

SPRING 2012

# Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University

*Adrienne  
Collins:*

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THE SOUND OF  
MUSIC







# A New Member of the Team

George Hayward was a linebacker on Missouri Western's first football team. That, he says, led to lifelong friendships, a lot of great memories, and a good foundation for his career.

His experiences as a Griffon recently led him to establish an endowed fund for Missouri Western's football team, and doing so made him a member of the Missouri Western Clock Tower Society. George said that although he contributes regularly to the athletics department, he thought setting up the bequest was a good thing to do.

"Over the years, I've been lucky where I am, and I owe a lot to Missouri Western. I wanted to do something to give back to them. Taking part in football really meant a lot to me. I'm happy to help Missouri Western however I can."

**George Hayward, Class of '74**  
**President, Lake Road Warehouse Co.**  
**Official for the NFL**  
**Member of the Clock Tower Society**



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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

ON THE COVER: Sophomore Adrienne Collins, an outstanding vocalist. Photo by Eric Callow '97.

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Dorsey Looney, wife of Dr. M.O. Looney, Missouri Western's president from 1967-1983, was recently remembered with a plaque on campus.





# Beth Wheeler retires, Ann Pearce joins cabinet

**T**his past January, Beth Wheeler '77, retired as director of external relations and Ann Pearce was named as her replacement.

## Beth Wheeler

Beth became Missouri Western's director of external relations in 2001. In this role, she served as the university's liaison with local, regional, state and national elected officials and was a part of the president's cabinet. She also worked closely with Dr. Vartabedian on special projects.

"Working for my alma mater has been satisfying," Wheeler said. "I have been fortunate to collaborate with Western staff, faculty, administrators, retirees, students, alumni and advocates while here, and appreciate my experiences with each of them. These external relationships are critical to Western's continued success, and manifest the philosophy that 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.' I am grateful for the mentoring of colleagues, including Presidents Janet Murphy, Jim McCarthy, Jim Scanlon and

Bob Vartabedian. I am proud to have been associated with Western and look forward to its thriving into the future."

Beth is a native of Jameson, Mo. She earned her bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure studies from Missouri Western and her master's degree in recreation and leisure studies from the University of Central Missouri in 1979.

"Beth worked diligently to promote Western, often behind the scenes," said Dr. Vartabedian. "She has been an invaluable resource to many of us in our work on campus and in Jefferson City. She will be greatly missed."

## Ann Pearce

Ann, whose title is special assistant to the president, is serving on Dr. Robert Vartabedian's cabinet and is responsible for building and sustaining strong relationships with local, state and federal decision-makers to advance the university's strategic goals.

She worked for her alma mater, the University of Central Missouri, for 25

years, starting in the office of public relations and serving the last seven years of her tenure as the president's chief of staff. In that position, Ann served as UCM's liaison to the statewide higher education community, including the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Council on Public Higher Education. She also was a registered state lobbyist, working closely with state lawmakers and other officials to further UCM's legislative agenda, and worked with Missouri's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to secure federal appropriations.

"Ann is a great addition to the Western family," said Dr. Vartabedian. "She has been a highly respected member of Missouri's higher education community for years, and will effectively represent us in the community and among state leaders in Jefferson City."

Prior to her time as chief of staff, Ann served as UCM's director of communication and creative services, assistant director of public relations, editor and projects manager and news bureau manager. She has also worked in both the print and broadcast media, as well as the photography industry.

Ann earned her bachelor of science degree in mass communication/broadcasting and film from UCM, and has received advanced professional development through summer institutes in communication at the University of Notre Dame, and in executive management at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University.

"Having worked in Missouri higher education for so many years, I am very familiar with Missouri Western's dedication to its academic mission, as well as to its commitment to student success," Ann said. "Those were crucial elements when I considered applying for this position, and I am honored to be selected as special assistant to the president." ■

# President's Perspective



*Editor's Note: During his Jan. 17, 2012, State of the State address, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon recommended a 12.5 percent reduction in state higher education appropriations for fiscal year 2013. On Feb. 7, he amended his proposal, indicating that \$40 million from the \$140 million Missouri received in a settlement between the states' attorneys general and the nation's five largest mortgage banks would be restored to the state's higher education budget, bringing the appropriation cut to 7.8 percent. We sat down with Missouri Western President Robert Vartabedian to discuss this proposed reduction.*

**Western Magazine:** How dire is Missouri's higher education funding situation?

**Dr. V:** Well, it's no secret that the state is undergoing extraordinarily difficult economic times, but these persistent budget cuts to higher education are taking their toll on Missouri's universities. We're looking at a 20 percent reduction over the last three years alone. According to the Center for the Study of Education Policy, Missouri ranks 44th nationally in state appropriations for higher education per \$1,000 of personal income. This is the lowest it's been since the early 1960s. Missouri also ranks 44th in the country in per capita funding for higher education.

**WM:** Where does Missouri Western fall on the state appropriation scale?

**Dr. V:** Missouri Western has the unfortunate distinction of receiving less state appropriations per full-time-equivalent student than any other public university in the state. Unlike Missouri's elementary and secondary sector, the state doesn't have a funding formula for higher

education. Apart from a few exceptions, in those years institutions receive additional state funding it is provided in the form of an across-the-board percentage increase to a base appropriation for each institution. In theory, that makes sense. In reality, it continuously widens the gap between those institutions with large base appropriations and those, such as Western, with smaller bases. We are trying to work with Missouri's legislators to find a solution to the unintentional problems inherent in the current funding process.

**WM:** On average, how do we compare with other schools?

**Dr. V:** Over the past three decades, the current higher education appropriation process has unintentionally caused a compounded disparity in funding for Missouri Western, as well as for several other state institutions. For example, in fiscal year 2007, Missouri Western's appropriation per full-time-equivalent student was \$1,132, or 17.6 percent, below the state average. Now, five years later, the university's appropriation per FTE is \$1,558, or 26.8 percent, below the state average.

**WM:** Can Missouri Western raise tuition to cover the loss in state appropriations?

**Dr. V:** Historically, we have held tuition below the state average, because one of our main priorities is to provide high-quality education at an affordable price. That being said, a provision of the state's Higher Education Student Funding Act limits tuition increases to the percentage of change in the consumer price index over the previous year, unless a waiver is granted. This year, that rate is approximately three percent. Of course, if a university has a higher tuition rate than ours, it will generate more revenue per student from its three percent increase than we will from our lower tuition rate. This, too, creates a fiscal disparity



Paul Stickler presents St. Joseph Metro Chamber plaques to Frank Crail, founder and president of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory; and Steven Craig, Missouri Western benefactor; at the grand opening of the RMCF in St. Joseph, Mo. Because of a partnership between the RMCF and Craig, store owners, Missouri Western students are able to complete internships at the new store. Aspen Leaf Yogurt opened next door.

## New equipment for cinema students

Students are excited about getting their hands on and trying out the new equipment in the cinema program. The department recently purchased \$200,000 worth of cinema equipment so students will be prepared for their careers.

"Very few cinema programs in the country will be able to match the opportunity we provide students to work with this kind of equipment," said Dallas Henry, assistant professor of theatre and cinema. "We've told students that 'with this equipment, there's nothing you can't do: we have everything you need to make any shot you want.'"

Key pieces of equipment are 15 new high-definition cameras, new lighting equipment, new audio equipment and some items usually found only on movie sets, like a crane, a dolly track and a Steadicam. The new equipment complements the new bachelor of arts in theatre and cinema degree program that will be offered beginning this fall.

"One of the cool things about our program is that students will pick up a camera starting in their freshman year, and will learn more and more skills as they go along," Dallas said. "By the time they graduate, they'll have an impressive reel of work to give prospective employers that will showcase the variety of skills they've learned."

Dallas said one of his goals for the new program is to teach an advanced course that will actually produce a feature-length film over two semesters.

The new equipment is being paid for by student fees in theatre and cinema courses. ■

## Student affairs VP

Dr. Judy Grimes, associate vice president and dean of students, was named interim vice president of student affairs in April. In March, the employment contract of Dr. Esther Peralez, vice president of student affairs, was not renewed. Judy first joined the Missouri Western staff in August 1996 as acting director of freshman year experience and has risen through various administrative positions since. ■



# Master's degree meets the demand

As more and more businesses rely on information technology, Missouri Western's master of applied science degree in information technology management will become more and more important, according to Dr. Baoqiang Yan, assistant professor of computer science, who teaches courses in the graduate program.

Unlike traditional master's programs, Baoqiang said, Missouri Western's provides core courses in both information technology, such as network administration, and software implementation and integration; along with courses in business, communication, marketing, economics, statistics and management. So the program is for managers who want a stronger background in information technology, or for those who have a computer science

background and want to move into management.

"There are a lot of companies in the area looking for people who have better backgrounds in both management and software application," said Deborah Becker, assistant professor of computer science and a faculty member in the master's degree program.

The program is geared for those with some background in computer science, Deborah said, but if a student doesn't have that, they start with some computer science courses.

Some of the current students in the program include a network administrator from the state library system and computer programmers from area businesses. Five of the students are international students.

## Centennial notes

*In each issue of the Western Magazine between now and our centennial year, 2015, we will offer tidbits and trivia from our history.*

Dr. Frances Flanagan '35, was a faculty member at the St. Joseph Junior College when the vote passed in 1965 to create the district of five counties (Andrew, Buchanan, Clay, Clinton and Platte) that would support the junior college. Prior to the vote, the junior college was totally funded by the St. Joseph School District.

She served on the committee to come up with a name for the college, since it now had support from a larger area than only St. Joseph. "I remember someone suggested 'Missouri Western,' and we all rather liked it." So Missouri Western Junior College it was.

Frances, who noted that she was four months old when the St. Joseph Junior College began, said that it was only a few weeks after the vote passed that people started talking about making the junior

"Students like the program because of the hands-on approach," Deborah said. As part of the program, they build their own network, learning how to build security, develop groups and group policies, and more. Students work in teams, conducting research and working to solve real problems and issues.

Current projects include working on a social network application; a database-driven application that pulls in information from an online database and puts it in a web application; and building an interface between two systems.

In order to accommodate students who are working full-time, courses are held in the afternoons and evenings and some are online.

For more information, contact Baoqiang at byan@missouriwestern.edu. ■

college a four-year institution. Faculty members began working on a four-year curriculum.

"The University of Missouri (in Columbia) was kind of a godmother to us; they helped a lot," she said.

The same year the vote passed, ironically, was the 50th anniversary of the St. Joseph Junior College, and an open house and reception was held to commemorate the event. A Golden Anniversary Banquet was also held for faculty, students and alumni, and President-elect Milburn Blanton and his wife were the honored guests.

The 1965 Griffon Yearbook noted, "On this important stage in the life of a junior college, progress has stepped in and dealt a blow that we accept with mixed emotions. We are happy to be a part of St. Joseph Junior College and its fine educational standards. Yet we realize that a change is needed and must take place if these standards are to continue." ■

*A photo from the 1965 Griffon Yearbook identifies Mrs. E.C. Little, Mrs. Paul Knepper, Mrs. G.L. Blackwell, Mrs. G. Max Coleman, and Mrs. Hubert Campbell as hostesses for the St. Joseph Junior College's 50th anniversary reception.*

www.missouriwestern.edu

# University names new vice president

Dr. Jonathan Yordy was hired as vice president for university advancement and will begin his duties next month.

"I am very happy that Dr. Yordy will be a part of the senior administrative team," said Dr. Robert

A. Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president. "His more than two decades of experience in higher education should serve him well in this very important position."

Jonathan will oversee advancement activities of the university, which includes development, alumni services, public relations and marketing, and campus printing and design services. He will serve as a member of the president's cabinet and as executive director of the MWSU Foundation. He replaces Dan Nicoson, who is retiring June 30.

"I am delighted to be joining the Missouri Western community and the faculty, staff, students and alumni that hold this institution dear," Jonathan said. "I am excited by the university's leadership and direction. Missouri Western is vitally important to the region and its economy, and I very much look forward to joining the team and helping to increase its financial base."

He has served as executive director of major gifts at Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., since 2008. In that position, he led a successful \$31 million fundraising campaign, grew the university's planned and estate giving program and oversaw a two-year increase in giving of 41 percent.

Jonathan noted that, because of the reduction of state allocations, there is a greater reliance on funding from the private sector, and the university

advancement division will be leading that effort. "It is a challenge for faculty, staff, alumni and the entire region. We all have to pull together to replace the lost state support."



Dr. Jonathan Yordy

**"Every interaction during the interview process really let me know that there was something special going on at Missouri Western, everyone was very friendly and warm."**

But although that may be a challenge, he said, it is also an exciting opportunity for him to help Missouri Western grow and thrive.

Prior to his position at Lewis University, he was coordinator of public relations and fundraising for the University of Missouri-St. Louis and also worked in university relations at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He was a television producer at Washington State University; was a partner in Vivace Press, a publisher of classical music; and was editor of the science alumni magazine at State University of New York at Buffalo.

Jonathan has also served as a lecturer at several universities, has published scholarly articles and poetry

and has written the lyrics or libretti to several musicals and operas that have been publicly performed at venues including Carnegie Hall and New York University.

He graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in English education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and received his Ph.D. in English from State University of New York at Buffalo.

In his free time, he and his wife, Jean, enjoy cooking and entertaining, opera, recreational walking and reading.

"Every interaction during the interview process really let me know that there was something special going on at Missouri Western, everyone was very friendly and warm." ■

## Engineering Technology agreement

Missouri Western signed an agreement with Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Neb., that allows SCC graduates with an associate of applied science degree in manufacturing engineering technology to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree in the same program at Missouri Western.

"Missouri Western has been great to work with, and through the work we have done together, I find comfort knowing that our graduates will be well taken care of," said Mark Eilers, chair/instructor of SCC's program.

Dr. George Yang, chair of Missouri Western's department of engineering technology, said graduates in the program qualify for jobs related to production, process and productivity improvement, and process design. They also qualify for supervisory and managerial positions in plant engineering. "Our graduates have a strong and broad foundation that enables them to perform well in any field in which application of manufacturing principles is required."

Missouri Western also provides the opportunity for in-state tuition through the Neighboring States Scholarship program for students from Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska who meet the criteria. ■

## Western Playhouse

The Western Institute is hosting a summer professional theatre company, and three shows will be performed on campus in the Potter Hall theater:

- June 15-17, 22-24 "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"
- July 5-8 "Barefoot in the Park," by Neil Simon
- July 19-22, 27-28 "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

See all the details and purchase tickets at [westernplayhouse.com](http://westernplayhouse.com). ■





# The Tree House for Everyone

Imagine a giant tree house - high off the ground with plenty of room to play and run in. And imagine how fun it is watching everyone on the ground below.

Now imagine that you're on the ground below, peering up at the tree house and wishing you could play in it, but you're unable to climb up to get into the tree house. Mike Ritter '02, coordinator for the office of disability services at Missouri Western, imagined something like that and decided to do something about it.

A few years ago, Mike and his wife, Michelle (Hendricks)'00, were sitting in their backyard admiring their large trees. "I thought it would be neat to build a tree house, but Michelle (who is in a wheelchair) couldn't use it," Mike said.

He imagined building an awesome tree house in a public park in the community, but adapting the structure so it was accessible to all, no matter their disability, no matter their age. Mike imagined The Tree House for Everyone.

He shared his idea with Stan Weston '74, a retired physical education teacher who works for the St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Department. Stan had developed the Adventure League, a program that offers noncompetitive sports opportunities to the disabled, and Mike was a volunteer for the league. The two began imagining how such a tree house really could be built.

If they can raise enough funds for the tree house - Mike estimates it will cost \$30,000 and they have already raised \$10,000 - they want to break ground in a small grove of trees near the front entrance of the Bode Ice Arena in St. Joseph in October of this year, since October is Disability Awareness Month.

After an article about their plans appeared in the local paper, River Bluffs Architects in St. Joseph offered to put Mike and Stan's ideas to paper and design the tree house at no cost.

The current design is approximately 30 ft x 30 ft, and plans call for it to be wired for electricity, cable television and computers. Mike envisions that the space will be used by classes from the local and area schools. It will be built with materials that don't require a lot of maintenance, and Mike says the Adventure League will hold a fund-raiser every year to pay for the tree house's upkeep.

Mike noted that when it is completed, The Tree House for Everyone will not look as though it is intended for only people with disabilities. "That will just be a welcome surprise for people who need (the accessible amenities)." He noted that the tree house will be accessible not just to people with disabilities, but to the elderly or parents with strollers.

To donate, call Mike at 816-279-2171 or Stan at 816-261-0022.

"We want to make the tree house so attractive that kids can't stop themselves from coming over to it," Mike said.

Can't you just imagine it? ■

# Dr. Phil Wann: Teaching excellence

Dr. Phil Wann, professor of psychology, always tells his freshmen students to get as broad of an education as possible, and don't be so quick to jump into the classes that they think they want to major in. "I always advise them to take general studies first. A broad general background is important."

Phil has been giving that advice to students at Missouri Western for the past 35 years. He arrived on campus while he was working on his doctoral dissertation from Carleton University in Ottawa, Can., in 1976 and has been a mainstay in the psychology department ever since. Phil announced his retirement in April.



"I like Missouri Western students," Phil says. "A lot of them are first-generation students and I enjoy teaching them."

As an undergraduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Phil was thinking about majoring in chemistry, but after obtaining a part-time job in the psychology

department where he helped with research on animals, he chose the major that has led to a lifelong career. His specialty is physiological (behavioral) psychology and the neuropsychology of learning and memory. "I thought psychology was all Freud and counseling, but when I found out it was research, I was interested," he said.

Conducting research with students has been a highlight of his career. "I enjoy it when I see students get excited. When students start working on a research project, sometimes in the beginning they just see it as a project. But soon they get more interested and self-motivated. They enjoy the learning just for itself."

Kasey (Goings) Beaty '94, one of Phil's students and advisees, said he sought out opportunities for her to make the most of her educational experience, including working on research projects together. "He encouraged me to take every opportunity to present projects at various conferences and to conduct an honors thesis project - all of which helped me to stand out above other students and gain the most of my experiences after Missouri Western," she said.

*Continued next page*

# Dr. Phil Wann: Teaching excellence *cont'd*

"Research really helps students understand what it's all about," Phil said. When he began his career at Missouri Western, there was not a huge emphasis on research with students or applied learning activities, he noted, but those opportunities have increased steadily over the years. In fact, Missouri Western's psychology department serves as an online clearinghouse for papers of undergraduate research across the country.

"I can honestly say that, if it were not for Dr. Wann's gentle nudging, I would not have been prepared for graduate school or for my professional positions in the area of psychophysiological research," Kasey said. "Through his help, my expectations of myself were elevated and my achievement accelerated. His guidance made all of the difference in my academic experience both at Missouri Western and thereafter."

Kasey earned a master's and worked several years as a research assistant in the field of psychophysiology. She and her husband, Jim '94, have four children and she is currently an at-home mom.

Dotty Dobbs, LMSW, '00, enrolled as a transfer student at Missouri Western in 1976 and said Phil and Dr. Willis McCann inspired her to pursue a degree in psychology. After completing a night class in the fall of 1981, Dotty had earned 98 credit hours, but a daughter and a full-time job put her education on hold for 18 years.

"In early 1999, I contacted Dr. Wann and visited with him about my desire

to finally achieve my college degree," she said. "He was very supportive and encouraging, personally assisting me to assure credits I had accumulated in the past were still valid, and serving as my advisor for outlining a class schedule so I could complete my degree in one year."

She graduated in 2000 with her bachelor's degree in psychology, the only one of her six siblings with a college degree. Dotty went on to earn a master's degree and worked as a clinical therapist.

"All this was possible because Dr. Wann offered validation of my goal, and advocated for me when I wanted to return to college later in life as a nontraditional student," Dotty says. "Dr. Wann was always available to foster confidence that I could succeed."

Phil says he has continued to teach because he loves the way it forces him to keep abreast of changes in the field of psychology and to communicate ideas clearly to his students.

"The classes that Dr. Wann taught were, without a doubt, my favorite classes at Missouri Western," Kasey said. "He had a personable style of teaching that truly engaged me in the classroom. He also planted seeds in the classroom that awoke an interest within me to study the course material in a deeper way outside the classroom."

"Dr. Wann was very instrumental in my success at Missouri Western and subsequent graduate education and career," Dotty said. "I will always be grateful that our paths crossed!" ■



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**Help us reach 550 members by June 30, 2012 -**  
**call 816.271.5647 or go to**  
**www.missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern**  
**and click on "Western League for Excellence."**

# Departments create wish list

Want to have your donation fund a particular item or support a specific department? Check out [missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern](http://missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern), and click on "Other Funding Priorities," where several departments have listed items they have on a wish list.

Some of the items on the list include a camcorder and accessories for the art department, laptop computers and an inverted fluorescent microscope for biology, and software for the education department. The criminal justice program has several items on the wish list, including a firearms training simulator and two-way radios.

Thank you to Denise Offutt, with Epson America, Inc. Denise donated an Epson Printer that was on our wish list for the criminal justice, legal studies and social work department. ■

# Missouri Western has "Hot College Majors"

U.S. News and World Report recently published an article, "Discover 9 Hot College Majors" in its September 19, 2011 issue, and two majors on the list are offered at Missouri Western.

The nursing and allied health department offers a bachelor of science degree in health informatics and information management.

"The need is huge for professionals who can help acquire, manage, and use information to improve health and manage payments," the article, written by Christopher J. Gearon, stated. It went on to say the American Medical Informatics Association projects a need for more than 50,000 workers in the next five years.

A second major on the list was called "New Media," which combines traditional journalism with digital media and design, according to the article. Missouri Western offers a bachelor of science degree in convergent media and a master of applied arts degree in integrated media. ■





# THOUGHTS ON MISSOURI WESTERN

## Commencement Address

*Bridget Janssen*

**S**enior Bridget Janssen, of Scandia, Kan., who will graduate this month with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, was selected to give the commencement address in December. “At first I was surprised at being chosen and wondered how in the world I would get everything done,” Bridget said. “After thinking about it for a couple of days, I became really excited at the opportunity to share with fellow classmates and work personally with Dr. Perález and Dr. Vartabedian. I knew that it might make the last few weeks stressful, but that I wouldn’t pass up the opportunity for anything.” Below are excerpts from her address:

“As students, we have had to contend with small problems every day, probably multiple times a day! We have all lost our student ID cards and been late to class, forgot about assignments, and failed that HUGE test! I thought I was going to die the semester I took genetics, physics, and organic chemistry, but each morning I woke up and pushed through the day, even though I was not always happy about it. Each of you continued to push through those rough days.”

“The proof that you can’t keep a Griffon down is in the band and choral kids who spend countless hours in practice rooms to perfect a piece of music. The proof that you can’t keep a Griffon down is in the football team who rose up to beat Northwest for the first time in eight years. The proof that you can’t keep a Griffon down is in the nontraditional students who are brave enough to take a risk and come back to school. If you could keep a Griffon down, I would be speaking to a bunch of empty chairs today. Instead, all of you acted just as a Griffon should, fighting through the hard times and early mornings to not only protect your knowledge, but to gain more.”

“Missouri Western is the home of the Griffons. It is here that we have spent many hours studying in the library, hanging out in the residence halls, and cheering on our athletic teams as they take on rival opponents. “This is where Griffons live.” Not on Missouri Western the campus, but in the spirit, enthusiasm, and excitement that we exhibit in our daily life. Is all of this about to change as you move away from Missouri Western and the St. Joseph area? No, a Griffon lives inside each and every one of us. We can take everything that a Griffon stands for: service, quality, enthusiasm, freedom, respect, and courage into our new lives.

It is a GREAT day to be a Griffon! So go out, be strong, and get your Griff on! ■

## What it Means to Say Missouri Western

*Dr. William Church, assistant professor of English*

**B**elow are excerpts from a draft of which Bill says, “I’ve been composing in my head for years and on paper for several months. My essay explores all the rich and complicated meanings of what it means to say Missouri Western. As you know, my veins bleed black and gold. I can’t imagine my life without Western.”

“I am an assistant professor of English. This is my 22nd year of teaching at Missouri Western. By most measures, I ought not be here. My odds of being imprisoned were likely higher than my odds of becoming a professor. I was born to hard-working, hardscrabble parents of the Great Depression. Like the families of so many students I teach, my parents understood college only in the most abstract of mantras – “To get a good job, get a good education” – which offered no definition of either “job” or “education” and no idea of how one was to accomplish either.

I am far from unique. In so many ways, my story is the story of generations of MWSC/MWSU students. We weren’t necessarily the ones celebrated in high school for our academic prowess and dedication. We had no one to pave our entrance into college. We had no role models with college experience (or I should say who understood how the college experience can change lives) to mentor or counsel us. Working class kids, we’d been taught to think that union jobs, farming, government jobs, and the military were good enough. They’d been good enough for our parents. By Jove, they were good enough for us.”

“As a student who learned the power of this institution to change my own life, I try daily to foster that same knowledge in all those who come here for that very reason, whether or not they realize that is why they are here.

Our top students, and even our mid-ability students, have access as freshman to professors and academic opportunities that would be denied to them until their junior or senior years at major universities. Our freshmen are welcomed on the staffs of our newspaper, yearbook, and literary magazine. They engage in creative and scholarly projects all across campus, from business to art to the sciences and legal studies. Our Foundation provides travel money to conferences and other support for their efforts. Our top profs mentor them from the start.”

“There is a sense of family at Western. I felt it from my earliest days, fairly dark days in the time of divorce and an agricultural bankruptcy. My profs made time to read my work, mediocre though it was. They loaned me books and negotiated deadlines, not because they were softies, but because they realized they were teaching an individual student, not merely a curriculum. Even in larger classes, my profs learned my name and took an interest in my learning. I was given a voice in the Griffon News and a space for my creative works in Icarus. Our Financial

*Dr. William Church teaches a workshop for high school students at the annual High School Writing Day this spring.*



Aid people helped me find grants without which I simply could not have attended.

From my skeptical initial enrollment to my graduation with honors, I was made to feel that no matter what kind of high school student I’d been, no matter which of life’s forces had driven or led me to the campus after years out of school, no matter how empty my pockets were, I mattered. It is that quality more than all others – that undying dedication to making students of all ages and levels of preparation feel that they matter – is what it means to say Missouri Western. ■



*Bridget Janssen gives the commencement address in December 2011.*



## Prototypes in three dimensions

A state-of-the-art printer that creates three-dimensional pieces has brought together art and engineering technology, two seemingly disparate campus departments. Neil Lawley, assistant professor of art in sculpture and 3-D design; and Aaron Stutterheim, instructor of engineering technology; collaborated to develop a course for both art and engineering technology students that revolves around a brand new 3-D printer, thanks to a grant from the MWSU Foundation.

This semester, the two professors are guiding nine art students and five engineering technology students through a number of hands-on projects with the new printer in 3-D Modeling and Design Processes.

Three-dimensional printers, also known as rapid prototyping machines, have been around for several years, and engineers, architects, product designers and artists are increasingly turning to them to streamline

the creative design process, Neil said. To make a prototype, an item is scanned into a computer and made into a digital file, and the printer then transforms the digital model into a physical product as spools of plastic create the piece. The prototype can be reduced, enlarged, or made the same size as the original item. The printers have become more accessible and affordable in the last few years, Neil said, so the university was able to consider purchasing one.

"3-D printing is exploding in all fields. The technology makes the students highly marketable, and their knowhow and experience will help them stand out," he said.

The two professors believe Missouri Western is just one of a handful of schools in the region that have a 3-D printer. Aaron said other schools may have one, but it is used more for demonstration purposes rather than offering a class that allows students to gain hands-on experience with it.

The Foundation grant also funded a 3-D scanner, a computer, and kits for two more 3-D printers that students built as part of the class. Aaron said they wanted the students to put them together so they would understand how they work.

It was about a year ago that Neil approached Aaron with his idea of finding a way to purchase a 3-D printer and collaborating with Aaron to create a new course. Neil had had experience with a 3-D printer in graduate school, and wanted to offer that opportunity to Missouri Western students.

Aaron has a master's degree in architecture and one of his research interests is rapid prototyping, so he was immediately on board with Neil's idea.

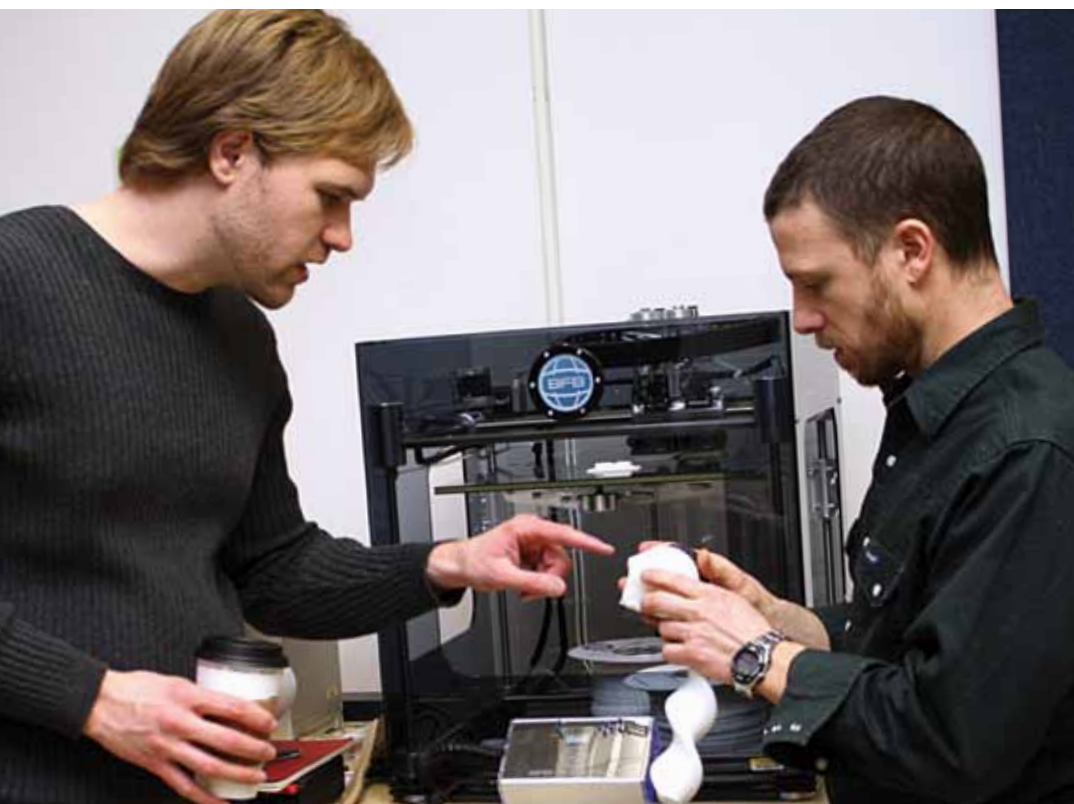
Although it may not seem like it at first glance, the two disciplines of art and engineering have several similarities, Neil contends, because both involve the process of exploring ideas and problem solving. He should know, because, as an undergraduate, he was an engineering major before he decided to switch to art.

The professors say they have enjoyed teaching together, and there has been a very creative atmosphere in the classroom. "Watching art and engineering students working on the same processes is interesting," Aaron said. "These students have a chance to learn from each other."

"We were extremely pleased with the generosity of the Foundation," Neil said. "We appreciate how it rewards initiative."

Aaron agreed. "It's been amazing having the support of the university. We proposed something new, and there's been a lot of acceptance of that." ■

*Professors Aaron Stutterheim and Neil Lawley discuss a model that was created by Missouri Western's new 3-D printer.*



## Chinese New Year fun 农历新年

Tiantian Zou, who is teaching Chinese at Missouri Western for the 2011-12 academic year on a Fulbright scholarship, hosted a presentation about the Chinese Spring Festival. The festival is held from the Chinese New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival. Her 32 students talked about the origin and customs during the

festival, and one student played the guitar and sang a song in Chinese. The students also gathered a few days before the festival to make and sample Chinese dumplings (pictured).

Tiantian shared the dumpling recipe below:

### Chinese Dumplings

1. Make the dough with water and 4 cups of flour. Make it a little bit softer than dough for bread. Let it rest and prepare the filling.

#### 2. 馅 Filling:

猪肉 1 lb. chopped pork  
白菜 1 lb. cabbage, cut in very small pieces.  
Add one egg, soy sauce, salt, some steamed bun and dumpling condiment (comes in a package), chopped ginger and green onion into the pork and mix well.  
Add some oil to the cabbage, mix.  
Make sure that the oil is distributed throughout.  
Mix the meat and cabbage together.  
Beef and celery, lamb and carrot are also classic combinations.

#### Vegetarian Filling:

鸡蛋 2 eggs  
Crack the eggs and mix the yolk and white well. Put some salt in. This is the only time we put salt in; make sure it is enough for all the filling. Heat the pan and the oil, add eggs.

Wash ½ lb. chives and leave them until there is no water on the leaves. Cut into small pieces, as small as possible. Add some oil, making sure that the oil is distributed throughout. Put them together in a big bowl, add some steamed bun and dumpling condiment (comes in a package). Mix.

3. Break apart the dough into small pieces (probably 80 pieces), use the rolling pin to flatten them into round pieces.

4. Put some filling on the dough. Fold it and seal.

5. Boil a pot of water. When the water is boiling, put the dumplings in, 20 or 40 at one time depending on how big the pot is. Keep boiling for about 10 minutes until all of dumplings are floating. ■



### Campus Kudos

- For the second year in a row, graduate students from Missouri Western's human factors and usability testing program qualified for the second round of the highly competitive Human-Computer Interaction design competition. This year, the manuscript of **Tyler Davis, Camie Steinhoff and Mari Telan Vela** was chosen as one of the top 12 papers from more than 60 submissions worldwide.
- Missouri Western was named the United Way 2011 Outstanding Partner by the United Way of Greater St. Joseph. The university was honored for its strong United Way campaign each year and for allowing employees to volunteer year-round. In 2011, as part of the United Way Campaign, Missouri Western employee **Ryan Menley** developed several videos featuring university employees. The Instructional Media Center has also created or been involved in the creation of the yearly United Way Campaign video for more than 20 years. Missouri Western staff helped organize United Way's first 5K/10K Walk. Run. LIVE UNITED. event that was held on campus.
- Psychology student **Danielle Creekmore's** presentation won first place at the Missouri Undergraduate Psychology Conference.
- Dr. Karen Koy**, assistant professor of biology, was named Missouri Western's recipient of the 2012 Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. Karen teaches physical geology, meteorology, paleontology and an honors colloquium on science and pseudoscience. Among the research projects she is pursuing are a multi-year study of vertebrate taphonomy, the decomposition that occurs prior to fossilization; the paleoecology of fossil outcrops; and the soils in Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Mound City, Mo.
- Nearly **6,000 people** attended the first three mainstage theatre productions for the 2011-12 theatre season: "Romeo and Juliet," "Christmas Carol," and "Arsenic and Old Lace." ■



## Griffon athletics – 2011-2012 year in pictures

*Photos by student Jason Brown*

This year has been another memorable year for Griffon athletics. From record-setting performances to personal milestones; euphoric atmospheres to championship experiences and heartwarming stories, 2011-12 had a little bit of everything.



Griffon guard Jessica Koch became the all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history in the final regular season game on Feb. 25, 2012. She scored 24 points as the Griffons knocked off Southwest Baptist University to qualify for the MIAA Tournament. Jessica broke Lisa Hughes' record and finished her career with 1,727 career points. She was named 1st Team All-MIAA and also voted to the All South Central region team.



Griffon place kicker Greg Zuerlein boots one of three 50+ yard field goals in a Griffon victory over Missouri Southern State University in October. Greg was named the MIAA Special Teams Player of the Year, set numerous school and NCAA records, kicked in the prestigious East/West Shrine All-Star Game and was named to five different All-America teams. Look for Greg to be kicking on Sundays in the National Football League!



Griffon golfer Derek Hawkins tees off during a round at St. Joseph Country Club last fall. Derek is a freshman on this year's team, coming from Tarkio High School where he was the 2010 Missouri Class 1 State Champion.

Outfielder Shawn Egge races for third heading for home with the tying run in the bottom of the seventh inning in the Griffons' 3-2 victory over Nebraska-Kearney at the Spring Sports Complex.



Members of the volleyball and soccer teams, along with members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, present a check for over \$1,000 to the Heartland Auxiliary Breast Center. Students raised the funds raised during the third annual Pink Week in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



**Check out all sports schedules at [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com)!**



Sophomore pitcher Jackie Bishop gets ready to fire a strike at the Spring Sports Complex on March 6, 2012. Jackie, who struck out 108 batters in her first 11 starts, was a catalyst in helping the defending MIAA Champion Griffons to a 29-6 start and a #13 national ranking.

## Griffon quick hits

- Support Griffon Athletics by joining the new and improved Gold Coat Victory Fund, which helps provide needed funding to keep our programs among the most competitive in NCAA Division II. By joining the GCVF, you'll also have access to season tickets to Griffon sports, preferred parking opportunities, access to improved club areas at football and basketball, football sideline passes, fitness center access, social invites and much more. For more information, call David Lau at 816-271-5926 or e-mail [lau@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:lau@missouriwestern.edu). For a membership booklet, log on to [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com)
- Online ticketing will go live July 1 at [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com)! Fans can purchase single game tickets, print tickets out at home and avoid the long line at will call.
- You can now buy athletics photos at [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com). The photo store features more than 2,500 images from all sports and other select events throughout the year. Sizes start at 4 x 6 and range all the way to 16 x 20 with prices beginning at \$4.99. Show your Griffon pride!
- The 10th annual Missouri Western Celebrity Golf Classic will be held June 4 at St. Joseph Country Club.

This annual event benefits the YWCA shelter for abused and homeless women and children and Missouri Western athletics. The Hy-Vee Charity Social will be held the night before at the Culver Farm. For more information, contact David Lau at 816-271-5926, e-mail [lau@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:lau@missouriwestern.edu), or log on to [gogriffons.com](http://gogriffons.com).

- The 2012 football schedule has been released. This year's schedule includes six home dates. Spratt Memorial Stadium will be the place to be this fall as the Griffons return 17 starters and have 26 seniors back from last year's team who went 9-3 and the qualified for the NCAA Division II playoffs for the second consecutive season. Season tickets are on sale now and single game tickets will go on sale in July.
- Doug Minnis, Missouri Western's longtime baseball coach, took his place in the 2011 Missouri Sports Hall of Fame last fall. Doug was one of eight inductees. He started Missouri Western's baseball program in 1969, and won 682 games in his 30 years as coach. Last spring, Missouri Western unveiled a plaque in his honor that hangs at the baseball stadium in the Spring Sports Complex. ■



On the same day the football team knocked off NWMSU, the volleyball team defeated perennial MIAA power Truman State University in five sets. It was the first time since 2002 that the Griffons had beaten Truman State.





Adrienne Collins admits that as a young girl, her only interest was music and singing, and her mother who homeschooled her had a difficult time keeping her daughter focused on other subjects. That love of singing has continued into her college years, where Adrienne, a music/vocal performance major, is making a name for herself across the country.

In January, she and fellow music student Kyle Minx garnered second place at the National Opera Association's collegiate opera scene competition. And in February, she and Kyle earned third place in each of their age divisions at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in Olathe, Kan. In February 2011, as a freshman, Adrienne earned first place in that competition.

Adrienne also advanced to the second round in a competition (the second round will be held this month) sponsored by Classical Singer magazine.

Adrienne isn't sure where her talent will take her after she graduates, but those who have heard her sing have suggested that she try out for the Metropolitan Opera or Broadway

musicals. "I didn't come here knowing what I wanted to do (for a career), I just knew I loved music. It's fun considering all these different things," she says.

In her opera class in the spring of 2010, Adrienne and Kyle had performed a scene from "The Telephone," by Gian Carlo Menotti, and Dr. Susan Carter, director of vocal studies and opera workshop director, sent a tape of it to the 2011 National Opera Association's competition. Susan estimated 50 universities submitted pieces, and some submitted more than one. Adrienne and Kyle were named one of five finalists who were selected to perform at the national conference in Memphis, Tenn., in January. The other four finalists included students from University of Montevallo, Sam Houston University, University of Colorado-Boulder, and Brigham Young University, which took first place.

"We felt so honored to be in the finals; we were up against some pretty distinguished universities," Adrienne said. "It's so great for Missouri Western. I hope this is just a start."

The students were also given the opportunity to attend workshops at the conference, and Adrienne said they were very helpful. Along with Adrienne and Kyle, freshman Donovan Jones attended the conference and provided accompaniment on the piano for Adrienne and Kyle's performance. (Donovan earned first place in his division at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in February.)

Adrienne's mother, a voice, piano and guitar teacher, served as Adrienne's voice coach when she was growing up. As a member of the Christian Youth Theatre in Kansas City, Mo., in high school, Adrienne had roles of Marian Paroo in "Music Man," and Snow White. The week Adrienne turned 17, she starred as Dorothy in St. Joseph's Robidoux Resident Theatre's "Wizard of Oz."

Dorothy, she said, was a "dream role," but since she's been introduced to opera at Missouri Western, Adrienne said she now has a lot of dream roles in mind.

She also directed scenes from "Godspell" and wrote two scripts for musicals for her church's youth group, including a murder mystery and a musical revue through the decades, "Come Sail Away."

When Adrienne was a high school senior, she began taking voice, piano and choir classes



at Missouri Western. "She had already done so much," said Susan, who joined Missouri Western when Adrienne was a freshman. "I knew the potential was there."

In the spring of 2011, Adrienne had the lead of Christine in Missouri Western's musical theatre's production of "Phantom." "It was very enjoyable, I love being on stage," Adrienne said. She said Christine was a demanding role, but Susan taught her how to preserve her voice throughout rehearsals and performances.

Adrienne also played Marie in a children's comic opera on campus last fall. "Even though it was written for kids, the score was one of the most difficult I've done," she said.

Snow White, Dorothy, Marian, Christine, Marie; what's next for Adrienne? "I don't know," she says. "I just love music and I love being on stage." ■

## OPERA. CHILDREN'S STYLE

One day last year, in a conversation between Dr. Susan Carter, director of vocal studies and opera workshop director; and Eric Fuson, instructor of art; Eric observed that while very young children love to be creative, that creativity slows as they get older, even by third grade. The children stop seeing creativity as something they can do their whole lives, he said.

Susan suggested that perhaps college students could perform a children's opera with puppets to spur the youngsters' creativity. "Who doesn't like a puppet?" she said.

From that grew the performance of two children's operas on campus last November, "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Monkey See, Monkey Do." The two shows, just 30 minutes in length each, featured students in Susan's opera workshop class. The MWSU Foundation provided funding for the puppets and set materials.

"The kids loved it. It was fun to inspire a young audience and get to present the arts to them," said student Adrienne Collins, who played Marie in "Monkey See, Monkey Do."

"We wanted to present a family-friendly show that would make opera accessible to a large number of people," said Susan, who directed the shows. "These two operas are big hits with audiences of all ages. The music, the costumes, the story are all great fun. I really think people enjoyed their afternoon at the opera."

Ara Ju, adjunct music faculty and staff pianist, provided the accompaniment for "Little Red Riding Hood." Dr. Linda Antas, assistant professor of music and director of audio technology, and other music faculty members recorded the instrumental accompaniment for "Monkey See, Monkey Do." Eric and art students created the sets and publicity posters for both shows.

Missouri Western also took the show on the road to the local St. Francis Xavier School last fall. Eric accompanied them and guided the elementary school students through drawing scenes. ■



## ACCOLADES FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

In addition to Adrienne Collins and Kyle Minx's second place award at a national collegiate opera competition (see article on page 14), they and other music students brought home numerous awards this past spring.

At the regional National Association of Teachers of Singing competition at Mid-America Nazarene University in Olathe, Kan., Donovan Jones won first place in the freshman and sophomore college men division.

Along with Adrienne, two other music students advanced to the second round of the undergraduate division of a competition sponsored by Classical Singer magazine: Kaitlyn Christian and Donovan. They were three of only four undergraduate students to advance from the contest site. The second round, semifinal and final rounds will be held during the Classical Singer Convention May 25-27 in Chicago.

Dr. Susan Carter, associate professor of music, is the director of vocal studies and opera workshop director.

Piano students under the direction of Dr. Matthew Edwards, associate professor of music and director of keyboard studies, also placed highly at state competitions. JinSung Youn won first place and Hannah Chung received second place at the Missouri Music Teachers Association Collegiate upper division piano competition. JeeYung Kim received second place and Mira Lee received honorable mention in their division. Anna Steely won the Music Teachers National Association Arkansas State piano competition and advanced to the regional round.

The Missouri Western Euphonium and Tuba Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Lee Harrelson, instructor of music, performed at the U.S. Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Workshop in Washington, D.C. In addition to featuring world-class soloists and ensembles, the conference extends an invitation each year to three student ensembles. The Missouri Western ensemble performance was both individual and in collaboration with the low brass ensembles of the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. The performance was very well received and hailed by some of the U.S. Army Band personnel in attendance as the best ever student ensemble performance at the event. ■

Page 14, Adrienne performs in the annual Lights and Tights; page 15, above, Adrienne and Kyle Minx; left, Adrienne with Daniel Brooks and Jonathan McClain in the children's opera, "Monkey See, Monkey Do."



# LEADING THE WAY



**M**elissa (Bledsoe) Turner '11, hadn't really thought about the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program when she arrived on campus, but a fellow freshman in a military uniform, Nolan Stark, caught her eye and she asked him why he was wearing it. He told her about ROTC. "Then he convinced me to get up at six o'clock in the morning to work out with him," Melissa said with a laugh.

It didn't take too many 6 a.m. physical training sessions with the cadets before Melissa decided to enroll in the program. She received an ROTC scholarship starting that next spring and for each subsequent semester of her college career. She graduated with a criminal justice degree and a military science minor in December 2011, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Nolan will graduate this month, also with a criminal justice degree, a military science minor, and a second lieutenant commissioning.

"My experience was great," said Melissa, who is from Harrisonville, Mo. "I've learned how to work as a team but to be a leader at the same time."

"I've enjoyed all the extra things I've done with ROTC. All of them were fun and really challenging," Nolan said. "It lets you know your limits, and you push yourself to the maximum."

No one in his family was surprised when Nolan, from Brookfield, Mo., graduated from high school and earned a four-year ROTC scholarship to Missouri Western. Both of his parents completed the ROTC program at Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State) and served as officers in the Army. His oldest brother, Neil, completed ROTC at the University of Missouri-Columbia and is currently an officer in the Army. Another brother, Guy '09, was a senior at Missouri Western in the ROTC program when Nolan arrived on campus. Guy is also an Army officer today.

Nolan said he earned a very low score on his first physical fitness test as a freshman cadet – 182 points out of a possible 300 – and he wasn't very happy with the score. "I passed the two-mile run by four seconds and passed the other tests by the bare minimum."

Although cadets are required to engage in the 6 a.m. physical training just three days a

week, Nolan, determined to improve his score, trained five days a week throughout his freshman year, and earned a score of 282 on the fitness test at year's end. He had also lost about 30 lbs. and walked away with the award for most improved score.

At Melissa's first 6 a.m. session, junior Brian Turner '10, the platoon leader, asked her if she planned to return. She did return, and they became friends. Melissa and Brian eventually started dating and were married two weeks after Brian graduated and was commissioned in May 2010.

One week after their wedding, Brian went to Ft. Knox, Ky., for his leadership training course, and then was stationed at Ft. Riley, Kan. Melissa completed her basic officer leadership training course at Ft. Jackson, S.C., this past March and was assigned to Ft. Riley, as well.

Nolan and his fiancée, Heather Blecha '10, are marrying this month. (Nolan had not yet received his orders when this issue went to press.)

Lt. Col. J. Shay Howard, battalion commander at Missouri Western, said the mission of the program is to commission the future officer



leadership of the Army and motivate young people to be better citizens. All students who graduate from the ROTC program earn a military science minor and are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Missouri Western belongs to the Pony Express Battalion and is the host school for the battalion. Professors teach the classes on campus and students at seven area campuses join in via videoconferencing. Each week, cadets at all schools come together, usually at Missouri Western, for labs. In 2010-11, 16 cadets were enrolled at Missouri Western, and in fall 2011, there were 35.

Shay said juniors take on many leadership roles and the seniors in the program are the primary instructors in the weekly labs. Throughout Melissa's last semester at Missouri Western, she served as the cadet battalion commander, which meant she was basically in charge of all the cadets from the eight schools in the program. Nolan served as Alpha Company commander this past semester, and was in charge of four platoons in the battalion.

"They are being leaders in our community, just like we want them to be," Shay said.

"You learn a lot about yourself," Melissa said of the ROTC program. "You learn how much you can do mentally, physically and emotionally. It's a challenge." She said she really liked that all the labs and a lot of the classes were hands-on.

Between their junior and senior years, Melissa and Nolan attended LDAC – Leadership Development and Assessment Course – at joint base Lewis McCord in Washington, with two other cadets from Missouri Western. The course consists of six tests where cadets are assessed on their leadership skills. Nolan earned a score in the top 10 percent, and Melissa was in the top five percent, and they were designated Distinguished Military Graduates.

"I believe I am ready to lead," Nolan said. "I know there will be challenges, but with the skill set they taught me, I can overcome those challenges." ■

*Right: Melissa (Bledsoe) Turner '11, at the ROTC commissioning ceremony in December.*







## From the Alumni Association President

Dear Friends,

This summer, we will say goodbye and best wishes to a man who, for the past eight years, has embraced Missouri Western as his own alma mater. Dan Nicolson, vice president for university advancement, will retire in June. Dan and his wife, Linda, immersed themselves in the Missouri Western and St. Joseph communities from the start. They could be seen at nearly every athletic event, theatre production, and community function.

During his tenure, Dan secured the two largest gifts in Missouri Western history, re-engaged numerous alumni with the university, and made us all proud to be Griffons. He and Linda will return to their

home in Indianapolis where they plan to spend an enormous amount of time with their grandchildren.

In October, I was privileged to present Dan with an Honorary Alumni Award. He and Linda and their family will always be welcome on campus and at alumni events.

With Dan's departure comes a new member to the Western family. Dr. Jonathan Yordy assumes the position of vice president for university advancement shortly before Dan leaves. I served on the search committee as your representative and am impressed with Dr. Yordy's energy, experience, and enthusiasm. I know that the Alumni Board and I will do what we can to assist him as he

moves to St. Joseph. I look forward to introducing him to as many of you as possible.

Be sure to join us at all our baseball events this summer!

Go Griff!

Randy Klein '78  
President



Randy Klein '78

*Handwritten signature of Randy Klein '78.*

## A learning tool for alumni

The alumni services office is teaming with the Western Institute and the career development office to produce webinars for alumni.

The first webinar, which will go live this summer, is titled, "Extreme Résumé Makeover: Griffon Style," and will offer tips for creating a stand-out resume. Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services, is working with Donnell Turner, director of career development, and Denise Tiller '96, a career coach, to produce the first webinar.

"An educational webinar is a great service to offer to our alumni, and we are happy to provide that," Colleen said. "I hope the webinars will be a great learning tool, and that the alumni will take advantage of them." She said they plan to offer up to three per year, and she hopes to feature alumni in the webinars.

There is no set schedule for the webinars; they can be viewed at any time. A link to the webinars will be located on the alumni page, [missouriwestern.edu/alumni](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni), and they will include an electronic bulletin board where participants can post questions and comments. ■



The St. Joseph chapter of the Alumni Association hosted its annual Mardi Gras party at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks in February.

## ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 12** – Commencement Receptions for new graduates and their families after each ceremony, hosted by the Alumni Association.

**May 19** – Alumni are invited to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity in St. Joseph. Email Colleen Kowich at [ckowich@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:ckowich@missouriwestern.edu) if you want to volunteer.

**May 20** – St. Joseph Junior College Reunion; a new plaque on the University Plaza recognizing the Junior College will be unveiled. Alumni will have the opportunity to go on camera and be filmed while they share their memories as part of the Centennial Video Project (see p. 27).

**June 2** – MIAA Alumni Day at the T-Bones (see p. 22).

**June 16** – Alumni Day at the Mustangs (see p. 22).

**June 23** – Alumni Day at the K (see p. 22).

**July 13** – Alumni are invited to volunteer to sell concessions at the Sounds of Summer concert in St. Joseph. Email Colleen Kowich at [ckowich@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:ckowich@missouriwestern.edu) if you want to volunteer.

**Sept. 15** – Family Day

**Sept. 28-29** – Athletics Wendy's Hall of Fame Weekend

**Oct. 8 - 14** – Homecoming Week; Homecoming game – Griffons vs. Missouri Southern Lions Oct. 13.

**Nov. 3** – Football Reunion, Senior Day.

We are planning a **4th annual Alumni Day at Arrowhead** for fall 2012 – check out details about this and all events at [missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events](http://missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events).

## More MAX!

Max showed up in some more interesting places! Thanks again to all our alumni and families who participated!

John Fabsits '04,  
and Max in NYC

Max, Isaac Collins '11,  
and Brian Kidwell '11,  
in Las Vegas

Luke Gorham '06,  
Alissa Pei, and Max



Max at the Lake of the Ozarks St. Patrick's Day parade: Don Christie '75, Brenda Christie, Jerry (Jay) Myers Jr. '89, Dawn Myers, Linda Myers and Jerry Myers '71. In the front row are Jerry (Trey) Myers III and Jayden Myers with Max

# GRIFFON PRIDE





## Joe Gray '42 – faithful, proud and true

Joe Gray '42, has been one of Missouri Western's ardent supporters for many years. He was honored recently for his dedication to the university when he received an honorary doctorate at the December commencement ceremony, and the biology department named their natural history collection after him.

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, said he wanted to honor Joe for his selfless commitment to the university. "For many, many years he has quietly done numerous wonderful things for our community and university," Dr. Vartabedian said. "He has given of his time, his insights, and his support to improve the quality of life for our community and his alma mater."

The biology department's collection of plants, vertebrates and invertebrates is now named the Joseph L. Gray Natural History Collection. Dr. John Rushin, professor of biology, said they appreciate Joe's support of their programs, especially those related to the natural history of plants and animals, over the past 15 years.



Above, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, president; and Dr. Jeanne Daffron, vice president of academic affairs, place the honorary doctoral hood on Joe Gray '42, at the December commencement ceremony. Right, Joe and his children pose for a photo at the reception following the ceremony: Sons Mark and Pete, Joe, daughter JoAnne Grey, and son Paul.

"Missouri Western is one of the greatest assets we have in northwest Missouri," Joe said. "The quality of education won't take a back seat to any other institution."

A native of St. Joseph, Joe graduated from the St. Joseph Junior College and earned a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Kansas School of Engineering. He worked as an engineer for eight years, including three years at the Pentagon, before returning to St. Joseph in 1952 to work in the business his father had started.

To this day, Joe stays active in the two family businesses and is currently chairman for both of them – Gray Manufacturing Company in St. Joseph and Vektec, Inc., in Emporia, Kan. Several Missouri Western students have completed internships at Gray Manufacturing, and Joe said many were hired on full-time after their internships.

Over the past 25 years, Joe and his wife, Anne, have given Missouri Western more than 170 different gifts, including contributions to the biology, music, and music theatre programs; the campus beautification project and the initiative to build an amphitheater on campus. He helped start the fund to build the Glenn E. Marion Clock Tower in 1997, and he and Anne are founding members of the Western League for Excellence and the Missouri Western Arts Society.

"It is a privilege to have the responsibility to institutions in this community," Joe said. "At Missouri Western, you give financial support and you know it will be used responsibly."

Joe said he enjoyed working with all four presidents since Missouri Western became a four-year institution: Dr. M.O. Looney, Dr. Janet McCarthy, Dr. James Scanlon, and Dr. Vartabedian. "Each had their strengths and did a fine job. Dr. Vartabedian is doing a great job."

In the community, Joe served as a board member of the St. Joseph Library and even held stints as president of the St. Joseph Metro Chamber and as a Buchanan County commissioner.

"Without Missouri Western, the future of St. Joseph would be bleak," Joe said. "It's critically important to have Missouri Western here." ■



St. Joseph's Central High School student Monica Singh models Indian dress at Incredible India, a program on campus that included a fashion show, music and dancing that featured the Indian culture. The event was planned by Amy Kotwani and her sister, Shaina Kotwani, a Missouri Western student.

## Advice from a successful business owner - Joe Gray

When Joe Gray '42, who is chairman of two long-time family businesses, was asked what his formula for a successful business is, he immediately turned to a quotation from President Calvin Coolidge that is taped to his desktop:

**"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."**

"To be successful in business, you have to understand who your customer is and their needs. Then you address those needs better than your competitors do," Joe said. "If we don't make our focus taking care of our customers, we are out of business."

Joe is chair of Gray Manufacturing Company in St. Joseph and Vektec, Inc., in Emporia, Kan.

Joe related that the company had tremendous growth for many years, and he realized that he needed to hire someone who could work with the staff better than he, since he struggled with that. "The best leaders know their limitations as well as their strengths," he said.

In 1965, Gray Manufacturing Company, which designs, manufactures and sells lifting devices for servicing heavy over-the-road trucks, trailers and buses, was the 13th business to join the Jack Institute, a professional manufacturing association.

"We were the runt of the litter," Joe said. "The next smallest company was four or five times our size, and the largest was 30 times our size." The institute has since disbanded, and Gray Manufacturing remains the only one of the original 13 companies that is still in business today. ■

## NEWS Briefs

### Campus clothes closet opens

Donnell Turner, director of the career development center, says first impressions for humans are made in the first 30 seconds of an interaction. And with the job market so competitive today, exhibiting a good first impression and a professional image to a prospective employer is more important than ever.

To help job seekers make a good first impression, the career development center has collaborated with the Student Government Association to open a clothes closet in Eder Hall for both students and alumni who are preparing for job interviews or career fairs. The closet offers work-appropriate separates and business accessories at no cost.

Donnell said they wanted to make sure that everyone is able to dress appropriately for an interview, and if they lack the resources to buy the clothing, the center's clothes closet can help.

The center is accepting donations for the clothes closet, as well. All donated items must be pressed and on hangers. Specific needs include professional suits and separates for both men and women of all sizes, scarves, ties and belts for both men and women, and shoes in all sizes. Clothing must be in good condition, less than five years old and/or contemporary in style. Monetary donations are also welcome.

A big thank you to Eileen Dyer, of St. Joseph, who donated several items of clothing to the closet. "We really appreciate the support of the community," Donnell said. "Eileen's donation was a great boost to the inventory in the closet."

Those interested in visiting the clothes closet or making a donation can make an appointment by calling 816-271-4205. Monetary donations may also be mailed to Career Development Center Clothes Closet, Missouri Western State University, Eder 202, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507. Make checks payable to "MWSU Foundation" and write "CDC Clothes Closet" on the memo line of your check. Credit card donations can be taken over the phone. ■





# TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAMES!

To register, call 816-271-5670 or fill out the form below!

### MIAA Alumni Day @ the T-Bones

Saturday, June 2  
Tailgate: 5 p.m. Game: 7:05 p.m.  
Community America Ballpark,  
Kansas City, Kan.  
  
Ticket + tailgate - \$15 per person  
Tailgate only - \$5 per person  
Bring your own stadium chair and beverages  
(alcoholic or non-alcoholic)  
Fireworks after the game!

### Alumni Day @ the Mustangs

Saturday, June 16  
Tailgate: 5 p.m. Game: 7 p.m.  
Phil Welch Stadium, St. Joseph, Mo.  
vs. Missouri Western Baseball Alumni  
  
Bring your own tailgate and we'll provide the DJ!  
Free game tickets to the first 250 who call  
816-271-5670 and register! Limit 4 tickets  
per person.  
A special presentation recognizing Coach Doug  
Minnis and the 1975 baseball team – 6:45 p.m.  
Fireworks after the game!

### Alumni Day at the K -

**Royals vs. Cardinals**  
Saturday, June 23  
Tailgate: 11 a.m. in Lot N  
Game: 1 or 3 p.m., depending on  
Fox broadcasting schedule  
Kauffman Stadium, Kansas City, Mo.  
  
Tailgate only - \$15  
Ticket + tailgate - \$28

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

June 2: I want \_\_\_\_\_ tailgate + game tickets at \$15 each for the T-Bones game. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I already have game tickets, I want \_\_\_\_\_ tailgate only tickets at \$5 each. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

June 23: I want \_\_\_\_\_ ticket + tailgate at \$28 each for the Royals vs. Cards game. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I already have game tickets, I want \_\_\_\_\_ tailgate only tickets at \$15 each. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Personal Card ☐ Business Card Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-digit verification code on back \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
MWSU Alumni Services,  
4525 Downs Drive, Spratt 108,  
St. Joseph, MO 64507.  
For more information or questions, call  
816-271-5646 or email mwalumni@  
missouriwestern.edu

## President's Perspective

*continued from page 3*

among the institutions. Five years ago, Missouri Western's tuition and required fees were \$415, or 7.4 percent, under the state average for a full-time, in-state undergraduate student. This year, they are \$685, or 10.2 percent, below the state average. Again, there is an unintentional problem with the process, but it will take legislation to solve it.

**WM:** Have you received any indication that the Missouri General Assembly may find additional funding for higher education as the appropriation bill works its way through the legislative process?

**Dr. V:** Both the House and the Senate have voiced strong support for higher education this year, and they are trying to find additional funding. Unfortunately, if they give it to us, they have to take it from somewhere else. The House amended the higher education appropriations bill, and reinstated the governor's \$66 million cut. Unfortunately, Gov. Nixon has publicly stated that he doesn't believe the funding is sustainable, and won't support it. The Senate also favors restoration of appropriations to this year's levels. So we'll have to see if the Senate can identify other avenues of funding that the governor is willing to support.

**WM:** Missouri Western has been forced to contend with declining state support throughout the past decade; what are you doing to prepare for these most recent budget reductions?

**Dr. V:** We've already taken many steps to control and reduce costs and implement efficiencies across campus. All phases of the university were evaluated, including instructional and non-instructional programs and services, current policies, and business practices. Here are just a few examples: eliminating several executive positions;

decreasing operating budgets across campus by 40 percent; not giving salary increases for three – going on four – years; increasing class sizes, in most cases to room capacity; adding few new full-time faculty members, despite a 13.75 percent growth in student enrollment over the past four years; and postponing routine maintenance and repair, unfortunately increasing our deferred maintenance needs.

**WM:** Are there other sources of revenue that the university can pursue?

**Dr. V:** Our students are incredibly astute, and have recognized that additional funding is crucial to ensuring continued high-quality education at Western. Just recently, our Student Government Association's senators voted by an overwhelming margin to implement a student fee that will help fund support services within our student affairs division. Full-time students will pay an additional \$75 per semester, part-time students \$50, and summer students \$25. Unless something happens to the contrary, we plan to implement the fee this fall.

**WM:** What are the plans for the future?

**Dr. V:** When University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Chancellor Bernie Patterson '73, gave his Missouri Western Distinguished Alumni Award acceptance speech last fall, he referred to our university when he said, "You gave me a chance to succeed ... You gave me a chance to learn when others were not inclined to do so." I remember those words as clearly today as when they were spoken. Our plans are to keep doing what we have done for close to 100 years. We will continue to give students a chance to learn, to grow, and to succeed, regardless of our budgetary circumstances. ■

## NEWS Briefs

### New Legacy Scholarship

The Alumni Association has made changes to its scholarship program. Effective this year, the association will no longer offer the Alumni Family Scholarship, which was a competitive scholarship for incoming freshmen who were children of alumni. The association, together with admissions and the provost's office, is now offering the Legacy Scholarship.

Missouri Western will now award a \$500 scholarship to all incoming freshmen who are the son or daughter of an alumnus and have earned a 3.0 high school GPA. When students fill out the online application for scholarships on the financial aid website, they will receive the Legacy Scholarship if they meet the criteria. Deadline to apply is March 1 each year. ■



### Arts Society membership drive

One year ago, the Missouri Western Arts Society was launched to support the arts programs at the university. The drive was a great success, and the society can now boast 261 charter members. Next month, the annual drive for membership and membership renewals will begin.

Last year, members enjoyed a reception on the Potter Hall theater stage and a backstage tour of the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Mo. Depending on their level of support, members also receive vouchers for arts performances.

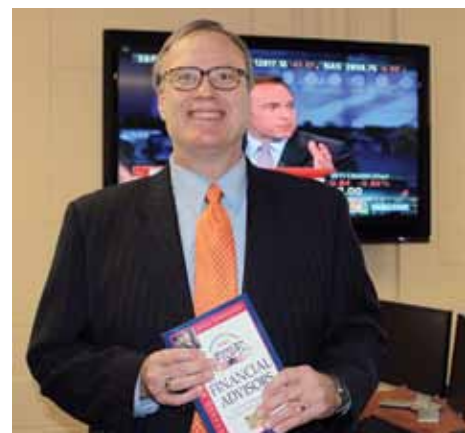
The Missouri Western Arts Society supports the art, music, and theatre and cinema departments, along with musical theatre and the Western Institute's Center for Community Arts. For more information, call 816-271-5647. ■



## 1950s

CHARLES B. LARSON '51, retired CPA, published two new books in 2011: "The Entrepreneurial CPA," which provides a vision of a new role for CPAs in the digital world of entrepreneurs; and "30," which explains how to run a profitable professional service firm.

## 1970s



DAN DANFORD '78, Principal/CEO of Family Investment Center in St. Joseph, Mo., was named one of America's Top Financial Advisors for 2012 by Conquest Press. He will be included in the new book, "2012 America's Top Financial Advisors – The Titans of Wealth Management."

Selection criteria included rankings on industry-based lists, number of clients served/client retention, educational background and professional designations, assets under management, professional longevity, regulatory review, and impact his services have made on clients.

Dan held an announcement of his inclusion in the book in the Koenig-Simmons Trading Room of the Craig School of Business on campus, and a reception followed.

Dan also recently contributed to an article about financial issues for workers over 50 for the New York Times.

## 1980s

DAVE SCHEER '80, was inducted into the Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. He played baseball for Missouri Western and is in his 32nd year of teaching and coaching in the Union (Mo.) R-XI School District.

LORA BAUGHER '82, is the director of information technology at Village Shalom, Overland Park, Kan.

ESTHER (LANDIS) GEORGE '80, accepted the 2011 Missouri Quality Award for the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, Mo. Esther is the president of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City. The bank was one of four recipients in the state.

DEAN BROOKSHIER '88, was appointed Clay County (Mo.) administrator. Dean had served as Chillicothe's city administrator and as deputy chief of staff for Congressman Sam Graves.

## 1990s

LT. COL. KEVIN MOSS '90, retired from the United States Marine Corps.

MELISSA REWINKEL '93, and Eric Taylor were married Jan. 14, 2012.

## 2000s

KATE (PIERSON) '00, and BRETT '01, ESELY announce the birth of a daughter, Ashtyn Layne, born March 1. She has a brother, Dax, and the family resides in St. Joseph.



RICK MOECKEL '00, and his wife, April, announce the birth of their fourth child, a son, Luke James, born Jan. 24, 2012.

DONNA M. (SALFRANK) GIBSON '01, and her husband, James, announce the birth of their first grandchild, Jaxon Alan Hall, born Sept. 26, 2011.

ABBY BROWN '02, graduated with a PhD in genetics from Duke University. Her dissertation is, "Competing RNA Structures and Their Effects on HDV Antigenomic RNA Self-cleavage and mRNA Processing." After traveling to Mexico, Central America, Africa and the Philippines, she began a job with a pharmaceutical company in Raleigh, N.C.

RACHEL A. PEPPER '03, graduated from the University of Kansas with a doctor of practice in nursing degree with a specialization in organizational leadership.

JOHN FABSITS '04, was named one of "20 under 40" by the Columbia (Mo.) Business Times. The magazine called the list "the best and brightest of Columbia's businessmen and women." John is director of development and marketing for the Boy Scouts of America Great Rivers Council.

JON-PAUL BELLAMY '05, and Sarah Franklin were married May 21, 2011. The couple resides in Blue Springs, Mo.

JACEY J. (JOHNSTON) MERLE '07, and her husband, Jesen, announce the birth of a daughter, Kara Grace, born Nov. 3, 2011.

## Drive with pride!

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

Steve Michaels '76:  
That's logistics!

**P**eople, facilities, supplies. Those are some of the words used in the dictionary to define "logistics," and no one probably knows this better than Steve Michaels '76. His nearly 30-year career involved the logistics of transportation, warehousing and distribution, and he currently serves as president of BMS Logistics, Inc., in St. Joseph, Mo., which is all about, people, facilities and supplies.

Steve had been attending college for two years in his home state of Pennsylvania while working for Carnation when a promotion to a supervisor position brought him and his family to Carnation's plant in Elwood, Kan., in 1973. He continued his education at Missouri Western while working full time and graduated with a bachelor of science in business administration with an emphasis in management in 1976.

*Class, homework, work, sleep.* Those four words describe Steve's school experience at Missouri Western. "I was one of those guys that you would find sleeping on the bench in the hallway between classes," he says with a laugh.

In 1982, Carnation was purchased by Nestlé, and the Elwood plant closed in 1987. Steve moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., and spent five years consolidating company operations for Nestlé in the southern United States. He also coordinated the construction of a large distribution center in Atlanta.

*Hotels, airplanes and rental cars.* Steve then spent five years consolidating all of Nestlé's trucking operations in the United States into one company, which involved the standardization of approximately 1,500 trucks and 19 terminals.

"I enjoyed the challenge, but it was very stressful," he says. Unfortunately, his body agreed, and after two heart attacks during that time, he retired from Nestlé.

*Warehousing, contract packaging, fulfillment and distribution.* When he retired from Nestlé in 1997, he had the opportunity to run BMS Logistics. He had started up his own transportation company a few years earlier,

which he sold to BMS, and today he serves as president of the company.

When BMS opened its doors, its focus was warehousing, and it had one facility and a handful of employees.

Today, the company has expanded into contract packaging, light assembly, and internet fulfillment, which means BMS will completely manage a customer's online store or any part of the process.

BMS has several locations and about 350 employees: five locations in

St. Joseph in addition to facilities in Wathena, Kan.; Lincoln, Neb.; and Allentown, Pa. Steve said the company's focus is gradually moving toward more assembly and more light manufacturing.

He attributes the company's success to credibility with their customers. "We tell customers what we can do, the time frame and the price, and we usually exceed the targets," Steve said. "We don't often lose customers."

*Consult, market, advise.* Steve's recent experience with Missouri Western started when he contacted the Craig School of Business to see if students could develop a marketing strategy to attract clients to BMS' internet



The Craig School of Business and the Missouri Council on Economic Education sponsored the annual Entrepreneurship Challenge for high school students last fall. Bottom: Brady Ellis '10, assists a team of high school students at the challenge. Brady was selected in 2010 to own a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Vicksburg, Miss., thanks to a partnership with Steve Craig, the school of business and the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Brady and five other alumni who were selected to own the stores visited campus to assist with the Challenge. They were also members of a panel discussion. Top: Steve Michaels '76, far right, served as one of the judges at the Challenge.

fulfillment services. He also asked the school of business to help revamp the company's website.

The school of business is tapping into Steve's expertise, as he now serves on its advisory council. Last fall, he helped judge the Entrepreneurship Challenge for high school students.

*Dream, love, learn.* That is his advice for new graduates. "Don't stop dreaming. The most satisfaction you can have is to have your own company and succeed." He tells college students to decide what they love to do and then go work for a company that does that. "This was my dream for many years." ■



# Healing HeARTS: Stacey Park '00

When Stacey (Murray) Park '00, was a student at Missouri Western, Dr. Jim Buglewicz, her psychology professor, talked about how the arts could be used to help people, and she even attended a conference of the National Association of Drama Therapy in New York.

Those lessons, she says, played a part in her current passion: promoting a Healing HeARTS program at Heartland Health in St. Joseph.

"I knew when I found out about using arts to help people, it was the right fit," she said.

In October of 2010, Stacey was volunteering at Heartland Health when she found out the hospital wanted to start an arts program for its patients. Stacey immediately agreed to take on the project. She named the arts program Healing HeARTS, and two months later, she launched the Art Cart, which is packed with arts and crafts supplies, music, magazines, photographs, bubbles, clown noses, and "Smile Bags."

Thanks to volunteers, the Art Cart regularly makes it rounds not only to patients' rooms at Heartland, but to waiting areas around the hospital, too. Stacey has found that the Art Cart uplifts both patients and staff, and nurses often call to request a visit from the Art Cart for their patients.

Although she started Healing HeARTS with the Art Cart, she has a lot of ideas to expand the program. She wants to start an initiative where patients can select artwork to hang in their rooms, especially those in the Long Term Acute Care Hospital, and she hopes to begin offering free concerts at Heartland. Another idea includes having local musicians and music students provide music for patients in their rooms.

In April, she was hired as the Healing HeARTS coordinator for Heartland Health and Hands of Hope Hospice. "I want to bring an uplift to staff, patients and visitors and provide a positive distraction to the hospital experience," Stacey says.

As a student, the St. Joseph native was involved in the theatre productions at Missouri Western and was active in the forensics organization, even competing in the national tournament two years. Her forensics duet partner

when she was in high school, Jason, also competed in forensics with Stacey in college. They were married in 2000 and have three children.

She received a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree in theatre and psychology from Missouri Western and went on to earn a master's degree in theatre with a drama therapy concentration from Kansas State University in 2002. Two years later, she earned a master of social work degree from the University of Kansas.

Stacey has remained connected to Missouri Western. She was an adjunct professor from 2004 to 2006, and since 2009, she has been the host of Missouri Western Television's "Art Beat," where she interviews artists and performers throughout the area.

She is currently developing opportunities for volunteers; if anyone wants to learn more about it, they can contact her at 816-262-7023 or Stacey.Park@heartland-health.com.

"I have my dream job," Stacey said. "I get the privilege to witness the power of the arts transform another person's day." ■



## 2000s continued

MICHAEL '08, and RACHEL (BOOTH) '09, DEFELICE announce the birth of a son, Luke Austin, born Dec. 28, 2011. The family currently resides in Liberty, Mo.

SETH G. HANE '08, and Amy Borovetz were married Sept. 24, 2011 in Shawnee, Kan. The couple resides in Centerton, Ark.

TRACY L. JONES '09, is an English lecturer at Raffles International College HCMC, a Singapore-based group of design/business colleges and universities, with 37 campuses throughout Asia and Oceania. In 2010, Tracy helped launch a new English language center in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

## 2010s

MEGAN (ANDERSON) MORTON '10, and her husband, Matthew, announce the birth of a son, Ethan Dean, born Aug. 25, 2011.

RYAN RICHARDSON '10, joined the staff of the Savannah (Mo.) Reporter. ■

## Phonathon thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our phonathon! Missouri Western students diligently made calls for several evenings and enjoyed visiting with alumni.

We received 1,400 pledges totaling more than \$61,000. Of that number, 298 alumni were first-time donors!

To those who pledged, thank you for your support of the Annual Fund! ■



# Solutions: Susan Campbell '01

Last December, Susan Campbell '01, threw a party for the employees of her company, and she was happy to see that everyone was visiting with each other and having a good time. That may not sound too unusual, except that, up to that point, most of her 11 part-time employees had never met each other.

Susan's employees, who have a variety of backgrounds and skill sets, work on computers from their homes, choosing the amount of hours they want to work. It was a proud moment for Susan to see the successful interactions at the party and to be able to listen to her employees. "Everyone was excited to be there and excited about their opportunities. It's not just a job to them, and that makes it fun," she says. "It's important to me that they love their jobs."

Seven years ago, after extensive research, the Missouri Western graduate combined what she had learned as a marketing major with her love of writing, and a successful business — Susan J. Campbell Copywriting Solutions, LLC — was the result. When she started out, Susan, a native of St. Louis, was the only employee, but the business has continued to grow every year.

SJC's copywriting services include writing articles, newsletters, executive summaries, brochures, press releases, and more. SJC also provides marketing strategies for companies

and nonprofit organizations, and manages social media for some of its clients.

The company's niche, Susan says, is conducting research and writing blogs or articles to direct readers to their clients' websites. For example, one of her clients owns rehabilitation centers, so Susan's company conducts research on addictions and writes blogs and articles about it. She estimates her employees write at least 125 articles each week to drive readers to their clients' websites.

One of Susan's first clients for that service was a telecommunications company. "I was writing about Facebook before anyone knew what Facebook was," she said with a laugh.

SJC is currently designing an online marketing strategy for a company in Kansas City, Mo., and providing marketing services to a local organization, but she also works for clients in Australia, Ireland, Chicago, California and New York, to name a few. "There are clients I've never met, but I feel like we'd be good friends if we did," she says.

A sign of the company's success is the fact that SJC still works for many of Susan's original clients, and her company is doing more and more work for those clients. "A lot of people do what we do, but not as quickly or as well. I deliver what I say I will deliver." Susan says she

never forgets that her name is on everything the company does.

But she is quick to credit her employees for their contribution to the success of the company. Her first hire, in 2007, was a longtime friend, Lisa Smith. Lisa is the project coordinator who oversees the writers' assignments and client submissions.

Every Monday morning, Lisa, Susan and a third employee, Rachel McCoy, hold a conference call to plan the week and make writer assignments. Rachel was hired two years ago as a marketing communications specialist.

"Susan is a great example of following a dream and watching it take off, while taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the unique world of the 'virtual' company," Rachel said. "She leads the kind of organization most of us always hoped we'd work for."

Susan says she'd like to see her company grow even more, but it has to be "controlled growth" so that it doesn't affect the quality of their work. She is thinking about finding office space in the future and hiring more employees, possibly full-time.

"It's been a blessing for my family," Susan says of her company. "I absolutely love what I do." ■

# Junior College Reunion May 20

A host of activities has been planned for the annual St. Joseph Junior College Reunion on Sunday, May 20, so you'll definitely want to attend!

The reunion will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the unveiling and dedication of a St. Joseph Junior College plaque at the University Plaza (home of the Griffon statue). The plaque, donated by Dr. William '56, and Phyllis Gondring, celebrates the St. Joseph Junior College as the foundation for Missouri Western today.

Following the ceremony, at approximately noon, a reception will be held in the Spratt Hall Enright Room. During this time, junior college alumni will have the opportunity to participate in our Centennial Video Project.

In anticipation of Missouri Western's centennial celebration in 2015, we want to capture alumni memories on video, and if you attend the reunion, you can share your memories and be filmed during the reception. Then, we plan to post the videos on the Missouri Western website as part of the centennial celebration, and some may be used in the centennial video we plan to produce.

"The junior college was an outstanding foundation to what Missouri Western is today, and it is so important that memories of those alumni are preserved as part of the centennial," said Colleen Kowich, alumni services director and chair of the centennial committee. "I hope everyone who attends the reunion will participate in the video project."

The lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. Part of the program following lunch includes a panel of current students who will answer questions from the attendees. And, the class of 1962 will be inducted into the Golden Griffon Society.

Also new this year is a reunion booklet, which we will pass out at the reunion. We will also mail it to all who contributed memories and information about themselves, but couldn't attend the reunion.

Cost for the reunion is \$15 per person. To make a reservation, mail your check and information to MWSU Alumni Services, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507. Deadline is May 11, 2012. ■





Kylee Strough '03, chair of the Board of Governors, poses with Esther George '80, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, after an Eggs and Issues that featured Esther talking about the Bank and its history. Her presentation drew the largest Eggs and Issues crowd ever - more than 250.

Tell us what's new!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_ Alum's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

What's New \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory ...

If you want to include someone in this listing, please call 816-271-5651, mail the information to Diane Holtz, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or email [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu).

THELMA (BRUCE) CONNER '37, Teton Village, Wyo., died Dec. 1, 2011.

MAX GROOMS, JR. '82, St. Joseph, Mo., died Dec. 3, 2011.

DENNIS RATLIFF '95, Easton, Mo., died Dec. 21, 2011.

MARY E. (TEGELER) RIDDLE '41, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 29, 2011.

STEVEN A. STROUD '05, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 8, 2011. ■



Dorsey Looney remembered

One of Missouri Western's first ladies was honored recently, and a plaque now hangs in her memory in the M.O. Looney Complex. A plaque recognizing Dorsey Looney's contributions as first lady from 1967-83, along with a photo of the first family, was dedicated at a ceremony in January.

Dorsey, wife of President Dr. M.O. Looney, died in January 2011. Shortly after she passed away, Patti Burri '55, approached Dan Nicoson, vice president for university advancement, and asked him about placing a plaque on campus to honor Dorsey's memory, since she was Missouri Western's first lady for 16 years. They decided to hang the plaque in the building named after her husband.

With Missouri Western on board, Patti began her fund-raising efforts. Dorsey had helped start the Faculty Wives Club, which later became the Missouri



Western Women and finally the MWSU Ambassadors. So Patti, who was a member of those groups, started talking to those women.

She and others successfully raised the funds to purchase a 20 x 16 plaque for Dorsey, along with enlarging and framing a photo of Dorsey, Dr. Looney and their three sons. There was also enough funds to re-frame Dr. Looney's original portrait

and two resolutions, one which named the building in his honor and another to thank him for his service. The new plaque and photo are hanging next to the portrait and resolutions on the second floor of the Looney Complex.

Patti said she appreciated that Dorsey started the Faculty Wives Club, because it gave the women, many who were new to the area, an opportunity to meet each other. "We just loved her, she was a wonderful person."

Barb Crumley, also a member of the Faculty Wives and Missouri Western Women, spoke at the dedication ceremony, remembering Dorsey's great work as first lady.

A tour of the Looney Complex and a reception followed the dedication ceremony. ■



Left: Dr. Looney, Western's president from 1967 to 1983, poses by the plaque that honors his late wife. Right: A family photo, taken shortly before Dr. Looney left Missouri Western, hangs by the plaque, also. Top: Dorsey's siblings pose by the plaque: Brenda Harter, Carl Robbins, Judy Johnson, Mary Kyle, Sandra Millstead, and Becky Robbins Walker.





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