

# Missouri Western

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends • Spring 2005



**Classes go subterranean** page 14  
**A Griffon's tale** page 16





*The Missouri Western Magazine  
is a publication of the Institutional  
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friends of Missouri Western State College  
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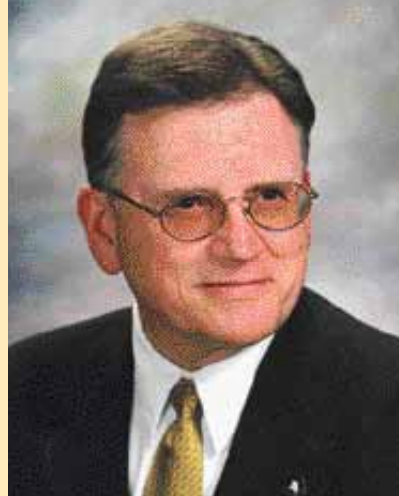
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Missouri Western State College is an equal opportunity institution.



## President's Perspective

Dear Alumni and Friends,  
Missouri Western State College is a rapidly emerging institution of higher education poised, with the approval of the Legislature and the Governor, to become Missouri Western State University. Western already has the profile of an excellent American regional university. Western

is focused on applied learning and applied research and seeks "university" designation in order to become a stronger partner in the economic and social development of our region of Missouri. Through our alumni, in fact, Western already has a significant impact well beyond our region.

Since the 1960s, most states in the nation have changed their public four-year colleges to universities. All but one of the states that border Missouri have done the same. Why? Because their expanded mission strengthens the economic and social development potential of the state in the new knowledge-based economy.

Today, Western's economic impact alone on the larger community is conservatively estimated to be about \$150 million per year. University status will increase this impact substantially during the next few decades. Here are some examples:

- As a university, Western will be better positioned to work with others to expand local industry and attract new businesses to the region, especially in areas like the life sciences, health care, and technology-based manufacturing.
- As a university, Western will be better situated to meet the workforce and applied research needs of the region through selected programs designed in partnership with business, industry, government, the professions, and other universities.
- As a university, Western will be better able to attract federal government grants, foundation dollars, and outside contracts to support collaborative activities with business, industry, government, the professions, and the schools.
- As a university, Western will be in a better position to raise private funds to support students with scholarships, faculty with professional development, and programs and services that help individuals and the region.
- As a university, Western will be well placed to attract new students, continuing to increase its total enrollment and its positive economic and educational impact on our region and well beyond our region through graduates.
- As a university, Western will be well situated to work as an equal partner with other universities in Missouri and beyond Missouri to serve the needs of the region through effective use of resources and without unnecessary duplication of efforts.

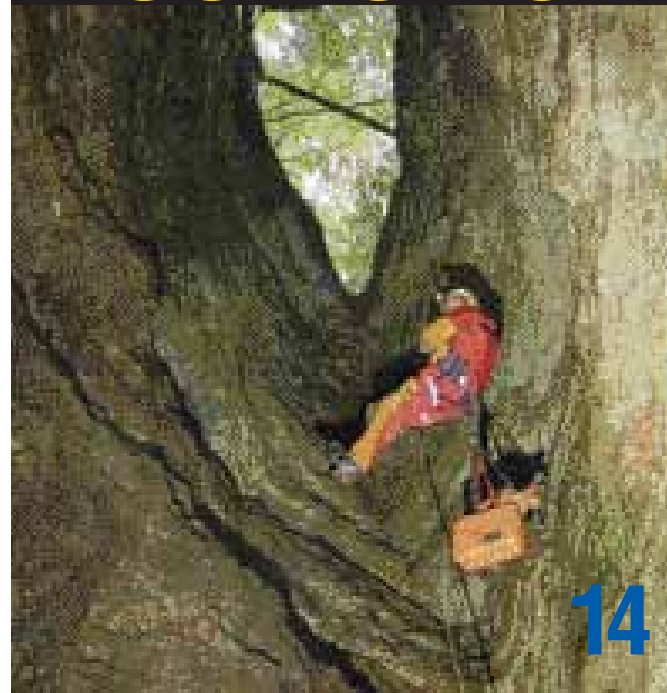
The demands of the new economy require full access to higher education at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. Many states clearly understand this. In fact, in the states with the fastest growing economies, the public four-year campuses are universities. As universities, they have greater impact on the economies of their communities, regions, and states.

Making Western "Missouri Western State University" is the right thing to do based on the merits of our case and the potential it promises for our students, our region, and our state. We are asking the General Assembly and the Governor to approve university status for Western based on those merits.

Yours sincerely,

James J. Scanlon  
President

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### On the cover:

Taylor and Alex Ware, children of Wendy, '97, and Steve Ware, love Western's new Griffon. Taylor and Alex are the grandchildren of Patsy, '95, and Tom Smith, men's head basketball coach.

Photo by Eric Callow



## Features

### 8 Biology professor inspired many

Described as their favorite professor, many alumni say Dr. Leo Galloway's influence continued long after they graduated.

### 14 Classes go subterranean

For the past 13 years, Dr. David Ashley has been leading students on cave exploring expeditions throughout the state. Find out why one cave dweller now bears his name.

### 16 A Griffon's tale

The beloved mascot's looks may have changed a lot since it was created in 1917, but its rich symbolism has remained a constant in the history of the college.







## The 3 Rs for 2005: Renovating, rejuvenating & remodeling

**C**onstruction noises are common sounds these days, as several projects are underway as part of a campus-wide effort to improve student spaces.



*The rock and plant display under the stairs will be removed as part of the library renovation.*

The largest project underway is the 400-bed residence hall, slated for completion this fall. The hall will feature semi-suite double and single rooms, and lounges, study areas and kitchenettes



*Western's new residence hall is slated to open this fall.*



*The residence halls' Commons Building was completed last fall. It includes a coffee bar, shown above, a 24-hour service desk and a convenience store.*

on every floor. Students will have the opportunities to live and study together as part of Western's learning communities initiative.

The residence halls' commons building was completed last fall, and is being used for student gatherings and staff offices. The commons also offers a convenience store, coffee shop and 24-hour service desk.

All the existing residence halls received electrical and ventilation upgrades, also.

The Student Government Association is completing an approximately \$85,000 project in the lounge on the first floor of the Nelle Blum Student Union that included removing

the brick walls, covering the pillars, new carpeting, new furniture and lighting.

"We wanted to give students a place to congregate that was comfortable and inviting," said student Sylvester Brandon, one of the coordinators of the project.

New wall treatments, carpeting, and new furniture are planned renovations for the library's main floor, also.

"As we grow, we need to make sure our spaces meet the demands for our students to live, study and attend classes," said Ron Olinger, vice president for financial planning and administration. "We need to continually adapt to students' needs." ■

## Foreign studies opportunities expand for students

**D**r. Tim Holian, associate professor of German at Missouri Western State College, said that often, as he and his students are heading to the airport to return home from a two- or three-week travel/study abroad trip, a student will say, "I wish we weren't leaving. I was just beginning to feel comfortable."

Now, he said students have the opportunity to extend their visits and enjoy a greater cultural immersion, because Tim, along with Dr. Susan Hennessy, associate professor of French; have established student exchange programs with French and German universities.

"We want them to use all the skills they have acquired in the classroom," Tim said. "It's an exciting opportunity for anyone who has an interest in a foreign language and really wants to use it."

Two Western students, Melina Paden and Aylesi Bobo, spent their spring 2004 semester studying at the Universite d'Angers in Angers, France, and a student from that university is currently attending Western. This fall, a student from the Otto-Friedrich-Universität in Bamberg will attend Western, and a student from Western will begin studying at that university in the spring of 2006.

"My experience in France was the best thing I have ever done in my life, and I learned a lot about myself," said Melina, a senior French major from St. Joseph. "I also learned French so well I can now speak it without thinking about it, and I can understand the language so much better."

Melina believes the extended stay offered a lot more benefits compared to a

shorter visit, and she would definitely recommend a semester-long program.

"I tell others if they really want to learn a foreign language, they have to study abroad," said Melina. "I learned things I could never have learned in a classroom." ■

## New dean of student development hired

**D**r. Paul Shang was hired as Western's new dean of student development and began his duties in January.

"I am very excited and honored. Throughout my interview, people reiterated that Western is a very special place. I believe them, and I am thrilled to join them," said Paul.

He was formerly the director of student and enrollment services at Penn State Worthington Scranton of Dunmore, Penn., and had served as director of student affairs there. Paul has also held director positions in student affairs divisions at Colorado State University and the University of Iowa. ■



*Dr. Paul Shang*

## Agenstein building update

**A**dministrators are hopeful that the Missouri Legislature will approve funding during this session for the Evan R. Agenstein Science and Math Building's addition and renovation project.

It is the third priority on the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's capital projects list, and hopefully it will be funded

if a general higher education building package passes in the Missouri Legislature.

In 2002, the college received a \$250,000 federal grant through the work of Sen. Christopher Bond, and the funds were used to design and plan the project.

The Agenstein building was one of the first on campus in 1969. ■





## Western Institute embarks on research projects

One of the first projects of the Western Institute's new geospatial lab is putting St. Joseph on the map. Literally.

Executive Director Dr. Christopher Shove said the lab is involved in a joint project with the city of St. Joseph, Buchanan County, the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce and a number of private businesses to create a database of industrial sites and buildings in the region.

The information will be available on the Internet to be used by businesses around the world who are interested in moving to the region.

"When companies are looking to locate someplace, they want to keep it a secret," said Christopher, who was the director of the Center for Geographic Information Science and Applied Geographics at the University of Toledo, Ohio before joining Western. "This is a way they can do that. They can get the very detailed information they need to buy a site in St. Joseph."

"New technologies are allowing businesses, conservation groups and local governments to have information they desperately need but never had before."

Western students will maintain the regional database and keep it current.

Another project in the geospatial lab involves mapping

data from 2 million farms in the United States. The information will be used by the Department of Agriculture to monitor the amount of farmland used for crop purposes.

Christopher noted that as the Institute matures, more faculty and students will become involved in projects.

In fact, the biology department has received three grants in the past two years for Geographic Information Systems software (p. 5).

"It is critical for students to have this knowledge (of geospatial data). It's a powerful tool for research in many different disciplines," Christopher said. ■

## Woodward speaks at Convocation on Critical Issues


One of the most prolific nonfiction writers in America spoke at Western's 2004 Convocation on Critical Issues in September.

Bob Woodward, assistant managing editor of the Washington Post, told an audience of over 3,200 of his experiences in writing his bestseller, "Plan of Attack," about President George Bush and the war in Iraq.

He noted that he spent over a year writing the book, and his interview with the president was three- and a-half hours, a record for an interview with a sitting president.

Bob is the recipient of almost every major American journalism award. He and Carl Bernstein won a Pulitzer for their work in uncovering the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. ■

11th Annual  
Convocation on  
Critical Issues  
presents  
**Bob Woodward**



## Biology Department receives \$135,000 grant for GIS software

Four out of every five job announcements for positions within conservation or natural resource management are requiring some literacy in geospatial analysis," said Dr. Cary Chevalier, associate professor of biology.

And now, a \$135,000 grant for the biology department will help students continue to gain that knowledge and experience at Western.

The department received the grant last fall for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). The software grant, the third from ESRI in two years, will enhance the software and equipment that Western received from the two previous ESRI grants.

Giving Western students this experience makes them nationally competitive in the job market when they graduate,

said Cary, the principal investigator of the grant.

He noted that, in recent years, there has been a marked increase in the expectations of natural resource agencies and businesses for graduates in these fields to have GIS and Global Positioning System (GPS) experience.

"Our data suggests that over 95 percent of our students in this (conservation and wildlife management) program get jobs within a year."

The software, which includes licenses for a 25-seat lab, is primarily used for geospatial analysis classes and projects by students and faculty in the biology department.

"We now have four of the most powerful and heavily used (software) extensions and a mobile GIS," said Cary.



Dr. Cary Chevalier assists students Ivoree Groce and James Sperber with a mobile GPS unit.

**"I can't think of a professional discipline that could not use GPS and GIS for one task or another."**

*Dr. Cary Chevalier*

He noted that the system has multidisciplinary functions, and is available for any courses interested in geospatial analysis classes. "I can't think of a professional discipline that could not use GPS and GIS for one task or another."

Cary has been offering three-day workshops in mapping grade GPS for three years, and has offered 17 workshops in the past two years to meet the increasing demand. More will be offered this summer. ■

## 3rd Annual International Guitar Festival May 25-29

Join guitarists from all over the world for classes, concerts and career development seminars. \$5,000 in prize money and gifts. For festival details, go to [www.mwsc.edu/guitarfestival](http://www.mwsc.edu/guitarfestival) or call 816-271-4420





Freshmen held a car wash as part of the Griffon Edge day of service. Over 800 new students volunteered throughout the community.

## Students host International film festival

The student group Communication Connection hosted an international film festival that featured comedy, documentary, and dramatic award-winning films from all over the world. Forty films were

## Western student poised for music career

“Nothing gives you more energy than when you’re performing on stage. Sometimes I step off the stage and say, ‘this is why I do this.’” Those are the words of Kelli Pyle, a sophomore who is becoming well known nationally as a rhythm and blues singer.

Since she began pursuing a music career in earnest, Kelli, a native of St. Joseph, has performed on MTV and at an after-concert party for rhythm and blues singer Usher in Florida, and is working on her second CD of original songs.

“I love music. I can’t see myself doing anything but performing.” She is a member of Western’s Concert Chorale, and also sings with Western’s Steel Drum Band.

Since she began working

on her CD, Kelli has been balancing a full course load at Western and the homework that goes with it, recording and practicing.

She says sometimes it’s

tough to balance it all, “but I wouldn’t trade my schedule for anything. I figure if I’m going to do this as a career I’m going to do it right.”

Kelli’s first public performance was a talent show at the age of 12, and she said she was so terrified she could hardly sing. “I didn’t

win, but I didn’t give up.”

And where does she see herself in five years? “I hope I am a successful musician. Nothing would be a better job.”

But for now, she is focusing on her college classes, her CD, and making her place in the music industry. “My main goal is to enjoy the journey every step of the way.” ■



Kelli Pyle

selected from over 175 submitted.

“We brought filmmakers to Missouri Western and St. Joseph to expose our students to independent filmmakers and to films they won’t see in most theatres,” said Deny Staggs, assistant professor

of theatre and Communication Connection advisor.

Along with film showings throughout the two-and-a-half day event, filmmakers also held classes for participants. ■

## Western adds women’s soccer

The department of athletics is adding women’s soccer to its sports lineup, bringing the total number of Western’s intercollegiate athletic programs to 10.

The team will begin play this August as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA), and will compete with eight schools in the MIAA conference. Eighteen matches have been scheduled.

Western will play its home matches at the Riverside Soccer Complex, home to the St. Joseph Youth Soccer Association.

Mark Linder, director of athletics, said a national search for a coach is underway.

The addition of women’s soccer puts Western in compliance with NCAA legislation that requires Division II institutions to sponsor a minimum of 10 intercollegiate athletic programs prior to August 1, 2005.

With the addition of women’s soccer, Western now has six women’s sports: volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, golf, soccer; and four men’s sports: football, basketball, baseball and golf. ■

[www.GoGriffons.com](http://www.GoGriffons.com)



## Fun golf events planned

Don’t miss the fun when Western hosts two golf outings this summer, both to be held at the Fairview Golf Course in St. Joseph.

The third annual First Horizon Celebrity Golf Classic will be held June 2-3. Norm Stewart, Fred Patek and Jeff Montgomery are some of the

celebrities that are slated to play.

The Gold Coat Club will hold its annual summer golf outing on July 30. All are welcome to play with Griffon athletic alumni and current Western boosters at this great event.

For more information, call 816-271-4481 ■

## Fall sports recap

The Griffons celebrated 35 years of intercollegiate football at their Oct. 23 game. Western ended the season 5-6, and 4-5 in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA).

They picked up wins against Benedictine, Truman State, University of Missouri-Rolla and Southwest Baptist, but the highlight of the season came in a 49-44 shootout win at Central Missouri State.

The Griffon volleyball team went 13-15 in 2004 and 3-13 in the MIAA. One highlight of the season was during the final regular season match as Western knocked off nationally ranked Rockhurst University 3-1 at home.

The young volleyball team will return the bulk of its players for next season, as outside hitter Shelly Chiles was the lone senior in 2004. ■



Photo by Warren Ingram



**“W**hether I’m hiking in a pasture filled with spring wildflowers at home in California, or trekking in Patagonia, I always think of Leo, and I am grateful for the love of nature that he nurtured in me.”

Those are the words of Dr. Margaret King, ’73, speaking about Dr. Leo Galloway, professor emeritus of biology. She is one of several alumni who reminisced recently about how Leo had affected their lives.

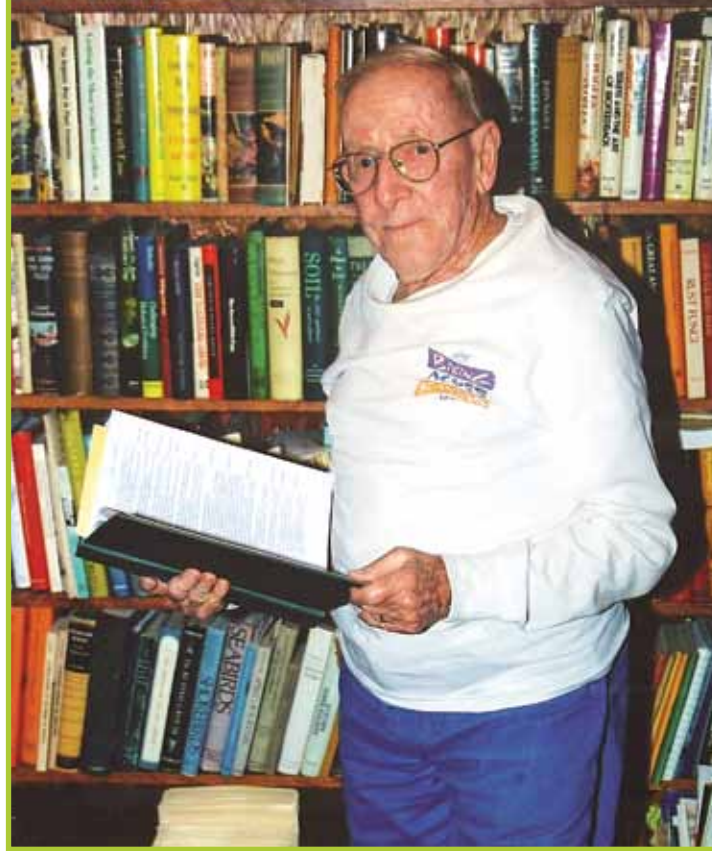
“Leo influenced my life in a big way. He introduced me to the wonders of plants and animals and to the world around me, and that was when ‘ecology’ was a word that was

just entering common usage.”

**“Dr. Galloway is one of those special teachers who not only love their job, but love to pass that love along to others.”**

*Bill Bangerter, ’76*

50th birthday, and she gives Leo credit for the motivation of the trip. “If he can do it, I can too,” she said, referring to Leo’s cross country bicycle trip in 1979.



*Dr. Leo Galloway, professor emeritus of biology*

She said she also bird watches and photographs flowers, an interest she developed from Leo’s upper level botany class when he invited students along on hiking and birding treks. She can still remember how he would pull over alongside the road to point out an unusual plant.

Leo’s great teaching skill and his patience are what many alumni remember. Melissa Feldhaus, ’75, said, as a business major, biology “wasn’t her thing,” but Leo made the class and labs interesting and fun.

Bill Bangerter, ’76, of St. Joseph, was a student in one of Leo’s general biology classes. Bill said he kept putting off the course until he was almost ready to graduate, and ended up taking a night class with Leo. “I was totally petrified of the course, but he made the class both educational and enjoyable,” Bill said. “He was one of the best instructors I ever had, and

is a shining example of what an educator should be. Dr. Galloway is one of those special teachers who not only love their job, but love to pass that love along to others.”

Kim, who is an eighth-grade science teacher in Nevada, Mo., agreed, and said she tries to model Leo in the classroom. “He was so interested in plants and birds that he would draw you in, and I really try to make my interest infectious for my students.”

Leo, who began teaching at Western in 1972 and retired in 1980, said he still misses the classroom. “I had good rapport with the students. I enjoyed them all,” said Leo. “I love Missouri Western. I’m really proud of the college, and think it is outstanding.”

Although he does very little bird watching and bicycle riding anymore (he logged over 135,000 miles!), he remains active and said he loves doing research in his home library when people ask him questions about flora.

Last year, an 11-page work of his was published in “Flora of North America,” a 12-volume reference for botanists. His section in the book covers 19 species of the flower *Abronia*, which he has researched for over 30 years. Appropriately, Western’s herbarium bears Leo’s name.

Considering all of Leo’s accomplishments in the field of botany, in research or on his bicycle, he said he is most proud of his relationships with his students.

“I feel like I’ve inspired several students, and those are my greatest accomplishments,” Leo said.

“When I was young, I assumed that life would be full of wonderful people,” said Margaret. “Of course, I have since learned that wonderful people like Leo Galloway are rare treasures. I am so lucky to know him.” ■

**Biology professor inspired many**

## Alumni: A call to action! Help Western attain university status!

**W**estern already has the profile of a university, according to Director of External Relations Beth Wheeler. She is more optimistic than she has ever been that this may be the year the Missouri Legislature votes to give Western university status.

Sen. Charlie Shields and Reps. Martin Rucker, Rob Schaaf, ’79, and Ed Wildberger prefiled bills in the legislature in December for Western’s university status.

Missouri alumni are encouraged to contact their legislators during this legislative session to show their support for university status.

They may go to Western’s home page at [www.mwsc.edu/alumni](http://www.mwsc.edu/alumni), and follow the links to a site that has letter forms, talking points, and a link to find out who their legislators are.

Alumni are also invited to join Western staff and students at a lobby day in Jefferson City, Mo. on April 13. Details are available at the alumni website.

Beth said there are many advantages to Western gaining university status:

- **A university could attract more businesses to the community, and encourage more students to pursue an education after high school.**
- **A university tends to attract more grants, which would benefit both students and the region.**
- **University status adds value to an alumnus’ degree.**

She noted that if Western becomes a university and offers graduate degrees, they would most likely be in the fields of health sciences, life sciences and engineering technology, which are not offered in the region.

For more information about the lobby day, or to get on a legislative update listserv, contact Beth at [wheelerb@mwsc.edu](mailto:wheelerb@mwsc.edu) or 816-271-5887. ■



## Alum Profile

**Who:** Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell, class of 2000

**Degree:** BS in communication studies

**Western memory:** Shortly before graduation, we gathered at (Professor of Speech Dr.) Diane Gorcyca's house, and I had just gotten word that I was accepted into the graduate program at KU. For all of us it was the culmination of hard work, and I was happy to be able to share my news with one of the most involved professors and my peers."



Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell '00

**"Be willing to pay it forward through your commitment as a citizen scholar. I owe a debt to Missouri Western that is more than I could ever pay back, so instead I pay it forward."**

*Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell '00*

Working 40 hours a week to pay bills – necessary. Not understanding something right away – frustrating. Your degree from Western – priceless." That was Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell's version of a popular television commercial when she was the featured speaker at Western's commencement ceremonies last spring.

"Missouri Western prepared me well," she said. "It wasn't until I graduated that I realized the value of being a graduate of an institution like Missouri Western."

Dr. Santa Cruze Bell, '00, went to work at a radio station after graduating from her high school in St. Louis, and waited four years before enrolling at Western as a freshman.

But once she started college, she just couldn't stop with a bachelor's degree. In 2004, only four years after

she received from faculty, staff, friends, and especially her husband, in reaching her academic goals.

"I owe a lot of people. I can't repay what I owe unless I do things for other people." She told the new graduates, that they, too, needed to perform works of service to repay the good things people had done for them.

"Be willing to pay it forward through your commitment as a citizen scholar. I owe a debt to Missouri Western that is more than I could ever pay back, so instead I pay it forward."

As a student at Western, she became the coordinator of the newly created America Reads program, where college students tutor elementary school students to improve their reading skills.

She said the position was very fulfilling because a lot of her responsibilities were "trial by fire," including writing two grants for the program. She said she has continued the "trial by fire" philosophy with her students.

In retrospect, she realizes how Western prepared her well for her academic and professional future, but she didn't appreciate it at the time. "The professors really crafted the experience for us. Looking back now the rigor in that program is definitely needed and appreciated." ■



Reynolds Potter with the piano he and his siblings donated to the college in honor of their parents.

## Potter family donates piano to Western

**M**usic students who practice on the beautifully restored grand piano in the fine arts center should thank the children of Thompson E. Potter, the building's namesake: Reynolds Potter, Thompson Potter Jr., Robert Potter and Susan Potter Johnson.

Reynolds said his mother, Barbara Potter Fox, died in January 2004, and the family decided the college would be a good home for the piano that had been in the Potter home for 40 years. The family had the piano restored and tuned.

The fine arts center was named in honor of Thompson, who died in 1968. He was a member of the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents, and worked to establish Western as a four-year college.

"My father had a lot to do with getting Missouri Western going - and that is a big understatement," said Reynolds.

His mother, Barbara, was a nurse at Western for several years. She later married Dr. Gerald Fox, who is deceased.

The family also donated funds for the Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Fox nursing scholarship to be awarded to a student this fall. ■



**Show your Western pride when you drive! A \$25 donation to the college allows you to purchase a special Western license plate. All you need is a verification letter from us. Call 816-271-5651 for details.**

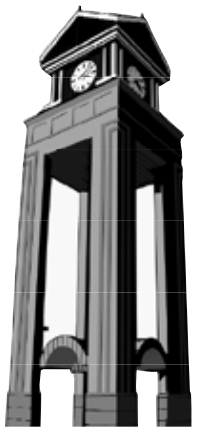
## New Clock Tower Society honors donors

**"I**t will be the generosity of many alumni and friends that will assure Western's continued progress and high standards of excellence," said Dan Nicoson, executive director of the Foundation and vice president for institutional advancement, when he announced the establishment of The Clock Tower Society, an honorary society of Western donors.

Membership in the Society is extended to all who have made or will make an estate or deferred gift commitment, such as a bequest, charitable life income plan, charitable lead trust, life insurance, remainder interest in property, or other individual estate plans.

"We are well aware that the college's future depends in part on the partnership with its benefactors," said Dan. "We welcome this opportunity to honor those who have invested in the future of Western."

Members will receive a certificate and will be listed in the Foundation's Annual Report. For more information, call 816-271-5647. ■



**The Clock Tower Society**



## Family establishes endowed scholarship

The establishment of the Gina Welsch Compton Memorial Scholarship for nontraditional students is a story of family love, hard work and honoring the memory of a beloved sister, daughter and mother.

Gina Welsch Compton, '82, died in 1999 at the age of 46.

"Gina was an incredible individual. Her death created a tremendous void in our family," said her sister, Kathy Welsch.

In 2002, Gina's family contacted Western to establish an endowed scholarship in her honor.

"Gina valued education as we all did," said Kathy, who coordinated the funding of the scholarship. "She went back as a nontraditional student when her kids were in school, and

she managed all of it and got good grades."

An endowed scholarship requires a \$10,000 minimum, but donors have up to two years to raise the principal to that level. So since 2002, Kathy, her parents and six siblings have been working to achieve that goal.

When the family lost Gina's father and granddaughter in 2003 and 2004, memorials were established for Gina's scholarship fund. Kathy also coordinated garage sales and a raffle to raise funds, and the endowment goal was reached last fall.

"It's been an enjoyable joint effort by many friends and family members. There's tremendous satisfaction in raising money for a scholarship," said Kathy. ■



Marie Fulkerson is pictured on her 104th birthday with Dan Nicoson, executive director of the Foundation and vice president for institutional advancement. The Fulkerson Center, named in honor of Marie and her late husband Lyman, is being completed this spring (see p. 21).

## Foundation creates Western League for Excellence

The Foundation invites all alumni and friends to become members of the Western League for Excellence, a society to honor those who donate unrestricted funds of \$100 or more to the Foundation.



"Contributions to the League are unrestricted, which means they are not designated for a specific purpose, but will help provide funds for the Foundation's projects in support of the work of the college," said Director of Development Jerry Pickman.

Membership levels of the League are designated as follows: Founder's Circle - \$5,000 or more each year; Regent's Circle - \$1,000 to \$4,999; President's Circle - \$500 to \$999; Cabinet's Circle - \$250 to \$499; and the Dean's Circle - \$100 - \$249.

League members will receive special correspondence from the college president and the vice president for institutional advancement, and will be listed in the Foundation's Annual Report.

"We appreciate our donors and their support of Western," said Jerry. "The League is our way to recognize and honor their steadfast generosity." ■



Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president, hosted a 35th anniversary dinner for current and former Board of Trustees and Board of Regents members to celebrate Western's accomplishments and history. Pictured here are Roy Tewell and his daughter, Tracee Hegarty.

## Foundation marks 35th anniversary

In 2004, as Western marked the 35th anniversary of its campus and the establishment of a four-year institution, the Foundation, too, marked its 35th anniversary.

"I remember thinking, 'We've got a ways to go, but it's a good start,'" said Lee Schuster, one of the founding members of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

"The Foundation was then, and always has been, a bridge between the college and community."

Throughout its 35 years, the Foundation's purpose has been to encourage gifts that are in turn used to further the mission of Western.

For example, last year,

the Foundation distributed over \$227,000 in scholarships. It also funded student, staff and faculty travel to conferences and workshops; speakers on campus, including

Bob Woodward at the Convocation on Critical Issues; and a variety of programs to enhance students' academic experience at Western.

"Strong colleges and universities have a rich heritage of community backing and alumni supporting their alma mater," said Dan Nicoson, executive director of the Foundation and vice president for institutional advancement. "The Foundation seeks to develop these traditions for the benefit of Western and its students." ■



## New board members and officers elected

The Foundation elected two new board members last fall: J. Stephen Hamilton and Al L. Purcell. Both were elected for six-year terms as directors at large.

Stephen is the regional president for UMB Bank and president of UMB Bank in St. Joseph.

Al is president of Purcell Consulting, a business he started after a long career with Xerox Corporation. His last position with Xerox was CEO.

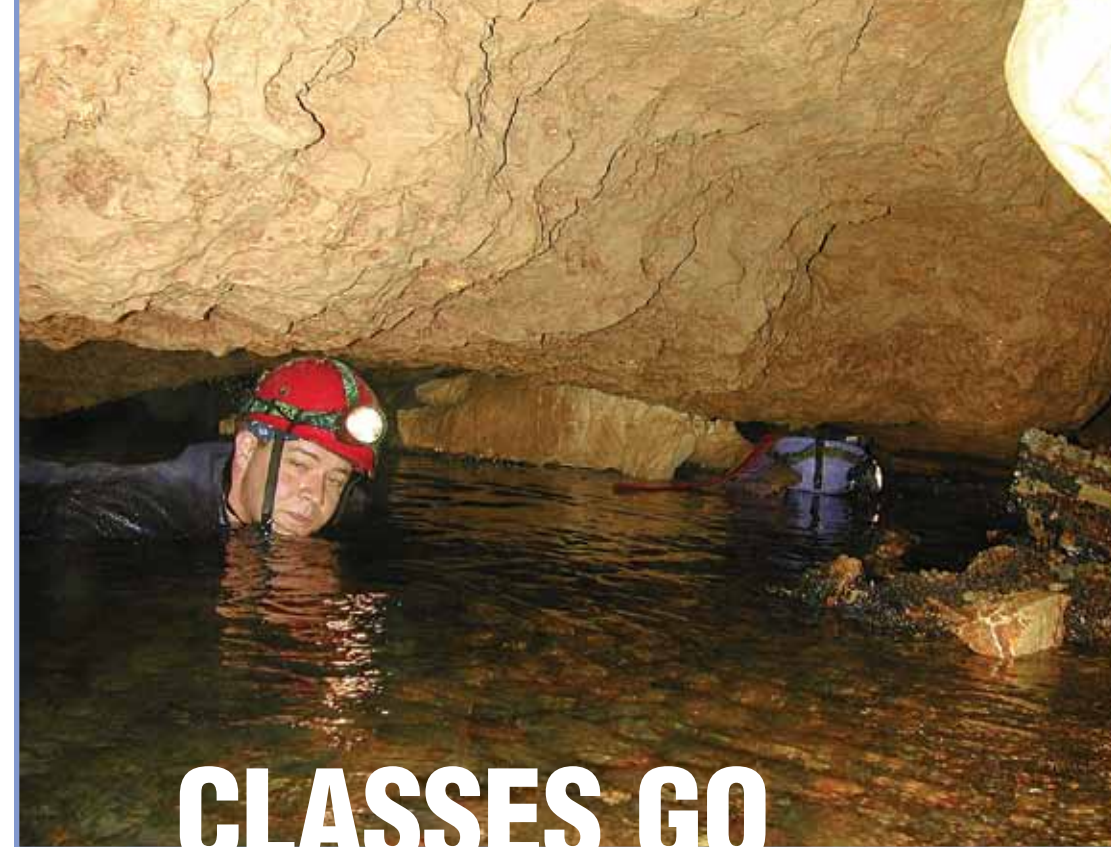
The new board members replace Geraldine Lawhon and Robert Thedinger. Both Geraldine and Robert had served on the board for two six-year terms, which is the maximum under the term limitation rules.

The Western Foundation Board also elected its officers to new terms in the same office. The continuing officers are: Stan Hall, president; Emil Sechter, vice president; Dick Rochambeau, treasurer; and George Richmond, secretary. ■

**Donate to the Foundation online!**  
Go to [www.mwsc.edu/foundation](http://www.mwsc.edu/foundation) and click on "Giving to the Foundation" to get to the secure website.



**The small group stealthily entered the cave at dusk, settled on a spot about 15 feet from the entrance, extinguished their lights and quietly waited. As soon as it was completely dark outside, over 15,000 bats flew past the cave visitors into the night.**



## CLASSES GO subterranean



*Dr. David Ashley leads students into Tumbling Creek Cave*

Welcome to Western's cave exploring class with Dr. David Ashley, professor of biology.

"It was a rush for the students," David said of the bats. "I love to research, but it's much more fun when you have students to share it with."

David has been taking students on caving expeditions throughout Missouri since he began teaching a beginning cave exploration class at Western 13 years ago.

When he first started teaching the class, many students dropped out after learning that they wouldn't be exploring those nice Missouri show caves with sidewalks and light bulbs throughout. But now, most students

know that signing up for David's caving class means getting dirty and cold, crawling through tight spaces, possibly sleeping overnight in a cave, and enjoying a learning experience not offered on a lot of college campuses.

Along with the beginning classes, he also takes students in his upper level biology classes on caving trips several times throughout the semester,

where they conduct research for federal and state agencies. In one research project, he and his students helped get a cavesnail listed as an endangered species by conducting a systematic count of it over six years for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The learning environment in caving classes is unique," said Shannon Brewer, '01, who enjoyed several caving trips with David. "I believe any student would walk away from these experiences a better student."

Shannon, now a first-year doctoral student at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at the University of Missouri - Columbia, said her cave research experiences led her to pursue a doctorate degree. "The experiences that I had left impressions in my mind that will influence my research for years to come."

David and his students conduct research and monitor cave habitats in Tumbling Creek Cave in the Ozark area three or four times a year. The Western crews have studied crickets, crayfish, snails, salamanders, bats and flatworms, to name a few. "If it's alive and in the cave, I make them (the students) count it," David said.

In fact, a blind, one-quarter-inch invertebrate with no pigment found only in Tumbling Creek Cave bears David's name - Brackenridgia ashleyi. He was recently honored with the naming because of his efforts to monitor the ecosystem of that cave.

Aaron Bunker, a senior biology major from St. Joseph, said his caving experiences have helped him appreciate the "wonders of nature." He even spent one summer conducting tours, managing cave restoration and maintenance projects, and conducting a crayfish population study for David at Onondaga Cave State Park in the Ozarks.

"These classes have definitely supplemented my college experience in memorable ways," Aaron said.

David said only a handful of cave ecology courses are taught throughout the country, and very few of those offer students the intense research and hands-on opportunities that Western students receive.

Aaron said even if other colleges offer caving opportunities, "they are not taught by one of the best cave biologists/teachers in the midwest." ■



## Cave Capers

**"After our first caving stop, Dr. Ashley wanted to take us to another cave to explore. Unfortunately, when it snows, all the wilderness roads look basically the same.**

**We spent a very long 45 minutes in the bed of his pickup driving around in the 35-degree weather in our gear, which was wet from exploring the other cave.**

**When I got out of the truck my clothes were frozen stiff. Ice actually cracked off my suit. It's funny now looking back on it but at the time that was the coldest I have ever been."**

**Kyle Chilcoat, '97**

**"One of the caves had a vertical entrance that you had to go down to get into the cave. My buddy, over six foot tall, had no problem getting into the cave, but getting out became a problem.**

**Dr. Ashley figured out that the only way my buddy could climb out was to use himself (Dr. Ashley) as a ladder. However, my buddy had to do some jumping to get a grip on something to pull himself out.**

**The rest of the evening, Dr. Ashley walked and acted as if he'd been beaten up by an unruly mob."**

**Aaron Bunker, senior**

## Cave Numbers

Missouri is home to over 5,380 registered and mapped wild caves, and 300 of the wild caves are in the three counties that surround the Lake of the Ozarks. The state currently has 22 show caves.



Sam the Griffon at a football game in the early 1990s. This costume version was replaced in 1995.



# A Griffon's tale



Norman Knight's Griffon doodles

Of all the legacies of the St. Joseph Junior College, the Griffon mascot is probably the most appreciated and enduring. It has taken on several forms over the years, from ferocious to majestic to fun and childish, but the mascot and all it symbolizes has been beloved by Western students since it was created 88 years ago.

Last fall, yet another adaptation of the Griffon in costume emerged on the football field, replacing the four-year old Lil' Griff. The new mascot is similar to Sam the Griffon, with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion.

"Our goal was to give our students a mascot who could get into the stands and interact with them," said Mark Linder, director of athletics.

Sam first appeared at athletic events in 1988. Although several versions of a costumed Griffon had been gracing Homecoming parades for several years prior to that, a look back at yearbooks shows that this was the first year the college had a costumed mascot at athletic events.

In 1995, Sam got an extreme makeover. According to the yearbook that year, the new Griffon "emerged less amusing and more ferocious," and was renamed Sampson.

Sam's, or Sampson's, last year was 1999, and the next year he was replaced by an inflatable Lil' Griff, a new mascot geared for young fans. "Lil' Griff was intended to get the little kids more involved," said Dave Lau, director of development and special events for the athletics department. But as evidenced on this magazine's cover, little children love the new mascot, too.

Perhaps Western's mascot has endured so well and been so revered

because of its rich symbolism.

"After enrolling at Missouri Western, I learned that the Griffon was a mythological creature that made nests of gold, which made them vigilant guardians of their valuables," said Melissa Boswell, '01. "That led me to believe that the Griffon guarded the school and was a champion for the students."

"To me, the mascot means the pride of the campus," said Bob Cochran, '80. He said the Griffon was a symbol of students soaring ahead with the eagles.

In a letter to Western in 1970, Norman Knight, '17, the creator of the original Griffon mascot, wrote, "I can't remember exactly how I decided on the Griffon. I think it was accidental.

Somewhere I read that the Griffon was considered a symbol of wisdom and a guardian of buried treasure.

It occurred to me that an education could be considered as a sort of buried treasure that one must

Griffon art from the 1940 yearbook



'dig for' by dint of hard study."

Norman also included in the letter some loose leaf pages of the doodles and drawings that led to the Griffon (pictured left), and Western still has those original drawings. Copies of them hang in the Nelle Blum Student Union Junior College Room, along with a mural painted by Al Kost, '32, that includes several depictions of the Griffon mascot over the years.

The look of the Griffon took on more symbolism in 1977 when the official logo was reshaped to resemble the state of Missouri, reflecting Western's membership into the state of Missouri college system.

Although ever enduring, the Griffon has had some detractors over the years. When the college was transforming into a four-year institution, there was talk in 1967 that perhaps the mascot should be changed to



## Did you know?

A web search turned up only six other colleges in the United States that have the Griffon as their logo, but none of them spells it like Western does.

reflect the Pony Express' place in St. Joseph's history. Frank Popplewell, then professor of American history, wrote a letter to Western's director of public relations opposing the change. An excerpt reads, "We certainly do not want an insignia which memorializes a form of enterprise which survived for 18 months and was driven from business because it could not compete with more sophisticated forms

of transportation."

The issue was raised again two years later, and was then addressed by the Missouri Western chapter of the American Association of University Professors. They voted to retain the Griffon mascot, and further requested that the regents vote on the issue as soon as possible to put the matter to rest.

It stayed to rest until 1984, when the minutes of a Student Government Association meeting revealed that someone recommended that the Griffon mascot be changed to

"Pony Expressman."

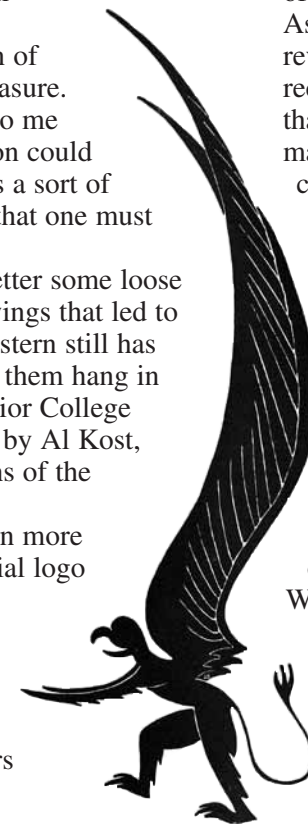
Fortunately, the recommendation was never acted upon, and the idea has not been brought up since.

And, so, the beloved Griffon continues to guard the precious treasure of an education at Western. ■

The new Griffon costume made its debut at Homecoming 2004



Western's Griffon logo in 1969



Griffon art from the 1942 yearbook







Julie Fiedler  
Director of Alumni Services

**D**uring the past year and a half at Western, I have met many alumni who have shared with me some of the wonderful memories that they have of their Western experience. It doesn't surprise me that Western has touched

## Director's Voice

so many people, as it has touched my life greatly in just the short time that I have been here. During my time here at Western, I have discovered gold.

I have discovered Junior College alumni who are very proud of the foundation that they laid for Missouri Western State College, and I have discovered dedicated, thoughtful alumni who know that Western is a great place to get an educational life experience.

I have also discovered friends of the college who give of themselves to further a student's education, through internship opportunities,

monetary donations and university status support.

Alumni now have an **exciting new opportunity** to share their Western experience as mentors to students. Beginning in the fall, alumni and students will be matched up by the Alumni Services Office and the Career Development Office.

Alumni who are interested in participating can contact me or go to our website at [www.mwsc.edu/alumni](http://www.mwsc.edu/alumni) for more information. This is a great chance for you to help current students discover gold! ■

## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

What an exciting year it has been for the Western Alumni Board. We have been working very hard on significant improvements to our Association, and you will be seeing the Alumni Association become more visible in the years to come.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tremendous efforts put forth by the numerous volunteers involved in this process. There are unlimited benefits from volunteering, including the opportunity to meet a wide variety of very interesting people and network, a chance to show off your skills and talents, and a break from your regular routine. With the Alumni Association's dedicated effort to become more involved and visible, we would like to ask you to join us, as there are many opportunities for you to be involved!

When I speak of volunteerism, I can't help but think of a longtime member of our Alumni Association Board of Directors. Mary Ann Fenner recently was forced to resign from our board due to health issues and her move to another community. She has been a very active volunteer for Western since the formation of the Alumni Association 35 years ago. Mary Ann, we thank you for your time and dedication to Western and wish you all the best.

I hope that all of you will choose to be involved and support your alma mater. We welcome your involvement, ideas and enthusiasm for our black and gold!



Kristine Smith

Kristine L. Smith, '88 • President, Alumni Board

## Fulkerson Center dream comes true

**T**he dream of the Fulkerson Center became a reality last year when a groundbreaking ceremony last spring kicked off construction. The center opens in March.

It will include a large conference and banquet room that will seat up to 500 or can be divided into three rooms. There will be breakout rooms, a training and assessment center and an Alumni Room.

The Fulkerson Center dream has been several years in the making. In 2000, the "Our Promise" capital campaign raised \$1.2 million in private donations for the center, and at the time, an additional \$1 million was promised from state capital funds.

However, with the subsequent downturn of the economy and the dismal state coffers in the years following, the funds from the state were never released. A revised plan was developed in 2003 that includes all the components of the original plans.

The center is named in honor of Marie Fulkerson and her late husband, Lyman. Originally from Nebraska, Marie moved to St. Joseph as a young woman and began working in the DeMuth Supply Company with her uncle, who founded the company in 1881. Marie and her husband, Lyman, assumed ownership of the business in 1949 and operated



it until it was sold in 1972. In a letter from Marie Fulkerson regarding her donation for the center, she noted that, as a former small business owner, she was especially interested in the training and development aspect of the Center that will assist existing businesses with training and retraining needs and may attract new businesses.

In addition to the gift from Marie, 43 other donors contributed to the project. Special recognition will be attached to five rooms: the Logan Family Educational Resource and Assessment Lab, supported by the directors of the John Sublett Logan Foundation; the Kemper Room made possible by a gift from the William T. Kemper Foundation; the MeadWestvaco Room; and the Rochambeau Room in memory of Richard Austin Rochambeau, Sr. from the Leah Spratt Trust. A gift

from Dr. Joe Friedman established the Alumni Room in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph (Joe) and Gladys Friedman and in honor of Joseph J. Droher. ■

## Texas Alums

Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president, is shown with Arthur Goldberg, '35, and his wife, Ruth Friedman-Goldberg, at an alumni gathering in Dallas.





## Gold Rush '04! Homecoming Highlights

### *Alumni Association honors Distinguished Alumni and Faculty*

**A** credit union CEO, two teachers and a fine arts supervisor are the recipients of the 2004 Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards: Dan Kampen, '81, Sean Nash, '91, Thomas Schneider, '64, and Dr. Nannette Wolford, '73. Dr. Steven Greiert, professor of history, received the Distinguished Faculty Award.

The five were honored at the Alumni Association's annual Homecoming banquet,

*A moon bounce was one of the attractions at the Homecoming tailgate lunch.*



Photo by Eric Callow

*The 2004 Alumni Association Distinguished Service Awardees are Thomas Schneider, '64, Dr. Steven Greiert, professor of history, Dr. Nannette Wolford, '73, Sean Nash, '91, and Dan Kampen, '81.*

they rode in the parade Saturday morning and were recognized at the football game that afternoon.

#### **Dan Kampen, '81**

Several people have probably helped raised money for good causes, but many would have trouble matching the success of Dan. Last year, he raised \$82,000 for needy children in Ukraine, and traveled there to personally deliver medical and school supplies.

He has also served several community organizations.

Since 1997, Dan, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration, has served as president and chief executive officer of U.S. Central, the nation's only wholesale corporate credit union.

"Missouri Western provided me with an education that prepared me for a career in the world of business," Dan said. "In every class, I was encouraged to think, to apply myself and to strive for success."

#### **Sean Nash, '91**

On his first day as a student at Western, Sean joined the college biology club, and he has been a lover of science ever since. He has been a high school and middle school science teacher since he graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in chemistry, and he has taught at Benton High School in St. Joseph since 1994.

"Sean is widely regarded as one of the finest science teachers in our area," said Robert Sigrist, who nominated him. Sean single-handedly developed a marine biology course where students cap off a year in the classroom with a week in the Bahamas studying a marine environment.

"I have applied the lessons I learned at Western every single day of my career," he said. "I teach the way I was taught."

#### **Thomas Schneider, '64**

If you enjoy the arts in St. Joseph, you can thank Thomas for his role in

promoting and advancing them.

Thomas retired as supervisor of fine arts for the St. Joseph School District in 2003, but continues to serve in that role part time. He is also an adjunct

instructor at Western.

After attending the Junior College, Thomas earned a bachelor of music education and a master of music in choral conducting.

"He is sincere and dedicated to the advancement of arts in our schools," said Peggy Iffert, who nominated him.

He serves on several policy-making groups at the state and national levels, and was one of the founding members of an advisory committee for a program sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

"I have been successful because people like the professors at the Junior College believed in me and my abilities," he said.

#### **Dr. Nannette Wolford, '73**

Nannette has taught physical education to students ranging from kindergarten to college. She graduated with a bachelor of science in health and physical education, and is currently an associate professor at Western, where she has been teaching since 1985.

Nannette has served on a number of campus, local,

state, regional and national committees, and she has given presentations throughout the United States and in Japan.

"Dr. Nannette Wolford serves as an excellent role model for our students and alumni," said Dr. Brenda Blessing, who nominated her.

"The professors I had were so professional and caring," Nannette said. "I learned course work that really helped me become a successful physical educator."

#### **Dr. Steven Greiert, professor of history**

According to Dr. Daniel Trifan, one of Steven's colleagues, Steven is one of the most active advisors in the department, and he willingly makes himself available for students at times most convenient to them.

One of his former students said she appreciated Steven's high level of expectations for his students, and credited him with helping her reach her academic and professional goals. He has taught at Western since 1982.

"Steven never turns down a request to assist students or

faculty," said Larry Andrews, professor of criminal justice, who nominated him.

As part of the nomination process for the faculty award, Steven, who reads graduates' names at the commencement ceremonies, was asked about his best experience as a faculty member at Western.

He replied, "My best experience is easy to describe. It is looking in the eyes of the students as they hand me their name cards as they graduate. They have succeeded. We have succeeded. It is pure joy!" ■

Photo by Warren Ingram



*A skydiver from Falcon Skydiving Team lands at Spratt Memorial Stadium prior to the Homecoming football game last October.*

**The Alumni Services Office accepts nominations for the Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Awards year round. The deadline each year is June 30. Persons may nominate someone at [www.mwsc.edu/alumni](http://www.mwsc.edu/alumni), or call 816-271-5651 for an application. The criteria for the award is on the website or available in the Alumni Services Office.**



## Alumni Association reorganizes

A reorganization plan for the Alumni Association was unanimously approved at the Board of Directors' meeting in January.

In general, the reorganization means that the Association take a more active role in mobilizing alumni volunteers, and planning and conducting activities for alumni locally, regionally and nationally.

"We want alumni to be a more significant force in the progress of Western," said Kristine Smith, '88, president of the Association. "The goal of the reorganization is to see more alumni engaged and involved in Western-related activities."

As part of the plan, the Association will no longer be a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and will not engage in fund-raising activities as it has in the past. The Association will continue to be supported and

directed by the Alumni Services Office.

The Association, however, will continue to award student scholarships each year, and select the recipients for those scholarships.

The current assets of the Association will be used to establish an endowment for the scholarships, and they will be funded additionally through the college.

Annual fund donors will be provided a check-off option that directs five percent of their gift to a fund for Alumni scholarships.

The Association will also continue to select the Distinguished Service Award recipients each year.

As part of the reorganization, the college will provide funding for the Association to host social activities and events for alumni. Volunteers will work with the Alumni Services office to plan events.

The reorganization, which has been in the works for several months, was crafted by a committee consisting of Association Board members, Director of Alumni Services Julie Fiedler, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dan Nicoson. ■

## A whole lotta shakin'

Several alums in the Des Moines, Iowa area "got lost in the 50s" at a gathering at **Stella's Blue Sky Diner** in Urbandale last October, and Stella's signature shakes were a hit, as usual. For the brave of the group (which included Julie Fiedler, director of Alumni Services), the waitress poured the shake from about three feet up in the air,



**Want to host or organize an alumni event in your area? Contact Julie at 816-271-5650 or fiedler@mwsc.edu.**

## Alumnotes

**William Culver, '52**, writes that he is a former practicing attorney, former Missouri assistant attorney general and presently an artist living in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

**Ronald Bezona, '60**, taught and coached high school students in St. Joseph and Valdosta, Ga., and received several honors as a teacher. He has taught part-time at two colleges for seven years. Ron and his wife, Patricia, live in Valdosta, Ga.

**Dr. Jerry Chambers, '67**, joined Ameresco, Inc., the largest energy services company in North America. He resides in Washington, Mo.

**Peggy McElduff, '71**, retired as principal of St. Francis Xavier School in St. Joseph.

**Dr. Rick Stubbs, '73**, joined the general surgery department at Texas County Memorial Hospital. He resides in Houston, Mo.

**Jim Canty, '75**, owns Canty Management Services, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in ethics and compliance. He resides in Windermere, Fla.

"I owe much of my success to the learning tools and skills I gained at MWSC."

**Harold D. Stewart, '75**, teaches science and math at the Riverbend Treatment Center in St. Joseph. He has coached several high school sports teams throughout his career, and has been active in the Optimist Club for 35 years. He is currently the West Missouri District Optimist Governor.

**Jay Hearshman, '79**, retired to Phoenix after 18 years with American Century Investments in Kansas City, Mo.

**Corky Marquart, '84**, was elected senior vice president in the commercial division of Commerce Bank in St. Joseph. **William, '86, and Mary Lynn, '87, Wille** write that William is offensive football coordinator and assistant track coach with Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kan., and Mary Lynn is a social worker with the Nevada Regional Medical Center, Nevada, Mo.

**Shellie Bowman, '87**, is the senior admissions coordinator at the Meninger Clinic in Houston.

**Jay Meyers, '88**, earned National Board Certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. He is a science teacher at Central High School in St. Joseph.

**Brian Moran, '88**, married Staci Harrison Oct. 25, 2003. He is a financial advisor with Robert W. Baird in Kansas City, Mo.

**Rick Silvey, '88**, won the Sullivan Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of Saint Mary, Leavenworth, Kan.

**Glenda Kelly, '89**, received the YWCA's Women of Excellence honor for 2004.

**Jerry (Jay) Myers Jr., '89**, and his wife Dawn announce the birth of a son, Jerry (Trey) Myers III, born May 25, 2004.

**Mary Beth Erickson, '90**, earned professional designation as a certified elections/registration administrator in Platte County, Mo.

**Cammie Nichols, '92**, graduated from UMKC School of Dentistry and is working as a registered dental hygienist.

**Chris Lindsey, '94**, married Laura Banken June 19, 2004. The couple resides in Jefferson City, Mo., where Chris is a police officer.

**Shelli (Bock) Mills, '94**, and her husband Kevin own and operate Cooper Automotive Service. They reside in Kansas City, Mo. with their three children, Dakota, Jessica and Alexandra.

**Teresa Stubbs, '94**, is senior director of marketing for ProxyMed, Inc., an electronic healthcare transaction company in Atlanta, Ga.

**Brent, '95, Fraizer** and his wife, Brandi, announce the birth of a daughter, Antonia Josephine Fraizer, born Nov. 13, 2003.

**Angie (Buis) Couchman, '96**, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of a daughter, Erynn Danielle, born Nov. 20, 2004. She joins a sister, Kaitlyn. Angie is a physical education/health teacher at North Mercer R-III School. The family resides in Corydon, Iowa.

**Michael Holden, '96**, joined Commerce Bank in St. Joseph as vice president in the commercial division.

**Brenda K. (Neely) Long, '96**, and her husband Jim announce the birth of their son, Nicholas Daniel, born Sept. 13, 2004.

He joins siblings Noah, Victoria and Andrew.

**Dr. Rodney Yager, '96**, has joined the staff of the Monroe City Family Practice, Monroe City, Mo.

**Russell Herpel, '97**, teaches chemistry at Highland Community College, Highland, Kan.

**Mary Baack, '98**, married John Garvey May 15, 2004. She is employed with the Buchanan County (Mo.) Clerk's Office.

**Alicia Stutterheim Johnson, '98**, earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.



**Dan Danford, '78**, has published his second book, "May I Help You? Why You Need a Fee Only Investment Advisor." Dan is president and founder of Family Investment Services of St. Joseph.

The book takes a new approach to investment services, explaining a new alternative to commissions and transaction fees in the investment industry. The book is available at Amazon.com.



**Robert Knutter, '98**, married Mindy Sims May 1, 2004. He is employed at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City, Mo.

**Chris, '00, and Anne (Jackson) Daniels, '99**, announce the birth of a daughter, Mackenzie Renee, born July 16, 2004.

**Chrisann Floyd, '99**, received the 2004 Employee Relations Award at the Higginsville Habilitation Center, where she is a physical therapy assistant.

**Kimberly (Komer) Kaplan, '99**, joined US Bank - Plaza Branch in Kansas City as the sales and service manager.

**Mary Schmitz, '99**, received her doctorate of pharmacy from UMKC. She is spending her residency at the Cox Health Center in Springfield, Mo.

**Mike Skubic, '99**, was named vice president of the Moberly, Mo. branch of Citizens Bank & Trust.

**Debbie Aberer, '00**, married **Ryan Cox, '01**, in February 2004. The couple resides in Independence, Mo.

**Jenny (Etzler) Miller, '00**, married David Miller June 22, 2004. The couple resides in St. Joseph.

**Kristin Quinley, '00**, graduated with a master of education in counseling from Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.

**Stacy (Calcote) Williamson, '00**, was elected to the state executive board of the Missouri Middle School Association. She is a 7th-grade teacher at Eastgate Middle School and color guard director at Oak Park High School, Kansas City, Mo.

**Chris Riley, '01**, is an account executive for the insurance firm of Tilton, Thomas & Morgan in St. Joseph.

**Craig Sinclair, '01**, joined Clayton Paper and Distribution of St. Joseph as an account manager.

**LaShandra Acklin, '02, and Lee Shepard, '04**, announce the birth of a son, Nathaniel Lee Shepard, born Oct. 28, 2004. The family resides in Raymore, Mo.

**Josh Barnes, '02**, married **Lindsay Jones, '02**, July 10, 2004. The couple resides in Liberty, Mo.

**Matthew Graves, '02**, married **Rachel Riggert, '03**, Oct. 16, 2004. The couple resides in St. Joseph.

### Alum founds company

**Brian Butner, '95**, is co-owner and co-founder of Kansas City-based NPB Companies, which provides security services for entertainers across the country.

The company staffs concerts and special events. They also provide concert risk management services, which involves escorting performers on tours around the country.

Brian started the company in 1998 with two co-founders and a few friends, and today they employ about 200. In 2003, the company's revenues were 200 percent more than their first year in business.

The first event that was staffed by NPB was at the St. Joseph Civic Arena, and the company was aided by Brian's fraternity brothers at Western. *(Excerpted from the Kansas City Star.)*

**Mark Lynn, '02**, is attending Lindenwood University working on a master of arts in teaching and a master's in business administration/management information systems. He resides in St. Louis.

**Susan (Hardy) Schmitz, '02**, marched in the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. as the auxiliary director for the Clark Co., Mo., Marching Indians.

**Kasey Waterman, '02**, married Camilia Butrum June 19, 2004. Kasey is a physical education/health teacher and quarterbacks' coach at North Kansas City High School.

**Brooke Whitford, '02**, earned a master's degree in elementary curriculum instruction from Webster University. She teaches third grade in the Lee's Summit School District.

**Megan Ashley, '03**, married Eric Cardwell Aug. 14, 2004. The couple resides in Lee's Summit, Mo.

**Jenn Croson, '03**, married Joe Damiano Nov. 29, 2003. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

**Rachael Hunt, '03**, married Nathan Rich June 26, 2004. She is employed with St. James Catholic School in St. Joseph as a kindergarten teacher.

**Matthew Lindley, '03**, married **Tracy Johnson, '04**, Sept. 18, 2004. The couple resides in Helena, Mo.

**Brian Maxwell, '03**, married Michaela Bridger May 15, 2004. The couple resides in St. Joseph.

**Danielle (Jones) Robinson, '03**, and William Robinson were married Nov. 27, 2004.

She and her husband have a daughter, Samiya. They reside in Kansas City, Mo.

**Erin Snow, '03**, married Beau Bailey July 17, 2004. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

**Jill Spencer, '03**, is a paralegal for Evans & Kuhlman, LLC. She resides in Independence, Mo.

**Ryan Sprague, '03**, married **Trisha Williams, '04**, July 17, 2004.

**Julie Cothern, '04**, married Aaron Condron June 26, 2004. The couple resides in Dawn, Mo.

**Erin Fehling, '04**, married Charles Jenkins June 19, 2004. The couple resides in Independence, Mo.

**Michael Ireland, '04**, is an assistant vice president at Commerce Bank in Columbia, Mo.

**Randi (Bestick) Pickerel, '04**, is an R&D specialist at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica in St. Joseph.

### In Memory ...

*We honor those alums who have recently passed away.*

*If you want us to include someone in this listing, please call 816-271-5651, e-mail [holtz@mwsc.edu](mailto:holtz@mwsc.edu) or mail to Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.*

**Lida Jeanne Anderson, '47**, Maysville, Mo., July 12, 2004.

**Sara Alice Moroney Bick, JC**, Lenexa, Kan., Oct. 20, 2004.

**Roger N. Ellis, '88**, Agency, Mo., Nov. 17, 2004.

**Martha (Wille) Gregory, '88**, Houstonia, Mo., Aug. 6, 2004.

**Catherine Harvey, JC**, Pampa, Texas, Aug. 13, 2004.

**Raymond E. Linscott, JC**, St. Joseph, Sept. 29, 2004.

**Vernon M. Logan, '99**, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 1, 2004.

**Dora Miller, JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 10, 2004.

**Glenn A. Miller, '43**, St. Joseph, Sept. 3, 2004.

**Stephen M. Price, '76**, Muncie, Ind., May 18, 2004.

**Michael A. Riche, '91**, Savannah, Mo., Nov. 17, 2004.

**Francis H. Schlup, '51**, Stewartsville, Mo., June 16, 2004.

**Roger D. Smith, JC**, St. Joseph, May 15, 2004.

**Andrea Walton**, Gower, Mo., Dec. 7, 2004. Andrea was an assistant professor of nursing at Western from 1975-1993.

**Antoinette Wilson, '97**, St. Joseph, Sept. 2, 2004.

**Herbert Woodbury, '29**, St. Joseph, June 16, 2004.

**Mary J. Zaroor, JC**, St. Joseph, Sept. 3, 2004.

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*If we have inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed a name, please bring it to our attention by calling the Institutional Advancement Office at 816-271-5647.*

*Thank you.*



# Calendar of Events

- March 1-April 1** Faculty Exhibition of mixed-media art, Potter Fine Arts Center Gallery, 206.
- March 3-6** Theatre dept. presents "Romeo and Juliet," by William Shakespeare. 8 p.m. March 3, 4 and 5; 2 p.m. March 6. Potter Fine Arts Center theater. Directed by Don Lillie.
- March 3-6** MIAA men's and women's basketball tournament, Kansas City, Mo. Alumni social at Harpo's in Westport March 3.
- March 10** Concert Band & Chamber Ensemble concert, 7:30 p.m., Potter Fine Arts Center theater.
- March 13-20** Spring Break.
- April 4 - 15** Senior student exhibits, Potter Fine Arts Center Gallery, 206; and foyer. Opening reception at 7 p.m. April 4.
- April 9** Experience Western! Discover the Treasure: Free activities, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- April 10** Concert Chorale concert, 3 p.m., Potter Fine Arts Center theater. Junior College Brunch, 12:15 p.m., Fulkerson Center
- April 17** Symphonic Winds concert, 3 p.m., Potter Fine Arts Center theater.
- April 18-29** Senior student exhibits, Potter Fine Arts Center Gallery, 206; and foyer. Opening reception at 7 p.m. April 18.
- April 21-23** Theatre dept. presents "Sylvia," by A.R. Gurney, in the Potter Fine Arts Center Black Box theater. Directed by student Brent Corey.
- April 24** Jazz Ensemble concert, 7:30 p.m., Potter Fine Arts Center theater.
- April 30** Celebrate 35 years of Griffon Baseball. Contact the dept. of athletics.
- May 1** Music dept. Collage concert, 7:30 p.m., Missouri Theater, 717 Edmond.
- May 2** Orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., Potter Fine Arts Center theater.
- May 14** Commencement ceremonies.
- May 15-June 4** Study abroad trip to Mexico. Contact the dept. of English, foreign languages & journalism.
- May 18-24** Study in Washington, DC. Contact the dept. of criminal justice/legal studies.
- May 25-29** International Guitar Festival, on campus and throughout the community. Contact the dept. of music or go to [www.mwsc.edu/guitarfestival](http://www.mwsc.edu/guitarfestival).
- June 2-3** Celebrity Golf Classic, Fairview Golf Course, St. Joseph. Contact the dept. of athletics.
- July 30** Gold Coat Griffon Golf Outing, Fairview Golf Course, St. Joseph. Contact the dept. of athletics.

**For more information, call 816-271-5651  
or visit our website at [www.mwsc.edu/news.html](http://www.mwsc.edu/news.html)**

## Teaching today's students to be tomorrow's leaders



*Twice a month, ROTC students from three other area colleges join Western for a lab. Freshmen and sophomores, although not contracted in the program, may enroll in military science classes and participate in activities, also.*

It's all about learning to be a good leader. Whether it's a field training exercise, a weightlifting competition, a 26-mile march, or exercising at 6 a.m. three days a week, the Reserve Officer Training Corps' (ROTC) overriding purpose is to train future officers for the United States Army.

Since the program became part of the curriculum at Western in 1971, ROTC has trained hundreds of cadets to be officers in the Army. Those students who complete the program graduate with a military science minor and a commission to serve as a second lieutenant in the Army.

An ROTC poster promising "Fun in the Sun" convinced Bret McElhinney, '82, to join the program as a student, and he said he has never regretted his decision. Today, he has come "full circle," as he is now a lieutenant colonel in the Army and chair of the military science program at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

"I am proud to say I am an alum of MWSC and that I did discover gold in the rolling hills of Western Missouri," said Bret. "That gold has given me the opportunity to serve my country as an officer in the U.S. Army." ■



**"It was like an internship every day. It was great knowing I had a good job that I'd love for an organization that takes care of its people."**

*Jeff Meinders at his commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Army on graduation day*





# **WESTERN** *numbers*

**9** Ponds on campus

**10** Treadmills in the Baker Fitness Center

**111** Songs programmed into the Clock Tower

**115** Height, in feet, of the Spratt Stadium Lights

**430** Seats in the Potter Fine Arts Theater

**600** Trees planted since 1969

**744** Acres of campus

**1,100** Meals served daily in the cafeteria

**3,370** Seats in the Looney Arena

**5,105** Fall 2004 enrollment

**6,000** Seats in Spratt Memorial Stadium

**11,616** Distance, in feet, of walking trail

**170,000** Gallons of water in the pool

**202,000** Volumes in the library

**\$4 million** Value of IMC electronic equipment

**\$139 million** Western's economic impact on the region