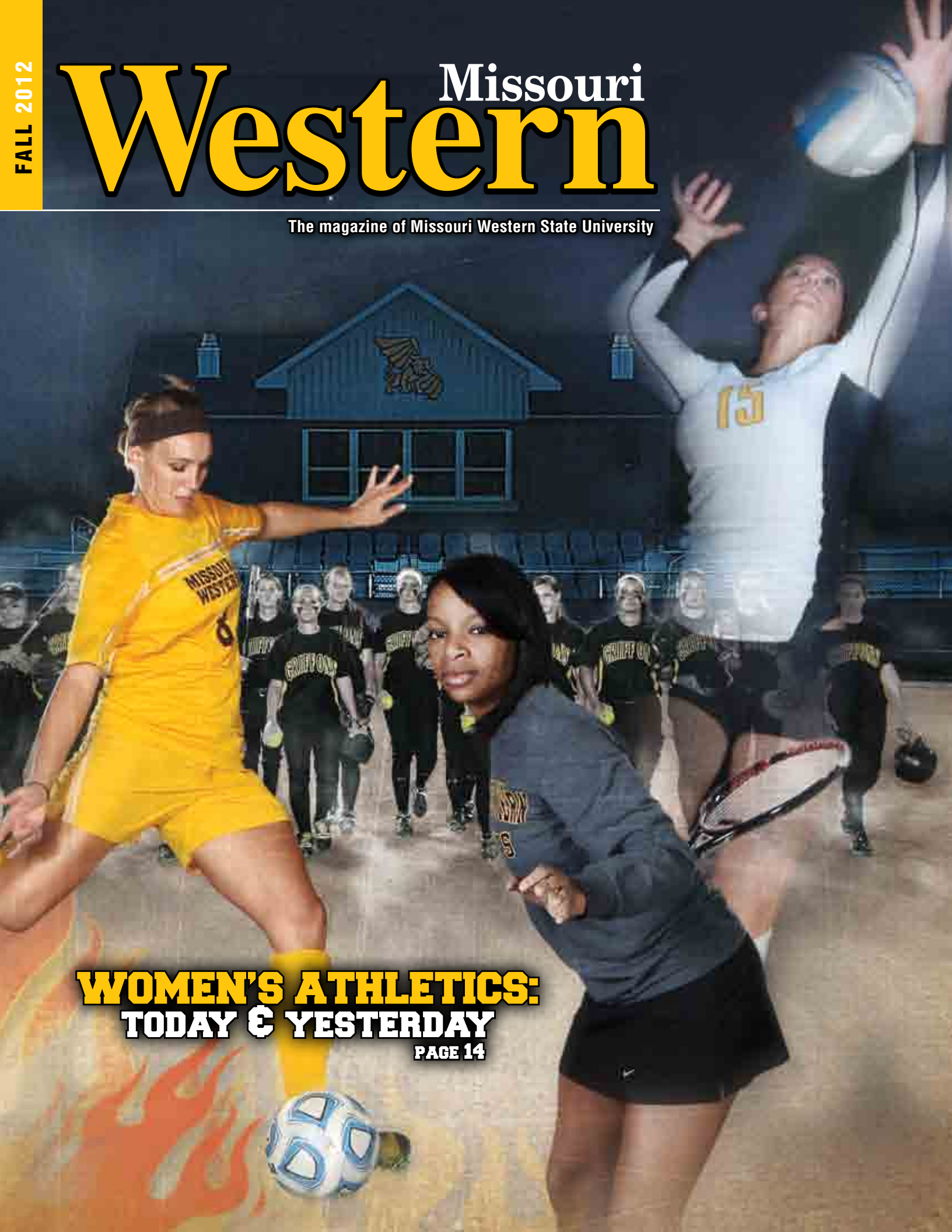


Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University



**WOMEN'S ATHLETICS:
TODAY & YESTERDAY**

PAGE 14



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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

ON THE COVER: Soccer player Ashlyn Castillo, tennis player Alicia Jenkins, and volleyball player Hannah Zimmerman, along with the softball team, grace our cover highlighting women's athletics. Photos by Eric Callow '96.

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14 Women's Athletics: Today and Yesterday

The first women's intercollegiate sports teams came to Missouri Western in 1975; read how they came about and what is happening in women's athletics on campus today.

22 Dishing Up Healthy

Today, more and more people seem to be taking a good, long look at their eating habits and lifestyles, and many have made an effort to try to adopt a more healthy approach to eating. Read about three alumni and two students and the choices they've made.



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Skype enables successful Poland practicum

Although it may not be too unusual for students to complete an internship abroad, there's one small catch when social work students try to do that for their practicum – they are required to report to class once a week.

But Amanda Luzsicza '12, and Pam Clary, her instructor and coordinator of the practicum program, found a way around the distance issue. Amanda completed her social work practicum in Warsaw, Poland this past spring and graduated from Missouri Western in May, because Pam was willing to figure out a way to make it work. Thanks to Skype (a service that allows users to communicate by voice, video, and instant message over the Internet), Amanda was “present” for every class.

“That’s what social workers do,” Pam said. “We’re all about thinking outside the box and asking, ‘How can we do things better?’”

Last fall, Amanda, who was getting ready to complete her last semester as a social work major the following spring with a 456-hour practicum, found out her husband, Frank '99, was being transferred to Warsaw for a temporary assignment. “I went into panic mode when I found out. I ran to my professors, and they were totally supportive,” she said.

Amanda was hired for her practicum by the European Academy of Diplomacy, and Pam set it up so Amanda could be Skyped in for not only her seminar class, but also a research class with Dr. Ali Kamali, another required course in the program. Pam said they set their chairs in a circle in her class and attached the camera to the back of one of the chairs. They would move the camera around so Amanda could view whoever was speaking.

The two class times were back-to-back and met once a week at the start of the semester. Because of the time difference, Amanda would go online at 5 p.m., and sometimes be on until 11 p.m., with an hour break. Later in the semester, she met individually with Ali, via Skype.

Amanda said she appreciated that she could Skype with Pam even outside of class hours. “If I ever just needed to talk, she was there. I can’t stress enough how supportive the professors were.”

Pam is convinced Skyping could work for students in a variety of situations, not just those abroad. There have been students who completed practica more than an hour away, she said, and Skyping would have saved them from driving in to campus every week.

Pam presented, “The Skype’s the Limit: An Innovative Teaching Technique That Supports Students in their Field Education Settings,” at a national conference for the Association

of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors in Portland, Ore., this past spring. She said it was well received by the conference’s attendees.

Advancing technology, Pam said, is the “new normal,” and universities need to embrace it and make it work for them. “We need to have options for our students.”

Because they were on the internet, Pam said she and her students had to be very careful in the class to protect the confidentiality of the students’ experiences with clients and personnel.

Amanda said her time in Poland was a wonderful experience for her and her husband and their son, and after the practicum, she volunteered for the Academy until they returned to the United States.

“I went across the world and the professors still involved me. Skyping in I still felt like I was a part of the school,” Amanda said. ■

An Evening of Cabaret



Music students entertained members of the Missouri Western Arts Society at the society's annual meeting this past spring. The students, directed by Dr. Susan Carter, presented “An Evening of Cabaret.”

Greek Village on campus!

It's here – it's new – and everyone is excited about it! That's the word on the addition of Greek quarters on campus this fall when suites in Juda Hall were set aside for Greek sororities and fraternities. They filled up quickly, and nine suites, all on the west side, are now housing Greeks from five of the university's 10 Greek organizations – Alpha Sigma Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Delta Theta, and Alpha Gamma Delta.

Mark Stier, director of residential life, said campus housing for Greeks was a goal of Missouri Western's president, Dr. Robert Vartabedian. It is part of an initiative to not only increase the number of Greeks who live on campus, but to increase the number of students who are involved in Greek social organizations.

"It provides a deeper sense of community for Greeks," Mark said of the new Greek quarters. "And having an actual place on campus will encourage new students to look into Greek life."

Mark said the three buildings that contain suites, Juda, Beshears and Logan; will be remodeled and gain new furniture over the next three years, but Juda was selected to be completed first to "make a statement that Greek housing was important to us."

Two students, Monica Silber and Charmaine Banez, both members of Sigma Sigma Sigma, were hired as resident assistants for this year and will work specifically with the Greeks.

Monica, a junior who has always lived on campus, said she had been thinking about applying to be an RA and thought the inauguration of Greek quarters was a good time for her to do it. "I was really excited to be in a Greek village. I think it's a great opportunity to get Greeks more involved on campus."

She believes many Greeks currently live off campus, so she's hoping the residential area reserved for them will bring them back on campus and get them more involved in university life. Several who are living in the Greek quarters this fall, in fact, had been living off campus last year.

"I think the Greek students are extremely excited to live in the Greek quarters and excited for the possibilities that go along with living within close proximity of one another and building a stronger brother- and sisterhood," said Isaiah Collier, student life director. "I came from an institution that has Greek housing, and I know the kind of unity it can foster."

He believes one of the main benefits is that Greek numbers "will most likely soar, building stronger leaders on campus."

Mark said banners with each organization's Greek letters will hang on the outside of Juda, so campus visitors will be aware of the Greek quarters.

"I think this is a great step that the university is taking to show its dedication to Greek life," Isaiah said. ■

SGA supports disabled students

Disability Services Coordinator Mike Ritter '02, said his role is to create a culture on campus where everyone understands that when disabled students enroll, Missouri Western is going to create opportunities for them. So Mike was thrilled when the Student Government Association this past spring

allocated almost \$100,000 for new tables and chairs in 14 classrooms, in an effort to make classrooms more flexible and accessible. The furniture was in place by the time the fall semester started.

"SGA is doing the right thing," Mike says. "They didn't hesitate a bit to pass the bill." ■



*Dear Alumni and Friends,
Applied learning is one of the hallmarks of a Missouri Western education. The university's commitment to*

providing students with relevant experiences is well recognized, and is included in Missouri statutes as our statewide mission. This combination of theoretical education in the classroom and practical knowledge through applied learning serves our graduates well.

One program that is a great source of pride is the Craig School of Business Entrepreneurship Challenge in which outstanding seniors can earn an opportunity to own/operate a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store upon graduation. Through this program, established only three years ago, Missouri Western graduates now operate nine stores throughout the nation. The university's unique Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory opportunity and the Craig School of Business are attracting national attention.

This is just one example of applied learning experiences that occur at Missouri Western every day. Our students take the knowledge they learn in the classroom and apply it in their fields of study through internship opportunities, teaching experiences, nursing practica, and independent research. In 2007, we projected that by 2012, 90 percent of our graduates would participate in an applied-learning experience. I am proud to say that we attained that goal, and are now focused on achieving 100 percent participation by 2017.

Missouri Western has worked hard to develop an approach in which theoretical and applied learning unite to provide our students with a quality and effective higher education. We are proud that almost all of our students graduate with practical workforce experience.

Robert A. Vartabedian

*Bob Vartabedian
President*

Students thrive in Costa Rica

Two different groups of students traveled to Costa Rica in May, and they all came home with a wealth of experience and great memories.

Ten nursing students who had completed either their first or second semester in the program spent five days working in temporary clinics and pharmacies in Costa Rica's capital, San José, and eight other students spent three weeks in Spanish language classes, earning three credit hours.

"Students could never ever learn in the classroom what they can learn in the foreign country," said Dr. Ana Bausset-Page, assistant professor of Spanish, who accompanied the Spanish students. "The experience they get is unbelievable."

Julie Baldwin, associate professor of nursing, agreed, saying that working in a foreign clinic is an invaluable experience for students. "It really challenges their thinking. They are in an environment that is totally foreign. The facilities are hot and crowded, and students have to think through how to coordinate care."



Nursing student Amanda McGaughy with a young patient at a clinic where she volunteered in Costa Rica. Both Spanish and nursing students from Missouri Western traveled to Costa Rica in May. Top photo at left, Spanish students pose with Max at the airport; bottom, nursing students in Costa Rica.

She and Dr. Cosette Hardwick, associate professor in the physical therapist assistant program, travelled with the nursing students.

For two weeks, the Spanish students lived with host families within walking distance of their school in Heredia. In the afternoons, after their morning language classes, the students learned Spanish dances, Spanish cooking and jewelry making.

In a country known for its diverse ecosystems, students in both groups had the opportunity to visit the rainforest where they saw monkeys, sloths, crocodiles, toucans and snakes. Spanish students spent their third week attending the school's location in Samara, right on the Pacific Ocean, and visited a volcano.

Julie said she had accompanied nursing students to Honduras in 2007, and at the beginning of this past spring semester, her current students said they wanted to take a similar trip. She worked with an organization called International Service Learning to arrange the trip.

"My confidence grew 100 percent with my nursing skills. I feel revived and renewed. I truly believe in myself now," said Amanda McGaughy, who

completed her second semester in the program this past spring.

Dominique Leone '10, who completed her first semester in nursing this past spring, agreed. "It gave me a lot of confidence for my second semester. I feel like I have a leg up on the students who didn't go. We all developed critical thinking skills we didn't have before. The trip will definitely make me a better nurse."

Lisa Winslow, a Spanish major and business minor, had never travelled outside the United States before the trip. She said it was an amazing experience. "I would encourage anyone who is thinking about a trip to do it." She said her Spanish greatly improved since she stayed with a family who knew no English, and the students were not allowed to speak English at the school.

The nursing group took more than 2,000 toothbrushes with them that were donated by the campus and St. Joseph communities. They also took coloring sheets about hygiene and crayons for the children at the clinics.

"What I loved the most was watching the changes in the students and watching them grow. It was so visible," Cosette said. "I think they all had wonderful 'Aha' moments." ■

Missouri Western is beneficiary of two estates

The Foundation was recently notified that it is the beneficiary of two estate trusts, one of long-time faculty member Roberta Riemer and one of alumnus Ed Vincent.

Roberta was hired as the St. Joseph Junior College's only music teacher in 1954 and taught for 30 years. She established a college orchestra, a strings program for youth in the community, and gave private lessons to strings students for many years. She and her husband, Louis, played a large role in the founding of the Saint Joseph Symphony.

Because of her love of strings, it is fitting that the couple's trust of approximately \$1.5 million is designated for the Missouri Western strings program and scholarships for strings students.

Ed, a 1939 graduate, became the first member of Missouri Western's Clock Tower Society in 2005 when he notified the Foundation that it was a beneficiary of his estate. The income from Missouri Western's portion of approximately \$1.5 million will be distributed annually and is designated for scholarships for St. Joseph's Central High School graduates.

"I always wanted to establish a scholarship for some deserving person to go to college," Ed said in 2005. He set up the trust to honor his parents and his sister, a 1935 junior college graduate.

Jerry Pickman, director of development, noted that unless otherwise specified, estates are endowed so the gift continues into perpetuity. ■

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2012

The Griffon Athletics Hall of Fame committee announced the 2012 class: Bob Alcorn '52, men's basketball; Jerris Evans '02, football; Brice Garnett '06, men's golf; Lisa Hughes '90, women's basketball; Tony Williams '99, football; and the 1993-94 women's basketball team.

This year's Hall of Fame weekend is Sept. 28-29. Events include a Friday night reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and an induction brunch Saturday at 11 a.m., both in the Fulkerson Center. The ring ceremony will take place at halftime of the football game against Central Oklahoma.

Cost to attend the brunch is \$20 per person. For more information on the weekend events, contact the department of athletics at 816-271-5926.

Bob played and coached for the St. Joseph Junior College. As a player, he was named first team All-Junior College Conference and was named Honorable Mention All-America following the 1951-52 season. Jerris played for the Griffons from 1998-2001. He holds

almost every receiving record and is still the only Griffon to ever receive the MIAA's Offensive MVP Award. Brice was a three-time NCAA All-American for the Griffons and qualified for the NCAA National Tournament twice during his school career.

Tony is the all-time leading rusher in Missouri Western football history and also holds the record for most rushing touchdowns in a career and most rushing yards in a game. Lisa was the all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history until Jessica Koch broke her record this past season. Lisa also holds the records for most rebounds in a career and field goals made.

The 1993-94 women's basketball team went 29-3 overall, held a perfect 16-0 record in the MIAA, hosted and won the NCAA South Central Regional and is one of only three Griffon teams in any sport to win a regional championship. They competed in the NCAA Elite Eight for the first time in school history. ■

University receives \$1 million grant

Missouri Western, the St. Joseph Metro Chamber and several other education and business partners were awarded a \$1 million grant to establish an Innovation Campus, which will help employees and potential employees in high-demand business and industries complete post-secondary degrees. The Missouri Western project is one of nine Innovation Campuses funded throughout the state.

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.

As their in-kind donation to the initiative, 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 receive college credit for these applied learning experiences. ■

Two master's programs designated

Two of Missouri Western's graduate degree programs, the Master of Applied Science in Human Factors and Usability Testing and the Master of Applied Science in Chemistry, were recently designated "Professional Science Master's Programs" by the Council of Graduate Schools, a national organization dedicated to the advancement of graduate education and research. Its membership includes over 500 universities in the United States and Canada, and 25 universities outside the U.S. and Canada. ■

Campus Kudos

Outstanding Students:

The Griffon News earned 22 awards and its editor-in-chief was named the top college journalist in the state at the Missouri College Media Association convention, which was hosted by Missouri Western.

David Hon, a junior convergent media major from Platte City, Mo., and president of Missouri College Media Association, beat out eight other nominees to be named Journalist of the Year, Missouri Western's first recipient since 1998. David also took home first and second place in-depth reporting, third place and honorable mention in editorial writing, third place in investigative reporting and first place in section front page design.

Brooke Carter swept the top three places in the editorial cartoon category and won the information graphic and advertising categories. She also shared the top honors with other staff members in the section front page design category, with David, sports page category, with **Thomas Huitt-Johnson** and **Jason Brown**, and feature page category with **Christian Mengel**, **Jesse Bilderback**, **Blair Stalder** and **Jason Brown**.

The Griffon Yearbook won second place in the main category, theme development. Jeff Meyer earned first and third in sports photography and second place in feature photography.

Outstanding professors:

- **David Tushaus**, professor of legal studies and chair of the department of criminal justice, legal studies and social work, was selected for a Fulbright award to do research and teach at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India, this fall. He is one of about 800 Fulbright U.S. Scholars sent abroad for a semester. Dave is working at the Indian university's legal clinic and teaching a class, with a focus on access to justice.
- **Dr. Eduardo Castilla-Ortiz**, assistant professor of Spanish, has been selected as Outstanding JayDoc Interpreter-Volunteer for 2011-12. JayDoc Free Clinic is operated by University of Kansas medical students under the supervision of attending licensed physicians.
- **Dr. Nathanael May**, assistant professor of music, is the winner of The American Prize in Piano Performance-Solo Division in the professional category for 2012. He was selected from applications from across the country. The American Prize is a series of non-profit national competitions designed to recognize and reward the very best performing artists and ensembles in the country based on recorded performances.

- **Dr. Melissa Daggett**, associate professor of biology, was selected to participate in a National Science Foundation-funded faculty development workshop, C.R.E.A.T.E. (Consider, Read, Elucidate the hypotheses, Analyze and interpret the data, and Think of the next Experiment) at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in New York this past summer. Participants learned how to challenge students to think and act as scientists using the C.R.E.A.T.E. strategy.

Missouri Western Foundation Awards:

Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Awards:

Dr. Mary Still, psychology; Dr. Daniel Trifan, history; and Dr. Cary Chevalier, biology

Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award:

Dr. Shensheng Tang, engineering technology and Dr. Matthew Edwards, music

Presidential Citation Awards

Service to Western Students:
Elaine Bryant, student success

Service to Campus Colleagues:
Cindy Spotts-Conrad, financial aid

Service to the University:
Peggy Ellis, Western Institute

James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award:
Chad Elifrits, WRDCC diagnostic education; and Dr. Nathanael May, music

Congratulations to the 2011-12 retirees:

Mona Bledsoe, Rhonda Brewington, Dr. Kenneth Dagel, Dr. Nancy Edwards, Judy Fields, Ramona Finley, Dr. Jane Frick, Rosalie Guyer, Alice Harless, Ken Lewis, Dan Nicoson, Sandra Phillips '84, Dr. John Rushin, Dr. David Steiniche, Dr. Ann Thorne, Roger Voelkel, Dr. Phillip Wann, and Beth Wheeler '77. ■

At the second annual Engineering Technology Awards Banquet, a fund-raiser for the department of engineering technology, Rick Schultz of RS Electric Corp., center, received the 2012 Community Excellence Award, and Alex Atchity, third from left, received the 2012 Student Excellence Award. Pictured is Zane Brickey, Al Landes, Alex, Rick, Ryan Schultz, Ron Auxier, and Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president.



Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Owners



Tim Schimming '12, Brittany Malone '12, and Isaac Collins '11, are the latest graduates to become owners and operators of a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store as part of Missouri Western's unique partnership with Steve Craig and RMCF. Tim now operates a store in California, Brittany in Nebraska and Isaac in Iowa.

T. Boone Pickens to speak at Convocation

The legendary oil and gas entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens will be the speaker at the Convocation on Critical Issues at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 4 in the M.O. Looney Complex arena. His speech is titled, "Leadership and Getting Things Done: Reflections on a Lifetime of Comebacks and America's Energy Future." The Convocation is free and open to the community.

He will also participate in a question-and-answer session at a special Convocation luncheon following the speech. Because of T. Boone's schedule, his presentation is later than usual, and the luncheon replaces the traditional Convocation dinner this year.

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, has some personal knowledge of T. Boone and enthusiastically endorsed his selection as the next Convocation speaker.

"Mr. Pickens was the chair of the Board when I was hired at West Texas A & M University nearly 25 years ago, so I have seen him in action 'up close' and from afar," Dr. Vartabedian said. "I know that he will be an interesting, informative, and colorful addition to our prestigious annual Convocation on Critical Issues."



T. Boone Pickens

A folk hero in global business known for his tenacity in the rough-and-tumble world of mergers and acquisitions, T.

Boone first built and led one of the largest independent natural gas and oil companies. Then, at a time in his life when many of his peers retired to the golf course, he reinvented himself by establishing one of the nation's most successful energy-related investment funds. He chronicled the lessons he learned during his journey in his bestselling

2008 autobiography titled, "The First Billion is the Hardest: Reflections on a Life of Comebacks and America's Energy Future." Ranked by Forbes as one of the world's richest people, T. Boone serves as the chair of BP Capital Management.

He is a noted energy activist who is also an innovative, committed philanthropist who has donated nearly \$1 billion to charity. His impact on American culture reflects his many interests and passions, including an unyielding belief in the entrepreneurial spirit, leadership and corporate fitness, the need for alternative fuel development, and prudent stewardship of American lands. ■

NEWS Briefs

Personnel Changes

- **Dr. Brian Cronk** assumed the position of chair of the department of psychology June 1, following the retirement of Dr. Phil Wann. Brian will also serve as faculty assistant to the provost and will continue to work with grants and assessment projects through the office of the provost. Recently, Brian had been an associate provost and dean of the graduate school. He has been at Missouri Western since 1993, serving as a faculty member in the department of psychology. He was interim dean of the graduate school 2010-11.
- **Dr. Ben Caldwell** is the new dean of the graduate school. Ben served as chair of the department of chemistry since 2007, where he has been a faculty member since 1998.
- **Dr. Mike Ducey** is the new chair of the department of chemistry. He has been a faculty member since 2001.
- **Dr. Teddi Deka**, professor of psychology, is the new director of the honors program. She will replace Dr. Elizabeth Latosi Sawin, who will return to teaching English. ■

Wish list

Would you like to direct your financial support to a particular item or department? Check out missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern and click on "Other Funding Priorities." There you will find several departments' wish lists.

Some items included:

- Patrol vehicle – University Police Department.
- New desks and chairs for Popplewell Hall 102 – department of history, philosophy and geography.
- New Macintosh computers – department of music. The current computers will not accommodate the latest version of software needed for coursework, music interpretation and practice.

Please contact the development office at 816-271-5648 if you can help with these wish list items. Thank you! ■

Jane Frick closes out an influential career

She served as director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project

Dr. Jane Frick's mission throughout her 40-year career at Missouri Western has been to improve writing skills, and as an English professor and director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project, her impact and influence have been felt by hundreds of students and teachers.

"I really, really like teaching," she says, especially the intellectual conversation that often comes alive in the classroom. She said she enjoys seeing students' writing change over the course of the semester as they become more insightful and analytical when they are challenged.

Along with her teaching, Jane, who retired in June, served as department chair in the department of English, foreign languages and journalism from 1982-2000. Since 2006, she has also served as the program coordinator for the Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing and the Master of Applied Science in Assessment, writing option. Along the way, she even compiled a popular bibliography, "Women Writers Along the River."

But perhaps her greatest legacy will be her work as director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project, a position she has held since 1999.

In 1987, Norma Bagnall, professor emerita of English, received a grant of \$10,000 to begin the St. Joseph Writing Project, where Missouri Western

partnered with the St. Joseph School District to offer professional development opportunities for area K-16 teachers in order to improve the writing skills of their students. It has been part of the National Writing Project from the start.

In 1996, English Professor Judy Martin became the director of the program when Norma retired. The next year, the name was changed to Prairie Lands Writing Project to reflect that the program was now working with teachers throughout the region and not just in St. Joseph. When Judy became the full-time director of Missouri Western's Center for Excellence in Teaching in 1999, Jane took over the directorship of the PLWP.

Jane said she was surprised at how much she enjoyed her new role. "When I became director, I took it on because no one else was available in the department. I was surprised how invigorating it was for me to work with teachers," she said. "It has been a tremendous learning experience for me."

From the time Jane became director in 1999 through 2011, PLWP had received grants from the National Writing Project and the state totaling more than \$700,000, and in 2010-11, the project provided 70 activities and programs to 1,309 K-16 teachers or students in 32 area counties.

Along with several workshops for area teachers with topics ranging from working with technology to improve learning, to copyright issues, PLWP has also conducted an annual summer Invitational Institute every year but two since PLWP began at Missouri Western.

Teachers who are invited to participate in the Institute meet one Saturday each in April, May and June, four weeks total in June and July, and one Saturday in September. The Institute, called "the cornerstone of the National Writing Project's teachers-teaching-teachers professional development model," offers reading, research, writing, teacher demonstration, and reflection activities to help participants improve and enhance their knowledge about current issues and developments in the fields of literacy, rhetoric and composition, and school reform.

"Teachers who participate (in the Invitational Institute) talk about how it's life-changing for them professionally," Jane said. "They like networking, sharing ideas, and improving their skills. Research shows if they get involved in this, they stay in teaching."

More than 200 area teachers have participated in the Institute, Jane said. "What is unique about us is that we collaborate across the grade levels,"

continued next page



**Prairie Lands
Writing Project**

Area teachers gather for Prairie Lands Writing Project's Invitational Institute on campus.



University honored nationally for service

For the fifth straight time, Missouri Western has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and community engagement.

The Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education honored 642 colleges and universities for their commitment to bettering their communities through university and service learning by including them in the 2012 honor roll.

Missouri Western submitted three exemplary community service projects in the 2010-11 school year for consideration: Griffon Edge new student orientation, where more than 950 students logged over 2,000 hours of community service as part of their orientation; the student chapter of The Wildlife Society, which performed countless hours of service for the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge; and Murals for Minds, a Student Government Association project where students spent a day painting murals at a local school (see photo at left). ■

Xidian agreement

Missouri Western signed an agreement with Xidian University of Xi'an, People's Republic of China, to cooperate in academic research and exchange.

Tiantian Zou, a professor of English at Xidian University, spent the past academic year at Missouri Western as a Fulbright scholar, teaching Chinese. The five-year agreement grew out of Missouri Western's desire to continue Chinese language instruction and awareness of the Chinese culture after Tiantian left, said Dr. Jeanne Daffron, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The agreement calls on both universities to explore opportunities for cooperation in the exchange of faculty and scholars for the purposes of research, teaching and development; the exchange of students for the purposes of training, internship, degree-pursuing and other activities; the exchange of information, experience and knowledge of academic fields including research publications, teaching materials and library materials; and other exchange activities to which both universities agree. ■



More than 150 Missouri Western students and community members gathered at the Riverbend Treatment Center in St. Joseph for the third annual Mural for Minds, where they decorated the facility's walls.

Jane Frick *continued from pg. 8*

noting that the program is for teachers kindergarten through college.

The Institute is part of Missouri Western's Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing and the Master of Applied Science in Assessment, writing option.

PLWP has always offered graduate credit for the Institute, but until Missouri Western began offering graduate degrees, the certificate was awarded by Northwest Missouri State University. The Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing became the first

graduate degree awarded at Missouri Western when Deb Schwebach '74, earned it in 2007.

Jane said she enjoyed working with area teachers, especially her former students. "I'm really sad about leaving those personal connections."

Now that she is retired, she and her husband, Lyman, plan to travel and visit their two sons and their families in Colorado and California. And, of course, her retirement plans include writing.

"I might have to start a blog," Jane says with a smile. ■

Medical technology agreement signed

Missouri Western recently completed its first year of an agreement with Heartland Health in St. Joseph and the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha that benefits students in Missouri Western's medical technology degree program. One student completed the program this past spring, and a second will begin this summer. Dr. Ben Caldwell, then chair of the department of chemistry, coordinated the agreement for Missouri Western.

Students in the medical technology program (also known as clinical laboratory science), must complete a one-year clinical experience in a hospital laboratory as a requirement of the degree and national certification, and with the agreement, Missouri Western students have a better chance of being accepted into a clinical program.

The university already has partnerships with hospitals in the Kansas City area where students complete clinicals, but Ben noted that Missouri Western students are competing for those clinical spots with students from several universities. The two spots as part of

the UNMC and Heartland agreement are reserved exclusively for Missouri Western students.

Medical technology majors complete three years at Missouri Western, then participate in an 11-week student laboratory phase at UNMC in the summer, and then spend the following academic year in Heartland's laboratory while taking online courses through UNMC. At Heartland, students rotate through the four laboratory units two times as part of their clinical experience: chemistry, hematology, blood bank and microbiology. In addition, they complete courses in Immunology, Laboratory Management and Laboratory Theory, Application and Correlation.

Felicia Coe '12, was the first Missouri Western student to be accepted into the program since the agreement was signed. She completed her clinical experience at Heartland this past spring and was hired in its laboratory full-time. "Heartland personnel were very kind and welcoming, and the UNMC faculty were great to work with, too," Felicia said.

Having the yearlong clinical

experience at a local facility worked well for Felicia, Ben noted, because she could still live on campus and serve as a resident assistant in the residence halls.

Melissa McBride began her clinical in Omaha in June and started in Heartland's laboratory in August. "I'm a little nervous, but it's exciting," she said. "It's a new place and new people, and I'm close to finishing my degree."

Melissa was also accepted into Heartland's Stepping Stones program, where she commits to working for two years when she completes her degree as Heartland pays for her last year of education. She is the first medical technology student to participate in Stepping Stones.

All parties agree the first year went well. "The people at Heartland were super," said Linda Fell, program director of the clinical laboratory science program at UNMC. "I love the Missouri Western personnel, too. They are just great."

"Ben Caldwell has been an excellent person for the university," said Cherryl Morrow, team leader for the laboratory at Heartland. "I really appreciate working with him."

Heartland initiated the idea for the agreement with UNMC and Missouri Western because of its need for qualified applicants for the position. "It's a win-win for Heartland and the university," Cherryl said. "We hope those we train will stay with Heartland." She noted that in the next five years half of the medical technologists across the country will be retiring, so there is a high demand for laboratory personnel.

UNMC currently has agreements with five universities, including the University of Missouri-Columbia and 18 hospital partners. ■



Felicia Coe '12, and Melissa McBride, participants in Missouri Western's medical technology program with Heartland Health in St. Joseph and the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Lingering Melodies serves terminally ill

"Music bypasses the brain and goes straight to the soul." That, according to student Rosalind Blackwell, is why she says her participation in Missouri Western's Lingering Melodies program is so rewarding. For more than a decade, students have been bringing peace and solace to terminally ill patients through their music.

In 2000, Sally Schwab, who is currently team leader for spiritual health at Heartland Health and Hands of Hope Hospice, observed a music therapy program in Montana and wanted to start something similar in St. Joseph. Jackie Thomas, clinical pastoral education supervisor/chaplain at Heartland and whose husband was a professor in the music department at the time, thought Missouri Western music students would be a great asset to the program.

So a partnership between Missouri Western, Heartland and Hands of Hope created Lingering Melodies, a program where music students perform for terminally ill patients. Over the years, the musicians have included vocalists, percussionists, violinists and more.

Jackie wrote the first grant application to the Heartland Foundation and the Missouri Western Foundation to fund Lingering Melodies, and the program has continuously provided comfort to patients since then. Jackie trained the music students until Kari Maag, volunteer coordinator for Hands of Hope, took over the training about

six years ago. Kari now coordinates Lingering Melodies with Laura Bodicky from Hands of Hope.

Rosalind, a junior social work major and music minor, has been singing to patients for more than a year. "It is truly an honor. Music transcends cultures, it's uplifting," she says.

Sarah Cool '08, who graduated with a music education degree and is a Suzuki violin instructor through the Western Institute's center for community arts, performed for Lingering Melodies throughout her entire college career and continues to play at

nursing homes occasionally on her own. One social worker told her that she had never seen the patient smile until Sarah played fiddle music and the patient began to laugh.

"It helps them become more peaceful and to enjoy themselves with family members there," Sarah said of the patients for whom she has performed. "It is a way to use music to make a really big impact on people. I had a lot of good interactions with patients and their families."

Kari said they currently have four Missouri Western students they can call upon when patients request the musicians – Rosalind, Adrienne Collins, Kyle Minx and Jamie Haffner. The first three are vocalists, and Jamie is a percussionist.

"It's always very emotional. It hits some heartstrings not generally reached," Kari said. "It communicates in a way that speaking cannot." ■

"It's always very emotional. It hits some heartstrings not generally reached. It communicates in a way that speaking cannot."

Kari Maag, volunteer coordinator for Hands of Hope

Seeking the extra edge

Every year, Missouri Western works to raise undesignated funds, also known as the Annual Fund, to help support its mission and provide students an educational experience of the highest quality.

"The Annual Fund is the very foundation of the university's fundraising efforts," said Laura Buhman '94, development officer. She said funds are raised through regular mailing appeals, email appeals, and the fall and spring phone campaign.

Laura noted that annual, undesignated gifts provide that "extra edge," funds for programs and priorities on campus that do not receive regular designated support, such as classroom equipment, internships, and experience-enriching programs like special lectures and visiting professors.

Because the gifts to the Annual Fund are undesignated, they can provide flexible resources where the need is greatest, such as specific funding requests from academic departments or campus groups.

"Every student that has ever attended Missouri Western probably has benefited from the Annual Fund in some way," Laura said.

For fiscal year 2013, the Foundation authorized a special grant of \$370,000 from the Annual Fund to the university. Of that amount, \$120,000 was directed to support scholarships for students and \$250,000 was to assist with the university's operating budget challenges.

"At Missouri Western, our students come first," Laura said. "The Annual Fund helps make it possible for us to set the standard for excellence in student development and community leadership."

Contact Laura at 816-271-5920 or buhman@missouriwestern.edu for questions.

We can't wait to talk to you! When you answer the phone this fall, it may be a Missouri Western student calling to ask you to support the 2012 Annual Fund. Thank you in advance for accepting our call! Calls will be made for two weeks at the end of October. ■

Spring sports

SOFTBALL

It was another outstanding spring for the softball team as they closed out the 2012 campaign with a 42-13 record including an 18-2 MIAA mark, a runner-up finish in the MIAA Tournament and their sixth NCAA Tournament appearance in eight years.

Sophomore pitcher Jackie Bishop led the way for the Griffons once again. She held a 24-5 record with an ERA of 1.42 and broke her own school record for strikeouts in a season with 243. Her 24 wins rank third all-time in a single season. For her efforts, she was named the MIAA Pitcher of the Year for the second straight season, was the Daktronics All-Region Pitcher of the Year and was named a second team All-American.

At the plate, the Griffons batted .313 as a team in which 10 players held a batting average of .300 or higher. In addition to Jackie, 10 other softball players were recognized by the MIAA for their performances. Outfielder Maegan Roemmich was named to the first team as she hit .347 with four home runs and 22 RBI. Second team selections included second baseman Blair Stalder and utility player Keri Lorbert and honorable mention selections went to pitcher Annalee Rubio, catcher Katherine Steponovich, first baseman Leah Steele, shortstop Taylor Anding, third baseman Sarah Elliott, outfielder Breanna Fleschner and outfielder Kendall Sorensen.

BASEBALL

The 2012 edition of Griffon baseball was historic, as their second place league finish was the highest ever as an MIAA member. The Griffons were 34-17 overall and 26-12 in the MIAA.

Taking advantage of a stretch that saw the Griffons play five consecutive home series at the Spring Sports Complex in the month of March, the team ran off 10 consecutive wins,

including a four-game sweep of then-#11 ranked Missouri Southern. Other highlight victories included an early season road win against NCAA Tournament participant North Alabama, a series opening 8-3 road victory against Central Missouri who was ranked #2 nationally at the time, and a two-game sweep on the road against perennial MIAA power Emporia State.

The Griffons won their opening round game in the MIAA Tournament before falling to Central Missouri and Fort Hays State on day two.

Catcher Tony Loeffler was named to the Rawlings/ABCA Gold Glove Team and also named the Defensive Player of the Year for all of NCAA Division II. In 45 games this season, Tony did not make an error and had 227 putouts and 32 assists.

Individually, six Griffons were named to the All-MIAA Team. Pitcher Brandon Simmons was a first-team selection. Brandon tied the university's single-season record for victories with 11, pitched 10 complete games and had an ERA of 1.94. First baseman Spencer Shockley was also named to the first team. He led the Griffs with a .402 batting average with six home runs and 35 RBI. Spencer also flashed a stellar glove in the field with a .992 fielding percentage.

Second team honors went to pitcher Nik Jurado, third baseman Grant Fink, and designated hitter Nate Rambler.

WOMEN'S GOLF

One shot was all that separated the women's golf team from adding a major piece of hardware to the trophy case, as the team finished second in the MIAA Golf Championship behind first-place Fort Hays State. Junior Natalie Bird finished second individually with rounds of 79 and 81, which also placed her on the All-Tournament team. She was also named to the All-MIAA team. In 11 events this past year, the team recorded two first places and five second-place finishes. The team returns all but one player for the 2012-13 seasons.

MEN'S GOLF

A season of ups and downs ended on the highest "up" for the men's golf team. The team closed out an inconsistent season finishing third in the MIAA Championships at Paradise Pointe Golf Complex in Smithville, Mo. The 291 team score shot in the final round was the lowest score recorded by the team this year. Individually, junior Tyler Gast had an outstanding tournament, finishing runner-up with rounds of 72, 73 and 70. Tyler was

continued next page



Griffon catcher Tony Loeffler

Awards banquet honors athletes

Griffon basketball swept the Student Athlete of the Year awards, as Jessica Koch was named Female Student Athlete of the Year, and T.J. Johnson was named Male Student Athlete of the Year at the 13th annual MWSU/St. Joseph News-Press Student Athlete Honors Banquet in April.

The winners were chosen based on their performances on the playing field, in the community and in the classroom over the past academic year. Jessica leaves as the all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history, while T.J. was an honorable mention All-MIAA selection this past season.

Bud Epps, longtime Kansas City Chiefs trainer, received the Silver

Anniversary Award. Bud was a student trainer at Missouri Western for the school's first football team. Cheer squad member Taylor Kram won the James J. McMillan Award for the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA – 3.95. Football players Jack Long and Shane Simpson won the department's Award of Valor for their heroic act of saving an infant who was locked in a hot car in the summer of 2011. Baseball player Harrison Cobb was recognized as the Student Athlete Advisory Committee's Volunteer of the Year.

Mitch Holthus, "Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs," gave the keynote address at the banquet. ■

Jessica Koch was named Female Student Athlete of the Year, and T.J. Johnson was named Male Student Athlete of the Year.



Spring sports *continued from pg. 12*

named to the All-MIAA team for his finish in the conference tournament and the three other MIAA point events during the season.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

For the second consecutive year the tennis team won a postseason match, defeating Lincoln 5-0 in the

opening round of the MIAA Tennis Championships at the Plaza tennis courts in Kansas City, Mo. Singles victories were recorded by Kayla Dysart and Katie Field, with duos Kayla Dysart and Ceara Boldridge, Katie Field and Nicole Kerr and Alicia Jenkins and Erin Ward winning their doubles matches. ■

NEWS Briefs

Griffon drafted by Rams

Greg Zuerlein, Griffon place kicker, was the first pick in the sixth round of the 2012 NFL Draft in April, selected by the St. Louis Rams.

Greg came to Missouri Western in 2011 after his former school, University of Nebraska-Omaha, dropped its football program.

Throughout his college career, Greg made 21 consecutive field goals, including nine straight from 50-plus yards. He was named the 2011 season's MIAA Special Teams Player of the Year and set numerous NCAA and Missouri Western records. His .952 field goal percentage led the nation, and he had 30 touchbacks in his first and only season in a Griffon uniform. ■

Legacy Club

Attention, alumni student athletes: become a member of the Legacy Club, a new organization just for letterwinners at Missouri Western. Any Griffon student athlete who completed one year in an intercollegiate varsity sport at Missouri Western is eligible. Membership dues are \$100 per year and include one season ticket to all regular season home games. Join online at gogriffons.com or call 816-271-5926. ■

Golf classic a success

The 10th annual Celebrity Golf Classic was deemed a success, when 40 four-person teams competed along with 16 area celebrities at the St. Joseph Country Club to raise money for Griffon athletics and the YWCA shelter for abused women and children.

The Hy-Vee team of Brad McAnally, Derek Hileman and golf alumni Chris Riley '01, and Justin Fallein '01, won the scramble with a score of 55. The evening before the event, Hy-Vee hosted their annual Celebrity Golf social at the Culver Farm east of St. Joseph, which included silent and live auctions of sports and celebrity memorabilia. Following the classic, an awards ceremony was held at and sponsored by St. Joseph Frontier Casino. ■



WOMEN'S ATHLETICS: TODAY & YESTERDAY

The 1972 Title IX law, which championed women's intercollegiate athletics, marks its 40th anniversary this year, so we looked back on the beginning of women's athletic teams at Missouri Western (pg. 16), and then took a look at some of the exciting things happening today.

TODAY: Facilities improvements, new staff and outstanding athletes

WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOMS IMPROVE

Several women's athletics facilities have seen improvements recently, and one team finally has a locker room to call its own.

In the spring of 2011, the softball team gained a new field in the Spring Sports Complex, and in the past year, the volleyball team's locker room was remodeled. That project included new lockers, new carpet, a television, a computer center and film desk.

But perhaps most importantly, the biggest improvement to women's athletics this year is that the soccer team now has a state-of-the-art locker room.

Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics, said when he arrived in the fall of 2011 and looked over all the athletic programs, getting a locker room for the then six-year-old soccer team was a top priority. The team has the largest roster – 22 this season – of all the women's teams, yet it had no locker room and a lower operating budget than other women's teams. (That budget increased this year, too, thanks to the Gold Coat Victory Fund.)

The new locker room was part of the recent \$220,000 remodeling of the Baker Family Fitness Center, completed in August. The soccer team plays in Spratt Memorial Stadium, which is adjacent to the Baker Center.

"I know the players are excited," said Chad Edwards, the second-year soccer coach. "I'm excited to have our own place to call 'home.'" He expects the new facilities will provide a recruiting boost as well.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: NEW HEAD COACH AND ASSISTANT COACH

Missouri Western hires national champion head coach

Rob Edmisson was hired as head coach for women's basketball this past spring, and Roger Smith was hired as assistant coach.

Rob came to the university from

Oklahoma City University, where he was head coach since 2005. He brings 16 years of college head coaching experience to Missouri Western.

Rob holds a career coaching record over 22 years of 514-150, including a 212-31 record at OCU. His 2011-12 team finished the season 35-1 overall and won the NAIA national championship game.

He led OCU to five conference regular-season championships, five conference tournament titles and seven NAIA Division I tournaments in seven seasons.

"Rob Edmisson has done a terrific job for us at Oklahoma City University," said Jim Abbott, assistant vice president for intercollegiate athletics at OCU. "Rob is very

passionate and demanding, and the results of his efforts have helped maintain OCU as the most successful women's basketball program in the country. Rob is a terrific recruiter, is committed to the academic pursuits of his student athletes, and his teams have enjoyed terrific success on the court."



Rob Edmisson

Today, Missouri Western offers 10 intercollegiate sports, and six of them are for women: basketball, golf, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball. From 1975 on, basketball, softball, volleyball and tennis were the women's sports until golf was added in 2002 and soccer in 2005.

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Rob began his head coaching career at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kan. in 1993, where he spent nine seasons. His teams went 192-89 overall, qualified for the regional playoffs eight times and produced 25 All-Conference players. He was then hired as assistant coach at Oklahoma State University before being named head coach at OCU.

"I'm very grateful that President Vartabedian and Kurt McGuffin are giving me the opportunity to take over the women's basketball program," Rob said when he was hired. "I look forward to helping to return the program to a level where we are year-in, year-out competing for MIAA and NCAA championships."

Rob and his wife, Gina, have two children, Corbin and Cierra.

Roger came from Oklahoma City University. He also coached in the Oklahoma City area on the high school level, winning a state championship while on the staff at Putnam City High School. Roger served as the head coach at Casady School and Little Axe High School, and while on the staff at John Marshall High School, the team made it to the state semifinals.

Roger and his wife, Cristina, have three children, Isabella, Griffin and Price.

TWO GRADUATE ASSISTANTS JOIN WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

Two women were recently hired as assistants for women's basketball and soccer. Women's basketball coach Rob Edmisson hired **Tiffany Goldwire**, who had played at Oklahoma City

University under Rob for two seasons. She was on last season's national championship team.

"Tiffany is without a doubt one of the highest energy people I have been around," Rob said. "She has a great knowledge of the game for a young coach. Having played for me and having been on our national championship team will be a huge asset for our staff."

Tiffany, originally from Oklahoma City, played high school basketball at Del City before playing two seasons of junior college basketball at Northern-Enid. She majored in kinesiology at Oklahoma City and is in the sport and fitness management graduate program here.

Katie Valdez joined the women's soccer staff for the next two seasons, and she is the first assistant coach for the soccer program. She is also earning the sport and fitness management master's degree at Missouri Western. Katie, originally from Houston, played two seasons for the Northeastern State University RiverHawks in Talequah, Okla. She said she has been playing soccer since she was four years old.

"I've always been really interested in coaching, especially women's soccer. Soccer is something I have loved forever," Katie said. "To be able to coach and continue my education is a win-win for me."

"Katie will make an immediate impact on our program and players," coach Chad Edwards said when she was hired. "I am looking forward to working with her and know that she will be a tremendous asset for the program."

Before playing for the RiverHawks, she played two seasons at Centenary College of Shreveport, La. As a junior for the RiverHawks, she was named to the Lone Star All-Conference first team and last year she helped her squad to an 11-4-2 record. She graduated from NSU with a human and health performance degree.

Page 14: Tennis player Nicole Kerr;
right, soccer player Erin Widrig.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS POINTS OF PRIDE

- The softball team under Coach Jen Bagley played in its sixth NCAA regional in the past eight years.
- In 11 events in the 2011-12 seasons, the women's golf team recorded two first places and five second-place finishes.
- The women student-athletes have earned a 3.18 GPA overall for the past three years. The women's basketball team had the ninth highest GPA in the nation for the 2009-10 academic year. Women's soccer was awarded NSCAA Team Academic Awards for the 2010-11 academic year.
- Jessica Koch became the all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history in the 2011-12 season with 1,727 career points.
- In the past year, women athletes spent countless hours volunteering in the community for Second Harvest Community Food Bank, Salvation Army, Special Olympics, Noyes Home, Make-a-Wish Foundation, and more.



WOMEN'S ATHLETICS: TODAY & YESTERDAY

YESTERDAY: a team of their own

When most people hear "Title IX," they immediately think of its effect on women's collegiate sports, because of the great impact it had in that arena. That law, enacted 40 years ago, brought women's intercollegiate sports to many campuses, including Missouri Western.

For the first three years of Title IX, its relevance to women's collegiate sports wasn't much talked about. In fact, the original statute made no explicit mention of sports, and instead emphasized hiring and employment practices. But in 1975, when the U.S. Health, Education and Welfare Department published the final regulations of how Title IX would be enforced, those involved in college athletics began to understand the effect it would have on their world.

Charlie Burri, Missouri Western's athletic director at the time, said that although the push to begin intercollegiate sports for women came from Title IX, "we knew it was the right thing to do. There was no question it was coming, so we took off right away." In the 1975-76 academic year, Missouri Western added four women's sports: basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball.

Rhesa Sumrell who had played club volleyball and basketball in college at Middle Tennessee State University, said she had always wanted to coach college athletics. When Title IX passed in 1972, she was teaching at a junior high school in Tennessee.

She applied at Missouri Western and was hired in 1975 as coordinator of women's athletics and coach of three of the new sports: basketball, softball and volleyball. Bonnie Greene was hired as the tennis coach.

Bonnie was teaching physical education at Missouri Western at the time and had been serving as an advisor for the women's clubs. The 1972

Griffon Yearbook reported that the 1971-72 school year was the first year for the Women's Sports Clubs, and sports included volleyball, basketball and baseball. "The teams occasionally played other local colleges and city teams," the yearbook said.

However, Charlie said women's athletics wasn't without its difficulties because there was little or no money available for women's sports. The first year, Rhesa was given \$5,000 for scholarships for female athletes, and \$5,000 for operating expenses, which was lower than the men's sports funds.

"It was a difficult, painful growing process," Rhesa said of the college's adjustment to women's sports. But after a while, she said, the women's teams were too good to be ignored.

Basketball earned second place in the state tournament in its first season, and the next season, volleyball won the state tournament. That was followed with appearances in several regional and national post-season tournaments

continued next page

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS THE FIRST SEASONS: 1975-76

The **volleyball** team's first match was against Tarkio College, Tarkio, Mo., and its first season record was 5-14. Team members included Marilyn Ciolek, Kim Cooper, Nancy Geha, Karen Harris, Brenda Keller, Carole Kelley, Debbie Kriegshauser, Mary Mahoney, Kate Myers, Mary Nichols, Karen Pauley, Janice Petty, Stephanie Prather, Susan Round, and Dot Walsh. Rhesa Sumrell was head coach.

The **basketball** team held a 13-5 record its first year and earned a second place trophy in the state tournament. Team members were Joni Gilliland, Brenda Keller, Mary Nichols, Stephanie Prather, Beth Wheeler, Kim Cooper, Phyllis Crouse, Carole Kelley, Karen Pauley, Nancy Geha, Debra Mabin, Janice Petty, Joy Sherard, Teresa Whitt, Karen Harris, Shirley Tingler. Rhesa Sumrell was head coach.

Softball went 8-6 its first season. Team members included Candy Burton, Loy George, Karen Harris, Brenda Keller, Debra Mabin, Mary Mahoney, Mary Nichols, Janice Petty and Joy Sherard. Rhesa Sumrell was head coach. *(Editor's note: I was unable to find a complete roster of names. If you were on the first softball team, email me at holtz@missouriwestern.edu or call me at 816-271-5651 so I can list you in the next issue.)*

The women's **tennis** team was 1-8 its first season. Playing for the team that first year was Chris Felts, Debbie Higdon, Debbie Kriegshauser, Janet Long, Linda Martin and Joyce Slayden. Bonnie Greene was head coach.



Chris Sumrell and her sister, Rhesa Sumrell, returned to campus this past spring for a softball reunion and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the team's 1982 national championship.



Bonnie Greene with students in a bowling class.

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for the volleyball team. And just six years after its inaugural season, the softball team became Missouri Western's only national champion in its history. "The softball team wasn't very good at all at first, but it didn't take them long," Rhesa said with a laugh.

When Rhesa started at Missouri Western, women's sports were part of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women because women weren't allowed in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), the men's athletic association. After about five years, women were allowed to join the NAIA, and Rhesa said that made things a little easier, including having more money for full scholarships.

A look at rosters from the early years of women's intercollegiate sports reveals that several of the women played more than one sport.

Rhesa's sister, Chris Sumrell '80, was one of those women, as she played volleyball, basketball and tennis for Missouri Western from 1976-80. She said she signed a letter of intent and earned a scholarship to play basketball, but when she arrived on campus, "Rhesa said, 'By the way, you're going to play tennis and volleyball, too,'" Chris said with a laugh.

"Rhesa went to the mat a lot, fighting for equality and ways to get more money for sports," Chris said. "It was definitely a building time."

Playing in the inaugural years of women's collegiate sports, Chris said they felt a lot of pressure and felt like they had something to prove. "It had to be that way. We were fighting for equality."

Three years after Rhesa arrived at Missouri Western, Debbie Bumpus was hired to coach women's basketball, but Rhesa led the volleyball and softball teams until she left in 1986 to coach softball at University of Missouri-Columbia. She retired from University of Central Missouri in 2006.

"There was a stigma for women playing sports; it wasn't the womanly thing to do. But I fought it anyway," Rhesa said. "Now it's so much fun seeing male athletes having daughters and expecting their daughters to play sports." ■

Rhesa Sumrell with Missouri Western's first women's volleyball team.

PATSY SMITH: ATHLETE TO ADMINISTRATOR

Twenty-two years ago, Patsy Smith '95, enrolled in college to earn an accounting degree, and she has been a part of Missouri Western athletics ever since. As an athlete, a parent of athletes, a coach and an administrator, she has firsthand knowledge of women's athletics at Missouri Western.

Although she was a nontraditional student, Patsy decided to play tennis at the suggestion of Karen Mollus, the women's tennis coach at the time. When Patsy's daughter, Wendy, transferred to Missouri Western two years later, she and Patsy were the no. 1 duo on the team.

In 1994, even before she graduated, Patsy took over the tennis team as coach. Then she had the pleasure of coaching her daughter, Shannon, when she joined the team. In 1998, Patsy coached the team to its first-ever NCAA Tournament.

That same year, she became the first athletics business manager at Missouri Western. Since then, she has served in the department of athletics as compliance and academics, director of finance, and assistant athletics director. Today, she is the associate director of athletics and the senior woman administrator. She also oversees women's soccer, tennis and volleyball.

Patsy said the fact that she was the first woman who was not coaching at the time to hold the senior woman administrator position showed that Missouri Western administration saw the importance of a woman being involved in the administrative side. "They've (the administration) been progressive in adding sports and adding positions that support women's athletics." She also noted that the MIAA conference has also been progressive in involving women in decision-making, noting that the senior woman administrators from each institution vote along with the athletic directors.

That has given women the opportunity to serve on national committees, and Patsy just concluded a term as a member of the NCAA Division II Championships Committee.

She said she has enjoyed her years in Missouri Western athletics and doesn't see a lot of change in the female athletes from her coaching and playing years to today. "They are still competitive," she said of the women. "They want to win and be a part of athletics as much as ever."

Today, she says, women's sports are a prominent part of Missouri Western's athletic program, playing an equal role to the men's sports.





From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Charles Dickens

This quote has been used to the point of becoming cliché, but it really does accurately represent the state of affairs at Missouri Western right now. Financially, the university is struggling through an unprecedented time in our state. Decreased revenues and tighter budgets at the state level have caused funding to be a constant source of concern. According to a nationally recognized financial consultant, our operating funds per student have declined by 18 percent in the last four years when adjusted for inflation. To summarize, our leadership continues to be asked to do more with less.

While it is a difficult time financially, there are many exciting things going on at our university. We continue to see record enrollments, as more and more students access the learning opportunities at Missouri Western. We've seen successes in our athletic programs, students being recognized nationally in various areas, an instructor being selected for a Fulbright

award, the continued success of the Craig School of Business venture with the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, and an unprecedented period of growth and expansion of our fine arts program and performances on campus. These are exciting times at Missouri Western!



Dr. Robert Sigrist '95

From an Alumni Board standpoint, we continue to see growth in our events as our alumni base grows and more new grads become involved in alumni activities. I encourage you to go to at least one event this year that you have never attended. If you haven't been on campus recently, I encourage you to visit. See firsthand the exciting growth that has occurred since you've last been here. If your experiences are like mine, your times at Missouri Western really are "the best of times." I hope to see many of you experiencing those times this year.

Go Griffs!

Dr. Robert Sigrist '95

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT. 14-15 Family Weekend

SEPT. 28-29 Wendy's Hall of Fame Weekend. Game, Griffons vs. Central Oklahoma Bronchos.

OCT. 4 Convocation on Critical Issues featuring T. Boone Pickens, 10:30 a.m., M.O. Looney Arena, free.

OCT. 4-7 "J.B." theatre production, written by Archibald MacLeish. Go to www.mwsutix.com for details or to purchase tickets.

OCT. 8-13 Homecoming Week! See p. 22 for details and events. Game is Oct. 13 – Griffons vs. Missouri Southern Lions.

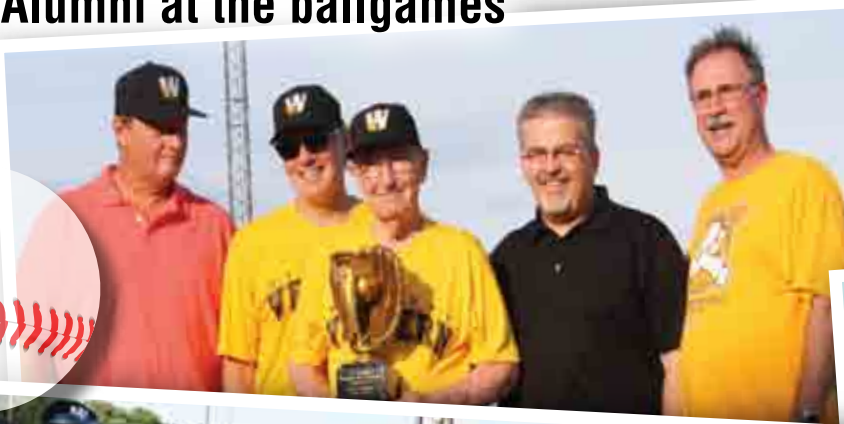
NOV. 3 Football Reunion and Senior Day, Griffons vs. Washburn Ichabods.

NOV. 29-DEC. 12 "Annie," musical theatre production. Go to www.mwsutix.com for details or to purchase tickets.

DEC. 15 Commencement, 11 a.m., M.O. Looney Complex arena, followed by a reception in the old gym.

Alumni at the ballgames

Left, top: At a St. Joseph Mustangs game this summer, former coach Doug Minnis and the Griffons' 1975 baseball team were inducted into the St. Joseph Baseball Hall of Fame. Left, below, several baseball alumni played the Mustangs for the Hall of Fame game. Right: The Beck family - Brandon '11, Kerry '78, Katie, Nicole and Marilyn '77, enjoyed the Royals vs. Cardinals game at Missouri Western Alumni Day at Kauffman.



Grateful for grapes

“One of life’s gifts is that each of us, no matter how tired and down-trodden, finds reasons for thankfulness: for the crops carried in from the fields and the grapes from the vineyard.”

– J. Robert Moskin

Ah, the beautiful Missouri countryside – tall stands of corn, soybean fields, pastures of grazing cattle, wheat fields swaying in the wind, big round bales of hay, and ... grapes. Grapes? Yes, grapes. Just east of Stewartville and a little ways north of Hwy. 36, grapes are growing in a vineyard next to a brand new copper-topped building.

Welcome to Windy Wine Company, the northernmost winery in Missouri and the only one in DeKalb County. The winery in the heart of northwest Missouri opened a retail site this past spring after several months of selling its wine wholesale to about a dozen area retail stores. Windy Wine, which includes approximately six acres of grapes, is owned by Kraig '08, and Becky '04, Keesaman.

On the approximately 1,600-acre Missouri Century Farm known for its Angus cattle and typical Missouri crops, Kraig is the seventh generation to till the land, but the first to grow and tend grapes.

Kraig, who says he has always been an “experimenter,” (Becky says he’s a good cook, too) started out brewing varieties of beer until Becky suggested he try his hand at wine. He got so many compliments on the wine, he decided to start a vineyard and keep experimenting. Kraig learned a lot when he worked at Pirtle Winery in Weston, Mo., a few years back, and he has taken University of Missouri Extension courses on wine making.



Kraig and Becky Keesaman with their daughter at Windy Wine.

The first wine he made to sell was the Angus Red, but Kraig, who has a public relations degree from Missouri Western, says the best seller is Good News Red, “a Missouri Sangria.”

“I really like it,” he said of his new career. “I’m more of a plant grower than a livestock producer. If I were working with row crops right now, I’d be experimenting with them.”

The winery features a tasting room, picnic tables and a deck, and the Keesamans plan to host a lot of activities on the grounds. They also

have a coffee bar and sell many local products, including Kraig’s family’s Angus beef.

Kraig is a full-time vintner, and Becky, who earned a BSBA in Marketing from Missouri Western, works at DSV in Kansas City, Mo., a supplier of transport and logistics solutions. They have two children.

“We’re a faith-based business,” Kraig said. “We try to be good stewards of what has been given to us.”

And if you’re Kraig, if you’re given grapes, you make wine. ■

Alumni helped at a Habitat for Humanity house this summer. Pictured is Randie Fisher (on the ladder), Beth Fisher-Blancard '11, Bruce Kneib '84, and Carole Dunn '91.





Two former Griffons make headlines

Two former Griffon student athletes made headlines this past summer as they competed on some of the biggest stages in their respective sports.

Former basketball player Larry Taylor '04, competed on the Brazilian team at the London Olympics. Larry, who hails from Chicago, played for the Griffons 2001-03. He was a major contributor to teams that won an MIAA regular season and conference tournament championship and made two consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament. He was a two-time All-MIAA selection, including second-team honors his senior year and was also named the MIAA's first Defensive Player of the Year after the 2003 season. Larry received his degree in business management and, since graduation, has been playing professionally overseas. His journey has taken him to Mexico, Venezuela and now Brazil, where he has been since the 2008 season. Larry became a Brazilian citizen and is a national hero for his play on the court.

Former golfer Brice Garnett '06, continues to work his way up the professional ranks. After a solid start to his nationwide tour season in which he made seven of nine cuts, Brice won the Springfield, Ohio, sectional qualifier and competed in the U.S. Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco in June. In the qualifier at Springfield, Brice's 36-hole total of nine under par was two shots better than the second place finisher. The U.S. Open is the first PGA Tour event in which he competed. ■



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

30th annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet, 5:45 p.m. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Fulkerson Center.

- ★ 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award: Donna Jean Boyer '64, Al Landes and Mike Mastio '95.
- ★ Distinguished Faculty Award: Roger Voelkel, Department of Nursing.
- ★ GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Award: Jonn Casey '02.
- ★ Herb '35, and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University: Zack Workman '74.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Golf outing, 8:30 a.m., Fairview Golf Course, St. Joseph

Pep rally and bonfire, 8 p.m.,
Spratt Memorial Stadium – alumni are invited!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Parade downtown, 9:30 a.m.

Arts, Beats and Treats, following the parade. Join us for a fun family event – arts and crafts, games, balloon dude, face painting and refreshments – all FREE.

Tailgate, 11:30 a.m., Lot H

Game, 1:30 p.m., Griffons vs. Missouri Southern Lions, Spratt Memorial Stadium. Order tickets online – gogriffons.com and click on "Tickets."

Ribbon Cutting and tours of Greek Village in Juda Hall, following the game. Alumni Reception, and Greek and SGA Reunions, 5 p.m., Fulkerson Center. Get your teams together for our first Trivia Night!

Homecoming 2012

EVENT REGISTRATION GRIFFON COUNTRY - WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

Register for Homecoming events below.

For more information, call 816-271-5646 or email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.

Name _____ Class year _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

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

I want to make a reservation for _____ @ \$5 each for the Alumni, Greek and SGA Reunions and Trivia Night.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

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

☐ Personal Card OR ☐ Business Card Business Name _____

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

Credit Card # _____ Signature _____

PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS:

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



DISHING UP HEALTHY

Today, more and more people seem to be taking a good, long look at their eating habits and lifestyles. Three alumni and two students have done just that and made some changes toward more healthful, satisfactory living.

Tim Miejan '83

A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE

For Tim Miejan '83, his desire to live a holistic, healthy lifestyle started at an early age, thanks to his mother, and eventually led to his current career. Tim is the co-owner and editor of *The Edge*, a monthly magazine that explores all aspects of holistic living. He was hired as managing editor in 1995, and he and a colleague bought the print and online publication in 2009.

Integrating holistic principles into his daily

life is what Tim calls "an ongoing evolution, both inwardly and outwardly." He has a personal interest in natural products and complementary health care practices related to living a stress-free life. For him, a holistic lifestyle extends from the products he buys (an electric, rechargeable lawnmower and a hybrid car) to the food he eats (as organic as possible).



Tim Miejan '83

Tim says he has also integrated meditation into his daily life and has sought to become more "awake with regard to my personal consciousness in relationship with others and my environment."

He enrolled at Missouri Western when his family

moved to St. Joseph after he had already completed one year at a community college in Nebraska. "My experience was centered around my desire to become a journalist, a decision I made as a high school sophomore," he said. He calls his three years on the staff of the *Griffon News* the highlight of his Missouri Western experience.

Tim said his favorite classes were those related to his English major, particularly creative writing with Dr. John Gilgun.

"I truly appreciate the fine education I received at Missouri Western, as it directly contributed to me being able to step in and become a professional journalist," Tim said. "I wish I could personally thank each of the professors and instructors who took their time to support me in my growth as a person and citizen."


After graduating from Missouri Western, Tim worked for the St. Joseph News-Press/Gazette, where he had been working part-time as a student. He worked there 12 years before relocating to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. While job seeking there, he saw that *The Edge* had an opening for a managing editor's position, and the magazine's mission piqued his interest.

"In the mid-1990s, *The Edge* was a free monthly tabloid that focused on alternative healing, spirituality, metaphysics, intuition and other aspects of holistic living," Tim said. "My desire to live simply, in a non-toxic environment, with a rich inner life, contributed to my choice to join *The Edge* and offer the public a way to express and share these ideas."

He noted that *The Edge* offered a unique forum to explore belief systems and ways of healing outside of what was available in mainstream newspapers.

His wife, Rachel, he says, has been great influence on his desire for a holistic lifestyle. She is a Reiki healer and teacher (Reiki is hands-on healing that channels universal life force energy to others).

"I have always had an open mind with regard to spirituality and a desire live in balance with my environment," Tim said.



Jennifer Morris, with sons
Shaden, Asher and Landan.

Jennifer Morris '01 **BACK TO NATURE**

Jennifer Morris grew up on a farm near Cosby, Mo., and couldn't wait to leave home and move to "the city."

After marrying in 1999, she and her husband, Aaron, settled in a farmhouse in the country, but it wasn't until her first child was born a few years later that Jennifer began to enjoy country living. And in the past few years, she has fully embraced the lifestyle, filling her farm with livestock and produce. "I'm really into 'self-sustaining,'" she says. "I want my kids to know how to grow their own food."

Jennifer says she never really thought much about healthy eating until she became pregnant with her first child (she has three sons – Landan, Asher and Shaden). "For the first time, I thought about what I was taking into my body. I started reading labels and stopped assuming what is on the store shelf is safe."

First she started growing lots of produce in a chemical-free vegetable garden. Then she bought some chickens for both eggs and meat. Then she bought goats for milk. The next year, she increased the size of her garden and acquired turkeys, calves and bees. The family has an orchard with five different kinds of fruit trees, and four different berry patches on their property. Now she's thinking about getting a pig.

She has even tried growing wheat, grinding it into flour and making bread. And, of course, Jennifer grows lots of herbs and even stevia as a natural sweetener. "I love sugar – I just want it to be good for me."

She freezes a lot of her produce and started canning after a friend's grandmother taught her how. Her goal is to grow and raise enough produce and meat for the family to be self-sustaining throughout the entire year.

For Jennifer, it's about being self-sustaining, but also about eating healthy and knowing what has gone into your food. She said it may be expensive to feed the calves they are raising for meat, but it is convenient and she likes knowing what is going into her future meat.

"When I had kids, I realized how blessed I was to live out here. I don't need all the 'things,'" Jennifer says. "I just need my family."

DISHING UP HEALTHY

Rachel Detweiler '03 **A VEGAN DIET**

Rachel Detweiler '03, says she was happy with her accounting degree and enjoyed working as an accountant, but changes in her eating habits have led her to a new love – trying and testing new recipes.

"I'm blessed with a husband and children who are willing to try anything and don't make a face when I put something new in front of them," she says with a laugh. "I'm an experimenter."

Rachel and her family are vegans, so she likes to try new things that are not animal products or animal-related products.

For them, it's all about healthy eating and not necessarily animal advocacy, Rachel says. When she became pregnant with her first child about six years ago, she was already a vegetarian, but she decided to change to a vegan diet and has never looked back.

During her pregnancy, she commuted to her accounting job in Kansas City and sometimes worked 12 hours days. But Rachel never missed a day of work and had a healthy baby. "My boss used to make fun of me for not eating meat, but she realized I never missed work throughout my pregnancy, and later said she thought it was due to my diet," Rachel said.

She and her husband, Keith '05, and their three children, Sean, Zoey and Izak, live in the country outside of Savannah, Mo., and they try to grow as much of their food as possible, canning and freezing the garden produce. They also try to use as many heirloom seeds as possible, which are original, non-hybrid seeds. And, they use no chemicals in their raised-bed gardens.

Rachel calls their diet, "a very mixed approach," where the family eats a wide variety of foods to ensure they are getting the nutrition they need.

Rachel said she has always been interested in a healthy lifestyle and probably started on

continued next page

Rachel Detweiler '03, and her daughter, Zoey



continued from p. 24

the path to veganism as a young child. She remembers reading the Book of Daniel in the Bible as a child, and being struck by the reference to Daniel's healthy diet as opposed to the king's "rich foods. That has always been an inspiration to me, but it never really kicked in until college."

When she was pregnant with Zoey, her second child, a college friend got Rachel interested in raw foods, and she enrolled in a class on raw food preparation through Missouri Western's Western Institute. Although her family's diet is not exclusively raw, she and a friend have been offering classes once a month for almost two years in St. Joseph for anyone interested in the vegan and/or raw diet.

"I love accounting but cooking and healthy eating are my new passions," Rachel says.

Jennifer Kepner **ANIMAL ADVOCATE**

Missouri Western student Jennifer Kepner believes that if meat-packing plants had glass walls, more people would stop eating meat, as she has. "Animals have the right to be left alone," she says. "I can't eat meat knowing how the animals are slaughtered."

Jennifer had been a vegetarian for about three or four years, but after watching videos and documentaries, such as "Meet your Meat," about animal treatment at meat-packing plants, she became a vegan this past year. "I just assumed laws would protect animals," she said. But her research made her realize they don't.

Jennifer's youngest son is on board with the vegan lifestyle, but her husband and one son are not vegans. "It's their choice. I don't think it's right for me to tell them how to live."

For the criminal justice major, her vegan lifestyle is all about the treatment of animals, but she said many people choose to be vegans because of issues such as sustainability, water use and pollution.

Veganism has become a way of life for her — she tries to buy clothes made from environmentally friendly fabrics, and of course, she does not buy leather products. She also visits the website, leapingbunny.org, to learn which consumer products are made with no animal testing.

"I've discovered that you kind of ease into it and replace one thing at a time."

Jennifer set up a table in the Blum Union last semester and passed out vegan food and literature, and she is starting a new student organization on campus for animal advocacy, all in an effort to make people more aware of how animals are treated in food processing.

Students were receptive to trying her vegan choices in the student union, Jennifer said, and several picked up information that she had displayed. It was out of her comfort zone to set up a table and talk to people walking by, but she is passionate about her beliefs and wants to make other students aware.

"I think people can make a difference," Jennifer said. "If every person would stop eating meat just once a week, it would save a lot of animals."

Hillary Turner **PLEASED WITH PALEO**

Hillary Turner said when her family gave up dairy products, many of their digestive problems went away. And when they cut out grains, many

more of their issues disappeared. That naturally led her, her parents, and four siblings to the paleo diet, which they have been faithfully following for the past year.

"Paleo," which is short for the Paleolithic period of about 2.5 million years that ended about 10,000 years ago with the development of agriculture, consists of a diet of meat, fish, fowl, vegetables, fruits and nuts.

"The idea is about using evolutionary thinking to become healthy, and thinking about what we are best adapted to eat," she said.

Hillary said her family has progressed from a basic paleo diet to "Paleo 2.0," where they are now choosing grass-fed meat, wild-caught fish, raw nuts and organic foods.

She believes her family also feels better because they have eliminated "a ton of sugar from our diets. Once you eliminate the sugar, really common complaints and health problems that people have go away."

This fall, Hillary, who completed three years at Missouri Western, started medical school at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. She was admitted to KCUMB when she was a sophomore as part of a partnership program between Missouri Western and KCUMB.

The St. Joseph native said she chose Missouri Western because "I knew I had a good shot of getting into medical school if I came here. I knew they had a really solid biology and chemistry program." She said that the university exceeded her expectations. "I was very impressed with all the programs, and the opportunities for independent research."

Hillary said since her family went paleo, her grandparents have started on the plan, along with many of her friends and her friends' families. She said she doesn't push the diet on people, but just tries to provide them with information. One book she recommends is "The Paleo Answer," by Loren Cordain.

"It's great. All of us are feeling better than we ever have," Hillary says. ■

THE BEST VEGAN BANANA BREAD

2 large very ripe bananas
¼ c. applesauce
¼ c. canola oil
½ c. sucanat sugar (pure dried sugar cane juice)
2 T. molasses

1 c. flour
1 c. whole wheat flour
¾ t. baking soda
1 t. ground cinnamon
¼ t. ground nutmeg
½ t. salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9 x 5 loaf pan. Mash the bananas well. Add sugar, applesauce, oil and molasses and mix well with a whisk. Stir in flour, baking soda, spices, and salt. Use a wooden spoon to mix until the wet and dry ingredients are just combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and bake for 45-50 minutes, until the top is lightly browned and a knife in the center comes out clean.



Faithful, proud and true: Richard & Barbara Crumley

From the moment they stepped on the St. Joseph Junior College campus, Barbara and Richard Crumley have been serving Missouri Western and the St. Joseph community.

Richard began teaching biology at the Junior College in 1967, moved to the new campus with the four-year institution in 1969, and continued to teach until he retired and was named professor emeritus in 2000. He served as department chair for 17 years and

even returned later to teach a couple of courses. In 2006, Richard received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Alumni Association.

Barbara said when they first arrived on campus, the wife of John Yancey, a biology professor, encouraged the young wives of new faculty members to get to know each other. They were further encouraged by Dorsey Looney, the wife of President M.O. Looney, and by the time they arrived on the new campus,

Barbara said the wives were a close-knit organization.

That group became the Faculty Wives Club, and Barbara said they raised money for benches and flowers for the new campus. The Faculty Wives Club became Missouri Western Women, and then the Ambassadors.

Barbara served on the executive board of the Ambassadors for

many years and is currently serving as president. Richard has helped the group solicit sponsors for its annual fundraiser, Night at the Ritz, for several years.

"I think it's a wonderful organization for the good they do for nontraditional students," Richard said.

In the community, Barbara and Richard, who are both from Fredonia, Kan., were sponsors for New Generation Singers for several years when their son, David, was a member. They have also been very active in their church, Wyatt Park Christian, serving in several leadership roles, teaching Vacation Bible School, helping out with an after-school program, and accompanying youth on mission trips. Barbara also served as the director of the church's Parents Day Out program. They have also helped at Trails West! Festivals in St. Joseph.

They also began a local and statewide group for children with learning disabilities.

They have two children, David and Angela, and two grandchildren, Ben and Caleb. Ben is currently a student at Missouri Western. ■



Barbara and Richard Crumley are joined by their grandson, Ben, a Missouri Western student; and Katie Caldwell at the MWSU Ambassadors' 2012 Night at the Ritz.



Junior College Reunion

Left, a new plaque recognizing the St. Joseph Junior College was unveiled at the Junior College Reunion this past spring on the University Plaza. Funds for the plaque were donated by Bill '56, and Phyllis Gondring. Right, Joe Friedman '39, entertained at the Junior College Reunion with songs from "Fiddler on the Roof." Joe performed the songs on Broadway many years.



1960s

LEECHIA JONES '66, was honored with a Woman in the Workplace Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2012 YWCA Women of Excellence awards ceremony.

1970s

RICHARD DURST '71, retired July 1, 2012 and was named president emeritus of Baldwin-Wallace University. He continues to help B-W with international recruitment in India and serves as institutional liaison on some of the university's grant-funded initiatives. The new home for admissions at B-W is named the Richard and Karen Durst Welcome Center in honor of his wife, Karen '72, and him.



ROY GRIMES '74, U.S. Army retired, is working for the Department of Defense at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Qalat, Zabul Province, Afghanistan.

WILLIAM "SKIP" FOSTER '76, assistant coach at Excelsior Springs High School, was selected as 2011 Assistant Coach of the Year by the Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Association.

1980s

TIMOTHY ROONEY '80, was named chief financial and legislative officer at Rockwood School District in Eureka, Mo.

CHARLES BRUFFY '81, artistic director of the Phoenix Chorale and chorus director of the Kansas City Symphony Chorus, released a CD, "Northern Lights: Choral Works by Ola Gjeilo," with the Phoenix Chorale.

LINDA JUDAH '82 & '94, executive director of the Social Welfare Board in St. Joseph, received the Woman in the Workplace Award at the 2012 YWCA Women of Excellence awards ceremony.

DR. MELISSA K. STUART '83, was promoted to professor of microbiology at A.T. Still University, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville, Mo. She also received the A.T. Still Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching for the 2011-12 academic year.

MIKE O'DONNELL '84, was named grand marshal of the 2012 St. Patrick's Day parade in Cameron, Mo.

FRANK WHEELER '85, is the activities director for Blue Springs (Mo.) High School.

GREGORY MASON '89, was promoted to brigadier-general in February 2012. He was also appointed as assistant adjutant general-Army for the Missouri Army National Guard.

1990s

DR. ANDREW JOHNSON '91, received the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award from Park University in Parkville, Mo. He is a professor of psychology and has been at Park 15 years.

SCOTT ARCHIBALD '95, was named principal at Albany (Mo.) R-III High School.

MIKE KIMBROUGH '95, is a function unit manager with the Missouri Department of Corrections. He has two children, Britney and Austin.

SANDRA EAST '97, is working for Nebraska State Probation as a specialized substance abuse supervision probation officer.

JENNIFER (ROGERS) STANEK '99, and her husband, Craig, announce the birth of a daughter, Sara Margaret, born April 4, 2012.

2000s

BETH (ARCHER) CATHCART '00, and her husband, Chaney, announce the birth of a daughter, Layla Grace, born May 6, 2012. She joins big sisters Claire and Kendall.

ZAC COUGHLIN '01, is principal at Savannah High School, Savannah, Mo.



PAULA (WHITE) '04, and ERIC '06, JESSEN, announce the birth of a son, Landon Lee, born May 19, 2012.

HANNAH (BOGLE) KLINGINSMITH '05, and her husband, David, announce the birth of a daughter, Kaitlyn Noel, born Dec. 20, 2012.

LESLIE (KORTHANKE) WHITE '05, and her husband, Clayton, announce the birth of a daughter, Emery Elise, born April 10, 2012.



LUKE GORHAM '06, and Alissa Pei were married June 2, 2012, in Kansas City, Mo. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.



Several alumni gathered for the wedding of Luke Gorham '06, and Alissa Pei in June: Demetrius Kemp '08, John Fabsits '04, Dustin Racen, Sylvester Brandon '05, Luke, Ian Anderson, Hakim Smith '06, Jeremy Wilder '07, and Brad Dixon '08.

BRUCE GOLL '07, is a juvenile officer for the 43rd Judicial Circuit Court in Missouri.

DARI CONARD '09, joined the Peace Corps in March 2011 and is serving in Radushne, Ukraine. Her service includes teaching English, health and HIV awareness and prevention.

2010s

KAYLA (DUERFELDT) RUSSELL '10, is an assistant compliance officer for Horizon State Bank in Cameron, Mo.

REBECCA WEDDLE '11, and LOGAN KIMBERLING '11, were married May 26, 2012. The couple resides in Columbia, Mo.

In Memory ...

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

WILLIAM S. ALLEN '40, Overland Park, Kan., June 16, 2011.

DONALD L. CLARY, Troy, Kan., March 20, 2012.

KEITH PAUL EVANS, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 2, 2011. Keith attended Missouri Western from 1980-85.

TRALUCIA W. FRANKLIN '73, St. Joseph, Mo., April 13, 2012.

DR. LEO A. GALLOWAY, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 19, 2012. Leo was a biology professor from 1972-80. He described and named a new species of endangered plant known as large fruited sand verbena, and he contributed to a 12-volume reference for botanists, "Flora of North America."

SHARON (TILSON) HURST '90, Savannah, Mo., Feb. 17, 2012.

JAMES DANIEL JONES '71, Lathrop, Mo., May 19, 2012.

RICHARD L. MCCAULEY '72, Stewartville, Mo., April 8, 2012.

CONNIE (EVANS) MOTHERSHEAD '72, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 17, 2012.

JOHN MUEHLENBACHER JC, St. Joseph, Mo., March 21, 2012.

NANCY SPRINGS '95, Dearborn, Mo., March 21, 2012. ■

Former Regent passes away

Barbara Sprong, an active volunteer and leader in the St. Joseph community, died June 26, 2012. She served on the Missouri Western Board of Regents from 1986-91. The Barbara Sprong Leadership Challenge, a program for students which began in 1992 and continues today, is named in her honor.

In the 1970s, Barbara was one of the founders of the Missouri Western Ambassadors, a group which raises funds for scholarships for nontraditional students.

Barbara served on numerous boards and was the founder of many programs in the community aimed at helping youth and women in St. Joseph, many of which are still in operation today. ■

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____ Alum's Birthday _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____

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

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

"Little Shop of Horrors"



Last year's theatre season a success; shows announced for this season

The 2011-12 theatre season, "A Season of Classics," is being called a success, as more than 7,700 people attended the four productions.

"We're very grateful that the campus and the St. Joseph community have been so supportive," said Tee Quillin, assistant professor of theatre and cinema. "We knew that a four-show season was ambitious, but we were also confident that audiences would embrace and appreciate the spectacular talents of our students."

"Romeo and Juliet" played to sold-out audiences over four performances in October, with a total attendance of 1,340. "A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas" drew nearly 3,500 people to 11 performances in December. More than 1,000 people attended the four performances of "Arsenic and Old Lace" in February, with more than 1,800 attending the eight performances of the musical "Little Shop of Horrors" in April.

Dates have already been set for the 2012-13 season, "A Year of the Tony," and five productions are scheduled.

"We're stretching ourselves again next season, with two musicals and what we're calling a 'repertory coupling' of two plays on alternate nights over two weekends," said Dallas Henry, assistant professor of theatre and cinema. "We hope the community will again come out and enjoy what's sure to be a memorable season."

2012-13 shows include:

- Oct. 4-7: "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish. This modern retelling of the Biblical story of Job won the 1959 Tony Award for Best Play.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 8: "Annie," book by Thomas Meeha, music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charmin, based on the Tribune Media Service comic strip "Little Orphan Annie." The story of the spunky Depression-era orphan who wins the heart of billionaire Oliver Warbucks won the 1977 Tony Award for Best Musical.
- Feb. 21-24 and Feb. 28-March 3: "Private Lives," by Noel Coward and "God of Carnage," by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton. "Private Lives" won the 2002 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Play. "God of Carnage," a comedy about grown-ups who meet to discuss the behavior of their children and become increasingly childish themselves, won the 2009 Tony for Best Play.
- April 11-14: "Sweeney Todd," book by Hugh Wheeler, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, based on a version of "Sweeney Todd" by Christopher Bond. This rare instance of a musical thriller, with its tale of culinary crime, won the 1979 Tony Award for Best Musical.

Tickets are available at mwsutix.com, or call the box office at 816-271-4452. ■





Missouri Western State University

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The Kansas City Chiefs drew large crowds at their 2012 training camp at Missouri



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practiced with the Chiefs prior to the two teams' preseason game Aug. 10.

