

# Missouri Western

*The Magazine for Alumni and Friends • Fall 2006*



## OUT of the classroom

Students gain great experiences  
in Nashville and Kabul  
pg 16-17





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

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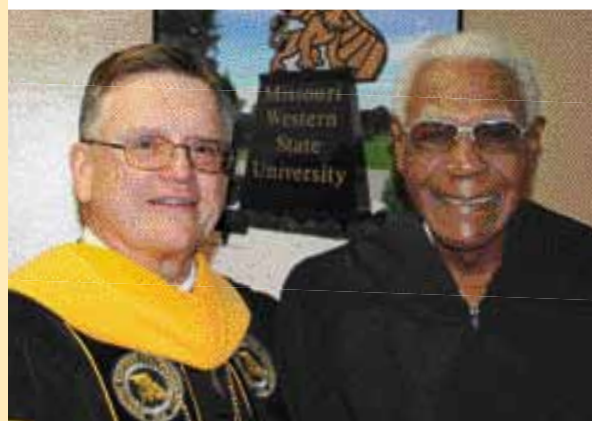
■  
**Western Magazine**  
4525 Downs Drive, Spratt Hall 106  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
(816) 271-5651  
email: [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu)

Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

## President's Perspective

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Because 2007 will mark the last year of our present five-year strategic plan, we have begun the work to create a new plan to shape the future of Western. We recently concluded a series of discussions among campus and community members to formulate the components of the new plan, and several additional sessions



*Dr. James Scanlon with the spring commencement speaker "Buck" O'Neil.*

will be held during the coming year. We had a very good turnout at the sessions this spring, and a number of interesting ideas have been generated to move the university forward.

Of course, as we plan for the next stage at Western, it is appropriate to look back to consider what we have accomplished in the past four

years. Just one example – the focus on applied learning and student development – shows that we have indeed made great strides to meet the goals of the 2002 plan.

One of our original objectives in applied learning was to increase to 75 percent the number of graduates who participated in internships, practica, or faculty/student projects outside the traditional classroom. At the time, some believed that the goal was too far-reaching, but we exceeded it by the second year of the strategic plan, and about 80 percent of the graduating class of 2006 benefited from such experiences.

Two articles in this issue validate that commitment to increasing student opportunities for applied learning. On page 16, John Goolsby, a government and public affairs major, talks about his experiences in an internship in Kabul, Afghanistan. And on page 17, there is an article about several music and video students who had a wonderful applied learning experience in Nashville, Tenn. These are good examples of the opportunities for students at Western to apply what they are learning in the classroom in real world situations beyond the classroom.

All around us, every day at Western, we see growth and changes as we continue to emerge as a great university. I am looking forward to the new focuses of our next strategic plan as the university continues to build the quality of its service to students, our region, and areas well beyond our region. It is an exciting time to be a

James Scanlon  
President

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## Dr. Joseph Bragin: New provost and vice president of academic and student affairs

**D**r. Joseph Bragin joined Western in July as the provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. He had been dean of the College of Science at Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., and had previously served for 30 years on the faculty at Cal State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) where he was the associate dean of the School

of Natural and Social Sciences for 18 years.

Dr. Bragin is Western's first provost; the title and job description were approved by the Board of Governors to clearly define the

position as the second ranking administrator at the university.

### Q. Why were you interested in the provost position, and what attracted you to Western?

**A.** In my previous position, the focus was on science programs only, but this position gives me the opportunity to have a much broader focus and allows me to affect more of the "big picture." It is very important to

develop not only academically sound students, but well-rounded citizens, and this position provides me with the latitude to play a larger role in that.

I'm excited by Western's potential. The quality of the students, faculty, staff and leadership at Western is impressive. The university has embarked on an ambitious strategic plan which includes developing new degree programs and capitalizing on its substantial acreage to assist in developing the regional economy. I look forward to working with President Scanlon, the board, the faculty, students, administrative staff and the St Joseph community in moving the university to the next level of achievement - academically as well as an economic engine for northwest Missouri.

### Q. What strengths do you bring to your new role?

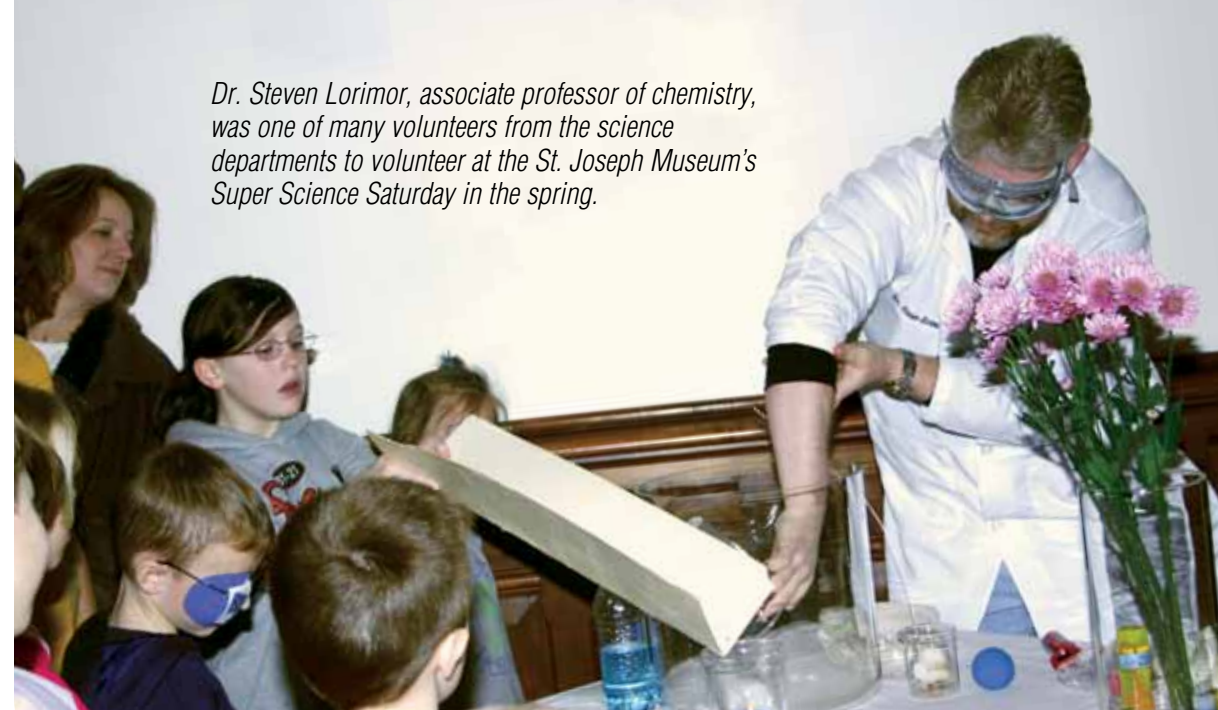
**A.** A lot of experience. I have over 30 years of academic administrative experience, and it has all been at regional comprehensive public institutions like Western. I served as a dean of graduate programs for the School of Natural and Social Sciences at CSULA, for example, so I can contribute in that area. As dean and associate dean at two master's level institutions, I gained much experience in curriculum,

personnel and budgetary matters, grants and contracts, institutional development and student affairs. In addition, I have served as director of sponsored projects (CSULA), been a staff scientist at a major federal research center, and spent several years as a program manager for the National Science Foundation in Washington D.C.

### Q. What are the most pressing issues?

**A.** Western is not unlike other regional comprehensive universities in that there is an increasing emphasis on its role as an economic stimulus in its service area as well as satisfying the educational aspirations of Missouri residents and others while being increasingly reliant on the institution's ability to engage in public/private partnerships to fund its mission. Fortunately our institutional focus on applied learning aligns well with these changes but it does put pressure on every member of the Western community to look externally for support. Western is already doing some of this; we need to build and expand on it. State support will continue to be a major funding source in support of university programs, especially capital projects, the expansion

*see page 3*



*Dr. Steven Lorimor, associate professor of chemistry, was one of many volunteers from the science departments to volunteer at the St. Joseph Museum's Super Science Saturday in the spring.*

## Volunteers

Last year, employees contributed approximately 51,700 volunteer hours of service in their communities, and students over 29,000 volunteer hours. According to the most recent figure on the Independent Sector website, the value of volunteerism is estimated at \$17.55 per hour. Using that rate, Western employees and students provide over \$1.2 million of service in a year.

## Western's economic impact estimated at \$160 million

**M**ore than \$160 million. That is the estimated economic impact of Western on St. Joseph and the surrounding area, according to the results of a recent study.

The financial impact figure, \$160,960,000, was completed by the Western Institute's Center for Business and Economics, and is based on the Regional Input-Output Modeling System Study. It represents a \$21 million increase since the 2003 study.

The study takes into account factors such as Western's institutional direct expenditures (\$47 million), the number of employees (550), the number of students (5,100), and campus construction projects.

"The local communities served by Western have been instrumental in creating, financing and building this campus," said Ron Olinger, Western's vice president for financial planning and administration. "This support is being repaid, not only by providing quality education for residents, but by the flow of dollars back into the local economy."

Ron noted that the greatest financial impact is felt in Western's five-county primary service area - Buchanan, Andrew, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb and Platte Counties.

Based on an economic formula, it is estimated that university expenditures generate an additional 1,036 jobs in the community. The study also reported that the expenditures of the students in the community generate a financial impact of over \$13 million.

Recent building projects included the \$17.2 million Living-Learning Residential Center and Residential Commons Building, and the \$2 million Fulkerson Center. Additionally, \$1.4 million was spent the last fiscal year in utilities for the campus' 19 buildings. ■

### Dr. Joseph Bragin *continued*

and refurbishment of Agenstein Hall being but one example. Strategic planning will be a key element in meeting these challenges successfully.

### Q. Tell us about Joseph Bragin.

**A.** My wife, Vicki, and I met in graduate school and have been married for 38 years. At one time we were both chemistry professors, but I moved into administration, and she now performs around the country as a pianist. (She has graduate degrees in both chemistry and music.) We have a son and a daughter who both live in California.

In my free time, I read a lot, especially biographies, and of course, my wife and I are very interested in music and the arts. We are very happy to be in the Midwest. We love St. Joseph's location and all that is going on here. ■





# It's an exciting time

to be a part of Western - here's the latest on campus projects!

## Plaza celebrates university designation

A beautiful addition to campus; a wonderful place to relax – that defines the university plaza that will be created near the Nelle Blum Student Union to celebrate Western's university designation. The plaza is a gift from the John B. and Julia Comello Charitable Trust; it was given in their memory and in recognition of the James B. Kelley family of St. Joseph, Mo.

The centerpiece of the university plaza will feature a large Griffon statue, and plaques will note the five names of the institution since 1915 as it progressed to university designation. The plaza should be complete by the end of the year.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the Kelley family," said Dr. Scanlon. "The plaza will capture the courage and imagination of the many friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students who worked so hard over the past 91 years to make Western the university that it is today."

Members of the Kelley family include James and Jean Kelley, and their children, Jeanie Grahl '72, Molly Pierce '77, and Chris Kelley '86; and their granddaughter, Kelley Meirose '99. ■

## Students vote for the MAX Experience

An "experience to the max" – that's what college is all about. And with a vote last March, Western students demonstrated their belief that athletics plays a large role in shaping that great college experience.

They voted for a "Max Experience," which meant a \$5 per credit hour fee (up to 12 hours) to be used to upgrade athletic facilities and provide a number of benefits related to athletics.

"Students are looking for their athletic program to be a source of engagement and to enhance their college experience," said Athletic Director Mark Linder. "They voted for this because they wanted to be part of a change and make a difference."

In May, work began on the first upgrade – a new \$800,000 artificial turf for Spratt Memorial Stadium. It was completed in August.

Mark said the new turf, which is more durable and has a better drainage system than the original natural surface, allows for a wide variety of activities to be held on the field. In fact, the women's soccer team moved their games to Spratt Stadium this fall.

Benefits in place this fall include free admission for immediate family to sports events, a free Pepsi product and food item for students at football and basketball home games, and free baby-sitting for students' children during home football and basketball games.

Also, extra funding will be provided for the pep band and cheer squad, for promotional events and giveaways, and for publicity of student events.

Additional facilities improvements to Spratt Stadium and improvements to the spring sports complex and the M.O. Looney Complex will take place over the next five to 10 years, Mark said.

Plans for the Looney Complex include creating a GRIFF-Zone, which would be similar to the ESPN Zones sports cafés; building additional student gathering and study areas, larger classrooms, a fitness area and replacing the floor in the fieldhouse.

"It's a very exciting time," said Mark. "I was ecstatic when it (the Max Experience) passed." ■

## Incubator project receives \$75,000

The Western Institute was notified in June that it was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to conduct architecture and engineering analysis for a business and technology incubator planned on the west side of campus.

Dr. Christopher Shove, executive director and dean of the Western Institute, said a final design should be chosen by mid-September, and it will be included in the application for a \$2 million grant from the EDA to construct the incubator. If the project is funded, construction could begin as early as spring 2007.

The plan for the incubator is to accommodate up to 15 firms, and Dr. Shove said he has already had interest from at least a half dozen local high technology firms that want space in the incubator for software development.

The Western Institute has also begun to develop the incubator program so it will be in place if the construction project is funded.

In 2005, Western received a \$20,000 grant from the EDA to fund a feasibility study for the incubator. From that study, the current site was chosen and the decision to apply for the construction grant was made. ■



U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond spoke to campus and community leaders in April to express his support for the Western Institute's business and technology incubator. Sen. Bond is pictured with students Valerie Lee and Jackie Lee, who worked on the incubator project, and Dr. Christopher Shove, executive director and dean of the Western Institute.



At Western's first Foundation Appreciation Dinner, Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president, announced a donation to fund a university plaza in memory of John B. and Julia Comello and in recognition of the James B. Kelley family. Pictured are members of the Kelley family: Chris Kelley '86, Jeanie Grahl '72, Jean Kelley, James Kelley, Kelley Meirose '99, and Molly Pierce '77.

# Dazzling developments

The new artificial turf in Spratt Stadium, part of the Max Experience project





## Campus conferences promote dialogue and debate

**C**ampus and community members had an opportunity to debate and discuss a current “hot” issue, and a chance to explore the best ways to learn outside the classroom last spring, thanks to two conferences hosted by Western.



*Ursula Goodenough, Michael Ruse and Paul Nelson were speakers at a conference on Evolution and Intelligent Design.*

### Applied Learning

Approximately 140 scholars from 20 different colleges and universities in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska gathered for the Conference on Applied Learning in Higher Education. The conference featured three nationally known speakers, sessions addressing applied learning practices and a poster session.

Approximately half of the presentations were given by Western faculty.

Applied learning refers to experiences students may have that complement their classroom work, such as undergraduate research, internships or practica and study-away programs.

Dr. Kelly Henry, director of applied learning, said that when Western was designated a university, the State Legislature recognized Western’s emphasis on applied learning as part of its identity; and that was one of the reasons for hosting this conference.

“We want to develop an identity as a resource to learn about applied learning, and we want to help other institutions develop applied learning programs,” she said.

The keynote speakers included Janet

Eyler, professor of the practice of education at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University; Kevin Kecskes, director for community-university partnerships at Portland State University; and Terry Rodenberg, assistant vice chancellor for international affairs at East Carolina University.

Kelly hopes the conference is the first of many, and she plans to expand it in the coming years to regional and national levels.

### Galileo’s Legacy

Promoting healthy dialogue on national critical issues from the perspectives of science, philosophy and culture was the goal of Galileo’s Legacy, a conference on Evolution and Intelligent Design. The conference included presentations from three nationally known speakers, a debate between them, and a panel discussion of Western faculty and alumni.

Featured speakers were Dr. Ursula Goodenough, professor of biology at Washington University in St. Louis; Dr. Paul Nelson, a philosopher of biology, and Dr. Michael Ruse, the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University.

Dr. Sandie Seeger, assistant professor of biology and one of the conference coordinators with Dr. Steve Morris, assistant professor of philosophy, said there are many topics in university science classes that place scientific views in tension with the belief systems of many Americans, but there is never enough time to fully discuss the controversial topics during class times. So the conference offered a forum for students to hear both sides of an issue and have the opportunity to ask questions.

She hopes to hold Galileo’s Legacy each year, and planned topics include stem cell research, endangered species and climate change. ■



*Dr. Zhao Zhang, associate professor of electronics engineering, works with students from Kearney, Mo. as part of Western Admissions' Ready.Set.Go program. The program encourages eighth-graders to think about the high school courses they need to take to prepare them for college.*

## ¿No habla Español? WI can help!

**W**hen local businesses began calling Western Institute’s Peggy Ellis last year because they were unable to communicate with their Spanish-speaking clients, Peggy, the director of business and industry training, responded by offering courses in Command Spanish®. Those courses, usually 16 to 24 hours, are nongrammar-based and directed at oral Spanish in the workplace.

In the past year, more than 300 people in career fields such as medical, banking, construction, public safety, law enforcement, dentistry, office management, manufacturing and retail

sales have taken the class. Peggy noted that that is an 1,100 percent increase from the year before.

She said many of the businesses were interested in learning Spanish because of the expected influx of Hispanic immigrants when Triumph Foods began operating in January 2006. However, many businesses had seen an increase in Spanish-speaking clientele several months before.

She said the program has been so successful that the state contracted with the Institute to teach a Command Spanish® course to state employees in Kansas City and Springfield, Mo. ■



*Instructor Teresa Noyes visits with students in one of the Western Institute's Command Spanish classes.*



## Development officer joins Western staff

**T**ara Johnson was hired as the new development officer in University Advancement, and began her duties May 1.

“I am enjoying being here. It really is an exciting time to be at Missouri Western,” she said.

“The university is poised to do great things for its students, in the community, and in the state.”

The development officer, a new position at Western, is responsible for annual fund mailings throughout the year and the phonathon.

“I’m looking forward to communicating with alumni and friends to garner support for Western,” she said.

Tara earned a bachelor of arts in journalism/public relations from the University of Central Oklahoma. She was most recently a program manager for the L-3 Titan Corporation at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. She and her husband Brent live in St. Joseph. ■







## Western employees recognized for achievements

### Outstanding Staff Employees 2005-2006

**E**xemplary performances and contributions to the mission, goals and values of the university earned 20 staff members Outstanding Staff Employee Awards for 2005-2006.

Those honored with an employee reception and dinner with the Board of Governors included **Jennifer Bagley**, head coach, women's softball; **Susan Bracciano**, assistant registrar; **Cori Criger**, classroom services manager; **Barbara Davis**, administrative coordinator - liberal arts and sciences; **Judy Fields**, institutional research analyst; **Jamie Hahn**, admissions coordinator; **Alice Harless**, custodian; **Stena**

**Hinkle**, administrative assistant-psychology; **Diane Holtz**, public relations and alumni services coordinator; **Danielle Hunt**, education television services manager; **Sandy McGuire**, custodian; **Carey McMillian**, senior accountant; **Beverly Payne**, advising and placement director for business; **Peggy Payne**, assistant director of admissions and recruiting; **Jon Recob**, groundskeeper; **Sandy Rogers**, student development program coordinator; **Victoria Sample**, central stores laboratory coordinator; **Patsy Smith**, assistant athletic director/SWA; **Terry Smith**, assistant director of admissions/operations, and **Stacy Turner**, administrative assistant - Western Institute. ■

### Marketing professor honored

**D**r. Shiva Nandan, associate professor of marketing, received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Governor's Conference on Higher Education last spring.



One faculty member from each public and private college/university in Missouri receives the award, which is based on effective teaching, effective advising, service to the university community, commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement.

Dr. Nandan has taught at Western since 1996. ■

### Faculty and staff awards 2006

**A**t an awards ceremony each year, Western recognizes outstanding faculty and staff with several awards. This year, two employees were honored with the first ever James J. Scanlon Service Leader Award. The honored employees include:

- **Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award:** **Dr. Reza Hamzaee**, professor of economics.
- **Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award:** **Dr. Patricia Donaher**, assistant professor of English; **Deny Staggs**, assistant professor of theatre; and **Kip Wilson**, associate professor of criminal justice.
- **Presidential Citation Awards:** **Rosalie Guyer**, A+ coordinator, service to students; **Tracy Sharp**, administrative assistant, government, social work and sociology; service to campus colleagues; and **Ellen Kisker**, director of nontraditional student services, service to the university.
- **The James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award:** **Dr. Ken Rosenauer**, professor of journalism; and **Dennis Johnson**, parking and security services coordinator. ■



## Campus KUDOS

- **Tara Gnuschke and Alicia Bowlin** were accepted into the early matriculation program with Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCUMB). The program allows students to move into the KCUMB medical program after their junior year at Western and still receive their bachelor of science from Western after their first year in medical school.
- The Prairie Lands Writing Project was awarded a \$15,000 National Writing Project technology initiative grant to fund a year-long study. Western is one of only six sites in the country selected to receive the grant.
- Western received a \$24,670 March of Dimes grant for an education workshop for high school health education and science teachers in 17 counties of northwest Missouri.
- **Ghazala Saleem** was one of three students nationwide who received the \$1,000 National Omicron Psi Honor Society Scholarship.
- **Norman Beers, Brian Parrish, Robb Winkie, and Brian Jacobs**, received the Region 3 Hero Award at the Association of Information Technology Region 3 Conference, the top award in the region.
- **Jennifer Bruckshaw** had two ceramic works chosen for inclusion in the LaGrange National XXIV Exhibition in LaGrange, Ga. Only 20 works were chosen from 179 submissions.

- **Marsha Dolan**, coordinator of the health information technology program, was elected president of the Missouri Health Information Management Association, a 1,000-member professional organization.
- **Dr. Reza Hamzaee**, professor of economics, was invited to teach graduate courses for Bordeaux University of France, Uppsala University of Sweden, and the Industrial Management Institute of Iran.
- **Dr. Robert Bergland**, associate professor of journalism, was selected as one of 20 fellows in the American Society of

Newspapers Editor's Institute for Journalism Excellence program.

- Winners in the classical guitar competition at the St. Joseph International Guitar Festival were from Ukraine and Australia, Germany and the United States. The festival, held each May, features masterclasses with internationally acclaimed artists, concerts, jam sessions and the competition. Next year's festival is scheduled for May 16-20. Check out the website at [www.missouriwestern.edu/guitarfestival/](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/guitarfestival/).

### Student is one of 10 in nation chosen

**A**manda O'Dell was one of 10 students selected nationwide to participate in a six-week intensive developmental psychology research program at Buffalo State College (BSC) in Buffalo, N.Y. Her research focused on adolescence and body esteem relating to childhood obesity.

The program, funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, included one-on-one research with a BSC psychology faculty member, two courses for college credit, and research rotations at several area agencies. Amanda also participated in workshops on applying to graduate school, career preparation and research ethics. This fall, she is continuing her research with Dr. Teddi Dekka, associate professor of psychology.

Amanda plans to attend graduate school after graduation and earn a doctorate in developmental psychology. "Ultimately, my goal is to teach at the college level and to continue my research at a small to mid-size college or university - just like Missouri Western." ■



Amanda O'Dell





## 13th annual Convocation on Critical Issues Oct. 3

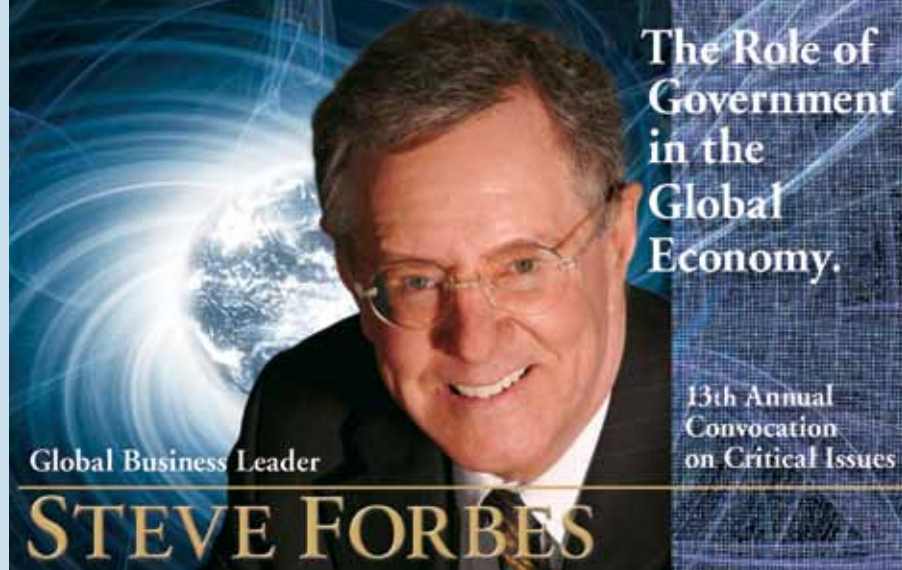
The editor-in-chief of the nation's foremost business magazine will speak at the 13th annual Convocation on Critical Issues Oct. 3.

Steve Forbes, president and CEO of Forbes, Inc. and editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine, will speak on "The Role of Government in the Global Economy" at 9:30 a.m. in the M.O. Looney Complex.

The event is free and open to the community.

He will also speak and answer questions at a dinner Oct. 2 in the Fulkerson Center.

"Featuring Steve Forbes as the speaker for the Convocation on Critical Issues continues the tradition of fine speakers of national prominence," said



Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement.

Since Steve assumed his position in 1990, Forbes, Inc. has launched *ForbesLife*, *Forbes Asia*, *Gilder Technology Report* and a number of investment newsletters.

He is the author of two books.

In 1996 and 2000, Steve campaigned for the Republican nomination for the presidency.

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

## Breakfast series draws crowds

A presentation on stem cell research drew the largest crowd ever for an Eggs and Issues presentation.

That talk by Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology, was one of three in the free breakfast series last spring. The other two, a talk on St. Joseph's economic development by the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce's Tom Lesnak, and a motivational talk by Dr. Tim Crowley, Western counselor, drew larger-than-average crowds also.

Although the early morning speaker series usually draws around 80, Todd offered a balanced perspective on stem cell research to an audience of more than 170, and both Tom and Tim's presentation drew more than 100.

The Eggs and Issues series began in 1988. ■

*Dr. Robert Bergland, associate professor of journalism, teams up with Sue Comley for an exercise directed by Dr. Tim Crowley, Western counselor. Tim was one of the speakers in the Eggs and Issues series.*



*TKE Fraternity members and alumni gather around their sleeping quarters at St. Joseph's HyVee Food Store at the annual TKE-in-a-Box fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank. This year, TKE raised more than \$2,200 and coordinated a donation of almost 25,000 lbs. of food.*

## Nursing advocacy lessons learned in Jefferson City

Vivian Onkoba and Camie Binder hadn't really thought much about politics or creating legislation until the two nursing students spent the day in Jefferson City, Mo. at the 20th annual Missouri Nurse Advocacy Day. Vivian and Camie joined more than 80 senior nursing students from Western for "From Advocacy to Policy."

"It was a good learning experience," said Vivian, who is from St. Joseph. "I learned a lot about the process of legislation and the way nurses can advocate for

legislation." She said she liked the presentation by the Missouri Nurses Association that talked about the bills that the organization supports. "That was the best part - learning what was in each bill and learning what nurses and nursing students can do."

"I realized it's easy to get your voice heard," Camie, also from St. Joseph, said. "The day made me realize the need to be aware of legislation that is impacting nursing. I realize I have to step up and be heard." ■

## Patriotic Night at the Ritz raises scholarship dollars

A patriotic theme and dancing entertainment were all part of the 12th annual "Night at the Ritz," sponsored by the Western Ambassadors last spring. The event raised more than \$13,000 for scholarships for nontraditional students.

Held for the first time at the Mayes Memorial Armory, music student Cara Humphrey sang, and John and Colleen Watson led the audience in a swing dance. Dance instructors Larry and Judy Clark and some of their Western students also performed. ■



On The Good Ship University



## League for Excellence membership grows

The League for Excellence, Western's honorary society of donors of unrestricted funds to the Foundation, boasted an enrollment of 285 members by the end of its first year, and nearly \$115,000 in annual commitments.

"Unrestricted funds help to supplement government funding and tuition and provide an added 'margin of excellence' for students," said Emil Sechter, president of the Foundation Board. "Access to those funds allows the Foundation the flexibility to respond to opportunities that expand learning in and beyond the classroom."

Last year, unrestricted funds supported projects such as a brown bag lunch series by the center for multicultural education, an alumni mentoring program, online course offerings, the Eggs and Issues speaker series, a literary and arts magazine, and a visiting artists residency program.

"The League has been very successful, in my belief, because members are generous individuals and businesses that truly understand the university's vital role in the community, the region and beyond," said Emil. ■







## Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2006

The athletic department will induct four new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame in September: volleyball player **Lynn Umbach '86**, baseball standout **Mike Musser '84**, football player **Kinney Redding '77**, and current head men's basketball coach **Tom Smith**.

**Lynn** was a two-time NAIA first-team, all-America selection. She earned three first-team, all-CSIC selections, and was a four-time member of the NAIA district 16 first team. Lynn, a native of Highland, Ind., currently holds Western career records in assists (5,644) and service aces (492) and holds the Western single season record for aces (152).

**Mike**, a third baseman, earned NAIA first-team, all-America honors in 1983, was a four-year letter winner, and

earned NAIA all-district 16 and NAIA all-area honors.

**Mike** holds Western career records for runs batted in (137) and home runs (24). He set single season records for games played (67) and runs batted in (59).

**Kinney** was a NAIA first-team, all-America selection on the defensive line in 1977. That season, he was second on the team in tackles (110) and led the Griffons in quarterback sacks (nine). Kinney earned honorable mention all-America honors in 1975-76, anchoring the Griffon defensive line during that time. He led Western in total tackles in 1976 with 136 stops.

**Tom** becomes the second head men's basketball coach and the only active head coach to be inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame. He'll enter his 19th season as head coach at

Western, and his 31st career coaching season.

**Tom** has been named the MIAA's Coach of the Year twice during his tenure at Western as well as the South Central Regional Coach of the Year in 1992. He became the winningest coach in Western history on Jan. 21, 1998, and won his 500th game Feb. 16, 2005. **Tom** holds a 534-352 career record in 30 collegiate seasons and is 364-168 at Western. He is also the winningest head coach in MIAA history, and is a member of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will be at 9 a.m. Sept. 30 in the Fulkerson Center. Cost is \$20 per person or \$150 for a table of 10. Honorees will also be recognized at halftime of the Wendy's Hall of Fame Game at 2 p.m. Call 816-271-4481 for information. ■

## Scholarship established in student's memory

**R**alph and Olenka Prescher and Commerce Bank have established the Zachary (Zach) Prescher Engineering Scholarship in memory of Zach, who died in an ultralight aircraft accident Sept. 18, 2005.

Zach, an electronics engineering and math major at Western, was a member of the Missouri Air National Guard and had served in Germany in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A scholarship of at least \$1,000 will be awarded each year to an engineering technology major. ■

## Strategic planning underway

**W**ork sessions and discussions have been underway for the past several months to develop Western's next strategic plan.

Shortly after Western's president Dr. James Scanlon arrived in 2001, he initiated the development of a five-year strategic plan that has been in place since 2002. Several campuswide meetings have been held to gain input from employees about the direction of the next strategic plan.

One emphasis not found in the 2002 plan includes goals for graduate-level programs, since Western was designated a university in 2005. ■

## Griffon Sports

## Griffon Sports wrap-up

**Baseball** - The baseball team qualified for the NCAA national tournament for the first time in school history, finishing the season at 31-25 overall and 21-9 in the MIAA. Three Griffons were named to the all-region team and the MIAA's first team: Ryan Zenn, Andrew Simpson and Sam Walker. Ryan set Western records for single season doubles.

**Men's Basketball** - The team went 17-11 overall this past season and qualified for the MIAA Championships, which were held in Kansas City, Mo. The Griffons finished in fifth place in the MIAA standings with an 8-8 league record. Western senior Demarius Bolds was named first-team, all-MIAA by the league's head coaches. Jason Warren was named Wilson/MIAA Player-of-the-Week in February. The Griffons will return six letter winners in 2006-07.

### Women's Basketball -

The team ended the 2005-06 season at 19-10 overall and in a tie for fourth place in the MIAA at 8-8. Western finished the season ranked No. 9 in the NCAA South Central regional rankings. Tiffany Davis was named first-team, all-MIAA as well as a member of the MIAA's all-defensive team.



Western senior OF Lindsey Rizzuti takes a pitch while her teammates look on during a game at the 2006 NCAA Division II North Central Regional Softball Tournament. It was Western's second appearance in the NCAA national tournament in as many seasons.

**Men's Golf** - The men's golf team won the MIAA's regular season title for the first time since 1996. Western's run to its fourth straight NCAA national tournament was led by senior Brice Garnett, who won medalist honors for the third straight season. Brice was named the Wilson/MIAA Player-of-the-Year, and his first-team, all-MIAA selection made him the only golfer in MIAA history to earn first-team accolades in four straight years. Daniel Cordray earned first-team, all-MIAA honors and head coach Jim Perry was named the Wilson/MIAA Coach-of-the-Year.

**Women's Golf** - Junior Lisa Cross and senior Kari Harder led the women's golf team throughout the season. They helped the Griffons get a dual match win over Rockhurst during the fall portion of the

schedule while getting a second place finish at the Winona State Tournament.

**Softball** - The softball team qualified for its second straight NCAA national tournament, going 40-20 on the year and 13-3 in the MIAA. Kara Unger and Lindsey Predovich both were first-team all-MIAA selections, and Amy Beverly was a first-team selection to the North Central all-region team.

**Women's Tennis** - The women's tennis team finished the season at 6-14. Junior Mary Pankiewicz played at #1 singles during the spring portion of the schedule, and #2 singles player Tammy Liebersbach recorded the highest win total. ■



# Delving into

## Two alumni make diversity education their mission

In her first two years at Texas Instruments, Tegwin Pulley '63, met only two other women in salaried positions, and she encountered many male co-workers who were surprised she was interested in a career. "They didn't believe that a woman would want to work, and they didn't expect me to stick with it."

Chicago native Stan Pearson '02, thought he had been raised to respect diversity and not see "color," but when the first two people he met when he arrived on campus were two white guys from small towns in Missouri and Nebraska, he realized he wasn't as open to diversity as he thought he was. "They couldn't have been further away from what I was, and yet we had so much in common," he said. "I knew then I had a lot to learn."

Those experiences led Tegwin and Stan on a journey to examine diversity issues and embark on missions to help others understand the value of diversity.

It's been 40 years since Tegwin had to convince co-workers that she wanted a career, and today she is TI's vice president for workforce development, diversity and WorkLife Strategies. In that role, she has garnered widespread attention and awards for the company's diversity programs, including being listed on Fortune Magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work for in America for the seventh year.



Tegwin Pulley '63  
Photo by Kenneth R. Brock

Stan, associate director of student activities at Texas A&M International University in San Antonio, formed his own company, Breathe Diversity, and has been visiting high schools and college campuses around the country for the past two years delivering his diversity message.

The perceptions of her co-workers led Tegwin to become

# DiVeRsITy

involved in the emerging women's movement, and that soon evolved into exploring differences beyond gender.

"I realized assumptions and stereotypes were made for many groups, not just women. I began to look at all the things that hold people back because of old cultural ideas."

In 1989, TI began forming diversity initiatives, and because of her interest in the women's movement, Tegwin was a natural choice to lead the women's initiative for the semiconductor group. Six years later, she was named diversity director for the company.

Today, TI has 15 diversity initiatives, ranging from Muslim to Christian to Korean, to Bangladesh, to Gay and Lesbian. Leaders of those initiatives form the Diversity Network which is involved in community programs, recruiting and diversity award programs.

Tegwin believes the company's diversity programs have led to a more productive and loyal workforce, and that the diversity of employees has made the company stronger.

"It's been a fascinating journey," she said. "I've learned the value that people with different backgrounds and life experiences, and different ways of solving problems, can collectively bring to the workplace."

Stan remained friends with the two men he first met all throughout his college years, and they continue to stay in touch today.

But the more he learned about diversity as a student, the more he wanted to share the message. At Western he joined a campus group that performed diversity skits in area schools, and after graduating, he created Breathe Diversity. Last year he made a presentation at Western and at the Noyes Home in St. Joseph.

Stan offers workshops from one hour long to all day for not only students, but faculty, staff and administrators also.



Stan Pearson '02, gives a diversity presentation to a group of high school students. Stan speaks to students across the country with the company he founded, Breathe Diversity.

"It's not about entertaining or performing; it's about conveying the message that diversity today is inevitable and you have to learn to adapt," said Stan. "I tell them that if you're willing to embrace diversity, you'll be successful."

His favorite workshop activity is where participants complete the sentence, "Just Because I'm ---, Doesn't Mean I ---," For example, Stan said, he would say, "Just because I'm Black, doesn't mean I listen to rap music all the time." Participants then reverse the exercise, filling in the blanks with groups and statements that do not fit them.

"It gets pretty intense. People see how they've been discriminating or stereotyping."

Tegwin believes society has come a long way in dealing with diversity, but more needs to be done. "I want to get to a point where we are all more aware of cultural differences, and that we work with and through all those differences in a very easy and effective manner and a large amount of comfort."

"It seems so off the wall that racism still exists today, but it does," said Stan. "We've come a long way, but there's a lot more work to do." ■

## Campus office offers diversity education

"Our job is to educate and expose our campus constituents to a variety of different cultures and the differences within cultures." That is the goal of Western's center for multicultural education (CME), according to Director Tay Triggs.

Each month her office focuses on a different group, including Blacks, women, Asians and Hispanics; and hosts programs to help students and staff learn about different cultures. Last spring, Tay also presented a five-part Power of Words social justice series.

Jenny Jones volunteered in the CME office for three years before she began working as an intern there. She plans many of its programs and also helps coordinate the diversity dialogue series, where the CME will partner with campus organizations to bring in speakers from different cultures.

"Diversity is all about truly understanding something that's different from what you already know," said Jenny. "You may not accept it, but it's important to understand it. This office offers students a lot of opportunities to get educated about diversity."

Tay noted that a college education is all about exposure to a broad range of knowledge and ideas, and she believes that should include learning about the value of diversity. ■



The CME hosted the Soorya Performing Arts, an Indian dance troupe, last spring.







... and into

Kabul

Internship abroad  
teaches many lessons

to work at a school there, that locale became a natural choice. He lined up an internship with SERVE, a nongovernment organization (NGO).

"I was really excited to be doing something that gave me a real view of how things operate in a third world country, especially in one that the United States is so actively involved in reconstructing," said John. "I have been fortunate to learn so much about government at Missouri Western, but it is also nice to see firsthand how the world is becoming smaller."

John said he learned a lot about the effectiveness of the NGOs' rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan, but he also learned some valuable skills. "I learned how to be organized, and how to be a person who completes tasks. I got better at following through."

One of John's favorite memories was when he visited children who have benefited from SERVE's hearing impaired project. "Seeing these children made me grateful that I work for

an organization that cares about the future generations of this country," John said. "I have been reintroduced to the reason I wanted to get involved in politics in the first place: to help people." ■



Student  
John Goolsby in Kabul,  
Afghanistan.

John Goolsby was searching for an

internship that offered something out of the ordinary, something worthwhile, some way to

make a difference. He found it 7,200 miles away from home. The government and public affairs major spent the first six months of 2006 in Kabul, Afghanistan, serving as a personal assistant to the director and as personnel director of a Christian charity, and also teaching high school and college students about democracy. "I met people every week that inspired me to continue to try to change the world," he said.

John had been searching for an unconventional internship, and when his parents moved to Kabul in 2005

# OUT of the classroom...

When music major Justin Amos volunteered to help at a three-day seminar in Nashville, Tenn.

recently, he never thought the experience would include a conversation with the president of Capitol Records, interviews with LeAnn Rimes, Martina McBride, and Rascal Flatts; or the opportunity to pass along his band's demo tape to Emerson Drive. Perhaps that's why the St. Joseph native called the experience "the best week of my life."

Justin, who plans on a music career when he graduates, volunteered with eight fellow music majors and two video/theatre majors for three days at the 37th Country Radio Seminar for DJs and program directors across the nation. The Western students helped set up for concerts of new country music artists and big name performers, and the seminar featured more than 20 performances by country music's major artists. The two theatre/video students produced a documentary about the trip and the students' experiences.

"It was a blast. We experienced more in that week than most people experience in a lifetime," said Justin. "It definitely confirmed that this is what I want to do with my life."

Mark Elting, instructor in the recording arts program at Western, accompanied the group, and said the seminar was a great applied learning experience for the students. "This is what the students want to do for a living, and they were able to see first-

hand what they will be doing. They got an inside view of what's going on in today's music business. We could have never given them such an opportunity on campus."

Music major Ben Croskell agreed. He wants to open a recording studio when he graduates, and said the conference was a great opportunity to talk to people in the field. He said he also learned a lot during the concerts by watching those in the sound booth. "We worked from about 7 a.m. to midnight every day, but the learning experience and the people I met made it worth it."

Justin said on his first day at the seminar, a radio station asked him to interview several of the performers, so he had the opportunity to meet some of the biggest names in country music. One of Ben's duties was directing the major performers to the back hallways to avoid the crowds.

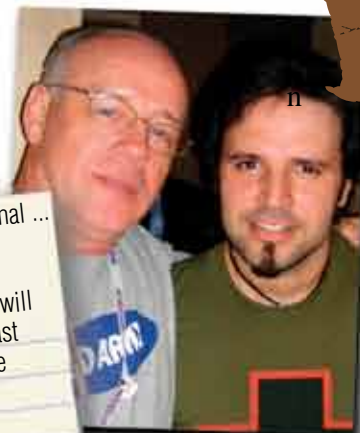
Anita Snead served as event decorator and her husband, David DeBolt, was director of event planning. "These guys were outstanding," she said of the Western students. "They were absolutely phenomenal. We really, really appreciated their help."

Mark noted that Western has already been invited to bring student volunteers to the next seminar, and he hopes they will be able to attend. "Every student walked away with a success story."

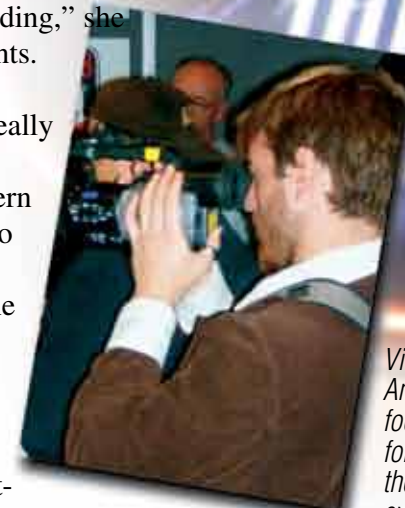
"I'd go back in a heartbeat," said Ben. "It was so cool." ■

... and into  
**MUSIC CITY**

Students learn the  
biz in Nashville



Top left: Mike Calloway of St. Joseph visits with country singer Mark Wills. Mike arranged for Western students to volunteer three days at a Nashville conference.



Video/theatre major Anthony Bossler tapes footage of an interview for a documentary of the Western students' experiences in Nashville.





Check out [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org) for information on upcoming alumni events

Sept. 4-29	Prints and mixed media exhibit, Melissa Harshman, University of Georgia, Thompson E. Potter Hall Gallery, 206.
Sept. 11-17	"No Exit," by Jean Paul Sarte, directed by student Aaron Westlake. 8 p.m. Sept. 11-16, 2 p.m. Sept. 17. Thompson E. Potter Hall Black Box Theater. Call 816-271-4443.
Sept. 30	Family Day.
Oct. 2	Convocation dinner featuring Steve Forbes; 7 p.m. Fulkerson Center. Call 816-271-5646.
Oct. 3	Convocation on Critical Issues featuring Steve Forbes. 9:30 a.m., M.O. Looney Complex. Free and open to the community.
Oct. 4-31	Mixed media exhibit, Chris Dockery, Piedmont College, Thompson E. Potter Hall Gallery, 206.
Oct. 9-13	Griffon International Film Festival. Call 816-271-4443.
Oct. 19	Alumni float decorating for Homecoming parade. Watch the website for details.
Oct. 20	Alumni Awards Banquet, 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 p.m. dinner. \$20, Fulkerson Center. Call 816-271-5665.
	Alumni social, 9 p.m. – midnight.
Oct. 21	Homecoming: Parade – 9:30 a.m., downtown St. Joseph; tailgate lunch, noon, Chris Faros Alumni Pavilion; game, 2 p.m. vs. Emporia State, Spratt Memorial Stadium; post-game party, Uncle D's Sports Bar and Grill, 621 S. 36th St.
Nov. 3	Alumni Social planned for Omaha/Lincoln area. Watch the website for details.
Nov. 2-5	"The House of Yes," directed by Jeremy Warner, instructor of theatre. 8 p.m. Nov. 2-4; 2 p.m. Nov. 5, Thompson E. Potter Hall Black Box Theater. Call 816-271-4443.
Nov. 6-21	Senior Art Exhibits, Thompson E. Potter Hall foyer and gallery, 206.
Nov. 9-12	"The House of Yes," 8 p.m. Nov. 9-11; 2 p.m. Nov. 12, Thompson E. Potter Hall Black Box Theater. Call 816-271-4443.
Nov. 22-26	Thanksgiving Holiday.
Nov. 27-Dec. 12	Senior Art Exhibits, Thompson E. Potter Hall foyer and gallery, 206.
Dec. 2	Alumni Social planned for Kansas City area. Watch the website for details.
Dec. 16	Commencement.
Dec. 24-Jan. 1	Campus Closed.
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; campus closed.
Jan. 16	Spring 2007 classes begin.
Jan. 16-Feb. 14	Prints exhibit, Tom Huck, Washington University, Thompson E. Potter Hall Gallery, 206.
Jan. 18	Alumni Social planned for St. Joseph. Watch the website for details.
Feb. 9-11	"Beauty and the Beast," directed by Deny Staggs, assistant professor of theatre. Missouri Theater, 717 Edmond. Co-produced with Robidoux Resident Theatre. Call 816-271-4443.
Feb. 19	Presidents Day; campus closed.
Feb. 19-March 23	Prints and mixed media exhibit, Syd Cross, Clemson University, Thompson E. Potter Hall Gallery, 206.
March 1	Hoops and Harpo's, alumni social in Kansas City, Mo. Watch the website for details. Deadline to apply for Alumni Association Scholarships; <a href="http://www.missouriwestern.edu/finaid">www.missouriwestern.edu/finaid</a> .

**For sports schedules go to [www.gogriffons.com](http://www.gogriffons.com) or call 816-271-4481.  
For alumni events, go to [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org) or call 816-271-5665.**

## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Friends,

Since this is my first letter as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I would like to introduce myself. I am a 1996 graduate of Western, and am currently senior trust portfolio manager at U.S. Bank - Private Asset Management in St. Joseph. I have also been a member of the Missouri Air National Guard for 18 years. My wife, Tara, and I have two children, Olivia and Hayden. I have been a member of the board since 2003, and last March, I became president.

First, I would like to commend my fellow board members and all the alumni volunteers who work so hard throughout the year for the Alumni Association. But more importantly, I want to thank Julie Fiedler, who resigned as director of alumni services when she and her husband, Travis, moved to Iowa in July. It was a great loss for Western. Julie came to Western in 2003, and has worked extremely hard to plan events

not only in St. Joseph but throughout the country. During her time as director, she also initiated the online community, [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org); oversaw the production of a new alumni directory, and coordinated the new "university" diploma orders. Julie is a very organized person, so she made my role as president very easy. We wish Julie and Travis the best of luck.

In July, Colleen Kowich was hired as the new director of alumni services and began August 15.

**Welcome, Colleen!**

*Jason M. Horn*  
Jason Horn  
MWSU Alumni Board President



Jason Horn



Julie Fiedler  
Past Director of Alumni Services

**T**he past three years in the alumni services office here have been both challenging and rewarding - we have restructured our committees, developed more programming and events and challenged ourselves on many levels for the betterment of Western's alumni. Western alumni are excited and proud of the

## Director's Voice

growth of not only the alumni office but of the university itself!

This year, you have an outstanding alumni board in place - Jason Horn served as vice president last year and is excelling as president, much like his predecessor Kristine Smith. It is great to see strong leaders forging the way for our alumni. The alumni board members put in a lot of time and dedication to the alumni programming and events and are Griffon superheroes in my book!

As you may already know, my last day at Western was June 30. My husband's job moved us out of the area, but I still hold a special place

in my heart for Western, as there are so many wonderful people who work at the university, attend the university or graduated from the university who have impacted my life.

I look forward to hearing more and more about Western and its growth in the future, and I know that the new alumni director, Colleen Kowich, and the alumni board will continue to expand the services available to MWSU alumni. Plans are already in place for an Alumni "perks" program, and the event calendar is packed with exciting activities in cities across the nation.

**Griffon gold is everywhere - wear it with pride!!** ■





Bruce Kneib '84, Carole Dunn '91, and Tony Luke '85, enjoy the scenery atop the Corby Building, St. Joseph's tallest building. "Taste at the Top," an alumni gathering, was held there last spring, and more than 60 attended.

## Board members, officers elected

Five new board members and a slate of officers were elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors at the May meeting. New terms began July 1.

- New board members include:
- **Patrick Grove '79**, captain, Kansas City Police Department;
  - **Jerry Myers '71**, Shelter Insurance Co., St. Joseph;
  - **Melissa Rewinkel '93**, vice president government affairs, Mutual of Omaha, Washington, DC;

- **Tina Varma '98**, teacher, Minnie Cline Elementary, Savannah, Mo.;
- **Mary Vaughan '79**, director of parks and recreation, Maryland Heights, Mo.

Officers for the new year are Jason Horn, president; Greg VerMulm, vice president; and Diane Hook, secretary.

A big thank you for their service to those members whose terms expired in June: Peggy Evans, David Jordan, Dan Kellogg, Tony Luke and Kris Smith. ■



**Join the alumni online community today!**

Your first time login ID # is on your magazine label, or email a request for it to [mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu).

- Submit Class Notes!
- Share your photos!
- Share your resumé!
- Post a message on the message board!
- Find out about and register for upcoming events!

**[www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org)**

## Alumni perks are coming!

Do you ever wish you could get discounts at restaurants, hotels or retail stores, just for being a Western alumnus? Well, that day is coming! In January, we're rolling out the Alumni Gold Perks Card!

Any alumnus who donates \$50 or more to the MWSU Foundation will be eligible to receive a perks card, renewable annually. Alumni will also receive a welcome package along with the card the first year.

We are currently building a perks list of participating merchants. That list will be available for viewing in the online community, [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org), once the program begins.

Watch your mail or check out our website for more information. ■



Nic Saccaro '01, spoke on campus about the Second Harvest Food Bank at one of the Alumni Brown Bag lunches this spring.

## Join us for Homecoming 2006 "GRIFFONS TO THE RESCUE" October 20-21

Check out our website at [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org) for details

### Thursday, October 19

Alumni Float Decorating! American Red Cross garage, 401 N. 12th St.

### Friday, October 20

**Alumni Awards Banquet** Reception - 5:30 p.m.; Banquet - 6:30 p.m. Fulkerson Center. Cost is \$20 per person. Join us in honoring the Alumni Association Scholarship recipients and the 2006 Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Awardees. The 2006 Distinguished Alumni are **Dennis Atkins '77**, **Clarence Garder '40**, **John Mullican '87**, and **Julia Schneider '67**. The 2006 Distinguished Faculty member is **Richard Crumley**, professor emeritus of biology.

**Alumni social, 9 p.m. - midnight.** Uncle D's Sports Bar and Grill, 621 S. 36th St.

### Saturday, October 21

**Homecoming Parade** 9:30 a.m.

Don't miss the students' floats, marching bands, and lots of fun! The parade begins at City Hall and goes through downtown.

**Tailgate Lunch** Noon. Join your friends for a great lunch at the Chris Faros Alumni Pavilion on campus. Lots of fun family activities, too!

**Go Griffons!** 2 p.m. Spratt Memorial Stadium. Cheer on the football team as they take on Emporia State.

**Cost:** \$6 per adult, \$2 per child - age 7 to high school; children under 7 are free. Chairback reserved - \$10.

Tickets available at the gate. The Distinguished Service awardees will be honored at halftime.

**Post-game Party** Uncle D's Sports Bar and Grill, 621 S. 36th St.

## Awards Banquet Reservation Form

Please complete this form and return it with your payment by October 13 to:  
Missouri Western State University, Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507  
Or make your reservation online at [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org)

☐ Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 each) for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations to the Awards Banquet.

☐ I cannot attend the Banquet. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 each) to pay for scholarship recipients.

Please bill my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Missouri Western State University.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names of banquet guests on a separate paper and include with your reservation.





## Four family members hold Western degrees

Whenever Marilyn Barnes' '45 and '73, children travel to St. Joseph to visit her, they always try to make time to drive around Western's campus.

"It's one of the things I have to do every time I'm home," said Jeff '77, who is a financial advisor for the Barnes and Beck financial consulting group of Wachovia Securities in Pennsylvania. "I can't believe the number of buildings and the growth of the campus." His wife, Beverly (Loubey) also attended Western.

Craig '76, is a banking consultant with Penntech Financial Services Inc. and lives in Dallas. He said he, too, likes to check out the new buildings and see how much the campus has changed. "It looks better every time I see it."

Western holds a special place for Marilyn, too, since she and three of her four children are alumni.

Marilyn graduated from the Junior College, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Park University. She returned

to Western for her education certificate just as the college became a four-year institution. She taught for 31 years before retiring in 2000.

"I enjoyed it both times, especially the people," she said. "The second time I also enjoyed the new buildings."

Vicki '73, lives in Oklahoma and is an elementary school counselor. She said she was terrified when she started on the brand new campus, and was glad she could follow the same path as her mother.

"I came out of high school thinking I was not —college material," Vicki said. But her English professor at Western, Veva Tomlinson, had a big impact on her. "She made me realize college was something I could do."

Vicki said several teachers, including Veva, Helen Gettys, and Raymond Roberts, helped her reach her goals. "They were just good people who really made you feel like you were something."

All four Barnes agree that Western played a large role in their careers.

"I would be nowhere without Missouri Western," said Craig. "I wouldn't be where I am today without my degree." ■

The Barnes alumni: Marilyn '45 and '73, is seated. Standing from left, are Vicki Thorpe '73, Craig '76, and Jeff '77.

## Barnes Family advice for today's college students

**Marilyn** - "Learn how to study. Most college students don't realize how much they need to study."

**Craig** - "Focus on college and make it a top priority. If you're going to make it in today's corporate world, plan on working hard."

**Vicki** - "Find somebody (an instructor) who gives you the little bit of encouragement and do what you can to make a relationship with them. You need a mentor; someone behind you."

**Jeff** - "Get in school, stay in school, get it done."



**Order return address labels with the Griffon, and Western will receive money from every order!**

**Link to the labels website from the online community – [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org).**



Regi Trotter '00, Stan Hall, Judy Sprague '04, and Doris Hall '51, visit at the Pot O' Gold social at Uncle D's Sports Bar and Grill in March.

## Alumni Outstanding Volunteer Awards

Peggy Iffert and Edna Pumphrey '32, received the first Alumni Association Outstanding Volunteer Awards in recognition of their many years of service and dedication to Western and the Alumni Association.

Both Edna and Peggy are longtime members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and have been two of the group's most active volunteers. ■



Above: Peggy is pictured at the Junior College Brunch, where she received the award, with Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president; her husband, Herb, and Alumni Services Director Julie Fiedler. Below: Julie presents the award to Edna.

## Alumnotes

**Herman J. Seufert '49**, is retired, but he helps people with home repairs. He resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Rita Hanks '71**, is president of the board of regents at Northwest Missouri State University.

**Therese V. (Filloon) Bodourian '72**, and her husband Robert celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary March 2, 2006.

**Sharon (Didlo) Kosek '77**, completed her doctorate degree in education leadership at the University of Missouri.

**Dan Danford '78**, MBA, CRSPPR, was invited by Chicago Tribune reporter Janet Kidd Steward to do a "money makeover" for her *Your Money* column.

**Maribeth (Jones) Hall '78**, of Lee's Summit, Mo., reported that her son Shaeffer signed on to play baseball at Western this fall.

**Douglas Dunn '81**, a major with the Overland Park, Kan. Police Dept., served for two weeks in Harrison County, Miss. after Hurricane Katrina. He was in command of 65 police officers from 15 different jurisdictions.

**Ralph Schank '82**, was named president and CEO of Midwest Federal Savings and Loan Association of St. Joseph, Mo. Ralph is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and a former president of that board.



**Neal S. Miller '83**, is the Northwest Missouri Area Director for USDA-Rural Development.

**Jim Carlton '84**, is senior business development manager-North America, for EMD-Merck KGaA.

**Danny McGeorge '86**, is a member of UMB Bank's private banking team. He was hired as a senior vice president.

**Melody (Moss) Smith '87**, is the superintendent of the St. Joseph School District.

**Keith Hoskins '88**, was promoted to commander in the US Navy while being selected as commanding officer of an Operational Fleet FA-18 Hornet squadron.

**Carolyn (Jenkins) Rosetti '89**, is owner/vice president of Mid-Plains Marketing, Inc., and she teaches Shotokan Karate in her spare time.

**Daniel Lentz '90**, married Licia Beaver July 16, 2005. The couple resides in Ellwood City, Pa.

**Marie (Wolff) McCool '90**, and husband **Victor '90**, announce the adoption of their daughter, Andie Mei-Li, from Zhanziang, China, on June 30, 2005, born May 20, 2004; and the birth of a son, Alexander Scott, born Sept. 14, 2005.

**Amy Brant '92**, is managing editor of The Daily News in Richmond, Mo.

**Leanne Anderson '92**, and Timothy Davis were married Oct. 15, 2005. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Stephen Bowe '92**, and Michelle Jasper were married Feb. 11, 2006. The couple resides in Troy, Kan.

**Stacia Hellerich '02**, and **Charles Studer Jr '92**, were married May 6, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Jim DePriest '93**, joined the First Bank of Missouri as vice president of commercial lending.

**Kris (Eitzmann) Ostdiek '93**, and husband Rob announce the birth of a son, Byron Robert Ostdiek, born April 26, 2006.

**Laurie (Carrillo) Keller '94**, and her husband Doug announce the birth of a daughter, Amelia Louise, born May 6, 2006.

**Steve Swymeler '94**, joined Heart of America United Way as a campaign vice president.

**Teresa Stubbs '95**, is vice president, marketing and public relations, for MedAvant Healthcare Solutions.

**Chad Vincent '95**, and Cristina DeFreece were married Oct. 15, 2005. The couple resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Ron Dickson '96**, and Jennifer Burkhart were married Jan. 22, 2006. The couple resides in Gallatin, Mo.

**Catina R. Shannon '96**, was named legislative representative for the state of Missouri for Ameren Corporation.

**Christine Tanner '96**, and Ronald Hitchings Jr were

married Feb. 2, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Kimberly Schiermeyer '97**, and Delray "Del" Gust were married Sept. 24, 2005. The couple resides in Omaha, Neb.

**Christy (Howard) Kerr '97**, and her husband Todd announce the birth of a daughter, Meredith Kelly, born March 15, 2006. She joins siblings Hannah and Andrew.

**Connie (Kraft) Wells '97**, and her husband, **David Wells '97**, announce the birth of a son, Connor David, born Jan. 10, 2006. He joins a brother, Cole.

**Rosemary (Hamilton) '98**, and **Zachary Kerns '98**, announce the birth of a son, Kale, born March 7, 2006. He is the couple's second son. The family resides in Colorado Springs, Colo.

**David Nelson '98**, received a master of science degree in criminal justice from Central Missouri State University.

**Wanda Lantz '05**, and **Anthony Williams '99 and '04**, were married April 28, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Kimberly (Komer) Kaplan '99**, is branch manager with UMB Bank in Atchison, Kan.

**Jill (Chancey) Olvera '99**, and her husband Carlos announce the birth of a daughter, Ryan Elizabeth, on Aug. 12, 2005. The family resides in Olathe, Kan.

**Jeramie (Lucast) Harter '00**, and husband Nathan announce the birth of a daughter, Glorianne

("Glory") Jayne Harter on Nov. 4, 2005.

**Jenny Kerns '00**, and Mark Cathcart were married Oct. 17, 2005. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Bradley King '00**, married Laura Kristynik July 9, 2005. The couple resides in College Station, Texas.

**Katie Power '00**, married Luke Balsey Oct. 16, 2005. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Jenni Rash '00**, was elected Shelbina, Mo. city marshal.

She had been working as an investigator in Shelby and Macon Counties for the Children's Division, State of Missouri.

**Samantha Shehan '00**, and her husband Michael announce the birth of a son, Michael Conrad Shehan II, born in October 2005.

**Shawn '00 and Stacy (Calcote) Williamson '02**, announce the birth of a daughter, Ana Lynn Beth, born Aug. 17, 2005. Stacy was also named president of the Missouri Middle School Association for a four-year term.

**Melissa Boswell '01**, and Christopher Windham were married Nov. 12, 2005. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

**Michelle Chandler '01**, and Jerod Overley were married April 1, 2006.

**Amy (McCready) '01**, and **Jeremy Hart '03**, announce the birth of a daughter, Elyse Marie, born Aug. 25, 2005.

**Richard W. Durst '72**, was named the eighth president of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Richard graduated from Western with a bachelor of arts in theatre, and earned a master's of fine arts from the University of Oklahoma.

Prior to his appointment as president, he served as dean of the college of arts and architecture and executive director of university arts services at Pennsylvania State University. He has provided national leadership for several fine arts professional organizations and was executive director of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. ■

**Stephanie Howard '01**, and Joe Boothe were married June 25, 2005.

**Jeffrey Long '01**, earned a master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta.

**Kimberly D. (Stewart) Mizell '01**, is a notary public and paralegal, and a member of the Paralegal Association and a member of the National Notary Association.

**Kristy (Hildman) Roesle '01**, earned a master's in education and is a second-grade teacher with the Raymore-Peculiar School District.

**Jean-Francois Trahan '01**, and his wife Iris announce the birth of a son, Christopher, born Dec. 3, 2005. He is the couple's third child.

## Alumnus uses computer graphic skills to save lives

**E**ric Root '92, says the best part of his job is also the most stressful. He is the program manager for OneSAF, a multi-million dollar, multi-year Department of Defense project. OneSAF is a computer simulation program that offers soldier training, analysis, and research and development.

"I have the best job in the world - I train soldiers and we help save lives," Eric said. Each year, his company, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), releases software produced for OneSAF to the field, so he and his co-workers get to see the immediate impact and benefit of their work. But the stressful part, he said, is that the system is so important to the safety of the soldiers.

The training simulation program represents a complete battlefield picture and a full range of operations with a wide variety of terrains and environments. For example, the system is capable of duplicating buildings or entire cities in complete detail. It includes terrorist situations, such as sniper attacks, improvised explosive devices, and rocket and mortar attacks. "These are things our soldiers are facing every day in Iraq."

Eric graduated with a computer science and mathematics degree from Western, and earned a master's from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. He has worked for SAIC in Orlando since 1994. "The professors (at Western) were fantastic. The coursework prepared me very well for graduate school." ■



From internship to partnership

In 1999, Jeremy Henry '99, was hired for a one-semester internship at Hogty Management Corp. to help owner Lee Schuster set up a computer system for his business. That one semester led to two, and that in turn led to a full-time position after graduation. Six years later, that internship has led to a partnership. In January 2006, Jeremy became part owner in the company that buys, sells and manages agricultural properties.

Bringing Jeremy in as a partner will begin the transition to retirement, Lee said, who now considers himself semi-retired. For the past two years, he and his wife have spent three months in Arizona. "Jeremy's growth in the business has permitted that. There's now a comfort level that the shop will be well tended to while I'm gone."

Lee, who has taught business and economics classes at Western for 21 years, said he had never had an intern before

Jeremy, but he talked to Carol Roever, associate professor of business and internship coordinator at Western, about hiring an intern to help him with the computer. The internship with Hogty convinced Jeremy to earn an agriculture emphasis with his business management degree, and Lee was the instructor for five of his classes. The agriculture emphasis combined with the internship made Jeremy a natural fit for the full-time position, Lee noted.

"Had it not been for Carol Roever, it's doubtful I'd be here with Lee now," said Jeremy. "She did a good job putting us together."

*Editor's note: Having "long-term" internships runs in the family. Jeremy's wife, Susan, a 2000 Western social work graduate, was hired by the agency where she completed her social work practicum, and has worked there full time since graduation! ■*

**Dixie Sullenger '01**, and Darrell Williams were married March 25, 2006.

**LaShandra Acklin '02**, and **Lee Shepard '04**, were married May 7, 2005.

**Kimberly Buretta '02**, married Lucias Myer Oct. 15, 2005. The couple resides in Florissant, Mo.

**Amanda Hewitt '02**, was promoted to digital supervisor over digital pre-press operations at Lifetouch Publishing KC.

**Danielle (Palmer) Hewitt '02**, and husband Joshua announce the birth of a son, Carter Riley, born July 2, 2005.

**Morgan Conn '02**, accepted a position with the US Attorney's Office for the southern district of Iowa doing asset forfeiture.

**Julie Richards '02**, and Jason Williams were married Feb. 25, 2006. The couple resides in Platte City, Mo.

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**Jeremy Shroyer '02**, and **Amy Wayman '03**, were married June 22, 2005. The couple resides in Platte City, Mo.

**Jared VanCleve '02**, owns a photography business, JWV Studios. He lives in Moberly, Mo.

**Jenn (Croson) Damiano '03**, and her husband Joe have two sons: Nickolas, born Dec. 2, 2002, and Reece, born Feb. 14, 2005.

**Derek Dorsey '03**, and Trisha Lujin were married April 8, 2006. The couple resides in Clarksdale, Mo.

**Sara Kossen '03**, and Ryan Keene were married March 4, 2006. The couple resides in Kingsville, Mo.

**Candace (Ogden) Martinez '03**, is day warehouse supervisor for US Oncology in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Melanie Pethtel '03**, and Brett Jones were married Oct. 15, 2005. The couple resides in Raytown, Mo.

**Carrie Benton '04**, and **Joseph Nicholson '05**, were married Oct. 15, 2005. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.

**Alisha Schultz '04**, and Jonathan Brown were married Sept. 10, 2005. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

**Jaymi Blackmore '05**, and **Joey Evans '05**, were married Oct. 22, 2005. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

In Memory ...

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

**Rowland M. Beamon JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 17, 2005.

**Walter Blohm '99**, St. Joseph, Mo., April 16, 2006.

**Harry H. Broadhead '37**, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 20, 2005.

**Edward J. Bundy '91**, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 21, 2006.

**Kathleen Conner '91**, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 12, 2006.

**Elizabeth L. Conroy JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 12, 2005.

**Patricia A. Driggers JC**, Hutchinson, Kan., March 15, 2006.

**Dennis Echterling '86**, Snohomish, Wash., Feb. 19, 2006.

**William J. Glasbrenner '30**, St. Joseph, Mo., March 1, 2006.

**Andrew Glaze '34**, St. Joseph, Mo., April 19, 2006.

**Hugh M. Gray Jr '49**, St. Joseph, Mo., May 14, 2006.

**Douglas K. Halter '86**, St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 16, 2005.

**Richard A. Heath JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., March 12, 2006.

**Herschel Hochman JC**, Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 10, 2006.

**Donald Kirkpatrick**, Weston, Mo., Jan. 11, 2006.

**James W. Long '56**, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 4, 2006.

**Timothy H. Moore '75**, Tucson, Ariz., April 30, 2006.

**Paul Nelson '78**, Kansas City, Mo., April 22, 2006.

**Jean D. Orr JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 2, 2006.

**Michael K. Shalz**, Jacksonville Beach, Fla., April 22, 2006.

**John F. Schellhorn JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 18, 2005.

**Saralyn Wagers JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., May 3, 2006.

**R. Dale Whitsitt '43**, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 9, 2006.

Three former Western employees die

**Marian Mitchell** of St. Joseph, professor emerita of business, died April 10, 2006. A scholarship has been established in her memory. To contribute, contact the MWSU Foundation at 816-271-5647.

**Dr. Roy Askins**, sociology professor at Western from 1980-89 died in February 2006 in Fallon, Nev.

Dr. Askins, who introduced the sociology of sport and physical activity class to Western, was perhaps best known for his articles on sports officiating which appeared in *Referee Magazine*.

**Elizabeth Castle**, a 1935 graduate of the Junior College, died March 11, 2006 in Kansas City, Mo. She was the curriculum director at the library for 20 years and a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. ■

Tell us what's new! or update online at [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What's New \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Western Alumni Office, Spratt Hall 108, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507



## Son carries on Griffon football tradition

A collage of sports photos greets visitors to the Newhart's family room in Cameron, Mo. Most of the photos feature daughter, Abby, and son, Drew, on their high school sports teams, but some of the action shots include dad, Robert '83, in a Griffon football uniform.

This fall, the family has to make room on the wall for another Griffon, as Drew, who graduated from Cameron RI High School last May, joined Coach Jerry Partridge's team.

"I was impressed with Western, but I didn't want to influence him," said Robert of Drew's college choice. "It was his decision. I stayed out of it."

Drew said he always knew he wanted to play football in college, and he had in the back of his mind that he wanted to play at Western. But the fact that his dad played there was "not as much of an impact as people thought it was."

Robert, who is a member of Western's Athletic Hall of Fame, started as a college freshman in 1978 at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. on a basketball scholarship, but decided to transfer to Western and join the football team the following spring.

He was fourth on the line-backer depth chart, but before the fall season, #1 quit school, #2 got shot on the job as a security guard, and #3 broke his ankle the week before the season opener. So Robert started for the season, and held that position for the rest of his college career, racking up many honors.

He was named all conference and all-district four seasons, and selected to the NAIA Div. I Football Academic All-American team in 1982. He was also Western's leading tackler for three seasons.

But his son came to Western with some pretty strong football credentials of his own.

As quarterback at Cameron, Drew led his high school teammates to a state championship last year and was named St. Joseph News-Press Offensive Player of the Year. He was also named all-

Drew and Robert Newhart

conference, all-district and all-state for three years.

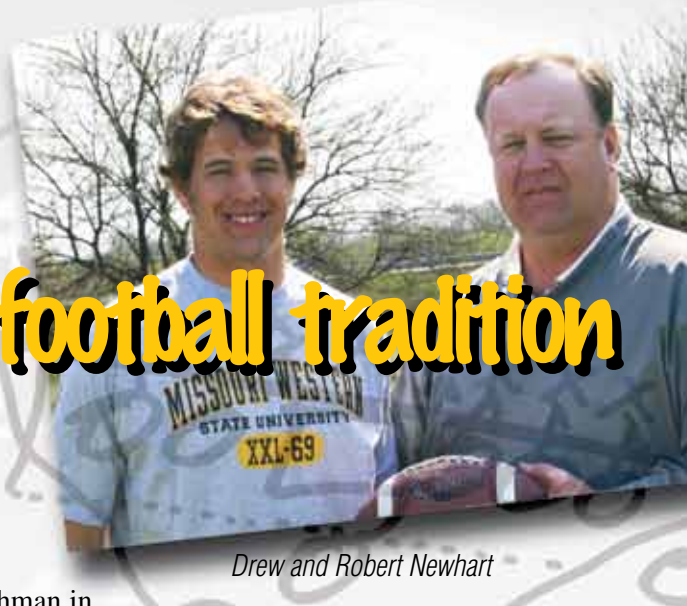
And will there be pressure to live up to dad's stellar seasons at Western?

"I heard it all the time through high school. I'm not too worried about the pressure."

But one thing is certain. Along with Robert, Drew's mother, Karen '82, and Abby, who is a senior at Western, won't miss a game.

"I'm excited we still have four more years of football," Abby said. She said she may even wear the same lucky socks and shirt she wore to Drew's high school games.

Robert said he has a lot of good memories of his football days at Western, and hopes Drew will too. "You remember the games, but it's the people you met and had the opportunity to play with that you never forget." ■



Robert Newhart in the 1983 Griffon Yearbook

What's grey and wrinkled and says "aaaaah?" Just ask Dr. Mark Wilson '80. When this veterinarian goes to work, he thinks big - something like 10 feet tall, 10,000 lbs. big. No house pets for this Florida vet; Mark is a renowned expert on the care of exotic animals, and elephants are his specialty.

Very few veterinarians work with elephants, but Mark regularly treats - and knows by name - about 25 or 30 circus elephants each year.

"It's not everybody's cup of tea. They can be very intimidating," he said. "Elephants can destroy things faster than you can believe just because they're having a good time. They are nature's bulldozers."

Mark's love for animals emerged when he was young; he began cleaning bird cages at the Kansas City Zoo when he was 12 years old.

By the time he enrolled at Western as a biology major, he had cared for every species at the zoo, and he knew that caring for animals was what he wanted to do.

After he graduated from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Mark opened up a private practice in central Florida to work on exotic animals. Since several circuses winter in that area, treating circus elephants was the next natural step.

Mark also began working for the Marion Nature Park in Florida when it was founded in 1989. He helped develop the Zoo School there in 1994, where students gained hands-on experience caring for almost 200 animals.

His latest project reflects his love for the ponderous pachyderm: he hopes to convert an area of forest and swampland into a facility for retired circus elephants.



### The skinny on elephants

Dr. Mark Wilson says the life expectancy for an elephant in captivity can be more than 70 years, and it depends on one thing - their teeth. Elephants get several sets of teeth in their lifetime, and they get the last set in their 30s or 40s. "When that wears down, they're in trouble."

## This doctor makes tent calls

Usually when circus elephants are retired, he explained, they go to a sanctuary area, but many of them miss the activity, the audiences and the performing.

That's how his facility will differ. "It will be a setting where they will be stimulated. They can perform if they want to, but they don't have to."

The land will also be home to several endangered species, and visitors will be able to view those animals, along with the retired elephants. But it won't be an ordinary tour; the visitors will view the animals from the backs of elephants.

Along with providing a great place for elephants to put their giant feet up or to rest their tremendous trunks, Mark hopes the facility will promote the preservation of endangered species, and help visitors appreciate the prodigious pachyderm.

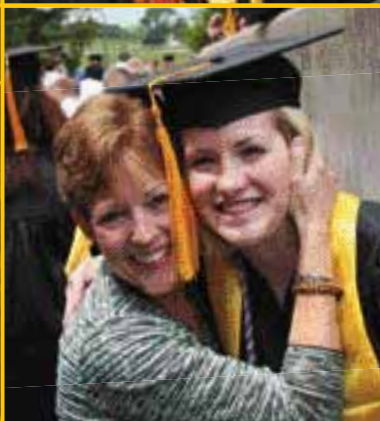
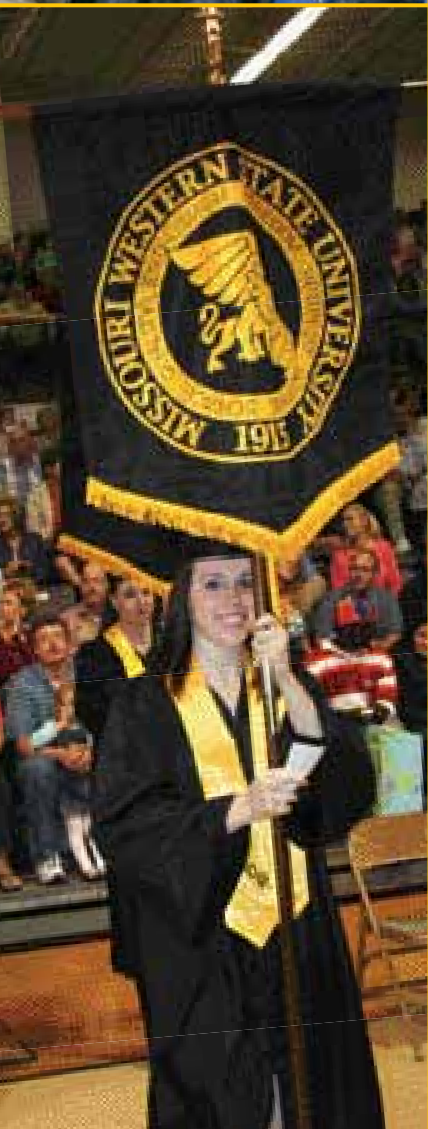
"What better ambassador for elephants than elephants?" ■



Dr. Mark Wilson '80, left, works on a circus elephant named, what else? Dumbo. Photos by Tom Snyder







## Spring Commencement 2006!

**J**ohn Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, 1940s baseball player for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro American League and scout for the Chicago Cubs and Kansas City Royals, offered words of encouragement and laughter as the featured speaker at Western's commencement ceremonies in May.

"Don't stop - we're depending on you," the 94 year-old told the approximately 360 students who walked. "You are our future, and I know you're going to do a wonderful job for us. You can be anything you want to be, and I know you want to be leaders in this wonderful country."

He offered one last laugh when the audience gave him a standing ovation at his talk's end. "Sit down. I was good, but I wasn't that good." ■

