

Missouri Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University | Fall 2013

Looking back, looking forward:
Robert A. Vartabedian

p.14



"Miss Saigon"

Missouri Western's summer theatre, Western Playhouse, captivated audiences in July with its production of the musical, "Miss Saigon." The show ran six performances to great crowds. Fireworks followed the July 5 performance.



Top: The chorus joins the Engineer (Vi Tran) for the finale of "American Dream;" Chris (Joe Bach) and John (Johnathan Shepherd). Middle: Chris and Kim (Patsita Jiratipayabood) exchange vows; A helicopter lands during the fall of Saigon. Bottom: The Engineer in Bangkok; Chris and Kim.

Scenic design by Joe Gourley, lighting design by Russell Langon and photography by Jason Brown. "Miss Saigon" was directed by Tee Quillin, assistant director of theatre.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This issue is about looking back, and looking forward.

It has been an honor to be your president for the last five years. I have enjoyed meeting so many members of the Griffon family and learning all of the ways that Missouri Western State University has transformed the lives of our students, staff, alumni and community members. There is also much to anticipate as I look forward to the next five years of my presidency.

At the heart of our University are our academic programs. Missouri Western boasts uniformly positive accreditation visits across programs, a rare feat for a University. In fact, several of our accrediting body reviews have been filled with superlatives. Our faculty members are continuing to provide a high-quality academic experience for our students and are preparing them for an ever-changing workforce.

This past year was one of the most successful years in athletics in University history. We won two conference titles in very high-profile sports, football and baseball. These accomplishments are particularly impressive considering the Griffons compete in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, one of the most competitive college conferences in the country. Several of our student athletes have gone on to play in the National Football League and Major League Baseball, which is a strong testament to our athletic programs. At the same time our athletes were reaching new heights on the playing field, they also accomplished one of the most successful academic performances in school history. Watching



the success of our student athletes both on the field and in the classroom has been a highlight of my presidency.

Of particular pride are Missouri Western's burgeoning arts programs. We now have more than 250 members in the Missouri

Western Arts Society and numerous accomplishments, awards and special events in the visual and performing arts. In fact, the tremendous growth in these areas has necessitated the creation of the School of Fine Arts and the hiring of a founding dean, Dr. Bob Willenbrink.

But that's not all. As we look to the next five years, there is much to anticipate.

This November, we will unveil The Walter Cronkite Memorial, a tribute to St. Joseph's own "most trusted man in America," in the Spratt Hall Atrium.

The University is also gearing up for its next capital campaign, which will provide a wonderful opportunity to build, support and elevate Missouri Western. Look for more details to come in an upcoming issue of Missouri Western magazine.

In 2015, we will celebrate our Centennial, a monumental occasion that speaks to the tremendous growth and impact that Missouri Western State University has enjoyed in this region and beyond.

Thank you for the honor of being your president for the past five years. I look forward to working with you in the future as we continue transforming lives.

Robert A. Vartabedian

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

| ON THE COVER |

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, president, with one of Missouri Western's newest sculptures behind him.
Photo by Eric Callow, '97.

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Former President Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy McCarthy passed away in May. Read about her accomplishments as president, and how many fondly remember her.

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The outstanding spring sports seasons coupled with last fall's football season make the 2012-13 sports year one of the most successful in Missouri Western's history. Read all about the outstanding baseball team, MIAA Conference champs.

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Missouri Western's president, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, reflects on his past five years as president and looks ahead to the next five.

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

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

Missouri Western welcomes VP Meyer

Shana Meyer is the new vice president for student affairs at Missouri Western.

"I am excited to join the team at Missouri Western," she said. "The University and the community have been very warm and welcoming."

Meyer had been assistant vice president of student affairs at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan.since August 2006. She also served six years as assistant director of college advancement for student life and director of student life at Kansas State University at Salina. Previously, she was coordinator for academic affairs and residence life coordinator at Kansas State University.

At Fort Hays State, Meyer led the Student Life Cluster, which included student activities, Greek life, student publications, residential life and more.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in English/Journalism and a Master of Science degree in Counselor Education from Emporia State University and is working on her



doctorate in student affairs in higher education from Kansas State University.

"It's exciting to have a hand in developing student affairs and help with students' education outside of the classroom. We have a lot of opportunities to develop more services,"

she said. "College is a good time for students to discover who they are and how they fit in society, and student affairs is really here to foster that discovery."

Meyer said it's been encouraging to see the upgrades to facilities and student spaces on campus. One of the first projects she was involved in was renovating and enlarging the patio area by the Blum Union over the summer. Improvements included more seating, a small stage and sun shades so more students will be encouraged to make use of the area.

Meyer, who began her duties April 1, succeeded Dr. Judy Grimes, who was serving as interim vice president for student affairs. ■

Three new deans

Dr. Kathleen O'Connor was named dean of the University's College of Professional Studies and began her duties July 1.

Dr. O'Connor began at Missouri Western as a nursing instructor in 1980. She became an assistant professor in 1987, then an associate professor and chair of the department of nursing in 1998. As chair, Dr. O'Connor led the development of Missouri Western's Master of Science in Nursing: Health Care Leadership degree. She also helped create a partnership with Metropolitan Community College for an RN-to-BSN program at MCC's Penn Valley campus.

She is a past recipient of the Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award and the University's Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award.

The College of Professional Studies includes the departments of criminal justice, legal studies and social work; education; engineering technology; health, physical education and recreation; military science; and nursing and allied health.

This past July, Dr. Bob Willenbrink and Dr. Michael Lane were hired as deans and joined Missouri Western in August. Dr. Willenbrink is the founding dean of the School of Fine Arts and Dr. Lane is the dean of the Craig School of Business. More information on them will follow in the Winter 2014 issue. ■

Breakfast with the Chiefs

Almost 400 fans attended Breakfast with the Chiefs on campus in May. Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid, General Manager John Dorsey and President Mark Donovan had scheduled a visit on May 17 to tour the facilities for their summer training camp, and they agreed to host a 45-minute question and answer session for the community before the tour.



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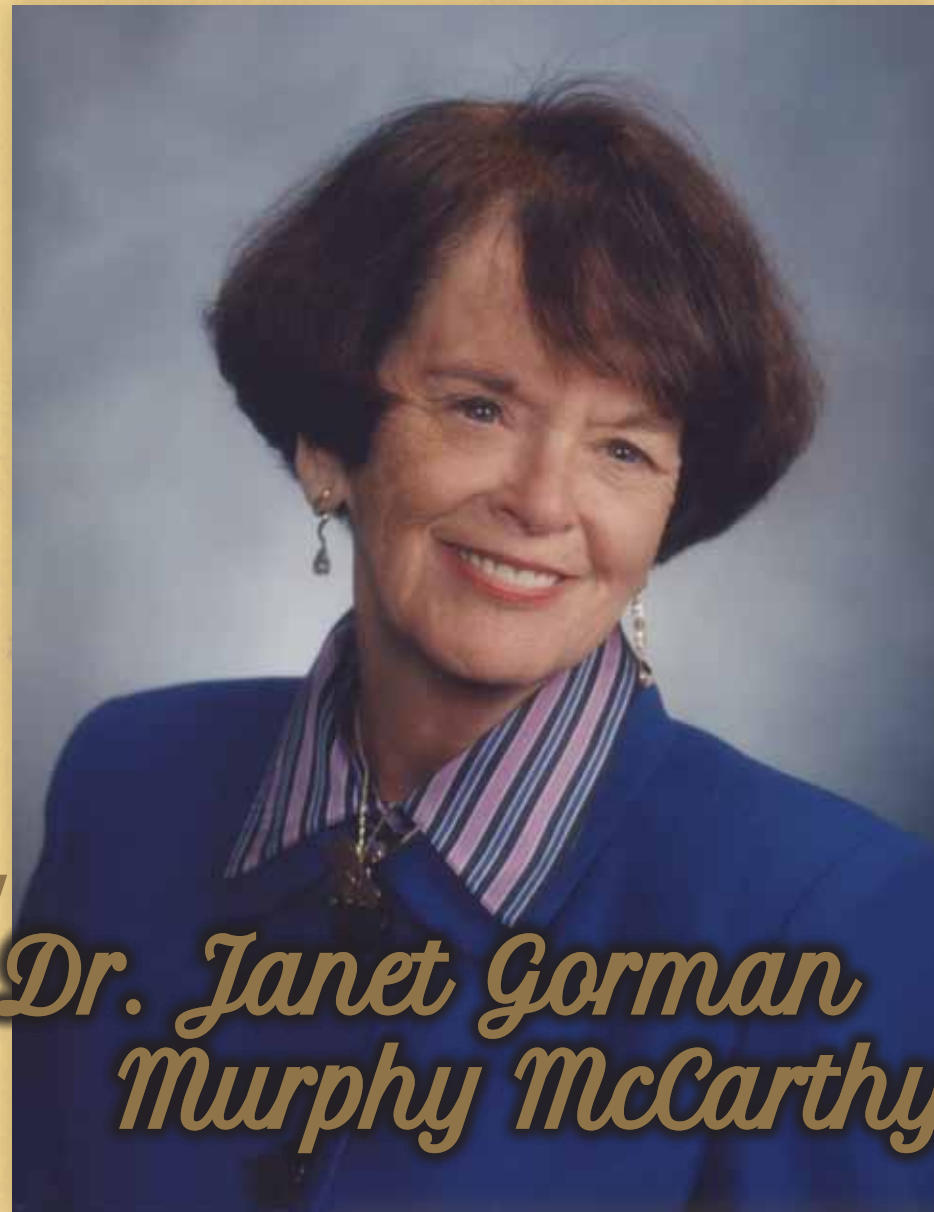


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Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy McCarthy, 76, president of Missouri Western from 1983 to 2000, died May 15, 2013.

“Dr. McCarthy will be sadly missed by the entire Missouri Western family,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s current president. “She was a great leader and has left a lasting legacy here.”

Dr. McCarthy became Missouri Western’s president on July 1, 1983, the first woman to lead a four-year university in the state. She had previously served as acting chancellor of the Massachusetts State College System and president of Lyndon State College in Lyndonville, Vt.



Remembering Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy McCarthy

“She was from the east coast, and she spoke faster than I could listen,” said her friend, Bill Hurley. He was president of the Board of Regents at the time Dr. McCarthy retired, and he spoke at her campus memorial service in June.

“She had a rough start, but she won people over with her charm,” said Dan Boulware, who had also served as Board president during her tenure. “She had to earn her respect in Jefferson City, and she was effective and powerful.”

“As a student, I always knew Dr. Murphy fought the good fight for us,” Melody (Moss) Smith ’87 said. “She was a powerful force with legislators. Our community is better because she came to St. Joseph.”

Obie Austin ’95 said he met Dr. McCarthy his first day of class in a College 101 course that she was teaching. “I didn’t know then how much she would change my life. She made me realize that my struggle was not my

destination,” said Austin, who described himself as an inner city kid living in a drug house. “She made me know that once I succeeded, I had to turn around and do that for someone else. She is truly my champion.”

Dr. McCarthy’s 17 years at Missouri Western saw a significant expansion of the University campus, including the construction of Spratt Hall, Murphy Hall, Vaselakos and Leaverton residence



halls, the Baker Family Fitness Center and the Department of Conservation headquarters, as well as the Glenn E.



Left, below: Dr. Murphy McCarthy with Gov. Mel Carnahan signing the Access Plus funding bill. Above: The campus experienced tremendous expansion when Dr. Murphy McCarthy was president.

“As a student, I always knew Dr. Murphy fought the good fight for us. She was a powerful force with legislators. Our community is better because she came to St. Joseph.”

- Melody (Moss) Smith ’87

Marion Memorial Clock Tower. Every classroom on campus was also made technologically “smart” with up-to-date presentation technology during her tenure. Three buildings – Potter Hall, the Hearn Center and the Blum Student Union – received significant expansions.



Under her leadership, Missouri Western established its four-year nursing program, the physical therapist assistant program, the health information management program, the honors program and the Law Enforcement Academy. She spearheaded the creation of programs such as the Barbara Sprong Leadership Challenge, the R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues and Access Plus, a program to better serve under-prepared students which brought Missouri Western three national awards.

“I loved this woman,” said Joyce McMillian, an employee in admissions. “She was approachable. We saw her in our office at least once a week and she did not come to talk about our jobs or how things were going regarding Missouri Western. She came to get to know us and she remembered things you told her because she would mention them weeks, even months later. She was a class act and I still miss her.”

When she was president, Dr. McCarthy established the Edwin D. Gorman Public Service Internship in memory of her father, and in December 2012, she helped create the R. Dan Boulware Scholarship Fund with a lead gift.

She retired in South Dennis, Mass., and in 2001, she married Dr. James McCarthy, who had served as executive vice president at Missouri Western for 18 years. He died in 2010.

During her retirement years, Dr. Janet McCarthy served as the chair of the UMass Cape Cod Alumni Scholarship Fund and enjoyed travel and time spent with friends and family. She is survived by a sister-in-law, nieces and nephews and their spouses.

“Many of us loved her and truly felt that she was our friend,” McMillian said. “We have the highest respect for her, for her position, and the work she did for our college. We truly felt like a family.”

An endowed scholarship has been established in memory of Dr. McCarthy – the Dr. Janet Murphy McCarthy Memorial Scholarship. Contributions to that scholarship or to the Edwin D. Gorman Public Service Internship fund can be sent to Missouri Western State University Foundation, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507. ■

Campus Kudos

- **Kay Dickerson**, coordinator of the Intensive English program, received the 2013 Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence in Higher Education.
- **Debbi Wright**, instructor of chemistry, and **Gwen Funk**, with the St. Joseph School District GATE program, received the Missouri Environmental Education Association's 2012 Community-Based Environmental Education Service Award. Wright and Funk collaborated to offer environmental education investigations to elementary school students.
- Graphic design student **Jeremy Todd** received a Silver Addy at the 2013 Kansas City American Advertising Federation's awards ceremony for his multi-piece branding and packaging product.
The competition is considered one of the largest regional Addy competitions in the country.
- A short film written and directed by students in 2010, "It's Been a Pleasure," was selected for screening at the Kansas City Film Festival in the Heartland Narrative Shorts Category. The film festival featured more than 100 local, regional, national and international films.
Those who were involved in the production include **Shaun Allison, Amber Anaya, Misty Ballew, Alesha Bird '11, Mike Blevins '12, Steve Catron, Brian Duskey, Kelsey Houser, Michael Nielson '11 and Matt Wright '12.**
- Music students **Kaitlyn Christian, Adrienne Collins** and **Sarah Waters** were three of only six musicians selected from the Kansas City region as semi-finalists in a national vocal competition of Classical Singer magazine.
- For the sixth year in a row, Missouri Western was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Students logged approximately 100,000 hours of service last year.
- The **Organization of Student Social Workers** earned the 2013 Excellence in Philanthropy Award from the Missouri Western Foundation. In the 2012-13 academic year, OSSW raised money, donated supplies or volunteered time to the Salvation Army, Suicide Awareness Week, Green Dot Week to prevent violence, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Second Harvest Community Food Bank, Christmas cards for military troops, Adopt-A-Family, the Boy Scouts, Love 146 (an organization to end human trafficking), Denim Day to raise awareness about sexual assault, Stand Against Racism, the March of Dimes and Adopt-A-Highway. The group also created a fundraising walk called Follow Me Homeless that raised money to help homeless shelters meet transportation needs.
- A team of four students, **Samantha Hudson, Stephen Mohn, Ryan Parris** and **Robert Woods**, won first place at the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition in Anaheim, Calif. ■

Congratulations and thank you to Missouri Western 2012-13 retirees:

Cheryl Baldwin, Nursing
Dr. Barb Eddins, Education
Karen Elifrits, President's Office
Rick Gilmore, Accounting Services
Jim Hoffman, Admissions
Dr. Larry Lawson, Craig School of Business
Sandy Rogers, Student Affairs

Dr. Ken Rosenauer, English, Foreign Languages and Journalism
Bobby Sollars, Physical Plant
Terry Smith, Admissions
Tom Smith, Athletics
Myron Unzicker, Athletics & Health, Physical Education and Recreation ■



Jeremy Todd's award-winning graphic designs

Grant expands Business School's entrepreneurship program

A \$207,000 grant from a Kansas City organization will help expand the entrepreneurship program in Missouri Western's Craig School of Business. The grant from the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City – Kansas City (ICIC) will create a micro-lending fund for Missouri Western students who want to open franchises in Kansas City's urban core. The area includes approximately 50 square miles, and the University will partner with national and regional franchises.

Students from academic areas across campus, not just CSB majors, will be eligible to apply for the loans, said Rick Zimmer, instructor of business, who helped write the grant proposal.

"This grant is significant because the ICIC board has acknowledged the quality and sustainability of our entrepreneurship program."

- Carol Roever, Interim Dean of the Craig School of Business

"This grant is significant because the ICIC board has acknowledged the quality and sustainability of our entrepreneurship program," said Carol Roever, who was interim dean of the CSB.

Missouri Western also plans to leverage the grant with matching funds from donors, Zimmer said.

He noted that the grant will allow Missouri Western's entrepreneurship program to expand beyond its current success.

That success includes its partnership with Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Steve Craig, founder and president of Craig Realty Group and Missouri Western benefactor. Through that program,

CSB alumni are eligible to compete to own and operate RMCF stores, and currently, 14 alumni operate RMCF or Aspen Leaf Yogurt (also owned by RMCF) stores in 10 states. Additionally, in May, one CSB alumnus was awarded a Fresca's Mexican Grill in Woodburn, Ore., which was owned by Craig.

The grant also fits into the CSB's plans for the development of a Center for Entrepreneurship and an entrepreneurship minor. The minor is slated to be offered starting in spring 2014.

ICIC is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1994 by Harvard Business Professor Michael E. Porter. The Kansas City affiliation began in 1997, and, in 2008, it began working with entrepreneurial and management programs at colleges and universities. The board recently dissolved the ICIC-KC entity and approved granting the remaining assets of approximately \$525,000.

ICIC-KC received a number of proposals and narrowed the list to three, which included Missouri Western. Administrators from the University, along with two alumni who own RMCF stores, gave a presentation to the grant committee. The funds were divided among two of the finalists.

Zimmer said that many students today are looking at entrepreneurship as a viable career, and Missouri Western will now be able give them more assistance and opportunities. ■

Entrepreneur winners

The latest winners in the entrepreneurship competition in the Craig School of Business include Scott Lassen '10, new owner of Fresca's Mexican Grill in Woodburn, Ore., LaTricia Adkins '11, new owner of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Fresno, Calif., and Leslie Patton '08, new owner of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, Tustin, Calif.



Student debuts in professional opera

Music major Donovan Jones spent his summer performing professional opera with Opera in the Ozarks at Inspiration Point, Eureka Springs, Ark.

Jones, a sophomore vocal performance major, said his career goal is to be a professional opera singer, and this was the first step toward that goal.

Opera in the Ozarks, in its 63rd season, is an eight-week training program for young artists and is affiliated with the National Federation of Music Clubs. Jones auditioned last December in Lawrence, Kan., one of several audition sites across the country.

Jones said he was excited and surprised when he was chosen for the program and was looking forward to all he would learn.

The summer 2013 lineup included Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" (Elixir of Love) and Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance."

As a freshman, Jones placed first in a four-state vocal competition and he recently earned third place in the National Association Teachers of Singing competition in the lower (freshman and sophomore) university men's division. Dr. Susan Carter, associate professor of music, is his voice instructor.

This fall, Jones will be cast in the University's production of the opera, "The Magic Flute."

"I love music. I understand it in a way most people don't," he said. "And I am so comfortable when I am performing." ■

Award recipients honored

Congratulations to the following award recipients honored at the spring employee awards ceremony:

Missouri Western Foundation James V. Mehl Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship

Dr. Catherine Kendig, Philosophy

Missouri Western Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Susan Carter, Music

Dr. Beverly Payne,

Craig School of Business

Dr. Bill Russell, Health, Physical

Education and Recreation

Presidential Citation Awards

Service to Western Students

Kristen Neeley, Admissions

Service to Campus Colleagues

Carol Criss, Music

Service to the University

Tom Williamson,

Craig School of Business

James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award, Staff

Jen Trotter, Athletics

James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Award, Faculty

Dr. Cary Chevalier, Biology ■



Foundation Appreciation Reception

Several students displayed their work or research posters at the annual Foundation Appreciation Reception in April. Pictured are graphic design students Shelby Hughes '13, and Emily Stojevich-Swenson '13. Both had their work accepted into the National Student Show and Conference, sponsored by the Dallas Society of Visual Communications in Texas. Their designs were selected from more than 1,200 entries across the country. Hughes' poster was one of only nine selected and Stojevich-Swenson's package was one of only 11.

University computer science teams top national competition

Two teams of computer science students were selected to present their web application projects at a national collegiate conference last spring. They were two of only nine teams selected from colleges and universities across the country, and the Missouri Western students brought home first and second place.

The first-place team developed an application for the Missouri Academy of Science and the second-place team developed one for the Boy Scouts of America to use for its national Jamboree.

"I was extremely proud of both of our teams," said Luke Mason, president of the Association of Information Technology Professionals student group. "It was very cool to bring home first and second place."

Instructor Connie Hecker said the web application project spanned two semesters, and students submitted their progress to the competition site several times throughout the period. She said the competition allows the students to take what they are learning from the textbook and apply it to their project,

and by working for real clients, the students also hone a lot of related skills, such as writing, communicating and problem solving.

Jessica Pasley, a member of the first-place team, agreed. "Everything we did in the class, I could totally relate to my work. It gave me phenomenal experience."

Student Jeff Martin, who was on the BSA project, said it felt pretty good to win first and second, considering some of the large schools they were up against. A total of 21 teams competed in the web application development competition.

Martin said he liked that their projects were for actual clients because they had to work closely with the clients and keep adapting their web application to meet their needs. "It goes beyond the class grade or the competition. These people will actually use the application."

Team members for the first-place award included Meagan Gates, Platte City, Mo.; Jason Mullin, Kearney, Mo.; Zac Parks, Braymer, Mo.; Jessica Pasley, Cameron, Mo.; and Xubo Zhao, St. Joseph, Mo. Those earning second

place were Anna Edwards, St. Joseph, Mo.; Richard Fletcher, Smithville, Mo.; and Jeff Martin, Savannah, Mo.

The Missouri Academy of Science project was done at the request of Dr. Michael Ottinger, chair of the department of computer science, math and physics. The Boy Scout project came about after a judge from last year's conference requested Missouri Western students' help.

The students also won first place for their casual t-shirt design, second place for their professional t-shirt design, and third place for their poster design.

The conference was held in St. Louis this year, and Missouri Western was one of the host schools. "As the conference start approached, the conference chair relied more and more on Missouri Western, and we became the standard 'go to' team when problems came up at the conference," Hecker said. Fifteen students and five faculty members attended.

The AITP students have done well at the conference in previous years, too. Last year, four Missouri Western teams were selected to present their web application projects at the conference out of eight in the nation, and the students earned a second place and honorable mentions. In 2008 and 2009, students earned first place for the web application projects. ■



Computer science students brought home first and second place in web application development at a national collegiate competition.

SPRING SPORTS'

The outstanding spring sports seasons coupled with last fall's football season make

Griffon baseball's record-breaking season

It was a historic run for the 2013 Griffon baseball team. After dropping three out of four in the opening series of the season at Arkansas Tech, the Griffons won 31 of their next 33 games and finished the season 40-12. That set a new school record for wins in a season, and the team nabbed the University's first-ever MIAA regular season championship for baseball. The Griffons also qualified for their second NCAA Division II baseball championship and were the Central Region's fourth seed in Mankato, Minn.

While the Griffons were solid in all phases of the game, the major story of the season was offense. The team scored 10 runs or more 19 times and led the MIAA in eight of 11 offensive categories.

With the historic season came several individual accolades, as 10 Griffons earned All-MIAA honors. Shortstop Michael Schulze was named the MIAA Player of the Year as he hit .439, a new school single season record. Pitcher Brandon Simmons, who during the season became the MIAA's All-Time Career Wins Leader (35),



Shortstop Michael Schultze garnered a number of conference and national awards for his 2013 season and was selected in the MLB draft.

was named the MIAA Pitcher of the Year as he finished with an 11-1 record and a 2.91 ERA. Joining Schulze and Simmons on the first team were third baseman Grant Fink, who hit .397 and set the school single season home run record with 14, second baseman

Jimmy Smelcer and outfielder Bubba Dotson. Outfielder Kyle Simpson was named to the second team while relief pitcher Logan Hollingsworth, catcher Jake Schrader, first baseman Spencer Shockley and utility player Nate Ramler were all named Honorable Mention.

For the Record Book – 2013 Griffon Baseball Team

- MIAA Conference Champions in regular season
- MIAA Coach of the Year – Coach Buzz Verduzco
- MIAA Player of the Year – Michael Schultze
- MIAA Pitcher of the Year – Brandon Simmons
- National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and Daktronics National Player of the Year – Michael Schultze
- First Team All-American by Daktronics, the American Baseball Coaches Association and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association – Michael Schultze
- Record wins in a season – 40
- Five players named to MIAA First Team – Michael Schultze, Brandon Simmons, Grant Fink, Jimmy Smelcer, Bubba Dotson
- School records broken – 7 individual, 8 team

GREAT SEASONS

the 2012-13 sports year one of the most successful in Missouri Western's history

Schulze posted arguably the best season ever in Griffon baseball history, and several national publications rewarded him for his efforts. He was named a First Team All-American by Daktronics, the American Baseball Coaches Association and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. The NCBWA and Daktronics named Schulze their National Player of the Year.

Other Griffon baseball players earning All-American Honors included Fink, Dotson, Simmons and Simpson.

Head Coach Buzz Verduzco, who finished his 14th season with the Griffons, was named the MIAA Coach

of the Year. Verduzco also reached a milestone during the season, winning his 400th career game in a 9-3 victory over Central Oklahoma at the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. on May 9.

The Major League Baseball draft was held in early June, and for only the second time in school history, the Griffons had two players selected in the same year. Schulze was selected in the 19th round by the St. Louis Cardinals and Fink was taken in round 23 by the Cleveland Indians. The last time two were selected was in 1973 when pitcher Greg Kastner '78 and catcher Robert Verbeck '74 were picked. ■

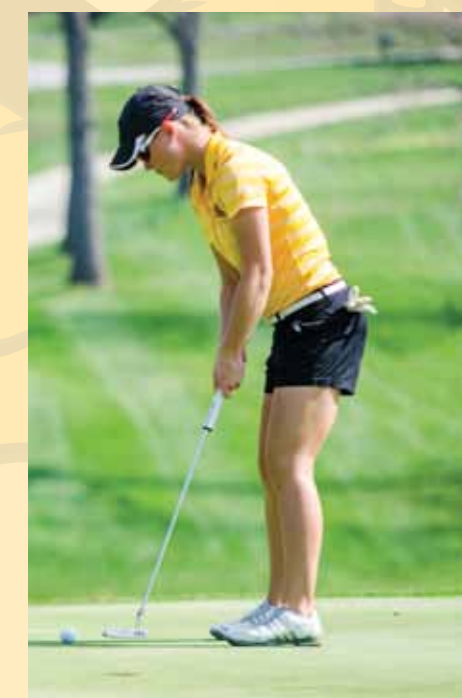


Third baseman Grant Fink broke Missouri Western's single season homerun record in 2013 and was selected in the MLB draft.



GRIFFON GEAR ON FRIDAYS

Wear your Griffon gear every Friday during the football season, tweet us your best picture or post it on Facebook and win a prize!



Bird makes women's golf history

Senior golfer Natalie Bird closed out her outstanding career as the first Griffon women's golfer to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. She competed in the Central Regional in May at the St. Joseph Country Club. Bird finished tied for 23rd in the 48-player field. She was also named to the All-MIAA team for the fourth consecutive season.

Women's golf coach Cathy Habermehl retired after seven seasons. ■

Natalie Bird qualified for the NCAA Tournament, a Missouri Western women's golf first.

Brett Weiberg: New men's basketball head coach

Brett Weiberg is the new men's basketball head coach. Weiberg comes to Missouri Western from Northern Oklahoma College, where he has been the head coach since 2006. He replaced Hall of Fame coach Tom Smith, who retired at the end of the 2012-13 season after 25 years at Missouri Western.



"I could not be more excited to welcome Brett and his family to Missouri Western and the St. Joseph community," said Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics. "Brett was born to coach and has been around it all of his life, and it shows with his ability to recruit and motivate high quality student athletes."

The 38-year-old, who has compiled 125 career victories in seven seasons, led Northern Oklahoma, a two-year college, to a 27-4 overall record and the conference regular-season championship last season.

"I knew Missouri Western was a place of great success," Weiberg said. "Coach Smith did an excellent job building a program and winning a lot of games."

Weiberg said while he enjoyed coaching at the junior college level, he is excited to have the opportunity now to work with a player for four years instead of two. "I'm going to get out there and coach hard and be passionate, and I hope that passion crosses over to players and fans."

He recruited a mix of junior college and high school players for the coming season with one goal in mind – to recruit the best he could to fit the coaching staff

and represent Missouri Western well. He said along with skill, he looks for players who demonstrate high character and who want to earn a degree.

Missouri Western's new coach played two years for his father at Northern Oklahoma College before transferring to Division I Sam Houston State University.

He began his coaching career in 1998 as an assistant at Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Texas, followed

by stints at NAIA Wayland Baptist University and Division I University of Texas-San Antonio. He then spent five years as an assistant at Northern Oklahoma College before becoming the head coach in 2006, succeeding his father.

Weiberg was chosen from a pool of more than 200 applicants in a search process that began in mid-January. He and his wife, Kristy, have three children. ■

Softball's stellar season

The softball team had another solid season, winning 38 games and finishing with a 20-8 record in the MIAA. Outfielder Maegan Roemmich concluded an outstanding four-year career with her best season. She hit .404, which led the team, hit 11 home runs and drove in 44.

Senior Keri Lorbert closed her career hitting .333 with 14 home runs. Lorbert also became the school's career home run leader (39) in a 9-0 victory at Northeastern State on April 28. Junior pitcher Jackie Bishop continued her dominance in the pitching circle. She posted another 20-win season, going 21-8 overall with an ERA of 1.78. She broke three career records during the season: all-time leader in wins with 70, most strikeouts in a career with 686,

and complete games with 74.

Head Coach Jen Trotter won her 400th game with a 3-1 victory over Pittsburg State on March 30. She now holds a career record of 415-257 in 12 seasons at the helm.

For their efforts, seven Griffons earned All-MIAA honors. Roemmich and Bishop were named to the first team, and third baseman Sarah Elliott, outfielder Kendall Sorensen, catcher Keri Lorbert, second baseman Michelle Stevenson and first baseman Tiffany Gillaspay were Honorable Mention selections.

Roemmich and Bishop were also named All-Region selections by two different outlets and Roemmich was named an Honorable Mention All-American by Daktronics. ■



Sports Shorts

NFL opportunities

In April, the National Football League draft weekend was highly anticipated by many at the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex as defensive end **David Bass** and running back **Michael Hill** were picked to continue their careers in the NFL. Bass was selected in the seventh round by the Oakland Raiders and Hill was signed as a rookie free agent by the San Diego Chargers. Bass became the fourth Griffon to be selected in the NFL Draft, joining current Rams placekicker Greg Zuerlein, running back John Fisher and lineman Vince Thomson '86. ■

Smith inducted into MIAA Hall of Fame

Former men's basketball coach Tom Smith was one of 10 inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame in June, the first Griffon to be inducted to the MIAA Hall of Fame.

Smith is the winningest coach in MIAA history with 618 career wins. In his career, he coached 51 All-MIAA selections, six All-Region/District picks and three NCAA All-Americans. He has coached Missouri Western to 12 20-win seasons and has 13 total in his career.

He won five regular-season MIAA Championships and four MIAA postseason tournament titles. He has been named the MIAA Coach of the Year three times in his career. He also coached at University of Central Missouri from 1975-80, posting an 86-46 overall record. ■



Athletic Honors

Football player Michael Hill was named Male Student Athlete of the Year and women's golfer Natalie Bird was named Female Student Athlete of the Year at the 14th annual Missouri Western/St. Joseph News-Press Student Athlete Honors Banquet in April. Also, a new award was created this year, named after long-time men's basketball coach Tom Smith, who retired at the end of the season. The Tom Smith Career Achievement Award recognizes senior student athletes who achieved excellence throughout their careers. Six received the inaugural award: Macon Allan, David Bass, Natalie Bird, Michael Hill, Maegan Roemmich and Brandon Simmons.

2013 Athletics Hall of Fame class announced

The Athletics Hall of Fame committee selected the class of 2013: **Brad Nurski '01, men's golf; Pierre Thomas '04, football; Brooks Barkley '03, baseball; Shelley Lowery, volleyball; Lamont Turner, basketball; and the 1971 Griffon baseball team.**

This year's Wendy's Hall of Fame Weekend is set for Sept. 27-28. A reception that is free and open to the community will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27 at the Stoney Creek Inn. The induction ceremony brunch will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28 in the Fulkerson Center on campus. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by calling Athletics at (816) 271-4481. The Hall of Fame ring ceremony will be held at halftime of the 6 p.m. football game against Fort Hays State in Spratt Memorial Stadium. ■

Tailgate with us this fall!

The defending MIAA Champion football team has six exciting regular season home games on the calendar this fall. Prior to each game, we invite you to come early and tailgate. Bring your own tailgate or join in on one of the many organized tailgates in Lot H in front of the Baker Fitness Center. Best tailgate each game wins a \$25 Hy-Vee gift card and will be featured on the Griffon Sports Network's radio pregame show and the following week's episode of Griffon Sports Insider. New this year, for each home game, we'll award another \$25 Hy-Vee gift card for the week's best tailgate recipe selected at our Twitter handle @gogriffons or our Facebook fan page: Missouri Western Griffon Athletics. ■

Looking back, looking forward: Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian



It's hard to not get excited about Missouri Western and what's happening on campus when you talk to President Robert Vartabedian. His enthusiasm for the University's accomplishments and its future is contagious.

At the December 2012 Board of Governors meeting, the board approved a five-year contract extension through June 30, 2018 for the president, so we recently sat down with him to reflect on his first five years at Missouri Western and look forward to the next five.

Looking Back

Since he began his tenure at Missouri Western in 2008, the Remington-Agenstein halls renovation and construction project was completed, and the Griffon Indoor Sports Complex, the Spring Sports Complex and Griffon Hall were built.

The campus also gained new building signs, fountains for three campus ponds, almost 200 evergreen trees, a permanent University sign at the Faraon Street entrance and several sculptures. Additionally, the Kansas City Chiefs began holding their summer training camp on campus in 2010.

When you ask Dr. Vartabedian what makes him most proud about the University, make sure you have a lot of time, because his answer won't be short.

One of the first items on his list is the student and faculty achievements in several academic departments and

the high quality of Missouri Western's academic programs.

Dr. Vartabedian noted that two recent program accreditation visits garnered overwhelmingly positive comments. In fact, in the last five years, all programs that were up for re-accreditation have received uniformly positive accreditation outcomes.

The partnership with Steve Craig, where graduating seniors and alumni have the opportunity to own and operate a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory or Aspen Leaf Yogurt store, as well as other franchises, is also a source of pride, especially because it is such a unique program and because of its national significance. The program began in 2009 and currently, Craig School of Business graduates own and operate 15 franchises in 10 states.

"This university transforms lives, and nowhere is that more direct than in its entrepreneurship initiative," Dr. Vartabedian said.

Left, Dr. Vartabedian poses with his son, Rob, and grandson, Bobby, when they visited campus recently.



The president is also proud of the athletics programs. This past academic year brought two conference championships in football and baseball, two coaches being named Conference Coach of the Year and several shattered school and conference records, along with a very successful softball season. Additionally, he proudly noted that the athletes' average GPA was one of the highest on record this past year.

Since his arrival on campus, Dr. Vartabedian has made the visual and performing arts programs one of his focuses. In the past five years, the visual arts have flourished, an Arts Society was founded in 2011 and has more than 250 members, an opera program was formed, a dance minor was created, and there are now two musicals performed each academic year.

This past July, Missouri Western's summer theatre, Western Playhouse, performed the musical, "Miss Saigon," which Dr. Vartabedian called a pivotal

moment in the arts for Missouri Western and the region.

"We are at the point where we can pull off something like this successfully," he said of the production. "I am very excited."

Because of his arts focus, one of Dr. Vartabedian's goals was to create a School of Fine Arts with its own dean, and that has also come to fruition. The school has 25 full-time faculty members and approximately 500 students. It offers a range of undergraduate programs in art, music, theatre, cinema and dance, and a Master of Applied Arts program in Digital Arts.

Dr. Bob Willenbrink was hired as the founding dean of the School of Fine Arts and began his duties last month.

Another one of Dr. Vartabedian's projects – the Walter Cronkite Memorial to honor and remember St. Joseph-born and longtime CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite – is another point of pride. The permanent memorial, which will be in the Spratt Hall atrium, will feature both

*Looking back, looking forward:
Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian*

personal and professional highlights of Cronkite's life and will be dedicated Nov. 4, Cronkite's date of birth. Dr. Vartabedian believes it has potential for national and international recognition for Missouri Western.

"He was one of the most widely respected figures in the 20th century and early in the 21st century and was known as the 'most trusted man in America,'" Dr. Vartabedian said of Cronkite. "As I look to the future, the implications for the University and the region are huge."

Looking Forward

And looking to the future, Dr. Vartabedian said he plans to continue building on the success of his initiatives in his first five years.

One initiative he started was to increase the number of international students on campus. Toward this goal, an international student office was created and an international student services director was hired shortly after Dr. Vartabedian arrived. In the fall of 2008, there were just seven international students, but by spring 2013, there were 64. The president wants to continue to increase recruitment efforts for international students in the future.

Dr. Vartabedian also plans to continue to grow the number of online courses

continued next page



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the visual arts have flourished, an Arts Society was founded in 2011 and has more than 250 members, an opera program was formed, a dance minor was created, and there are now two musicals performed each academic year.

continued from pg. 15

offered at Missouri Western. When he arrived, there were 29 online courses, and he coordinated several initiatives that increased the number today to more than 200.

The president is also excited about an upcoming capital campaign for the University. Although the priorities have not been fully determined, arts and athletics facilities will be a major focus. "Missouri Western's arts programs are flourishing, and I believe we are at a critical juncture in our history," Dr. Vartabedian said.

"The University has always had great community support throughout its history, and I am confident that the community and region will support the goals of the next capital campaign."

Along with the five-year contract extension, the Board of Governors also approved a salary increase for the president at its December 2012 meeting. He and his wife, Laurel, agreed to give the net pay adjustment back to the University for the next three years to be used for special projects.

"I'm extremely grateful to the Board of Governors for their generosity and I certainly recognize that the position should have a more competitive salary," Dr. Vartabedian said about the salary increase. "But I'm not comfortable personally gaining during these times of financial difficulties."

One possible use of the funds, Dr. Vartabedian said, is the development of a parliamentary debate program, which would offer scholarships to debaters. "This would benefit the University for years to come; I am very excited about it," he said. Along with current students, he is interested in recruiting debate students from DEBATE-Kansas City, an Urban Debate League in the inner city. Dr. Vartabedian noted that he started his career as a debate coach.

The president said he is also looking forward to the University's centennial celebration, "100 Years of Transforming Lives," in 2015. An entire year of events is being planned.

"We are building upon the momentum of all the things that



were accomplished in the past five years as we look forward to the next five years," Dr. Vartabedian said. "Missouri Western is an exciting place to be." ■



— WALTER — CRONKITE MEMORIAL

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Please join us for the dedication of the WALTER CRONKITE MEMORIAL

10:30 a.m. Dedication and Unveiling
11:30 a.m. Luncheon featuring keynote
by Kay Cronkite Barnes
1-6 p.m. Open House



Internationalization An American Story Arts

About 15 years ago, Missouri Western's president, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, and his wife, Laurel, stopped at a visitors center in Trinidad, Colo., where a display caught their attention. It told the story of a 1913-14 immigrant coal miners' strike in the area that culminated in what has become known as the Ludlow Massacre. Intrigued by that story, Dr. Laurel Vartabedian wrote the book and lyrics for the folk opera "American Story."

Her work, which had previously been staged in Colorado, Texas and New York, was performed by Missouri Western students on campus in April and in Trinidad in May. The cast of 10 adults included students in Dr. Susan Carter's opera class.

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, was the director, and it was the first time he had directed at Missouri Western. "The students were delightful and very talented," Dr. Robert Vartabedian said. "They rose to the occasion and I was very happy with the outcome. I have missed working with students on projects like this."

"American Story" is about an Irish immigrant, Mary Thomas, and her life-altering experience of the Ludlow Massacre April 20, 1914. Twenty people, including two women and 11 children, were killed during a Colorado militia raid on a tent colony of coal miners and their families.

"It was very, very moving, especially in Trinidad, where the history was well known and real to the audience," said Sarah Waters, who played labor activist Mother Jones. "People were crying a lot." She said audience members spoke to the cast for almost an hour after their Colorado performance, and they met a lot of relatives of the miners and those who were killed. "Most said, 'We're so glad you brought this to life.'"

While in Colorado, the students visited the Denver Center for Performing Arts and the site of the Ludlow Massacre in Ludlow, Colo. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2009. "It meant a lot to the students because they had met some of the descendants," Dr. Laurel Vartabedian said. "It was very touching."

The students have been invited to perform "American Story" in Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Denver in 2014 as part of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre.

"The students said they felt like they were a part of history, part of something bigger than

themselves," Dr. Laurel Vartabedian said of the Colorado performance and trip.

"It was a wonderful experience. I couldn't have been prouder of the students." ■



Right, Missouri Western students perform "American Story." Page 16 above left, Dr. Vartabedian visits with LaTricia Adkins '11, who was awarded a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Fresno, Calif., Dr. Vartabedian's hometown. Left, Dr. Vartabedian poses with international students.



New option for graduate students

A new option is available for those seeking to enhance their careers and their education credentials. A graduate-level program, the Certificate in Professional Skills, was approved for Missouri Western in December 2012.

Several of Missouri Western's graduate programs are professional master's degrees that contain a business component, and the new certificate features six of those courses for 18 credit hours. The subjects include management, marketing, mathematics and statistics, economics, and a capstone course that pulls all the courses together, according to Dr. Ben Caldwell, dean of graduate studies.

Dr. Caldwell noted that in some disciplines, students who earn bachelor's degrees have not taken any business courses, and this certificate will give them a background in business. "This will complement what they already have and augment their skill set." He said the courses are "very applied courses," where students use problems from a variety of disciplines and work in multi-disciplinary teams.

Additionally, anyone who earns this certificate may continue in several of Missouri Western's master's programs that have the business courses, and they are already halfway to their master's degree.

"This certificate will bolster a resumé, and give students an advantage in their job searches," Dr. Caldwell said. ■

A focus on peace and conflict studies

Professors from three disciplines across campus collaborated recently to develop a minor in peace and conflict studies. This fall, Missouri Western began offering the minor, thanks to the efforts of Joanne Katz, professor of legal studies; Dr. David Kratz Mathies, assistant professor of philosophy; and Dr. Ed Taylor, assistant professor of political science.

"This is a real benefit to our students because we all bring in different perspectives," Dr. Taylor said. Dr. Kratz Mathies noted that several religions focus on peace activism, Katz has been involved in restorative justice programs, and Dr. Taylor, whose dissertation focus was conflict studies in Northern Ireland, brings the perspective of how governments can solve conflicts without violence.

Dr. Taylor said in his discipline of international relations, his college

courses focused a lot on war, but not on how to stop wars and the aftermath of war. As an undergraduate and graduate student, he wanted to take courses that focused on nonviolent resolutions, but he couldn't find any. "I am happy that we will expose Missouri Western students to this."

The courses in the minor, said Dr. Kratz Mathies, cover the entire spectrum of conflict resolution from interpersonal to international relationships. Classes will discuss the causes of conflict between people and the mechanisms for resolution.

"When David suggested this, it was fabulous," Katz said of the minor. "I've been trying to say this is important for a long time."

"This brings a different set of skills that students can take to any job," Dr. Taylor said. "It's very exciting." ■



Arts Society Dinner

Merry and Tim Burtner are pictured at the Missouri Western Arts Society Dinner that was held at the University president's home this spring. Deborah Sandler, recently appointed general director of the Kansas City Lyric Opera, was the special guest. She had spoken to students earlier on campus.

Convocation to feature historian Doris Kearns Goodwin

Noted historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, whose recent book on Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet inspired the critically acclaimed movie "Lincoln," will be the featured speaker at the R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the M.O. Looney Complex arena. The Convocation is free and open to the community. Goodwin's Convocation speech is titled "Team of Rivals: The Leadership Lessons from Abraham Lincoln."

"Doris Kearns Goodwin is a gifted storyteller who vividly brings the past to life, and I know our students, faculty, staff and the community will be delighted by her presentation," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president.

Following her presentation, Goodwin will be the guest of honor at a luncheon in the Fulkerson Center.

Goodwin is the author of several books and has written for leading national publications. She appears regularly on network television programs and was an on-air consultant for PBS documentaries on Lyndon B. Johnson, the Kennedy family and Franklin Roosevelt, as well as Ken Burns' "The History of Baseball." She was the first female journalist to enter the Red Sox locker room.

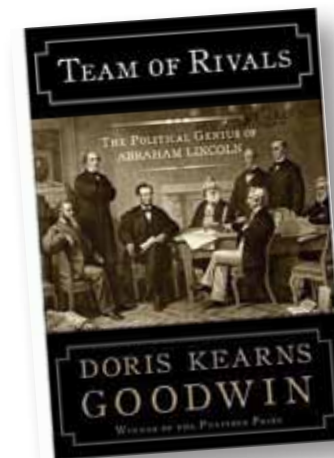
Goodwin was born and raised in Long Island, N.Y. She received her bachelor's degree from Colby College and her doctorate in government from Harvard University. After teaching government at Harvard, Goodwin served as an assistant to President Lyndon Johnson in his last year in



Author Doris Kearns Goodwin

the White House. She later assisted President Johnson in the preparation of his memoirs.

In 1976, Goodwin authored "Lyndon Johnson and The American Dream," which became a New York Times bestseller. She followed up in 1987 with the political biography,



"The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys," which stayed on the bestseller list for five months and was later made into a six-hour ABC miniseries. Her next book, "No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The American Home Front During World War II," was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1995.

Her most recent work, a monumental history of Abraham Lincoln titled "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," was published in 2005 and reached No. 1 on the New York Times Bestseller List. "Team of Rivals" received the 2006 Lincoln Prize for an outstanding work about the president and/or the Civil War, the New York Historical Society Book Prize, the Richard Nelson Current Award and the New York State Archives History Makers Award. A feature film based on "Team of Rivals," directed by Steven Spielberg, premiered in 2012. "Lincoln" opened to rave reviews and received seven Golden Globe and 12 Oscar nominations.

Goodwin is currently at work on a new book about the Progressive Era, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft and the golden age of journalism.

The Convocation is partially funded by the Missouri Western Foundation. ■

A feature film based on "Team of Rivals," directed by Steven Spielberg, premiered in 2012. "Lincoln" opened to rave reviews and received seven Golden Globe and 12 Oscar nominations.

If you're out of state, check out the Griffon Rate

Missouri Western recently announced good news for some current and prospective students who live out of state. Effective this fall, the University will offer out-of-state students from 51 counties in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska a new tuition rate equivalent to the in-state tuition rate. The Griffon Rate applies to both undergraduate and graduate tuition.

The Griffon Rate is available to students from the following counties:

- **ILLINOIS:** Adams, Alexander, Calhoun, Hancock, Jackson, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Pike, Randolph, St. Clair and Union
- **IOWA:** Appanoose, Davis, Decatur, Fremont, Lee, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Taylor, Van Buren and Wayne

- **KANSAS:** Atchison, Bourbon, Brown, Cherokee, Crawford, Doniphan, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Linn, Miami, Nemaha, Shawnee and Wyandotte
- **NEBRASKA:** Cass, Douglas, Gage, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson and Sarpy

For undergraduate students taking classes on the main campus, tuition for 2013-14 will drop from the out-of-state rate of \$392.36 per credit hour to the in-state rate of \$192.65.

In addition to the Griffon Rate, which is available to all students from the 51 specified counties, Missouri Western will continue to offer the Neighboring States, Frontier and Midwest Student Exchange

scholarships for out-of-state students in other counties who meet the academic requirements of each scholarship. The Griffon Rate cannot be used in conjunction with those three scholarships; however, it is stackable with other forms of financial aid.

Freshman students receiving the Griffon Rate are subject to the normal freshman residency requirements. They have the option of living off-campus if they meet one of the criteria for exceptions, such as living with their parents, grandparents or legal guardians within 50 miles of St. Joseph.

To learn more, visit www.missouriwestern.edu/businessoffice/griffonrate.asp. ■

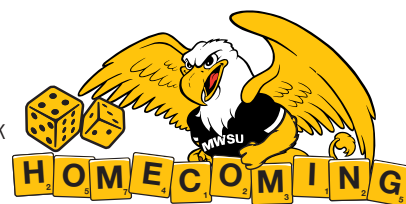
Upcoming Events

September 14 | Family Day, Griffons vs. Missouri University of Science and Technology, 6 p.m., Spratt Memorial Stadium



October 3-13 | Theatre production, Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Potter Hall

October 7-12 | 2013 Homecoming Week



October 12 | Homecoming game, Griffons vs. Northeastern State University, 1:30 p.m., Spratt Memorial Stadium

October 22 | R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues: Renowned historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will present leadership lessons from Abraham Lincoln, 10 a.m., M.O. Looney Complex, free

October 27 | Alumni Day at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City Chiefs vs. Cleveland Browns

WALTER CRONKITE MEMORIAL

November 4 | Dedication events for the Walter Cronkite Memorial

November 21-December 8 | Theatre production, "The Drowsy Chaperone," Potter Hall



December 14 | Commencement, 11 a.m. M. O. Looney Complex

From the Alumni Association President

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to be asked to serve as the president of the Missouri Western Alumni Association for the 2013-14 academic year. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the amazing staff and faculty at Missouri Western who challenged, mentored and provided me with many opportunities I would not have received at other institutions. I take great pleasure in being given another outlet in which to pay it forward and give back to the campus that provided me with so much.

An important lesson I learned in my collegiate career from my sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha, was that of lifetime commitment. I have taken this concept to heart by staying active not only in my sorority, but also with a variety of organizations I hold dear, including Missouri Western.

One of my many goals for our board this year is to reach out to our Griffon family and encourage engagement with the university. This can take on many forms, like being up to speed on campus events via social media and our publications, being a donor to the Foundation, or attending on- or off-campus events.

Engagement can take place regardless of where you live by showing your Griffon pride in your office, on your car, or in your front yard. Do you have family members or friends considering college? Make sure they have Missouri Western on their list and let them know what we



even bigger and better this year. I look forward to engaging with many of you as you either continue or re-establish your connection with Missouri Western. Remember, you aren't a former Griffon – once a Griffon, always a Griffon!

Stay committed, stay connected. Go Griffs!

Shelby E. Coxon

Shelby Coxon '99
President, Missouri Western Alumni Association

She said yes!



After they participated in Missouri Western's commencement ceremony this past spring, Ashton Noland '13 popped the question to Hannah Bryant '13 under Missouri Western's Clock Tower.



At a recent dinner to celebrate the Craig School of Business' entrepreneurship program, Matt Canaday proposed to Allison Humphrey '11 on the stage. Humphrey owns a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory store in Lehi, Utah. ■



Alumni Night at the Mustangs

Mascots Rally and Max pose with Missouri Western fans at the Mustangs vs. Griffon Baseball Alumni game this past summer.

Centennial Notes – Homecoming

Fall on a college campus just wouldn't be the same without Homecoming. For this edition of Centennial Notes, we wanted to look back at one of the most longstanding staples of college life and see how the St. Joseph Junior College and Missouri Western have celebrated it over the years.

The Homecoming tradition of a queen coronation dates back to the 1940s at the St. Joseph Junior College, but the first time the word "Homecoming" was used to describe the event was in 1954.

That year, along with a coronation, Homecoming included a parade, a

It wasn't until the early 1960s that students started creating themes for Homecomings. Dick Sipe '61 remembered a Western Homecoming theme where students brought their (real) guns to school and had quick-draw contests.

In 1964, according to the yearbook, "Homecoming activities started off with a blast from Pepper Shady's air horn, which signaled the walkout and ended in a triumph with a 91-89 win over Creston."

If that score seems higher than today's Homecoming games, it's because the game wasn't football, it was basketball.

The first Homecoming for the four-year college was held Dec. 13, 1969, and for the first time, according to the yearbook, the parade started at East Hills "and proceeded down Frederick on a long, cold trip to the Downtown Shopping area." A rally was held in the East Hills parking lot in the afternoon, and the game and dance were in the evening. The theme? "Junior Comes of Age."

Homecoming in 1970 moved to the football season. The theme, appropriately, was "First Down and Goals to Go," and events included a bonfire, skits, parade, a dance and a coronation.

The 1979 event was special because Spratt Memorial Stadium had been built, and the Griffons really could play "at home." The 1980 yearbook said, "It was the culmination of the years of expectation that touched off one of the most exciting and active homecomings in MWSC history."

Homecoming 1984, "The Greatest American Novel; The Lions' Final Chapter," featured a couple of different events – Twin Day and a sailboat-building competition. Students tested



the seaworthiness of their boats in the fountain in front of Eder Hall.

The 1987 Homecoming, "Animated Western World," was special because more non-Greek organizations got involved than in years past, according to CAB Chair Martha Wille. The next year, a new Sam the Griffon costume was revealed at the game. It was delivered to the field in a limousine with the parade's grand marshal Vincent Irizarry, who at the time was the star of the television show, "Santa Barbara."

With almost 35 percent of students considered nontraditional at Missouri Western in 1991, it probably wasn't much of a surprise when Sandy Smith, a married mother of three daughters, was named the Homecoming queen that year. She was active in several organizations and had been nominated by the Student Honors Organization. "It had to be a miracle for someone 40 and fat to be queen," she said in an article in the 1992 Griffon Yearbook.

In 1997, Homecoming queen candidate Carina Miller made a grand



"The Homecoming game is officially begun as Queen Susie throws the basketball out onto the court," according to the 1966 yearbook.

entrance into Spratt Memorial Stadium in a helicopter piloted by a Kansas City television station's meteorologist. The Griffon News said at the time that the dramatic entrance topped the entrance of one of the queen candidates on a Harley Davidson motorcycle several years earlier.



Homecoming 1998, "MWSC Goes Primetime," brought two firsts to campus – students voted for their queen on computers, and the Homecoming parade was held on campus.

That year, floats lined up at the American Family Insurance parking lot across from the campus on Mitchell Ave., paraded in the main entrance and rolled clockwise on Downs Drive. Although there were a few traffic

problems, the trial was deemed a success.

By the 1999 Homecoming, "MWSC Celebrates the Century," however, the campus was disrupted with

the construction of Murphy Hall (then the Janet Gorman Murphy Academic Center) and the addition to the Blum Student Union, so the parade went back to downtown St. Joseph. The following year, Faraon Street past the north entrance of campus was being repaired, so the parade couldn't be held on campus that year, either. Although the idea of returning the parade to campus was brought up several times in the years since, the 1998 Homecoming parade was the one and only held on campus.

The 2001 Homecoming featured another first – a Homecoming king. Alongside Queen Michelle Figg '03, senior Stan Pearson '02, was crowned Missouri Western's first Homecoming king. The election and announcement were held the week before Homecoming, which was also a change from recent years, so that the king and queen could reign over activities throughout the week.

"Back in Time to '69" in 2009 celebrated the 40th anniversary of the University's move to the new campus, and many students and organizations participated in Homecoming activities.

According to the Griffon News, Homecoming 2011, "Griffon Pride Keepin' it Real," was one of the more robust Homecomings in recent years and the best ever. The parade route was longer than in previous years, and 31 student organizations were involved throughout the week.



New events included Dancing with the Griff contest, with both faculty and students competing; an Amazing Griff Race obstacle course; Griff My Ride vehicle-making contest; and Extreme Griffon Takeover, a clean-up night on campus. Students also searched for clues across campus in an effort to win a 32" television.

Considering its long and fun history, it's probably safe to say Homecoming at Missouri Western will continue for a long, long time. ■

Help us find Liz Dotson!

In "Missouri Western State College 1915-83," author Dr. Frances Flanagan notes that "Liz Dotson of Dekalb became the first student to register on the new campus" in 1969. We currently have no one by that name in our database.

Can you help us locate her?

Mama Griffs plan fun for future Griffs

Offering family activities and bringing future Griffons to campus is the mission of Mama Griffs, the idea of Angie (Wright) Springs '02 and Brandy (Samford) Meeks '07.

The pair, who met when they both joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2011, started the group last fall to provide fun family activities for alumni parents and grandparents, and their children and grandchildren. The numbers attending their events have proven that it was a good idea.

In December, the Mama Griffs offered discount tickets to the theatre program's production of "Annie" and brought Santa Claus to the student athletes' Night Out on the Griffs.

Since the first of the year, the group hosted a Valentine's event at the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Aspen Leaf Yogurt in St. Joseph, Mo. and an "Egg-cellent" egg hunt.

"We think we are filling a niche because we are seeing a lot of new faces," Meeks said. She said when she and Springs plan events, they want the

families to feel like VIPs when they come to campus.

"We're proud of our degree and we want our kids to be proud to be Griffons. We want kids to say, 'Wow, we really want to be a part of Missouri Western,'" Springs said.

Mama Griffs also gives Meeks and Springs an active role on the Alumni Association Board, which they feel is important for their children to see. "We want to be a good example for our kids of getting involved and volunteering," Meeks said.

The two said they welcome more Mama Griffs who want to help with events, and they welcome alumni families to join them at coming events. Find the group at facebook.com/groups/mamagriffs or contact the Alumni Relations Office at (816) 271-5646. "It's a great way to get involved at Missouri Western," Springs said.

More family-centered activities are being planned for the fall and spring, so bring your future Griffs and join the fun! ■



Alumni parents and their families enjoyed an Egg-cellent Egg Hunt on campus and a trip to the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in St. Joseph last spring, thanks to the Mama Griffs.

1970s

Robert Willoughby '70 received an award in recognition of his efforts in the classroom, in research and scholarship, and in community service. He is the head of the department of history, geography, political science, philosophy and religious studies at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Willoughby's focus of research and scholarship is on the opening of the American West and British history. He recently presented a paper at the University of Leeds in Britain about Napoleonic-era British military history. He is the author of three books about the opening of the America West: "Robidoux's Town: A Nineteenth Century History of St. Joseph, Missouri," "The Great Western Migration to the Gold Fields of California" and "The Brothers Robidoux and the Opening of the American West."



CORRECTION

In the Spring 2013 issue, we incorrectly reported that **Chuck Sinclair '72** had joined Pro Serv Business Systems.

Sinclair is first vice president/investments at Stifel Nicolaus in St. Joseph, Mo. He has 28 years of experience in the financial services industry and earned the Certified Financial Planner Professional Certification in 1992. We apologize for the error.

1980s

Susan (Allee) Bailey '80 retired as a second-grade teacher from the South Holt Elementary School in Oregon, Mo. She taught there for 29 years.

Patricia Cryer Loeblein '81 was named the American Chemical Society Colorado Teacher of the Year. "I would love to thank many of the faculty at Missouri Western for their wonderful modeling of excellent teaching and mentoring," Loeblein wrote. "In particular, the chemistry teachers – Drs. Zweerink, Smith, Lambing, Archer and Schwarz, whom I first met at high school summer camp in 1976." Her husband is **Walter Loeblein '83**.

Alumna remembers Missouri Western

Charlene "Chuck" (Riemen) Bunten '52 said she had a great college experience at the St. Joseph Junior College but never really thought too much about it after she went on to earn her bachelor's degree from Baker University.

"I stayed at an arm's length from Missouri Western and I shouldn't have," Bunten said recently. When she saw in 2007 that her high school classmate, Wes Remington, had donated \$5 million to the University, "it occurred to me that it was time to give a little. I suddenly realized what an important part the junior college played in my life."

The next year, she and her husband, Bill, became members of the Missouri Western League for Excellence donor society, and this year, they joined the Clock Tower Society, an honorary society of donors who have made the Missouri Western Foundation a beneficiary of their estate and financial planning. "I need to thank Missouri Western, and I hope that's what I have done by helping students."

The week before she graduated from Baker University, she got married and moved to Topeka, Kan., where her husband was in law school. She and Bill, who still live in Topeka, raised three daughters, which meant a lot of volunteering in schools, Girl Scouts, for their church, and for her sorority's alumni group.

Bunten said she was very excited to see an article in the Missouri Western Magazine a few years back about Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, who taught at the junior college and Missouri Western and wrote the institution's history through 1983. Dr. Flanagan had been Bunten's first-grade teacher, and she was thrilled to reconnect with

her. She and her husband visited Dr. Flanagan the last time they were in St. Joseph.

"I'm absolutely amazed by her, and was so glad to have had her as a teacher," Bunten said. "I just remember her as a big bundle of love."

Bunten said she was pleased to reconnect with her alma mater, and hopes to visit campus next time she is in St. Joseph. "Junior college was a special place. I really enjoyed my time there." ■



Two alumni meet far from home

Roy Grimes '74 was processing paperwork at his desk at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan when he noticed a familiar area code – 816. Then he noticed a familiar place – Missouri Western.

Grimes is the Regional Command-Southwest Manager for Mission Essential Personnel LLC. He oversees civilian contractors working in support of the United States Marine Corps, II Marine Expeditionary Force. The paperwork belonged to Dathan Pettis '09, a military veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He was beginning his one-year tour at Camp Leatherneck as an intelligence and political analyst for the South West Analysis Center, C-2, II MEF.

"You never know where you are going to run into someone from Missouri Western, even at the far end of the earth like Afghanistan," Grimes said. ■

1980s continued

David Slater '82 was re-elected to his fifth term as mayor of Pleasant Valley, Mo. Slater serves as first vice president on the Missouri Western Alumni Association Board of Directors.

1990s

Stacy (Clark) Holtzclaw '92 was inducted into the Excelsior Springs High School 2013 Hall of Fame. As a high school student, she was a four-year state qualifier for the Excelsior Springs Tigers cross country team.

Amy (Dragoo) Casey '93 earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy and Foundations and Curriculum and Instructional Leadership from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is the principal of Oakwood Manor Elementary School in the North Kansas City School District.

Brian Johnson '94 joined Universal Guardian Finance as director of sales and marketing. He was previously assistant vice president of business development and client services for JM Family Enterprises.

Laurie Mefford '94 was named principal of Parkview Elementary, Cameron, Mo.

Donna L. Witte '95 and Mike Shelton announce the birth of a daughter, Amelia Michelle, born March 3, 2013. Amelia is the couple's third child.

LuAnn Cadden '99 published the book, "Traveling through Illinois: Stories of I-55 Landmarks and Landscapes Between Chicago and St. Louis." The book was published by The History Press. She is also the author of "Driving Across Missouri: A Guide to I-70," which was published by University Press of Kansas in 2010. Both books provide information about the geography, history, culture and businesses along the respective major interstates.

JC chemistry leads to romance

On the first day of classes at the St. Joseph Junior College in the fall of 1968, Allen Iske '72, and Mary Margaret Trapp '72, showed up at the same time for their first class of the day and took the two open seats next to each other in the front row. The class was chemistry, and yes, there was.

The two started dating during their sophomore year and have been together ever since. They were married in 1973 and have four children.

Both from St. Joseph and on full scholarships at the junior college, Allen planned to major in chemistry from the start of his college career. Mary Margaret started out as an elementary education major, but switched to chemistry by the second semester.

And guess who picked each other for lab partners in subsequent chemistry classes? "You needed a good, reliable lab partner," Mary Margaret said. "Allen was very exacting, and I was, too."

After one year at the downtown campus, Allen remembers helping the chemistry department move lab equipment and building shelves in what was then called the Agenstein Science and Math Building on the new campus. Both he and Mary Margaret were happy that they could now earn a four-year degree in St. Joseph, and they were part of the second graduating class from the four-year Missouri Western College.

"Even though we came from a very small college, we were readily accepted at top graduate schools," Allen said. "Graduates coming out of Missouri Western could do what they wanted to do."

Mary Margaret taught physical science one year in the Kansas City area before they were married and she moved to Lincoln, Neb., where Allen was working on his graduate degree. She worked as a chemistry research librarian

in the university library until their first child was born.

Some of their best memories of Missouri Western, Allen and Mary Margaret say, were socializing with their friends in the student union (then a trailer) and the great teachers, both in the chemistry department and other academic areas.

"When I think back, I realize how much I owe those people for the great education," Mary Margaret said.

Allen said the small class sizes led to a lot of personal interaction with the professors, and their classmates have become long-time friends. "We were all motivated and good workers. We took it seriously, but we had a lot of fun."

Allen enjoyed a career in research, industrial hygiene and pharmaceuticals. He spent almost 22 years working for MoBay and Bayer in the Kansas City area. He joined the faculty at University of Central Missouri in 2005 and today teaches graduate courses in safety science, toxicology and industrial hygiene.

"I am proud of my career and I think I represent Missouri Western well. I never pass up an opportunity to praise it," Allen said. ■

Springs to lead American Red Cross in St. Joseph

Angie (Wright) Springs '02 was named executive director of the Midland Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross in St. Joseph, Mo. and began her duties in June. Springs had previously served as director of volunteer services for the chapter, but was most recently campaign director for the United Way of Greater St. Joseph.

Springs is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and co-founder of Mama Griffs, a group that plans activities for Missouri Western alumni and their families. ■

Faithful, proud and true – Leo and Mary Ann Schmitz

Whether it is a play, dinner or special event at Missouri Western, you can be sure that Leo '48 and Mary Ann (Wertin) '68 & '70 Schmitz will be there to support it. They began their relationship with Missouri Western as students at the St. Joseph Junior College, and they have been loyal supporters ever since.

Leo enrolled in 1946 and remembers the hallways filled with veterans returning home from World War II and going to college on the GI Bill. After graduating from the junior college, he went on to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in mathematics education and returned to the area to teach high school students. He was on leave from the school district working on his doctorate in 1965 when Evan Agenstein called to offer him a position at the junior college.

"I liked working with some of the teachers who had taught me," he said. "It was a nice group and a wonderful way to make a living."

Mary Ann graduated from high school in 1953, attended Gard Business College for a year and started working at various offices in the community. When the Swift plant closed and she was laid off, her parents told her it was a good time to go to college. "It was a

wonderful experience; people didn't know what they were missing," Mary Ann said.

She met Leo when he was teaching her calculus class at the junior college. "Someone else was supposed to teach it, but they hired Leo over the summer, so that's who I got. And I stuck with him," Mary Ann said with a smile. They were married in 1972.

Mary Ann earned a bachelor's degree from Missouri Western and taught at area high schools until 1982. Leo taught at the junior college and at Missouri Western until 1995, and continued teaching part time until 2000.

Leo and Mary Ann had two daughters. Mary Beth '99, is a pharmacist in the Kansas City area. Anne Marie passed away in an automobile accident in 1999 while she was a student at Missouri Western, and Leo and Mary Ann created an endowed scholarship in her memory.

Both Leo and Mary Ann say they have enjoyed watching the University grow and change over the years and are pleased to support it. They are also members of the Missouri Western League for Excellence.

"Missouri Western is extremely valuable to this city," Leo said. "It benefits St. Joseph in so many ways."

"Along with the Pony Express, Missouri Western put us on the map," added Mary Ann. ■



Wear Missouri Western black and gold every Friday - it's a great way to show your support!

2000s

Kristin (Turner) Drollinger '01 and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of a daughter, Makenna Cathleen, born Oct. 24, 2012.

Carolyn Polston '01 graduated summa cum laude from Graceland University with a degree in elementary education.

Brenda Burnside '02 and Paul Jaeger were married March 1, 2013, on Ft. Lauderdale Beach in Florida. The couple resides in Shawnee, Kan.



Nick Parker '02 and his wife, Kaycee, announce the birth of a daughter, Elle Sophia, born April 24, 2013.

LaShandra (Acklin) '02 and Lee '04 Shepard announce the birth of a son, Nehemiah Asher, born Feb. 22, 2013. He joins a brother, Nathaniel, and sisters Serenity and Trinity.

Matthew Chrisman '05 earned a doctorate from the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.



Rebecca (Jackson) Plumley '05 and her husband, Robert, announce the birth of a son, Jackson, born June 12, 2012. The couple also has a daughter, Caitlyn.

Candice Day '05 and Jeremiah Quarles were married May 5, 2012 in Dallas. Candice was elected for a two-year term as president of the Urban League of Greater Dallas Young Professionals, an auxiliary of the National Urban League.

2000s continued



Jill (Tudeen) Talbot '05 and her husband, Preston, announce the birth of a daughter, Lacey Mae, born Aug. 18, 2012. The couple has another daughter, Lillian.



Sarah (Jones) Mollus '07 & '10 and her husband, Trenton, announce the birth of a daughter, Avery Jane, born on Dec. 5, 2012.

Aime Whipple '08 was named Teacher of the Year for the Savannah (Mo.) R-III School District. She teaches third grade at Minnie Cline Elementary School.

2010s

Chelsie Biermann '11 was recognized as one of the state's Outstanding Beginning Teachers by the Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education. She is a special education teacher at North Platte Elementary in Camden Point, Mo.

In Memory

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

June (Gerber) Bockelman '54, Leawood, Kan., Feb. 22, 2013.

Shirley (Miller) Budinger '54, Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 29, 2013.

Bob L. Hale '64, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 17, 2011.

Mindy S. (Kottman) Kampen '81, Shawnee, Kan., Jan. 19, 2013.

Linda Sue Leake '76, St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 7, 2013.

Marie (Holding) Turner '37, St. Joseph, Mo., March 16, 2013.

Two alumni inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame

Greg Kastner '78 and Mike Musser '84 were inducted into the St. Joseph Baseball Hall of Fame at a St. Joseph Mustangs game in June. Kastner is head baseball coach and athletic director at Bishop LeBlond High School, St. Joseph, and the public address announcer for the Mustangs. Musser is head baseball coach at Benton High School, St. Joseph. Kastner was pitcher for the Griffons from 1971-73 and Musser was a Griffons third baseman from 1980 to 1983. Both broke several Missouri Western records. ■

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____ Alum's Birthday _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ email _____

What's New _____

Return to: Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507
Submit your news online at www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni/alumnote.asp or email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu.



MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY GRIFFON GAME CHANGERS

Homecoming Weekend October 11-12, 2013

Friday, Oct. 11

Alumni Awards Banquet Reception begins at 5:45 p.m., Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Fulkerson Center, \$30 per person. Join us as we honor the 2013 award recipients:

Distinguished Alumni Award – Jack Jeffers '82, Vice President, Quality and Consumer Affairs, The Dean Foods Co.; Col. Michael Pankau '84, Commander, 139th Airlift Wing, Rosecrans Memorial Airport.

Distinguished Faculty Award – Dr. Cary Chevalier, Biology

GOLD Award – Dan Bradford '04, Molecular Biology Research Specialist, Stowers Institute for Medical Research; Candice Day Quarles '05, International Human Resources Consultant, Deloitte.

Herb '35 and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University – Barbara Crumley.

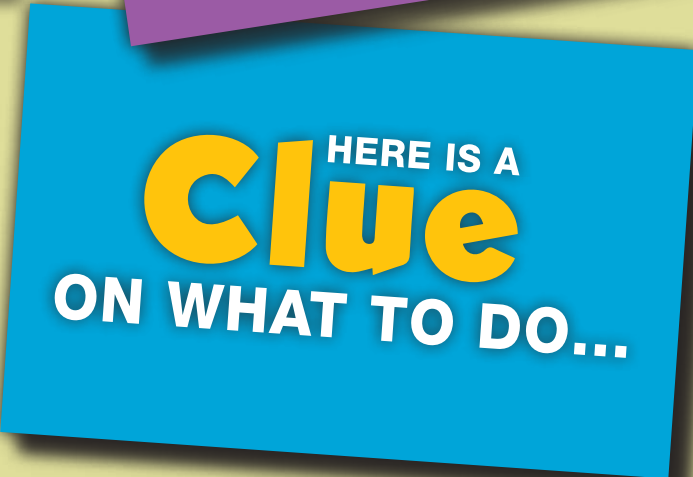
Saturday, Oct. 12

Parade 9:30 a.m., Downtown St. Joseph.

Arts, Beats and Treats Post-parade Party FREE fun for the whole family – crafts, refreshments, face painting and more! Remington Hall.

Tailgate 11:30 a.m., Lot H. Catch up with friends and meet our current students at the Homecoming tailgate!

Game Griffons vs. Northeastern State University RiverHawks, 1:30 p.m. Spratt Memorial Stadium.





Missouri Western State University

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Baseball's Historic Season

