

Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | *Winter 2013*



AN EPIC FOOTBALL SEASON

page 12

Michael Hill, No. 22,
was part of the 2012
record-breaking
football team.

2012 President's Family Picnic

The annual picnic for employees and their families kicked off the new academic year in the fall.





Dr. Vartabedian is pictured with Brian Shewell, student governor, Kylee Strough '03, chair of the Board of Governors, Dr. Robert Sigrist '95, Alumni Association president, and featured speaker T. Boone Pickens at the Convocation on Critical Issues (see p. 8).

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Each new academic year brings with it a renewed sense of optimism and hope. This year, along with that optimism and hope came a different type of energy – one that surrounded the most successful football season in school history.

Every game I attended – both home and away – the crowd was filled with Griffon spirit. From the moment we beat the University of Central Missouri at home to the moment we beat Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville to clinch the MIAA Championship, it was as if our fans knew instinctively that this was going to be a magical season.

The Griffons broke more than 40 individual and team records, including a record 12 wins in a season against one of the toughest schedules in the country. Of the Griffons' 12 wins, six came against teams ranked in the national Top 25, and four were against teams in the Top 10. The 22 seniors are the most successful class in Missouri Western history, with 38 wins over the last four years.

The season ended Saturday, Dec. 1 with a hard-fought loss on the road to Minnesota State University in the third round of playoff action. Griffon fans were well-represented in Mankato, with at least 500 making the trip, including four fan buses. It was exciting to watch the interest and enthusiasm for this team build over throughout the season. I hope that same support carries over in all that we do at Missouri Western.

Congratulations to Coach Jerry Partridge '85, MIAA Coach of the Year, his staff and the student athletes for their remarkable accomplishments. We are extremely proud of them and proud to be Griffons!

Robert A. Vartabedian

Robert A. Vartabedian
President



The Missouri Western Magazine is a publication of the University Advancement Office for alumni and friends of Missouri Western State University and its predecessor institutions.

WINTER 2013
VOLUME 11
NUMBER 1

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opportunity institution.*

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Griffons Michael Hill, No. 22,
and No. 81 Brandon Wright.
Photo by student Jason Brown.

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Degree-seekers, take notes! MWSU offers new general studies degree

Did you take a lot of college classes in several areas, but never complete enough credits in one academic area to graduate? If so, now is your chance to return to college and earn that degree. This fall, Missouri Western began offering a Bachelor of General Studies degree, intended for students who have earned credit hours in several academic areas.

Dr. Jeanne Daffron, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said the degree is individualized for each student. Students must

complete all general education courses, and then pick two concentration areas, one of which must be an existing minor. The second concentration area will be customized according to the credits the student has already earned.

"I'm really excited about it," Jeanne said. "We'll look at where this individual

person is and how their coursework can take them where they want to go."

When the degree was in the planning stages, the University met with many employers in the community who were very interested so their employees could advance in their careers.

The new degree was a large part of the proposal for the \$1 million campus innovation grant that Missouri Western received from the state last summer. The grant establishes an Innovation Campus, which will help employees and potential employees in

high-demand businesses and industries complete post-secondary degrees.

Missouri Western will work closely with community business partners included in the grant to align degrees with workforce needs.

Beginning this fall, the MWSU Innovation Campus program will enroll

adults and high school students in relevant educational tracks, with financial aid of up to \$7,500 to pursue college degrees. Partners include Missouri Western, the St. Joseph Metro Chamber, the Community Alliance of St. Joseph, Metropolitan Community College, the St. Joseph School District, the Northwest Workforce Investment Board and eight business partners: Heartland Health, Hillyard Industries, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Gray Manufacturing, Lifeline Foods, Altec Industries, Blue Sun Biodiesel and Albaugh.

The partnering businesses will provide substantial and targeted on-site training and mentoring for participants beyond what would otherwise occur within the company. Participants may also receive college credit for these applied learning experiences.

Although Missouri Western has offered the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies for several years, the Bachelor of General Studies is a little different. The BGS, Jeanne said, is more flexible than the BIS, and is really geared for those who are working full-time and had previously earned a lot of credit hours.

"The degree makes sense for individuals, families, the community, and for the overall economic development of the state," Jeanne said. ■

"We'll look at where this individual person is and how their coursework can take them where they want to go."

Dr. Jeanne Daffron, provost and vice president of academic affairs



Griffons who serve

At the Griffon Edge orientation for new students, more than 950 participated in community service. One of the volunteer sites was the day care center on campus.



Those who attended the Mid-Autumn Chinese festival sampled Chinese food, and married couples "tied the knot," a Chinese custom.

Students get a taste of China at Mid-Autumn Festival

Approximately 150 people gathered to hear poetry recitations and singing, enjoy games and sample traditional festival tea and foods at the campus' Mid-Autumn Festival to celebrate a traditional Chinese holiday.

Juan Wang, an associate professor of foreign linguistics and applied linguistics in the foreign languages department at

Xidian University in China, is teaching Mandarin Chinese at Missouri Western for the 2012-13 academic year, and she planned the festival. Students who were in her Chinese classes in the fall semester presented information about the history of the festival and provided the entertainment.

This is the second year a professor from Xidian University taught at Missouri Western, and an exchange agreement with Xidian was signed last summer.

Missouri Western also has an exchange agreement with Guizhou University in the Guizhou Province in China. ■

Campus Kudos: Awards and accomplishments

- Three members of the student chapter of **The Wildlife Society**, under the direction of Dr. Cary Chevalier, professor of biology, prepared material for interpretative sign panels at the Missouri Department of Transportation's new Rock Port Welcome Center on I-29. The panels include information about energy use in Missouri, both past and present. Cary and one of the students, Lisa Montgomery, spoke at the dedication ceremony last summer. Although other entities provided information as well, it was Missouri Western students who provided the bulk of the material, and they were the only ones invited to be part of the ceremony.
- Missouri Western received the Craig Watkins **Friend of Northwest Missouri Press Award** by the Northwest Missouri Press Association in 2012. The award was in recognition of the university's support of publishers and editors in the region, and its openness in dealing with the media.
- The **Prairie Lands Writing Project** received \$40,000 in federal grants from the National Writing Project to support its work with teachers in northwest Missouri during 2012-2103. The grants help support the 2013 Invitational Institute. Also, the site was one of 15 NWP sites throughout the country selected to receive a competitive grant for the NWP's "Evaluating the Impact of Professional Development to Meet Challenging Writing Standards in High-need Elementary Schools" research project.
- The **Fountain City Brass Band**, a volunteer musical ensemble founded by Dr. Lee Harrelson, instructor of music, held a 10th anniversary concert at the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts in October. Since its first competition in 2004, the band has won four U.S. Open Brass Band Championships and four North American Brass Band Championships. In 2009, it became the first American band and the first non-United Kingdom band in more than 50 years to win a major brass band competition in the U.K. ■

University offers sport and fitness management master's degree

To help meet the workforce demand for managerial positions in the field of sport and fitness, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education approved a new master's degree at Missouri Western: Master of Applied Science in Sport and Fitness Management.

Dr. Brenda Blessing, chair of the department of health, physical education and recreation, said the program is designed to prepare students to manage and lead in the areas of intercollegiate or professional sports, entertainment, or

fitness and cardio rehabilitation facilities. "We think our program is unique and will attract students in a variety of disciplines."

Like the other four MAS degree options offered by Missouri Western, this option requires an applied science core of business courses along with courses in the sport and fitness field. The program also includes an applied learning component.

Tiffany Goldwire, from Dell City, Okla., said the business courses are especially beneficial, since she is learning what goes on "behind the scenes" of

athletic programs. "I never really thought about it before, but it is very helpful," she said. Tiffany is a graduate assistant for women's basketball.

Anthony Medina, from Houston, says the program is preparing him for his career goal of being a college basketball coach. Along with the courses, he is a graduate assistant for the men's basketball team, which he enjoys.

"None of the other programs I looked at were this hands-on," he said. ■

Renovated Baker Family Fitness Center reopens

Approximately \$220,000 in renovations were completed in August at the Baker Family Fitness Center.

Some walls were taken down to expand the crowded cardio area and give the whole fitness center a more

open appearance. Space that housed the football coaches' offices until the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex opened in 2010 was gutted for a large multi-purpose room that can be used for fitness or other classes.

New restrooms and a larger reception area are at the front of the building, and the current locker rooms were refurbished with new fixtures and flooring.

A former training room was made into a locker room for the women's soccer team. This is the first time in the program's seven-year history that the team has a locker room to call its own. What used to be the home football locker room and a laundry room was renovated into a new training room and visitors' locker room.


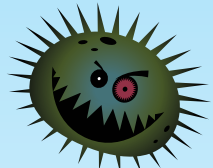
Contractor for the project was Brooner & Associates Construction Inc. The project was funded by Max Experience student fees and money in the university's auxiliary budget that was set aside for renovation projects. ■



Missouri Western's fitness center was renovated last summer and updates included a more spacious reception area.

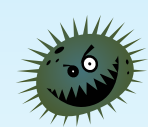


BIOLOGY STUDENTS CENTERED ON DISEASE CONTROL



When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta notified Heartland Health's Dr. Scott Folk, who specializes in infectious diseases, that they wanted to conduct research on a new virus that he had discovered in northwest Missouri, Scott immediately suggested that the center work with a Missouri Western professor and his students. Scientists at the CDC agreed, giving Dr. David Ashley's biology students a valuable experience they won't soon forget.

Once in the fall of 2011 and three times last summer, personnel from the CDC and several local and state agencies,



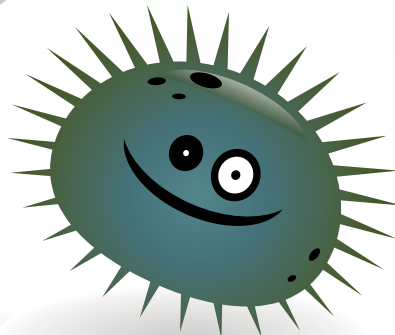
"Just knowing you were working with the CDC, it felt like an honor to work with the people who keep disease under control."

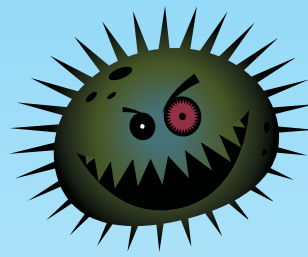
Breana Higdon, student researcher

up to 30 people at times, visited two area farms to track the cause of a virus that had infected two northwest Missouri patients treated by Scott in 2009. David and five students were able to assist the scientists with their field research on all four visits.

They helped trap ticks, mosquitoes, birds and mammals, and helped remove ticks from the mammals so the ticks could be frozen and sent to CDC laboratories for testing. The blood of the mammals and birds was also drawn for testing in laboratory space set up in the Missouri Department of Conservation regional headquarters building on campus. "The students got a lot of experience with field methodology and surveying habitat," David said. "They participated in a wide variety of activities."

Brandon Grieshaber, a sophomore from St. Joseph, plans to become an infectious disease specialist and had shadowed Scott two different times before the research opportunity came about.





Scott had mentioned the tick research to Brandon, and he was immediately interested.

"I knew it would be a great opportunity to work with the CDC," Brandon said. "It was really cool to be a part of science."

"The CDC scientists wouldn't let you just stand around and watch. They'd ask you to come over and do it yourself," Breana Higdon, one of the student researchers, said. "Just knowing you were working with the CDC, it felt like an honor to work with the people who keep disease under control."

A paper on the virus was published by the CDC, with Scott as a co-author, in the New England Journal of Medicine in August 2012.

Why Scott knew David and recommended him to the CDC goes back to an incident that happened several years ago. David became very ill and was admitted to Heartland Health, and Scott diagnosed his illness as tick-borne. They became friends, and Scott has assisted students in David's Medical Parasitology class twice each semester every year since.

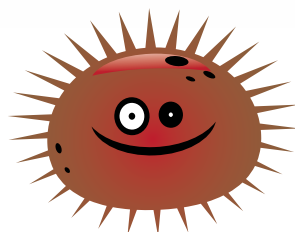
David said it was unique for students to have the opportunity to interact with globally recognized experts, but it was not unique that Missouri Western's biology students were engaging in undergraduate research with faculty members. "This is what we do here," he said. "This is what we want our students to be doing."

"I think it is amazing and fantastic that Missouri Western allows their students to get involved in research with professors and scientists," said Nicole Wallace, one of the students who helped with the research. "It helps build resumes so students have a better chance of getting a job or getting into graduate school, medical school or veterinarian school."

She added that some of the CDC researchers were working on earning their doctorates, so she gained a lot of valuable advice about getting accepted into graduate schools. "They were all extremely nice and very interesting."

Katie Kilpatrick, another student researcher, agreed with Nicole. "It was very rewarding to hear the scientists' experiences working for the CDC and hear where they went to school and other opportunities they had."

David said two students who were involved hope to pursue internships at the CDC, thanks to the contacts they made through the research. ■



Convocation with T. Boone Pickens energizes crowd

T. Boone Pickens has a plan to end the United States' dependency on foreign oil, and he shared it with more than 3,000 people at Missouri Western October 4 at the 19th Convocation on Critical Issues. He says the solution is natural gas.

"The United States today is fully capable of having enough oil available without using the 2 million barrels a day out of the Persian Gulf," he said. "We are the biggest natural gas producer in the world."

T. Boone's plan involves drilling for natural gas in the United States, because it is "cheaper and cleaner than oil, it is domestic, and we have an abundance of it."

One of the big issues for people is the method of drilling – hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. T. Boone insisted that fracking is safe and does not damage the environment. He said fracking has been practiced since the 1950s, but he maintains that in the past 10 years, the technology of fracking has advanced so much that the natural gas can be drilled economically without harming the environment.

Although it would be expensive to convert vehicles to natural gas usage, T. Boone pointed out that several of the past military conflicts the United States has been involved in were to protect its oil interests, and they were expensive. And, he said, we are spending a lot of money policing the Persian Gulf to protect the oil coming out of there, as well.

"We've got the oil here. We don't have to be in the Persian Gulf," T. Boone said. "I say get the hell out of there and come home."

He criticized the current administration and administrations going back to the Richard Nixon era, for not making the United States independent of foreign oil. "Every one of them, I don't care if they were Democrat or Republican, said,



T. Boone Pickens speaks at the 19th annual Convocation on Critical Issues. Ironically, his talk on energy was cut short by a power outage caused by a lightning strike.

"The United States today is fully capable of having enough oil available without using the 2 million barrels a day out of the Persian Gulf. We've got the oil here. We don't have to be in the Persian Gulf."

- T. Boone Pickens

'Elect me and I'll make us energy independent.' We are the only country in the world without an energy plan."

He got a good laugh from the audience when he explained that you can't have a five-minute discussion about energy with anyone in Washington (D.C.) because "after three minutes, you've run out of everything they know."

In 1997, T. Boone and Andrew Littlefair formed Pickens Fuel Corp. which went public in 2008 as Clean Energy Fuels Corp.

T. Boone, who graduated with a geology degree from Oklahoma State University, told the audience that 10 years ago, he had a hard time telling students who were studying geology or engineering that they were on the right career path.

But today is different. "Now there are great opportunities. Energy will be a big part of your lives and a bigger part of this country," he told the audience. "We will go back to being an energy superpower within the next 10 years." ■

Alum picks T. Boone's plan for alternative fuels

Hearing T. Boone Pickens speak at Missouri Western's Convocation on Critical Issues last fall was not the first time Mark Watkins '81, had heard him speak about the benefits of natural gas for transportation. In fact, hearing T. Boone speak four years ago led Mark to his current job.

Mark had been selling hydrogen generators for zero-emission fuel cell vehicles when he heard T. Boone speak about his "Pickens Plan," which includes using compressed natural gas for vehicles, at an Alternative Fuels and Vehicles Conference in Las Vegas in 2008. After hearing his talk, Mark said he decided he wanted to work for T. Boone's company, Clean Energy Fuels Corp. In 2010, he was hired by the company as a business development manager, and he markets compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas refueling stations in the Northwest United States.

"He is an amazing man with clear vision and determination to help our country become energy independent. He is such an inspiration."

- Mark Watkins '81, about T. Boone Pickens

Mark said many people believe hydrogen is the ultimate zero-emission transportation fuel, but he believes the technology is 15-20 years away from being commercially viable. Since reforming natural gas is the cheapest way to produce hydrogen, natural gas fuel is the gateway to hydrogen fuel. So T. Boone's company was a good fit for him.

Mark said more and more transportation companies are switching their gasoline or diesel vehicles to run on compressed natural gas. For example,

T. Boone's company, Clean Energy Corp., purchased a company that converts vehicles to run on natural gas, and over the past 15 years, it has converted 15,000 vehicles. However, Mark said the company is on target to convert 5,000 in 2012 alone.

Just as T. Boone noted in his address at Missouri Western, Mark explained that using natural gas for transportation became a clear winner for transportation fuel when hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, methods improved in the past few years.

When he heard that T. Boone was going to speak at his alma mater, Mark traveled from his home in California for the presentation. "He is an amazing man with clear vision and determination to help our country become energy independent," Mark said. "He is such an inspiration." ■



T. Boone Pickens visits with Marvin Shutler, from Kansas City, Mo., and Mark Watkins '81, at a lunch following the Convocation on Critical Issues. Mark works for Boone's company, Clean Energy Fuels Corp., and Marvin is Mark's father-in-law. Mark, a native of St. Joseph, traveled from California to his alma mater to hear T. Boone speak.

Gifts to Foundation generate scholarships

The Missouri Western Foundation received several gifts recently. Four of the gifts created new scholarships and one supplemented the Western Advantage Scholarship fund.

LeRoy and Jeanne Eaton Trust

A distribution of almost \$619,000 from the LeRoy and Jeanne Eaton Trust was added to the Western Advantage Scholarship fund. It is estimated that the gift will generate nearly \$25,000 in scholarships each year for Missouri Western students.

LeRoy and Jeanne were active members of the St. Joseph community. They were both graduates of Central High School. LeRoy was an insurance agent and Jeanne worked in his office.

Euler Gift creates scholarship

The Missouri Western Foundation was recently notified that it was the beneficiary of the estate of Earl E. and Elmyra (Susie) J. Euler of Wathena, Kan., receiving approximately \$474,000 from the Euler's trust. The trust established an endowed scholarship to Missouri Western for students who graduate from Central High School in St. Joseph.

Susie graduated from Central in 1943 and from the St. Joseph Junior College in 1945. Earl taught school for a few years, but spent most of his life farming. Susie held different office jobs throughout her career and retired from a bank in Troy, Kan. She passed away in June 2008 and Earl passed away in February 2011.

The announcement of the gift was made at Central High School in September.

Dr. Robert Sigrist '95, president of the Missouri Western Alumni Association and vice principal at Central,

said Earl and Susie were his neighbors when he was growing up. "They were very nice, hard-working, down-to-earth people," Robert said. "It's amazing that they would pass on a gift like this that would impact so many people."

"One of the reasons Earl and Susie lived so simply is that they intended to leave whatever they had to education," said J.D. Euler '60, executor of their estate. "Susie loved to talk about Central and about Missouri Western. She never forgot either institution."

David C. Horn School of Business Scholarship Fund

David Horn, of Houston, has established a \$5,000 scholarship to be awarded each year to a full-time student in the Craig School of Business. Preference will be given to a third- or fourth-year student majoring in accounting who attended a Buchanan County high school for at least two years.

David is a 1966 graduate of the St. Joseph Junior College, and he received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Missouri. "The Junior College was an excellent starting point and path for my college education, and I wanted to assist business students with their education endeavors," David said.

Dr. Michael L. Schooley Elementary Education Scholarship

Dr. Michael Schooley, deputy executive director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, recently established the Dr. Michael L. Schooley Elementary Education Scholarship.

Michael, from Alexandria, Va., is a 1974 elementary education major. Recipients of the scholarship must

be full-time students and declared elementary education majors. Preference is given to students or students' parents who attended or worked at one of the following schools where Michael was previously an instructor or principal: Edison Elementary or Humboldt Elementary, both in St. Joseph; Rock Bridge Elementary or Derby Ridge Elementary, both in Columbia, Mo.

"I believe strongly in the importance of quality teaching and wanted to give something back to a profession that has been very rewarding for me personally and professionally," Michael said. "By establishing the scholarship, I hope it will assist some young educator in the beginning of his or her elementary teaching journey."

Thad and Jeannetta Danford Scholarship

Dan '78, and Chris '78, Danford and Sally Danford recently established an endowed scholarship for nontraditional students as an 80th birthday gift to Dan and Sally's mother, Jeannetta. The endowed scholarship is named the Thad and Jeannetta Danford Scholarship.

Jeannetta and Thad, who is deceased, are both alumni. Jeannetta graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College in 1952 and Missouri Western in 1972. Thad graduated from Missouri Western in 1973.

"Sally and I watched our parents go back to college as we were growing up. Graduation for them had a profound impact on our family. Part of it was their professional success after graduation, but part of it was their ambition and perseverance," said Dan. "So it's appropriate to create a permanent Missouri Western legacy through a scholarship program for nontraditional students." ■

Basketball teams look for strong seasons

Women's and men's basketball kicked off their seasons with a tip-off night to introduce players and coaches in October to 1,200 fans. The women opened their season with 9-2 record under new head coach Rob Edmisson.

Rob came off of an NAIA National Championship at Oklahoma City University last

season. He is 404-120 in 16 seasons as a college coach and has never had a losing season in his years of coaching. The new coach has guided 38 all-conference players, including four newcomer of the year award winners, two defensive players of the year, the sportsmanship award winner and three SAC player of the year honorees.

Heather Howard was named women's basketball MIAA Athlete of the Week early in the season when she averaged a double-double with 14.5

points and 10.5 rebounds per game through the Griffons' first two contests. She helped her team defeat its first NCAA Division I team (University of

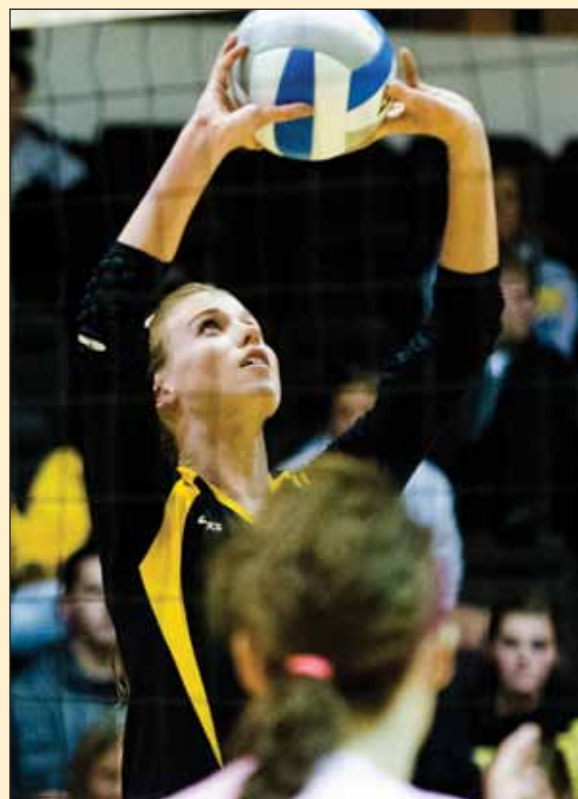
Missouri-Kansas City) since 1997 and defeat their first Division II top-25 team since 2011.

The men opened their season under Head Coach Tom Smith. Tom is in his 25th season at

Missouri Western and his 38th season as a collegiate head coach in 2012-2013. In December, he announced that he will retire at the end of this season. Tom became the winningest coach in Missouri Western history in 1998 and won his 600th game in the season opener in 2011. *(Editor's note: There will be more on Coach Smith's outstanding career in the Spring 2013 issue.)*

At press time, the men's team's record was 5-5. ■

**Men's and Women's Basketball
MIAA Tournament Post-season
Tournament
March 7-10, 2013
Municipal Auditorium
Kansas City, Mo.**



Upbeat volleyball finish

The volleyball team under Coach Cory Frederick ended the 2012 season with a 3-1 victory on the road against the Southwest Baptist University Bearcats. The Griffons ended the regular season with a 16-16 overall record and 6-12 in MIAA action, its best record since 2006 and the most wins under Cory.

The Griffons dominated the first two sets of the match accumulating 31 kills and hitting over .350 in both sets. The Griffons won set one 25-15 and set two 25-18. The Griffons never trailed in either set, getting out to big leads in both sets.

Two players, junior Stephanie Hattey and freshman Jessie Thorup, earned All-MIAA honorable mention honors. ■

Academic honors for women's soccer

The women's soccer team under Coach Chad Edwards finished its 2012 season with a 6-9-1 overall record and 4-7-1 in MIAA play, including two straight victories to end the season. The team earned the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's Team

Academic Award for the 2011-12 academic year. The women finished with a 3.02 grade point average, earning the award after placing above the 3.0 GPA mark. This is the third year in a row and the fourth time in the past five years that the soccer team earned the award. ■



GRIFFON FOOTBALL AN EPIC SEASON

“Historic” and “record-breaking” are two words to describe the football team’s 2012 season, but “riveting,” “victorious” and “awesome” also quickly come to mind. It was an epic season that will be talked about for a long time.

The Griffons opened the season ranked third in both the MIAA preseason Coaches and Media Poll and No. 16 in the Beyond Sports College Network Preseason Division II Poll.

The team’s only loss in regular season came against the Missouri Southern Lions at Missouri Western’s Homecoming game, 31-30. They went on to trounce Pittsburg State (the 2011 national champions) in Pittsburg, 63-14, the Gorillas’ worst home loss in 98 years. The next week they beat the undefeated conference leader Emporia State at Emporia 57-28. They went on to rout the Washburn Ichabods 56-28.

Perhaps it was fitting that the Griffons’ last game of regular season was against their biggest rival, Northwest Missouri State University. Both teams entered the Nov. 10 game at Maryville with 9-1 records. After trailing 17-0 at halftime, the Griffons took their first lead with 1:07 to play, then held off the Bearcats for a 21-20 victory that gave Missouri Western its first outright MIAA conference championship.

The team ended its regular season 10-1, the most wins the Griffons had ever had. For the third year in a row, Missouri Western played in the Division II national playoffs, and for the second year in a row, they earned the right to host the first game.

They entered post-season as Super Region 3’s No. 3 seed and beat the University of Minnesota-Duluth 57-55 in a three-overtime nailbiter. That earned them the right to advance to the second round and play Henderson State in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Nov. 24. There, they held the nation’s No. 1 scoring offense to more than 30 points below its average in a 45-21 victory.

The Griffons’ historic season ended Dec. 1 in Mankato, Minn., in the Division II national quarterfinals playoff game with a 17-10 loss to Minnesota State University – Mankato.

“Although the season ended two weeks early, we salute our student athletes and coaches on a job well done and give another big thank you to our 22 seniors who finish their careers as the winningest senior class in school history,” said Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics. ■

2012 MIAA Conference champions



OTBALL: SON

THE HONORS

- Coach Jerry Partridge '86 – MIAA Coach of the Year
- Michael Hill – Runner-up for the 2012 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II Player of the Year (first Griffon to be a finalist in the top three), Daktronics Super Region Three Offensive Player of the Year, MIAA Offensive Player of the Year
- David Bass – one of eight finalists for the 2012 Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year Award
- Mike Jordan – MIAA Freshman of the Year
- Five players on the MIAA First Team – Travis Partridge, Macon Allen, Michael Hill, Ben Pister and David Bass. Four players named to Daktronics Super Region Three first team: Michael Hill, Macon Allen, Colt Schulte, and David Bass.

MAKING HISTORY

- Record 12-1: most wins in regular-season play (10); most wins ever
- First outright MIAA Championship
- Furthest advance in post-season play – quarterfinals (one of eight teams)
- Winningest senior class – 38 wins over four years
- Six of the team's wins this season came against top 25 teams, including four wins against top 10 teams
- More than 40 team and individual records broken
- Michael Hill records: career rushing – 4,969 yards, single season rushing – 2,168. Michael led the entire nation in rushing yards.
- David Bass record: career sacks – 40.5, 3rd all-time in MIAA history
- Ben Pister record: season record for most tackles for loss – 22.5
- Travis Partridge record: single season for rushing touchdowns – 18
- Taylor Anderson record: MIAA record for consecutive extra points made – 74
- Team record: 582 points scored in a season
- Griffons were ranked No. 5 in the final American Football Coaches Association poll.



Left, Griffon quarterback, Travis Partridge.
Right, Griffon running back, Michael Hill.



Confection Perfection at the Craig School of Business



A chocolate ownership opportunity opens up for *all* Craig School of Business alumni

A few years ago, Steve Craig was trying to figure out how college graduates could become entrepreneurs shortly after they earned their degrees. The CEO of Craig Realty Group in California grew up in the St. Joseph area and was an entrepreneur at an early age, and he was more than willing to share his expertise and experiences with Missouri Western graduates. In May 2008, he donated \$5.5 million to Missouri Western to establish the Craig School of Business and help the university expand its entrepreneur focus.

When a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in one of his shopping centers closed later that year in Silverthorne, Colo., Steve had an idea. “New graduates have limited experience and no assets, but I felt, given the opportunity, they could shine,” he said. “I thought, ‘Why couldn’t we put one of our hardworking recent graduates in that store?’”

Steve was willing to back a Missouri Western alumnus with loans, and he convinced RMCF to take a chance on the idea.



In the spring semester of 2009, students who enrolled in an Applied Entrepreneurship class competed to own an RMCF for the first time, and Seth Lyons, who graduated in December 2008, was awarded the store in Silverthorne. The next summer, two more stores were awarded, and in each of the next two years, three graduates took on new stores.

So just four years after Steve convinced RMCF to give the program a chance on one store, nine graduates were operating stores in seven states.

Then, this past summer, Greg Pope, senior vice president of franchise development, presented a proposal to Missouri Western. The company wanted to greatly expand the program so that

Continued on next page



“The trust that Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is placing in Missouri Western demonstrates the tremendous value of the preparation and support these students receive through the entrepreneurship program.”

- Steve Craig

there could be as many as 40 Missouri Western store owners in four years at locations across the country. Owners could be awarded either RMCF stores, Aspen Leaf Yogurt (also owned by RMCF) stores or both.

“The expansion is largely due to the success of the nine owners,” Steve said. Two of the stores received the “Rookie of the Year” award in 2010 and 2011, and Seth paid back his loan for the Silverthorne store in less than three years instead of the agreed-upon five.

“Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory came to Missouri Western with the proposal because of the performance of these graduates, the respect for Steve, and the way the Craig School of Business is managing the program,” said Carol Roever, who coordinates the program for the University.

To accommodate the expansion, the applied entrepreneurship class will now be offered in both the spring and fall semesters, instead of just the spring only. Steve said they could award up to five stores each semester (*see page 17*).

The eligibility criteria for competing also changed. Students with a business

minor are now eligible to compete for a store. In addition, the program is now open to all alumni of the Craig School of Business, no matter when they graduated.

Previously, the opportunity was only available to business majors graduating the semester the class was offered or the previous semester. Mike

West, who teaches the class with Rick Zimmer, said interested alumni who live away from St. Joseph will be accommodated with Skype and online components.

Another change is the financing of the stores. In the past, Steve provided operating capital; now, the stores will be financed by RMCF. “We are discounting the stores significantly because we believe in this program,” Greg said. “We’re willing to discount the stores to get them in the hands of someone who really wants it.”

The new store owners will still agree to repay the loan within five years and to contribute money back to the Craig School of Business as their businesses become profitable.

Steve noted that his commitment and the commitment of the Craig School of Business faculty members, especially

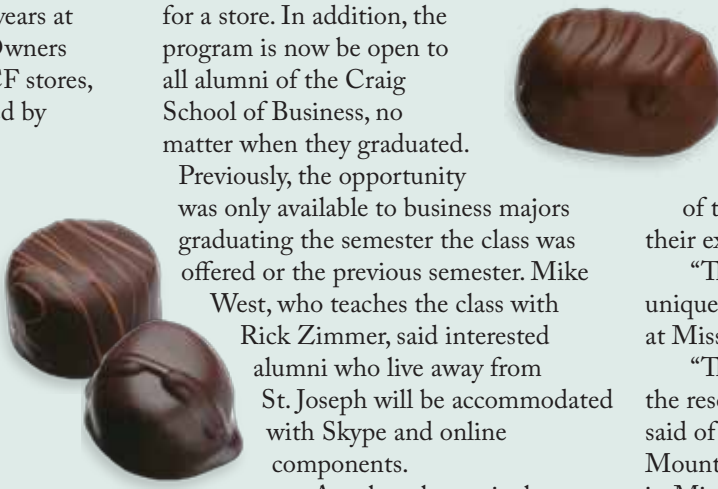
West and Zimmer, and members of the Craig School Advisory Council to provide mentoring and logistical support to the store owners will remain, as well. CSB professors help the owners with the financial aspect of the business, along with offering their expertise.

“The support structure is truly unique,” Greg said. “You have the family at Missouri Western behind you.”

“They’re going all-in, committing the resources to make this happen,” Steve said of RMCF. “The trust that Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is placing in Missouri Western demonstrates the tremendous value of the preparation and support these students receive through the entrepreneurship program.”

Isaac Collins ’11, was awarded a store in Williamsburg, Iowa, in 2012. “For me, it’s a dream come true,” Isaac said. “If you want to run your own business, there’s no reason not to do this. It’s something that can change your life.”

“The future is very bright. We are very thankful to be associated with this,” Greg said. “It’s a perfect combination of allowing people to express themselves in an entrepreneurial way that Steve had the insight to put together. The potential is outstanding.” ■



The stores & their owners



Seth Lyons '08



Brady Ellis '10



Rob Schimming '10



Allison Humphrey '11



Triston Jones '11



Leslie Oberg '11



Isaac Collins '11



Brittany Malone '12



Tim Schimming '12

2009

Seth Lyons '08, is from St. Joseph and graduated with a finance degree. He and his wife, Kelsey (McFarland) '08, an economics graduate, own a store in Silverthorne, Colo., the first store awarded in the program.

2010

Brady Ellis '10, from Stockton, Mo., and his fiancé, TyAnn Williamson '10, a graphic design major, own the Vicksburg, Miss. store. Brady graduated with an accounting degree.

Rob '10, and Danelle (Ruppert) '10, Schimming operate a store in Lake Elsinore, Calif. Rob, from Maryville, Mo., graduated with a management degree, and Danelle a speech communications degree.

2011

Allison Humphrey '11, graduated with management and marketing degrees. She and her business partner, Matt Canaday, operated a store in Omaha, Neb. for a year. This past November they opened a store in Lehi, Utah. Allison is from Kansas City, Mo.

Triston (Schroeder) Jones '11, from Maywood, Mo., owns and operates a store in Omaha, Neb., with her husband, Steven '10. She graduated with a marketing degree, and Steven graduated with a management degree.

Leslie Oberg '11, and her business partner, James Burris, operated the store in Williamsburg, Iowa for a year before selling the store to Isaac Collins '12, and buying the RMC and Aspen Leaf Yogurt stores in St. Joseph in partnership with Steve Craig. Leslie is from Kansas City, Mo., and graduated with finance and accounting degrees.

June 2012

Isaac Collins '11, from Savannah, Mo., earned degrees in marketing and management. He owns and operates the store in Williamsburg, Iowa.

Brittany Malone '12, from Kahoka, Mo., graduated with majors in accounting and management. She operates a store in Omaha, Neb.

Tim Schimming '12, from Maryville, Mo., and his wife, Lacey (Wyble) '12, operate a store in Huntington Beach, Calif. Tim graduated with a management degree and Lacey with management and marketing degrees.



For the first time, the Applied Entrepreneurship class was held in the fall, and three more stores were awarded in December 2012:

December 2012

Erik Garcia '11, from Independence, Mo., earned a finance degree. He and his wife, Vanessa, will operate an Aspen Leaf Yogurt store in Farmington, N.M.



Erica Ricker '09, from St. Joseph, graduated with a management degree. Her Aspen Leaf Yogurt store is in Gilbert, Ariz.



Cassandra Schuster '07, originally from Chokio, Minn., graduated with an accounting degree. She will own and operate an RMCF store in Laughlin, Nev.



Store owners bond through chocolate

Steve Craig, one of the partners in the entrepreneurship program with Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Missouri Western's Craig School of Business, said that something unexpected has come out of the four-year-old program that now has nine owners of RMCF stores in seven states. "One of the intangibles that we didn't calculate was the web of support. The graduates are clearly a resource we didn't think about," he said. "They are a very closeknit group."

Leslie Oberg '11, operated the store in Williamsburg, Iowa for a year before she partnered with Steve Craig to buy the RMCF and Aspen Leaf Yogurt stores in St. Joseph that had opened in December 2011. They had been owned by RMCF.

Leslie said students who enroll in Missouri Western's applied entrepreneurship classes will now work in her store during the semester. "They'll learn the entire business – customer service, ordering, scheduling, keeping up on the books, and hiring and firing." Three of the four finalists in the 2011 class, which Leslie was in, spent two weeks at stores in Mississippi, Colorado and California staying with the store owners, so it's a lot easier with a local store and an owner willing to work with the students.

"You can learn the theory in the classroom, but you don't know something before you do it. This will make it so much easier on them (the new store owners) in their own store from day one," Leslie said.

Allison Humphrey '11, was awarded a store in Omaha, Neb. with the understanding that she and her business partner, Matt Canaday, would open a new store in Lehi, Utah in a shopping center owned by Steve the following year.



Brittany Malone '12, was awarded Allison's Omaha store in July 2012. Since Allison's store would not be ready until November, she and Matt spent the interim traveling to stores and helping out their fellow alumni owners.

Allison said in turn, her fellow store owners have also been a great resource for her and Matt. In fact, Triston Jones '12, was also awarded

an Omaha store, and Allison said she and Triston worked very closely together, often combining their supply orders.

Brady Ellis '10, owner of the Vicksburg store, went over his books with Allison so she could compare them to the way she was operating her books. The Vicksburg store offers products that Allison carries in

her store in Utah, so Brady gave her a lot of advice about that, too. Brady and his fiancé, TyAnn Williamson '10, were also able to take some time off to plan their wedding while Allison and Matt managed the store.

Additionally, several alumni store owners offered to travel to Utah and help Allison and Matt open their new store, she said.

"We are a very closeknit group of franchisees," said Seth Lyons '08, owner of an RMCF in Silverthorne, Colo., "because we all have a common denominator: Missouri Western."

"We all learn from each other's experience," Leslie said. "For any question we have, someone's already been through it." ■



Seth Lyons '08, expands on his success



Seth Lyons was the first Missouri Western alumnus to be awarded a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Store. He graduated in December 2008 and enrolled in the Applied Entrepreneurship class held the following spring, and he and his wife, Kelsey '08, opened a store in Silverthorne, Colo. in August 2009.

In 2011, just 28 months after they opened, Seth repaid his five-year loan from Steve Craig for the store, and this spring, he is opening a second franchise, Which Wich? Superior Sandwiches, adjacent to his RMCF store. He plans to purchase at least three more businesses over the next five years.

Being the first store owner in the partnership program between RMCF,

Missouri Western's Craig School of Business and Steve Craig meant that many people were watching Seth and Kelsey, hoping they would succeed so the program would continue.

But Seth doesn't believe he deserves any accolades. "Steve Craig deserves all the credit. If it wasn't for his vision, it would not have happened. I'm just proud to be a part of it."

Seth is very excited about the recent expansion of the program, where RMCF will now fund the loans and more alumni will have the opportunity to own stores (see story on p. 14). "I think Missouri Western has done a phenomenal job so far, and this shows the confidence Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory has in the type of students Missouri Western is producing."

One of the benefits of the program, Steve has always said, is that the Missouri

Western alumni are helping the economic development of the communities in which they own stores, and Seth's experience is a perfect example of that.

He estimates he will hire approximately 20 employees to work in the sandwich shop in addition to his five current employees in the RMCF. And, he plans to run for a seat on the Silverthorne City Council in the April 2014 election.

Seth said when they opened the RMCF store in 2009, it was at the end of the tourist season, and he and Kelsey were a little nervous about the decision to take on the store.

"We'd look at each other and say, 'Did we make a mistake?' Then the holiday season hit, and we said, 'No,'" he said with a laugh. "We knew we had made a great decision." ■

Two brothers, two stores. All chocolate

When Tim Schimming '12, was considering whether or not to enroll in the Craig School of Business' Applied Entrepreneurship class and compete for a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store, he knew just who to go to for advice – his big brother, Rob. Rob '10, won an RMCF store in Lake Elsinore, Calif. in the 2010 competition and was ready to offer guidance to his younger brother.

"I told him, 'Here's what I've learned, here's what to look out for,'" Rob said. "I gave him the positives and the negatives."

Tim decided to take the class and won the competition in 2012. He selected the store in Huntington Beach, Calif., about an hour from Rob's store.

Growing up, both brothers knew they wanted to own their own businesses someday. Rob said they have always

bounced ideas off each other, so it was natural to continue to do that when Tim won a store.

Rob's was the only store in the program that was in California, so it was helpful to Tim that Rob could give "California-specific" advice. Rob and his wife, Danelle '10, also helped Tim and his wife, Lacey '12, with inventory and on the store's opening day July 1, 2012.

Both brothers are grateful that they could become entrepreneurs right out of college.

"It was a great opportunity. Being as young as we are and able to own our own business is great," Tim said.

"It's hard to say how much it means," Rob said. "It's a lot more than a job opportunity. You're able to

go straight from college to owning your own business and you have the support of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, the Craig School of Business and Steve Craig. It's invaluable." ■



Brothers and RMCF owners, Tim '12, and Rob '10, Schimming

From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

"I can't stop the rain." - Missy B. Elliott

While the theme of Homecoming was officially "Where Dreams Come True," Missy B. Elliott's lyrics may have been more accurate. Despite all of the hard work and planning, the weather chose not to cooperate, and the parade had to be canceled.

But while it may have dampened the clothes and shoes of the numerous alumni and families who showed up to walk in the parade, it didn't dampen our Griffon spirit, as the rest of the Homecoming activities continued on.

Arts, Beats, and Treats continues to grow in popularity. After the parade, community members flooded the Blum Union lobby for free family activities and continued on to the tailgate – the tailgate that ended up being inside as well. It was exciting to see numerous alumni pick up their new "Griffon Alumni" shirts, but even more exciting was to see



all the young kids wearing "Future Griffon" shirts.

These events continue to grow, and we are seeing more and more legacy students at Missouri Western, something that bodes well for our future. While the storms may have placed a cloud over our Homecoming day, it could not diminish our Griffon spirit. One of the great things about a storm is that we always know a bright future for better weather is ahead.

Homecoming was a microcosm of the bright future we all look forward to at Missouri Western. Go Griff!

Dr. Robert Sigrist '95

Searching for a new job? Join us for monthly webinars!

Have you noticed how much the job search process has changed? Internet and social media have drastically changed the way hiring managers not only find employees, but conduct background checks, too.

Today, said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni relations, you have to have an understanding of how to use LinkedIn to find jobs, as well as know how to use Facebook and Twitter to expand your network. "In today's tight job market, it's important to have every possible tool and resource available to assist you in your job search," she said.

With that in mind, Colleen partnered with Expert Webinars and launched a Career Speaker Series, a monthly series of webinars delivered by nationally known career authors. The schedule for the spring semester 2013 includes the following:

February 6 – "Social Media"

March 6 – "LinkedIn Makeover"

April 3 – "Personal Branding"

Participants can access the series with a computer, smartphone or tablet, Colleen said. They can also join ongoing discussions about careers, career opportunities and ideas. There is no cost, and participants may watch them at any time. To access the webinars, register online at missouriwestern.edu/alumni, and click on "Career Speaker Series." All webinars begin at 7 p.m. CST and are archived for later viewing. ■

To access the webinars, register online at **missouriwestern.edu/alumni**, and click on "Career Speaker Series."

Calendar of Events

January 9

Eggs and Issues: Kansas City: "Social Media in the Workplace," by Heather Fenton '98

February 12

Mardi Gras, Griffon Style,
St. Joseph

Feb. 21-March 3

"Private Lives" and "God of Carnage." One play will be held in the Potter Hall theater and one in the Kemper Recital Hall in Spratt Hall. See mwsutix.com for details.

March 1

Alumni Association Awards nominations due.
Nominations may be submitted at
www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni/awards.asp.

April 3

Eggs and Issues: Kansas City: "Craig School of Business Entrepreneurship Program"

April 11-14

"Sweeney Todd," Potter Hall theater.
See mwsutix.com for details.

April 26

Night at the Ritz, fund-raiser for scholarships for nontraditional students. St. Joseph Country Club.

May 5

St. Louis Chapter's Sunday in the Park (tentative)

May 11

Spring Commencement Ceremonies

May 19

Junior College Reunion

June TBA

Mustangs Game and Alumni Day at the K

TBA

Kansas City Chapter's Griffons Uncorked, Stonehaus Winery, Lee's Summit, Mo.



Griffons at Arrowhead

Alumni and friends enjoyed a tailgate and game at Arrowhead Stadium last fall when the Kansas City Chiefs took on the Atlanta Falcons for the fourth annual Alumni Day at Arrowhead.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2012

Over 200 gathered for the 30th annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet that was held on Thursday of Homecoming week. Those honored included Distinguished Alumni Donna Jean Boyer '64, Al Landes '74, and Mike Mastio '95; Distinguished Faculty Roger Voelkel; Herb '35 and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University – Zack Workman '74; and Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) – Jonn Casey '02.

DONNA JEAN BOYER '64 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Donna Jean graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College and went on to earn a bachelor's in secondary education – English from Northwest Missouri State University. She also earned her master's in guidance and counseling from NWMSU.

Donna Jean taught language arts at Benton High School for 38 years before she retired in 2001. She was elected as an at-large St. Joseph City Council member in 1998 and was elected for her fourth term in 2010. She served as Deputy Mayor from 2002-06.

AL LANDES '74 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Since 2009, Al has served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Herzog Contracting Corp. in St. Joseph, a



2012 Award recipients include Donna Jean Boyer, Zack Workman, Jonn Casey, Al Landes, Roger Voelkel and Mike Mastio.

company that employs 1,800 and completes projects around the world.

When Al served as president of Beavers Inc., a professional association, in 2008, he selected Missouri Western to receive \$100,000 from the group. He is currently the vice president of the Associated General Contractors of America, the largest construction association in the U.S. Al also helped found the Engineering Technology Advancement Committee to support Missouri Western's Department of Engineering Technology.

DR. MICHAEL MASTIO '95 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Mike graduated with a mathematics degree from Missouri Western, and is Vice President – Engineering, Technology and Operational Innovation for YUM! Brands, Inc. He owns four patents, has two pending and one patent in review.

Mike, a Navy veteran, earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a PhD in Engineering and Mathematics from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

He was named Sailor of the Year in 1990, Top Student/Scholar for the state of Missouri and Undergraduate of the Year for Phi Sigma Kappa, both in 1994.

ZACK WORKMAN '74 HERB '35 AND PEGGY IFFERT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

After teaching in both elementary and high schools and coaching for eight years, Zack started his own lawn care and landscaping business – Lawns Unlimited Inc. in Cameron, Mo.

Several current and past Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Award recipients gather for a special photo before the banquet to mark the 30th anniversary of the awards program and banquet.



The former Griffon tight end, punter and wide receiver has been a member of the Gold Coat Club since 1992, and serves as president of the group. Zack is also a member of the Department of Athletics Hall of Fame and a member of the Missouri Western Foundation Board of Directors.

JOHN-THOMAS CASEY '02 GOLD AWARD

Jonh served in the Navy and as an electrician before he decided to return to school as a nontraditional student.

Today he teaches science at South Holt R-I High School in Oregon, Mo. and is the head wrestling and track coach, as well as assistant football coach.

He and his family also started Casey's Creatures, where they take live animals, including several snakes, to shows all over the region.

Jonh has been named Walmart Teacher of the Year and KQ2's Teacher That Makes a Difference.

ROGER VOELKEL DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Roger began teaching at Missouri Western in 1996 and retired as assistant professor and Simulation Lab Manager for the Department of Nursing and Allied Health this past spring.

As the lab manager, Roger coordinated the expansion of the lab and the acquisition of two high-fidelity simulators. He then created "mini-sims" for nursing students, and his research has shown them to be an effective learning tool.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Duke University and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma. A Navy veteran, Roger had been the director of nursing at Missouri Baptist Hospital before joining Missouri Western. ■

ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

At the annual awards banquet, recipients of the Alumni Legacy scholarships were recognized. These scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen who meet the criteria and have at least one parent who is an alumnus/alumna:

- Lindsay Beger, Shawnee Mission, Kan. daughter of Janet '78 and Steven '79 Beger.
- Cole Brockett, St. Joseph, son of Kennan Brockett '82.
- Mackenzie Burgess, St. Joseph. Mackenzie's mother, Kim Burgess, graduated in 1999.
- Makenzie Calloway, Savannah, Mo. Parents are Ricky '95, and Dana '99, Calloway.
- Tabitha Clevenger, St. Joseph. Her parents are James '88, and Virginia '90, Clevenger.
- McKenzie Crouse, Easton, Mo. McKenzie's mother, Diane, graduated in 1981.
- Gavin Dille, Lawson, Mo. His mother is Lorna '90.
- Ashlyn Dixon, Easton, Mo. Her father is Jason '91.
- Amanda Estep, Cameron, Mo. Her mother is Rebecca Estep '87.
- Katelyn Gutteridge, Lee's Summit, Mo. Her father is Efrem Gutteridge '83.
- Amber Guyer, St. Joseph, daughter of Stacie King '09.
- Chanelle Hall, St. Joseph. Chanelle's father, William, is an alumnus.
- Kaitlin Houser, Easton, Mo., She is the daughter of David '86, and Julie '85, Houser.
- Shelbie Kirkendoll, Kearney, Mo. Shelbie's mother is Kim Kirkendoll '89.
- Casey Leslie, St. Joseph, daughter of Susan Leslie '93.
- Alex Luke, St. Joseph. He is the son of Tony '85, and Karen '87, Luke.
- Sylvia Majerus, St. Joseph, is the daughter of Laura Neely '97.
- Linsey Meek, Edgerton, Mo. She is the daughter of Allison Meek '93.
- Shelby Meng, St. Joseph. Shelby's father is Steve Meng '91.
- Kathryn Parton, Pattonsburg, Mo. Her mother, Tracy, is a graduate of Missouri Western.
- Lauren Peek, St. Joseph. She is the daughter of Leah Peek '90.
- Danielle Pike, Gower, Mo., daughter of Kenneth '93 and Shannon '89 Pike.
- Zachary Sanders, Holt, Mo. His mother is Carol Sanders '07.
- Kayli Silkett, Savannah, Mo., is the daughter of Johnnie '92 and Michelle '88 Silkett.
- Kip Smith, St. Joseph. Kip's mother is Jennifer Smith '87.
- Ashlyn Stevens, Stewartsville, Mo., is the daughter of Gretchen '99 and Bill '81 Stevens.
- Lauren Stewart, St. Joseph, is the daughter of Bonita Nelson-Stewart '84.
- Jeffery Stout, St. Joseph. His mother is Ronda Smith '03.
- Abbey Vacca, Smithville, Mo. She is the daughter of Lora Vacca '82. ■



Those attending a dinner to honor board members included: Front, Joan Hegeman and John Newhart. Standing, Bill Carpenter, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president; Robert "Casey" Meyers; Dr. M.O. Looney, Missouri Western's president from 1967-1983; Larry Schultz; Janet Leachman, Dillon Harp, Robert Roth, Dr. Krikor Partamian, Dr. James McMillen; Karen Baker, Dan Boulware, Roy Tewell, Susan Colgan, Greg Wall, Kylee Strough, Dan Danford and Bill Hurley.



The first Board of Regents: Loren Schneider, Douglas Merrifield, William Enright, president; Thompson Potter and Thomas Teare.



The first Board of Trustees: Being sworn in is Stanley Dale, Thompson Potter, president; William Enright; Thomas Teare; Loren Schneider and John Newhart.

Centennial Notes: Our boards

Last fall, a dinner was held to honor the past Board of Trustees, Regents and Governors with emeriti status. As we start to plan our centennial celebration in 2015, we wanted to look back at the history of our boards.

On Jan. 19, 1965, when voters in 11 school districts passed the proposal to establish the Missouri Western Junior College District, they also elected the first Board of Trustees, four from St. Joseph and two from the remaining 10 districts.

The initial trustees included Dr. Thompson E. Potter, William F. Enright Jr., Stanley I. Dale, and Thomas V. Teare, all from St. Joseph. The trustees in the outlying districts were Loren Schneider, Gower, Mo.; and John Newhart, Savannah, Mo. In June, the trustees assumed control of the Junior College.

On July 22, 1965, Gov. Warren Hearnes signed a law that established a four-year college in St. Joseph, and in October of that year, he appointed a board of five regents for the third- and fourth-year college program. Four of the regents were already serving on the Board of Trustees: Potter, Enright, Teare, and Schneider. The fifth member was St. Joseph's mayor, Douglas A. Merrifield.

When the state began funding all four years of Missouri Western in 1977, the Regents became responsible for all four years. The Trustees continued to meet just once a year to set the tax levy for the coming year from the 1966 bond issue to construct the buildings on the new campus. In 1986, a year before the bonds were paid off, the Trustees held their last meeting. ■

Former Trustees, Regents and Governors

Evan R. Agenstein	Diza Eskridge	Robert S. (Casey) Meyers
Dr. Cecil Albright	Eugene Feldhausen	Carol Moya '85
Karen Baker '61	Kristin Findley '87	George S. Murray '48
R. Dan Boulware	Peter Gregory '12*	John W. Newhart '41
Shirley Bradley	Dillon Harp '11*	Peter J. O'Donnell
Vickie Bradley	Kevin Hayes '95*	Dr. Krikor Partamian
Harold Callaway '09*	Joan Hegeman	Dr. Thompson E. Potter
Kevin Callaway '03*	Teresa Herzog '72	Whitney W. Potter
Bill Carpenter	Rodney Hill '88*	Bob Roth '73
Anita Chancey '91*	Richard Hopkins	Julia Rupp
Donald L. Chew	Robert Hughes '06*	Loren Schneider
Ken Christgen, Jr. '57	Kwanza Humphrey '98*	Larry Schultz '89
Robert Claassen '87*	Bill Hurley	Barbara Sprong
Kerri Clark '00*	Melanie Johnson '90*	Jim Summers
Susan Colgan '66	Tim Kelley	Thomas V. Teare
Dwight R. Crane, Jr.	Janet Leachman	Roy Tewell
Taylor Crouse '01*	Patt Lilly	John Thomas
Stanley Dale '75	Dale Maudlin '71	Greg Wall
Robert E. Douglas '37	Micky Mayes '95*	Lynn Watkins
John E. Downs '35	Dr. James McMillen	
Fred Eder	Douglas Merrifield	
William F. Enright, Jr.		

*Students

1970s

Gregory Gutenko '71, had seven films and videos on exhibit at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph, Mo., this past fall. One of the films reused Super-8 film footage from one of his projects when he was a student at Missouri Western.

1990s



Steve Allen '92, won the design contest for a geocoin at the U.S. Geocoinfest 2012 in Denver last fall. The coin was produced and given to

conference attendees who purchased certain conference packages. The design for the back of the coin was made into a path tag for all attendees. Steve, whose geocaching user name is "MO Pirate," has designed several coins of several local entities, including one with Missouri Western's Griffon.



Dr. Robert Willoughby '93, published a book, "The Brothers Robidoux and the Opening of the American West," his third book.

Robert is an associate professor and chair of the department of history, geography, political science, philosophy and religious studies at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Tracey Sullwold '95 and Frank Murray were married in 2010. Tracey teaches special education students in Kansas City, Mo.

2000s



Eric '01, and Katie (Singleton) '02, Akins announce the birth of twins, Archer Jack and Alaina Jade, born May 3, 2012.

Continued on page 28

Kali Nelson '07: Extraordinary event planner

Planning a birthday party for her daughter should be pretty easy for Kali (Pettijohn) Nelson '07, considering she recently pulled off an event for almost 800 at the Midland Theater in Kansas City, Mo. Kali was the event coordinator for the Global Orphan Project's seventh annual Big Event, which is an event to celebrate the Project's work around the world and this year, to kick off its initiative in Kansas City, Mo.

Kali's parents, Mike and Beth Fox, founded the Global Orphan Project in 2005, and Kali has been volunteering and/or working for the group ever since.

For the past four years, she has

been paid to plan the Big Event. Kali worked on the event for about eight months. "It's a lot of planning and orchestrating and a lot of work," she said with a laugh. At this year's event, Toby Mac, a Christian recording artist, performed.

The Big Event is more of a celebration of the Global Orphan Project rather than a fund-raiser, Kali said, but the 2012 event did raise over \$100,000 to support the GO Project's new initiative – Adopt KC. The GO Project supports 50 villages in 17 countries around the world, with more planned in the coming months. Kali estimates the Project currently serves almost 5,000 children.

Kali explained that in many third world countries, even if one parent is still living, it is very difficult for them to support their children, so the GO Project works to keep families together.

The GO Project builds schools, churches and homes for children, but they are all staffed by natives of the country. One of its efforts in the past few years is making the children's homes self-sustaining.

"When I was younger, my stepdad encouraged me to find something bigger than me to make a difference," Kali says. "And I took that to heart."

Kali, from Parkville, Mo., spent her first year of college at the University of Kansas, but her neighbor, Dr. Dennis Rogers, professor of music and director of percussion studies at Missouri Western, kept encouraging her to consider Missouri Western. "He always spoke so highly of it," she said. "We love Dennis so we checked it out and I loved it."

She liked the small class sizes and the relationships she was able to develop with professors. "It was what I needed and what I got. They were all very helpful and they truly wanted you to succeed."

While at Missouri Western, Kali met her husband, Derek '07, who was an offensive lineman for the Griffons, and both graduated with degrees in speech communication.

One of Kali's projects as a student was to develop a public relations plan for a nonprofit group. She selected the GO Project, and created a plan for holding a 5K fund-raiser. That turned into an event that she has coordinated for the group every year since. "It's cool when your senior project turns into reality."

And for Kali, that reality is something very close to her heart. ■



GRIFFON KICKER IS AN NFL SENSATION

Legatron. Greg the Leg. Record breaker. News maker.

Call him whatever you wish, but former Griffon kicker **Greg Zuerlein** is making headlines online and in media outlets across the country, including the New York Times, Sports Illustrated and ESPN television, for his record-breaking performance with the St. Louis Rams. Greg, who has been breaking records since his high school football days, was a sixth-round pick in the 2012 NFL draft for the Rams, and his kicks were turning heads all season long.

Greg graduated from Pius X High School in Lincoln, Neb. in 2006, after being named Nebraska All-State and All-Class both his junior and senior years. In 2004, he set a state record for field goals in a season – 12 out of 16 – the longest being 52 yards.

He played for University of Nebraska-Omaha for three seasons and sat out the 2010 season with an injury. When the University of Nebraska-Omaha shuttered its football program after the 2010 season, Greg joined the Griffon squad for the 2011 season.



Rams kicker Greg Zuerlein

“Every one of the guys in the locker room and the coaches made me feel at home,” Greg said shortly after becoming a Griffon.

“He’s a great kicker and a first-class kid,” said Griffons Head Coach Jerry Partridge.

Rams head coach Jeff Fisher agreed. “I’ve been around some really good kickers, but he’s a little bit different,” Jeff said of Greg at the Rams training camp in St. Louis last summer. “From the first day on the

GREG'S GRIFFON PERFORMANCE:

- 21 straight field goals, the most ever in NCAA Division II, including nine that were 50+ yards and two that were 58 yards
- 24 out of 25 field goals, 96 percent, the most accurate season ever in NCAA Division II
- Three 50-yard field goals, tied for most in a game in the NCAA Division II
- Nine for nine on field goals of 50 yards or more, never been done in NCAA at any level

GREG'S RAMS PERFORMANCE:

- First player in NFL History to make a 60-yarder and a 50-plus yarder (58) in one game.
- In week three against the Chicago Bears, made a 56-yard field goal, the longest at Soldier Field.
- Kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired in regulation and a 54-yarder with 26 seconds left in overtime to beat the San Francisco 49ers 16-13.
- At press time, was 7 for 11 in 50+ yard field goals.

field, he expects to make it. He has great confidence in his leg.”

At the post-game press conference after the Sept. 30 game against the Seattle Seahawks when Greg set two franchise records, Jeff said, “I was on the headsets and I said, ‘field goal,’ and somebody said, ‘field goal?’ I said, ‘Yeah, it’s only 60. It’s well within his range.’” ■



2000s *continued from pg. 25*

Winter (Berry) Houser '01, graduated with a Master of Science in Professional Counseling from Grand Canyon University. She and her husband, John, also announce the birth of a daughter, Kendel Ruthann, born June 20, 2012. Kendel's siblings include John, Jr., Riley, and Erin.

Kristen Tippit '03, and Zachary Guerrero were married April 6, 2012 in Cancun, Mexico. She graduated with an MBA from Mid-America Nazarene University in December 2012.



Charity (Cordray) Banko '04, and her husband, Nick, announce the birth of a daughter, Juliette Michelle, born June 14, 2012.

John Fabsits '04, and Elizabeth Leatherman were married July 21, 2012. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.

Jessica (Snyder) Schafer '05, is vice president and regional retail manager for Country Club Bank in Kansas City, Mo. In that role, Jessica is responsible for managing the retail function for the Kansas City Metro area.

Nicholas Sloop '05, and Kate Peterson were married Aug. 11, 2012. The couple resides in Lawson, Mo.

Therese Hand '06, and Michael DeBenedette were married Aug. 4, 2012. The couple resides in Arvada, Colo.

Tera (Petersen) '07, and Court '08, Jackson announce the birth of a son, Eastyn Dean, born Aug. 20, 2012. The couple resides in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Emily Richardson '08, is an assistant director at Choices in St. Joseph, Mo.



Barbara (Meyer) Spencer '08, and her husband, Clint, announce the birth of a daughter, Frankie Elizabeth, born Aug. 21, 2012. She has a big brother, CJ.

Matthew Alsager '09, is a commercial loan officer at UMB in Jefferson City, Mo.

In Memory

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

Daniel D. Clark '78, Blue Springs, Mo., June 8, 2012.

Mary Ann (McCarthy) Fenner '40, Kansas City, Mo., July 6, 2012. Mary Ann was a long-time member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

John Gerstner '78, DeLand, Fla., Aug. 15, 2012.

Patricia M. (Gardner) Herrick '88, St. Joseph, Mo., July 7, 2012.

Michael Majeski '73, St. Joseph, Mo., May 31, 2012.

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____ Alum's Birthday _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ email _____

What's New _____

Bird banding



The editor goes on a bird banding mission



Almost every morning each fall, I notice a truck parked at the edge of the timber on the north side of campus as I come in from Faraon St., and I finally found out who it was and why they are there so often. It was devoted bird banding volunteers, and they invited me to join them one morning last fall.

The banders arrive on campus shortly before daybreak and stay until about 9:30 a.m., seven days a week (unless it is raining) from mid-April to the end of May, and again from mid-August to the first part of November, all in an effort to collect information about area birds.

On this particular morning, the volunteers included Jack Hilsabeck, Larry Lade, Karen Lyman, and Colton Zirkle, one of seven Missouri Western biology students who help out. By the time I arrived at 7:15 a.m., they had already set up the six nets, each about 12 meters long.

The nets are very fine, black mist nets. Six nets are set up along the trails on campus, and nine more are set up on property adjacent to the campus.

Some days, Larry says, they catch as many as 40 birds, while other days (usually when it's colder), they've caught just four or five. On the day I tagged along, they "netted" 28 birds. They untangled the birds from the nets and placed them in lunch sacks.

Student Colton Zirkle with bird bags.



At the table at the edge of the timber, the volunteers banded each bird (do I need to say the bands were very tiny?), weighed them, measured their wing chord length, gauged the fat content on their little chests, and noted the birds' age and sex before they were turned loose. The data was all recorded and sent to the U.S. Geological Survey, which will then track the distribution, migration and populations of birds from data across the country.

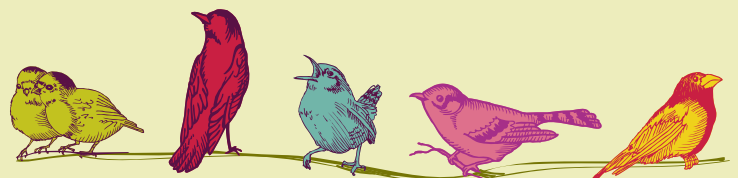
Colton said he helps because he didn't know very much about birds or bird banding. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to meet some knowledgeable birders and learn how to capture and process birds."

And knowledgeable is the right word. "Birds have been an interest of mine since I was a little kid," Larry said, adding that he has travelled to 48 states, Africa, China and South America to bird watch.

Jack said he has been banding birds since 1971, and volunteers have banded more than 5,000 on campus. He is a retired high school biology teacher and a current adjunct professor at Missouri Western.

"I really enjoy working with and seeing different species of birds," Jack said. "I also enjoy helping the Missouri Western students get some real-world biology experience working with birds."

And I learned all about bird banding, too! ■





Missouri Western State University

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