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!
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 weekend 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 am excited. I think it’s going to be good for our students and good for the area,” Kip said.

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 Scallon Hall near Mitchell Ave., will be reserved for upperclassmen and will house 200-250.

Currently, 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 awarded 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 and 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 congratulations 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 Healeb 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 Nite 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
President

Photo of Robert Vartabedian with a comic strip of President’s Perspecive
**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 this 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 of his choice — and Western was chosen.

“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 luncheon 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 2018.

“We appreciate the generosity of Mrs. Sauer in remembering Mr. Sauer Jr. at St. Joseph 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. Loone 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 Nicolson, 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 creating a model for 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, and an action later included 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 America. 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.

**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’re living in tune with nature.” — Dr. Lisa Newton, speaking at the 2010 Galaxy’s Legacy Conference, on “Simplicity: The Sustainable Life.”

“Be better today than you were yesterday.” — Stan Pearson from “It’s 12:00, closing time 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 Dustley, speaking at the Eggs and Issues speaker series on “The KC Crime Family: the First 50 Years.”

**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 — $595,600. The grant is part of NSF’s MidWest Access Project (MAP), Road MAP for Students 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 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.
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 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 Wicem (a student here at Missouri Western) told a story about a trucker and his dog. Fred said he started out with some dialogue but kept cutting parts out until there was no more. This is why he did the storyboarding, 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 & 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 film, 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 Bigelow 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 eight years 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, Collin Mcasd, 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 Arriette (assistant professor of theatre) for starting up the films 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 tonight had a definite theme going, which was comedy. With two student filmmakers and some parents 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. 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!

FALL 2010
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.

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.”

Whether students are alone in a practice room or in a crowded concert hall, they will be able to hear every nuance of their performance,” Matthew Edwards said.

“You can’t go wrong buying a Steinway,” Matt Gilmour said. “It’s a lifetime investment.”
\textbf{Music lab goes state-of-the-art}

“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 MaxMirosh 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.

“We had a keyboard lab before, but they were just toys,” said Dr. David 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 and 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.

\textbf{Inspiring creative vision}

Kim Missouri’s governor named Walter Borgen the state’s first poet laureate in early 2008. Dr. David Potter Hall also boasts of a new recording studio and audio production lab with new equipment and software. 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.

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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 postseason honors: freshman pitcher Brandon Simmons, Kansas City, Kan.; junior utility player Issac Riffon, Crete, Ill.; and junior third baseman Ian Atkinson, Kansas City, Kan. Simmons, Kansas City, Kan., junior utility, was named to the All-MIAA Baseball 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 Orr, KFIE 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 banquet in the Fulkerson Center on Saturday morning, and there will be a ring ceremony during halftime at Saturday evening’s football game against Pittsburgh State. For more information on the weekend’s festivities or to purchase tickets to the weekend events, call 816-271-5926.

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 St. Joseph Civic Arena in March and included seven games, a 3K 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 Boulevard’s Louisville Seafood & Steaks.

The championship game was played before a sell-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 barbecue for 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.

Sports greats

Western athletes and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) were recognized for their dedication to the St. Joseph community. Their project, Night Out on the Griffins, 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 Griffins 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 Griffin men’s basketball team continued to rank in the top 25 in attendance among the nearly 300 NCAA Division II basketball-playing schools. The Griffins 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 Griffin wins first professional tourney

Former Griffon golfer Brice Garrett ’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 Griffin, Brice was a two-time NCAA All-American and was named Male Student Athlete of the Year two years in a row.

Night Out on the Griffins 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 Griffin men’s basketball team continued to rank in the top 25 in attendance among the nearly 300 NCAA Division II basketball-playing schools. The Griffins 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 Griffin golfer Brice Garrett ’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 Griffin, Brice was a two-time NCAA All-American and was named Male Student Athlete of the Year two years in a row.

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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!
What’s in a name?  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.”

Former president persevered

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.

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 technology, environmental systems technology, and criminal justice. The first two programs were eliminated in the fall of 2009, and the others by the end of this academic year.
ing students from both the local area and across the nation,” said Dr. Brian
“I am excited about the growth of the graduate programs, both in terms
leadership; and graduate certificates in autism spectrum disorders, forensic
improvement, TESOL, and writing; master of science in nursing, healthcare
tutions in integrated media and convergent media; master of applied science
and three graduate certificate programs: master of applied arts with op-
with options in chemistry and information technology management, and a
ertificate were offered in the Fall 2007 semester, a master of applied science
out. The associate HIT program accepted students until the Fall 2010 se-
programs, health information technology (HIT) and business, will be phased
Two additional associate degree
ogy, and paramedic technology.
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 gradu-
ate 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 op-
tions 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 tech-
nology 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 recruit-
ing students from both the local area and across the nation,” said Dr. Brian
Crock, who was named interim director of graduate studies in
July 2009. “Our students are successful in getting presti-
gious internships around the country and will make excellent
employees in the region after graduation.”
“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
Since 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 mem-
bers (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.

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 his-
tory, 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 fundamen-
tal 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 why we try to
provide that, as long as it’s safe.”
In the 2009-10 academic year, 63 students traveled to Belarus, Croatia, Eng-
land, 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 partner-
ships is with Legal Aid of Western Missouri in St. Joseph. The agency, which
provides free counseling, advice and representation to help low-income individuals and families 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 Samantha Biondi are
pursuing legal studies degrees, but Dawn Davis ‘10, was a social work major
and Josh Perpinto is a political science major.
“We’re pretty pleased with the caliber of students we get from Western,”
said Jennifer Super, Legal Aid’s managing attorney and adjunct instructor
for the university. “They 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 educa-
tional,” 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
realized a paralegal degree.”
“Almost all the students are involved in internships, practice or student teaching experiences.”
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 will promote Missouri Agenstein Hall will improve the development of Greek life and leadership programs, an emphasis on student engagement and leadership programs, an emphasis in the development of Greek life and a new residence hall will retain more future alumni! Our alma mater bears little resemblance to what it did when many of us went to school. Change abounds at Western!

“Change begets change.” Charles Dickens.

I invite each of you to come back and see firsthand what I experience 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.

—from 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.

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.”

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

When were you last on campus?

Come home to Missouri Western for Homecoming 2010!

See what’s new

• Remington Hall
• Griffon Indoor Sports Complex
• Spring Sports Complex

Celebrate

• 4th annual Greek Reunion with a special Lambda Chi Alpha Alpha Reunion; band and HPFR 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

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.

St. Joseph. This is Griffon Country

Fall ushers in new degree offerings continued from page 2

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• 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.
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 cool stuff while we’re there.”

The mission 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.”

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 achievements, 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 following 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.missourisiwestern.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 mwsalumni@missourisiwestern.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.
How to survive public speaking
Claudia James ’89

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.
• Moving away from the podium.
• Warming up your vocal cords.
• Telling stories/anecdotes.

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, 15 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 Roehling’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 it would be. I decided to print 125 books.

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 handle a snake
Jonn Casey ’02

Jonn 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 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 not threat to them, they will just try to escape.

If you’re going to do business, 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 key 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 résumé 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 risks 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 Thysfaut. Congratulations!

1970s

HAROLD (BUTCH) MCXEE ’73, retired from the U.S. Army after 29 years and now works for the State of Alabama Disability Determination Services. He also retired from the Homestead Police Reserves in Homewood, Ala., after 20 years. Harold said he was the first ROTC graduate from Western.

DR. JULIE ALBEE ’76, received the Parkway Police Reserve in Homewood, Ala., after 20 years.

2000s continued

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

JENNIFER (EVANS) ’03, and BOB ’06, HUGHES announce the birth of a son, Owen Zachary, born Feb. 17, 2010. They join siblings Dylan, Aubrey and Evan.

JOHN FABITS ’04, was promoted to director of finance and marketing with Roy Scouts of America, Great Rivers Council, in Columbus, Mo.

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

JENNIFER MCKEELEY ’05, graduated from the University of Missouri. TARA STULL ’05, and AARON WESTLAKE ’07, were married Jan. 2, 2010. The couple resides in Detroit where Tara is pursuing her MPA 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.

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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.


CHARLOTTE LOU (WILKEY) ELSEA '90, Lee's Summit, Mo., May 21, 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.

2000s continued


KELEY (MAISON) DAVIS '00, Kansas City, Mo., April 6, 2010.


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


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.