

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University



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PRIDE



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

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WESTERN MAGAZINE

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: Alumni who are also Western employees show their Griffon pride by the clock tower. Photo by Eric Callow '97. Go to p. 14 to see how you can show your Griffon pride.

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The 2011 Homecoming theme is "Griffon Pride: Keepin' it Real." Check out the fun insert and suggestions of how you can show your Griffon pride. Homecoming events and a handy registration form can also be found here.

18 Extra! Extra! Get Your Experience Here!

Students have been producing newspapers and yearbooks from the university's earliest beginnings. Although a lot has changed over the years, being on the yearbook or newspaper staffs has always meant great experiences for students.



Western faces budget challenges

If Western's financial situation for fiscal year 2012 was a movie, it might be "The Perfect Storm." All in all, FY 2012 is going to be a difficult year financially for the university because of several factors that recently converged to create a "perfect storm" of financial challenges. Due to waivers, penalties and state involvement, administrators were not even able to set a budget for FY 2012 until the last day of FY 2011.

The back story

In FY 2000, Western's state allocation was more than 60 percent of its budget; in FY 2011, the allocation accounted for about 45 percent. Out of necessity, tuition revenue rose from representing a little more than 30 percent of Western's budget in FY 2000 to more than 50 percent in FY 2011.

However, Western did not increase tuition in fiscal years 2005, 2006, 2010 or 2011, making the average tuition increase 1.9 percent over the past seven years. For the last two fiscal years, state colleges and universities agreed to freeze their tuition and the governor agreed to freeze their appropriations in FY 2010 and only

decrease their appropriations 5.2 percent in FY 2011. Unfortunately, the low tuition increases coupled with decreasing state appropriations were not a good combination.

In the past three years, enrollment has increased 18 percent, which is a good thing, but the state does not figure its appropriations on enrollment numbers. That gives Western the distinction of receiving the lowest per student funding in the state.

Also, state appropriations do not take into account higher education expenses that increase every year and cannot be controlled, such as utilities or health care benefits. Those expenses increase approximately \$1 million per year.

Preparing for challenges

Already facing some financial challenges and knowing what lay ahead, administrators took several steps in the past two years to cut expenditures: Operating budgets across campus were reduced by 20 percent in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, a number of administrative positions were eliminated, and many vacant positions were not filled. (In 1999, there were 499 full-time employees serving 5,230 students. In the fall of 2010, there were

just 508 full-time employees and 6,134 students.)

Additionally, employees have not received a raise for the past three years (including FY 2012) and faculty summer school salaries were significantly reduced. Some scholarship amounts were reduced, class sizes were increased, and the use of adjunct faculty increased by approximately 25 percent in the past two years.

Fiscal Year 2012

In March 2011, the Board of Governors approved a 6.33 percent tuition increase. In 2010, the Board had voted for a 2.98 percent increase for FY 2011, but was unable to put it into effect until this fiscal year because of the agreement with the governor. So the 6.33 percent increase was in addition to the 2.98 percent increase. But even with that increase, Western's tuition would continue to be among the lowest in the state in FY 2012.

However, state legislators had created a law in 2007 that caps tuition increases at the rate of the consumer price index, so by raising it 6.33 percent, Western faced a penalty of up to five percent of its state

continued on page 11

Western's newest residence hall, Griffon Hall, opened in time for the fall semester. The apartment-style units accommodate 250 students.



President's Perspective

Editor's note: This is the first of three letters in which President Vartabedian will address funding for higher education in the state of Missouri.

Dear Friends,

On the afternoon of June 22, more than 150 students and community members gathered on the second floor of Blum Union. As the cheerleaders led the crowd in a chant of, "MW! SU! MW! SU!" SGA president Alison Norris stepped to the microphone to address the audience. The topic of this student-organized rally was the recent announcement by Gov. Jay Nixon that he would cut Missouri Western's state appropriation for fiscal year 2012 by 8.2 percent – the most of any state-supported institution of higher education in Missouri.

- When I received the news from the governor's office on June 10, I was shocked, especially when considering the following:
- Missouri Western already receives the lowest per full-time student appropriation from the state.
 - We have increased tuition just three times in the last seven years – an average of only 1.99 percent during that time.
 - Our tuition is the third lowest in the state.
 - Our enrollment has increased in each of the last seven years and by 18 percent in the last three years – making us the fastest growing state-supported institution of higher education in Missouri.
 - We have been publically praised by local and state governments for our fiscal responsibility.

- Our students continue to excel in the classroom, in the work place, in research and in the community.

I stood in the audience that afternoon in June proud of our student leaders and I knew that our future was in good hands. We have taught them well and they will move forward in spite of the obstacles that stand before them.

It was with great foresight that in 1918, the student body of the St. Joseph Junior College chose the Griffon as their mascot. The Griffon, they said, is the mythical guardian of buried treasure, and education is a buried treasure obtainable only through considerable effort. Throughout our history – from our founding as a junior college to our university designation – our faculty, staff, alumni, and community members have guarded our students as they have worked tirelessly to obtain a quality education.

Today is no different. Regardless of the challenges ahead, our Board of Governors, our employees, our alumni, our community and I remain committed to ensuring a quality education for all of our students.

Respectfully,



Robert A. Vartabedian
President

Dr. Kevin Truman, dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Computing and Engineering; and Dr. Robert Vartabedian sign an agreement that allows students to receive dual degrees from Western's engineering technology department and UMKC's School of Computing and Engineering. Students will complete three years at Western and two years at UMKC, earning a degree from each institution.



Zumba in the Room-ba in the Guinness!

It's official, according to the Guinness Book of World Records: the 490 who gathered last January to Zumba for an hour was the largest crowd ever to Zumba together. Softball Head Coach Jen Bagley, who organized Zumba in the Room-ba, a fund-raiser for women's athletics and the YWCA, was notified last spring that her event in the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex was one for the record book.

Jen had notified Guinness before the event, and the record keepers said there was no current record for Zumba participants. They told her she had to have at least 250 before they would consider it, and they sent her instructions to follow to make sure her event would qualify. Jen enlisted a spotter for every 50 participants, two official timekeepers and two credible witnesses.

"I am so proud of Missouri Western and the St. Joseph Community for coming out and supporting a great cause," Jen said. "Not only did we raise funds for the YWCA Choices program, we proved that this community can pull together for world record-breaking effort!" ■

Wanted: Back issues of Griffon News

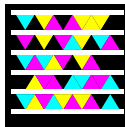
Our archives are missing Griffon News issues from the Fall 1973 and Spring 1974. If you happen to have any of these issues, we would love to have them! Please mail them to Diane Holtz, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507 or call 816-271-5651. Thank you! ■

Western wish list

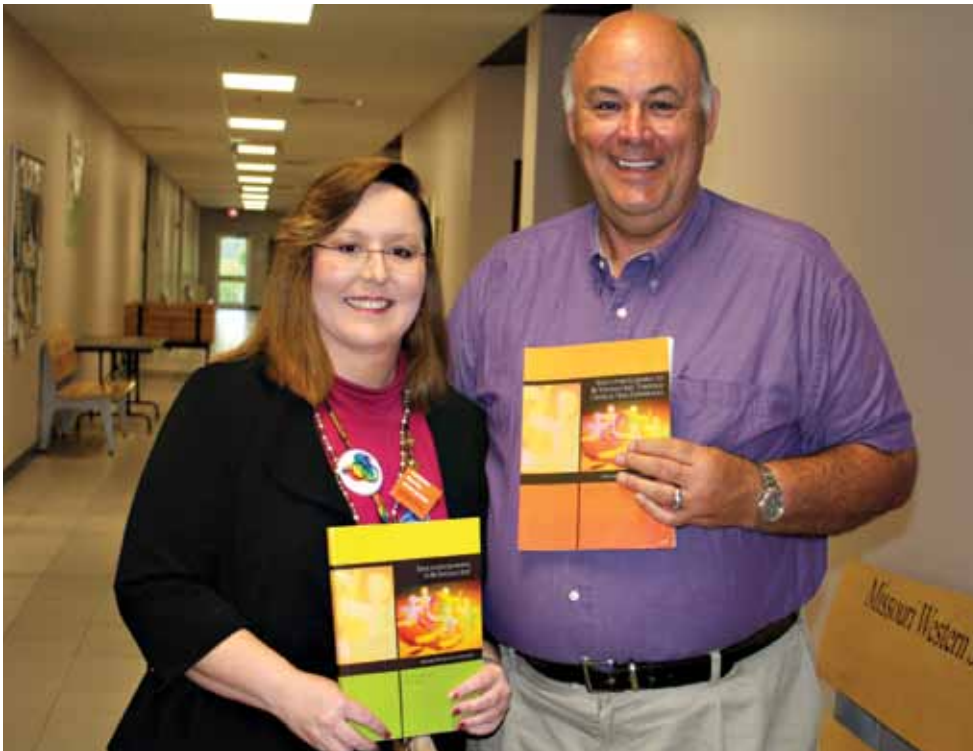
Would you like to donate to Western and have your donation be used for a specific item or for a particular department? The development office has the solution! The office has worked with departments across campus to create a "wish list" of items with costs ranging from just \$85 up to \$100,000.

Items on the wish list include microscopes, software, cameras, skeletons and more. To view the list, go to missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern and click on

Other Funding Priorities, or call 816-271-5648. ■



If you have a smartphone, scan here for the entire wish list.



Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix and Mike Flowers.

Journey for justice

Dr. Elizabeth Hendrix's journey for justice began at a young age. Her mother, who was part Cherokee and grew up impoverished, asked tough questions to school administrators and fought for justice in the Alabama schools Elizabeth attended.

"Since my mother experienced many disparities, she fought the inequalities I faced as a child," said Elizabeth, assistant professor of education. "Now my goals include being a trailblazer and overcoming school injustices."

The result of her passion for justice led her to co-author a textbook with Mike Flowers for pre-service teachers that focuses on dealing with issues of social justice in the schools. The first book, "Educators Learning to be Socially Just Through Critical Field Experiences" (2010), quickly sold out, and the publishers gave the authors the option of reprinting the book or writing a second edition. They decided to write a second edition, and that book, "Educators Learning to be Socially Just," came out this year.

The books give practical advice and offer exercises for teachers to use in their classrooms for a number of "isms" – racism, sexism, ableism, and more.

When Elizabeth started teaching at Western in 2007, she and Flowers, instructor of education, were teaching the same foundations course for students who want to teach. They were having difficulty finding a field experiences book that addressed social justice issues, although they believed there was a real need for one.

"We wanted to give them a book to help them understand social justice issues and to give them resources," Elizabeth said. "We're hoping we have an impact on social justice in the schools."

Mike, who retired as an administrator in the St. Joseph School District, said teachers face social justice issues every day, and they need to know how to handle them as they occur so they do not turn into larger problems later.

Mike interviewed several children, teachers and administrators for the book. Both he and Elizabeth believe the book

will empower their students as they graduate and begin to teach, and as teachers, they will feel confident in dealing with unjust situations.

"A lot of new teachers have trouble with classroom management, and this goes hand in hand with that," she said.

Elizabeth graduated with a bachelor of arts in English and a bachelor of arts in dance in 1998 and a master of arts, secondary education, English/language arts in 2000, both from The University of Alabama, and began her career as a high school English teacher at an inner city school in Georgia. For the majority of her students, English was not their first language, and she said the experience brought back memories of the injustices her mother fought against.

To help her students and their non-English speaking parents, Elizabeth created a reading game that parents could play with their children to help improve the entire family's reading skills. After successfully using it for three years, she received a patent on it.

She also created and copyrighted *Justics*, which are social justice comics, and Western education majors have become familiar with them. As an exercise in Elizabeth and Mike's classes, students create *Justics*, visuals or comics to symbolize unjust occurrences, and then come up with three strategies to manage the injustice.

"Our students learn so much from the *Justics* project," Mike said. "They love it and it prepares them well."

Elizabeth also speaks out against gender pay inequity. Last spring, she participated in a conference call with the American Association of University Women that originated from the White House because of her work with AAUW and her work on pay inequity.

"My mother changed my path and created opportunities for me to have a better life – a more socially just life," Elizabeth said. "Even though she passed away in 1996, her influence still serves as a catalyst for my lifelong journey for justice." ■

Scholarship established for Indian students

Students from India who want to attend Western will find a close-knit community of Indian-Americans in St. Joseph who are ready to welcome them and help them adjust. The group recently established a scholarship to help attract more students from India to Western.

Amy Kotwani, who is involved in St. Joseph's Indian community and helped with the establishment of the scholarship, said she would love to see more Indian students at Western, and thinks it would benefit not only the Indian-Americans living in St. Joseph, but the university as well.

Last year, Western marketing professor Dr. Durai Sundaramoorthi contacted Amy about helping establish a scholarship to attract students from India. Last year, there were four Indian graduate students at Western.

Amy's parents, Prem and Jaya Kotwani, hosted a Diwali party last fall to kick off the scholarship, and Western personnel visited the party to talk about it. The Indian-Americans were receptive to the idea, Amy said, because they care a lot about education.

Amy said there are three good reasons for Indian students to consider getting an education at Western. One, an American education is highly regarded in Indian culture; two, several Indian-Americans in the area are willing to reach out to them so they feel at home; and three, a student's college years are a perfect time to learn about diversity and cultural differences.

"That was my favorite part about college, attending events of different cultures," Amy said. "There are so many opportunities to learn from each other, and college is a perfect time to do it."

The Kotwanis moved to St. Joseph 17 years ago, and Amy's younger sister, Shaina, is currently a student at Western.

Several people in the Indian community have contact with high schools in India, so they are hoping to attract more students and help those who need financial help.

"We want to make sure it (the scholarship) goes to a student who will really benefit," Amy said. "We want to make a difference."

For more information about the Indian student scholarship, contact the development office at 816-271-5648. ■

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, was honored as the Grand Marshal in the 2011 Apple Blossom Parade in St. Joseph.



Campus Kudos

The following employees were honored in the 2010-11 academic year:

2011 Distinguished Faculty Award

- Dr. David Ashley, biology, area of distinction: teaching
- Dr. Cary Chevalier, biology, area of distinction: service
- Dr. Todd Eckdahl, biology, area of distinction: scholarship
- Dr. Karen Koy, biology, area of distinction: teaching
- Dr. Justin Kraft, health, physical education and recreation, area of distinction: service
- Dr. Maureen Raffensperger, physical therapist assistant, area of distinction: teaching
- Dr. Durai Sundaramoorthi, marketing, area of distinction: scholarship

Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Awards

Dr. Bill Church, English, foreign languages and journalism

Peter Hriso, art

Dr. Pi-Ming Yeh, nursing

Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award

Dr. Jeremiah Still, psychology

The James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award

Tara Stoll, instructional media center

Presidential Citation Awards

Service to Campus Colleagues - Diane Holtz, university advancement

Service to the University - Brett Esely, athletics

Congratulations to those who retired in the 2010-11 academic year:

- Cindie Curtis, chemistry
- Linda Garlinger, career services
- Ellen Kisker, nontraditional student center
- Kathy Kountz, career services

Kim Weddle '00, executive administrative associate for university advancement, was nominated for the **Woman in Support Services Award**, one of the YWCA 2011 Women of Excellence Awards. ■

VP's passion is helping students succeed

Western's vice president of student affairs, Dr. Esther Perález, was one of eight children growing up in an isolated, rural area of Montana. Her father was illiterate and her mother had a fifth-grade education. As a child, she dealt with a low family income, English as a second language, no indoor plumbing and issues of alcoholism and domestic violence.

"I grew up in a socioeconomic background that said we should not have been successful," Esther said, but because her parents stressed the importance of education, she and her siblings defied the odds and all earned college degrees.

"We worked in fields in the summer, and our parents would say, 'If you don't want to do this, it's important to get an education,'" Esther said. "They supported us and we were lucky we had that support."

Along the way, Esther's experiences fueled her passion for wanting to help college students succeed. "I want students to know that no matter what is happening in their lives, they can talk to me," she said. "I remember where I came from and I see students dealing with the same things."

Esther joined Western in January 2010 as the university's first vice president of student affairs since 1983. She recently talked about her experiences throughout her career and since joining Western.

Q: What attracted you to Western?

A: I liked that it was basically a new position and I liked that I would be part of the president's cabinet. I thought I would have the opportunity to make an impact and have the authority and support to do the work I needed to do.

activities that connect the out-of-the-classroom offerings to the classroom.

It's important that we provide support for the whole student: socially, physically, emotionally, spiritually and academically.

We also need to make sure we are preparing students for the 21st century

realities, which are global literacy, communication, multiculturalism and teamwork.

Q: What in your career are you most proud of?

A: My whole career, I have worked in institutions that have had a high percentage of low-income, first-generation, diverse students, and I am proud that I have impacted those students.

Q: What challenges lie ahead for Western?

A: Financial constraints are a big challenge.

We need to ensure that our students are competitive by getting and keeping the best faculty, and having strong support services, up-to-date technology and more. Without additional funding, that will be hard to do.

Q: Any final words?

A: I am excited to be here. I love my job, and I am looking forward to helping make the student affairs division world class. ■

Dr. Esther Perález, vice president of student affairs, visits with students in the Blum Union.



I liked that Western made the commitment to fill the position even in times of monetary constraints. That told me the university was committed to students. Western also commits a high percentage of its budget to student support, which speaks highly of its commitment to students.

I was also attracted to the open admissions mission, because I would not be here if someone hadn't given me the chance. People should have the opportunity to be educated if they want to.

Q: What is the role of a student affairs division at a university?

A: I learned early in my career that if we don't support the academic mission, we shouldn't be here, so our role is to complement the academic mission and provide

Journalist tabbed for Convocation

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and commentator Thomas L. Friedman will be the featured speaker at the 18th annual Convocation on Critical Issues. Thomas, foreign affairs columnist for the New York Times, will speak at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 20 in the M.O. Looney Arena on his latest book, "That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World We Invented and How We Can Come Back." The event is free and open to the community.

Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian, Western's president, said colleagues at other universities where Thomas has spoken have been

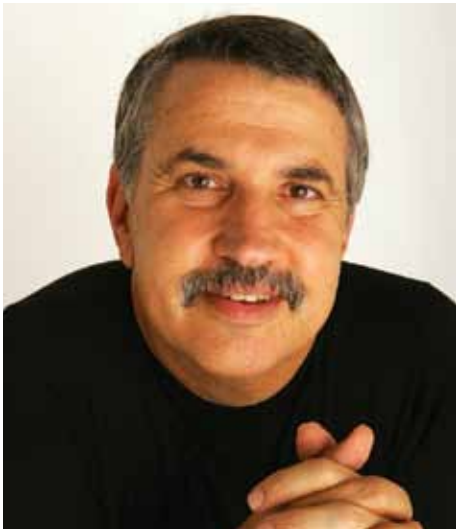
glowing in their reviews. "Mr. Friedman is considered one of the world's great thinkers on globalization, and I'm eager to hear what he has to say to us."

Thomas won his first Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1983 for his work as the Beirut Bureau Chief for the New York Times during Israel's invasion of Lebanon. He won his second Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1988 for his work as the Jerusalem Bureau Chief during the early days of the first Palestinian Intifada in the West Bank and Gaza. In 2002, he was awarded his third Pulitzer Prize, this time for distinguished commentary in his columns in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He has also written five bestselling books.

In addition to his columns and books, Thomas has co-produced, reported and narrated six documentaries for the New York Times-Discovery Channel joint venture.

He is a 1975 graduate of Brandeis University with a bachelor's degree in Mediterranean studies. He received a master's of philosophy in modern Middle East studies from Oxford University.

For more information about the Convocation or the dinner, call 816-271-5646. ■



Thomas L. Friedman

The Student Nurses Association organized a Melanoma Awareness Walk on campus last spring for more than 200 participants, and the group raised approximately \$6,000 for the Melanoma Research Foundation.



Western's great outdoors

One of Dr. Robert Vartabedian's initiatives since becoming president has been the Outdoor Campus Project, and one of the projects, building an amphitheater on campus, recently received a boost. A donor designated \$100,000 towards the construction of an amphitheater, which is estimated to cost between \$400,000 and \$800,000.

Several of Dr. Vartabedian's initial goals have already been accomplished – Western now has beautiful new building signs, three fountains in campus ponds and a new entrance sign at Faraon St.

Dr. Vartabedian also wants to increase the number of large sculptures on campus. Two have been added since he joined Western, but funding is being sought for four more. He has also set a goal of planting 100 evergreens throughout campus, and alumni and supporters have purchased 79 trees toward that number. Another initiative is to add park benches to the campus interior, so far two have been donated. Donors may purchase a bench for \$4,000 and may add a memorial or donor plaque.

For more information or to donate to one of the projects, call 816-271-5647. ■

GISC is popular

Mike Halloran, athletics facilities director, reported that the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, especially the indoor football field, saw almost constant use throughout the spring semester. But when eight youth soccer games or two softball games can be played at the same time, it becomes a popular venue, he said.

The complex has been used for tournaments in baseball, softball and dodgeball; leagues of ultimate Frisbee, youth and adult soccer; and a high school football coaches clinic. Additionally, Fellowship of Christian Athletes held its national camp in the facility last spring. ■

Rocky Mountain opportunity

The number of Craig School of Business graduates who own and operate Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory stores doubled over the summer when three recent graduates were awarded stores in June.

Allison Humphrey, Triston Jones and Leslie Oberg, who all graduated in May 2011, were awarded the opportunity to operate and own a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store. Two of the stores are in Omaha, Neb., and one is in Williamsburg, Iowa.

"I'm 22 years old and someone is saying I can be a business owner," said Leslie. "I'm very grateful for the opportunity."

Allison, Triston and Leslie and seven other students enrolled in an entrepreneurship class in the spring semester and created business plans for an RMCF store. They and one other student were selected as finalists in May. When the semester ended, Allison and Triston spent two weeks working in RMCF stores operated by Brady Ellis '10, and TyAnn Williamson '10, in Vicksburg, Miss.; and Seth '08, and Kelsey Lyons '08, in Silverthorne, Colo., who were previously awarded stores. Leslie interned at RMCF stores in the Kansas City, Mo., area throughout the semester. The fourth finalist completed a two-week internship with Rob '10, and Danelle '10, Schimming in Lake Elsinore, Calif.

"It was an awesome experience," Triston said of working in the Vicksburg store. "It was very hands-on, and I learned what I would be doing if I got a store. After the first couple days, I thought, 'I could definitely see me doing this.'"

Carol Roever, Allison Humphrey, Triston Jones and Leslie Oberg take a break from training at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory headquarters in Durango, Colo. Allison, Triston and Leslie were awarded RMCF stores in June through Western's unique entrepreneurship program. Carol coordinates the program. Page 9, the graduates' chocolate training.

Leslie said she learned a lot in the class. "It was definitely the most challenging class I've ever had, but it had real-life applications."

In early June, the finalists presented their business plans to an interview panel made up of the three previous winners; representatives of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, including Frank Crail, the company's founder, president and CEO; Steve Craig, founder and president of Craig Realty Group and benefactor of the Craig School of Business; other business leaders; Western faculty members; and Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president.

The three winners received training at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory headquarters in Durango, Colo., for eight days in June and took over their stores July 1.

"I think it's a great partnership," Frank said. "The school does a fabulous job preparing the students. I wish I had had their (the graduates) experience and knowhow when I began."

Allison, from Kansas City, Mo., graduated with a business administration degree in both marketing and management. She worked as a financial aid office assistant at Western and a sales associate at a Bath and Body Works store in Kansas City, and completed a marketing intern-

ship at Special Olympics of Northwest Missouri earlier this year. She has been an active member of Western's Student Government Association and the professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, and participated in the university's Barbara Sprong Leadership Challenge.

Triston, originally from Philadelphia, Mo., graduated with a business administration degree in marketing. She was active in Western's Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and served as a Western VIP and a Griffon Edge leader. She worked in human resources and public relations at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. in St. Joseph, where she also completed a human resources internship. She previously worked as a teller at Commerce Bank and as a seasonal employee in the marketing department at Knapheide Manufacturing Company in Quincy, Ill.

Leslie, from Kansas City, Mo., graduated with a business administration degree in both accounting and finance. She was active in the Professional Student Investment Organization and was inducted into Alpha Chi, the honor society for the top 10 percent of juniors and seniors. Leslie is a sales agent for USA 800 in St. Joseph, where she's won numerous awards for sales conversion. She previously worked as a front desk shift leader at a Sleep Inn in Kansas City.

continued next page



IRA charitable rollover deadline extended

First introduced in 2006 as a two-year opportunity, the IRA charitable rollover, an important and popular charitable option, has been extended until Dec. 31, 2011. This means donors can continue to make direct transfers from their IRAs to Western and not have those transfers treated as taxable income.

To qualify for this, certain requirements must be met: donor must be at least 70 ½ years at the time the transfer is made; maximum amount is \$100,000; and transfers must go directly from an IRA to a qualified charitable organization such as Western.

Additionally, the gift must be outright, which means transfers to donor advised funds, supporting organizations, charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities do not qualify.

IRA charitable rollover distributions are not treated as taxable income, so there is no separate charitable income tax deduction for such a transfer. For more information, call 816-271-5648. ■

Student group receives grants

The Students in Free Enterprise chapter was awarded two grants last year to help sustainability efforts both on campus and in the community.

The organization received a \$1,000 grant from the Sam's Club Environmental Challenge to raise awareness about and improve paper recycling on campus. SIFE members worked with the campus sustainability committee and administrators and brought to campus a plastic and aluminum beverage recycling kiosk from Pepsi.

The second grant was a \$1,200 Lowe's Community Improvement Challenge Grant, and those funds helped establish a community garden on land owned by Riverside Church. Some of the produce will be donated to the needy in the community. ■

The program to present graduates with this unique business opportunity was started in 2009 by Steve, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Western, in order to speed up the training and development of entrepreneurs. Steve provides initial capital for the stores, which the graduates pay back over time. The young entrepreneurs receive ongoing support from the Craig School of Business faculty and its Advisory Council.

The three women all expressed appreciation for the opportunity to own and operate a store, even though they have just graduated.

"I am so thankful to the school and faculty and staff, especially in the School of Business," Allison said. "They are great."

"We are ecstatic with the partnership we've created with Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory," Steve said. "Three people in one year to go out and have their own business is incredible." ■



Engineering technology hosts awards banquet

The engineering technology department held its first awards banquet this past spring to honor a student and a community member and to raise money for scholarships. Matthew Moffitt, a senior construction engineering technology major from Savannah, Mo., received the Engineering Technology Student Excellence Award, and Eric Bruder '93, executive vice president and chief operating officer for WireCo WorldGroup, received the Engineering Technology Community Excellence Award.

The banquet was the brainchild of the Engineering Technology Advancement Committee, formed in 2009 to support the engineering technology department

by raising funds for scholarships, equipment and other special needs; providing internship opportunities; making guest speakers available; promoting construction related careers in northwest Missouri; and providing funding and support for Western's student chapter of the Association of General Contractors. The group is made up of campus and community members.

The four business leaders in the community who created the committee were also honored at the banquet: Alan L. Landes of Herzog Contracting Corp.; Ronald H. Auxier '73, of Ellison-Auxier Architects Inc.; Zane Brickey of Lawhon Construction Company; and Ryan Schultz of R/S Electric Construction LLC. ■

Cutting-edge company battles antibiotic-resistant bacteria

Anyone who has taken an antibiotic, been in the hospital or kept up with the news knows the growing problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Now there's good news: A biopharmaceutical company has moved into the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator on Western's campus to work on combating that problem.

Dr. Larry Sutton, who holds both a medical degree and Ph.D from the University of Iowa, invented a method to modify antibiotics so the drug can not only do its job and destroy the bacteria causing the illness, but also destroy the bacteria's mechanism that causes antibiotic resistance. In 2009, he founded a privately held company, Sopharmia, and serves as its CEO.

"Antibiotic resistance is a medical crisis," Larry said. "What we're doing will combat that problem. It's urgent."

Larry currently has two global patent applications for his inventions. He says if Sopharmia is successful in producing the drug, it could become a \$1 billion-per-year industry.

Last year, the company had grown to a point where they needed more space, and Larry began exploring options in Iowa, Kansas and Missouri before deciding on the St. Joseph location. "This is perfect for us, the facilities are excellent," he said. "I haven't seen any incubator like this. It sets the stage for success."

Larry said he also appreciates the support from the Missouri Technology Corporation, Missouri Western, the city, the county, MOKAN Development, Inc., and the St. Joseph Metro Chamber.

"Dr. Clapp knows what it takes to get a start-up going," Larry said, speaking of Dr. Gary Clapp, CEO of the Institute of Industrial and Applied Life Sciences and director of the incubator.



Lawrence Obstfeld, chairman of Sopharmia's board of directors and Dr. Larry Sutton, Sopharmia founder and CEO, cut the ceremonial ribbon in the science and technology incubator as Western officials and St. Joseph Metro Chamber Diplomats look on.

Sopharmia moved into the incubator in May and the St. Joseph Metro Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony in June.

Lawrence Obstfeld, chairman of the board of directors of Sopharmia, traveled from his home in New York for the ribbon cutting. "We see a place where very talented people can work, afford their homes, park their cars and walk right into work. We can do this because we have great facilities and great people."

Sopharmia is renting almost 1,900 sq. ft. of laboratory and office space in the incubator, and the seven employees also have additional access to the incubator's industrial lab. "It's fantastic," Larry said. "We don't have to build our own infrastructure."

Gary said the incubator's industrial lab, acquired through a grant from the Department of Labor and Health and Human

Services, has equipment that most incubators do not have. "We have trained our staff to work alongside the Sopharmia staff and assist them in measurements needed on their compounds," Gary said. Without the incubator's lab, Sopharmia would have to outsource that service, which would delay results.

"The incubator policies and procedures are aimed at helping small companies grow without breaking the backs of the start-ups," Gary said. The incubator, which opened in 2008, now has just one space open for a lab and office.

"We're extremely excited to be here and looking toward success," Lawrence said. ■

Western faces budget challenges

continued from page 2

appropriation. In April, the university applied for a waiver of the penalty to Dr. David Russell, the commissioner of higher education.

On June 10, Gov. Nixon announced that higher education appropriations in the state would be seven percent less for FY 2012 than they were for FY 2011. However, the governor tagged on an extra 1.2 percent cut for Western, saying he believed its tuition increase for the coming year was too high. The 1.2 percent amounts to approximately \$268,000, making the total cut approximately \$1.8 million.

"That reduction was a surprise and a disappointment, because Missouri Western already receives the lowest appropriation in the state per full-time equivalent student," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "I was surprised that the governor would further widen that gap, placing an even greater burden on our students, faculty and staff."

Six days later, Dr. Vartabedian received a letter from Dr. Russell, requesting that the Board of Governors re-visit its tuition increase. So at its June meeting, the Board voted to lower the tuition from the approved 6.3 percent to 5.5 percent. Board members said they reluctantly voted for the decrease.

When the Board voted in the 6.3 percent increase in March, Mel Klinkner, vice president for financial planning and administration, noted that the increase, even when adding in the 2.98 percent from last year, would only allow Western to maintain its services and would not provide for any new services or equipment.

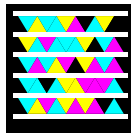
Since then, the 6.3 percent was decreased to 5.5 percent, and the university entered FY 2012 with the 1.2 percent extra cut in state appropriations. So even though administrators were bracing for an already tight FY 2012, those two circumstances generally made the situation worse.

Finally, on the last day of FY 2011, the Board passed its FY 2012 budget. Because of the financial challenges,

there was a 10 percent reduction in operating budgets, on top of a 20 percent reduction imposed the past two fiscal years. Employee awards were also suspended for the coming year.

You can't keep a Griffon down!

Despite the financial challenges, Dr. Vartabedian has repeatedly said that Western is committed to providing an outstanding education and maintaining its high standards. "Regardless of our frustration and disappointment, we will continue to serve our students and our region with excellence." ■



If you have a smartphone, scan here to see a video of the student rally.

Rascal Flatts drummer Jim Riley works with a music student. Jim was a guest performer at the eXtreme Percussion concert last spring.



It's new – Missouri Western Arts Society

"Arts are an essential part of the university's mission and the general quality of life in a community." That is why, said Western's president, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, the university established the Missouri Western Arts Society in June 2011.

The purpose of the society is to supplement the annual budgets of the arts programs, encourage attendance at performances and exhibitions, and help spread the reputation of Missouri Western's arts programs. Although the kickoff for the society was held in June, the 2011-12 academic year will be considered the first year of membership. Donors/members for the 2011-2012 year will be designated as Charter Members.

Donors may designate their support for the art department, music department, theatre program, musical theatre production, Community Arts program, or undesignated to be used at the discretion of the dean.

"We are very pleased with the response so far," said Dr. Laurel Vartabedian, who is serving as membership co-chair with Karen Graves. "Missouri Western arts have so much to offer, not only to its students, but to the entire community, and I am so excited to be a part of it." ■

Real synthetic biology

Western hosted undergraduate professors from across the country this past summer for a three-day workshop on how to use synthetic biology research in undergraduate research or in the classroom. Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology, and Dr. Jeff Poet, associate professor of mathematics, both from Western; and Dr. Malcolm Campbell and Laurie Heyer of Davidson College, led the workshop.

Participants included 13 pairs of professors, where at least one of them was a biologist. Other professors were from the fields of mathematics, computer science and a variety of other disciplines.

"I wanted an opportunity to learn from some of the leaders in the field of synthetic biology," said Michael Druitt, who teaches biology at Hampton University in Virginia. He attended the conference with Hampton computer science professor Dr. Stephen Providence. ■

Student Athletes of the Year

Two students were named Student Athlete of the Year at the department of athletics' 12th annual banquet in April: Rachel Luteyn, women's basketball player, was named Female Student Athlete of the Year and football player Drew Newhart, Male Student Athlete of the Year. An athlete was nominated for the award from each of Western's 11 sports.

Additionally, football player Steven Jones '10, was awarded the James J. McMillen Award, which recognizes the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA; and golfer Lexi Webb was honored as Volunteer of the Year. Golfer Shane Feist received the MWSU Award for Valor, a new award.

The banquet is co-sponsored by the St. Joseph News-Press. ■

Softball team qualifies for fourth NCAA tournament in six years

It was a landmark season for Griffon softball – the team finished the 2011 season 40-15 overall and were co-champions of the MIAA. The conference title was the first in the school's softball history. The 40 wins also propelled the team to their fourth NCAA Tournament appearance in the last six years.

In addition to an outstanding season, the Griffons also showed off their new home field when the Spring Sports Complex opened in early April. The Griffons went 9-3 on their home field during the inaugural season.

Individually, seven Griffons earned All-MIAA status. Outfielder Brittany Douglas, St. Louis; and pitcher Jackie Bishop, Kirksville, Mo.; were selected 1st Team All-MIAA. Jackie was also named MIAA Freshman of the Year, going 25-6 on the year with an ERA of 1.22. She also set Western's single season record for strikeouts with 224, eclipsing Cheri Kempf's '85, total set in the 1982 national championship season.

Coach Jen Bagley was named 2011 MIAA Coach of the Year, the third time the 11-year coach has won the award. She also won her 300th career game at Western in February. ■

Golf and tennis teams record firsts

It was an up and down spring for the golf and tennis teams.

For men's golf, the team struggled with consistency during the spring season, but one rock for the team was Shane Feist, a senior from Bismarck, N.D. After missing the entire 2009-10 season battling cancer, Shane returned to play in the number one position on the team the entire year. He recorded two top-10 finishes in events, including tying for first at the Drury Pasta House Invitational in Springfield, Mo. He also had a career first as he recorded a hole-in-one on the first swing of the North Alabama Spring Invitational in late March.

Women's golf had another successful season. The team competed in four spring events, winning one and finishing in the top five of two others. The tournament victory came in the annual Green & Gold Shootout in which the Griffons and Northwest Missouri State host area teams in a two-day, two-golf course event. The Griffons defeated the second-place Bearcats by 21 shots.

Sophomore Natalie Bird, Carl Junction, Mo., was named to the All-MIAA Team and Head Coach Cathy Habermehl was named 2011 MIAA Coach of the Year.

After a tough regular season, the tennis team did something they hadn't done in quite some time – win a post-season match. The Griffons defeated Lincoln University 5-4 in the opening round of the MIAA Tennis Championships. Singles match victories were recorded by Mindy Buschbom, Savannah, Mo., Sarah Hatten, Eugene, Ore., and Erin Ward, Florissant, Mo. Doubles victories were recorded by Mindy and Sophia Robertson, Brisbane, Australia, and Sarah and Katie Field, Savannah. ■



Bring it on - football gears up

Griffon football, coming off an 8-4 season last year and an appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs for the second time in school history, returns six offensive and seven defensive starters and has high expectations headed into the 2011 season.

At the running back position, Michael Hill, St. Joseph, Mo., will take over as the featured back. He will be joined by Dalton Krysa, Independence, Mo., who recorded five rushing touchdowns in a game, tying the Griffon record. The wide receiver position is deep including the return of two starters – Adam Clausen, Kansas City, Mo., and Terrell Downing, St. Louis.

The receiving corps also hopes to welcome back Tyron Crockum, Pasadena, Calif., who missed last season due to injury. Up front, the Griffons return four starters including tight end David Fowler, Unionville, Mo.; left guard Colt Schulte, Bagnell, Mo.; right guard Brian

Chiles, Lee's Summit, Mo.; and right tackle Macon Allan, King City, Mo.

The newest face of the offense will be at the quarterback position. Travis Partridge, sophomore from Savannah, Mo., takes over the reins from four-year starter Drew Newhart '11.

On the defensive side, all four starters return: David Bass, St. Louis; Ben Pister, St. Joseph; Sean Tray Bryson, Blue Springs, Mo.; and John Brown, St. Louis.

The linebacking core will have a new look as one starter, Tom Madget, St. Joseph, returns. Cody Kremer, Kansas City, Mo., and Jake Buckwalter, Palmyra, Mo., are ready to step in. The secondary features arguably the best safety duo in all of Division II football: Jack Long, Kansas City, and Shane Simpson, Blue Springs. The corner position will be young, with Jeremy Weston, St. Joseph, and Marcus Thompson, Pasadena, opening the year atop the depth chart. ■

Baseball team comes home

For the first time in the 41-year history of the program, the Griffon baseball team played on campus, in the new Spring Sports Complex. The team went 26-25 overall and earned a berth in the MIAA post-season baseball championship in Kansas City, Mo.

The Griffons beat every MIAA team at least once, including a victory over No. 3 Central Missouri in the first ever win at the Spring Sports Complex and No. 5 Emporia State in early April. Other highlight wins include taking three out of four games from rival Northwest Missouri State and a dramatic opening round win in the MIAA Baseball Championships when Isaac Rome's three-run homer in the top of the ninth gave the Griffons a 5-4 victory over Fort Hays State. The baseball team is coached by Buzz Verduzco.

Griffon baseball held its annual alumni weekend April 29-May 1. Thirty-five former baseball players enjoyed dinner at the Spring Sports Complex, a reception at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood & Steaks and a tour of the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex. ■

Griffon football goes national

The Griffon football team will play on national television for the first time when its Sept. 22 game against Washburn University airs at 7 p.m. CST on CBS Sports Network. The game is part of a six-game Division II football television package for the 2011 season.

The game will be syndicated on regional and local networks, and simulcast live on www.ncaa.com. The Griffons will also appear on the MIAA Broadcasting Network. Western's home game against Central Missouri at 6 p.m. Sept. 10 will air on KSMO channel 62 in the Kansas City area, as well as several cable systems throughout the region. ■



The women's golf team took first place in the Green & Gold Shootout, defeating the second-place team by 21 shots.

How can you show your



GRIFFON PRIDE?

Take Max with you!

Remove Max the Griffon from the magazine and take a fun photo with him – with you or with your family, your friends, your pets – at your home, your favorite restaurant, recreational spot or landmark. Email it to us at mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu. Be sure to identify the people in the photo, class year(s) and location. We'll be posting some photos on our Alumni Association facebook page and possibly in upcoming magazine issues. Pose with pride!

Here are some other ways to show your Griffon pride:

1. Attend one or several of the Homecoming events Oct. 20-22. See a list on p. 16. Bring a friend!
2. Wear Griffon gear to a high school event and tell a high school student about Western.
3. Sing the Griffon Fight Song or Alma Mater in a crowded elevator.

4. Contact a long lost classmate.
5. After you take your fun photo (see above), hang Max in your workplace.

6. Carve MWSU on your Halloween pumpkin. If you're really talented, carve Max on your Halloween pumpkin.





7. Listen to Griffon football online all season long at **gogriffons.com**.

8. Come to a Griffon sports event, home or away, and wear your black and gold. Find out the schedules at gogriffons.com.

9. Decorate black and gold cupcakes for work.



10. Send in a submission for Alumnotes in the Western magazine.



Homecoming GRIFFON PRIDE

Keepin' it

Real



2011

OCTOBER 20-23

THURSDAY

Alumni Awards Banquet. Reception begins at 5:45 p.m., Dinner, 6:30 p.m. in the Fulkerson Center, \$30 per person. Join us as we honor the following award recipients:

- **Distinguished Alumni Award** – Eric Bruder '93, COO, Wire-Co WorldGroup; Jackie Lewin '66, Executive Director, St. Joseph Museums, Inc.; Dr. Bernie Patterson '73, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; and State Sen. Rob Schaaf '79, physician, Missouri State Senator, Board Chair of MoDocs.
- **Distinguished Faculty Award** – Dr. Jane Frick, Professor of English.
- **GOLD Award** – Dr. Shannon Brewer '01, Assistant Unit Leader, Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; and Kylee Strough '03, President, United Way of Greater St. Joseph.
- **Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University** – Dave Shinneman, President, Shinneman Management.

FRIDAY

3rd annual Alumni Golf Outing, \$35 per person for 18 holes and a cart, Fairview Golf Course.

Griffon Alumni Poker Showdown – 6:30 p.m., registration; 10 p.m., prize drawings, \$5 per person or \$15 for a team of four. Beginning at the United Ballroom downtown, make your way around downtown for our first progressive poker party. Pick a card at participating locations and return to the United Ballroom to see who has the best hand, the worst hand, who picked the Griffon Cards and who is most spirited Griffon. Prizes will be awarded.

SATURDAY

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

Arts, Beats and Treats Post-parade party – free crafts, games and fun for the whole family! 1st floor, Blum Union.

Tailgate, Blum Union parking lot, \$10.

Game, Griffons vs. Truman State Bulldogs, 1:30 p.m., Spratt Memorial Stadium

Anniversary Dance, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity alumni and their guests will celebrate their 20th anniversary on campus, 8 p.m. – midnight, M.O. Looney Complex, small gym. No alcohol allowed.

SUNDAY

Alphi Phi Alpha Farewell Brunch, 10:30 a.m., Enright Room, Spratt 214. Campus tours, too!



EVENT REGISTRATION

Register for Homecoming events below or online at missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events.
For more information, call 816-271-5646 or email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.



Name _____ Class year _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I want to make a reservation for _____ @ \$30 each for the Alumni Awards Banquet.

I want to make a reservation for _____ @ \$35 each for the Alumni Golf Outing.

I want to make a reservation for _____ @ \$5 each/\$15 team of four for the Poker Showdown.

I want to make a reservation for _____ @ \$25 each the Alpha Phi Alpha Reunion Weekend.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

I have enclosed ☐ Check payable to MWSU Foundation OR ☐ Credit Card Information:

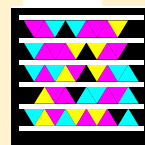
Type of card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

☐ Personal Card OR ☐ Business Card Business Name _____

Name on card _____ 3- or 4-digit code _____ Exp. Date _____

Credit Card # _____ Signature _____

PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS:



If you have a smartphone,
register here for
Homecoming events!
Free app: <http://gettag.mobi>

Mail to: Alumni Services, 4525 Downs Drive, Spratt 108, St. Joseph, MO 64507.

EXTRA!



EXTRA!

Get your experience here!

As a freshman, Mike Brunner '91, was undecided about a major. Since his brother was editor of the yearbook, Mike joined the staff as a photographer, even though he had no photography experience and didn't own a camera. But Mike discovered that he liked photography and stayed on the yearbook staff throughout his college career, even serving as editor. As a senior, Mike completed an internship with a professional commercial photographer in Kansas City, Mo., and stayed on to work for the company full time. He has been a professional photographer with that company for more than 20 years.

Mike is just one example of the large number of students that credit their careers to the newspaper or yearbook experience they gained at Western.

"You get so much hands-on experience. Editors and the advisor teach you along the way," Mike said. "It's a great foundation." He noted that letting the students handle the responsibility is a large part of the experience, because it allows you to make mistakes as a student and learn from them.

"This is real world hands-on experience where people are counting on you," said Sarah Hatten, who is a convergent media major and is currently on the yearbook staff. She believes her experience is preparing her for a career more than anything else she may do as a student. "If we miss a deadline, it's on us."

Dr. Ann Thorne has been the yearbook's advisor since 1987 and Dr. Bob Bergland became the newspaper's advisor

10 years later. They both love the close association with the students on their staffs, and both advisors say they allow the students to make the decisions and run the show.

"My students do the work, I just kind of make sure everything gets done," said Ann, who calls herself the yearbook cheerleader.

"I'm here to help answer questions," Bob said. "I'm definitely not telling them what to do."

Bob said the purpose of the student newspaper is two-fold: first, to provide information to the campus community and to be a forum for the discussion of important issues; and second, to "give students as close as possible, a real world setting for learning journalism."

Bob said he takes care of the print bids and the payroll, but students are responsible for everything else. "It's excellent preparation. Students can be involved in all aspects of the newspaper. It prepares them for a smooth transition to the work place."

Ann says the most important reason for having a yearbook is

the hands-on experience for the students. "They are doing the work of professionals," she says. "They have to work together to produce a great piece." Many students tell her that through their experience on the yearbook, they learned how to get along with others and compromise. "That is more important than the awards," Ann said.

And speaking of awards, both the yearbook and newspaper have no shortage of awards. The



Mike Brunner '91, and Leanna Lutz '90, were both members of the Journalism Club. Mike is in the back row in the center and Leanna is on his right.

publications have brought home awards from national competitions year after year, sometimes competing with much larger schools.

Mike was editor of the 1989 yearbook that won both Pacemaker and Silver Crown awards, and while he loved the recognition for the staff's hard work, he said more than that, he appreciated learning what it took to produce an award-winning publication.

At the Missouri College Media Association Convention last spring, the Griffon News won 18 awards, including five first place awards and second place in the sweepstakes. Additionally, Dave Hon, editor-in-chief, was elected president of the Missouri association, which means Western will host the convention next spring.

Dave was a sophomore when he became editor-in-chief, usually a role held by seniors. He said the position has taught him patience and a lot about dealing with people. "I don't view it as an extra-curricular activity. I see it as part of my studies. It's a learning experience."

The 2011 yearbook earned second place in the national Apple Awards and several individual awards. The yearbook's editor last year was Raphael'le Drew '11, who came to Western on a yearbook scholarship and graduated this past May with a graphic design degree. "I've learned how to work with others as a collaborative group and to deal with different personalities," she said. "That is something I will remember and carry with me."

"Teamwork is hard to do but there's no other way to get the book done," Ann said. "They (students) have a real concept of teamwork."

Ann said she remembers a female yearbook staffer complaining one day about Mike when he was the editor. But it all worked out – they started dating later and ended up married. That was Leanna (Lutz) Brunner '90, who is now an adjunct English instructor at Western. She is teaching in a classroom that used to be the newspaper and yearbook's photography darkroom.

continued on next page

The firsts

The first yearbook was produced for the 1920-21 school year, and Jessie Lee Myers '21, was the editor-in-chief. The yearbook measured 9" x 11 1/2" and contained 48 pages, seven of which were ads. It included a listing of the St. Joseph Junior College alumni from 1917-20 and the colleges they transferred to or their careers. A sophomore pictured in the first yearbook may sound familiar to many – Leah Spratt, for whom Spratt Hall is named.

Below is an excerpt from the Foreword of the first yearbook:

The Griffon, that emblem of unity in strength and agility, is speaking, LISTEN:

"In the short years in which I have been the emblem of Junior college, I have increased the attendance from 15 to 61, besides endowing the school with pep and enthusiasm. I tell you this to gain your confidence for now, I desire a year book (named, of course, in my honor) to commemorate the year's activities ... Get busy!"

The first issue of the student newspaper, called The Spectator, appeared on Dec. 15, 1924. It measured 8 1/2 x 11 and the editor-in-chief was Mildred Windish. The paper contained four pages and featured two columns of jokes on page 3.

Page 2 listed yearly subscription rates: "At school, 50 cents; by mail, 55 cents." The advertising rate was 40 cents per inch, and the issues were published monthly.

An article on the front page noted that the name, The Spectator, was selected through a contest with about 50 entries. Tom Hoehn submitted the winning entry and won a free year's subscription to the newspaper.

The following year, the paper expanded to 11 x 17 and added a per-issue price – 15 cents.

The paper was renamed Griffon News in 1930. By then, the paper was published twice a month, and in 1974, it became a weekly publication.



Staffers discuss the upcoming issue of Griffon News at their weekly meeting. Clockwise, from left: Eboni Lacey, Todd Fuller, Charlene Divino, Dave Hon, editor; Brooke Carter, Matt Gleaves and Advisor Dr. Bob Bergland.



Dr. Ann Thorne, yearbook advisor, goes over yearbook pages with Raphael'le Drew '11, editor.

"It's very surreal. I walk by the Griffon News and see the reporters and wonder where they will be in 20 years," said Leanna, who worked on both the newspaper and yearbook staffs as a student. "I had a great time. Some of my lifelong friends are from those publications."

A native of St. Joseph, Leanna came to Western thinking she would transfer to another college when she figured out her major, but once she started working on the yearbook and newspaper, she didn't want to leave. "My best memories are from the publications. I learned a lot."



Sarah Hatten in the yearbook office. Sarah is also the co-host of Griffon Today, a 30-minute news program.

Like her husband, she believes her publications experiences shaped her in a teaching career that included serving as high school yearbook and newspaper advisor. Leanna also owned and operated a yearbook printing business for several years.

"I was always timid and shy in high school," she said. "The Griffon News and Griffon Yearbook forced me to get out there and take risks; it gave me self-confidence. I took it seriously and had a lot more confidence in my writing ability."

Keeping up with the latest technology in publications is an ongoing challenge for the Griffon News and Griffon Yearbook staffs, but both advisors believe it's important so that students are prepared for the workplace.

In fact, the journalism degree changed to a convergent media degree a few years back to reflect the multimedia approach to journalism, and the newspaper staff can often be found covering a story with pen, paper and a video camera. "Our students have so many more tools to tell a story," Bob said. "That's the exciting part about my job."

Last semester, as part of the multimedia approach to news, several students on the newspaper staff started producing Griffon Today, a weekly 30-minute video broadcast news show of happenings on campus. They plan to continue it this fall and are working with the Instructional Media Center to have the shows run on Missouri Western Television.

The show is similar to Western Weekly, which was a student-run television program in the 1990s.

Sarah said she was visiting the newspaper office one day last spring "because they have better snacks," and was asked to co-anchor the program. She has enjoyed learning about video production. "That's as hands-on as you're going to get."

"It's been a real thrill to work with the students," Ann said. "They are wonderful and talented," she said. "I've never had a year when something didn't go wrong, but I haven't had a crying editor in 15 years," she added with a laugh. ■

From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I was humbled and honored to be chosen to serve as the President of the Alumni Association. I'm looking forward to a GREAT year.

The members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors are excited and committed



Randy Klein '78

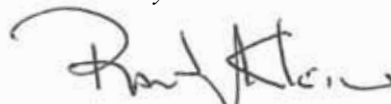
to connecting YOU to what's happening at Western. Yes, the administration has had its challenges and they are working through them, but Missouri Western is an EXCELLENT place to be! It is the fastest growing state institution of higher education in Missouri, with an 18 percent enrollment increase over the last three years. It's time for us – Western's alumni – to increase our involvement and excitement for our alma mater. Here's what you'll see this year:

- *St. Joe, we're changing it up! Instead of Western Wednesdays, look for Western Around Town! Kansas City, Mid-*

Missouri, and St. Louis – you're going around your own towns. Our alumni board members who live in those areas are already making plans. Do you own a business? Let us know if you want to be a part of the Around Town Tour!

- *We're going to strengthen our regional and career connections. Director of Alumni Services, Colleen Kowich, is working with others at the university to create career-based FREE webinars for our alumni. Are you an expert in a career-based topic? Would you like to serve as a volunteer webinar presenter? Let Colleen know.*
- *The Alumni Association Board of Directors is committed to providing all of our alumni opportunities to network with one another. We're also committed to the MWSU Foundation through the League for Excellence and encourage that, in lieu of membership dues, you make a financial contribution every year to the Foundation.*

I'll see you Around Town!



Randy Klein '78, President
Missouri Western Alumni Association

Alumni Calendar of Events

Sept. 9-10

Family Weekend

Sept. 11

Alumni Day at Arrowhead, KC Chiefs vs. Buffalo, noon, call 816-271-5646

Sept. 20

Convocation on Critical Issues, 9:30 a.m., M.O. Looney arena, featuring Thomas L. Friedman, free

Oct. 6-9

"Romeo and Juliet," Potter Hall Theater, www.missouriwestern.edu/arts-events

Oct. 7-8

Athletics Hall of Fame weekend

Oct. 20-22

Homecoming 2011, see p.16 for details

Nov. 5

Football Reunion, Griffons vs. NWMSU at Spratt Memorial Stadium

Dec. 9-11, 15-20

"A Christmas Carol," Potter Hall Theater, www.missouriwestern.edu/arts-events

Dec. 17

Commencement, 11 a.m., M. O. Looney Complex

Western's Spring Sports Complex



Western's Spring Sports Complex, new home of the softball and baseball teams, was dedicated in April. Left: Griffon baseball alumni gather around 30-year coach Doug Minnis and the plaque that was unveiled in his honor at the ceremony. The plaque hangs in the complex. Right: Members of the 1982 national champion softball team pose by a banner recognizing them on the softball field. The team was also honored with a plaque that hangs at the complex. From left, Vickie Warren '83, Coach Rhessa Sumrell, Julie Evans, Karen Rizzo '82, Deena Murphy '85, Mendy Chandler, Marney (Jones) Gentry '86, and Julie (Sherwood) Gallagher '83. Team member Wonda Berry '84, not pictured, also attended the dedication ceremony.



Faithful, Proud and True - Dirck Clark '85

Dirck Clark '85, has supported Western in a variety of roles, including being a member of the Board of Governors, Foundation Board of Directors, Western League for Excellence and Gold Coat Club.

He has been a member of Western's Board of Governors since 2004, and completed two terms as chair of that board. As chair, Dirck logged many hours to secure the agreement that made Western the home of the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp, starting in 2010.

When he was a college student at Western, Dirck worked part-time at Arrowhead for the Chiefs, and went to Boy Scout camp at Camp Geiger, where the Chiefs mascot originated. "It has been fun to see the Chiefs back in Missouri and the community pride it has generated for St. Joe," Dirck said.

Dirck, from Savannah, Mo., graduated from Western with a bachelor of science in business administration and is currently the chief business development officer at Heartland Health in St. Joseph. He holds a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He is a proud Phi Sigma Kappa alumnus and served as president of the fraternity as a student. "It was a great group of people; a lot of fun. I still stay in touch with many of the friends I made in the fraternity."

Dirck's grandfather helped the Phi Sigs build a cannon that they shot off after touchdowns at home football games. "With pyrotechnics advice from our faculty advisor, Dr. Len Archer, the cannon rocked the stadium."



Dirck Clark '85

One of the great benefits of Western is that it serves so many first-generation college students, Dirck said, and after he graduated, he wanted to find a way to re-engage with Western to help others who were the first in their family to attend college.

"Someone volunteered to serve on the Board (of Regents) when I was there as a student; later generations have that same obligation," he said.

"I can't imagine a more enjoyable time to serve on Western's board. We are the fastest growing school in the state, we have a newly accredited Business School, a new math/science building, a great president, and we are the summer home of the Kansas City Chiefs." ■

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

A gathering from the concrete campus

Three alumni who graduated in the 1930s and one from the 1940s, along with the 50-year class of 1961, were honored at the St. Joseph Junior College reunion this past spring. Almost 60 alumni and friends gathered on campus to celebrate the original institution that became Missouri Western State University.

Norma (Watson) Goodell '33, Frances Flanagan '35, Joe Friedman '39, and Joe Gray '42, received plaques for their support of Missouri Western. The class of 1961 was also recognized. Attending the reunion from that class were Jerry Campbell, Wanda (Pulley) Crawford, Janice (Tarwater) Harmsen, Judith (McClard) McClain and Jim Perry.

"The Junior College Reunion is always a great gathering," said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services. "I love hearing the stories that the alumni share."

Kathleen Holeman, instructor at Western; and student Adrienne Collins provided entertainment. Joe Friedman, who performed on Broadway and in theaters across the country, sang for the group, as well. ■

The class of 1961 joined the Golden Griffon Society at the annual reunion. From left, Jerry Campbell, Janice (Tarwater) Harmsen, Judith (McClard) McClain, Wanda (Pulley) Crawford and Jim Perry.



Two alumni honored at Athletic Banquet

Pat Conway '73, and Paul Rhoads '89, were among the honorees at the annual Missouri Western /St. Joseph News-Press Student Athlete Honors Banquet in April. Paul received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Alumni Association and Pat was named the Silver Anniversary Award winner.

Paul, head football coach at Iowa State University, was named **Distinguished Alumnus** this past fall, but was unable to attend the Homecoming Awards Banquet because of his coaching responsibilities.

A native of Ankeny, Iowa, he played defensive back for the Griffons, lettering three consecutive years and winning the Chris Faros Memorial Scholarship.

After graduating with an economics degree, Paul was a graduate assistant at Utah State University, where he earned a master of education degree in 1991. He was a graduate assistant at The Ohio State University, an assistant coach and pass game coordinator at Pacific University, and assistant coach at Iowa State University. He served at University of Pittsburgh from 2000-2007 before joining Auburn University in Alabama as defensive coordinator.

Paul was hired as head football coach at Iowa State University in Ames in

December 2008 and took the Cyclones to the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., in December 2009.



Pat Conway '73



Paul Rhoads '89

He calls his experience as a Griffon an "up-and-down-career" that included two broken arms, but he said his days as a football player were very fulfilling. Paul still keeps in touch with several of his teammates, but his career as a coach has kept him from attending any Western football games.

He remembers great classroom experiences. "I got to know all my professors. That's important in achieving a great education." Paul met his wife, Vickie (Miles) when they were both students, and Vickie is a 1991 graduate of Western.

The **Silver Anniversary Award** is given each year to an alumnus for outstanding achievements

and representation throughout the past 25-plus years, and who exhibits the characteristics of integrity, dedication, leadership, a commitment to excellence and an obligation to serve as a concerned partner in their community.

Pat, who played tennis as a student, was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in a special election in February 2010 and serves District 27. Previously, he had served as Buchanan Country Clerk from 1983 to 2010.

Pat received Western's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. ■

NEWS Briefs

Stadium Drive named to honor former AD

The Board of Governors named the drive in front of Spratt Memorial Stadium "Charlie Burri Drive," to honor Western's first director of athletics.

Charlie served as Western's athletic director from 1966 to 1984. In 1969 he founded the Gold Coat Club, the official booster club of Western athletics. He also served as chair of the health, physical education and recreation department and head coach for both men's basketball and golf. As chair, Charlie developed the four-year curriculum for the health, physical education and recreation department.

As athletic director, he developed the sports of baseball, women's basketball, football, softball and volleyball at Western, which remain today. Charlie additionally developed five short-lived sports at Western: cross country, swimming, men's tennis, track, and wrestling. He was also one of the founders of the Central States Intercollegiate Conference.

After his retirement in 1984, he was the first person inducted into the Western athletics Hall of Fame.

"Charlie Burri has been a dedicated supporter of Griffon athletics for decades," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "It is fitting that people who come to our campus, especially those who attend the many events at Spratt Stadium and the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, will be reminded of Charlie's contributions to Western." ■

More than 50 alumni and friends gathered on the Party Deck at the St. Joseph Mustangs game this summer, including Matt McDonald '96, and Shannon Fuller '99.



Drive with pride!

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



1970s

DEANNA (BOLTON) WHITFORD '71, retired as a first-grade teacher from Dogwood Elementary School in the Kearney (Mo.) R-1 School District.

CODY MAYFIELD '74, retired from UPS after 36 years of service.

DR. JOELLA (HENDRICKS) MEHRHOF '75, professor in the department of health, physical education and recreation at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan., received the Margie R. Hanson Elementary Physical Education Distinguished Service Award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. The award is a national recognition given to professionals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of physical education for children.

She earned a master's degree from Colorado State University and a doctorate from the University of Kansas. She has taught at Emporia State for more than 25 years and served as department chair from 1991-99. Joella currently serves as president of the Emporia State faculty and is the author of 15 books. She was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Western in 1993. ■

1980s

LINDA (WRIGHT) BLUM '81, joined Evans Realty in St. Joseph, Mo., as a realtor.

DAVID SLATER '82, was re-elected mayor of Pleasant Valley, Mo., with 73 percent of the vote. David is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

ED WEBBLEY '83, was honored as the Robert F. Pierce Vermont Secondary Principal of the Year by the Vermont Principals' Association. He is co-principal at Vergennes Union High School in Vergennes, Vt. Ed's 32-year career in education included teaching English and philosophy; coaching football, wrestling and track; and serving as a department head and assistant principal. ■

LISA SOLLARS '84, received the 2010 Medical Staff Appreciation Award from Research Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. She is an orthopedic surgical nurse there.

1990s

CAROL (DAFFRON) ROBB '90, was nominated for the Woman in the Workplace Award as one of the YWCA 2011 Women of Excellence Awards. Carol works for the Social Welfare Board in St. Joseph, Mo.

KYLE MILLIGAN '93, opened Drum Monkey Percussions in downtown St. Joseph, Mo. The store contains a lesson studio and show room.



MICHELLE CAMPBELL SMITH '93, and her husband, Greg, announce the birth of a daughter, Amy Elizabeth, born April 21, 2011.

JEFF MORRISON '94, is the director of human resources for the Kearney (Mo.) R-1 School District.

JASON HORN '95, was promoted to major in the Missouri Air National Guard. He currently serves on the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors and Gold Coat Board of Directors. Jason is vice president at Mercantile Bank and co-owner of Norty's Bar & Grill, both in St. Joseph.

MICHAEL MASTIO, Ph.D., '95, received a United States patent for active stabilization zone for container filling while working for PepsiCo, Inc. He now works for Dean Foods in Dallas.

DONNA WITTE '95, and Michael Shelton announce the birth of a son, Vernon Michael Shelton, born March 10, 2011. He was also welcomed by his sister, Alexis Rae, born July 30, 2005.

JASON RILEY '96, toured the country to showcase his solo work from his records, especially his latest CD, Funky Folk. Jason performed in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

AMY GWINN-COLWELL '97, and her husband, Tim, announce the birth of a daughter, Lyla Skye, April 19, 2011.

DARRIN SMITH '97, associate professor of chemistry, was selected as the undergraduate research coordinator in the newly created Office of Undergraduate Research at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. He joined the university's department of chemistry in 2003.

ZACHARY '98, and ROSEMARY (HAMILTON) '98, KERNs announce the birth of their fourth son, Liam Nolan, born Oct. 6, 2010, in Stuttgart, Germany.

LANNY DAISE '99, received the 2010 Founder's Award from TekCollect, a cash flow management solutions company. Lanny is a district manager for TekCollect.

JAMIE L. GRAYSON '99, has started a company, JLG Enterprise, LLC, which is geared toward helping youth and young adults, and business consulting.

LAI-MONTE HUNTER '99, is the assistant director of student activities at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass., overseeing Greek life and managing the Club Sports campus program.

2000s

KELI (LUKE) BANE '01, and ZACHARY RAMSAY '02, were married June 25, 2011. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

JOANNA (SAAD) DANIEL '02, and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of triplet boys, Elias, Gabriel and Jacob, born Oct. 19, 2010.



Left to right, Elias, Gabriel and Jacob.

SHAUN AGNEW '04, is an adjunct vocal instructor at Western. He is engaged to Jessica Elder and will be married March 10, 2012.

JAMIE GIEFER '04, and Nate Shada were married Sept. 25, 2010. The couple resides in Shawnee, Kan.

Tamara Glise '79: Leading through a disaster

Tamara Glise '79, says she will never forget June 12, 2008, the day the Cedar River flowed over its banks. By the time the water receded, 1,126 city blocks in the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, were flooded. Tamara was serving as interim director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library at the time, and the library was located across the street from the river.

She remembers June 12. After being told for several days that flooding in Cedar Rapids was unlikely, the library staff was told at 11 a.m. June 12 that flooding was imminent and they had six hours to salvage what they could before they had to evacuate.

"It was too much to move and too short of time," she said, adding that the library's second floor was not as large as the first floor, so there wasn't enough room to move everything up there. The library contained approximately 300,000 volumes and more than 50 computers.

Tamara said there was one thing in the library that everyone immediately knew had to be saved, and it was: the library's collection of approximately 850 original illustrations from 1950s-70s children's literature. The collection includes original drawings of Paddington Bear, Curious George and Madeline, and works from authors such as Dr. Seuss and Maurice Sendak.

The river crested on June 13 at 31.12 feet, the highest in Cedar Rapids history and 11.12 feet above the old record. The library lost about 160,000 volumes; what the five to seven feet of floodwaters didn't destroy, mold or humidity did. By the time it was over, 10 square miles – 14 percent of the city – had received flood damage. The library was one of 1,300 flood-damaged properties that have been or will be demolished, so a new library building is being planned, away from the river. Tamara said they hope to be in a new building in 2013.

In the meantime, the public library is operating out of several spaces at a mall in Cedar Rapids, where it had maintained

a small branch prior to the flood. Tamara said she is proud of her staff and how they worked together, even working after hours getting the mall spaces ready. Just 11 days after the flood, they had restarted the summer reading program.

When she was named interim director of the library just three weeks before the flood, she thought a new director would be hired in about three months. But because of the flood, the new director search was suspended and Tamara served in the interim position for more than a year.

Tamara, a native of St. Joseph, Mo., enrolled at Western knowing she wanted to major in English and perhaps teach at the college level some day. "It was a wonderful place to go. You got so much time from your professors. They knew your name and were involved in your life," she said. "It was almost a family atmosphere, and you don't get that at a larger university."

A part-time job at the Rolling Hills Library as a student convinced her to pursue a library career, "And I've never looked back," she said.

By the time Tamara was hired at the Cedar Rapids Public Library as circulation manager a little more than 13 years ago, she had worked for the library systems in St. Joseph for almost 20 years, and had earned a master's in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia and several promotions.

"There are a lot of things I like about my job," she said. "It gives me a real sense of satisfaction that we make a difference in people's lives."

But she hopes she never has to deal with another flood. ■

Get a great ringtone!

Griffon supporters now have the opportunity to get the Western Fight Song as a ringtone for their cell phones. The Discover Gold logo is also available as wallpaper for cell phones and handheld wireless devices, and more Western wallpaper will be available shortly. Check out the website at missouriwestern.edu/ringtone for details. Go Griffis! ■

2000s continued

LISA SLOBODNIK '04, and Dane Worrell were married Feb. 28, 2011 in Jamaica.

STEVEN SKINNER '04, has become a partner with the law firm of Anderson & Sundell, PC, in Maryville, Mo.

EMILY BENITZ '05, joined Burdick Law Offices as an attorney. She earned her juris doctorate in 2010 from the University of Kansas School of Law.

DONI WALKER-JACKSON '05, and JASON JACKSON '05, announce the birth of a daughter, Alani, on April 14, 2011. Doni is a physician assistant and Jason works in sales. The family resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

JESSICA SNYDER '05, and Aaron Schafer were married Feb. 19, 2011. Jessica is vice president and regional manager of Emprise Bank, and the couple resides in Wichita, Kan.

ADEN LOVELACE '06, earned a master of divinity degree from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo.

DARCIE (ROACH) '06, and JASON '06, SEARLES announce the birth of a son Jaxon Lee, born Nov. 22, 2010.

LEON DOUGLAS '07, is an assistant football coach at North Kansas City High School.

ALICIA FALTER '07, graduated with a master of social work in spring 2011 and is working as a foster care case manager at Catholic Charities.

SARAH (JONES) MOLLUS '07, and her husband, Trent, announce the birth of a son, Brady Eugene, born April 15, 2011.

HEATHER (EVANS) YOUNT '07, was nominated for the Woman in the Workplace as one of the YWCA 2011 Women of Excellence Awards. Heather is a first-grade teacher at Humboldt Elementary in St. Joseph, Mo.

TRACY BOWMAN '08, was named first runner-up in the 2011 Miss Kansas USA Pageant. She was also named Miss Congeniality.

JASON BRISCOE '08, and Kaylyn Lakebrink were married April 16, 2011.

2000s continued

PATRICK ST. LOUIS '08, is an assistant coach for the offensive line at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

JACOB SCHOONOVER '08, is an assistant coach for defensive backs/linebackers at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill.

2010s

AMBER ADAMS '10, and WILLIAM BLESSING '10, were married March 26, 2011, in McFall, Mo. The couple resides in Platte City, Mo.

LOGAN GARRELS '10, received the Robert C. Wright Award, given to undergraduate and graduate students at The University of Minnesota, Mankato, whose writing samples are judged to be the best by a nationally recognized outside writer. Logan's submission was a short story titled, "Floaters." He is working on a master of fine arts degree at the university.

CORY HANAVAN '10, and Laura Roberts were married Oct. 2, 2010. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

BRANDON PAXTON '11, and Beth Chase were married June 18, 2011, in St. Joseph, Mo. ■

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2011

Two coaches, a former Griffon football player and two men's teams will be inducted into Western's Intercollegiate 2011 Athletics Hall of Fame: Jerry Partridge '85, Jeff Mittie '89, Kasey Waterman '02, the 1989-90 men's basketball team and the 1997 men's golf team.

Wendy's Hall of Fame Weekend festivities include a reception Oct. 7 at the Fulkerson Center on campus. The induction ceremony brunch will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Oct. 8 in the Fulkerson Center. Cost is \$20 per person. To make reservation, call 816-271-4481 by Oct. 1.

Jerry Partridge, the Griffons' sixth head football coach, was hired in 1997 and became the program's winningest coach in 2006. Going into the 2011 season, he holds a 103-59 overall record and leads all active MIAA coaches in wins. He has led the Griffons to a school record nine wins five times in the last eight years.

During his 14-year tenure, the Griffons have reached the post-season eight times. Partridge led the team to its only two NCAA Division II Playoff berths in 2006 and 2010. In 2003, Western won a share of its only MIAA championship.

Jeff Mittie's record was 76-17 in the three seasons he served as head women's



basketball coach at Western. He was twice named MIAA Coach of the Year, first in 1994 after the Griffons went 16-0 in conference play, and again in 1995 after going 15-1 in the MIAA.

Jeff is currently in his 12th year as head women's basketball coach at Texas Christian University, is the Horned Frogs' all-time wins leader and has been named conference coach of the year five times.

A quarterback from 1998-2001, **Kasey Waterman** currently holds or has held 13 different school passing and offensive records and five MIAA records. A four-year starter for the Griffons, Waterman currently holds school marks for passing touchdowns, pass yards per game, total offense per game, pass attempts in a season and passing touchdowns in a season, as well as several other single game and season records.

Kasey is currently the athletic director and head girl's track coach at Northgate Middle School in North Kansas City, Mo.

The **1989-90 men's basketball team** went 24-7 and won the MIAA regular season and tournament titles. The team advanced to the second round of the NCAA South Central Regional.

Current Hall of Fame members Mike Cornelius and Mark Bradley were
continued on page 28

MWSU Police Department serves campus

Alumni who have not visited campus for several years immediately notice the new buildings and additions to campus, but perhaps not quite so noticeable are the changes to the campus security department.

For the first 20 years on the new campus, 1969-89, the security department employed security officers.

Twenty-two years later, that security department has been replaced by the Missouri Western Police Department, and all the officers are state commissioned with all the duties and authority as any police officer in the state of Missouri.

In 2002, the name changed from Department of Traffic and Security to the Department of Public Safety to reflect the fact that officers were now commissioned as police officers. In 2007, the Board of Governors authorized the officers to be armed and the name changed to the Missouri Western Police Department.

"We've always been a service organization and we always will be," said Jon Kelley '87, chief of police. "How we serve students and treat them never changes." ■



To serve and protect: two alumnae's careers in law enforcement

Christy Laughlin '81 & '82

Christy Laughlin '81 & '82, came to Western on a softball scholarship and thought she wanted to teach, so she majored in physical education and minored in math. But somewhere along the way to her degree, she decided she wanted a career in law enforcement. So after she earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, she stayed at Western and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

That decision turned into a career of more than 25 years in the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, and today, she is chief of police for the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

"I loved police work and Kansas City was a great place to work," she said. "There were a lot of opportunities."

Her career in Kansas City began in January 1983 as a patrol officer. Christy earned

a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1987. She was promoted to sergeant in 1991 and captain in 1996. At different stages throughout her career, she has supervised the communications unit, the financial services unit, budget and internal audit unit, and the fiscal planning division.

As captain of the east patrol division, Christy oversaw a staff of 170. She was promoted to major in 2004, and in 2008 was in charge of the information services division.

Christy was the first woman on the force to be awarded the Medal of Valor, the department's highest award for bravery. She received the award for convincing a man involved in a domestic dispute to drop the crossbow he was aiming at her.

That incident was featured on "Top Cops," a Canadian television show in the

early 1990s, and she and her parents were flown to Toronto for the taping of the show. She was interviewed in the episode, but an actress re-enacted the incident.

After she retired from the Kansas City force, Christy was hired at the university in Rolla.

Christy likes the change of pace that the university environment offers. "I get to walk around our campus and talk to students, faculty and staff, and it allows me to spend a lot of time with the officers. This is more hands-on and I like it."

She's happy she decided to earn that criminal justice degree and pursue a career in law enforcement. "I like helping people out. I wanted to protect them and make things easier for them," Christy said. "It's challenging. You never know when you start the day what will happen, even when you're an administrator." ■

Becky Bradley '92

Becky (Wilcoxson) Bradley '92, graduated with a criminal justice degree from Western and has put her degree to good use as a patrol officer for the St. Joseph Police Department for more than 16 years.

Becky just recently moved to the day shift after several years of working midnight shifts and evenings. But no matter what her hours, she says you never know what your shift will bring. "They call us for everything under the sun; you name it, we go to it. And every situation is different."

When she first started as a police officer, Becky wasn't sure she could be assertive enough, but she developed that skill early on. She also learned quickly that she needed to talk differently, depending on the group she was speaking to. And when she realizes a person would prefer to speak to a male, Becky doesn't have a problem stepping back. "There's a lot of challenges; you just have to adapt and conquer them."

But the most important lesson of the job, she says, is that you have to treat people with respect. "I keep in mind that this is someone's mom, someone's son, or somebody's sister or brother."

For 10 years on the St. Joseph Police Department, Becky was part of one of the department's three canine (K9) units. "It's really interesting to see them and work with them all through their training. I was amazed at what they learned."

Her canine, Jimmy, a Holland Herder, rode around with her on every shift and went home with her when she was off duty. As a K9 officer, she was on call at any hour. Jimmy, like all the K9 unit dogs in St. Joseph, was used for drug detection, tracking subjects, building/area searches, apprehension of suspects and officer protection. Becky also liked visiting area schools with Jimmy and conducting demonstrations.

Becky said she planned on a criminal justice major when she enrolled at Western; in fact, she had wanted to be a police officer since third grade. Although her

family lived in Wathena, Kan., she moved on campus her second semester and lived in the residence halls until she graduated. She became a resident assistant and later a house resident, where she supervised resident assistants.

After graduating from Western, Becky had a short stint on security for the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., and then as a campus security officer for Western. That was where she met the man who became her husband, Richard, who was also a campus security officer. He is a St. Joseph police officer, also, joining the force shortly after Becky.

Although she enjoys her career and hopes she is making a difference, sometimes it's hard, realizing 2011 is shaping up to be the deadliest year for police officers across the country.

"You always have to be on guard. There's no such thing as a routine call."

But Becky continues to serve and protect. ■



Athletics Hall of Fame In Memory ...

continued from page 26

instrumental to the team's success, as Mike was named a third team All-American and Mark earned All-MIAA Honors. Western's all-time leader in three-point field goals made, Heath Dudley also was a member of the team.

Winners of five out of eight regular season tournaments, the **1996-97 men's golf team** was the first and only Grif-fon golf team to compete in an NCAA National Golf Tournament, winning the NCAA West Regional and finishing 15th overall. The team won the Missouri-Rolla Classic, the Missouri Southern Crossroads of America Classic, the Drury Comfort Inn Classic, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Riverman Invitational, and the Lincoln University Invitational. ■

If you want to include someone in this listing, please call 816-271-5651, mail the information to Diane Holtz, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or email holtz@missouriwestern.edu.

EARL W. AUXIER JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 28, 2011.

MICHELLE CATHCART '97, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 22, 2011.

EUGENE E. CLARK '54, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 12, 2011.

MADONNA DOYLE JC, Palm City, Fla., April 26, 2011.

BETTY A. (JOHNSON) HOPPE '39, St. Joseph, Mo., March 6, 2011.

CINDY D. (ALLEN) JORDAN '98, Pickering, Mo., Feb. 9, 2011.

K. ROGER KIRSCHBAUM JR. '87, Portland, Ore., Feb. 28, 2011.

JOHN C. LATIMER '01, Mesquite, Texas, May 28, 2011.

MICHAEL D. MCKINNEY '71, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 19, 2011.

DERICO M. MORRIS, St. Louis, May 18, 2011. DeRico was a sophomore at Western.

DR. MICHAEL NILES, St. Joseph, Mo., May 22, 2011. Dr. Niles was a social work instructor at Western in 2010-11.

JENNIFER RAINES '99, Holt, Mo., May 12, 2011.

RUSSELL T. SCOTT '60, Tyler, Texas, May 28, 2011.

GARY D. SMILEY '74, St. Joseph, Mo., May 4, 2011.

DON WINKIE '99, Breckenridge, Mo., April 26, 2011. Don was the adaptive technology technician at Western at the time of his death. Memorial contributions may be made to the MWSU Foundation Nontraditional Student Fund.

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____

Return to: Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507

Submit your news online at www.missouriwestern.edu/magazine/alumnote.asp or email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.

Baby GRIFFON!

It started out as a chance remark. Not really serious, just kind of a joke. Ben '04, and Dana (Winslow) '08, Doornink were enjoying a football game in Spratt Memorial Stadium last fall, noticing how much their daughter, Leah Gracelyn, loved the mascot.

"We just looked at each other and said, 'Wouldn't it be funny if we named our baby Griffon?'" said Dana, who was pregnant at the time.

"It started out as a joke," Ben said, "but it soon developed into, 'why don't we?'"



Griffon Doornink

And they did. Griffon Nathan Doornink was born December 23, 2010, possibly the first baby to be named after Western's mascot.

"We have great memories of Missouri Western," said Ben, explaining their decision. "The school brought us together and we'll always be connected to it."

Ben and Dana were both cheerleaders, and Ben played football one year, so they had a lot of Griffon connections. They said their parents were supportive of the baby's name, too, because they had attended a lot of Griffon sporting events to watch Ben and Dana cheer. "And our friends love it," Dana said.

Ben, from Cameron, Mo., and Dana, from St. Joseph, Mo., met during what was her first year and his last year at Western. They cheered together one semester before they started dating.

"I enjoyed my college experience," said Ben, a criminal justice major and military science minor. "It was a great experience for me. Missouri Western is small enough where you can make a name for yourself on campus, but can still meet someone new every day."

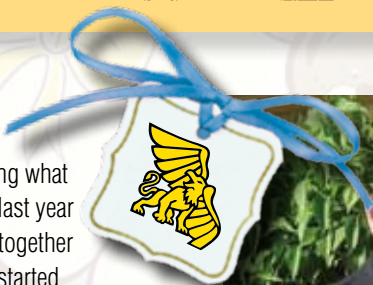
Dana, a physical education/health and exercise science major, said she enjoyed all the hands-on experiences she had while earning her degree and the interaction with students and professors.

When Ben graduated in 2004, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He has been deployed three times as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, which meant being away from home for a total of more than three years.

The couple married in January 2005 and moved to Fort Riley, Kan. Later, when Ben was deployed, Dana returned to Western to complete her degree and continue as a cheerleader.

Today, Ben is a captain in the Army and is an instructor in the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Va., and Dana is working on a master of arts in teaching. They are enjoying their family and, even though they are about 1,200 miles from Western, a Griffon is still a big part of their lives. ■

Editor's note: Are the Doorninks the first alumni to name their baby after Western's mascot? If you know of any other children named "Griffon" after our mascot, let me know at holtz@missouriwestern.edu.



Ben and his daughter, Leah. The Doorninks won an online photography contest with this image.



Missouri Western State University

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