the last couple of years. It seems to only be getting stronger. I feel so privileged to have been a part of this year's and last year's film festivals. As I close on my second-to-last semester, I am beginning to feel a stronger sense of pride that has come from the opportunities through Missouri Western's Theatre and Film Department. Thank You Thank You Thank You to Kelly Wittenberg for taking chances and for making the 6th Annual Griffon International Film Festival possible! ■

Campus Kudos

- The 2009 Griffon Yearbook was selected as one of the top yearbooks in the country. The Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) named it as one of 14 Pacemaker finalists. Western is one of six finalists in the category of yearbooks with 314 pages or fewer. The Pace-maker award is one of student journalism's highest honors. Raphael'le Drew of Gower, Mo., and Amy Chastain of Cowgill, Mo., were co-editors-in-chief of the 2009 Griffon. Winners will be announced in October.
- The Non-Traditional Student Association (NTSA) won the second annual Excellence in Philanthropy Award from the MWSU Foundation, presented at the annual MWSU Foundation Appreciation Dinner in the spring. The award was created to recognize student organizations for outstanding commitment to their communities through philanthropy. In the 2009-10 academic year, NTSA supported the United Way with funds raised through bake sales, coordinated a campus Adopt-a-Family program to assist students who weren't able to provide Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas gifts for their family, participated in campus cleanup activities and coordinated "Hot Dogs for the Homeless," a fundraiser in support of Project Homeless Connect of St. Joseph.
- Dr. Jeff Poet, associate professor of mathematics, received the Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award at the 2010 Meeting of the Missouri Section of the Mathematical Association of America. ■

Best wishes to the 2009-2010 retirees:

Jim Estes, art
Dr. Darrell Johnson, computer science, math and physics
George Noble, physical plant
Dr. Richard Porr, education
Carol Roevers, Craig School of Business
Dr. Virendra Varma, engineering technology
William Wines, Craig School of Business
Dr. Nannette Wolford, health, physical education and recreation
Mary Zacklene, business office
Dr. Gerald Zweerink, chemistry ■

Western becomes an *All-Steinway School*

There was a “grand” change in the music department last spring – 13 new pianos, all designed by Steinway & Sons. And with that purchase, Western became one of a little more than 100 institutions around the world to earn the distinction of an All-Steinway School.

“A Steinway is the best there is, there’s no other way to put it,” said Dr. Matthew Edwards, associate professor and director of keyboard studies. “Piano majors now have the opportunity to practice, perform and study on the best pianos in the world.”

Matthew and Dr. Nathanael May, assistant professor of music, traveled to New York in December and personally selected three pianos. Five Steinway grand pianos, one Boston grand piano and seven Essex upright pianos were delivered in January. All-Steinway School designation requires that 90 percent or more of an institution’s acoustic pianos, whether for practice, instruction or performance; be designed by Steinway & Sons (Boston and Essex are designed by Steinway). According to the company’s web site, All-Steinway Schools include The Juilliard School in New York, the Yale School of Music and the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in Ohio. In Missouri, only the University of Central Missouri and Lindenwood College have that distinction.

All but one of the university’s non-Steinways were replaced with new Steinway grands and Essex uprights and the existing Steinways owned by Western were retained.



Dr. Matt Edwards, director of keyboard studies, thanks Brent Porlier '82, after it was announced at the Foundation Appreciation Dinner that Brent pledged funds to purchase a nine-foot Steinway & Sons grand piano for the music department.

The decision to pursue All-Steinway School designation arose out of discussions about the state of the university’s current pianos, which were aging and in need of maintenance and repair, Matthew said. The department wouldn’t be able to rebuild more than one or two pianos a year, so the opportunity to lease-purchase the Steinways and get all new pianos at a deep discount while spreading the cost over 10 years was the best option, according to Dr. Matt Gilmour, professor and chair of the department of music.

The university’s Board of Governors approved the lease-purchase of 13 new pianos last fall, a \$365,587.20 package from Schmitt Music of Overland Park, Kan. The money will come from fees on music courses ranging from \$25 to \$100 a semester. Music students were supportive of the fees, which will also pay for other equipment needs in the department, Matt Gilmour said.

A music student plays one of the new Steinways.



Funds for concert grand donated

Thanks to the generosity of an alumnus, the music department acquired a new Steinway & Sons nine-foot concert grand piano for the Potter Hall theater. In April, it was announced that Brent Porlier '82, pledged funds to support the purchase of that piano.

The older nine-foot grand piano that was in the theater will be placed in the Fulkerson Center.

Porlier is the owner and president of Porlier Outdoor Advertising, a St. Louis-based company he started in 1988 that maintains more than 440 billboard faces in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. He contributes billboard space to Western and was instrumental in the development of the new Faraon St. entrance sign. Brent received a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009.

“The new piano gives us four nine foot Steinways,” said Dr. Matthew Edwards, director of keyboard studies. “There can’t be too many schools of our size that could boast that many.” ■



Music lab goes *state-of-the-art*

“Ear training on steroids.” “Instant feedback.” “Real time signal processing.” Those are some of the phrases floating around to describe Western’s new music technology lab, along with “amazing,” “exciting,” “wonderful,” and “state-of-the-art.”

Last spring, students returned from the semester break to find the old keyboard lab gone, replaced with everything new - 16 Yamaha digital pianos, nine Macintosh stations, four Mac Book Pro computers, and a full complement of software for composing and producing music and digital audio for stand-alone use, or for video and film productions. Features of the software packages include sound synthesis, music notation and sequencing.

“It’s an amazing tool. When student composers start using the technology, their skill level really increases quickly.”

Dr. Linda Antas

“We had a keyboard lab before, but they were just toys,” said Dr. David Benz, assistant professor of music who teaches an Aural Skills class in the new lab. “Now we have a state-of-the-art facility.”

“The students are really enjoying it,” said Dr. Linda Antas, assistant professor of music and director of audio

technology. “They are so excited and engaged.” Linda teaches courses in composition, theory, flute and music technology.

One of the features everyone likes is how students can put on headphones and all be playing something different without disturbing the rest of the class. Additionally, the professor can don headphones, push a few buttons, and listen to each student individually. Software allows the teacher to project what students are doing at their stations onto the screen at the front of the classroom.

For the student composer, the new technology offers instant feedback because they can listen to the composition as they are creating it, Linda said. “It’s an amazing tool. When student composers start using the technology, their skill level really increases quickly.”

The equipment records as students play and transcribes the music notes they are playing. “As a composer, I love that you can start a piece without even a pencil,” Linda said.

Potter Hall also boasts of a new recording studio and audio production lab with new equipment and software. Linda noted that Western uses the same software that is used in professional recording studios, so students will be a step ahead when they enter the job market. The curriculum also focuses on the theories behind the sound so that students will more easily learn other software that they encounter in the future.

Thanks to the new equipment, Western started offering a bachelor of science in music technology on campus last fall. Linda calls it a “synthesis of traditional musical training and new technologies.”

She said the degree offers students a variety of career options, from composing to teaching to recording, and everything in between, because students will learn not only the art of music, but the new technology, as well. Of equal importance, Linda said, is that they are learning skills that will help them develop, document and distribute their talents.

“Our students really appreciate the lab. I’m glad the university committed to this,” David said. ■

Dr. Linda Antas and students try out the new music technology lab.

Inspiring *creative vision*

When Missouri’s governor named Walter Barga the state’s first poet laureate in early 2008, Dr. David Benz, assistant professor of music, and Mary Ann Haenni ’81, director of vocal music at Savannah R-III Schools, knew what they had to do.

Mary Ann had always wanted to set the works of Missouri poets to music for her choirs, and David said he had a similar idea, only on a larger scale. He wanted to set the works of the national poet laureate to music. So the naming of the state’s first poet laureate seemed like a perfect place to start, and they merged their ideas and launched a program called Verses and Voices, where middle and high school students interpret the state poet laureate’s work through art, music and readings in the classroom, and then showcase their work at festivals.

“Verses and Voices requires collaboration between the arts,” David said. “The arts teachers work together, and the collaboration starts with poetry.”

In the summer of 2008, Mary Ann met Walter, the state’s new poet laureate, and shared David’s and her vision. Walter liked what he heard and immediately agreed to become a co-founder of Verses and Voices with David and Mary Ann.

Two alumni, Kevin Griffin ’85, and Darren Verbick ’88, secondary and elementary arts supervisors, respectively, for the St. Joseph School District, became part of Verses and Voices’ northwest Missouri leadership team executive board.

When school began in the fall of 2008, three St. Joseph public high schools, Bishop LeBlond High School in St. Joseph and Savannah High School, in Savannah, Mo., began working with Verses and Voices in their schools, and the first festival for all the schools was held that October. It included interpretive art displays and readings of Walter’s poems, and choirs performing songs by Missouri composers. More than 700 people attended. Walter visited several classes in October and talked about his poetry, as well.

“We let people who had the same vision run with it, and it was so exciting to see,” Mary Ann said. “The festival turned out better than we ever expected.”

Another successful festival was held in fall 2009, with 1,600 students and 10 schools participating.

But the ultimate goal of Verses and Voices was having one of Walter’s poems set to music, and David and Mary Ann discovered Amy Beth Kirsten, who was a former high school student of Mary Ann’s and was completing her doctorate

in music composition at Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She agreed to set one of Walter’s poems, “Hall of Waters” to music.

In the meantime, David and Mary Ann met with Missouri’s first lady, Georgeanne Nixon, to talk about Verses and Voices. She immediately signed on as honorary chair and told them she wanted to host a festival in Jefferson City.

So last February, the inaugural Governor’s Verses and Voices Festival was held in the capitol rotunda, featuring four high school choirs and Western’s concert chorale. The directors of St. Joseph’s Lafayette High School choir and Lee’s Summit North choir are alumni – Kim Evans ’08, at Lafayette and Steve Perry ’83, for Lee’s Summit North. The festival featured all the choirs giving

the premiere performance of Walter’s poem set to music. The song featured a clarinet solo, and that was performed by Cindy Price Svehla ’83, music teacher at Liberty (Mo.) High School.

David and Mary Ann are working to expand the program throughout the state and hope Missouri can serve as a pilot program for other states. David believes it is the only program in the nation that creates an interaction between students and the state’s poet laureate. They gave a presentation on the program at the Missouri Choral Directors conference and have received a \$17,000 grant from the Missouri Arts Council, and festivals will be held this fall in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas, in addition to northwest Missouri. The performance at the state capitol will become an annual event, as well.

David and Mary Ann would also like to see Missouri name a state composer laureate, who would be commissioned to set to music a poem of the state’s poet laureate.

Although Verses and Voices is highly successful, David hasn’t forgotten his original goal. He still wants to see Verses and Voices expand to include the national poet laureate, and he is currently working with the Library of Congress to make that happen.

“I think it’s critical to find ways of doing a better job of teaching kids to be inspired and to have creative vision, and Verses and Voices does that,” David said. “It is creative vision that shaped Missouri’s past and will shape our future.” ■

Missouri Verses and Voices



Students in the opera workshop class taught by Dr. Susan Carter, assistant professor of music, performed a scene from Stephen Sondheim’s opera, “Into the Woods,” at the annual Foundation Appreciation Dinner. The evening showcased Western’s music, art, theatre and video departments, and 250 attended.



Spring sports wrap

Griffon **baseball** finished the year with a record of 22-23. Poor winter weather didn't allow the squad to practice outside until late March, forcing the club to get off to a slow start. Once the weather heated up, so did the team, and they won 10 out of 12 games during a late-season push to be in contention to qualify for the MIAA postseason tournament. The team came up just short as they were defeated by nationally ranked Emporia State in the season's final weekend.

Three student athletes earned post-season honors: freshman pitcher Brandon Simmons, Kansas City, Kan., junior utility player Issac Rome, Carol Stream, Ill.; and junior third baseman Ian Atkinson, North Bench, Wash., were named to the Honorable Mention All-MIAA team.

Next season, the team will debut in their new on-campus stadium.

Griffon **softball** had high expectations headed into 2010 as they were ranked eighth nationally in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association preseason poll. However, like the baseball team, poor winter weather didn't allow the team to practice outside until late March, and coupled with a string of injuries to key players, the Griffons finished the year 28-28 overall.

Senior infielder Shannon Pivovar, Omaha, Neb., closed out a spectacular four-year career, becoming only the fourth Griffon in school history to record more than 200 hits in her career. Shannon,

along with junior outfielder Toni Dance, Brisbane, Australia; senior outfielder Becky Diehl, Derby, Kan.; junior pitcher Jonnelle Belger, Kansas City, Mo.; and junior shortstop Ashley Hudson, Kearney, Mo.; were all named to the MIAA's Honorable Mention team.

On the links, men's and women's **golf** concluded their seasons in the MIAA Conference golf championships at Tiffany Greens Golf Club in Kansas City, Mo. On the men's side, junior Dan Crawford, St. Joseph, Mo., was named to the All-MIAA Golf Team.

Women's golf made huge strides in establishing their program as a major player in the MIAA and in the west region by winning two events and finishing second in another. Individually, Natalie Bird, Carl Junction, Mo., closed out an outstanding freshman campaign and was named the MIAA Freshman of the Year. She made first-team All-MIAA and MIAA's All-Tournament Team for finishing second out of the 25-player field at the conference tournament.

Playing in a historically tough league, the Griffon **tennis** team had a difficult year. Seniors Amber Adams, Owasso, Okla.; and Dominique Leone, St. Joseph, Mo.; led the way, giving it their all in each match. For her performance, Dominique was honored as the team's Student Athlete of the Year. ■

Hall of Fame festivities this month

Four individuals and one team will be inducted into the 2010 Hall of Fame at weekend festivities Sept. 24-25: Steve Marlay, football; John Fisher, football; Tonya Foster, women's basketball; and Bob Orf, KFEQ radio announcer and "Voice of the Griffons"; and the 1977 Griffon football team.

Friday evening, there will be a reception on campus in the Fulkerson Center. The class will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a brunch in the Fulkerson Center on Saturday morning, and there will be a ring ceremony during halftime at Saturday evening's football game against Pittsburg State. For more information on the weekend's festivities or to purchase tickets to the weekend events, call 816-271-5926. ■



Western softball senior Shannon Pivovar, Omaha, Neb., and senior football player Nathan Martin, Wentzville, Mo., were named **Female and Male Student Athlete of the Year** at the 11th annual student athlete honors banquet. Two alumni, Eric Bruder '93, and Cindy Cornelius '85, received Silver Anniversary Awards, which recognizes their integrity, dedication, leadership, commitment to excellence and an obligation to serve as a concerned partner in the community.



2010 GRIFFON FOOTBALL			2010 GRIFFON SOCCER			2010 GRIFFON VOLLEYBALL		
9/2	MESA STATE <i>T-Shirt Giveaway</i>	6:00 PM	AT EMPORIA STATE SOCCER CLASSIC			9/3	vs. Cameron	3:00 PM
9/9	LINCOLN <i>Family 4 Pack Night</i>	6:00 PM	9/3	vs. East Central OK	2:30 PM	9/3	vs. Ouachita Baptist	7:00 PM
9/18	at Washburn	6:00 PM	9/5	vs. Angelo State	12:30 PM	9/4	vs. Illinois-Springfield at Christian Brothers	1:00 PM
9/25	PITTSBURG STATE <i>Wendy's Hall of Fame Game/Family Day</i>	6:00 PM	9/9	at Nebraska-Omaha	3:00 PM	9/10	AT MISSOURI S & T TOURNAMENT	3:00 PM
10/2	at Northwest Mo. State	1:00 PM	9/11	NORTHWEST MO. STATE	1:00 PM	9/10	vs. Drury	12:00 PM
10/9	TRUMAN STATE <i>Homecoming</i>	1:30 PM	9/16	at Southwest Baptist	4:00 PM	9/11	vs. Chadron State	4:00 PM
10/16	at Central Missouri	1:30 PM	9/18	WASHBURN	7:00 PM	9/11	vs. Upper Iowa	1:00 PM
10/23	at Missouri Southern	6:00 PM	9/25	at Central Missouri	7:00 PM	9/15	at Missouri S & T	5:00 PM
10/30	EMPORIA STATE <i>Take A Kid To The Game Day</i>	1:30 PM	9/30	MISSOURI SOUTHERN	7:00 PM	9/17	EMPORIA STATE	7:00 PM
11/6	at Nebraska-Omaha	1:00 PM	10/2	at Emporia State	1:00 PM	9/18	WASHBURN	12:00 PM
11/13	FORT HAYS STATE <i>FB Alumni Reunion/Senior Day</i>	1:30 PM	10/7	at Truman State	3:00 PM	9/22	PITTSBURG STATE	7:00 PM
ALL HOME GAMES PLAYED AT SPRATT STADIUM			10/9	NEBRASKA-OMAHA	7:00 PM	9/24	at Southwest Baptist	7:00 PM
HOME GAMES LISTED IN BOLD			10/14	at Northwest Mo. State	3:00 PM	9/25	at Missouri Southern	2:00 PM
www.gogriffons.com			10/16	SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	2:00 PM	10/5	at Rockhurst	7:00 PM
For tickets call 816-271-4481			10/21	at Washburn	6:00 PM	10/8	NEBRASKA-OMAHA	7:00 PM
			10/28	CENTRAL MISSOURI	7:00 PM	10/9	CENTRAL MISSOURI	7:00 PM
			10/30	at Missouri Southern	7:00 PM	10/13	NORTHWEST MO. STATE	7:00 PM
			11/4	EMPORIA STATE	7:00 PM	10/16	at Truman State	7:00 PM
			11/6	TRUMAN STATE	2:00 PM	10/20	FORT HAYS STATE	7:00 PM
			ALL HOME GAMES PLAYED AT SPRATT STADIUM			10/22	at Emporia State	7:00 PM
						10/23	at Washburn	6:00 PM
						10/27	at Pittsburg State	7:00 PM
						10/29	SOUTHWEST BAPTIST	7:00 PM
						10/30	MISSOURI SOUTHERN	7:00 PM
						11/5	at Nebraska-Omaha	7:00 PM
						11/6	at Central Missouri	6:30 PM
						11/10	at Northwest Mo. State	7:00 PM
						11/13	TRUMAN STATE	7:00 PM
						ALL HOME GAMES PLAYED IN MWSU FIELDHOUSE		

NCAA championships a success

Western, along with the City of St. Joseph, hosted the 2010 NCAA Women's Basketball and Softball National Championships last spring with rave reviews. The women's basketball championship was played at the St. Joseph Civic Arena in March and included seven games, a 5K run/walk to benefit Camp Quality, a youth basketball clinic put on by women's basketball great Jackie Stiles, and a championship night social at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood & Steaks. The championship game was played before a sold-out crowd of 3,605 and was

televised live on ESPN 2. Western will host this championship for the fourth time in March 2011.

The softball championship games were played over Memorial Day weekend at Heritage Park softball complex. Events included a welcome barbeque for the competing teams, a youth clinic, opening night fireworks and giveaways for fans. In all, more than 2,500 fans attended the championship, and it was televised live on CBS College Sports. This was the first NCAA softball national championship ever played in St. Joseph. ■

NEWS Briefs

Sports greats

- Western athletics and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) were recognized for their dedication to the St. Joseph community. Their project, Night Out on the Griffs, was recognized as one of the top 18 community engagement activities for 2009-10 at the Division II level, and the department received \$500. Night Out on the Griffs is an annual event where student athletes invite youth in grades K-four to an evening of free fun activities in the field house. At the last event, more than 100 children attended.
- The Griffon men's basketball team continued to rank in the top 25 in attendance among the nearly 300 NCAA Division II basketball-playing schools. The Griffons drew an average of 1,866 fans to their 13 home games during the 2009-10 season, earning them a 17th-place ranking. Western had a season-high 3,007 at their 69-62 win over Pittsburg State on Jan. 23, and four games with more than 2,000 in attendance. ■

Former Griffon wins first professional tourney

Former Griffon golfer Brice Garnett '07, won his first professional tournament on the Adams Tight Lies Tour, winning the Mary Bird Perkins Merrill Lynch Open on June 13 in Baton Rouge, La., and taking home the \$18,000 first prize. Brice has been playing professionally since he graduated. As a Griffon, Brice was a two-time NCAA All-American and was named male Student Athlete of the Year two years in a row. ■







2010

TRAINING CAMP

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY - ST. JOSEPH, MO

PRESENTED BY  Heartland Health

Western: Summer Home of the Kansas City Chiefs!



Western welcomed the Kansas City Chiefs and thousands of fans on campus this past summer when the university hosted the Chiefs three-week training camp. From the time the players and coaches arrived on July 29 until they pulled out on Aug. 19, the campus was awash in red energy and excitement. In this issue, we wanted to share some of the camp photos with our readers. In the next issue, we'll show off the brand new Griffon Indoor Sports Complex that was built for the camp and is being used by Western and the community the rest of the year. We're already looking forward to training camp 2011! ■



Five years as a university— what has changed?

What's in a name?

On March 17, 2005, Missouri's governor, Matt Blunt, signed Senate Bill 98 that designated Missouri Western State College a university, to be effective August 28 of that year. That legislation ushered in the potential for several changes at Western. This fall, five years later, we look at the provisions of the bill and see what changes the designation brought to Western.

Basically, the university designation bill introduced four stipulations that instigated change: First, Western was designated as a "statewide institution of applied learning." It also stated that the university would discontinue by July 1, 2010, any and all associate degree programs unless continuation was approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Third, the bill stated that Western could now develop master's degree programs. And lastly, the bill eliminated Western's Board of Regents and created the Board of Governors, changing the number of members and representation.

So, what has happened since Missouri Western State College became Missouri Western State University?

Former president persevered

Dr. James Scanlon said obtaining university designation was not originally on his agenda when he arrived in March 2001 to begin his term as Western's president. No one had mentioned it in his interviews or campus visits. But he was at Western just a short time when he realized that the institution met the criteria to be a university and it became one of his priorities. "We were already a university in fact, just not in name."

Dr. Scanlon, who served as president until 2008, said that when he arrived, Western's percentage of faculty with terminal degrees was much higher than, and the level of faculty professional activities was very similar to, the percentages of terminal degrees and the levels of professional activities of the other regional institutions in Missouri when they became universities.

He also quickly realized that without university designation, Western's full potential as a partner with the region on economic development could not be reached. "When I saw what the potential of university designation could be, I realized it was necessary."

For example, he said, without university designation, obtaining funding for the science and technology incubator that Western received in 2006 would have been much more difficult, and maybe impossible, and he believes the Regional Professional Development Center would not be on campus had we not been designated a university.

Dr. Scanlon said although it was a long process with several frustrations, Western had great support from State Sen. Charlie Shields and

the local legislative delegation. And it was a happy day when Senate Bill 98 finally passed. "I really felt that justice had been done for the campus, community and region. We deserved it."

Applied learning mission

Before Western was designated a statewide institution of applied learning, which includes activities such as study away, internships, faculty/student research and service learning, it had already taken on applied learning as one of its missions. In fact, there were three goals related to applied learning in Western's 2002 Strategic Plan.

One major advancement of the applied learning mission since the university designation has been the creation of an annual Applied Learning Conference. The first one was in 2006 and drew 80 participants from around the state. The 2010 conference drew almost 150 participants from 18 states. In addition, for the first time this year, Western created and published a Journal of Applied Learning in Higher Education of the 2009 conference proceedings. The university plans to make the peer reviewed journal an annual publication.

Expanding applied learning experiences was also a goal of the five-year strategic plan that began in 2007, as well as one of Western's Action Projects for the AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) accreditation process. Western's Strategic Plan goal was to become a national center of excellence in applied learning. Several departments require students to complete an applied learning experience as part of their major.

2005-2010

- Enrollment increased every year.
- The Fulkerson Center and Scanlon Hall residence hall opened in 2005.
- A University Plaza featuring a 10-foot bronze Griffon became part of the campus in June 2007.
- The first graduate classes were offered in 2007.
- Western received the two largest gifts in its history: \$5.5 million to establish the Steven L. Craig School of Business in 2008, and \$5 million to help fund the construction of Remington Hall, in 2007.
- The Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator opened in 2008 and is now near capacity.
- Space for math and science classes and labs doubled with construction of Remington Hall, which opened in January 2010.
- The Kansas City Chiefs selected Western as their summer home beginning in 2010.
- Western received the designation of All-Steinway School in 2010.
- The Craig School of Business earned accreditation from AACSB International in 2010.

"Applied learning goes to the very core of being a competent, prepared professional. You don't just know something, you can do something," said Dr. Cindy Heider, associate provost and vice president of academic affairs.

She noted that starting this fall, the Missouri Department of Higher Education is requiring each state institution to identify and report its "High Impact Educational Experiences" (HIEE), which include several examples of applied learning. Cindy said the experiences were easy for Western to identify since applied learning plays such a large role in the university's mission. She found that 89 percent of Western students are currently participating in a HIEE. (See related articles on p. 19.)

"This is a real opportunity to showcase what we are doing," she said. "Applied learning will continue to be a high profile emphasis in the future."

Associate degree programs

The university designation bill in 2005 stated that by July 1, 2010, Western would discontinue any and all associate degree programs unless continuation was approved by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

In May 2009, Western signed a memorandum of agreement regarding two-year programs with Metropolitan Community College (MCC) of Kansas City, Mo., and North Central Missouri College (NCMC) of Trenton, Mo. In April of this year, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education approved an addendum to the original agreement.

The current agreement states that Western will discontinue four of its associate degree programs: construction engineering technology, electronic

continued next page

Five years as a university—what has changed?

engineering technology, electronic and computer engineering technology, and paramedic technology. No Western students were allowed to begin these programs after the Spring semester of 2009.

Two additional associate degree programs, health information technology (HIT) and business, will be phased out. The associate HIT program accepted students until the Fall 2010 semester began, and the associate business program will accept students until Dec. 18, 2010. Students in the two programs will be allowed to complete the degrees at Western.

Also as part of the agreement, Western will retain four two-year degree programs: physical therapist assistant, criminal justice, manufacturing engineering technology, and legal assistant.

Dr. Cindy Heider, associate provost and vice president for academic affairs, noted that no faculty members or staff lost their jobs due to the elimination of the two-year programs. ■

Master's programs

University designation opened the door for Western to develop graduate programs, and the first master's degree program and graduate certificate were offered in the Fall 2007 semester, a master of applied science with options in chemistry and information technology management, and a graduate certificate in the teaching of writing. The first master's degrees were conferred on 12 graduates at the Spring 2009 commencement ceremony.

This fall, Western offered five master's degree programs with 14 options and three graduate certificate programs: master of applied arts with options in integrated media and convergent media; master of applied science with options in chemistry, engineering technology management, forensic investigations, human factors and usability testing, and information technology management; master of applied arts in written communication with options in writing studies and technical communication; master of applied science in assessment, with options in autism spectrum disorders, learning improvement, TESOL, and writing; master of science in nursing, healthcare leadership; and graduate certificates in autism spectrum disorders, forensic investigations, and the teaching of writing.

"I am excited about the growth of the graduate programs, both in terms of the number and variety of programs offered, and our success in recruiting students from both the local area and across the nation," said Dr. Brian



Cronk, who was named interim director of graduate studies in July 2009. "Our students are successful in getting prestigious internships around the country and will make excellent employees in the region after graduation."

"While we are still primarily an undergraduate institution, we now have many interesting opportunities at the graduate level," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "We have tried to be particularly responsive to the graduate education needs of our region while trying to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts with other, particularly nearby, universities."

The graduate school is becoming mature in terms of its policies and procedures, Brian said, and students and the community are beginning to understand that Western has excellent graduate programs in a number of areas. "We have a growing and excellent graduate faculty who are trying hard to make their programs the best in the region."

Brian said the current goals of the graduate school are to increase enrollments while maintaining quality, and assessing quality after a few more cohorts of students have completed the programs. ■

Board changes

Senate Bill 98, which designated Western as a university, abolished Western's Board of Regents and established a Board of Governors, at the same time increasing the membership from six to seven voting members (the student member is nonvoting). The bill also stipulated that five voting members be selected from Buchanan, Platte, Clinton, Andrew and DeKalb Counties, and two voting members selected from anywhere in the state outside of those counties. Additionally, no more than three voting members may be from any one county.



Beth Wheeler, Western's external relations director, said as Board members who were serving at the time of university designation completed their terms, the governor appointed members according to the stipulations of the bill, and Western fully met the conditions of the bill in 2007. ■

Applied learning mission: New Study Away director named

Study away opportunities play a large part in Western's applied learning mission. Last August, Dr. Jimm MacGregor, assistant professor of history, was named director of Western's Study Away program.

Jimm believes that along with the college credit hours they earn, students gain a number of benefits when they study away. "It expands their horizons," Jimm said. "If I could require it, I would. It should be a fundamental part of any higher education program."

Students have opportunities to study away for two or three weeks or for an entire semester. Since Western became a university in 2005, the Study Away Office has begun partnering with international universities that offer exchange opportunities for Western students around the world. The number of exchange partners has doubled in the past year. Jimm said they recently signed an exchange agreement with a university in Sweden and Taiwan, and are working on agreements with universities in Botswana and South Korea. In Spring 2010, five students participated in exchange programs.

"I say to students, 'where do you want to go?'" Jimm said. "And we try to provide that, as long as it's safe."

In the 2009-10 academic year, 83 students traveled to Belize, Croatia, England, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Spain, New York and Washington, D.C.

Jimm said he has seen a lot of interest in Western's study away programs and he hopes more students will take advantage of the opportunities. His office adheres to a motto he came up with after being named director — "If we do our job right, you'll go away." ■



Applied learning mission: Internships

Thanks to an abundance of partnerships between Western and the community, students have ample opportunities to complete internships at businesses and organizations throughout the region. One of those partnerships is with Legal Aid of Western Missouri in St. Joseph.

The agency, which provides free counsel, advice and representation to help low-income individuals and family obtain basic necessities, has taken on Western students as interns as long as anyone can remember, and they usually have three or four working there each semester.

This past spring semester, Legal Aid had four interns from Western, but not all were legal studies majors. Zachary Walker and Smantha Biondi are pursuing legal studies degrees, but Dawn Davis '10, was a social work major and Josh Perrigo is a political science major.

"We're pretty pleased with the caliber of students we get from Western," said Jennifer Soper, Legal Aid's managing attorney and adjunct instructor for the university. "We really rely on our interns."

Dawn was Legal Aid's first social work major. She started out as a criminal justice major and hopes to work in victim advocacy, so the agency was a good fit. She said she really liked the opportunity to work with actual clients. "In class we role play but it's great when it's real. The internship has made me want to work in a law setting even more. Going into court was a huge learning experience, too."

"We try to expose them to several different areas of law to help them make informed decisions about their future," Jennifer said. "They can see how the system works from this side."

Samantha had a class that was taught by Jennifer, who encouraged her to apply for an internship at Legal Aid. "It's been very interesting and educational," Samantha said. "Jennifer told me interns get to do a lot, and I wanted that. I didn't want to just observe."

As a student, John Keiffer '93, completed an internship at Legal Aid on a Friday and was hired by the agency on Monday, and he has worked there ever since. He supervises most of the interns. "The interns are always enthusiastic and want to learn, and they are not afraid of work," he said. "They have a genuine interest in the law."

The students gain a lot of experience because they do everything a paralegal does at Legal Aid, John said. "I want them to learn basic skills. If they say they did an internship here, I want their employer to realize they did a lot of work."

Last fall, more than 650 Western students were involved in internships, practica or student teaching experiences. ■



Page 18: Left, health, physical education and recreation (HPER) majors plan and run the Golden Age Games every year for area nursing home residents. Right, Rachel Hansen, one of two HPER students, taught a class about exercising at home for students and employees last spring. Page 19: Left, renovation work in Agenstein Hall is on track, and the building is scheduled to open in January. The renovations will provide more space for faculty and student research. Right, Dawn Davis and Samantha Biondi work at their internships at Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,
“Change begets change.” Charles Dickens.

Change abounds at Western! Our alma mater bears little resemblance to what it did when many of us went to school. The addition of Remington Hall and the massive improvements to Agenstein Hall will promote Missouri Western as one of the premier math and science institutions in the state. Together with the Craig School of Business' recent AACSB International accreditation and the growing number of graduate



Diane Hook '90

programs, the value of a degree from Missouri Western will increase dramatically.

Extracurricular activities at Missouri Western are changing as well. The addition of the spring sports complex and the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, with its indoor practice field, huge weight room and state-of-the-art classrooms, ensures that our student athletes are more competitive on the field and the court, now

more than ever. New student engagement and leadership programs, an emphasis in the development of Greek life and a new residence hall will retain more future alumni and increase graduation rates.

Finally, the Alumni Association experienced a change in leadership, although this change isn't as dramatic as the look of the campus. Greg VerMulm '89, has left big shoes to fill, but he is still contributing to the Alumni Association, and I am looking forward to picking up in his stead!

I invite each of you to come back for Homecoming so that you, too, can experience firsthand what I experience each and every time I come to campus. I think you will agree with me when I say, it is an exciting time to be a Griffon alumni!

Leadership, excellence ... Griffons.

Diane Hook
Diane Hook '90

President, Alumni Association

ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 24-25

Family Day, Athletics Hall of Fame weekend.

September 26

2nd annual Alumni Day at Arrowhead, Chiefs vs. 49ers, 9:30 a.m. Tailgate, noon game

October 6

2010 Convocation on Critical Issues Dinner featuring Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

October 7

2010 Convocation on Critical Issues, 9:30 a.m., Looney Complex.

October 7-9

Homecoming, see p. 21.

November 12-13

3rd annual Football Reunion weekend.

December 18

Commencement, new time – 11 a.m.

We are trying to gauge interest in a spring train trip to Chicago. Call Director of Alumni Services Colleen Kowich at 816-271-5646 if you want to go!

See details for all alumni events at griffonalumni.org



Student Allison Humphrey and Angie Springs '02, were two of the attendees at an alumni networking lunch this past spring.



St. Joseph: This is GRIFFON COUNTRY



Don't miss Homecoming 2010 – October 7-9!

When were you last on campus?

Come home to Missouri Western for Homecoming 2010!

See what is new

- Remington Hall
- Griffon Indoor Sports Complex
- Spring Sports Complex

Celebrate

- 4th annual Greek Reunion with a special Lambda Chi Alpha Reunion; band and HPER reunions
- Distinguished Alumni Award recipients: Linda Judah '82 & '94, Dr. Craig Fuchs '84, Steve Koenig
- Alumni GOLD Award recipients: Natalie Leonard-Redmond '00, Stan Pearson II '02
- Distinguished Faculty Award recipient: Dr. Len Archer, professor of chemistry

- Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University: Charlie Shields (Hon. '99)

Attend

- An address by Rep. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; it's free and open to the community!
- Annual Alumni Association Banquet
- The Homecoming parade, tailgate and game: Griffons vs. Truman State Bulldogs

For a complete calendar of Homecoming events, visit www.griffonalumni.org.

Fall ushers in new degree offerings

continued from page 2

applied science in assessment, autism spectrum disorder option, and graduate certificate in autism spectrum disorders courses will be offered online only.

The autism option provides teachers with advanced understanding of autism spectrum disorders. Educators will be prepared to evaluate, teach, and support children with autism in the classroom.

The TESOL option prepares individuals to teach, support and otherwise assist English language learners or those for whom English is not their native language. It is designed for teachers of all levels and all disciplines. It also serves professionals who work with organizations whose mission includes assessing and improving English skills among non-native speakers.

Bachelor's degrees

Classes to earn Western's bachelor of science in nursing and a bachelor of science in early childhood education are now offered on the Penn Valley campus of

Metropolitan Community Colleges in Kansas City, Mo. The early childhood education degree can now be earned at Western's Northland campus, as well.

Although Western will not accept any new students into its associate degree program in health information technology (HIT) after December of this year, the university is offering a new bachelor of science degree in health informatics. Marsha Dolan, coordinator of the HIT program, said the degree is an "intersection of computer science, information technology and health care," and the need for graduates in this field is growing. "As more and more healthcare facilities move to electronic health records, there will be more opportunities for graduates with this degree," Marsha said.

The degree will still include the courses from the associate degree, but will offer additional courses such as financial accounting, professional management experience, and health data management,

to prepare students for management or supervisory positions.

Another new degree is the bachelor of fine arts in digital animation.

"This will add a computer digital component to the art program," said Peter Hriso, assistant professor of art who developed the program. Students will still have the core classes in art, he said, but the new degree will give graduates a broad range of experience and make them more marketable.

Career opportunities for the new degree include jobs in gaming, broadcasting, accident reconstruction, multimedia work or scientific visualization.

Peter said he has been fielding inquiries about the program from across the state. "It's not a revolutionary idea, but it is quite unique in Missouri." ■



Argonaut alumnus

When Marty Kelsey '99, was in second grade, he paid \$1 for a poster showing the launch of the first space shuttle, and he and his father built a frame for it and hung it in Marty's bedroom. Marty says he's been a science and space nerd ever since.

That passion for science was part of the reason the seventh-grade science teacher at South Valley Middle School in Liberty, Mo., was one of only four teachers selected nationwide to participate in the JASON Project, a science curriculum creation project that is a subsidiary of National Geographic.

Marty was selected as a Teacher Argonaut, so named for the crew that sailed aboard Argo with Jason, the mythical Greek explorer. The four teachers, along with nine middle and high school students, worked with scientists in the field, all the while being filmed by a National Geographic video production crew to create middle and high school multimedia curriculum units.

JASON has been creating science curriculum units since 1989, and Marty said he has used some of the curriculum, which is free, in his classes. "They are absolutely amazing; they are very high energy." This year's project focused on three topics - climate, space, and forces and motion - all topics that are included in Marty's science classes. At press time he wasn't sure which topic he would be working on, but he was hoping for a space assignment. In fact, one of Marty's master's degrees is in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in space studies.

In July, he spent almost two weeks in Washington, D.C., preparing for his "mission." Then in August, he and three students spent another week in the field with scientists.

"It's a very professional operation," he said. "We work with scientists doing real science, and they schedule some pretty



Along with being chosen to participate in the JASON project this year, Marty Kelsey '99, was also selected for the Northrop Grumman Weightless Flights of Discovery program three years ago.

cool stuff while we're there." The missions filmed by this year's team should be available to schools by next summer, Marty said.

Marty, who also teaches a broadcast class and even operates one of the cameras for an occasional Royals game, said it will be interesting to be in front of the camera for a change instead of behind it. But, he said, the JASON Project made it clear that the students are the stars of the show, and that was fine with him.

"I'm really excited and looking forward to it," Marty said shortly after he was notified of his selection.

A native of Liberty, Marty transferred from Maple Woods Community College to Western his junior year. He pitched for the Griffons' baseball team for two years and was named outstanding elementary education graduate when he graduated.

"The teachers were great," he said of his education at Western. "They got to know you, they cared about you and wanted you to succeed." ■



St. Joseph Junior College alumni Linda Perry, J.D. Euler, Gene Bollman and Michael Smith, all 1960 graduates, are the newest members of the Golden Griffon Society, those who graduated 50 or more years ago. The group was honored at the annual Junior College Reunion, which was held in May. Not pictured is Linda Crabtree.



New Alumni Association award

The Alumni Association has created a new award for recent alumni, the Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award. The first awards will be presented to Natalie Leonard-Redmond '00, and Stan Pearson II '02, at the 2010 Awards Banquet Oct. 7.

The GOLD award honors graduates of the last decade who demonstrate leadership in career or civic endeavors and loyalty to Western. The GOLD award is one of the highest honors the Alumni Association bestows on its recent alumni, according to Alumni Director Colleen Kowich.

The purpose of the GOLD award is to recognize those early in their career who have had outstanding achievements and accomplishments. The award is based on professional and educational achieve-

ments, community activities, honors and awards received and other noteworthy items of merit since graduation.

The nominee must have received his or her initial degree from Western within 10 years of June 1 of the year of recognition. If a nominee received both a bachelor's and master's degree from Western, eligibility for this award begins June 1 of the award of his/her initial degree.

The nominee must demonstrate significant professional growth and advancement since the completion of his/her degree and demonstrate activity/contribution in two or more of the follow areas: public service to the community, civic organizations, nonprofit organizations, educational organizations, professional organizations, the Alumni Association or Western.

Nominations for the new award and for all awards can be made by anyone. Nomination forms can be found online at www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni/awards.asp or may be mailed to the MWSU Leadership and Recognition Committee. To be considered for the current year, nomination forms and supporting materials should be submitted by March 1 of the year of recognition. All material can be submitted online, e-mailed to mwa-lumni@missouriwestern.edu or mailed to MWSU Leadership and Recognition Committee, MWSU Alumni Association, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.

Current members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors are not eligible for nomination. ■



Griffons at the K! More than 200 alumni and friends gathered for Alumni Day at the K this summer when the Royals took on the Cardinals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The Kansas City chapter of the Alumni Association hosted the tailgate and game. Be sure to join us for Alumni Day at Arrowhead Sept. 26. See griffonalumni.org for ticket information.

Ask Alumni!



How to survive public speaking

Claudia James '89

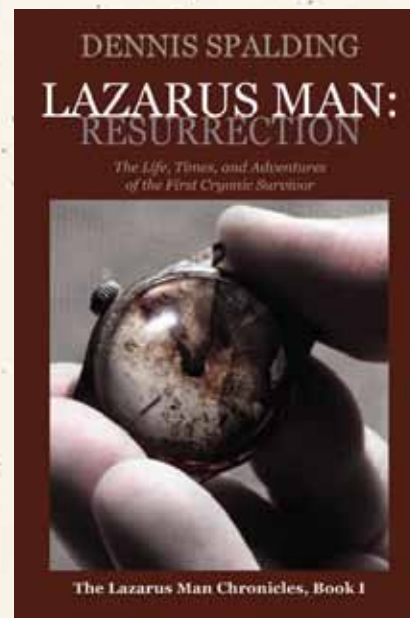
Claudia is an author and owner/president of James Educational Meetings & Seminars, Inc.

Some people say they fear public speaking more than anything else – even death. Perhaps this is true of you – you may even be like my daughter who took three semesters of Latin to avoid a speaking assignment.

As a seasoned speaker, I can attest to the fact that no matter how hard your heart pounds, how rubbery your legs feel, or how much your voice quivers, you will survive and excel by

- Speaking on topics you know well.
- Warming up your vocal cords.
- Moving away from the podium.
- Telling stories/anecdotes.
- Engaging your audience quickly.

Relax and have fun—knowing your audience is behind you 100 percent!



How to write a novel

Dennis Spalding '79

Dennis recently published "Lazarus Man: Resurrection," his first novel.

I always liked to write, but I never had an idea that I thought would make an interesting story until a few years ago. I wrote a few pages, looked it over, and thought it might make a good short story. Thirty chapters later, I had a novel on my hands.

Writing a novel takes lots of patience. "Lazarus Man: Resurrection" took me a year and a half to write. Some days, the words came so easily, the book almost seemed to write itself. Other times, I would rewrite the same paragraph 10 times and still not be satisfied with it. I proofread the book by myself, which was the most frustrating part of the experience for me, and it took six months.

My advice for writers: ask your alma mater for help. When I needed a book cover, I remembered how talented some of Missouri Western's art students had been when I was a student. Assistant professor of art Teresa Harris helped me sponsor an art contest. I offered a \$300 cash prize and a copy of the book to the artist who came up with the best cover. Five art students submitted more than 40 cover designs. Choosing the winner was a tough decision because all of the entries were exceptional. I went with Katie Roebling's design.

Then I utilized the talents of my son, Derek, and his girlfriend, Maria Spurgeon, both computer information systems majors at Western, who created and designed a website for my novel (www.lazarusman-chronicles.com).

Any writer who plans to submit a book to agents or publishers will need to have very thick skin. Be sure you can handle repeated rejections – they can be very hard on the ego. I decided to publish it myself, and paid a print-on-demand firm to print copies of the book for me. The cost is more reasonable than I imagined possible, and it's a great feeling to hold the printed book in your hands. Even if I hadn't sold a single copy, I still would have spent the money to self-publish.

How to handle a snake

Jonh Casey '02

Jonh is a high school science teacher. He first started working with snakes as a Western student.

Snakes are often misunderstood and have been given a bad rap since Adam and Eve. They are not cute and cuddly, they cannot show emotions and they can't blink or hear. These things make them seem foreign and scary to many people, but not to me. I think they are fascinating and beautiful!

I often help the Missouri Conservation Department and individuals catch and relocate problem snakes, and I once pulled more than 50 snakes from a person's basement. They were mostly blacksnakes, a non-venomous species very common to our area and quite beneficial to humans. Nevertheless, who wants 50 snakes hibernating in one's basement?

I always handle wild snakes very carefully so as not to startle them. I try to become one with the snake. Since snakes cannot hear and have limited eyesight, they can be easily startled and will react defensively. Usually, when they realize you are no threat to them, they will just try to escape.

If you treat them with respect and gentleness, they usually will not try to bite you. I have been bitten by many snakes and other reptiles, the largest being a 12-foot python. All of these were non-venomous and most were pets, and I was not being as careful as I should have been. When I deal with venomous snakes, however, I use the utmost caution and practiced skill. I strongly caution the



general public to leave wild snakes alone, especially possibly venomous ones. Unless you know a lot about snakes, there's a small chance you could get seriously injured by a venomous snake. There is no reason to fear snakes, just respect them and their right to live unmolested.

So how do you handle a snake? In the wild, you may stand very still and quietly a few feet away and watch it go about its business, enjoying the marvelous adaptations of this unique creature and the often beautiful markings and colors on its body. Leave the actual handling to the experts, or at least people who have insurance for snakebites. Like me.

How to succeed in college (and life!)

Debrah Davidson '94

Debrah was a nontraditional student who earned degrees in history and political science, and says she is very grateful to her professors in those departments. She earned a master's in Latin American Studies and a juris doctorate. As a student, Debrah was involved in several organizations, tutored many students and

received many awards. In fact, the 1994 commencement speaker told her story in his address. She is currently finishing a novel that is set in the Middle East. Here is Debrah's advice for college students:

1. Education is crucial to an understanding not only of the world but of yourself, for we must know where we came from in order to know where we are going.
2. Every discipline is linked and though one might believe math is separate from literature or history, it is not.
3. To obtain a true education, you must be open to new ideas and question with an open mind. Respect the fact that your professors are there not only to teach but to inspire and are inspired to teach by those who show a passion for learning.
4. If you are facing adversity, remember you are not alone. Reach out and find those who might help you overcome and prevail (that doesn't mean whining).
5. Be open to opportunities that might present themselves from blind corners but don't always wait for them; seek them out.
6. Determination and willpower are keys to success.
7. The ability to communicate through writing is essential for any profession.
8. Be willing to help other students; to do so aids your own learning process. And who knows, you might be contributing to society by helping the next Einstein.
9. Get involved in extracurricular activities. They not only help your resumé but contribute to the academic community and society as a whole.
10. Know your limits but don't be afraid to challenge yourself. It is through challenges and risk taking that we grow. ■

A drawing was held for a t-shirt among all Alumnote submissions for the Fall 2010 issue. The winner was Amanda and Nicolas Thyfault. Congratulations!

1970s

HAROLD (BUTCH) MCKEE '73, retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years and now works for the State of Alabama Disability Determination Services. He also retired from the Homewood Police Reserve in Homewood, Ala., after 20 years. Harold said he was the first ROTC graduate from Western.

DR. JULIE ALBEE '76, received the Parkway Distinguished Scholar Award from Hannibal-LaGrange College, where she is a professor of education. The award is based on outstanding professional and personal contributions to Christian education.

1980s

DR. MARK WOODHULL '83, was promoted to associate professor of business at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas.

CRAIG FUCHS '84, was named director of the Honors College at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan. He had been serving as music department chair and art department interim chair.

TED KING '84, will begin working on Lockheed's Joint Strike Fighter program in Torino, Italy, this fall. He and his wife Stacey, will be in Italy for four to five years.

CHERI KEMPF '85, was the keynote speaker at the 2010 YWCA Women of Excellence luncheon in St. Joseph, Mo.

1990s

KATHY (BARRY) OCKER '90, is the human resource manager for McLane Distribution Company in Danville, Ill.

DAVID ELMS '94, and his wife, Cori, announce the birth of a son, Reed Gehrig, born April 27, 2010.

CHAD ALLISON '95, is a realtor with One Home Realty in St. Joseph, Mo.

ROSE BRISCOE '95, has opened her own law practice in St. Joseph, Mo. She earned her law

Faithful, Proud and True - Greg VerMulm '89

Greg VerMulm '89, has a message for alumni who haven't been on campus or kept up with Western news for awhile — prepare to be surprised. Greg, who recently completed a two-year term as president of the Alumni Association, said seeing the changes at Western since he joined the alumni board in 2003 has been what he enjoyed the most as a board member. And he believes the university is heading in the right direction.

“Our biggest challenge is that alumni still see Missouri Western as it was when they were students,” Greg said. “But that's not what it is today.” He noted new buildings, graduate programs and a new business school as examples of changes.

Greg, who lives in Lenexa, Kan., said he hadn't really kept in touch with his alma mater or even thought about becoming involved in Western's Alumni Association until he was asked in 2003 to join the Association's Board of Directors. That was the first change he noticed: Up to then, the board consisted of only St. Joseph-area alumni. Today, almost half of the board members live out of the area.

One of his first duties as a board member was helping to update the board's strategic plan. But the real work was yet to come when the board decided to create a completely new strategic plan a couple years later. “That was a lot of work.”

degree from Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kan., and is an adjunct professor in the criminal justice/legal studies department at Western.

TRISH (NOETH) BUTLER '96, and her husband, Denny, announce the birth of a daughter, Isabell Hope, born Nov. 26, 2009. She joins a sister, Sophia.

MIKE HOLDEN '96, was named vice president of business banking of M&I Bank's Kansas City region.

2000s

MICAH (MCCLURE) '00, and STEVE '02, ROBISON announce the birth of a daughter, Kinley Victory, born May 11, 2010.

Greg, originally from Cosby, Mo., graduated from Western with a business degree in accounting. He said he liked that his accounting professors had worked in accounting firms and could share real client situations and specific examples. After working as an accountant for several years, Greg realized he liked working on projects and is now a partner in MarketSphere Consulting LLC, where he helps businesses solve problems.

He has two more years left to serve on the Alumni Association Board, and he has a couple plans for his fellow alumni. He wants to form a networking group of Western alumni who live and work in the Kansas City area. He is also working with Operation Breakthrough, a nonprofit in Kansas City, Mo. Through that organization, he wants to see Western alumni work with teens, encouraging them to go to college and helping them choose a college.

Greg, who has also served on the Craig School of Business' Advisory Council since its inception two years ago, encourages alumni to become involved at their alma mater, whether it's offering internships to Western students or just voicing an opinion.

“The opportunities Missouri Western provided me were above and beyond the normal. It's great to give back now and help,” Greg said. ■

STEPHANIE (HOWARD) BOOTHE '01, was promoted to managing editor of The Examiner newspaper covering Independence, Blue Springs and Grain Valley, Mo. She and her husband, Joe, also announce the birth of a daughter, Juliet Louise, born Jan. 11, 2010.

STEPHANIE (JACKSON) CLINE '01, and her husband, Ryan, announce the birth of twin daughters Abbigail and Emmaliegh, born Jan. 26, 2010. They join siblings Victoria, Jackson and Annaliese.

CYNDRA (VANGUNDY) LOREY '02, is the executive director for the Rolla Regional Economic Commission in Rolla, Mo.

A refuge for volunteers

Corey Kudrna '00, was a student at Western for less than a month when he volunteered at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Mo.

Today, more than a decade later, Corey works at Squaw Creek and is grateful that Western students are still volunteering there.

“Missouri Western is a key volunteer. It's a great partnership,” said Corey, wildlife refuge specialist at Squaw Creek since 2003.

“You start putting together 20 to 30 students over a year time period, and you get some pretty big projects completed. We wouldn't be able to accomplish some things without the students.” For the 2009-10 academic year, Corey said student volunteers from Western worked enough hours to equal a part-time position.

Most of the volunteers are part of Western's student chapter of The Wildlife Society. They volunteer for work days, deer counts, programs for the public, and anything else the refuge needs. Last winter, over their semester break, 10 students coordinated and worked at Squaw Creek's annual deer hunt.

“They did a great job,” Corey said. “They saved us a ton of work.”

He logs all volunteer hours because Squaw Creek can earn federal grant money for the volunteer time. The refuge received a \$2,500 restoration grant and a \$5,000 outreach grant, thanks to Western volunteers.

“We can give students the lead on projects and it's a great learning process for them and it gives them a chance to apply what they learn in the classroom,” Corey said. “I'll show them what I know because I want to make them as qualified as possible.”

Western students and professors also conduct several research projects at Squaw Creek, which Corey says greatly

benefits the refuge. Research projects include work with plant regeneration, studies of reptiles and amphibians, soil, and Loess Hills seeds.

Corey, an avid hunter, hiker and fisherman when he was growing up in Jefferson City, Mo., knew at a young age that he wanted a career in conservation. As a high schooler, he visited several colleges, but decided on Western because it had the Department of Conservation's regional office on campus and he

knew the college had a good relationship with the Conservation Department.

Along with volunteering at Squaw Creek within his first month of college, Corey also began helping an upperclassman with a bluegill parasite research project two weeks into his first semester. “At Missouri Western, you can get in and participate right away if you're interested. I really benefited from that.”

Biology degree in hand, he first monitored rattlesnakes for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at a national refuge in Necedah, Wis., and then eradicated invasive plant species for the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., where he was “on the SWAT team of the plant world,” before he joined Squaw Creek. Along with coordinating volunteers there, he is responsible for several outreach programs, interns, restoration work, supervising the maintenance crew and a number of other duties.

Although he has a lot of desk responsibilities, Corey said he still gets out in the field for a lot of hands-on work, which he really enjoys.

“It's been a great time working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We manage some of the best habitat in the world. Hopefully, at the end of my career, this habitat will be in better shape than when I started.” ■



2000s continued

ADAM GILLILAND '03, is the branch manager of the Independence, Mo., branch of U.S. Bank.

JENNIFER (EVANS) '03, and BOB '06, HUGHS announce the birth of a son, Owen Zachary, born Feb. 17, 2010. He joins siblings Dylan, Aubrey and Evan.

JOHN FABSITS '04, was promoted to director of finance and marketing with Boy Scouts of America, Great Rivers Council, in Columbia, Mo.



NICOLE (SALFRANK) STOCKMAN '04, and her husband, David, announce the birth of a daughter, Alyana Rae, born March 8, 2010.

JENNIFER MCKINLEY '05, graduated from the University of Dayton School of Law.

TARA STULL'05, and AARON WESTLAKE '07, were married Jan. 2, 2010. The couple resides in Detroit where Tara is pursuing her MFA in stage management and Aaron is pursuing his PhD in theatre at Wayne State University.

DEVIN ASHLEY '06, and KATIE KIMBERLING '09, were married May 23, 2009. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

ANGEL (CLINE) '06, and JOHN '06, GROGAN announce the birth of a daughter, Gillian Harper, born Dec. 30, 2009. The family resides in Kirksville, Mo.

NICOLAS '06, and AMANDA (GONZALEZ) '07, THYFAULT announce the birth of a daughter, Catherine Diana Marie, born April 9, 2010.

KATHY CRAWFORD '07, was one of only five journalists selected in Missouri for a yearlong fellowship with the Association of Health Care Journalists and she graduated in June 2010.

MINDY SOUTHARD '07, and KYLER KEITH '07, were married May 8, 2010. Kyler works at Western and Mindy works at U.S. Bank. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

AUTUMN GREER '08, and DAVID HAEKER '09, were married June 12, 2010 in St. Joseph, Mo. David is employed with TRAC at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

ELIJAH HAAHR '08, was named one of Springfield, Mo.'s 2010 20 Under 30 by 417 Magazine. Elijah is an attorney at McAnany Van Cleave & Phillips, P.A.

JENNA SWYMELE '08, is an intelligence analyst for the Nevada Air National Guard.

Alum Authors

ARTHUR MONTGOMERY '89, published his first book, "So You Want to Retire." It is available at Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and select bookstores. Arthur is the owner of Paramount Financial in St. Louis.

LEANN NEAL REILLY '90, published her debut novel, "The Mermaid's Pendant," which she calls an "anti-fairy tale." It is available on Amazon in trade paperback and Kindle, at barnesandnoble.com, and for order at bookstores nationwide. LeAnn earned a master's in professional writing from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and currently lives in the Boston area.

BENJAMIN ROBERTS '96, donated his recently published reference book, "Plight of a Nation," to the Western library. The book examines the economic development of Republic of The Gambia since its independence in 1965. A banker by profession, Benjamin is a certified broker on the Ghana Stock Exchange and a member of the Network of Gambian Economists.

"I thank Missouri Western for the opportunity it gave me in life, especially the economics and finance departments. I wish to thank my collegiate friends and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, all of whom have had their impact on my life," Benjamin said. "I want to seize this opportunity to remind all Missouri Western students of the value of a Missouri Western education."

ASHLEY WORRELL '98, published her book, "Half-time Highlights: A Guide to Dancing in the NBA/NFL" in April 2010. She has danced for NBA teams such as the Dallas Mavericks and San Antonio Spurs and the NFL team Kansas City Chiefs. She is currently the coach for Western's Mystics Dance Team under the direction of Kayla Hinton, and owner of DanceWorks Conservatory in Kansas City, Mo. The book's website is www.half-timehighlights.com.

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.

STELLA J. (PENTZ) ABERSOLD '45, St. Joseph, Mo., March 26, 2010.

DEBORA ALDRIDGE '73, Topeka, Kan., May 30, 2010.

STEVEN W. BENNETT '83, St. Joseph, Mo., April 3, 2010. Steven taught part-time in the English, foreign languages and journalism department.

KELLEY (MASON) DAVIS '00, Kansas City, Mo., April 6, 2010.

JOHN THOMAS DUNCAN '49, Kansas City, Mo., May 21, 2010.

CHARLOTTE LOU (WILKEY) ELSEA '90, Lee's Summit, Mo., May 25, 2010.

THOMAS MAURICE GATSON '79, Brookfield, Mo.,

March 5, 2010.

MICHAEL COLEMAN HOOVER, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 17, 2010. Dr. Hoover taught sociology at Western from 1977-1998.

MARILYN E. MAXWELL '45, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 30, 2010.

ROGER E. MILLER '59, St. Joseph, Mo., April 4, 2010.

PAUL PENNINGTON '84, Atchison, Kan., Feb. 5, 2010.

DAVID REYNOLDS '81, Amazonia, Mo., Aug. 10, 2009.

BILL YOUNG JC, St. Joseph, Mo., April 8, 2010.

2000s continued

BRANDON HOLTZ '09, is a police officer for the City of Columbia, Mo.



GARRETT '09, HOLTZ and his wife, Maureen, announce the birth of a son, Patrick Alexander, born Feb. 26, 2010. The family resides in Columbia, Mo.

GUY STARK '09, 2nd Lt. in the National Guard, graduated from Quartermaster Basic Officer Leader course in Fort Lee, Va. He was recognized with the Iron Man Award for obtaining the highest score for physical fitness.

EMILY GUMMELT '10, is a writer for the Savannah (Mo.) Reporter.

KAYLA KELDER '10, and LONNIE RAY UELIGGER '10, were married May 29, 2010. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

Tell us what's new!

Let your classmates know what you are doing since you graduated! Everyone who submits an entry for Alumnotes for the Winter 2011 issue will be entered into a drawing for a free MWSU T-shirt! You may submit using the form below and sending it by regular mail, or submit by email (see addresses below). Deadline for entries is Sept. 30, 2010.

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____

Long-time vice president dies

Dr. James J. McCarthy, who served as Western's executive vice president 1983-2001, died June 7, 2010, at the age of 74. Dr. McCarthy also served as interim president when Dr. Janet Gorman McCarthy retired in July 2000 until Dr. James Scanlon arrived in March 2001. Dr. McCarthy retired in July 2001.

Dr. McCarthy was born in Hartford, Conn. He received his bachelor of arts from Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn., master's from Springfield College, Springfield, Mass., and a doctorate of higher education administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Prior to coming to Western, Dr. McCarthy was head of the department of parks and recreation administration for Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vt.

As executive vice president at Western, Dr. McCarthy supervised all offices under Student Affairs, along with the Athletics Department, all offices under University Advancement (then Institutional Advancement), and campus security. He also served as the executive director of the Foundation and directed four capital campaigns. In 2001, Jim married Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy, Western's president from 1983 to 2000, and they resided in South Dennis, Mass.

"I am sorry to say that I never had the opportunity to meet Jim McCarthy face-to-face, but I have heard many positive comments about him," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "He has been repeatedly described as a real 'mover and shaker.' The university grew

significantly during his years here, and I know that he was a very important force behind that growth."

"Jim's legacy is the scholarships that came out of the Foundation," said Dr. Jim Scanlon, Western's president from 2001-2008 who worked with Dr. McCarthy in 2001. "He had a very genuine interest and concern for students, particularly students who didn't have a lot of money. Jim also had a very special interest in programs that would help students who had academic struggles. He worked prodigiously for the university."

Tara (Hovenga) Stuart '98, worked in Dr. McCarthy's office as a student, and she remembers many practical jokes that Dr. McCarthy played on fellow administrators. "I've never learned so much while having so much fun," Tara said. "Dr. McCarthy taught me things I never would have learned anywhere else. It was an awesome opportunity to work for him."

When Tara married in 1998, Dr. McCarthy read at her wedding. "He was an uplifting presence in my life. He will be greatly missed."

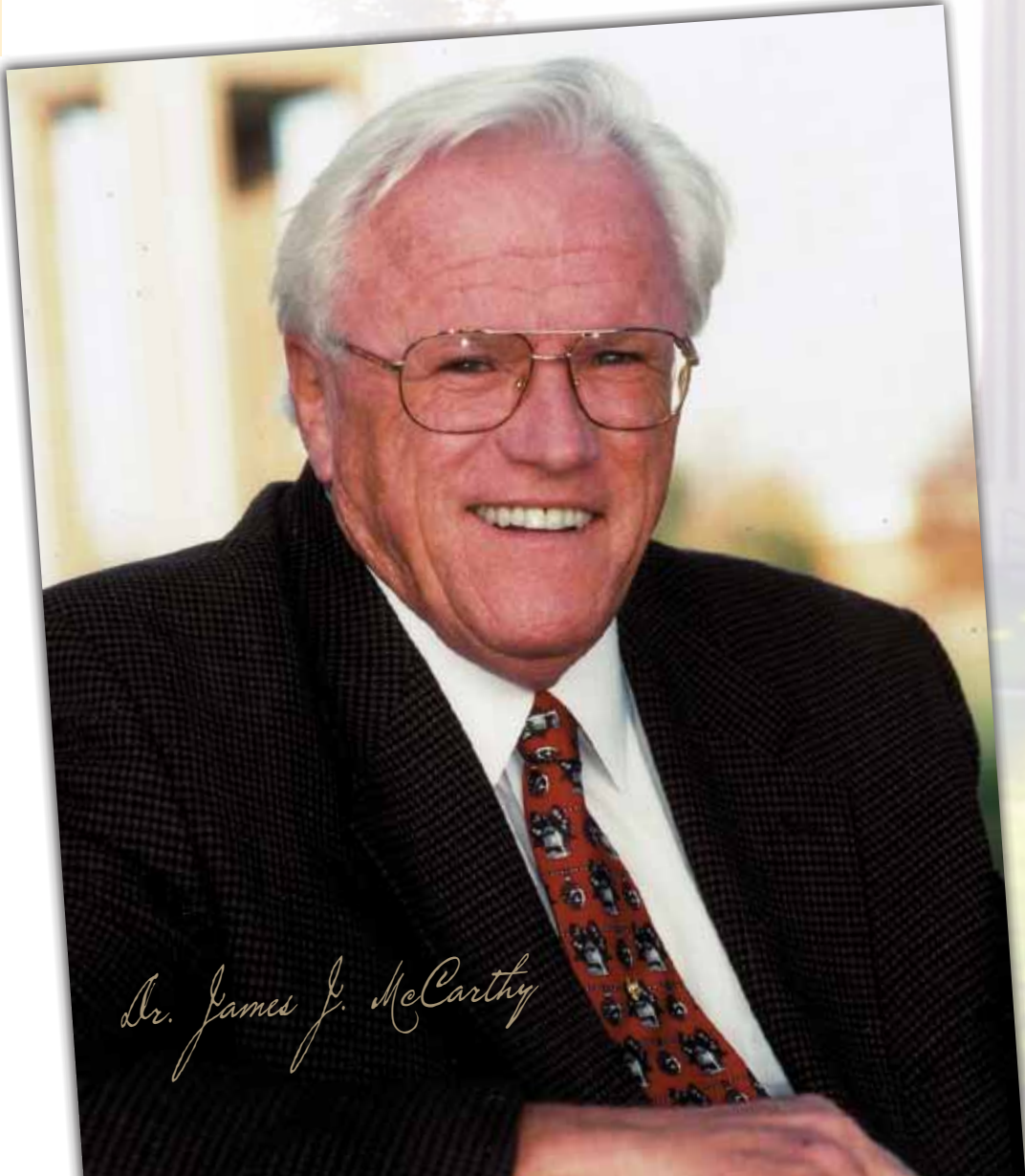
Because Marilee (Steeb) Creason '86, was involved in a number of campus organizations, she got to know Dr. McCarthy very well when she was a student. "You could walk into his office anytime, his door was always open," she said. "And he always had a smile on his face."

Marilee said he encouraged her to pursue a master's degree and wrote a "glowing letter" to the University of Missouri-Kansas City when she applied there for graduate school. "My grades were good but that letter was the key in the lock."

"He was a fantastic individual," Marilee said. "He was truly unlike any other administrator I've known."

In 2003, the street between Downs Drive and Faraon St. was named James McCarthy Drive in his honor.

The MWSU Foundation has established a memorial fund in Dr. McCarthy's honor. Contributions can be mailed to MWSU Foundation, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507. Call 816-271-5647 with questions. ■



Dr. James J. McCarthy

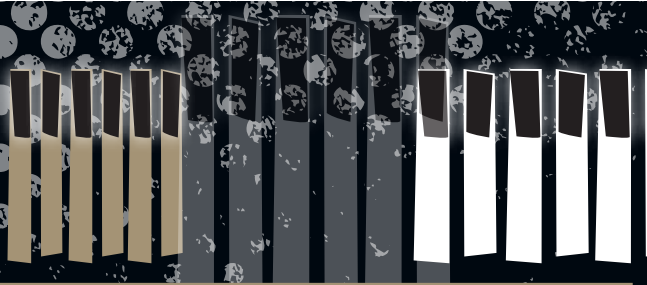


Missouri Western State University

4525 Downs Drive

St. Joseph, Missouri 64507

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Print Group, Inc.



it is not easy to move a piano!

It was quite an operation and quite a sight to see when Western's 13 new Steinway pianos were delivered this year. The university is now an All-Steinway School, because 90 percent of its pianos are designed by Steinway and Sons.

