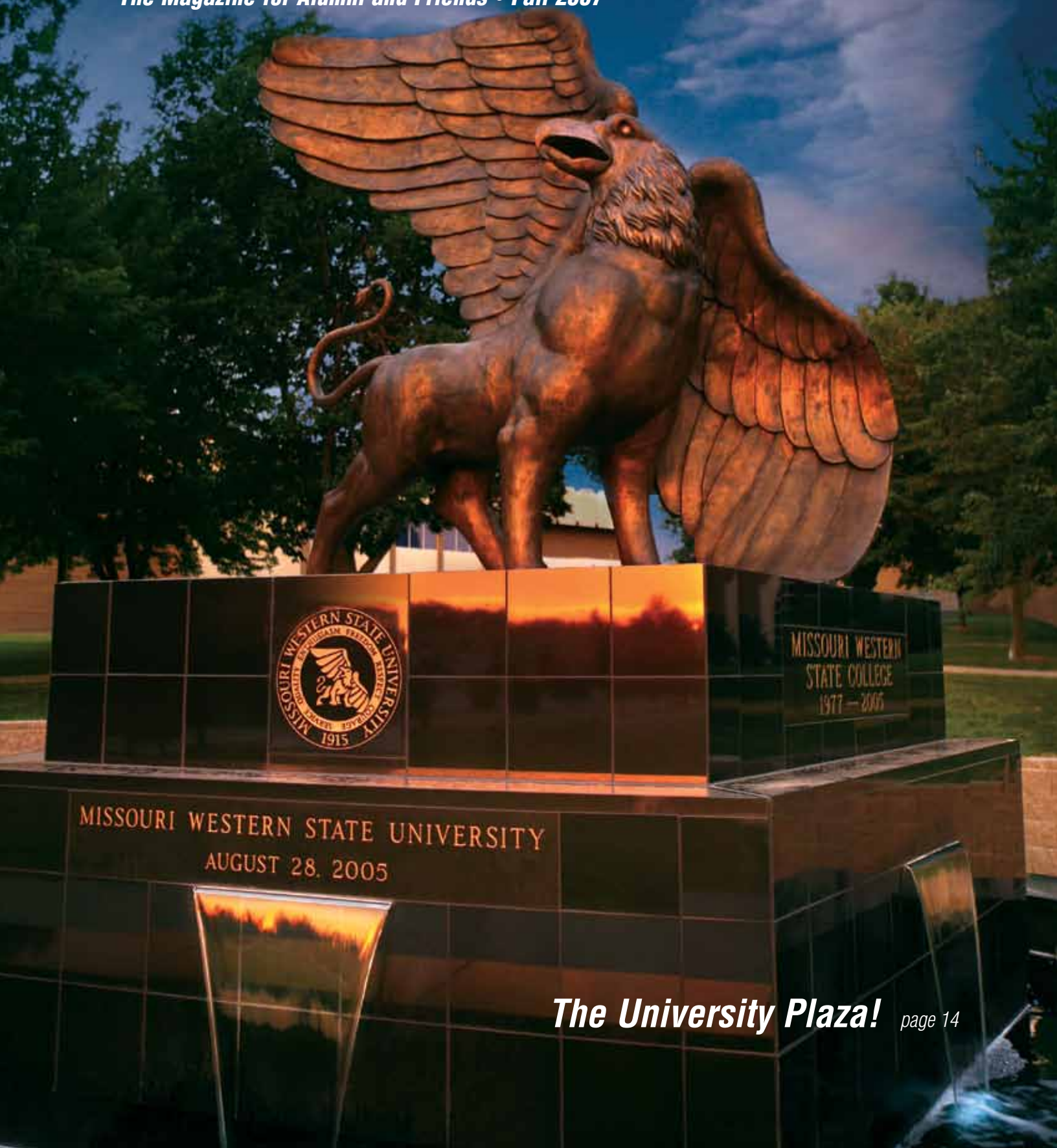


# Missouri Western

*The Magazine for Alumni and Friends • Fall 2007*



***The University Plaza!*** page 14





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

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

## President's Perspective

Dear Friends,

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the MWSU Foundation's appreciation dinner. That evening, our steel drum band performed. Their performance electrified the room, showcasing the wonderful talents of our students. Following their performance, Dr. Dennis Rogers, professor of music and director of the steel drum band, summed it up best when he said, "Aren't

they great? I get to do this every day. This is my work!" I can only echo his observation.

What we are today offers optimism, even certainty, about what we will be tomorrow. Western is rapidly emerging as a prototype of the new American regional university, characterized by applied learning, applied research, and active service. As the new American regional university, Western sees itself not as separate from the world around it, but as a citizen - a citizen interacting with the world, serving the needs of our students,

our community, and our region, and shaping the future of our democracy. This is our vision. A vision that I know we can attain because the members of our University community are great, and I get to work with them every day!

Over the next five years, Western will implement its new strategic plan by seizing several opportunities. You will see us expanding our graduate programs; focusing on critical thinking in the learning of our students; leading the way in applied learning for and engagement of our students; strengthening the connections between the University and the region; improving our assessment techniques; maintaining a learning and working environment which clearly values its people; and developing new ways to build and manage our resources.

Each of these seven opportunities will shape Western as the new American regional university. Our educational programs, both undergraduate and graduate, will align with the University's

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*Dr. James Scanlon poses with two graduates in front of the new University Plaza*

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**On the cover:**  
The new University Plaza  
at sunset.

Photo:  
Eric Callow/Double E Images







## President to retire June 30

Last April, Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president, invited faculty and staff to a "thank you" breakfast and reception to announce his upcoming retirement June 30, 2008.

"Western is a wonderful place. It has given me the best years in higher education, the very best years. Thank you for encouraging me to work with courage and imagination for students, the community and the region," Dr. Scanlon told faculty and staff.

He decided to announce his decision early to give the board more than a year to complete the search process for the next president.

"President Scanlon is a man of great integrity. He is unwavering in his commitment to quality, applied learning,

community partnership and ethical practices. Working with him is a rewarding experience," said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement.

Dr. Scanlon joined the Western family in March 2001. Under his guidance, Western was designated a university, and he initiated a five-year strategic plan in 2002. A new residence hall, the Fulkerson Center and a residential commons building were built, and the cafeteria, library and several student spaces have been renovated.

He and his wife, Lauren, plan to relocate permanently to their home in North Carolina after his retirement.

"Whatever I may have been or will become, I will always be a Griffon. Thank you for allowing me to be a Griffon." ■



Western is launching a new five-year strategic plan in 2007 that will focus on applied learning, applied research and community service.

## President's Perspective continued ...

mission of applied learning, applied research, and professional and voluntary service to the community and region. Our students will attend a university recognized well beyond itself for its excellence in these areas. They will learn in an environment that connects knowledge and practice; encourages critical thinking; and promotes active citizenship.

As a result, Western will attract, retain, and graduate students who achieve academic excellence, and all students will engage in applied learning experiences, such as internships, faculty-student research, or clinical practice. We will deepen our involvement in the economic and other development of our region. We will recruit, support, and retain a diverse group of high quality employees and provide them with opportunities for meaningful professional development. We will create new ways to assess and learn from our initiatives, programs, and performance.

The new strategic plan offers Western the opportunity to become nationally recognized for the quality of what we do for students and our region. The work of the people of Western is truly great. As Dennis Rogers might say, "I see it everyday. This is their work." In fact, it is the work of all of us at Western, each and every day.

*James J. Scanlon*

Dr. James J. Scanlon  
President

Fall 2007



Gov. Matt Blunt signs legislation to fund \$30.1 million for the renovation of and addition to Agenstein Hall.

## Agenstein Hall upgrade moves ahead

After five years of planning and work in the state legislature and governor's office, Gov. Matt

Blunt signed legislation in May to allocate \$30.1 million for the renovation of and addition to Evan R. Agenstein Hall, which houses the science and mathematics departments. Western hopes to break ground in late spring or early summer 2008.

In 2002, U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond secured \$250,000 in federal funds for Western to work with Project Kaleidoscope/ National Science Foundation to draw up plans for a renovation of the existing building, which was

built in 1969, and an addition that would nearly double the space.

Dr. Todd Eckdahl, a member of the building committee and biology department chair, said that since five years have passed since the original design, the committee and administrators want to take a new look and consider all options.

The first phase would be to build the L-shaped addition onto the north and east sides of Agenstein, and then the original building would be renovated.

Plans include new and upgraded labs, both for teaching and faculty research, new office space and student spaces.

"Look at what we've been able to accomplish in this building, and imagine what we

**"Look at what we've been able to accomplish in this building, and imagine what we can accomplish in a 21st century building. If we have modern facilities, we could do even better than we are doing now."**

*Dr. Todd Eckdahl,  
biology department chair*



## Western is downtown!

The Board of Governors authorized university administration to lease space in the Scottish Rite building at 515 N. 6th St. in St. Joseph, Mo. for the new "Missouri Western State University Downtown Center."

The location offers 15,000 square feet of space, a 300-seat auditorium and modern utilities. It also meets ADA requirements and has convenient parking.

Dr. Joseph Bragin, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, noted that a variety of programs will operate from the downtown location, such as professional and personal development courses offered through the Western Institute or conferences scheduled by groups outside of Western. The Law Enforcement Academy has moved there as well, placing them near the downtown law enforcement facilities.

Eventually, graduate programs that foster community development may operate from the Center.

The move is part of Gov. Matt Blunt's DREAM (Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri) Initiative, a strategic planning process to help develop cities' downtown areas. ■

can accomplish in a 21st century building," said Todd. "If we have modern facilities, we could do even better than we are doing now." ■

Western Magazine

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Thanks to ABC's hit television show, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," Jesus and Michelle Jacobo and their family had their 912-square-foot home rebuilt in Kansas City, Mo. this past March.

While the family was relaxing in Florida during the makeover, they received an amazing message: they did not have to wonder or worry about how

they would pay for college for their nine children, who range in age from 18 to one.

Dan Nicoson, executive director of the MWSU Foundation, announced to them via video that the Foundation was offering full tuition and room and board scholarships to the children, four of their own and the five nieces and nephews they care for.

"I was in shock when I heard the news," said Michelle. "I just felt everything come off my shoulders."

"It's hard to explain," added Jesus. "You try to give them (your children) everything you can to help them become somebody. And now their futures are secure. We are very happy."

The oldest child, Natalie, is a freshman at Western this fall. She said she was overwhelmed by the news. "We were just talking about how we would pay for college a few weeks before. It was shocking that someone cared enough to give our family scholarships."

**MWSU Foundation offers full scholarships to a Kansas City family's nine children, and students and employees volunteer at the makeover site during spring break.**

The Jacobos visited campus for the first time in April. Natalie completed the ACT test and filled out paperwork in admissions and financial aid. The family had a campus tour and met with President Dr. James Scanlon and student athletes. Brittany, who is currently a senior in high school, spent extra time in the nursing department since she hopes to pursue a health-related career.

Due to the Foundation's gift, Western students and staff were invited to volunteer at the makeover site all week and participate in Kansas City's St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday. They also were filmed with the crowd of contractors heading to the house to start rebuilding and were close by when the family saw their new home for the first time.

Lisa Crawford, a sophomore from Omaha, Neb., said she never thought the TV show really completed a home in one week, but now she knows better. Lisa volunteered at the house several times throughout the week and walked in the parade to raise money for the family.

"It was awesome to see how fast it went up," she said. "I wanted to help because I knew it was for a good cause, and I thought it would be a lot of fun."

She was also there when the family saw the new home for the first time, and she said she could see the expressions on their faces when they talked about the scholarships. "It was wonderful. It made me realize how fortunate I am to get to go to college."

Cory Hanavan, an elementary education major from Chillicothe, Mo., said it was a very rewarding spring break to be able to help the family.

"It's amazing to see on TV, and it is even more amazing to see in person," he said of the work. "Going into the house was the coolest part." The episode was broadcast May 13. ■



Jesus and Michelle Jacobo meet with Dan Nicoson, executive director of the MWSU Foundation.



## Alumna has close-up view of makeover

For alumna Stacy Williamson, the Jacobo home makeover in March was extra special. The seventh-grade teacher at Eastgate Middle School in North Kansas City, Mo. not only knew the family and taught their son, Antonio, last year, but she could view the progress of the makeover from her classroom window.

On Tuesday, when they demolished the house and filmed the construction workers running to the site, it was a warm day and the classroom windows were opened. "We could hear the yelling, and the kids were so wound up about the whole thing. I finally said, 'Oh, go watch!'"

Stacy volunteered to work on the house and also walked in the parade

with her husband Shawn, also an alumnus, and their daughter. "I just felt it in my heart that I wanted to help. I knew about their (the Jacobos) living situation, so I was quite excited when they were chosen."

Being in the parade was nothing new for the Williamsons since Stacy was in the color guard and Shawn was in the marching band when they were students at Western. Stacy said she has a lot of great memories from those experiences. "It was fantastic; they became your family," she said. "And Shawn was the drum major - that sealed the deal."

Now in her fifth year at Eastgate, Stacy noted that the principal is also a Western alumnus - Dan Clemens '95. ■

**According to a campus survey, faculty and staff contribute almost 3,200 hours each month to community service, more than 38,000 hours per year. Additionally, students engaged in more than 18,300 hours of community service last year.**



# "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" - Extreme spring break!





## Partnership is a beauty

A partnership between Western and St. Joseph's Robidoux Resident Theatre (RRT) created a magical event the community won't soon forget: theatre-goers filled the historic 1,200-seat Missouri Theater for all three performances of "Beauty and the Beast," selling out the theater for the first time since 1989.

Deny Staggs, assistant professor of theatre, said standing ovations after every performance and feedback from the community convinced him that the partnership's production exceeded the expectations of everyone involved.

"We wanted to present something that was bigger and better than what either of our entities had done to date," said Deny. "And it was one of the best we've ever been involved in."



"We complemented each other," said Jeff Haney, managing director of RRT. "We all came away better professionals. I hope we can continue the partnership."

The idea of a partnership between Western and RRT began



*The Foundation hosted its second annual appreciation dinner last spring. Pictured is Emil Sechter, Foundation Board president, and his wife, Sheridan.*

more than two years ago, when RRT approached Deny about teaming up for a production that would appeal to young audiences and "the young at heart."

It was a true partnership - the two entities split the production costs, RRT handled publicity, Western handled building the sets and costumes, and they worked together on lighting, sound and design.

Several Western students and alumni were on stage as well as in the orchestra pit. Additionally, W. Robin Findlay, associate professor of theatre, was costumer, and Dr. David Bennett, assistant professor of music, was the orchestra director. Aaron Westlake, a theatre major from St. Joseph, was assistant director.

Deny said rehearsals were held in Western's theater in Thompson E. Potter Hall for more than a month before moving to the Missouri Theater, and the majority of the sets were built in Potter Hall.

## Professor donates to establish scholarship

When professor of teacher education Dr. Nancy Tanner Edwards wanted to create an endowed scholarship to encourage minority students to pursue a teaching degree, she said it was only fitting to name it in honor of her mother, Violet "Jimmie" Tanner, and her colleague, Jerry Aschermann, who retired in 2005 after more than 30 years in the education department.

"Both of them have been real champions in diversity and celebrating different cultures," she said.

Nancy said she hopes her donation will help students who otherwise would not have been able to afford college. ■

"When it was all over, I said to the production manager from RRT, 'that was a lot of fun,' and he said, 'You know we have to do it again,'" said Deny. ■

## Sam Donaldson to speak at Convocation

Sam Donaldson, a 40-year ABC News veteran, will be the speaker at the 14th annual Convocation on Critical Issues. Sam will speak on leadership at the Convocation at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 23 in the M.O. Looney Complex arena. He will also speak at a dinner Oct. 22.

"Sam Donaldson is a student of history as well as a veteran journalist on the national political scene. He will share his great insight about the qualities possessed by our national leaders over the years," said Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement. "His presentation will continue the tradition of bringing nationally prominent speakers to our community for Western's annual Convocation on Critical Issues."

Sam served two appointments as chief White House correspondent for ABC News covering Presidents Carter, Reagan and Clinton. He also co-anchored "Primetime Live" and "This Week with Sam Donaldson & Cokie Roberts," and hosted the daily radio broadcast, "The Sam Donaldson Show - Live In America."

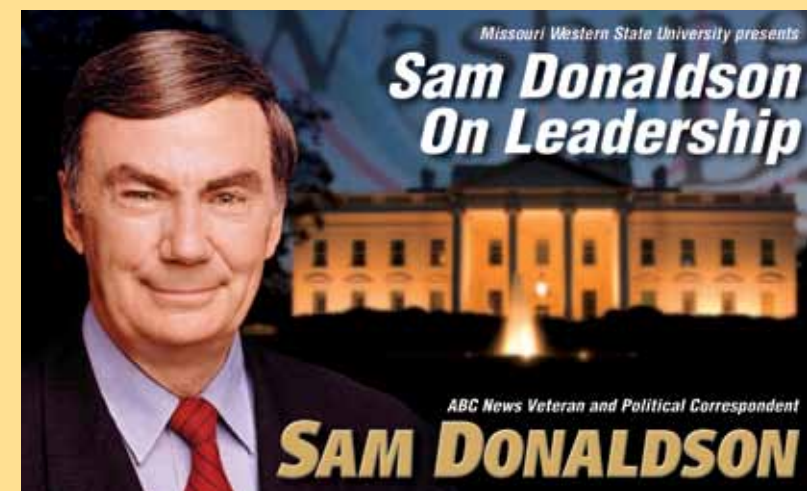
Currently Donaldson is appearing on "ABC News Now," the ABC News digital network. He also hosts "Politics Live."

Sam received the Broadcaster of the Year award from the National Press Foundation, and the Washington Journalism Review named him the Best Television White House Correspondent in the Business and the Best Television Correspondent in the Business. He has won four Emmy Awards and three George Foster Peabody Awards for distinguished achievement in television.

Born in El Paso, Texas, he received his bachelor's degree from Texas Western College and did graduate work at the University of Southern California. His 1987 autobiography, "Hold On, Mr. President," was an international best seller.

Western inaugurated the Convocation program in 1993 in honor of Dan Boulware, former regent, to offer enriching experiences to students while bringing together the university and community.

For more information about the Convocation, call 816-271-5670. ■



## Western League for Excellence funds programs

Thanks to the members of the Western League for Excellence, an honorary donor society for those who donate unrestricted funds to the MWSU Foundation, many programs and projects have been funded. Here are just a few of them:

### Film Production:

The communication studies/ theatre department partnered with two Los Angeles filmmakers to produce two feature films this summer. It was a great experience for students, along with helping Western establish a strong reputation in the region as a high-quality training ground for film and video students.

### Co-curricular Committee:

The Foundation provides academic departments with funds to bring scholars to campus to provide seminars, panels, workshops or class lectures.

### Online Instruction:

Donations to the League funded a workshop for up to 12 faculty members to learn about online courses and how to adapt traditional courses to this framework.

### Canvas:

This high-quality publication showcases the creative writing, art and photos of students, faculty, staff and alumni. It is staffed, designed, edited and produced by students.

To join the League, or for more information, call 816-271-5648. ■





## Student's internship in good hands

A dream of following in her mother's footsteps is now one step closer to reality for math major Tysa Updike. She completed a 12-week actuarial internship at Allstate Insurance Company's headquarters in Chicago this summer. Tysa was one of 17 chosen out of a pool of almost 300 applicants.

Tysa decided to become an actuary (someone who calculates rates and dividends, and provides other statistical information for an insurance company) as a high school student, when she discovered a study guide for an actuary exam that had belonged to her deceased mother.

"It's a great opportunity," said Tysa, who will graduate next May. She said approximately 80 percent of Allstate's actuarial



Student Tysa Updike

interns are offered full-time positions with the company. "Basically, that tells me that after I graduate, I won't be waiting tables. That's great to know."

"Allstate's actuarial internship and training program has received a lot of accolades in the industry," said Jim Rowland, senior actuary for Allstate. "It's the top training program of any major insurance company."

Jim said Tysa "more than made the grade." The qualities his company looks for in intern applicants include a very high aptitude in mathematics and analytical skills, but also the ability to communicate technical ideas to a non-technical audience.

"Her commitment to the field is excellent," said Jim. "If Tysa pursues this career, I think she is going to do extremely well." ■

## Professor's prestigious presentation

Geo Sipp, associate professor of art, was one of a select group invited to present a lecture and workshop about a unique printmaking method he developed, at the largest printmaking conference in the world. The conference draws 3,000-5,000 each year.

Geo began developing his process about two years ago, when he began to create the illustrative narrative on "Wolves in the City," a graphic novel set during the French-Algerian War for Independence (1957-1962).

"I wanted something where the imagery is fresh, diverse," he said. "But I wanted to have the hand-drawn element in the process."

His printmaking process begins with small stills from newsreels that were taken during the war. He redraws the image with pencil on pieces of grained glass. Since the newsreels are in black and white, Geo creates the colors, which requires four drawings on four pieces of glass to create color separations. Each piece is then exposed to ultraviolet light to produce the image on Solarplates.

Some of his prints have won awards around the country, and Arkansas State University acquired one print, "Oil Fields," for its permanent collection. ■

## Faculty and staff honored

Several faculty and staff were recognized recently for their contributions to Western - Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Awards: **Dr. Teddi Deka**, associate professor of psychology; **Dr. Susan Hennessy**, associate professor of French; and **Dr. Michael Ducey**, associate professor of chemistry. Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award: **Dr. Cynthia Jeney**, assistant professor of English. Presidential Citation Awards: Service to Western Students - **Kathy Kelly**, administrative coordinator for the dean of student development; Service to Campus Colleagues - **Rick Leahy**, technical operations coordinator; Service to the University - **Darcy Groce**, administrative coordinator for the dean of professional studies. The James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award - **Dr. John Rushin**, professor of biology. ■

## Donors help those with rough home life

Two donors have offered the hope of a college education for students who have faced many challenges in their childhoods. Recently, the MWSU Foundation was notified that an anonymous donor wanted to give \$20,000 to fund scholarships for students who currently live at the Noyes Home for Children or have lived there in the past.

When a long-time supporter of the home, Mrs. Frank Reynolds, heard about the donation, she added \$10,000

to the fund. The scholarship fund, known as the Noyes Home Academic Scholarship, will be endowed.

"I think it's awesome," said Ray Carson, executive director of the home. "When kids see there's

an opportunity to go to college, it makes a significant difference in their motivation. We are so appreciative.

"They are very excited about it. There won't be any shortage of kids who need it."

The Noyes Home opened in 1894 as an orphanage, The Home for Little Wanderers. Today it serves up to 30 children between the ages of eight and 18 who are homeless, or their families may be challenged by economic circumstances. The children may have been abused or neglected. "Things may not be healthy at home," said Ray.

Statistically, he said, these children usually do not attend college, so this scholarship is very important. "I don't think we can underestimate the affirmation this brings." ■

**"When kids see there's an opportunity to go to college, it makes a significant difference in their motivation. We are so appreciative."**

*Ray Carson, executive director of the Noyes Home*

## Best wishes to those who retired in the past year:

- **Jerry Anderson**, associate professor of music;
- **Mary Connor**, administrative assistant for the Western Institute;
- **Jerry Fischer**, director of education, WRDCC;
- **Dixie Ham**, administrative assistant for athletics;
- **Robert Harris**, HVAC/refrigerator technician;
- **Dr. S. Earl Haynes**, professor of education;
- **Kenneth Johnson**, assistant professor of computer science;
- **Nadyne Justin**, administrative assistant for music;
- **Debbie Silvius**, nonprint specialist for the instructional media center;
- **Carolyn Windsor**, assistant professor of nursing.

## Professor takes reins of national organization

**D**r. Kenneth Rosenauer, professor of journalism and English, was elected to a two-year term as president of the national 800-member College Media Advisers (CMA).

A member since 1980, he has served as spring convention services coordinator; editor of *College Media Review*, the quarterly journal; editor of the "CMA Newsletter;" and coordinator of on-site student media critiques. In November 2003, he was inducted into the CMA Hall of Fame. ■



Students and alumni ride on Western's float in the Apple Blossom Parade. The float won third place overall, and first place for most creative use of theme, "JoeTown Heroes."





## Estes named dean of professional studies

**D**r. Steven Estes took the helm as dean of the college of professional studies last May. He is the former associate

professor and coordinator of the sport management program in the department of exercise and sport science at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C.

Steven knows about leading a team and making sure everyone on the team is going

in the same direction - he was a rowing competitor and rowing coach for several years.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education at San Diego State University and his doctorate from The Ohio State University.

Steven has also taught at California State University, Fullerton, and the State University of New York at Cortland. ■



Dr. Steven Estes



### Drive with pride!

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

## New board members serve Western

### Foundation Board members named

**T**he Foundation elected eight board members for six-year terms: Linden Black, R. Todd Ehlert, Cindy Hausman, John Jarrett, J.L. Robertson, LaVell Rucker '03, Melody Smith '87 and John Wilson.

Thank you to the outgoing board members: Dan Colgan '66, Rick Hatten '79, Sherry Hausman '65, Cort Hegarty, Heidi Hornaday, Vern Middleton, Kevin Schinze and Bette Tolbert.

The Foundation exists to foster partnerships and vital connections by encouraging gifts and stimulating investments to further the cause of the university. ■

### Three appointed to Board of Governors

**G**ov. Matt Blunt recently appointed three new members to the Board of Governors:

Dan Danford '78, of St. Joseph, Mo., is president and founder of Family Investment Center. He has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Western and an MBA from Northwest Missouri State University.

Lesley Graves, of Tarkio, Mo., teaches at Tarkio Elementary School. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from University of Missouri - Columbia.

Tommye Quilty '96, of Mound City, Mo., is a billing manager with Northwest Missouri Cellular. Her degree is in speech communication. ■



Board of Governors member Janet Leachman shakes hands with Sen. Christopher Bond at the groundbreaking ceremony for Western's \$2.5 million science and technology incubator west of Interstate 29. The two-story, 25,000 square-foot building is slated for completion in early 2008. Also pictured is architect Jeff Ellison and Board of Governors chair Dirck Clark '85.



Health, physical education and recreation majors play games with senior citizens at the Golden Games hosted by Western. Residents from several nursing homes participated.

## Athletics names 2007 Hall of Fame class

**W**estern will induct four athletes and one team into the 2007 Athletics Hall of Fame: men's basketball player **Larry Ingram '86**, women's basketball player **Becky Reichard '99**, football player **Bill Stevens** and baseball player **Ricky Lowe '78**. The **1975 baseball team** will also be inducted.

There will be a reception at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 28 and an induction ceremony at 9 a.m. Sept. 29, both held at the St. Joseph Ramada Inn. The inductees will also be honored at half time at the football game Saturday afternoon. Reservations must be made by Sept. 18 by calling 816-271-5926 or emailing lau@missouriwestern.edu. Cost is \$25 per person. For game tickets call 816-271-5904.

Larry Ingram played from 1982-1984. He led Western in scoring, rebounding, and field goal percentage and was an All-American in 1984.

Becky Reichard played from 1997-1999. She served as team captain both seasons while leading the team in points and assists. She led the team to two second place finishes in the MIAA Conference and two NCAA Tournament appearances.

Bill Stevens played from 1977-1980. During that time he was a four-year letter winner and earned First Team NAIA All-America honors in 1980.

Ricky Lowe played from 1974-1977. Lowe finished his career batting .326 (178-546) with 27 doubles, 12 triples and five home runs. Lowe knocked in 85 runs and scored 110 times.

The 1975 baseball team won fifth place in the National Baseball World Series and finished with a 31-25 record in 1975. ■



## Connecting with alumni

**C**hemia Woods, speech communication major from Menifee, Ark., said the best part about being a student caller for Western's annual Phonathon was visiting with alumni. "I enjoyed it a lot because I got to speak to alumni from all walks of life."

Chemia said when she reached alumni who had graduated with her major, she often asked about their career path and the responsibilities of their positions, and she got some great advice.

This year's opportunity for student callers to connect with alumni and for alumni to reconnect with Western will be offered at the **MWSU Phonathon 2007 Oct. 14 - Nov. 15**.

Students will call alumni across the United States Sunday through Thursday evenings.

"The Phonathon is a win-win," said Tara Johnson, Phonathon coordinator. "It gives alumni an opportunity to catch up on campus news and, in turn, the student callers benefit a lot from the conversations with alumni." ■

## The Clock Tower Society

*is an honorary society of donors who have made Western a beneficiary of their estate and financial planning. To find out more, call 816-271-5647.*



Student Athletes of the Year



Lindsey Predovich, Softball  
Physical Education major  
from Eveleth, Minn.



Leon Douglas, Football  
Physical Education major  
from Kansas City, Mo.

Baseball scores!

Western baseball finished the 2007 campaign 28-23 overall with a 21-14 record in MIAA Conference play. The Griffons missed out on their appearance in the MIAA Postseason Baseball Tournament by one half game.

Individually, Western designated hitter Tommy Bone was named first-team All-MIAA with a 394 batting average. Outfielder Troy Landi was named second team All-MIAA as he finished in the top 10 of four offensive statistical categories.

Head coach is Buzz Verduzco. ■



photo courtesy of the St. Joseph News-Press

Women's basketball - victories, records and honors

The women's basketball team had a magical season. The Griffons finished the season with 30 wins, won the MIAA regular season title and hosted the 2007 NCAA Division II South Central Regional Basketball Tournament. They were ranked ninth in the final ESPN Top 25 women's basketball poll.

This year's Griffon squad tied the school record for consecutive wins with 21, and Tera Petersen scored her 1,000th career point in a Western uniform.

Coach Josh Keister was the unanimous choice for the MIAA Coach of the Year as well as the

selection as the WBCA Region VI Coach of the Year.

The Griffons had five players earn All-MIAA awards, three named as the Wilson/MIAA Player-of-the-Week, and one named all-region and all-America.

Inga Buzoka was three-time winner of the Wilson/MIAA Player-of-the-Week award, named first team all-MIAA, and a unanimous selection as the MIAA's Player-of-the-Year, first team Daktronics All-South Central Region, and Kodak - WBCA - Division II All-American. ■

Student athlete Volunteer of the Year named

Senior Jill Johnson, speech communication major and basketball player from Rockwell City, Iowa, is the first recipient of the athletic department's Volunteer of the Year Award for student athletes.

Jill is an AAU girl's basketball coach, a Boy Scout Merit Badge volunteer, a Hyde Elementary sixth-grade helper, an Open Door Food Kitchen volunteer, a Big Event volunteer, a member of the Griffon Edge Habitat for Humanity project and the Adopt-A-Family Thanksgiving and Christmas projects. She also volunteered with the MWSU Lunch Buddies and e-mentoring programs. ■

Griffon Sports

New coaches named

Tiffany Mastin was named Western's volleyball coach in February. She replaces Cindy Brauck, who retired last year.

Mastin was head coach for two years at Div. II Oakland City (Ind.) University. Prior to that position, she was head coach at Whiteland Community High School.

She is a 1998 graduate of Taylor University of Fort Wayne, Ind., where she lettered two years and earned a bachelor's degree in social work.

Lynn Plett is the new women's basketball coach. He comes to Western from Division II Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., where he had served five seasons as head coach.

Lynn earned bachelor's degrees in physical education, and humanities and biblical studies from Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kan., where he competed in basketball and soccer.

Lynn replaces Josh Keister, who resigned in April. ■

Golf season wrap-up

The Western men's golf team under 2006 MIAA Coach of the Year Jim Perry qualified for 2007 NCAA Men's Golf Great Lakes/Central Super Regional for the fourth straight year.

Aaron Lisenbee, a junior from Savannah, Mo., was named to the All MIAA Golf Team for his top 10 finish at the conference tournament. Aaron was also recognized nationally, as he received honorable mention honors on the Ping All-America Team. Aaron also made waves in the classroom as well, as he was named to the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll. ■

2007 GRIFFON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT 1	BAKER	Spratt Stadium	6:00 PM
SEPT 8	at Minnesota-Duluth		6:00 PM
SEPT 15	NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE*		
		Spratt Stadium	6:00 PM
SEPT 22	at Pittsburg State*		2:00 PM
SEPT 29	WASHBURN		
		*Spratt Stadium	1:30 PM
	FAMILY DAY & WENDY'S HALL OF FAME GAME		
OCT 6	at Fort Hays State*		2:00 PM
OCT 13	SOUTHWEST BAPTIST*		
		Spratt Stadium	1:30 PM
	HOMECOMING		
OCT 20	at Emporia State*		1:00 PM
OCT 27	MISSOURI SOUTHERN*		
		Spratt Stadium	1:30 PM
NOV 3	CENTRAL MISSOURI*		
		Spratt Stadium	1:30 PM
NOV 10	at Truman*		TBA

\*Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association game  
All times CDT and tentative



Softball team has great season

The 2007 edition of Western softball carried on what is quickly becoming a spring tradition for Coach Jen Bagley and her team. The squad finished 34-26 overall and 10-8 in league play. In the MIAA Postseason Conference Softball Tournament, the team battled its way to the championship game before being defeated by Emporia State. The performance was enough to award Western with their third straight appearance in the NCAA North Central Regional Softball Tournament.

Pitcher Lindsey Predovich closed out a banner career by being named first team All-MIAA for the third time. Lindsey batted 375 and was Western's top pitcher, finishing with an earned run average of 2.28. Lindsey was also named to the 2007 North Central Region All-Tournament Team and selected as the 2007 Female Student Athlete of the Year. ■



Academic All-Americans

Ten Western athletes were named to the 2006-2007 Academic All-MIAA Team.

To earn this distinction, athletes must have a cumulative 3.50 GPA in two terms and earn All-MIAA honors in their sport over the past season. Congratulations, athletes! ■



# Western dedicates new

*In June, Western dedicated a new campus icon to celebrate its university designation - the University Plaza.*

Located west of the Nelle Blum Union, the plaza is surrounded by a beautiful patio, and a 10-foot bronze Griffon graces a 10-foot black granite base. Flowing water in the base and three flags complete the plaza,



*The Kelley family at the Plaza dedication.*

along with two granite plaques that honor the donors and commemorate Western's achievement in its university designation.

The Plaza is a gift from the John B. and Julia Comello Charitable Trust in recognition of the James B. Kelley family: parents James and Jean, their children, Jeanie Grahl '72, Molly Kelley Pierce '77, and Chris Kelley '86; and Jeanie's daughter, Dr. Kelley Meirose '99.

"We truly appreciate the generosity of the Kelley family in making the University Plaza possible," said Jerry Pickman, director of development. "It is an outstanding addition to the campus."

Architects for the project were Ellison-Auxier Architects, Inc. Hausman Metal Works/Roofing, Inc. donated their labor to put finishing touches on the Griffon.

The Griffon, which weighs approximately one ton, arrived on campus just in time for graduates to pose for photos at the spring commencement.

"University designation in 2005 was a significant event in the history of Western," said Jerry. "And it seems fitting to celebrate that designation with a new campus symbol." ■

## The name plates on the plaza

A walk around the new University Plaza provides visitors with the history of the name changes of Western, as each of the five engraved plates on the base contains a name of the institution throughout its history. Here's a brief look at the story behind the name changes:

### St. Joseph Junior College 1915-1965

In 1915, when the St. Joseph School District began offering post-high school classes to 35 students in Central High School, the St. Joseph Junior College became the second public junior college in the state and the eighth in the nation.

### Missouri Western Junior College 1965-1967

Although this name was short-lived, it is significant because of what it represented - the support from not only St. Joseph but from 11 school districts from five counties. The new name was the result of the passage of a bond in 1965 that approved the creation of the Missouri Western Junior College District.

### Missouri Western College 1967-1977

Seven days after Dr. M.O. Looney became president of Missouri Western Junior College in 1967, he announced that the college name was to be changed to Missouri Western College, although it was still a junior college. He said the change served both as a symbol of the developmental state of the college and a signal that its forward march to a four-year institution was a top priority for him.

# University Plaza

## Favorite campus spaces

*With the addition of the University Plaza on campus, we asked alumni about their favorite campus spaces when they were students.*

### Ryan Bane '04, Kansas City, Mo.

*"The best place on campus was the Frisbee golf course. My Phi Sigma Kappa brothers and I had a great time competing for bragging rights. I was the Intramural Frisbee Golf Champion in 2002 and 2004 and would not let the guys live it down. I still enjoy a good round of 'Frolf' at MWSU when I visit."*

### Kevin R. Salvo '93, Deshler, Neb.

*"My favorite place was the concession area in the Admin. Building (Poppewell Hall). I met most of the other nontrad students in the seating area there, since*

*it was the gathering place for most of the nontrads at that time. We would talk about the traditional students and how young they meets with each other in the other buildings before/during/ after classes. Those social times made my days at Missouri Western more enjoyable."*

### Jill Miller '73, St. Joseph, Mo.

*"My favorite place on campus is between Agenstein Hall and the library (Hearnes Center), where the old trailer that we called the Union stood when I was a student. It was crowded, smoky, and always lively. Then to look on to the east and see the Blum Union today, it really brings back memories of my friends and I meeting between classes to visit and eat lunch. We were so appreciative to have a Union after the trailer;*

*we went there a lot to meet and hang out." (Editor's note: Construction on the Nelle Blum Union began in 1970).*

### Shelby Coxon '99, Baldwin City, Kan.

*"My favorite space was the Student Government (SGA) office. I served on both Campus Activities Board and Student Senate, so this office became a second home of sorts for us! You could go to the office just about any time day or night and find someone in there working or playing on the computer. Once I found a friend (who shall remain nameless) sleeping instead of running an errand for Griffon Edge! It was during my time in that office that I realized that student affairs was the career for me." ■*

*Who hasn't wanted to jump in the fountain, an enduring campus icon? "Since we knew it was 'against the rules,'" says Kim Prosak '02, "we waited until after we graduated to take the picture." Kim, right, is pictured with Patrice (Meyer) Perry '02.*



### Missouri Western State College 1977-2005

Prior to 1977, the college was funded by both the district and state, but as early as 1970, President Looney saw full state funding as a desirable goal. It was finally approved in June 1975 and went into effect July 1977, which necessitated a fourth name change.

### Missouri Western State University 2005 -

Western's university designation had been talked about for at least two years and various bills had been brought forward in the Legislature before Senate Bill 98 was passed March 2005 to become effective Aug. 28, 2005. "Western has been functioning as a university in every way but name," said Dr. James Scanlon, Western's

president. "It will now be appropriately recognized for the institution that it is." ■  
(Some information for this article was taken from "Missouri Western State College, A History, 1915-1983," by Frances Flanagan. )



# Classes crossing borders

Over the past year, 154 students participated in the Study Away program, traveling to London, Belize, Paris, New York, Northern Ireland, Seattle, Vancouver, Mexico, Amsterdam, St. Petersburg, Israel and Honduras.

## Study a semester away

**O**ne or two weeks across the ocean is an amazing experience, but imagine what you could learn if you could multiply the experience by 15.

That opportunity is now available to students, as the university's study away program has expanded in the past two years so that students may now spend a semester studying at a foreign university anywhere in the world.

Dr. Karen Fulton, professor of English and director of the study

away program, said Western currently belongs to three international study consortiums that can provide students with a study-away semester wherever they want to go.

One student spent the Spring 2007 semester studying in London, another spent Summer 2007 there, and a student is studying in Prague this semester.

"Studying away has enormous value; it incredibly broadens students' horizons and they gain enormous confidence," Karen said. ■

## Student leaders reach out in Afghanistan

**N**atalie Bailey and Hannah Coy have been active student leaders throughout their college careers, so it was no surprise to anyone when they traveled to Afghanistan in June to teach a session on leadership skills at the Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Herat.

"I thought it was an excellent opportunity to spread the leadership knowledge that I have gained at Western and the (university's) center for student engagement," said Natalie, a history and government double major from Sedalia, Mo.

The women, who traveled with a nonpolitical, Christian-based organization that is helping to rebuild Afghanistan, also set up a new library and worked at two others, taught summer school, and distributed supplies. Hannah, who graduated with a social work degree in May, stayed for two weeks and Natalie for three.

"There was one student (at the leadership institute) who the fellow students think will be president of the country someday," said Natalie.

They even had the opportunity to attend two engagement parties for women only and learn the traditional wedding dance.

"It was all fantastic," said Natalie. "The Afghan people are truly amazing." ■

## A global viewpoint

**F**ourteen students in Western's Global Viewpoint class truly understand the concept of a global economy after studying global businesses in the Pacific Northwest and spending nine days visiting Seattle and Victoria, British Columbia last spring.

The class toured seven businesses, including Pike Place Fish Market, Starbucks and Microsoft headquarters, and the Port of Seattle. St. Joseph's Weyerhaeuser Corp. also arranged a tour for them at its Washington headquarters. ■

## Exploring art: Amsterdam and St. Petersburg

**W**hen Anthony Bossler heard about the planned study away trip to Amsterdam, Netherlands and St. Petersburg, Russia in June, he decided the trip would make a great graduation gift to give himself. After 20 days of touring art museums, churches and palaces; trying traditional foods; visiting 300 year-old windmills; and making friends with fellow travelers; he decided it was a pretty awesome gift.

"Seeing how other cultures work and trying to operate in their culture was the best part. It makes me want to travel more," said Anthony, who graduated in May. He said he loved watching the news in the foreign countries and seeing how different people treated Americans.

Anthony said it was great to actually view original artwork of artists that you had always heard about - VanGogh, Rembrandt, Renoir, Picasso and more.

Brian Jacobs, a computer information systems major from St. Joseph, Mo. who also went on the trip, agreed. He said he enjoyed the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, one of the largest and greatest art museums in the world. "The art was incredible."

Anthony, a video communications major from St. Joseph, came home with a lot of film footage and plans to make a documentary of his travels.

"I never understood the movie 'Lost in Translation' until I tried to buy groceries in Russia," said Anthony. ■

*Eighteen students traveled to Paris over spring break. "I really enjoyed getting to see everything we learned about in class; it allowed us to have a greater appreciation for everything we saw," said senior Alyssa Smith. "I also enjoyed practicing my French and trying all of the wonderful French desserts!"*



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*Students enjoy the beautiful coral reefs on a spring break trip to Belize as part of their Field Natural History class. "My friends couldn't believe everything we got to do," said senior Nicole Shiflett. "The scenery was amazing. You just don't experience that in Missouri."*



## From the Alumni Association President

As a resident of St. Joseph and as president of the Alumni Association, I'm on campus quite regularly. I have seen improvements and changes to the campus, developed friendships with other alumni whom I would not know had it not been for my alumni board membership, and had the opportunities to participate in university, Foundation, and alumni events. It got me thinking ... when was the last time you were on campus?

Alumni tell me stories of how, when they were students, there were no trees; athletics shared a building with the library; and the "dining hall" was a single-wide trailer. I look at campus today and am overwhelmed at the progress of our alma mater. From the clock tower to the new University



Jason M. Horn '95  
President, Alumni Association

Plaza, to the proposed renovations of Agenstein Hall, change is reflected everywhere; and the change is good. The change is good for current

students, good for us as alumni, and good for northwest Missouri.

We will celebrate Homecoming the weekend of Oct. 12 and 13. The word itself is an invitation for alumni to "come home" to Western. New events are planned and excitement is high as the campus prepares to welcome back its alumni. Whether you live in St. Joe, Columbia, St. Louis, Omaha, or Washington, D.C., I encourage you to make the trip, to see the changes, to meet the students, and to share your memories of when there were no trees.

With Griffon Pride,

Jason M. Horn '95  
President, Alumni Association



Alumni and friends gather with Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president, at TK Brothers Grill and Games in Columbia, Mo. for an alumni social in April.

## Branson getaway!

Sign up now for the Alumni Association's trip to Branson, Mo. Nov. 9 and 10.

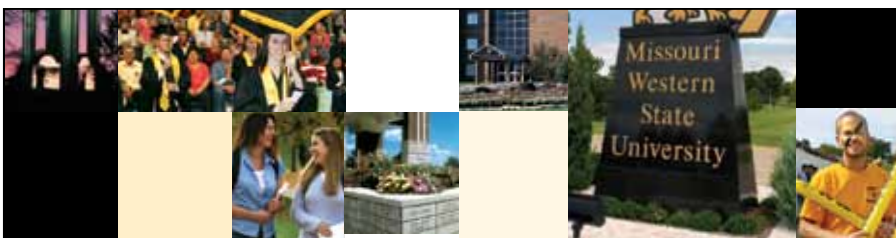
The trip, \$520 per couple or \$295 per individual, includes charter, one night's lodging, including luggage services; five shows, dinner Friday evening, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement, and his wife, Linda, will serve as hosts.

Shows include "50s at the Hop," "Dixie Stampede," "The Twelve Irish Tenors," "Red, Hot and Blue," and the "Andy Williams Show."

Reservations must be made by Friday, Sept. 7.

For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services, at 816-271-5650 or cko-wich@missouriwestern.edu. ■



## Homecoming 2007: THE BEST HOMECOMING EVER!

Don't miss out on Homecoming 2007 Oct. 12 and 13, as a host of activities are planned for alumni and friends.

The following Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be recognized at the Awards Banquet Friday evening: **Dr. Robert "Greg" Downing '76**, a research chemist for NIST Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory and president of RGD Research, Inc.; **Edward Haffey '62**, retired from private law practice; **Thomas Norsworthy '75**, founder of the 54th St. Grill and Bars, and Jeremiah Johnson's in Kansas City, Mo.; and **Mary Jane Fields Schoen '47**, retired teacher. She started many

kindergarten programs in the area and taught at Western for 20 years.

The Distinguished Faculty Award recipient is **Dr. Dennis Rogers**, professor of music and director of percussion studies.

The annual Run to the Max will be held immediately before the parade which begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Following the parade, an alumni lunch will be held at the new University Plaza.

At 2 p.m., the Griffons take on Southwest Baptist. Following the game there will be an after-game social at the Stoney Creek Inn, 1201 N. Woodbine.

For complete registration information check out the brochure enclosed with the magazine. ■

## MWSU along Interstate 70!



Kristen Neeley '05, and Alyssa Holyfield '04, visit at an alumni/admissions social this past summer for St. Louis area alumni and incoming freshman. Mary Vaughan '79, and Brent Porlier '82, hosted the gathering at Brent's business, Porlier Outdoor Advertising, in Foristell, Mo. Above is one of four Western billboards that were donated by Brent and placed along Interstate 70.

Photo by Amy Davidson/Joe Wilson

## Ag Reunion Sept. 15!

Buffalo Bar, 512 Felix,  
St. Joseph, Mo.

All ag alumni and friends are welcome to join us for a 2 p.m. meeting, a meal, and the 6 p.m. football game on campus - MWSU vs. Northwest.

For more info., contact Kendall Misemer at kgmise@grm.net or check out [www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org).

**See you there!**  
**Bring photos and memorabilia!**

## Correction

In the Spring 2007 issue, we had incorrect information for alumni whose son received the Alumni Family Scholarship.

Zach Slater's parents are Jill (Vollintine) Slater '84, and David Slater '81.

We apologize for the error.





Sign up for the Western  
**ALUMNI ONLINE  
COMMUNITY**  
at [www.griffonalumni.org!](http://www.griffonalumni.org!)

It now offers more features & fun!

- Class Notes
- University News
- Event information and sign up
- Career Center
- Group chats

Your log-in ID is on the magazine's mailing label.



Excerpt from  
the Griff Gab  
e-newsletter ...

Check out the **NEW Benefits Program!**

Having a degree from Western has most likely brought you many benefits. Now, the Alumni Association wants to bring you even more with its new benefit program that became effective Aug. 1. The free program includes the following benefits for those who graduated or attended Western and/or the St. Joseph Junior College:

- Commerce Bank - Alumni Checking Program. Valid at all Missouri, Illinois and Kansas locations.
- Drury Inns and Suites - discount rates at all locations.
- Hertz Rental Car - rental car discount rates at all locations.
- Online Western merchandise available at [www.gogriffongear.com](http://www.gogriffongear.com).



In May, hundreds gathered for the new alumni reception after each Commencement ceremony. The receptions were held on the lawn west of the M.O. Looney Complex and hosted by the Alumni Association.



A social for St. Joseph-area alumni was held at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks; Angie Springs '02, Alumni Association Board member; Eileen McAsey '96, and Nancy Springs '96, were three of more than 100 alumni who enjoyed the event.

Did you get this e-mail from us? If not, please send your e-mail address to [mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu) so we can add you to the newsletter mailing list!

## Long-time board member steps down

Award named in her and her husband's honor

If you need a hand or helpful advice, ask Peggy Iffert. If you need someone to make phone calls for the Phonathon, help at a social event, or anything else, you can always count on Peggy.

And right beside her is her husband Herb, who served on the Foundation Board of Directors, lending a hand and offering his leadership.

After 22 years of serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and helping out in every way possible, Peggy has decided to step down from the board.

"We can't thank Peggy enough for her service to the Alumni Association Board of Directors," said Jason Horn '95, Alumni Association president. "She was a great asset to the board and she will truly be missed."

In Peggy and Herb's honor, the Alumni Association has established the Herb and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University. The first recipient of the award will be George Richmond, a long-time Western supporter and Foundation Board member. George will receive the award at the Homecoming Awards Banquet Oct. 12.



Peggy and Herb '35 Iffert at the Taste at the Top alumni gathering in St. Joseph, Mo.

The award builds on the volunteer award that former board member Edna Pumphrey and Peggy received at the 2006 Junior College Reunion Brunch.

"We are pleased and proud to name this special award after Herb and Peggy for their many years of volunteer leadership and service to the Western community," said Jason. "When considering who should be the recipient of this award, the committee unanimously and wholeheartedly supported the nomination of George Richmond. I look forward to presenting him the award in October." ■

## Welcome, new board members!

The following were elected to the Alumni Association Board of Directors for terms that began July 1, 2007:

Carole Dunn '91, John Fabsits '04, Gini Fite '01, Nick Parker '02, Zach Ramsay '02, and Kris Smith '96.

Thank you to the outgoing board members whose terms expired June 30, 2007; we appreciate your service to Western and the Alumni Association:

Dave Gall '94, Dan Heckman '84, and Rita Houston '84. ■



Alumni graduating 50 or more years ago were inducted into the new Golden Griffon Alumni Society at the Junior College Reunion Luncheon last spring.



# Alumnotes

## 1960s

**Dennis Weiser '61**, had his logo artwork selected for the 2007 Trails West! festival in St. Joseph, Mo. He also published a book, "Missouri Courthouses - Buildings on the Square." His wife, **Nancy (Saunders)**, was in the class of '60.

## 1970s

**Hershel Ferguson '75**, retired as superintendent from the Craig R-III (Mo.) School District.

**Gregory A. Quirin '76**, is an assistant professor of military science for administration/ personnel and the MSII instructor for the Army SROTC Dept. at the New Mexico Military Institute.

**Keith Johnson '79**, is a research nurse with the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

## 1980s

**Stuart Hughes '82**, is vice president of tech services at Hillyard Companies in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Cheryl Cornett '84**, is the superintendent of the Pattonsburg R-II (Mo.) School District.

**Corky Marquart '84**, was promoted to executive vice president of Commerce Bank of St. Joseph, Mo.

**Brad Lau '85**, is the senior vice president of economic development for the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce.



**Laura (Lehr) Bigelow '87**, and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of a son, Chance Michael Bigelow, born Feb. 1, 2007.

**Larry McCord '88**, is deputy director and general counsel for the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration in Jefferson City, Mo.

## 1990s

**Cindy Moyer '90**, was promoted to controller at Snorkel International in Elwood, Kan.

**Kendra (Feagans) Cooperider '91**, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of a son, Connor Owen, born Nov. 7, 2005. He joins a sister, Mattie, and a brother, Alex.

**Sandra (Volker) Schnack '91**, works for the federal public defender's office for the District of Kansas as a paralegal.

**Twilya (Henry) L'Ecuyer '92**, and her husband, Thomas, announce the birth of a daughter, Olivia Graceann, born Sept. 8, 2007.

**Gary Lewis '92**, graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, with a master's degree in health care administration.

**Laurie Mefford '92**, is the superintendent of the Osborn R-0 (Mo.) School District.

Submit a class note at  
[www.griffonalumni.org](http://www.griffonalumni.org)

**Jennifer (McCracken) Dobbs '94**, published "Deadly Secret," a book about a teen-aged girl's battle with an eating disorder. Her website is [www.jenniferlynn.us](http://www.jenniferlynn.us).

**L.B. Galbearth Jr. '94**, is the workplace environment and employment development administrator for the City of Des Moines, Iowa.

**Jamie Hahn '94 and '96**, and Ethan Sickels were married April 28, 2007. The couple resides in Clarksdale, Mo.

**Nicholas Muller '97**, and Kimberly Foster were married Sept. 9, 2006. The couple resides in Lenexa, Kan.

## 2000s

**Natalie Leonard '00**, and Jason Redmond were married July 1, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Mary (Zook) '00, and Shaun '00, Piatt** announce the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Ann, born Feb. 12, 2007. She joins big brother Jacen. The family resides in St. Joseph, Mo.



**Brooklin (Baker) '00, and Zack '01, Zimmerman** announce the birth of twin daughters, Elliott and Kyler, born December 2006. The couple has two other daughters, Riley and Haven. Zack graduated with a master's in management and organizational development from Benedictine University in Chicago in December 2006.

## Football alumnus officiates in Super Bowl XLI

**G**eorge Hayward '74, had a close-up, best-seat-in-the-house, bird's eye view of Super Bowl XLI. No matter which cliché you prefer, he was definitely in on the action. The St. Joseph, Mo. native and Western alumnus is one of 120 officials for the National Football League (NFL), and because of his officiating performance throughout the season last year, he was selected for the first time to officiate a Super Bowl.

"It was a big surprise," said George, who has been officiating NFL games for 16 years. "That's what we all shoot for - to get at least one. There's no bigger game."

During football season, George, a head linesman in charge of the chain crew, is on the road 15 out of 17 week-ends. He estimates he also spends about five or six hours a week reviewing game tapes (he watches the officials) and studying for a weekly test. That's in addition to his responsibilities as owner and manager of the Lake Road Warehouse Co. in St. Joseph.

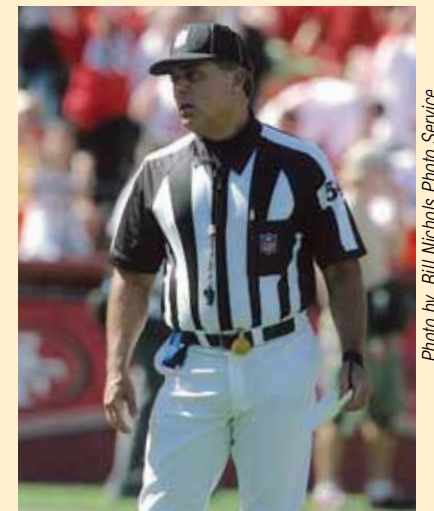
"I have the thrill of seeing the best players in the world," he said. "I love football - this is a way of being around the game."

As a linebacker for the Griffons and a physical education major, George began officiating for intramurals and the

local Bantam football league as part of a class, and he just kept advancing. Right before joining the NFL, he officiated for the Big 8 (now the Big 12) for eight years. "I probably would not have gotten involved in officiating if it hadn't been for Western," he said.

The fields he runs on today are quite different from his Griffon playing days in the early '70s. Back then, the team dressed in the Vo Tech building on campus and played on Central High School's Noyes Field. They won one game George's first year. "But I enjoyed playing, and I've been fortunate to stay involved in the sport."

And his favorite NFL team? "All of them. I really like them all the same."



George Hayward '74  
NFL Official

Photo by Bill Nichols Photo Service

**Stacy (Beebe) Armstrong '01**, and her husband Jason announce the birth of a daughter, McKenna, born July 15, 2006. The family resides in Platte City, Mo.

**Stephanie (Jackson) Cline '01**, and her husband Ryan announce the birth of twins, Jackson Douglas and Annaliese Elizabeth, born Jan. 23, 2007. They also have an older daughter, Victoria. The family resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Gini Fite '01**, has been promoted to daily operations coordinator at Sports Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy Associates, Inc. in Overland Park, Kan.

**Christopher Todd '01**, and **Stacy Stodden '06**, were married Nov. 11, 2006.

**Logan Kelly '02**, earned a PhD in economics from the University of Kansas and is an assistant professor of economics at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I. His wife, **Cassandra (Luth) Kelly**, is an '03 Western graduate.

**Zach Ramsay '02, and Erin Burke '05**, were married June 4, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.



**D**irck Clark '85, was named chair of the MWSU Board of Governors at its June 2007 meeting. Dirck, of Savannah, Mo., has been a member of the board since 2004. "It's exciting that the University has grown and matured to the point where we now have alumni in this position," said Dirck. Carol Moya '86, served as chair of the board from 2005-2006.



**Bob Poirier '03**, and his wife, Carla, announce the birth of a daughter, Celia Josette, born Oct. 28, 2006.



**Andy Richmond '03**, was part of a two-person team that won the University of North Carolina's J. Braxton Craven Moot Court Competition. He earned his law degree from Regent University, Virginia Beach, Va., in May 2007.

## Women of Excellence

The following alumnae were recognized at the 2007 St. Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence luncheon in June:

**Woman in Support Services:** Western employee Darcy Groce '02. Nominees included Shirlee Allen '78.

**Woman in Volunteerism:** Connie Dobbins '91. Nominees included Sharon Franke '70, and Sharon Kosek '77. Connie was also named **Y Woman of Merit**. Nominees for the **Women in the Workplace** included Jeanne Archer '71, Barb Bigelow '73, Chris Danford '78, Robin Hammond '93, Debbie Lyons '91, and Diane Waddell '91.

Nominees for **Emerging Leader** included Angie Springs '02, and Nichi Yeager '99. Jean Brown '73, is the YWCA executive director. Sue Wagner '68, and Patsy Smith '95, were luncheon steering committee co-chairs. ■

**Nathan Stamper '03**, represented a seven-state region when he competed in the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Contest in Indianapolis. He is in the apprenticeship program with the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 2 of Kansas City, Mo.

**Elizabeth Beeson '04**, and **Robert Woodring '06** were married Aug. 5, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Corey Crawford '04**, is serving in Afghanistan as a member of the National Guard Bravo Battery 1/129 FA of Chillicothe.

**Amy Hicks '04**, and **Nathan Speer '04**, were married Dec. 2, 2006. The couple resides in St. Ann, Mo.

**Jill Nesslage '04**, and her husband, Fred, announce the birth of a son, Christopher, born April 17, 2007.

**Kelly Riley '04**, and **BJ Fisher '04**, were married Sept. 30, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.



Three 2006 nursing graduates are stationed together at Travis Air Force Base in California: Jason Parkinson, Kelley Jackson and Leslie Balcazar.

## We want your photos!

We are now accepting baby and wedding photos for Alumnnotes!

Please follow these guidelines:

- We welcome digital photos, but they must be a minimum of at least 2 megapixels or 300 dpi, and saved as a jpg. For best results, use the largest setting on your digital camera. Email to the address below.
  - Prints must be good quality and on matte paper; please note if you want them returned.
- Mail to: Diane Holtz, MWSU, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.**
- Due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that your photo will be published.



### Questions?

Call 816-271-5651 or email [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu). ■

**Steven Skinner '04**, joined Anderson & Sundell in Maryville, Mo. as an associate attorney.

**Trevor Cassity '05**, and **Sarah Fowler '06**, were married Oct. 7, 2006. The couple resides in Rushville, Mo.

**Blair Lehr '05**, and **Dustin Holcumbrink '05**, were married May 27, 2006. The couple resides in Blue Springs, Mo.

**Chance Hollingsworth '05**, and **Melissa Brown '06**, were married Oct. 7, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

## Alumna's capital career

**M**elissa Rewinkel '93, says her current job has "the longest learning curve" that she's ever experienced. The registered lobbyist in Washington, DC for Mutual of Omaha insurance company said she's been at it five years, and is still learning.

"I don't know what could prepare you for it," she said of her position. "It's not a job you learn and get good at. I don't feel like I've learned it all; it's still challenging."

But she's quick to add how much she loves her position - the hectic pace, the vast array of personalities, spending time on Capitol Hill, putting her interpersonal communication skills to the test, and the social events. "It's a great mix of sales and public relations."

Growing up in tiny Sidney, Iowa, Melissa, who graduated with a marketing degree from Western and an MBA from Texas Christian University, said she was

surprised to find that Washington was warm and friendly. In fact, she knows all her neighbors and the restaurant and store owners in her neighborhood, and feels like her suburb is like a small town. "I love this city. It's really a dynamic, interesting place to be; people get addicted to the energy."

Last year, Melissa joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She attends meetings via conference calls, but since a large amount of time is spent on conference calls, she doesn't mind that a bit. "I love being a board member. It's a great chance to hook back up with Missouri Western."

She's discovered there are up to 40 alumni in the Washington area, and she hosted an "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" watch party in May. (see p. 4).

When Melissa is in St. Joseph, she often speaks to business classes on campus. Her advice to students? "It doesn't matter what you study, as long as you are passionate. And learn communication and interpersonal skills." ■



Melissa Rewinkel '93

## KEEP UP ON CAMPUS NEWS!

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**Bret Bell '06**, is a research assistant at the University of Kansas BioMedical Research.

**Tayrn Gibson '06**, is a superintendent in training for JE Dunn in Kansas City, Mo.

**Christopher Koehler '06**, and Sandy Vertin were married Oct. 27, 2006. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

**Amy Long '06**, and Ryan White were married July 29, 2006. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

**Kristina Neth '06**, and Jase Lee were married Oct. 28, 2006. The couple resides in Cameron, Mo.

**Robert Smith '06**, married his wife, Kate, June 10, 2006. The couple resides in Lebanon, Mo. Robert was promoted to JAWS Agent Component Lead, associate software engineer, at 21st Century Systems, Inc.

**Stacy Stodden '06**, and **Christopher Todd '06**, were married Nov. 11, 2006.



# Alumnus perseveres and excels

**O**bie Austin '96, knows all about not giving up. He failed two grades (one in high school), went to college to escape his drug-infested inner-city neighborhood, and spent seven years at Western before earning his bachelor's degree.

He went on to earn his adult nurse practitioner degree in 1999, and today he is teaching nurse practitioner students and working on his doctor-ate of nurse practitioner at University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). He is in the Navy Reserves, volunteers at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic in the inner city, serves as a consultant, and tells his story to area school students.

Last spring, Obie was named "Healthcare Hero" by Kansas City's Ingram's Magazine and he received the UMKC Alumni Association's "Defying the Odds" award at its annual awards dinner.

As juniors in high school, Obie and his twin brother joined the

Army National Guard, and his brother joined the military full time when they graduated from high school.

"I was stuck - I either had to stay in the city by myself, join the military or go to college. I made great grades in high school, so I thought, 'Why not college?'" he said with a laugh. "For me, college was a way to get out of the city. I didn't have plans to graduate."

It took him three years to get serious about a degree. After "more than 60 credits of Ds and Fs," Obie finally found a focus - the nursing program. "Then I started getting 4.0s."

"I needed Missouri Western in a very bad way, and I had a lot of support," he says, crediting Dr. Janet Murphy, Western's president at the time; Dr. James

McCarthy, then vice president; then Student Affairs Dean Forrest Hoff, and the center for academic support.

Along with meeting his wife, Tiffaney '94, at Western, Obie says college also taught him a lot about life, and that's what he tries to share with high school students. "I tell my story, and I tell them, 'Never give up.'" ■



Obie Austin '96

# In Memory ...

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

**Arthur R. Calloway JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 26, 2006.

**Richard A. Dye '99**, St. Joseph, Mo., May 3, 2007.

**Joshua D. Grable '01**, St. Joseph, Mo., March 24, 2007.

**Diana M. Grubb '87**, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 12, 2007.

**Pauline B. Hayes '66**, St. Joseph, Mo. April 8, 2007.

**Lorna E. Klein '80**, St. Joseph, Mo., March 4, 2007.

**Frances "Kay" Mayo JC**, Branson, Mo., March 9, 2007.

**Mildred Means JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 4, 2007.

**Herbert C. Moore JC**, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 7, 2007.

**Herbert B. Nechemias '36**, Cincinnati, Sept. 6, 2006.

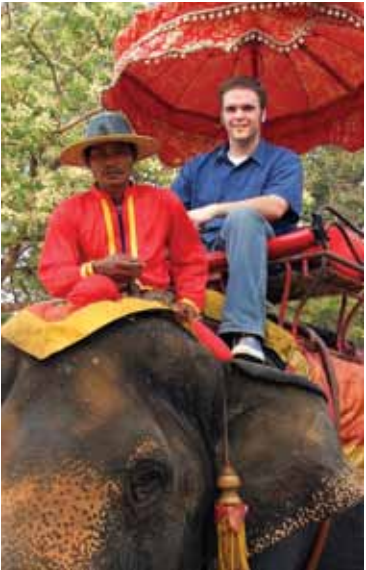
**Mary Ellen Noll '80**, Atchison, Kan., Feb. 13, 2007.

**Dorothy R. Rogers**, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 11, 2006. Dorothy was a custodian for 10 years at Western.

**Eric W. Shell '89**, St. Joseph, Mo., May 8, 2007.

**Kent A. Thompson '79**, Osborn, Mo., May 7, 2007.

# Bangkok blogger: A taste of Thailand



Jeremy Miller '03

**J**eremy Miller '03, spent three months in Bangkok, Thailand this year helping his employer, DST Output in Kansas City, set up an office there. "I was glad I went," said Jeremy. "It really made me realize the United States is truly the greatest country in the world." Jeremy, now a business instructor at Vatterott College in St. Joseph, Mo., wrote a blog while he was away to share his experiences with family and friends. Here are some excerpts:

- The Thai people are some of the most polite people in the world. I mean, sure they honk a lot in traffic, but if we had no traffic laws in the states and had bumper-to-bumper traffic nonstop we would honk a lot too. Pretty much every building has its own traffic directors that stand in the road and flash a red flag allowing drivers to join the flow.
- They have a cluster of shopping malls here, all connected by breezeways and/or plazas and each from five-eight floors. There are many American stores. One mall features floor after floor of counterfeit goods and electronics.

- We went to The Villa. It's an import grocery store. I haven't been able to find my Dr. Pepper since we got here so I was hoping they would have it there. No such luck. But, while we were there I figured I'd check on cereal. They had it! Ten dollars a box. Looks like it's rice for breakfast!
- Let me take a second and describe to you the medley of smells that singe your nostrils while walking the streets of Bangkok. There is never a second that goes by when you don't smell something when walking the streets. I crave that fresh, odorless, Midwest country air. When I get home I'm going to just lay down in the grass, look up at the stars and breathe deep.
- We Americans took an elephant ride that day. They charge double for foreigners. No wonder they love us.
- We took a trip to the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market in Ratchaburi, about 80 kilometers west of Bangkok. The market is pretty crazy. Imagine the worst traffic jam you can think of, then picture it on water in a canal with canoes containing grills, wares and people.
- I think I'm getting used to squid. For lunch today we had sweet and sour squid, spicy catfish, Tom Yum with snake fish, and some salty chicken. The sweet and sour squid was very tasty. Still a little rubbery, but not hardly repulsive anymore.
- The things we take for granted. I had a craving for Rice Krispies® treats last week but couldn't find marshmallows!

# 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



# Return Address Labels

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# Adolescent girls explore filmmaking on campus

**“On the count of three, everybody shout, with force, ‘I want to make movies!’”**

With that directive from Los Angeles filmmaker Tara Veneruso, 13 St. Joseph, Mo.-area adolescent girls kicked off a three-week filmmaking program on Western’s campus this summer.

The free program, RISK: At-Risk Girls Behind the Camera, was held concurrently in both St. Joseph and Kansas City, Mo., and Western served as one of the partners and sponsors of the project.

Tara, a graduate of New York University and founder of

Flaming Angel Films and the Edit Studio of Los Angeles, made a documentary about the program while it was running that included her personal journey of becoming a film director despite being an at-risk girl.

As a teen-ager, Tara said she hung around with the wrong crowd, had a violent home life and was generally headed for trouble when a teacher recognized her talent and asked her to film a documentary for her school.

“A single teacher reached out to me when I was 15 and taught me it was fantastic that I was different and that I could make a positive difference in the world regardless of the negative and horrible things I had experienced in my life,” she said. “This is a program I am deeply passionate about.”

Animators, makeup artists and filmmakers from all over the United States volunteered to teach in the program, and transportation, meals and equipment were all provided for the girls.

“I would have loved to have been invited to a program like this when I was your age,”

Tara told the girls. “Some of the program is based on what I wished I could do when I was 12.”

The program culminated in a community screening of their movies to celebrate their accomplishments.

Twelve year-old Deanna Campbell was excited about the program because she likes to draw and write. When Tara assured the girls that they would experience every role involved in filmmaking, both in front of and behind the camera, Deanna was excited about the “in front of the camera” part.

Five women, either Western graduates or current students, served as mentors in the program. Jenna Gilpatrick ’07, was a perfect fit since she just earned a social work degree.

“At-risk youth, especially girls, are my passion,” she said. “The program was something I definitely wanted to do.”

Tara discovered Western when she submitted an entry in the Griffon International Film Festival a few years back, and that was the beginning of her professional relationship with Deny Staggs, assistant professor of theatre, and Western. She even filmed a television commercial for Western pro bono in 2006. ■



# Inspiration

**T**ylor Rohr, a speech communication major from St. Joseph, Mo., is a typical college student. Living in a house with three of his friends, he works part time, takes a full load of classes, goes out with friends, and gets up as late as possible for his first class. And why not? He can get dressed in less than 10 minutes, drive to campus and quickly get to class.

But this typical college student drives a specialized car, and rolls to his classes in a wheelchair.

On a mild day in February 2003, he was helping his dad trim branches on a tree in their yard. Tyler had a misstep, and fell 18 feet out of the tree. At age 17, he was instantly paralyzed when his T-9 vertebrae was broken.

“I climbed the tree that I’d been climbing all my life, and suddenly I was in the hospital,” he said.

Before that day, Tyler had never had a broken bone in his life, even though he had been playing football for as long as he could remember. He was the quarterback of St. Joseph’s Lafayette High School team, and as a junior, he was already getting recruiting letters from colleges.

The loss of football was tough, but the self-pity only lasted a few days. “Eventually it sinks in: This is how you will be for a long time. You can sit around and do nothing or get out and do something. I chose to get out and do something.”

Since then, his positive attitude never seems to be in the “off” mode.

After months of therapy in Kansas City, Mo. and St. Louis, Tyler met one of his goals: With the help of braces and two friends, he walked across the stage to receive his high school diploma with his class.

Tyler hopes to be a public speaker someday, but for now, he has another goal in mind: Someday he would like to walk again. No wheelchair, no braces.

“The doctor at KU Medical Center told me I’d probably never walk. But I didn’t believe him. He doesn’t know who I am. I’m going to do all I can to get out of this wheelchair.”

Tyler said a lot of positives came out of his experience. He doesn’t get stressed out as much as he used to; little things just don’t bother him anymore. People tell him he’s very mature for his age. He’s



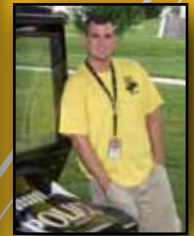
*Speech communication major Tyler Rohr demonstrates wheelchair use at a workshop on campus for physical therapists last spring. Tyler was paralyzed when he was 17.*

happy to be alive, and he really appreciates life. And he feels very, very lucky that the accident wasn’t worse.

“Falling out of the tree was good for me - one of the best things that happened to me,” he says.

On second thought, he really isn’t such a typical college student after all. ■





**In 2005, Western received university designation and was given a statewide mission of applied learning. Students at Western have an opportunity for an applied learning experience in four areas: internships/practica, service learning, faculty/student research, and study away. In 2007, 83 percent of Western graduates completed an applied learning experience.**



# **Applied learning: our mission**