

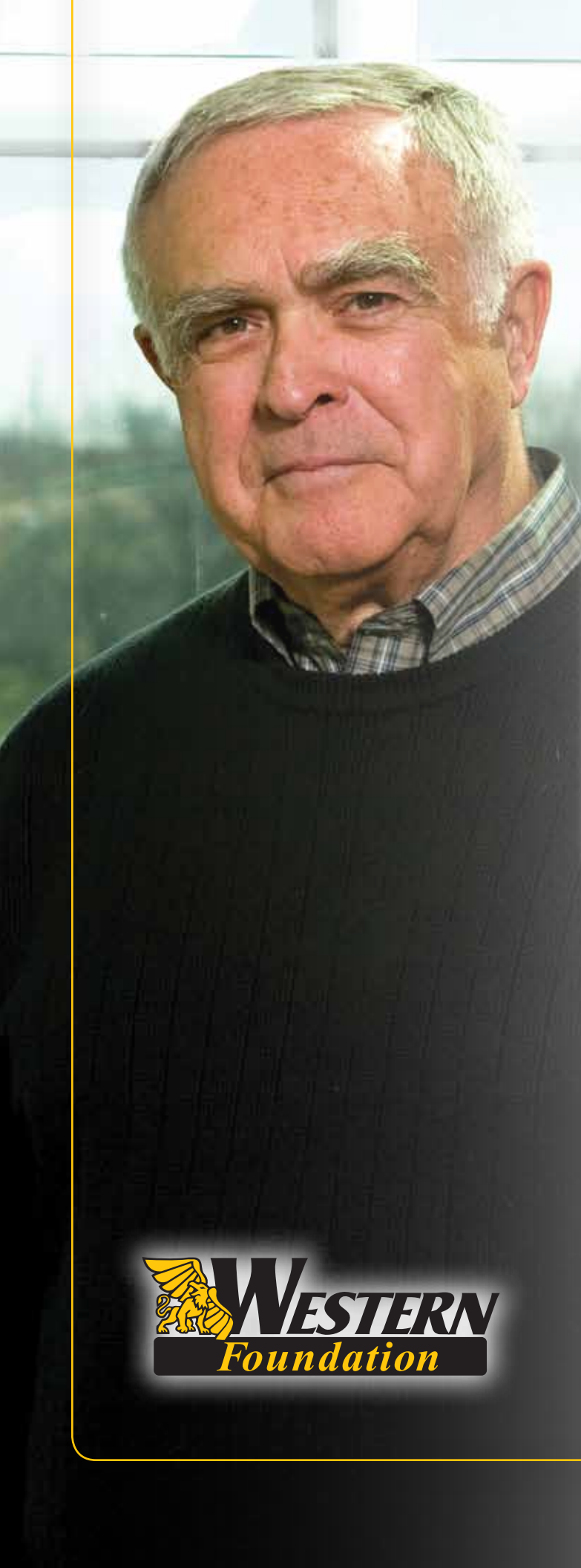
SPRING 2010

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University

Western's
in the RED zone

page 22



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– Ed Haffey '62

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

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WESTERN MAGAZINE

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

ON THE COVER: Western is gearing up to host the Kansas City Chiefs training camp this summer, and construction on the new sports and recreation facility is underway. Pictured is Dave Williams, Western's athletic director, and Denny Thum, president of the Chiefs. Photos by Eric Callow '97.

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The opening of Remington Hall was right on schedule, ready for spring semester classes. See photos of the beautiful building and read about its amenities.

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For 36 years of its 54-year history, the St. Joseph Junior College was located at 10th and Edmond in downtown St. Joseph. Read about the university's recent tribute to the "concrete campus," the building history and alumni memories of their student days when the Junior College was downtown.

22 Western's in the Red Zone

Western and the community are working diligently to prepare for the Kansas City Chiefs three-week training camp and a great fan experience this summer.



Professor selected for synthetic biology think tank

Dr. Jeff Poet, associate professor of mathematics, was invited to participate in the National Academies Keck Futures Initiative last fall, a veritable “think tank” of 153 minds from academia, industry, research, government and funding agencies.

At the annual conference, participants are divided into 12 interdisciplinary research teams, and each group spends almost the entire two days discussing a challenge question regarding the conference topic. This year’s topic was Synthetic Biology: Building on Nature’s Inspiration.

The topic captured Jeff’s interest because for the past four years, he and Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology, have led teams of undergraduate students in synthetic biology research. The Western team collaborates with a team of students and two

faculty mentors from Davidson College in North Carolina, and they have presented their research results in the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Jamboree at MIT each year. Two papers on their research have subsequently been published in the *Journal of Biological Engineering (JBE)*.

Western’s synthetic biology teams consist of mathematics and biology students, and their four research projects have involved creating bacterial computers to solve mathematical problems.

“Our research provided yet another example of how powerful and fluid synthetic biology can be,”

said Jordan Baumgardner ’09, who was on the 2007 team and first author on one of the *JBE* articles. He noted that while their team used synthetic biology to solve mathematical problems, other researchers at the

Jamboree had used it for medical reasons. “There is no telling what else it may be able to do.”

Jeff said the field of synthetic biology opens up a number of possibilities for scientific advances, including curing cancer, producing large scale biofuels, prolonging a healthy life span through personalized medicine, and not getting to Mars, but getting back from the red planet.

Jeff, Todd and their two colleagues from Davidson applied for the 2009 conference, the seventh annual, in Irvine, Calif., and Jeff was selected. “It was an honor to be chosen and an honor to represent the team of four,” he said.

He believes he was chosen to participate in the conference to represent the perspective of undergraduate research. Although about a third of the participants were from academic institutions, only a handful were from primarily undergraduate institutions.

Several of the groups discussed the technical aspects of synthetic biology, one group focused on ethics issues, but Jeff’s group of 12 discussed the challenges of communication and educating the public about synthetic biology.

“It was a very unusual conference, but it was interesting and a great experience,” he said.

As part of the conference, the Keck Foundation set aside \$1 million for seed grants to fund ideas that emerge from the conference, and Jeff applied for a grant. His proposal is for the four iGEM faculty members to develop synthetic biology curriculum materials for undergraduates and high school students and also to fund a workshop to train interdisciplinary college faculty teams to mentor synthetic biology research. This summer, Jeff and his iGEM colleagues are holding just such a workshop at Davidson College, and Jeff is hoping to receive a grant so that Western can host a second workshop in 2011.

“Synthetic biology is a very exciting field, and Western students are involved in cutting edge research,” Jeff said. ■



Dr. Jeff Poet



Dr. Brian Cronk, professor of psychology, demonstrates how a human’s eyes and brain work together at Super Science Saturday at the St. Joseph Museum. Several Western departments set up demonstrations and activities at the popular annual event.

President's Perspective

Dear Alumni
and Friends,

There is no doubt that we are facing a period of decreasing budgetary resources. At the time of this writing, the state legislature is working to balance the budget for the next fiscal year which could result in significant cuts for higher education. The legislature is also currently discussing the option of consolidating the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education into one state Department of Education. We face a future of uncertainty as we look forward to the next few years. Regardless of the budgetary and legislative circumstances, however, Western continues to excel as it always has, with the cooperation of students, faculty, staff and administration.

This fall, Western will offer three new graduate programs, MSN: Healthcare Leadership, MAS Assessment: Autism Spectrum Disorders and a Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Curriculum is also being created for three new programs – MAS Forensic Investigations, MAS Engineering Technology Management and MAS Assessment: TESOL.

Additionally, the Steven L. Craig School of Business announced agreements with graduate programs at Rockhurst University and the University of Missouri – Kansas City. These types of unique programs with a focus on applied learning, coupled with existing degree opportunities, will only strengthen our reputation in the area as a regional university of choice.



We opened Remington Hall in January. Our new 54,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art math and science facility offers newly designed laboratories, classrooms, and gathering spots for our students to learn, study and grow. The renovation of Agenstein Hall will be complete this December, doubling this space to almost 120,000 sq. ft. Additionally, Boehringer

Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., now occupies the top floor of the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator. This building is now almost at capacity and will continue to serve as a force in our region as these businesses grow.

Our local economy will be strengthened by the addition of the new indoor sports and recreation facility which will house the Kansas City Chiefs training camp for three weeks each summer, leaving Western full use of that facility throughout the rest of the year. This building, together with the new Spring Sports Complex, will allow Western to remain athletically competitive. It will also allow us to host more national NCAA championships as we did this year with the NCAA Division II Women's Elite 8 basketball and softball tournaments.

We will continue to actively participate in the discussions currently underway in Jefferson City; however, I promise you that Western will continue to thrive and grow.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

Student selected for Teach for America

When he was in high school and college, Joshua Todd '09, was not always sure of what he wanted to do for a career, but he always knew one thing: He wanted a career that would involve public service. He majored in business with a management emphasis because he wants to run a nonprofit organization some day and he even applied for the Peace Corps when he was a college senior.

But Josh, Student Government Association president when he was a senior, found his niche in Teach for America, a nonprofit organization that places graduating college students in rural and urban public schools. He was recently chosen to teach high school math in Kansas City's inner city from a very selective process. Last year, 35,000 college seniors applied for Teach for America and only 15 percent were accepted into the program.

Although he does not have a teaching certificate, Josh will earn alternative certification through coursework at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., and have the opportunity to pursue a master's degree at Rockhurst at a greatly reduced rate during his two-year commitment.

"I couldn't be happier; I am blown away by the opportunity," Josh said.

He was selected after an extensive application and daylong interview, and will spend five weeks in Chicago this summer at an intensive pre-service training program.

"I know it's going to be hard at first, but I want to help students become excited about learning," Josh said. "I want to show them that they can achieve success with hard work and dedication." ■

Leveling the field

A student called Don Winkie '99, Western's adaptive technology specialist, one evening after he had already left work for the day. "She called me at home to tell me she got an "A" on a paper for the first time in her life," he said.

And that, Don says, is what makes his job worthwhile. Don provides equipment and software to students with disabilities such as learning disabilities or visual or hearing impairments.

"If it hadn't been for these services, there is no way some students could have come to college," Don says. "Adaptive technology tries to level the playing field for them."

And he probably knows that better than anyone.

As a child, a learning disability and visual and hearing impairments made school a grueling experience for Don. He dropped out after his junior year of high school and joined the Army, where he remained for 26 years. He earned his GED in the Army, but wasn't tested for a learning disability until 1990.

When he enrolled at Western as a nontraditional student in 1994 at age 55, he had been using adaptive technology equipment at his job for 10 years, but Western had no equipment available. Don changed that.

He introduced the college to adaptive technology and began volunteering to help other students who needed it. At the time, Don knew of only two other students on campus who were visually impaired; one was using a telescope in class in order to see the chalkboard.

As years went by, Don helped select adaptive technology equipment and began working part time for Western. He graduated with a criminal justice degree in 1999, but continued to work with disabled students. He started working a few more hours, then a few more, until finally, two years ago, he became a full-time employee. In Fall 2009, 27 students used the adaptive technology equipment.

"Don has the expertise and the passion for the job," said Mike Ritter, director of disability services. "I'm glad he is here; we have the right person in place with Don."

Mike said for a university this size, Western has a very good adaptive technology program. The equipment, located in the library, includes a voice-activated computer where students dictate and the material is typed; a scanning device that reads printed material out loud; a computer program that enlarges images on the computer screen up to 16 times the original, a magnifier that will enlarge objects and words in color, and Braille equipment.

Don's office also converts every textbook on campus to a CD in MP3 format so students can listen to the text instead of reading it.

All of the students that Don works with have his cell phone number in case they need his help with the equipment, and he says he's come in on weekends before, even though the campus is a 100-mile round trip from his home.

"My job is to help them succeed. I'll do whatever I need to do to help them succeed," Don says of the students. "People say I go overboard but I don't think so. I've been there." ■

DooHyun Jo shows items from Korea, his home country, at an international fair on campus last fall. There were 29 international students enrolled for the Spring 2010 semester. Along with the fair, the international students worked with Campus Dining to offer food from their different countries in the cafeteria this spring.



Western names vice president for student affairs

Dr. Esther Perález was named vice president for student affairs and began her duties Jan. 4. The position is new to Western; for the last several years, Western's provost has overseen both academic affairs and student affairs divisions.

"Dr. Perález is an excellent fit for Missouri Western," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "She has a passion for helping students succeed, a strong administrative background and a wealth of experience across the many facets of student affairs. Dr. Perález will be a strong addition to our campus and to the St. Joseph community, and I'm pleased to welcome her here."

As vice president for student affairs, Esther will oversee Western's residential life and services, student development, and student services and retention. Specific programs include academic advising, academic support, career development, counseling, disability services, international student services, multicultural education, nontraditional student services, recreation services, residential life, student development, student employment, student engagement, student health and the testing center.

"It is very exciting to be welcomed into a community that is so clearly committed to its students' academic

and personal success," Esther said. "I hope to collaborate with President Vartabedian, his administration, faculty, staff, students and the larger community to make the new student affairs division a vital part of Western's growth and continued excellence."

Esther has more than 20 years of administrative experience in student affairs at a number of institutions of higher education, including 11 years as a dean or vice

president. Most recently, she served as vice president for student affairs at the City College of New York, where she managed a \$3 million budget and supervised more than 40 professionals. Prior to CCNY, Esther was at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota, serving first as dean of students and university advising, then as vice president for student affairs. She also served in several admin-

istrative positions at the University of Minnesota.

Esther received her bachelor of arts in elementary education from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont., her master's of science in reading from Eastern Montana College in Billings and her doctorate in educational administration from the University of Minnesota. ■



Dr. Esther Perález

Dean of Craig School of Business named

Dr. Philip Nitse was named dean of the Steven L. Craig School of Business and will begin his duties July 1.

Philip, professor of marketing at Idaho



Dr. Philip Nitse

State University, will become the first permanent dean of the Craig School of Business. Carol Roever, associate professor of business, has served as interim dean since the school was established in 2008.

"I am elated to have the opportunity to join such a dynamic school and a faculty brimming with positive energy," Philip said. "I eagerly look forward to leading the Steven L. Craig School of Business toward even greater distinction."

He has been at Idaho State since 1993, and formerly chaired the university's marketing department. He also served as advisor for the professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, and for the ISU Marketing Association, and he served on a wide variety of committees and task forces, including The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International reaccreditation task force.

He also has sales and sales management experience in retail, service and industrial organizations, having served in those roles for United Technology Carrier, Mass Merchandisers, Inc., Georgia Pacific Corp. and Value Fair Discount Stores prior to pursuing his advanced degrees.

Philip's research interests are in competitive intelligence, health care marketing, knowledge management, e-commerce, environmental scanning and marketing education. He received his doctorate and master's degrees from the University of Memphis and his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University. ■

CSB earns accreditation

The Steven L. Craig School of Business was notified in April that it has achieved initial accreditation of its degree programs by the Board of Directors of AACSB International - The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer degrees in business and accounting.

Western joins an elite group of institutions that have achieved business accreditation from AACSB International. Only 593 schools of business, or fewer than five percent worldwide, have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education. ■



Remington Hall opens

A construction project that nearly doubles the space of Western's biology, chemistry and computer science, mathematics and physics departments was completed on schedule and ready for students when classes began this spring. The new, approximately 54,000 sq.-ft. building, named Remington Hall, offers state-of-the-art labs, presentation technology and several student study spaces.

The new building is phase I of a project that includes the renovation of Agenstein Hall, which houses the mathematics and sciences departments. Between the Fall '09 and Spring '10 semesters, faculty and staff moved out of Agenstein Hall and into temporary trailer offices, and renovation on that building began. It is slated for completion this December. Lawhon Construction is the general contractor on the project and Ellison-Auxier Architects and HOK serve as the architects.

"We're located in the heart of the animal life science industry, and we're committed to contributing to our region's life sciences environment," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, at the dedication. "We're also committed to student-faculty research beneficial to that industry, and we're committed to

preparing our graduates to compete in that industry as well as anybody in the world."

The labs used for science courses are now housed in Remington, and they are larger than the old labs in Agenstein Hall, said Dr. Todd Eckdahl, chair of the biology department. "These labs are more up-to-date, and more like the labs our students are going to be working in when they graduate," he said.

When the Agenstein Hall renovation is completed, it will contain mostly faculty and department offices and classrooms, and some of its labs will be converted to smaller research labs for faculty/student collaboration. Both buildings will have student study spaces. Remington Hall also features a three-story glass atrium, patios and balcony areas.

"The new building is already exciting potential faculty and students," said Dr. Ben Caldwell, professor of chemistry and chair of the department. "We've had faculty candidates on campus recently, and they've been very impressed. Students are also expressing their excitement, and we're expecting to see big increases in the number of science and math majors."

The addition and renovation was a long time coming. In 2002, Sen. Christopher S. "Kit" Bond secured a \$250,000 federal grant to fund drawing up plans for

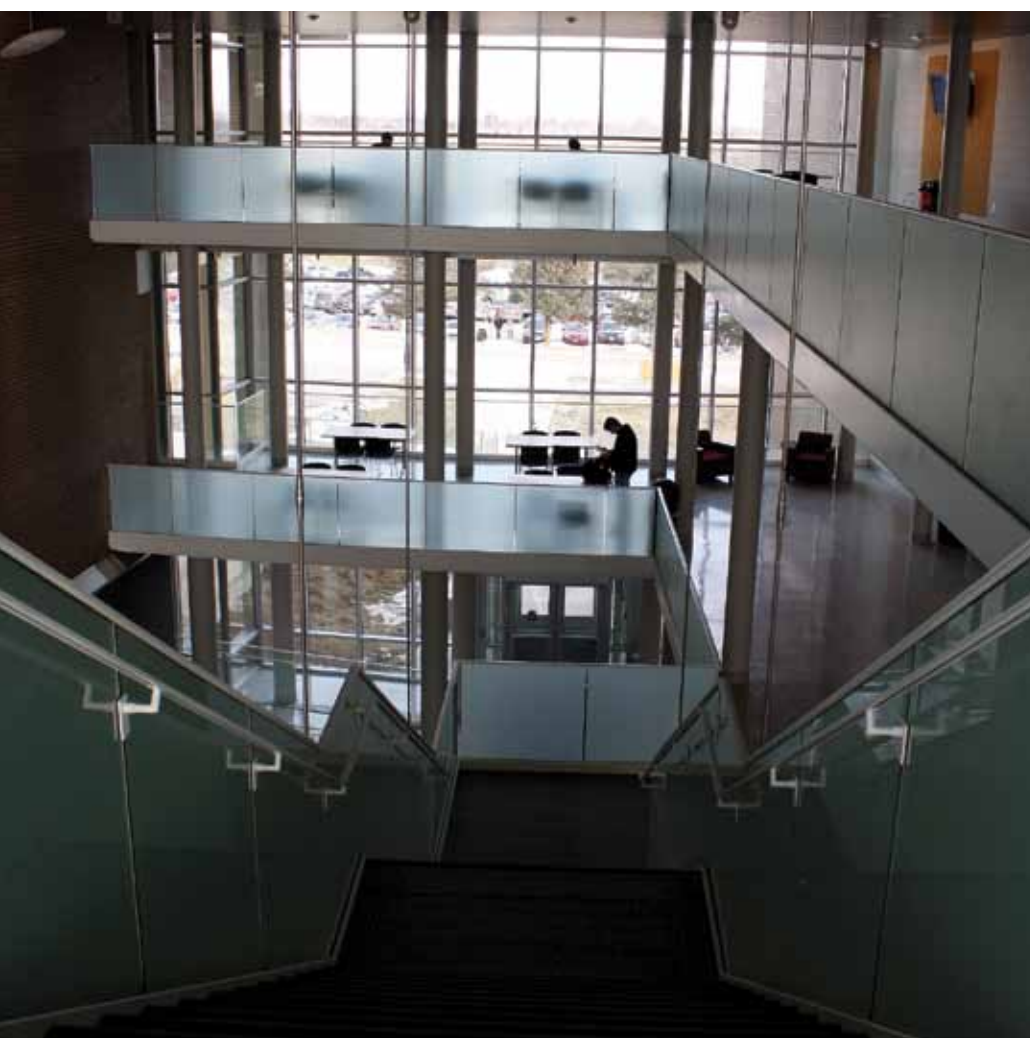
the building and renovation, which was then close to the top of Missouri's capital improvement project list. But several years of state revenue decreases put the \$37.5 million project on hold until the passage of the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative in 2007. That initiative earmarked \$30.1 million for Remington and Agenstein Halls.

In October 2007, Wes and Patsy '79, Remington, donated \$5 million for the construction and renovation, and the building was named in their honor. The remaining \$2.5 million will be funded by private donations.

Along with all the amenities that offer students a great learning experience in Remington Hall, there is also a bagel shop on the first floor of the new building, fittingly called Einstein Bros. Bagels.

"It's a beautiful place," said Dr. Jerry Zweerink, professor of chemistry who has been faculty shepherd for the project since planning started nine years ago. "It's a great place to do science." ■

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, cuts the ribbon to officially open Remington Hall as Wes and Patsy '79, Remington, look on. Right, interior shots of Remington Hall.



NEWS Briefs

Western signs agreement with UMKC

Western signed an agreement with the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Bloch School of Business and Public Administration that will make it easier for graduates of Western's Steven L. Craig School of Business to pursue a master's degree at UMKC.

Under the agreement, up to 24 hours of core classes in the Bloch School's MBA program will be waived for Craig School graduates who complete comparable undergraduate courses with a grade of C or better. In the master of science in accounting program, up to 33 hours of Stage I classes can be waived. Additionally, some Stage II courses can be waived to allow students to pursue specializations in taxation or accounting/audit.

The agreement is similar to Western's recent agreement with Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., which allows Craig School graduates to pursue a fifth-year MBA at the Helzberg School of Management. ■

Students bring home the gold

Biology and mathematics students earned a gold medal for the third consecutive year at iGEM, an annual synthetic biology competition at MIT featuring more than 100 teams from 25 countries around the world. As it has in previous years, the team again worked to advance the field of bacterial computing by modifying *E. coli* bacteria. This year's team designed and implemented modifications to the DNA of the bacteria that would enable them to solve a type of math problem known as the Satisfiability (SAT) Problem. This year's project was entitled "The Rolling Clones," with the tag line "I Can't Get No SATisfaction." ■

Gotta Dance!

By day, associate professor Dr. Jason Baker teaches microbiology and immunology courses in Remington Hall, but every Tuesday evening in the spring and fall, Jason can be found at the Downtown University Center teaching dance moves to a room full of students from the community.

Since 2005, Jason and his wife, Margaret, have been teaching social dance classes through the Western Institute's Community Arts Center, giving lessons for swing and waltz for 12 weeks in the spring, and fox trot and cha cha in the fall.

"It's fun to do and it's relaxing," Jason said. "We have fun and we want people to have fun."

"It's not about becoming professional; it's about just learning the steps," Margaret added.

For Jason and Margaret, the road to becoming dance teachers didn't start with dance lessons and recitals as children, although both were musicians (they met in the marching band as college students at Kansas State University). It all started in the spring of 2001 when Jason and Margaret, new to St. Joseph, signed up for the Western Institute's social dance class that was being taught by longtime dance instructor Paul Chambers. After following that up with an intermediate class in the summer,

Paul asked them to join his exhibition adult dance group. By the spring of 2003, Jason and Margaret were assisting him with his social dance classes, and when Paul died in September 2005, Jason and Margaret took over the classes.

"We're giving back to the community and passing on Paul's legacy. We didn't learn nearly all he knew," Margaret said.

They did take off one fall session of classes when their daughter was born three years ago, but their son, who was born last fall, joined them for lessons this past spring.

Jason says he really doesn't keep his identity as a dance teacher a secret, it just never seems to come

science function. Students are especially shocked to learn I have a life outside the classroom and lab," Jason said with a laugh.

A few years ago, Butch and LuAnn Sailor were looking for an activity they could share with each other since their children were grown. Friends suggested ballroom dancing lessons, and they've repeated the Bakers' class several times. "We love Margaret and Jason," LuAnn said. "They have a special way of teaching; I highly recommend them."

The first time they took the class, Butch said he thought he'd never catch on. But they kept practicing, taking more classes and going to dances, and now they have the steps down pretty well.

"That's the key," Jason says. "Keep practicing and you'll gain more confidence."

For class participants Sharon Shutts and Dave Vorderbruggen, the Tuesday night lesson with Jason and Margaret followed a different dance lesson on Monday, and dances the previous Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

"I just love to dance," Sharon said. "It's good exercise."

And why did Dave sign up? "Because Sharon loves to dance," he said. ■

In the top photo, Jason and Margaret demonstrate a dance step while their son sleeps in a sling.



up in his biology classes. But his students are usually quite surprised if they do discover he teaches dance.

"It is always fun when people learn about or see my wife and me doing a dance performance or other non-



Scanlons pledge \$25,000 to university

As parents, Dr. Jim Scanlon and his wife, Lauren, witnessed their son, Blake, gaining a lot from his undergraduate research with faculty members and subsequent presentations at conferences.

As Western's president from 2001-2008, Dr. Scanlon saw many students benefit from conducting research with faculty members and making presentations about that research at national conferences.

In an effort to ensure that those great experiences continue for undergraduate students at Western, he and Lauren recently established the Blake K. Scanlon Applied Learning Presentation Grant Award through the MWSU Foundation, and pledged \$5,000 per year to that fund for the next five years. The fund is to be used to provide grants to Western students who are presenting refereed papers or poster sessions, exhibiting juried works or making juried performances in national or international professional venues.

"We clearly know from our experiences that there is never enough money for students to pursue these types of experiences," Lauren said.

"Our son's experience as an undergraduate intensified when he got involved in undergraduate research and made

presentations of that research at national conferences. It really turned him on to what research was all about," Dr. Scanlon said. Blake earned his doctorate from the University of Miami and is currently conducting post-doctorate research in Parkinson's disease and dementia at Stanford University in California.

"We have an example in our family of what we want to encourage other students to do. We want to get more students involved in undergraduate research and let them know there is support for them to make presentations," Dr. Scanlon said.

He noted that when Western became a university in 2005, the legislature made applied learning part of Western's statewide mission, so his and Lauren's gift helps further that mission.

Lauren said they hope their donation will not only encourage more students to conduct research and make presentations, but also encourage other donors to support research presentations.

"We are excited about the students we got to know at Western," Dr. Scanlon said. "They're great young people; they are what makes Western a wonderful place to be." ■

Reel experience for film student

As a student last fall, Levi Smock '09, was one of 50 undergraduate and graduate students from around the globe selected to participate in the annual Telluride Film Festival Student Symposium in Colorado.

Levi, an English literature major and video minor, said for the four days of the symposium, they started at about 7 a.m. each morning and went until about 2 or 3 a.m., watching and discussing films and meeting with directors and screenwriters. Levi learned about making films from Ken Burns, Alexander Payne, Werner Herzog and Nicholas Cage, and "way too many more to name." He said many of the films they viewed had not been released yet, such as "Paranormal Activity."

"Not only did I get to see amazing films I might not have ever gotten to see, I saw them before they came out in theaters and then met the screenwriters and filmmakers." ■

Student chapter earns top honors

Western's student chapter of The Wildlife Society was recently named Student Chapter of the Year for the North Central Section of the Wildlife Society. The chapter has applied for the honor four out of the five years it's been eligible and has won the designation three times.

The students attend workshops with professionals in their field and provide hundreds of volunteer hours in work days and community outreach events, such as running the check station for the managed hunt at Squaw Creek, participating in antler measuring days and surveying wildlife populations. ■

Commencement always brings out lots of smiles, especially from graduates and families, and Taylor McCray and her daughter were no exception at the fall ceremony.



“Almost human” joins nursing department

If you get a little freaked out walking into the nursing lab on the third floor of Murphy Hall because of the mannequins in the hospital beds, wait until you meet the department’s newest mannequin. His name is Otto and he’s darn near human.

Otto, who was named by the nursing professors (a play on “auto”), is SimMan 3G, a state-of-the-art interactive mannequin and an outstanding teaching tool for nursing students. Hooked up to a computer and offering simulation scenarios, Otto is preparing students to work with real patients.

“It’s the closest thing you can get to a real live patient,” said Roger Voelkel, assistant professor of nursing. “It offers safe practice without injury or fault and it utilizes all the senses for learning.”

The first thing you notice about Otto is his eyes. All the other mannequins in the lab have closed, immovable eyes. But not Otto. His eyes blink and produce tears, and the pupils even respond to light. (Author’s note: Roger says Otto winks, but he didn’t wink at me.)

With the state-of-the-art SimMan, students can administer drugs, check vital signs, insert an IV or chest drain and perform CPR, just to name a few of the myriad number of medical procedures Otto will tolerate. In turn, Otto immediately responds to whatever is being done to him, even sweating and bleeding.

“I like it. It helps you when you’re thinking on your feet,” Suzanne Von-Behren, a senior nursing student, said of



Nursing students check Otto's vital signs.

SimMan. “The technology coupled with the dedicated faculty make for a great experience.”

The nursing lab was remodeled last summer so an observation/control room could be built beyond Otto’s bed. Professors can plug in simulation scenarios that came with Otto or create their own, and then monitor the students from the observation room. Professors can even speak into a microphone from the observation room and their voice will be projected through the mannequin.

Roger said both students and faculty are excited about Otto in their lab. First-

year nursing students use him for assessments (professors can set it up so students can hear different breathing sounds from each lung), and second-year students practice with the simulation scenarios.

SimMan has been on the nursing department’s wish list for several years. His approximately \$65,000 price tag, which includes the simulation scenarios, was funded by the department and a \$26,000 anonymous donation.

The nursing department held an open house in the simulation lab for the campus and community this spring. ■



Check out Western’s graduate degree programs:

missouriwestern.edu/graduate
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New this fall: MSN: Healthcare Leadership, MAS in Assessment: Autism Spectrum Disorders and MAS in Assessment: TESOL.

Emergent success: profile of an incubator tenant

What do these three items have in common? An innovative military field communication system, a phosphorus reduction system named “Phred,” and field bendable composite rebar. Give up? All three products have been developed or are being developed by DT Search and Designs LLC (DTS), a tenant in Western’s Christopher S. “Kit” Bond Science and Technology Incubator.

DTS began renting office space in the incubator in April 2009, and the company is a great example of an incubator tenant, according to Dr. Gary Clapp, president and CEO of the Institute of Industrial and Applied Life Sciences, who manages the incubator.

The young company leased office space from the incubator when they outgrew a home office, and it has seen good sales numbers and success this past year.

Six years ago, DTS was started by a group of investors (led by St. Joseph, Mo., entrepreneur Wes Remington) who wanted to market the ideas of a local inventor, Dean Thompson. Dean and Bill Junk came on board at that time, and Bill was named president of the company.

“The incubator provided the best option for us and it’s worked out very well. We’re extremely satisfied with it,” Bill said. He noted that not only does the incubator provide a reception area and meeting rooms, it also provides resources and business advice.

In 2004, Bill and Dean, who was a communications chief in the Marines during the Vietnam War, were meeting with a manufacturing company to discuss a product line when the company representative showed them a connector they had produced.

“On the way home,” Bill related, “Dean commented that he could take that connector and upgrade the J-1077. I said, ‘What is a J-1077?’”

Bill soon found out that a J-1077 was the field communication system that was currently being used by the military and had not been upgraded since Dean served in Vietnam. Dean took the connector and created an upgraded prototype which they called the J-1077 IP. He sought advice from military personnel, tweaked it and patented it, and began marketing a system that offers several improvements over the original system. In 2009, the company sold more than 300 units to military in the United States and Canada.

“He just comes up with these ideas,” Bill said of Dean. “He is an inventor in the purest sense of the word.”



Phred (PHosphorus REDuction), DTS’ second product, is an outgrowth of another of Dean’s ideas and the result of a 2006 joint venture

between DTS and the Kansas Livestock Association Environmental Services. Phred is a large machine that reduces the phosphorus levels of wastewater in cattle feedlots in order to meet the Environmental Protection Agency standards. Bill said they have just begun marketing and selling the patent-pending system in the last year and the response has been good.

Additionally, DTS is working with a Fortune 500 chemical company to develop field bendable composite rebar.

“I love the challenge of starting something from scratch. I had never done it before,” Bill said of his career with DTS. “It’s been very challenging pulling all the pieces together. The learning curve is tremendous, but I have enjoyed it very much.”

“Bill has done a great job of marketing and shepherding the company,” Gary said.

“Our future is very bright,” Bill said. “We’re just beginning to sell our products and there are so many opportunities to enlarge our markets. I think the outlook is fantastic.” ■

Incubator signs new tenant

The Christopher S. “Kit” Bond Science and Technology Incubator recently signed on a new tenant, bringing the building to nearly full capacity. Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc. (BIVI), a local pharmaceutical company, will lease the second floor of the building for four years. The company will not pay rent, but will make up to \$750,000 in capital improvements to the currently unfinished space. Those improvements will remain with the building after BIVI leaves.

The space will be used for research and development and approximately 40 jobs will be located in the incubator.

Dr. Gary Clapp, president and CEO of the Institute of Industrial and Applied Life Sciences, who manages the incubator, said BIVI will also offer Western students the opportunity for internships in the incubator.

The incubator’s other tenants include DT Search and Designs LLC (see article at left), IMULAN, the Institute for Industrial and Applied Life Sciences, New Functional Polymers and the United States Animal Health Association.

There is now just 1,600 sq. ft. available in the 24,000 sq. ft. building. ■

Art professor recognized

Geo Sipp, associate professor of art, received the Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education. One faculty member from each public and private college/university in Missouri receives the award. Geo was selected from faculty members who received the James V. Mehl Award, Jesse Lee Myers Award or the Board of Governors’ Distinguished Professor Award during the last three years. ■

Basketball wrap-up

The men's basketball team ended their regular season with a three-game winning streak and finished with an 11-2 home record and a 9-1 record at home in MIAA play. Western finished with a 17-10 overall record and 12-8 in MIAA play. They lost in the semi-finals in the MIAA post-season tournament and earned a berth to the NCAA South Central Region Tournament. This was Coach Tom Smith's 11th appearance in the tournament; the last came in the 2002-03 season. Individually, forward Marcus Rhodes, Gary, Ind., paced the team, averaging 16 points a game, which ranked seventh in the MIAA. Marcus scored in double figures in all but four games in the regular season, including a season-high 26 points in the Griffons' 68-55 victory at Truman State in February. Dominique Thuston, St. Joseph, Mo., had a solid season as he averaged 13 points a game, which ranked 17th in the conference.

Back in July 2009, Griffon women's basketball's third-year Head Coach Lynn Plett quietly felt optimistic about the 2009-10 season, but it was rough going. Coach Plett lost seven of his top eight players due to injury or personal reasons. One player who was a model of consistency is guard Jessica Koch, Kansas City, Mo. Jessica, the 2008-09 Freshman of the Year in the MIAA, ranked seventh in the MIAA in scoring this season, averaging

14 points per game, and sixth in rebounding at 7.2 boards per game. She had a career-high 26 points at home against Quincy University in January.

Another bright spot was the emergence of walk-on redshirt freshman guard Kayla Vice, St. Joseph, Mo. Kayla saw extensive minutes on the floor and took advantage of her opportunities. She was one of the team's top offensive threats, scoring in double figures in 10 games, including a career-high 26 points in the Griffons' victory over Pittsburg State in January. ■



Softball and baseball

Coming off a 47-win season, an MIAA record 32-game winning streak and qualifying for the NCAA National Tournament for the fourth time in five years, expectations were high as the Griffon softball team entered the 2010 season. Members of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association ranked the Griffons as the nation's eighth best team in the preseason poll and they were picked to finish second in the MIAA preseason poll as selected by the coaches.

The Griffons returned 13 players from a year ago, including all-MIAA selections pitcher Allison Jones, Mitchellville, Iowa; outfielders Becky Diehl, Derby, Kan.; and Brittany Douglas, St. Louis; and infielders Shannon Pivovar, Omaha, Neb., and Sam Buchanan, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. Reigning MIAA Coach of the Year Jen Bagley enters her ninth season at the helm of the Griffons.

Griffon baseball entered the 2010 campaign with high hopes after a 2009 season that saw the team win the second most games in school history (34). A nice mix of veterans and newcomers comprised this year's team including three returning All-MIAA Players: shortstop Danny Connors, Kalispell, Mont.; infielder Andy Hebrard, Clackamas, Ore.; and pitcher Blake Thomas, Raymore, Mo. The team is coached by Buzz Verduzco. ■

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to the 1973-74 men's basketball team on being a member of the Athletics Hall of Fame. I would enjoy having their names listed. I cheered for (MWSC) that year and remember most but not all their names. That was a long time ago! Cheering at the NAIA tournament was a great experience! GO GRIFFONS! Thank You. Janice (Round) Artinger '77

Janice, you are right, I should have listed their names. I apologize to the team for the oversight.

Here are the members of the 1973-74 men's basketball team who joined the 2009 Athletics Hall of Fame class: Gary Filbert, head coach; Roy Tewell, assistant coach; Lynn Cundiff, assistant coach; and players Jeff Armstrong, Jeff Brown, Mark Brown, Dave Byers, Jared Carroll, Bill Chandler, Rick Delis, Stan Diskin, Mert Hughes, Andy Kusyner, Charles Nicholson, Geoff Roberts, Dave Ross, Jim Schuckenbrock, Steve Singer and Howard Weldon. ■

Student athletes honored

At the annual Student Athlete Honors Night in January, 218 Griffon student athletes were honored at halftime for attaining a 3.0 semester GPA in either the fall or spring 2009 semesters. Included in that number are 70 student athletes that were named to the campus Deans' list for achieving a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. Thirty-nine student athletes were named to the President's Honor Roll for achieving a semester GPA of 4.0. To see a list complete list of these athletes, visit www.gogriffons.com. ■

Softball championship

Mark your calendars for Memorial Day weekend as Western and the City of St. Joseph host the 2010 NCAA Softball National Championship at Heritage Park Softball Complex. The tournament runs May 27-31 and features the nation's eight best NCAA Division II softball teams. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased by calling 816-271-4481. A full tournament ticket is \$30. ■

It's a great time to be a Griffon!

Support Griffon Athletics by joining the **Gold Coat Club**! Each Gold Coat package includes season tickets to all sports with other levels, including preferred parking, recreational facility use, football Stadium Club access, banquet invites and much, much more. For more information on how to join the Gold Coat Club, call Griffon Athletics at 816-271-5904 or log on to www.gogriffons.com for a brochure.



Student athletes once again hosted Night Out on the Griffs last fall, where they invited parents to drop off their young children for an evening of activities. The night is just one of several service projects that student athletes carry out each year.

Spring sports complex underway

When baseball season opens next spring, the Griffon baseball team will play home games on campus for the first time in its history. The softball team, even though their home fields were on campus, will have a new home, as well. Construction began on Western's new spring sports complex last fall, and it will be ready for practice use this fall. It is located off McCarthy Drive close to Faraon St., with the entrance to the fields on McCarthy Drive.

The softball fields on campus have been converted into a parking lot to accommodate visitors to the indoor sports and recreation facility that the Kansas City Chiefs will use for their training camp this summer. This spring, the women played their home games at Heritage Park Softball Complex in St. Joseph, Mo. Funding for the softball fields is part of the indoor sports and recreational facility construction.

"Having a baseball field on campus was one of the main reasons students passed the MAX Experience proposal," said Athletics Director Dave Williams. The MAX Experience was a fee students agreed to pay to upgrade athletic facilities, among other benefits. Those funds are paying for the baseball stadium.

The baseball team's home field has been St. Joseph's Phil Welch Stadium. Dave noted that having a field on campus will be a lot more convenient for both players and fans. "We're excited. It will be a high quality, much anticipated set of fields."

The \$3.5 million complex will include three fields, bleachers, a press box, parking lot, concession stand and restrooms. ■



A tribute to the "Concrete Campus"

St. Joseph Junior College ~ 10th & Edmond

Plaque commemorates "Concrete Campus"

It was at the Junior College reunion brunch a year ago when Dr. Bill Gondring '56, first heard of the idea for a plaque to mark the site of the former St. Joseph Junior College building. He, along with the rest of the attendees, immediately warmed to the project, and a committee was formed. During Homecoming week last fall, a 24" x 36" cast bronze plaque was unveiled on a pillar at the west entrance of the building at 10th and Edmond Sts. that gives an outline of the history of the St. Joseph Junior College and its emergence as Missouri Western State University today. About 35 alumni and friends gathered on a chilly afternoon on 10th St. between Edmond and Charles Sts. for the ceremony.

Former presidents Drs. James Scanlon and M.O. Looney, along with Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's current president, spoke at the ceremony. Dr. Gondring, who donated the cost of the plaque in memory of Junior College faculty and in honor of his fellow Junior College alumni, unveiled the plaque with Dr. Vartabedian.

"Missouri Western would not be here without the vision and dedication of the people of St. Joseph who placed a high value on education many years ago, and we're proud to honor them with this tangible reminder of our past," Dr. Vartabedian said.

Dr. Looney wowed the audience with his recall of details about the legislative battle for the Junior College to become a four-year institution. "We owe a debt of gratitude to former Gov. Hearnes and all our legislators, and to the faculty and staff who worked tirelessly for two-and-a-half years to prepare for a four-year program," Dr. Looney said. "We also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the community."

Dr. Scanlon spoke of another legislative struggle – the designation of Western as a university in 2005. "The determination of the people of the St. Joseph community and Western is what made it possible, with courage and imagination, to create a university."

The 10th St. entrance was closed when the building was turned into apartments in the early 1990s. Dr. Gondring said Junior College students mostly used the north and south entrances anyway, and it was through those doors that attendees entered after the plaque dedication to check out the building. The spacious hallways and multiple stairs still had the look of a school, even though the building has housed apartments for almost 19 years.

"This building brings back fond memories for hundreds of Junior College alumni who are a valued part of our university family today,"

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Dr. Vartabedian said. "Although it is a building, it represents so much more. We must not forget our past. I hope you have vivid and positive memories of your time here."

After the plaque dedication, Junior College alumni and friends gathered for a tea in the YWCA Terrace Room.

Plaque committee members included Donna Jean (Mathers) Boyer '64, Patti (Wilson) Burri '55, Dr. Gondring '56, Julia (Thompson) Schneider '67, Tom Schneider '64, and Alumni Services Director Colleen Kowich. ■

Left, the plaque dedication ceremony in October. Above, plaque committee members include Julia Schneider '64, Bill Gondring '56, Patti Burri '55, Donna Jean Boyer '64, and Tom Schneider '64.

The history of the Junior College building

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| <p>1866 St. Joseph's first public high school is built on the north half of a site on 10th St., between Edmond and Charles Sts. It is a two-story structure with four rooms that cost \$36,000 to build.</p> <p>1895-96 A new high school is built at 13th and Patee Sts. – Central High School – and the building at 10th and Edmond Sts. becomes an elementary school named Robidoux School.</p> <p>1907 The original building is razed. The south half of the block is purchased and E.J. Eckel's local architectural firm is hired to design a new building on the site. Cost of the building and its contents is \$130,000. The building is described as "cruciform in shape and Classic Revival in style."</p> <p>1909 The new elementary school opens. There are 12 classrooms, a teachers' room, library and office, and an auditorium that seats 1,100.</p> <p>1914 Elementary students are moved to the old German School Building one block north and the 10th and Edmond site is used as a freshman annex for Central High School.</p> <p>1919 Robidoux School becomes Robidoux Polytechnic High School.</p> <p>1928 The building is again used as a freshman annex for the high school.</p> <p>1933 A new high school is built and the 10th and Edmond building becomes the new home for St. Joseph Junior College.</p> <p>1969 St. Joseph Junior College, now Missouri Western College, moves to its new campus east of Interstate 29 and the building is used for storage by the St. Joseph School District.</p> | <p>1976 The Buchanan County Historical Society purchases the building, and it begins to fall into disrepair.</p> <p>1981 The building is purchased and used as storage for a sporting goods wholesaler and a cap factory. An application is submitted to place the building on the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>1983 The building is added to the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>1987 The building is sold and listed as "vacant" in the City Directory.</p> <p>1988 On March 17, an arson fire destroys the roof and portions of the building. There is water damage throughout. There is a lot of talk in the community about razing the building.</p> <p>1989 A development corporation from Omaha, Neb., buys the building with plans to renovate it into apartments. Tenth Street, which had been closed since the fire, reopens in April when the building is deemed stabilized.</p> <p>1991 Robidoux Apartments opens with 60 units available for low/moderate income senior citizens and families. Cost of the renovation is more than \$4 million.</p> <p>2009 After years of neglect, the building is purchased by buyers from Oregon who plan to renovate the building into upscale loft apartments. The name is changed to CityView Lofts.</p> |
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Sources for the timeline include the 1981 application for the National Register of Historic Places, the St. Joseph local newspapers and the City Directory.

A tribute to the
"Concrete Campus"

Junior College fosters fond memories

When St. Joseph Junior College's former location at 10th and Edmond Sts. was damaged by an arson fire in 1988, many people in the community believed that the building should be demolished. After all, the fire destroyed the roof and part of the building, and 10th St. between Edmond and Charles Sts. remained closed for more than a year because city officials were worried about the stability of the structure.

But visionaries and preservationists prevailed, and the building was repaired and renovated into apartments three years later. Today the building stands as a reminder of the significant role the Junior College played in the community at that location from 1933 to 1969; it is a vessel filled with memories.

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"It was such an important part of the community," Dr. Bill Gondring '56, said. "Students came from all the local high schools."

Patti (Wilson) Burri '55, said that's what made the Junior College special – students from all over the city coming together and becoming friends.

"It was kind of like 'Cheers' in those days where everybody knew your name," Beverly (Johnson) Smith '57, said. "Teachers took an interest in me as an individual as well as a student and the Junior College laid a solid foundation for me to continue my education."

Beverly earned bachelor's and master's degrees, completed post-graduate work, and has worked in the education field for more than 43 years.

Bill said he was surprised when he looked through his yearbook recently to note the strong educational and diverse backgrounds of the teachers. "I received an unbelievable foundation due to the quality of the teaching," he said. "At the Junior College, there were gifted senior educators who knew their field and were committed to the success of students and the Junior College."

Bill, a local orthopedic physician, said he was well prepared when he transferred to University of Missouri-Columbia. "The basic education gave students a significant jump on academic competition when we went to the next level."

Alumni remember several of the long-time teachers who were responsible for that academic foundation: Orrel Andrews, who taught at the Junior College for more than 35 years and was instrumental in the creation of the St. Joseph Museum; and Frank Popplewell, who taught for 40 years before retiring in 1972. Alumni never fail to mention Nelle Blum, longtime teacher and dean who retired in 1957 (see article on p. 21), Louise Lacy and Marian Harvey. Edith Moss Rhoades was another long-time teacher, serving the Junior College for 25 years and retiring in 1941.

"I still remember the bug collection I did for Orrel Andrews. I never had enough bugs," Bill said with a laugh.

"I don't recall one class that wasn't worthwhile," Tom Schneider '64, said. "The instructors were top notch and they weren't afraid to make you work for knowledge."

His wife, Julia (Thompson) Schneider '67, agreed that the teachers made you work hard. "I remember a speech class I had; oh my gosh."

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A tribute to the “Concrete Campus”

a number of clubs and organizations through the years, including language clubs, choirs, art, psychology and natural science clubs.

The Griffon News and Griffon

Yearbook were published from the Junior College’s earliest days, as well.

Terry Grove, who is retired from the Prairie Village, Kan., Police Department, attended the Junior College for two years just in time for Western to become a four-year institution. “I can remember getting up at 4 a.m. on the first day of registration to see if I could be the first to enroll in the new college, but was beat out by another student (Liz Dotson).”

“I still have fond memories of St. Joseph,” Terry said.

Alumni who attended Western at its present location are quick to talk about the windy campus and the bitterly cold win-

ters, but Junior College alumni said the two-block walk from the main building to classes in the Junior College annex on 8th and Charles Sts. was every bit as cold as walks across today’s campus.

In fact, Galen Clark ’54, remembers one winter ice storm that literally brought students to their knees – he remembers having to crawl uphill on icy sidewalks from the bus stop to the 10th and Edmond building.

“I enjoyed my Junior College experience and I was prepared academically and socially for a rewarding life,” Beverly said. “It has been my pleasure over the years to see the Junior College expand into Missouri Western State University.” ■

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Tom remembers spending a lot of time in the Grotto, the Junior College “student union” that was located in a church basement just south of the Junior College. There was always a card game going, he said.

Julia said she had an art class in the church building as well, because by the time she was a student in 1965, the Junior College building was overcrowded and classes were held in eight different locations around downtown. The library was even expanded into the wide hallway for more space.

Not unlike today’s students, most Junior College alumni held part-time jobs while attending school. Julia, Western’s library director, said working part time at the public library downtown as a Junior College student helped her determine her career path. But unlike today’s

campus, there were no residence halls at the Junior College and almost everyone lived with their parents while they attended school.

The Junior College always offered a variety of extra-curricular activities, as well. There was a football team for a couple years in the early 1920s that didn’t reappear until 1969, but men’s basketball teams always had a large following when they played at the Civic Arena.

The Junior College building featured a full-size auditorium, where many plays, variety shows and musical performances were held. The college also boasted



Alumni Profile

Merrill Steeb '47: One of JC's first WWII vets

Merrill Steeb '47, spends time every day, even on weekends, in a warehouse office he owns in downtown St. Joseph, Mo. The walls of his office are covered with photos, clippings, wise sayings and memorabilia from his time as a Marine, as a lawyer and a judge, as a husband and father and as a world traveler. Anecdotes from those experiences flow freely.

But Merrill says his career path would have been totally different if it hadn't been for Nelle Blum, dean of the St. Joseph Junior College from 1931 to 1957.

When the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, 17-year-old Merrill dropped out of high school and joined the Marines. When he returned from the Pacific four years later, the last thing he wanted to do, he said, was go back to high school and earn his diploma.

So Merrill went to see Nelle and she allowed him to enroll in the Junior College. "She said, 'Let's see how you get along,'" Merrill said. "And I made the dean's list the first semester."

He insists that if Nelle had not accepted him in the Junior College, he would have never gone back to high school and would have probably spent his career as a factory worker.

Merrill was one of the first six World War II veterans from the area to enroll in the Junior College in 1945, and he still has the photo taken by a local newspaper of the six young men in a classroom at the Junior College.

"The Junior College was a pretty good school. We had good faculty and there wasn't any foolishness."

- Merrill Steeb '47

to a two-year degree. He recalls that tuition was just \$29 a semester, but he had to work as a night watchman and in two taverns to pay for that and his living expenses.

"The Junior College was a pretty good school," Merrill said. "We had good faculty and there wasn't any foolishness."

Merrill was reactivated by the Marines in 1949 and sent to Germany during the Korean War. He had married after Junior College and his wife, Glenrose, was able to accompany him to Germany. Lucky for him, he was stationed close to his father's family home and he got to know many of his German relatives. Merrill said he's probably made between 30 and 40 trips to Germany since.

When his deployment ended, he went back to school and graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1955. After working for a short time for an insurance company and then the city attorney's office, he opened his own practice in the Corby Building in downtown St. Joseph. He kept that office until 1976, when he was elected to the Fifth Judicial Court in Division 1. Merrill served two terms as a judge and retired in 1988.

"I liked being on the bench," he said, calling it a "natural step" from practicing law for 20 years. Sometimes he was called "peculiar names" by defendants and criticized by the local newspaper, but for the most part, he enjoyed his career.

And he never forgot Nelle Blum's part in it. ■

Did you know?

- Bing Crosby served as a judge in the 1936 Junior College beauty queen contest.
- The St. Joseph Museum was created in the St. Joseph Junior College library in 1940 by biology teacher Orrel Andrews and her students in the Natural Science Club.
- Fifteen courses were offered the first year of the Junior College.
- A course in civilian aeronautics was first offered in 1939 to train students to fly airplanes.
- For several years, the Junior College charged no tuition to those who lived in the St. Joseph School District and later, the Missouri Western Junior College District.
- In 1936, the Junior College had four sports teams – basketball, track, tennis and golf – all for men.
- A Junior College Alumni Association was formed during the 1954-55 school year.
- A survey in 1940 revealed that 30 percent of Central High School's graduating class enrolled in the Junior College and only 6.6 percent enrolled elsewhere.
- In 1942, the local newspaper reported that the St. Joseph School Board was considering closing the Junior College as a drastic measure to save money.
- The Junior College's first Homecoming parade was held in 1954.
- In 1933, Frederick H. Barbee, superintendent of the St. Joseph School District, proposed changing the name of St. Joseph Junior College to Robidoux Junior College. Students and faculty were furious and immediately signed and presented a petition to him against the proposal. ■

A tribute to the
"Concrete Campus"

Alumni Profile JC Questions? Ask Frances Flanagan '35

If you have a question about St. Joseph Junior College, Frances Flanagan '35 will probably know the answer. She earned her degree from the Junior College and then taught English there. Then, after she retired, she authored a book about its history.

Frances graduated from Easton High School, Easton, Mo., in 1933, right in the middle of the Great Depression. She felt fortunate for the opportunity to attend Junior College and study to become a teacher, a privilege a lot of women didn't have in the 1930s.

"Back in those days, there weren't many things girls could ever dream of being," Frances said. "Perhaps teaching wouldn't have been my first choice, but I didn't have many other choices."

She didn't get involved in much as a student. She was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, but had time for little else. "Frank Popplewell was a very young man when he taught me," Frances said. "He did an excellent job helping high school students begin to think like college students."

Armed with her two-year college degree, Frances began teaching in the St. Joseph School District, spending most of her years with third-graders at Humboldt Elementary. She spent eight summers earning a bachelor's degree and four more earning a master's, both in English, with the career goal of teaching at the Junior College.

But the career change didn't come easily or quickly. The head of elementary education for the school district, Max Coleman, wanted her to continue teaching in the elementary school or perhaps become a librarian. (At the time, the Junior College was still operated by the school district.) But Frances finally achieved her dream and began teaching at the Junior College in 1963. She taught in the English Department of the Junior College and Missouri Western until 1980, for a total of 44 years in the classroom. She also served as English department chair for six years.

"I really loved the third graders but I really wanted to teach college," Frances said. "It's what I am. I liked to think at that level and I liked to stimulate them to think."

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Nelle Blum

Most current students today may not realize that their student center, the Blum Union, is named after one of the most influential teachers and administrators in the history of the Junior College.

But ask anyone connected with the St. Joseph Junior College in the years that Nelle Blum served as dean – 1931 to 1957 – and you will be hard pressed to find an unkind word said about her.

"She was an amazing, wonderful person," said Merrill Steeb '47. "But she was all business. I don't think

I ever saw her smile or laugh." Several former students agreed with him, calling the dean an excellent teacher and administrator, but reserved.

Beverly Smith '57, remembers the dean as pleasant and interested in her as an individual. "I always felt she knew every student at JC and that she wanted us to be successful."

Jim Murray '36, wrote an article about Nelle in a 1986 piece in the St. Joseph News-Press, saying, "Nelle Blum reigned

as dean of the school in those days and she ruled with an iron hand."

Nelle was born in Humboldt, Kan., and received her bachelor's degree in 1913 from the University of Oklahoma. She began teaching logic, philosophy and education at the Junior College in 1921. Nelle earned a master's degree from Teachers College of Columbia University in 1926 and became dean of the junior college in 1931, continuing to teach until she retired 26 years later in 1957.

That year, students dedicated the yearbook to her: *"We do not attempt to enumerate the advancements of our college during Dean Blum's administration; neither do we attempt to tell of the personal guidance afforded by her through the years, nor could we know all that she does and has done for the students of Junior College, for she is a quietly efficient and modest individual. Therefore, we merely state that we are dedicating this 1957 yearbook*

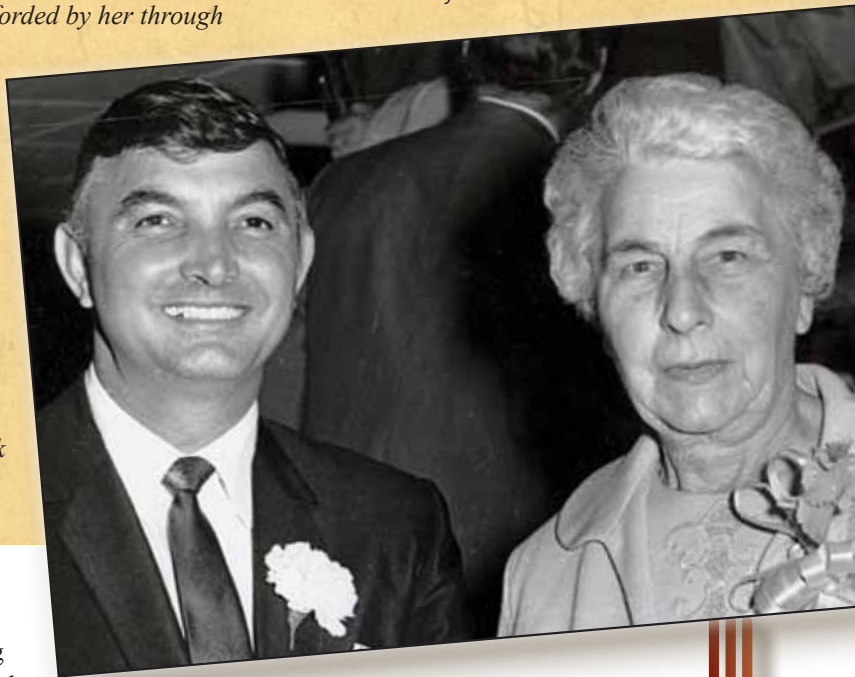
out of a sincere gratitude to one whom we hold in high esteem, our Dean, Nelle Blum."

She served during challenging times – the Great Depression, World War II and the Korean War, but the Junior College continued to thrive throughout her tenure.

In 1972, the student center on Missouri Western's new campus was named in her honor. She also received a Distinguished Service Award from Western and was given honorary lifetime membership in the Alumni Association that year.

After her retirement, she continued to live in St. Joseph. She died in 1991. ■

Dr. M.O. Looney with Nelle Blum



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Two years after she retired, Dr. M.O. Looney, who was about to retire as Western's president, asked her to write a history of the college.

It took her nine months of working "morning, noon and night" researching, interviewing, reading, writing and editing to complete the draft of the institution's 68-year history. "It was the biggest writing assignment I ever had, but I'm glad I did it; I enjoyed it." Writing a history of such an institution was not easy, Frances said, but it did help that she had both attended and taught there. The book was published in 1983.

"The Junior College set the standard for what we have today," she says. "Nelle Blum and the early teachers had a good idea about what integrity meant. They were serious about the students, the college and the city. I hope that part of the Junior College still exists today." ■





Western preps for Chiefs camp

For Athletic Director Dave Williams, black and gold has always been entrenched in his brain, but for the past several months, he's had to intermingle some red in with the black and gold, because he is the campus go-to person for anything having to do with the Kansas City Chiefs training camp at Western this summer.

Dave has been meeting with the Chiefs, with his staff, with other campus departments and with St. Joseph community members to get ready for the three-week camp (the exact dates were not available at press time but will most likely run from late July to mid-August). There's a need for all those meetings, he says, because the logistics of hosting an NFL training camp on a college campus are mind-boggling, and every detail of the camp has to be ironed out. And, don't forget, it's new for the Chiefs, too, because they've held training camp for the last 19 years in River Falls, Wis.

One of those details is feeding the team. Football players eat an estimated 2,500 to 5,000 calories a day when they are training, and somebody has to figure out not only how to fill them up, but how to get them back and forth from their sleeping quarters (Scanlon Hall) or practice fields to the cafeteria and back. Will they be bused? Will they walk? What about security? What if it's raining? What about fan control? The questions and number of meetings just keep growing as the camp dates get closer.

Dave said there are actually two sides to the training camp prep: one, getting the players ready for the season and two, making sure the fans have a great experience. "Nothing trumps getting the team ready; this is the highest priority," he said. "But the fan experience is very important, too."

So the athletic director is working with the Chiefs not only to figure out the logistics of the actual training, but also making sure fans have player interaction, activities, concessions, restrooms and good parking.

"If someone is looking for a fun, low-cost family activity this summer, this is it. The camp will have a fan-friendly, kid-friendly environment," Dave says. The only charge will be for parking.

He believes fans will be able to get pretty close to the players, too, and there will be opportunities for autographs. He warns, however, that fans may not get every autograph they want, because the players' time is limited. Players will be at practice, in meetings or eating meals from 7 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m. every day. (Remember their top priority!)

He is also working closely with the St. Joseph community as part of the camp prep. Businesses are very excited about what the influx of fans could mean to them, he said. "Many businesses want to figure out a way to profit from the camp, but some are just Chiefs fans who aren't out to make money. Some have volunteered to feed the Chiefs for free."

"It's going to be great for St. Joseph, for the state and for the Chiefs," said Marci Bennett, executive director of the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

"It will bolster our image of St. Joseph and Missouri Western in the Kansas City market." In fact, during the 2009 Chiefs football season, the CVB used a \$25,000 grant to promote the camp and St. Joseph during the Chiefs radio broadcasts.

She and Dave are working together to make sure camp fans have plenty to keep them busy in the community as well as on campus, and ensuring that





Construction of the indoor recreation and sports facility on campus is well underway and scheduled for completion in time for the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp.

the information is publicized. "We're here to listen to Dave, hear what his plans are and assist him and Missouri Western in any way we can," Marci said.

And on top of all the planning for the actual camp, Dave is also overseeing the new indoor sports and recreation facility that Western gained as part of the Chiefs training camp package. A snowy and cold winter set the construction back slightly, but Dave is confident it will be ready in time for camp.

The facility, which Western will use the 49 weeks the Chiefs aren't on campus, contains a locker room, classrooms, coaches' offices, a weight training room and a lecture hall, along with, of course, an indoor football field.

"The camp has created a huge amount of work for all our athletic staff and several others in the campus community, but it will be offset by the fact that we have a new facility," Dave said.

So if you live out of town, you need to book a hotel room or wrangle an invitation from relatives in St. Joseph for late July or early August. If you live in town, be sure to invite your out-of-town relatives and friends to visit during the camp. And expect packed restaurants and more traffic, but a lot of fun.

"We're very confident we're going to do a great job and give fans a unique experience," Dave said. Western is ready for the red invasion. ■

Alumni Profile Alumna promotes camp

One of Western's alumni is working very hard to make sure potential visitors to St. Joseph, Mo., know that the Kansas City Chiefs are coming to town to train this summer. Mary Supple Bish '87, is the director of sales for the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau, and she said she never misses an opportunity to share information about the Chiefs training camp with out-of-towners.

"I'm very excited," Mary said. "St. Joseph has some very unique things that attract visitors, and now we can promote the Chiefs camp, too."

When she was a senior at Western, Mary, a leisure management major with a commercial recreation emphasis, was facing a quickly approaching deadline to find an internship when her advisor suggested the local Ramada Inn. She was selected for the internship and immediately realized the tourism business was a good fit for her. At the end of the internship period she was hired full time and worked her way up to sales and catering manager.

Mary was at the Ramada Inn 10 years and then worked four years at the local casino in the same position. When a convention sales manager position opened at the CVB, she applied for the job and has been there for almost 10 years. A promotion took her to her current position.

"I love my job. There isn't anything I don't like about it. I even have to do a board report today and I don't mind that," she said with a laugh.

Mary says she loves working with groups all over the country who are planning conferences, figuring out what they need and helping them get it. Her position also requires traveling to conferences to promote the city, and she works closely with the Western Institute on campus when she is looking for meeting rooms and conference spaces.

"Our mission is to market St. Joseph as a destination and the Chiefs camp is one more great attraction," Mary said. "Go Chiefs!" ■

The Chiefs Training Camp Equation:
80 football players + 70-120 chiefs personnel and media + 2-a-days + est. 5,000 or more fans daily x 3 weeks on campus = X possibly 100,000 visitors to Western!





From the Alumni Association President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Two years ago, you were introduced to two new presidents, Robert Vartabedian, the university president, and me. Both of us have last names which start with "V" and are difficult to pronounce. We also both take responsibility for breaking the curse of horrid Homecoming weather. The parallel ends there.

It has been my privilege to serve as your president for the last two years. I am immensely proud of our accomplishments – from the variety of chapter activities (including cross-state activities like the annual Cardinals/Royals game and the Chiefs home opener) to expanded Homecoming activities which now address all alumni constituencies, Junior College to university.

I am especially proud to have worked with the Alumni Association Board of Directors. This group of volunteers is truly a "working" board. They set up large events very early in the morning and are

there until the last person leaves. They provide input and leadership for a myriad of activities and are never afraid to try something new.

I have noticed, over the last two years, an increase in pride for Missouri Western by all of our alumni. In the upcoming year, we will join President Vartabedian in welcoming the Kansas City Chiefs to campus for training camp, in opening a newly renovated Agenstein Hall in January 2011, and in any new venture the university proposes. I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see what will come next.

My best wishes to the new Alumni Association administration. I will remain

Faithful, proud and true,

Greg VerMulm '89

President

Missouri Western Alumni Association



Gregory VerMulm '89



An evergreen story

Last summer, a Western staff member mentioned to Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, that when prospective students visit campus in the winter, the landscape looks pretty stark since most of the trees shed their leaves, and he suggested the university plant more evergreens.

Dr. Vartabedian had just begun his campus outdoor initiative, so an addition of evergreen trees became part of that project. A campaign, "40 Trees for 40 Years," was created last fall to help pay for them. That campaign asked alumni to donate \$200 for each evergreen. The name coincides with the 40th anniversary of Western moving to their present-day campus in 1969. The long-term goal is to plant 100 evergreens over the next three years.

To kick off the campaign for 40 trees, Dr. Vartabedian donated \$2,000 for 10 trees. The alumni response was outstanding, and enough money was raised for 61 trees.

Larry Stobbs '74, donated \$2,200 for 11 trees. "When the president called on alumni to make the university campus more beautiful, I wanted to respond to that call," Larry said. "We already have a beautiful campus, but we can make it even more appealing."

"I was very pleased with the tremendous response we received," said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services. "It engaged alumni in a way we've never seen before."

Western has planted more than 600 trees on campus since it moved to its present location. ■



Alumni and friends search for plastic babies as part of the Mardi Gras fun at "Griffs on the Bayou" at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks in St. Joseph, Mo.

Homecoming 2010

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us for Homecoming 2010 – October 6-9! Plans are underway for several reunions again this year, along with the annual awards banquet on Thursday and parade and game on Saturday. Check out griffonalumni.org for more details as the dates get closer. ■



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE
ALUMNI PHONATHON
THIS SPRING!
WE APPRECIATE EVERY
CONTRIBUTION TO THE
WESTERN ANNUAL FUND!

ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21

Griffons Uncorked! Stonehaus Winery, 6:30 p.m., Lee's Summit, Mo. \$10 per person. Appetizers, wine tasting and a class on wine and cheese pairing. Call 816-271-5646 or email mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu to RSVP

May 23

Junior College Day, 12:30 p.m., Leah Spratt Hall Enright Room, 214. Call 816-271-5646 to RSVP

June 26

Alumni Day at the K! Royals vs. Cardinals, 1:10 p.m., Kauffman Stadium. Tailgate starts at 10 a.m. See reservation form on p. 26 or go online to griffonalumni.org

Sept. 25

Family Weekend
Hall of Fame Game – Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2010 honored

Oct. 6-9

Homecoming Week

TBA The Kansas City alumni chapter will host a *Kansas City Chiefs game at Arrowhead* this fall; the date has not yet been determined.

Check out griffonalumni.org for more information on all alumni events!



Alumni Profile

When disaster strikes, she follows

Jaime Habersat '99, said she had never really thought much about volunteering far from home until about two years ago.

In April 2008, her minister asked her to go with a group from her church, Raymore Christian Church, to Greensburg, Kan., and spend a week helping rebuild after a May 2007 tornado devastated about 95 percent of the community.

"I worked my tail off for someone who lost everything. It was an amazing feeling," she said.

And she was hooked.

A year later, Jaime spent a week in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, helping flood victims. And this past fall, she helped organize a week of service at various agencies in the Kansas City area and took three days off from work to volunteer.

In Greensburg, Jaime's group, Disciples Home Mission, helped re-roof a home so the family could move out of a government-provided trailer. "They were so excited to get their house back. I felt like I made a difference," she said.

In Cedar Rapids about 10 months after the June 2008 flood, Jaime and her group completed work on a church so members could hold their Easter services there.

"It touches you in a way you never thought it would," she said of her volunteering. "They are exhausting and emotional weeks but they are wonderful."

Last fall, the church group had planned to travel to Slidell, La., to help with Hurricane Katrina rebuilding, but when that fell through, church members decided to reach out to their own community.

Each member was asked to donate at least one day of service, but over the course of six days, 54 church members logged 403 hours on nine different projects for several agencies, including cleaning, maintenance, building a wall, painting, and making box lunches for 500 children at a day care for homeless children. It was so successful they hope to repeat it next year.

"It was exhausting but it was so worth it," she said.

Her church had already scheduled a mission trip in early February of this year to Haiti to work in a Disciples of Christ orphanage, but after the earthquake there in January, the purpose and mission of the trip changed to relief for the earthquake victims.

Jaime, a native of Kansas City, Mo., enrolled at Western thinking about majoring in music but changed her mind and graduated with a marketing degree. As a student, she was active in student government, residence council, the student activities board and Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, so service work comes pretty naturally to her. Jaime earned an MBA from Webster University and works for the U.S. General Services Administration in the fleet department in Kansas City.

She said she plans to continue volunteering on mission trips as often as she can. "I've roofed a home, made a staircase, put windows in a home and made a tire swing," she says. "I love it." ■

**Take me
out to the
ballgame!!**

**Royals vs. Cardinals
Saturday, June 26
10 a.m. Tailgate,
1:10 p.m. Game**

Name _____ Class year _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

I want _____ tickets at \$33 each (includes tailgate). TOTAL: \$ _____

I already have tickets; I want _____ tailgate tickets at \$10 each. TOTAL: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

I have enclosed ☐ Check payable to MWSU Alumni Services **or** ☐ Credit Card Information:

Type of card: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Name on card _____ 3-digit verification code on back: _____

Credit Card # _____ Signature _____

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

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

You may order tickets online at griffonalumni.org

Please include names of guests.

1970s

PAT CONWAY '73, was elected state representative for Missouri's 27th District in a special election in February.

PENNY STAMP EVANS '73, was named 2009 "Woman of the Year" at the St. Augustine (Fla.) Yacht Club. Penny retired as a special education teacher for the Independence, Mo., public schools and moved to St. Augustine.

1980s

THERESA HUNSAKER '81, is an administrator at the Grundy County-Jewett Norris Library in Trenton, Mo.

CHRISTINE LAUGHLIN '81 & '82, was named chief of university police at Missouri University of Science and Technology. She was formerly a major in the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and had been with that department since 1983.

STEVE MARR '84, retired from the Grandview, Mo., Fire Department after 22 years as an assistant chief. He spent 11 years with the St. Joseph, Mo., Fire Department where he attained the rank of captain.

ANDREW FENLON '87, recently published a work of fiction, "The Final Gift." His website is www.the-final-gift.com.

PAUL RHOADS '89, head football coach of the Div. I Iowa State University Cyclones, took his team to the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., in December 2009. Paul is in his first year as head coach at ISU.

1990s

TAMMY PRICE '91, was named 2009-10 Teacher of the Year for the Chillicothe (Mo.) R-II School District. She teaches fifth grade at Central School.

CHRISTY A. (KESSLER) SOEKEN '93, and her husband, Charlie, announce the birth of a son, Carson William, born Oct. 9, 2009. Carson joins a big sister, Caroline, who was born Feb. 29, 2008.

TRACY JONES '98, earned a master's of arts with distinction in TESOL (Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages) from London Metropolitan University, and the Cambridge CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching

to Adults) course from Oxford House College. He returned to Seoul, South Korea, this spring to continue teaching.

ASHLEY (PALMER) THIEME '98, was promoted to assistant district administrator of the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole in the District 39 office in Brookfield, Mo.

RYAN D. VAUGHAN '98, is a Missouri State Trooper in Zone 5, Douglas and Ozark Counties.

JAMIE GRAYSON '99, received Western's Drum Major for Justice Award as part of the university's celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Week.

2000s

STACEY (MURRAY) PARK '00, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of a daughter, Laurel Josephine, born Nov. 19, 2009.

ZACHARY '01, and LAURA (DEFENBAUGH) '03, COUGHLIN announce the birth of a daughter, Devree Lorraine, born Aug. 10, 2009. She joins big brother Zander Joseph, born May 13, 2006.

Faithful, proud and true – Kendell Misemer '82

"I always want to be remembered for being a good guy and one who was there when someone needed me." That pretty much sums up the philosophy of Kendell Misemer '82, who has been a faithful, proud and true alumnus of Western since he graduated.

As a student, Kendell was all about volunteering and service. He was a member of the agriculture club and the Student Senate and even served two terms as student body president (he was the first student to serve two terms), so it shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone that he continued his service as an alumnus.

Just a year after he graduated, Kendell was asked to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and he has been on the board ever since. Elected as board president for one term when he was 27, Kendell may be the youngest head of the board in the Alumni Association's history.

"I walked on campus in June of 1977 and in some sense, I never left," Kendell says with a laugh. "It's become near and dear to my heart."

Kendell, who farms near Stanberry, Mo., has two associate degrees – agribusiness technology and banking and finance – and a bachelor's degree in agriculture economics, so it was difficult for him when the agriculture program shut down in the mid-1990s. He had formed an alumni chapter of the agriculture club as soon as he graduated and a few years ago, he organized a reunion for former agriculture club members.

"The great thing about Missouri Western when I was there, and even today, is that you are not just a number or statistic. Students feel a part of the campus community."

One of the most important duties of the Alumni Association, Kendell believes, is

honoring distinguished alumni each year at the awards banquet during Homecoming week. "When we recognize great alumni, it makes other alumni feel proud that they went here, too."

"I try to promote Missouri Western wherever I go, even when I'm on Northwest's (Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville) campus, but I get in trouble for that." ■

Editor's note: We will spotlight a "Faithful, Proud and True" alumnus/alumna in each issue of the Western Magazine. If you would like to nominate someone for this feature, please email me at holtz@missouriwestern.edu or call 816-271-5651. Nominations will be reviewed by Alumni Services Director Colleen Kowich and me, with preference given to those alumni who regularly and routinely "give back" to Western.

CHRIS ROEPE '03, is the political director of the Missouri Republican Party. He previously served as chief of staff to Missouri Sen. Charlie Shields.

ALICIA (JACOBS) TICHENOR '03, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of a son, Ross Landrum, born Nov. 9, 2009. He joins a stepbrother, Austin.

SHAUN AGNEW '04, graduated with a master of arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music.

MIRANDA DICKEY '04, and Matthew Rice were married Sept. 5, 2009. The couple resides in Independence, Mo.

AMANDA MAYS '04, joined Evans Realty in St. Joseph, Mo., as a real estate agent.

WILLIAM KARIKER '04, was selected for the International Jessup Moot Court team at Washburn University School of Law. He traveled to Houston to compete against several international teams.

ELIJAH J.L. HAAHR '05, joined the law firm of McAnany, Van Cleave & Phillips as an associate. Elijah joined the firm's workers' compensation law and litigation practices in the Springfield, Mo., office.



REBECCA (JACKSON) PLUMLEY '05, and her husband, Robert, announce the birth of a daughter, Caitlyn, born April 18, 2009.

DEVON THORNE- KARIKER '05, was selected for the LEAD program, a year-long leadership pro-

In Memory ...

We honor those who have recently passed away. If you want us to include someone in this listing, please call 816-271-5651, mail to Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or e-mail holtz@missouriwestern.edu.

BART G. BLAIR, St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 21, 2009.

Bart was employed in the maintenance department at Western at the time of his death.

RONALD COOK '57, Lawrence, Kan., Oct. 14, 2009.

SUZANNE GREENBERG '91, Corpus Christi, Texas, Dec. 20, 2009.

CARL O. KIEFER JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 3, 2009.

RICHARD LOVELL '81, Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 6, 2010.

CHARLES F. MATTER '74, Gower, Mo., Nov. 22, 2009.

ROBERT B. PALMER JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 18, 2010.

DONALD M. RUSSELL '72, Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 1, 2009.

DONALD R. SIDWELL '75, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 26, 2009.

ELEANOR (WELCH) WHITE, JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 30, 2009.

gram, at the Colmery O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka, Kan. Devon is a Housing and Urban Development and Veterans Affairs Support Housing social worker.

LUKE GORHAM '06, was promoted to interim co-ordinator for the LGBTQIA programs at University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is a full-time staff member in the student life office and will earn a master's in higher education administration from UMKC this spring.

ERIN PETERS '06, and CODY HANAVAN '08, were married June 19, 2009, in Trenton, Mo. The couple resides in Olathe, Kan.

ASHLEY VERNON '07, and DREW HANNA '09, were married Aug. 15, 2009.

PENNY ARNOLD '08, received the Individual Achievement Award at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development in Jefferson City, Mo. Penny is a teacher at Peirshing Elementary School in St. Joseph, Mo.

KATHERINE BRUNS '08, was selected as a regional finalist for Missouri's 19th annual Older Worker of the Year contest and competed with 12 other people for the title.

BARBARA MEYER '08, and Clint Spencer were married Aug. 8, 2009. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo., and both teach at Spring Garden Middle School in St. Joseph.

KOREN DAILEY '08, and Cody Wills were married Sept. 19, 2009. The couple resides in Oak Grove, Mo. ■

Tell us what's new!

Let your classmates know what you are doing since you graduated! Everyone who submits an entry for Alumnotes for the Fall 2010 issue will be entered into a drawing for a free MWSU T-shirt! You may submit using the form below and sending it by regular mail, or submit by email (see addresses below). Deadline for entries is July 30, 2010.

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

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

Rebirth of a tradition

Thou mayest remember the Madrigal Feasts that were popular at Western in the 1970s, hosted by then president Dr. M.O. Looney and his wife, Dorsey, and coordinated by the music department. Lo, the tradition returned last December with a Renaissance Feast hither on campus, thanks to the urging of Dr. Laurel Vartabedian, Western's fair first lady.

After a social, the feast began with trumpet blasts announcing the procession of the King and Queen, Al Purcell, chair of the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors; and his wife, Annie.

More than 150 guests were treated to nonstop entertainment all evening, including musical performances by Western's Renaissance Singers, directed by Dr. Roger Hale, assistant professor of music; a juggling contest; a dance around the "December" pole; a staged combat scene; sonnet readings; the passing of the mistletoe; three music professors providing background music with recorders; and lively banter from the head table. More than 30 costumed maids and gentles who were music, theatre and cinema students, including two jesters, entertained throughout the evening and helped serve the guests. The evening was directed by Dr. Kevin Brown, assistant professor of theatre. It was a goodden for all.

Several flags from the original Madrigal Feasts were brought out of storage and re-hung for the event.

Wherefore was the Renaissance Feast held, thou may ask? To raise funds for the music theatre program, and the committee, lords and ladies all, hopes to make the Renaissance Feast an annual event. ■





Missouri Western State University

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Then and Now

Then: St. Joseph Junior College labs - 1933-1969



Now: Western's Remington Hall labs - 2010

