

Missouri Western

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



CAPITOL VENTURE: ALUMNI SERVE IN LEGISLATURE

PAGE 14

Rep. Pat Conway '73
Rep. Ken Wilson '89
Rep. Elijah Haahr '05
Sen. Rob Schaaf '78

Arts abound at Missouri Western

Music and theatre students delighted hundreds of campus and community members this past fall and spring, thanks to their great performances in the children's opera, "Hansel and Gretel," Lights and Tights Renaissance Feast in November, the production of the musical, "Annie," in December, and "Private Lives" in February. Five of the seven shows for "Annie" were sold out.





Dr. Robert Vartabedian recently wrote this guest editorial for the St. Joseph News-Press:

Hometown University worth the investment

“How can we reinvigorate communities in the Midwest in a time of economic upheaval driven by globalization?”

This was the question posed by author and keynote speaker Richard Longworth at the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri breakfast in St. Joseph. In his book “Caught in the Middle,” Longworth says the shift from an industrial, manufacturing economy to a knowledge-based economy is devastating Midwest cities.

Education, he says, is essential for communities to adapt to this new reality and survive.

“In the new economy, the majority of the people – not the minority – will need higher education,” Longworth writes.

In my role as president of Missouri Western State University, this obviously is a theme that resonates with me. Missouri Western is crucial to St. Joseph’s prosperity, and St. Joseph is essential to Missouri Western’s growth.

Nearly 100 years ago, community leaders established the junior college that is now our local university. They recognized the importance of higher education to the community. Today, jobs for our region’s high school graduates are decreasing, and college training is becoming a new minimum in the job market.

By 2018, it is estimated 63 percent of all available jobs in America will require a postsecondary education. Of Missouri’s top 50 high-wage occupations projected to have the most job openings by 2018, 34 will require at least a bachelor’s degree.

Missouri Western’s mission as an open-admission, applied learning university is a noble charge. We are a “bootstrap” institution in many ways, and proud of it. If you are willing to work for a better life, we will provide the opportunity. Nearly half of our students are first-generation college students, and 85 percent of our students receive some sort of financial aid.

Our statewide mission in applied learning refers to student learning that occurs in nontraditional ways, such as undergraduate research, internships, study abroad programs and service learning. These experiences prepare our students to hit the ground running in their careers, and to need less on-the-job training than many other people entering the job market.

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Four Missouri legislators claim Missouri Western as their *alma mater*: Pat Conway '73, Kenneth Wilson '89, Elijah Haahr '05, and Rob Schaaf '78. Photo by Linda's Studio, Linda Nichols.

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MISSOURI WESTERN MAGAZINE

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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

Campus Kudos

- **Marti Burri**, Missouri Western's Esry Student Health Center nurse, was named the March of Dimes Public Health Nurse of the Year at the March of Dimes' Missouri Chapter Nurse of the Year Gala in St. Louis. Seventeen nurses were honored from 150 nominations.
- The **Missouri Western Chorale** was selected to perform at the 2012 Governor's Candlelight Tour, an annual event at the governor's mansion in Jefferson City, Mo. The Chorale performed a concert on the front steps of the mansion and on the mansion's Grand Staircase for a crowd of thousands. Gov. Jay Nixon and his wife, Georganne, told the group that it was the best choir that had ever performed in the mansion.
- Music students **Adrienne Collins** and **Donovan Jones** were invited to perform at Gov. Jay Nixon's inauguration reception in January 2013. Adrienne was also selected as a finalist for the George London opera competition in Chicago.
- The **Prairie Lands Writing Project** was selected to participate in the National Writing Project's \$14.9 million, multi-year "College-Ready Writers Program and Evaluation," a highly-competitive federal i3 (Investing in Innovation) research grant. NWP's application was one of 20 funded from 727 submitted, and Missouri Western's PLWP was one of only 10 NWP sites around the country selected to participate.

In March, PLWP received an initial \$105,000 grant to develop an implementation plan for the program for three area school districts: Braymer C-4, Breckenridge R-1 and Hamilton R-II. Over the next two school years, PLWP must offer at least 90 hours of professional development for the English language arts and content area teachers in those districts. ■

Missouri Western welcomes VP Fessler

Cale Fessler became Missouri Western's vice president for financial planning and administration Jan. 22.

The vice president for financial planning and administration is Missouri Western's chief business and financial officer and reports directly to the president. The division is responsible for accounting, budgeting, student billing and collections, payroll, purchasing, financial aid, physical plant, capital and construction management, security and safety services, human resources, information technology, the bookstore, food service, risk management and other administrative functions.

Cale was previously vice president – chief financial officer at William Woods University in Fulton, Mo. He began working there as business services and collections specialist in 2004 before being named vice president in 2006.

Prior to William Woods, Cale was a staff accountant at Noah & Co. CPAs in Brookfield, Mo. He received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Computer and Information Systems from William Woods University in 2003 and a Master of Business Administration in Accounting from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo. in 2004. He was licensed as a certified public accountant in Missouri in 2005.

"It is an exciting time to be involved in public higher education across the country and particularly in the state of Missouri," Cale said. "I am glad to have the opportunity to help the university meet the challenges ahead."

Rick Gilmore, associate vice president for financial planning and administration, had served as interim vice president until the position was filled. Rick retired in January 2013 with 26 years of service. ■

Golden Griffon Marching Band

Band! Ten-hut! Stand up straight!

With a lead gift of \$5,000, Drs. Robert and Laurel Vartabedian established a fund to support the Golden Griffon Marching Band, the Golden Griffon Guard and the Mystics.

Get in line and join the Vartabedians!

*www.missouriwestern.edu/givingtowestern
or call 816-271-5920.*



Civic leader Dan Boulware honored at commencement

Dan Boulware, featured speaker at the December 2012 commencement ceremony, told the graduates that community and civic service is not only commendable, but essential to society. “As we seek to do good, we help lift the society in which we live, those we care about, and, in turn, we lift our country,” he said.

Dan lives that lesson every day. Throughout his entire career in St. Joseph, Dan, who grew up in Columbus, Kan., has given back to nonprofits throughout the community, especially Missouri Western.

For his advocacy and work for education, specifically Missouri Western, Dan was awarded an honorary doctorate at the ceremony.

“If you have worked with Dan as I have,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s president, “you would not be surprised by all that he has done for our university and our community. What is surprising is that he has done all this while being one of the busiest and most respected attorneys in the country.”

Dan, who is managing partner for the St. Joseph office of law firm Polsinelli Shugart, arrived in St. Joseph as a young attorney in 1972. He was a member of Missouri Western’s governing board, the Board of Regents, from 1986 to 1993, serving as president in 1991 and 1992. He also chaired the Missouri Western Foundation’s capital campaign in 1989-90.

The R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues, which began in 1993, is named in his honor, and in his commencement address, he talked about and quoted Thomas Friedman, T. Boone Pickens and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., past Convocation speakers.

In addition to managing the St. Joseph office, Dan is chair of the firm’s contingency fee practice nationwide. He is a senior trial lawyer who has served as



R. Dan Boulware receives the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. He is pictured with his wife, Dale, and Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western’s president.

lead counsel in many large, high-profile cases and has extensive trial experience in state and federal courts.

Forty-one years after receiving his Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas, Dan says he still enjoys the competitive nature of trying lawsuits.

Dr. Janet McCarthy, who was president of Missouri Western when Dan served on the Board of Regents, initiated an endowed scholarship fund in Dan’s honor to coincide with the honorary degree. Within days of her announcement of a lead gift, Dan’s colleagues, friends and family members brought the fund amount to more than \$17,000.

“The honorary doctorate was enough,” Dan said. “But the scholarship is a great thing. It is going to be a way to help a lot of young people who want to go to law school.” ■

“If you have worked with Dan as I have, you would not be surprised by all that he has done for our university and our community. What is surprising is that he has done all this while being one of the busiest and most respected attorneys in the country.”

Dr. Robert Vartabedian,
Missouri Western president

2012 Winter Commencement

Stats and Facts



Undergraduates **291**
Master's degrees **11**

Women **183**
Men **119**
Age Range **19-62 years**

Largest number of degrees
Business: 49
Second largest number of degrees
Nursing: 48



Two appointed to Board of Governors

Gov. Jay Nixon appointed Brig. Gen. Gregory D. Mason '89, and Alfred Purcell to serve on the Missouri Western Board of Governors in December 2012.

Greg, of Lee's Summit, Mo., serves as assistant adjutant general-Army in the Missouri National Guard. As assistant adjutant general, he has overseen emergency management efforts in Missouri, including flooding in northwest Missouri in recent years.

Al, of Easton, Mo., is president of Purcell Consulting. He is an authority on management systems and business process with special emphasis on improving business results. Al spent 40 years in executive positions with Xerox Corporation, holding many key service and sales management positions including senior vice president North America technical services and senior

vice president North America services operations.

Al and Greg's terms will expire Oct. 29, 2018. They were appointed to replace Dan Danford '78, and Tommye Quilty '96, whose terms expired earlier last year. Dan and Tommye were named board emeriti at the January board meeting. ■



Wildlife Society

flocks to service

Personnel at two national wildlife refuges and the state department of conservation know they can count on Missouri Western's student chapter of the Wildlife Society to provide help and extra hands whenever needed. Few student organizations can match the level and amount of volunteer activities and experiences of that group, and the students have the awards to prove it.

On top of winning the 2011 International Chapter of the Year award, the chapter earned the 2012 North Central Section Student Chapter of the Year for the fifth time, which chapter president Ben Olsen says "is pretty much unheard of." The group has also won awards from the university's Student Government Association for its volunteerism.

And because of that volunteer experience, students who earn a biology degree with the conservation and wildlife emphasis are more than ready

to step into careers in the field, according to Dr. Cary Chevalier, professor of biology and the group's advisor.

Students provide a lot of those volunteer hours at two national wildlife refuges in Missouri. At Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, near Mound City, Mo., students have been logging more than 1,000 volunteer hours each academic year, and last year, Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge, near Sumner, Mo., requested assistance from the student chapter.

"We get a lot done with them. You name it and we've gotten students to help us," said Ron Bell, manager of Squaw Creek. He said one of the refuge's missions is to find out more about the wildlife at the refuge, and the students excel in that regard. Between August and

early December 2012, the chapter had already logged 800 volunteer hours at Squaw Creek.

Students help Squaw Creek with its deer surveys, the managed deer hunt (see "Editor in the field"), Family Day (students run all booths at this event), habitat work days and Eagle Days. At Swan Lake, which is in central Missouri, they worked the youth deer hunt and deer surveys last year.

Caroline Ward, who works at Swan Lake, said the students have helped them a lot since the partnership was formed. "We were very grateful for their help. We couldn't have done the deer surveys without them," she said. "They are a fantastic group of kids who are willing to work hard and love what they do. I look forward to working with them in the future."

The students also log a lot of volunteer hours with the Missouri Department of Conservation, teaching hunter safety classes and helping with a variety of activities. This past





Ben Olsen and Jeremy Lord take blood samples from a deer at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

fall, they helped deliver deer meat as part of the department's "Share the Harvest" program.

Senior Margaret Slayton, who has combined a convergent media minor with her biology major, completed an internship at the Department of Conservation headquarters on campus last summer. Her duties included some writing, and that led to a job as the outdoor writer for the St. Joseph News-Press.

Margaret said Cary advised her early on to get involved in the student chapter. "If you don't have experience with professionals, you're really lacking when you go to look for a job," she said.

Cary noted that it is difficult for an individual student to find a professional who is willing to take them on as a volunteer or for an internship, but belonging to the student chapter paves the way.

"There are days where I've worked 16 hours. I'm exhausted but I wake up the next day and say, 'wow, that was fun.'"

Ben Olsen, president of the student chapter of The Wildlife Society

"You make a lot of friends in the group, but you're building a resume and building relationships with professionals," Margaret said.

Ben, from Lawson, Mo., said he always knew he wanted a career in wildlife management. As a high schooler, he visited campus and talked to Cary about Missouri Western's program. "After that, I knew there was no point in looking anywhere else."

And from his first week on campus, Ben has been involved in the student chapter of The Wildlife Society. "There are days where I've worked 16 hours. I'm exhausted but I wake up the next day and say, 'wow, that was fun.'" ■

Editor in the field

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society had been racking up so many awards that I thought it was time I joined them on one of their volunteer assignments at the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

When I called Dr. Cary Chevalier, the group's advisor, I was hoping to go along on a spotlight deer survey, because that would involve riding around in the back of a pickup. But I didn't call him until December, and the six surveys were completed in November. So Cary suggested I join the students at the

managed deer hunt that was on Jan. 5 and 6.

I had to think about that. It was January, and there was snow on the ground. I would have to tromp around in it. A lot. And it was a Saturday. But I finally



told Cary I was game (no pun intended – that would be dangerous on a managed deer hunt).

The first contingent of six student volunteers arrived at the refuge at 5 a.m. on Saturday, ready to greet the hunters by 5:30 a.m. The rest of the students arrived at 8 a.m., and I arrived at, well, um, 11:30 a.m.

For the hunt, the students, 12 each day, volunteer to field dress the hunters' deer. In the process, students collect blood samples on all deer and conduct an embryo count on the does. They also removed the heads from the bodies for more research later. In all, five research projects were underway that day, which is a huge help to the refuge.

"Essentially, we have 14 biologists out here today," said Corey Kudrna '00, who works at the refuge. "The data collection we are doing here is not replicated in the state. Each year, more and more information is being collected."



Ben Olsen, president of the student chapter, had the "privilege" of having me follow him around and asking nonstop questions about Squaw Creek, deer hunting, field dressing, research and wolves. Oh, the wolf questions were thrown in because Ben spent last summer at an internship at the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn. "I can't tell you the exact gestation period for a deer, but I can for a wolf," he said with a smile.

So I tagged along and watched four students collect the research samples and then watched Ben field dress two deer that were shot by Phil Doyle from St. Louis. Phil and four other hunters from eastern Missouri had come across the state for the managed hunt. Ben field dressed the two deer, and he and freshman Jeremy Lord collected their blood samples.

Ben, from Lawson, Mo., said he had field dressed more deer than he could count. (That was in reply to one of my questions, of course.) In fact, the 21 year-old said he shot his first deer at age 11 (another question, another answer).

Jeremy, from Lee's Summit, had never hunted before, but he was planning to soon. He had always been interested in the outdoors and had even visited Squaw Creek several times as a child.

In all, the Missouri Western students logged 48 hours that weekend, and don't forget this was during the semester break; classes didn't start for two more weeks. Ben worked from 5 a.m. to about 6:30 p.m. both days. I, um, left about 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

It was great to see the biology students in action, even for just a couple hours, and I was glad I had made the trip. I saw a lot of hard work from them, and I now understand how valuable their volunteer activities are, not only to Squaw Creek, but to the students' themselves. You can't replicate those experiences in a classroom (especially the field dressing; it just won't work).

Oh, and I also caught sight of four bald eagles at the refuge! It was a good day for my first managed deer hunt. ■

– Diane Holtz, editor

Students delve into little-known St. Joseph history

Did you know that the building at the corner of 5th and Francis in St. Joseph used to be a famous opera house? Or that St. Joseph was home to the first apartment house built west of the Mississippi River? How about this? Did you know that in the 1850s western migration, wagons would sometimes be lined up three or four abreast for as far as 30 miles waiting to cross the river on the Francis Street ferry?

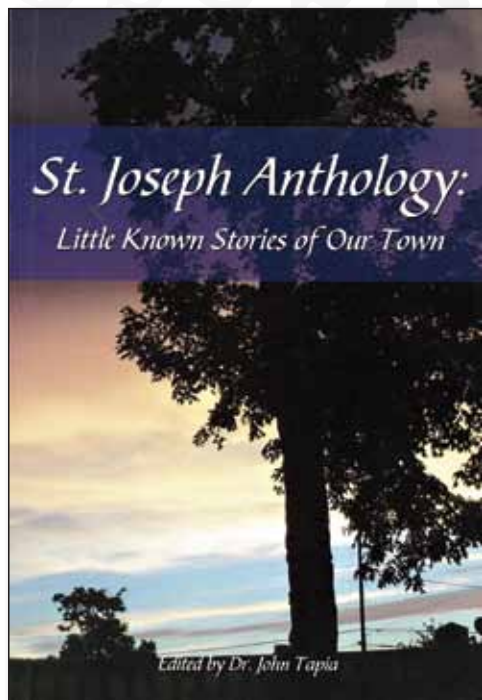
These facts and many more can be found in a recently published book, "St. Joseph Anthology: Little Known Stories of Our Town." And Missouri Western students have bylines on several of the 24 chapters.

In the spring semester 2010, Dr. John Tapia said he realized about midway through his special topics class on local cultural history that the assignments would make a great anthology. He was awarded a grant from the Missouri Western Foundation to get the book published, and students had the opportunity to include their class assignments in the collection.

Natalie Miller '11, signed up for the class only because she needed more credit hours to graduate, but she can now claim a chapter called, "The Tootle Opera House: The Best Theatre West of Chicago."

"The class was unexpected, and it was one of the coolest classes I've ever taken," she said. "It was amazing. I learned so much about St. Joe."

Each week, the class would leave campus and visit historic buildings around St. Joseph, such as the Missouri Theater,



715 Edmond St.; and the German American Bank Building at 624 Felix St. John said the students really enjoyed the tours. An interesting side note was that those who gave the tours of the buildings one week usually joined the class on its tours in subsequent weeks, he said.

Jacqueline Ritter '88, author of "The Tower and KFEQ-TV," was the first female engineer at St. Joseph's television station in 1952 and one of several St. Joseph residents that John solicited for a chapter.

Student Ellis Cross wasn't enrolled in the class, but he has a chapter in the book, too: "The Legacies of Robidoux

"The class was unexpected, and it was one of the coolest classes I've ever taken. It was amazing. I learned so much about St. Joe."

- Natalie Miller '11

Hill." Ellis is the chair of the St. Joseph Landmark Association and a lover of St. Joseph history, and his chapter tells the history of the houses in the neighborhood at 5th and Robidoux Streets, where he lives.

"Those who know the history of St. Joseph and its most influential people would recognize immediately the names of those who lived on Robidoux Hill," Ellis, who graduates this month, wrote in his chapter.

Dave Stevenson, who owns two pharmacies in St. Joseph, was called upon to write a chapter called, "On the Western Frontier: An Architectural Gem."

"I love the downtown. I can remember when it was booming," Dave said. "I certainly appreciate the architecture." He said he enjoyed the project so much that now he wants to write a book with his son about independent pharmacies.

John's chapter, "From St. Joseph to Southern California to St. Joseph: Two Robidoux Returns," tells the story of his family's connection to Joseph Robidoux.

"It was an academic exercise but it was a lot of fun," John said of the book. "I guess academics can be fun." ■

Joseph Robidoux in 1799 made his first trip up the Missouri River past the present site of St. Joseph. In 1826, he built a trading post at Black Snake Hills. At that time, he was the only white man within a distance of 50 miles.



After a head coaching career spanning 38 years, with 25 of them at Missouri Western, Tom Smith announced his retirement as men's basketball coach in December, effective at the end of the 2012-13 season.

"Tom Smith is a legend in the world of basketball coaches. He has meant so much to Missouri Western and the community of St. Joseph," said Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics. "He will always be a teacher first. His positive relationships with former and current players prove he has coached for many years for the right reasons and in the right way. We were truly blessed to have him at Missouri Western for 25 years and thank him for so many memories."

Neal Hook '89, agreed. He played for Tom his first year as coach at Missouri Western and coached boys basketball at Central High School in St. Joseph. "Coach Smith made an immediate impact on our program. His intense competitive spirit was contagious within the group of eight players that he inherited upon his arrival on campus. We were an undersized and normally overmatched basketball team that year, but Coach Smith instilled in us a true belief that through hard work and teamwork we would be successful."

And they were. That first year, the team beat the No. 1 team in the nation on their home court, made it to the NAIA District 16 finals and finished the season with an 18-15 record. Neal, now athletic director at Central, said that experience, along with the opportunities to work with Tom after he graduated, had a tremendous influence on his coaching career.

"He inspired many virtues and philosophies, not only in the game of basketball but also in life," Neal said. "In the one year of playing for Coach Smith and the 25 years of working with him, I gained a true respect for him as a great leader, coach and friend."

The following year, 1989, Missouri Western joined the NCAA Division II MIAA conference, and the Griffons won the MIAA regular-season and post-season championships and advanced to the NCAA national tournament.

Brett Goodwin '98, transferred to Missouri Western his sophomore year. "Coach Smith made that transition as comfortable as he could; he treated me as if I had been a

"He will always be a teacher first. His positive relationships with former and current players prove he has coached for many years for the right reasons and in the right way. We were truly blessed to have him at Missouri Western for 25 years and thank him for so many memories."

- Kurt McGuffin, director of athletics



A LEGEND

member of that team since day one. I believe any player who had the privilege to play under Coach Smith would say the same thing." Brett is the head girls basketball coach at Benton High School in St. Joseph.

Tom's style of coaching consistently kept the Griffons among the top members of the MIAA and NCAA. His teams have always been up-tempo, high-energy and full of talent. He was named the MIAA's Coach of the Year twice during his tenure at Missouri Western and once at University of Central Missouri, where he started his head coaching career.

"Coach Smith brought in a lot of junior college guys back when I played, so he had little time to mold these players and make them play together as a team," Brett said. "But this is something he was able to do every year, put new players together and make them gel offensively and defensively, play hard, force them to compete and go to battle everyday with each other."

And several of those players garnered honors over the years. Lamont Turner was named the MIAA's Most Valuable Player during the 2001-02 season and Damon Bailey was named the MIAA Postseason Tournament MVP during the 2002-03 season. Tom has also coached three All-America selections: Lamont in 2002, Darrol Wright in 1995 and



RETIREES

Mike Cornelious in 1991. In all, he has coached 49 All-MIAA selections at Missouri Western and six All-Region/District selections.

Tom is the winningest basketball coach in MIAA history. In 38 seasons as a collegiate head coach at three different schools, he compiled 618 wins.

He is a member of three Hall of Fames: Missouri Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, Missouri Western Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Athletics Hall of Fame at Valparaiso University, where he was head coach for eight seasons before coming to Missouri Western. Tom will be inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame in June.

"The best thing after 45 years of coaching is all the friendships and relationships I have built in the St. Joseph community and the coaching world," Tom said.

"I know a lot of players that still keep in contact with Coach Smith," Brett said. "Playing for him was a wonderful experience, but now becoming a coach myself and building on from what I learned under him and being able to call him my mentor make me really proud. I hope I have made him proud. He has not only been a coach but also a great friend." ■



THE TOM SMITH RECORD BOOK

5 MIAA Regular Season Championships
1990, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2002

4 MIAA Post-season Championships
1990, 1995, 1998, 2003

11 NCAA Tournament Appearances
1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997,
1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2010

12 Seasons with 20-plus Wins
1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995,
1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003

Missouri Western Milestone Victories

- November 1988 – 1st career win at Missouri Western
- January 1990 – 200th career win
- March 1990 – 1st MIAA Tournament Championship and 1st NCAA Tournament Victory
- November 1994 – 300th career win
- February 1998 – All-time wins leader at Missouri Western
- January 1999 – 400th career win
- February 2004 – 500th career win
- March 2010 – 1,000 career game
- November 2011 – 600th career win, one of only 60 college coaches to win 600 games.



Record-breaking seasons for baseball and softball

Coming off a second best all-time mark of 34 wins in 2012, the **baseball** team had high expectations entering the 2013 season. The team was picked to finish second out of 15 MIAA teams by league coaches. At press time, its record was 31-5 and the team was ranked first in the MIAA.

Snow wiped out the Griffons' first seven home games, which caused the team to do some major schedule shuffling and to live life out on the road. But that didn't seem to deter their hitting.

Five players in the lineup are currently hitting over .400: outfielder Bubba

Dotson, infielder Grant Fink, infielder Kyle Simpson, infielder Michael Schulze, and infielder Jimmy Smelcer. Michael holds the MIAA lead at .479. In fact, out of 13 offensive categories in the conference, Missouri Western leads in 11, including team batting average and runs scored per game.

Pitcher Brandon Simmons broke the 38-year-old school record for career wins and, at press time, was one win away from breaking the MIAA record. Brandon broke the record held by Nick Finn '75.

The team, coached by Buzz Verduzco, is gearing up for the MIAA Baseball

Championship May 9-12 at Community America Ballpark in Kansas City, Kan.

Griffon **softball** was picked to finish third out of 15 teams in the MIAA Preseason Coaches Poll, and through their opening three tournaments (including six games in Hawaii in mid-February), the Griffon record stood at 11-5. At press time, the team's record was 29-11.

Offensively the Griffs crushed the ball, hitting over .300 as a team. Senior third baseman Sarah Elliott was off to blistering start at the plate, hitting .511 with 23 hits in 16 games. Infielder Michelle Stevenson also got off to a solid start, hitting .389 with 10 home runs in early season play.

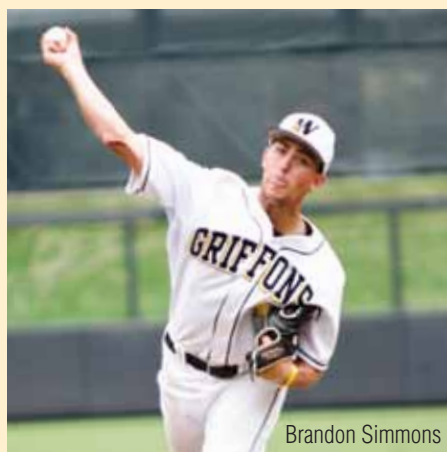
In the pitching circle, the Griffons have one of the best in the country in junior Jackie Bishop. Jackie broke the school record in pitching wins (62) and career strike-outs (612) this season.

Coach Jen Bagley earned her 400th career win March 29 at Missouri Southern.

The MIAA Post Season Softball Championship is May 2-5 in Overland Park, Kan. ■



Jackie Bishop



Brandon Simmons

Coach Edmisson leads Griffon women to winning season

As first-year women's basketball head coach Rob Edmisson approached the 2012-13 season, he had two simple goals in mind for his team: 1) Have a chance to win every game; and 2) For the seniors to win more than they lost. Mission accomplished on both fronts – the Griffons more than doubled their win total from a year ago finishing with a 16-12 overall record.

The team got off to a fast start in their first two games, knocking off Division I University of Missouri-Kansas City on the road and the very next night defeating Metro State in the fieldhouse, a team that was ranked No. 7 in the country in the preseason poll. Other highlight victories

during the season included a Jan. 12 home victory over rival Northwest Missouri State and two victories over defending NCAA South Central Regional Champion Pittsburg State, one being in the first round of the MIAA championship.

Individually, senior forward Heather Howard, who transferred from Oklahoma State, led the team averaging almost a double-double per game with 13 points and 10 rebounds, and was named Second Team All-MIAA. Senior Alicia Bell also had a solid campaign averaging eight points and five rebounds and was named Honorable Mention All-MIAA. ■



Alicia Bell



Cedric Clinkscales

Men's basketball wraps up season

Griffon men's basketball endured another year of near misses and close calls in 2012-13. With eight single-digit losses, including two in overtime, the Griffons closed out the season in the first round of the MIAA Basketball Championship, falling on the road against Northwest Missouri State in Tom Smith's final game of his career. Highlight victories included

a 72-60 win over Northwest in the fieldhouse on Jan. 12 and a Feb. 6 road win against 17th ranked Washburn.

The Griffons had two players named Honorable Mention All-MIAA: junior forward Cedric Clinkscales and junior guard Adarius Fulton.

See p. 10 article about Coach Smith. ■

Sport shorts: Golf regional, golf classic and football

Griffon Athletics will host another NCAA Championship. The 2013 NCAA Division II **Women's Golf Regional** will be held May 5-7 at St. Joseph Country Club. Nine teams and four individuals will vie for spots in the NCAA National Championship being held this year in Daytona Beach, Fla. It's the third time Missouri Western has hosted a golf regional, but the first time on the women's side.

The 11th Annual Missouri Western **Celebrity Golf Classic** will be held June 23 at St. Joseph Country Club. This annual favorite 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 at lau@missouriwestern.edu, or visit gogriffons.com.

Spratt Memorial Stadium is the place for **football** this fall as the Griffons have their eyes set on the NCAA Division II National Championship. Coming off a 2012 season in which the Griffons went 12-2 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs, you'll want to secure your seat for all six great home games.

Come early and tailgate and enjoy all of the excitement of Griffon football on campus this fall! Gogriffons.com contains all you need to know for the 2013 football schedule or tickets. ■



Brett Weiberg from Northern Oklahoma College is the new Griffon men's head basketball coach, replacing Coach Tom Smith, who retired at the end of the season. More on Coach Weiberg in the Fall issue.

Support Griffon Athletics – Join the Gold Coat Victory Fund

The Gold Coat Victory Fund helps provide funding to keep our programs among the most competitive in NCAA Division II.

- 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
- Much more!

Join online at gogriffons.com or contact David Lau at 816-271-5926 or lau@missouriwestern.edu. ■



CAPITOL VENTURE: ALUMNI SERVE IN LEGISLATURE

When Rep. Elijah Haahr '05, and Rep. Ken Wilson '89, were elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in November 2012, the number of Missouri Western alumni in the Legislature doubled. Elijah and Ken, whose offices are just around the corner from one another, joined fellow alumni Rep. Pat Conway '73, and Sen. Rob Schaaf '78, at the statehouse in January.

Ann Pearce said she was happy to hear that. She represents Missouri Western with the General Assembly and the Executive Branch in Jefferson City, and spends a lot of time at the capitol during the legislative session, sharing Missouri Western's thoughts, needs and concerns. "It's great to have people in the Capitol who know the university and can stand up for us and provide information when we're not there," she said.

Elijah, who serves the 134th District, which includes part of Springfield, noted that Missouri Western is not as close to Jefferson City as some of the other state colleges and universities, but the four alumni are there to be a resource for any questions about Missouri Western. "We make that presence known every day we are here," he said.

Ann said there are three main issues regarding higher education in this legislative session: state appropriations and the development of a higher education funding formula, bonding for capital projects, and hopefully, the sunset clause on university land leases.

Missouri's higher education system does not currently have a funding formula, and legislation passed last year requires one. "It's an extremely daunting task," Ann said. "The Joint Committee (working on the formula) has been open to our comments and concerns." Legislation requires that the formula go into effect in Fiscal Year 2015, and the final committee report came out this spring.

Elijah earned an associate degree from Ozark Technical Community College in Springfield, his bachelor's degree from Missouri Western, and his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He noted that although he doesn't serve on any higher education committees, he is sensitive to the funding issues because Ozark is one of the lowest funded two-year schools and Missouri Western is one of the lowest funded four-year institutions. "There has to be a way to make

sure some schools don't get left behind when funding issues come up."

Ken said there is a lot of support for higher education in the House.

The second issue in the Legislature this session is bonds for capital projects at colleges and universities across the state. Because of tight finances for the past decade, legislators have not been able to appropriate annual funds for capital projects, and Missouri's

universities have tremendous needs, Ann said. The General Assembly is looking at bonds as a way to pay for capital projects, and Missouri Western is supportive of that initiative.

The Legislature is also looking at eliminating the sunset clause on university land leases. Currently, regional higher education institutions can only lease land until 2017, which makes it difficult to develop land when they cannot offer a long-term lease, Ann said. Missouri Western has several acres that it could potentially develop if the sunset clause was removed.

Ann said our local delegation, which includes Rob and Pat, has been very supportive of Missouri Western. "They are wonderful to work with and very open. It's a pleasure to work with people who strongly support us. We are very fortunate," she said. "The university appreciates their service, and the service of all our alumni legislators, to the institution and to the state. They are all truly servant leaders." ■

"THEY ARE ALL TRULY SERVANT LEADERS."

ANN PEARCE
MISSOURI WESTERN





*What advice would you give
someone who is thinking about
running for a political office?*

REP. PAT CONWAY '73

It's a great profession. Someone who gets involved needs to realize that with today's technology, everything is on the table, not just you, but your whole family.

REP. ELIJAH HAAHR '05

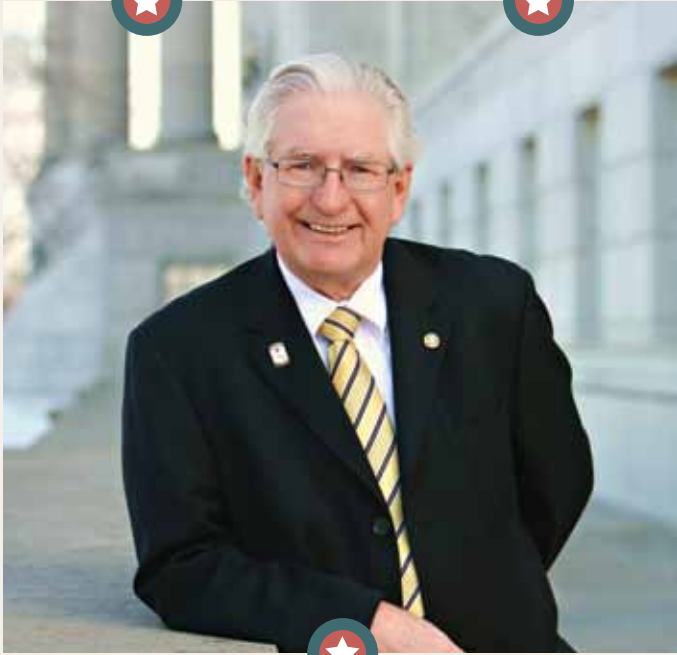
Plan a long time ahead for the campaign, and talk to someone who did it. Although I loved talking to people and hearing their stories, be prepared for the campaign to take about three times the amount of time you thought it would take.

SEN. ROB SCHAAF '78

Talk to legislators and shadow one.
Learn as much about it as you can.

REP. KEN WILSON '89

Do your homework and be sure it's a step you want to take. Campaigns are rigorous and expensive, but exciting. I wouldn't discourage anyone to run.



REP. PAT CONWAY '73 – 10TH DISTRICT

Rep. Pat Conway '73, began his studies at the St. Joseph Junior College, got drafted, and earned his degree from the new four-year Missouri Western when he returned from the Vietnam War. He served as Buchanan County Clerk for 27 years before being elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2010.

Pat says it is exciting to watch how Missouri Western has grown over the years. He remembers helping Glenn Marion plant trees on the emerging campus. Glenn was chair of the engineering department at the junior college and created much of the landscaping on the new campus. "It's always a good memory to come out on campus and see how much it has grown and changed," he said. Pat received Missouri Western's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003.

He became involved in politics as a student, and the interest continued throughout his career. Pat was friends with Sen. John Downs '35, Sen. Ron Reed and Sen. Truman Wilson '47, who all played significant roles in the creation of the four-year Missouri Western.

Pat is a Democrat whose district includes part of St. Joseph. His background as a county clerk led to interest in legislation relevant to elections, such as absentee voting, early voting, voter ID, etc. And as a veteran, he also focuses on veterans' issues. He and his wife, Mary, have five children.

"I take my responsibility to Missouri Western very seriously as a legislator and an alumnus. All of us who have connections to Missouri Western see the need to help the institution grow." ■



SEN. ROB SCHAAF '78 – 34TH DISTRICT

Sen. Rob Schaaf '78, a medical doctor, says he decided to run for political office after becoming frustrated trying to get his patients the care they needed. He was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002 and served four two-year terms. He won his Senate seat in 2010.

Rob, whose district includes Buchanan and Platte counties, is the only medical doctor in the Senate and one of three in the General Assembly. That background has led to introducing bills related to healthcare practices and policies. He says he is most proud of legislation he introduced in 2004 that forced hospitals to post their infection rates online. That, he says, led to a "quantum leap in quality. It probably saved more lives than I did in my whole medical career."

Rob, a Republican, grew up in St. Joseph and earned a mathematics degree at Missouri Western. In his junior year, he decided to become a doctor, and he said he was the only pre-med student at Missouri Western at the time. He earned his medical degree from St. Louis School of Medicine in 1983. In 2004, he helped form the Missouri Doctors Mutual Insurance Company and serves as chair of the board.

He received the Missouri Western Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011.

He and his wife, Deborah, have two children.

Rob calls his legislative experience a mixture of frustration and rewards. "You have to focus on the success you have," he said. "You don't really achieve a lot, but you are part of a team, and the team can have some success. That is very rewarding." ■



REP. KEN WILSON '89 – 12TH DISTRICT

Rep. Ken Wilson '89, has been a public servant throughout his entire career. After graduating with a criminal justice degree from Missouri Western, he worked for the Platte County Sheriff's Department and served as Smithville's Chief

of Police from 2001 until he retired in 2012. He is in his first term as a State Representative and is one of three active ministers in the House.

Ken, a Republican, grew up on a farm near Trenton, Mo. and worked on the farm in Missouri Western's agriculture program as a student. He was interested in

**“I'M PROUD
TO BE HERE,
AND I'M
PROUD TO BE
AN ALUMNUS
OF MISSOURI
WESTERN.”**

criminal justice when he enrolled, and he says he was hooked after his first class in that department. He has also served as an instructor at Missouri Western's Law Enforcement Academy for several years, teaching a unit on ethics and corrections.

The Republican's district includes parts of Clay and Platte counties, including Camden Point, Kearney, Platte City, Ridgely and Smithville. As a legislator, Ken says his interests lie in the issues relevant to law enforcement.

Ken and his wife, Melissa, have two children.

“It's been an incredible experience. The process works,” he says of the Legislature. “I'm proud to be here, and I'm proud to be an alumnus of Missouri Western.” ■



REP. ELIJAH HAAHR '05 – 134TH DISTRICT

Rep. Elijah Haahr '05, holds the distinction of being the only member of the State House of Representatives who was homeschooled from kindergarten through 12th grade. And, at age 30, he is also one of the youngest Republicans in the House.

Elijah, whose district includes part of Springfield, grew up in the Springfield area. He transferred to Missouri Western after two years at Ozark Technical Community College, and earned a law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

As an attorney with Aaron Sachs and Associates, Elijah specializes in worker's compensation claims, so he has an interest in that area in the Legislature, especially regarding the state's Second Injury Fund. He introduced a bill early in the session that would allow the Second Injury Fund to meet its obligations.

Elijah, who served as president of the Student Government Association as a Missouri Western student, said his biggest challenge is balancing the legislative duties, his responsibilities at his law firm, and his family. He and his wife, Amanda, also an attorney, have a son and a daughter. His daughter was born two days after he was elected to the House.

While serving as president of the SGA, Elijah said the student group conducted a full-scale revision of the SGA constitution, which had not been done for several years. That experience helps him now, he said, as one of his committees is grappling with an overhaul of the criminal code.

“I have a very cool opportunity right now, and I never want to take that for granted,” Elijah said of his elected position. “I want to do anything I can to have an impact.” ■



Visiting foreign language professors

Missouri Western hosted three international professors this past academic year. Juan Wang from Xidian University in China taught Chinese; Fulbright scholar Dominic Heres, from Giessen, Germany, taught German; and Fulbright scholar Vicky Perez Calzadilla, from Ponferrada, Spain, taught Spanish.

Juan, an associate professor who teaches English courses at Xidian, taught as part of a five-year exchange agreement between Xidian and Missouri Western that was signed last May.

"Every day unfolds something unexpected," Juan said. "It is quite amazing."

She said her students in China were always asking her what life is like in English-speaking countries, and she had no firsthand experience. "Now I can bridge the gap of understanding between America and China."

Dominic has enjoyed his immersion into United States culture. "Most Germans would like to see the United States," he said. "We get it on TV every single day. If you want to watch a cool TV show, you watch American. You just want to come here and see it."

International outreach

In the past five years, the university has put many structures in place to accommodate international students in an effort to increase its international student numbers. When the spring semester began, there were 64 international students from 23 countries enrolled.

Missouri Western has exchange agreements with nine universities across the globe, and, in the past few years,

scholarship funds have been established for students from India, Honduras and Afghanistan. Intensive English courses have also been created.

Amy Kotwani was hired as the international student coordinator last August, and has been overseeing recruiting trips to the Washington, D.C. embassies of Oman and Kuwait and the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, South Korea and India, along with a separate trip to eight countries in Asia. ■



Nicole Kerr shows off a display of her native country at the International Fair. Right, the campus celebrates the Chinese New Year.



He started learning English as a fifth-grader, but he applied for the Fulbright award so he could be totally immersed in the English language and become more fluent. When he returns to Germany, he will be teaching English classes, along with history classes in English, to middle and high school students. "This is preparing me well for what I want to do."

Vicky said she applied for the program because she wanted to know America 'in situ.' "I have always been fascinated by American culture. During my college years, I felt that my degree was too oriented towards the European perspective of English culture, and, although I had the chance to get an overview of American history and literature, I would have liked to know more about the country at an academic level."

Dominic said unlike the United States, most students in Germany begin learning a second language at a young age, so it has been interesting for him to teach students who do not have as strong of a background in foreign languages.

But his students at Missouri Western probably don't complain when he recommends a method to help them learn the language — playing German video games. "They are enjoying themselves and 'accidentally' learning a new language," he said with a laugh. "I did that with video games in English and I enjoyed it a lot."

A big difference between students that Juan noted was that most of her students in China do not work while they are attending college, so she appreciates the work ethic of the Missouri Western students.

Both Dominic and Juan took advantage of time off over breaks to travel. Dominic said he was amazed to see the changes in landscape and geography and still be in the same country. Juan, whose husband and son are in St. Joseph with her, toured the east coast.



International students performed a dance at the annual Lights and Tights Renaissance Feast last fall. Pictured left to right are Jamil Velasquez, Sharon Rodriguez Benarroch, Mira Lee, Ahmad Shah Salimee and Maricarmen Teran Vela.

"It's been a great opportunity," Dominic said of his experiences at Missouri Western. "There have been challenges and you have to adapt. But that is what makes it great and something I didn't want to miss." ■

Fulbright scholar in India

Dave Tushaus spent last fall in India and didn't want to come home. The professor of legal studies earned a Fulbright Scholar award and served as a consultant for Banaras Hindu University's legal aid clinic in Varanasi, India.

"Not a day goes by that I don't think of India," Dave said in his blog after he returned. "We had an opportunity to meet some wonderful people, make friends, experience new cultures and enjoy sights, sounds and tastes that were exciting and delicious."

Dave worked with law students at the university's legal aid clinic, helping them expand their services.

He also gave lectures across India and in Bangladesh and conducted a workshop

for professors from about 40 universities on how to expand their legal aid programs. "It was very rewarding. Being a visiting professor at BHU and lecturing around Asia was one of the greatest experiences of my professional life," Dave said.

He and his wife were encouraged to hire a cook during their stay, and they were glad they took that advice. "We ate better there than we eat here. We never chose to eat out because the food was so good at home."

Dave, who returned home in January, said he is continuing a study he began with 10 students and an Indian professor, where they are surveying law schools in India regarding their legal aid clinics. He is also working with a group in Bangladesh who wants to establish legal aid clinics in its law schools.

"The entire experience was extremely interesting. I would highly recommend to anyone interested in something very different, to go. It's a challenge but well worth it." ■



Alumnus charts global journey

Tracy Jones '98, grew up with a map of the world on his bedroom wall and says he probably memorized almost every country and city on the map by the time he was a teenager. So it should come as no surprise that Tracy, who grew up in Brookfield, Mo., has spent almost the last decade living, working and studying abroad. His journey has taken him to South Korea, London, Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

He took his first trip abroad as a college student, studying in France over the summer to earn credit hours for a French minor. The next summer, he participated in Missouri Western's study abroad program at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. "Both opportunities were incredible and just fueled my passion for travel and experiencing different cultures. To be able to do that now in my life and in my work is a dream come true."

When he graduated in 1998 with an English/writing major and his French minor, Tracy didn't go far right away. He worked in Lawrence, Kan. for the next five years, working up the courage and



Visitors to the Chinese New Year celebration on campus learn how to make Chinese treats.

confidence to do something big and life-changing like moving overseas, he said.

When the opportunity came up to teach English as a Second Language in South Korea, Tracy was ready to go. "There was no doubt in my mind that it was the right thing to do, even though I had never taught before and knew absolutely nothing about Korea," Tracy said.

He calls that experience "a great turning point for both my life and career. It was very clear to me pretty much right away that teaching was where I belonged and that the challenge of living abroad was what I needed."

After teaching in Korea for almost five years, Tracy returned to college in London, earning a Master of Arts in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). He then accepted a position with Raffles International College in Ho Chi Minh City for a year.

"Ho Chi Minh City is full-throttle and full-on in your face. It's definitely an assault on your senses," Tracy said. "There are literally millions of motorbikes buzzing around at all hours of the day and night. There are street vendors selling everything from fruit and snacks

to sunglasses and phones. There are great cafés tucked away all over city where you may attempt to escape some of the chaos, but the thing I will always remember about the city is the noise."

Today, Tracy lives in Johor Bahru and is an associate lecturer at Raffles University Iskandar, a new cooperative university project between Raffles, which is based in Singapore, and the Malaysian government. Tracy said the institution began classes less than a year ago and there are plans for a large campus in a new education development in Johor Bahru. "It's been very collaborative from the beginning and I'm really enjoying being part of that."

"My passion for living abroad hasn't waned a bit since I became an expat 10 years ago," he said. "I love my work and the amazing people I have the privilege of meeting. As long as there are opportunities for me and my interest remains, I will continue to see where this path leads."

His advice for someone considering living abroad? "Go into it with an open mind and open heart. Be prepared not to just step outside of your comfort zone, but to leave it behind altogether. And," he added as a final tip, "pack light." ■

From the Alumni Association President

Dear Friends,

As you read this, I will be nearing the end of my 19th year in education. One of the aspects of education I have always enjoyed is the cycle that occurs every year. There is a beginning, middle, and an end. If the year didn't go the way you had hoped, next year is always a new year, a chance to do things differently and achieve what you may have fallen short of the previous year. That being said, I've always said, "The school is bigger than any of us. It ran long before we were here, and it will run long after we are gone. We just hope to make an impact in our time here."

This letter finds me at the end of my year as President of the Alumni Association. It's different from how all of my years in education have been. There isn't a chance for a "do-over" next year if things haven't occurred as I had hoped. It can be summed up with what has become one of my most-often used phrases: "It is what it is." In spite of that, there are similarities to the cycle I experience in my career. There has been a definite beginning (Homecoming festivities), middle (graduation in December) and there will be an end (graduation in May). Although this year shares that with a



year in education, there is one big difference. I can't speak the same way about the Alumni Association that I do about education. The association may have run before we were here, but without us (all of us), it won't continue to run. We need new ideas, creative minds and energetic volunteers to do the wonderful work of our organization.

With that in mind, this final message may be directed a bit at our more recent and newest graduates. We need you. The sum of our collective parts is greater than our individual talents. The Association is bigger than all of us, but it won't run without new

members. New members that will continue to "make an impact in our time here." I know that the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well at Missouri Western. Lend us your talents and help us to always be "faithful, proud and true." Go Griffs!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert S. Sigrist".

Dr. Robert Sigrist '95
Alumni Association President

Campus goes tobacco-free

Almost 25 years since Missouri Western's first tobacco policy came into effect, a policy that will ban the use of all tobacco products on campus will take effect on July 1.

After the Board of Governors approved a resolution supporting a tobacco-free campus at its April 2012 meeting, the office of human resources and the university's Wellness Committee drafted a policy and won the support of the Student Government Association, the Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate. The proposal was recommended by Missouri Western's Governance Advisory Council on Oct. 16 and signed by Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Missouri Western's president, on Oct. 23.

The policy prohibits "smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco products and nicotine delivery devices in facilities, grounds and property owned, leased or controlled by the university."

Missouri Western's first smoking policy in 1988 prohibited smoking in all campus buildings except in designated smoking areas. A second, stricter smoking policy was introduced in February 1991, when all buildings on campus became smoke-free. ■



| Griffons NStyle |

Three alumni recently opened NStyle, a clothing store in St. Joseph. Pictured in the store are Roxanne Armstrong '05, Danielle Novak, Linda Novak '01, and Jennifer Williams '02. Jennifer and Roxanne are Linda's daughters, and Danielle is her daughter-in-law.



From the top: Sigma Tau Delta fraternity (top two images) and Chi Chi Chi Sorority (bottom two images)

Centennial Notes: Early Greeks

Today, Greek life on campus is going strong – there are five fraternities and four sororities, students live in Greek quarters in Juda Hall and a Greek plaza graces the lawn west of Juda Hall. For this issue of Centennial Notes, we decided to look back at Missouri Western's earliest Greek history. We found that it goes back to the St. Joseph Junior College.

The first Greek social organization, the Omega Tau Sorority, actually goes all the way back to 1926, where it received glowing accolades from the 1927 yearbook staff for its service and social activities that year. The yearbook even noted that “the next few years will undoubtedly see the advent of other chapters – not only local but national.” Unfortunately, that group or any other Greek social organizations were not mentioned in any subsequent yearbooks until the 1960s.

During the years leading up to the four-year college in 1969, there were three Greek organizations at the junior college: Delta Nu and Sigma Tau Delta fraternities and Chi Chi Chi sorority. The organizations did not seek national charters until Missouri Western became a four-year college.

Sigma Tau Delta began in 1962, but was not officially recognized by the college. “We weren’t really big on meetings, but we had a lot of parties,” said Pat Conway ’73, who joined when he started at the junior college in 1965. “But we were in the Homecoming parades and sponsored queen candidates.”

Pat was drafted by the military before he could finish his degree, and by the time he returned to school in 1970, his fraternity was officially recognized by the now four-year Missouri Western.

He said several members of the fraternity are included in a group that still gets together for a reunion every year.

Sigma Tau Delta aligned with Phi Sigma Epsilon and gained a national charter in 1971. That group became Phi Sigma Kappa in 1985, and Phi Sigma Kappa remains on campus today.

Delta Nu, founded in 1966, aligned with Lambda Chi Alpha for a national charter in 1970. The 1970 yearbook called the group “the oldest social fraternity on campus.”

Jill Miller ’73, remembers the men of Delta Nu at the junior college. “They were such sharp dressers with their burgundy blazers.”

Chi Chi Chi was active at the junior college for several years. It became Delta Zeta in the spring semester of 1970 and received its national charter later that year.

Phi Mu sorority was founded in June 1969, just as the college was moving to its new campus, and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity was founded that October. Jill was a member of Phi Mu and later the sorority’s advisor when she was a faculty member at Missouri Western. ■

Upcoming Events



ALL NEW FOR 2013 - ALUMNI WEEKEND

May 18-19

**Saturday, May 18
1-6 p.m.**

- Music
 - DJ Dan Michaels
 - Joe's Garage
- Beer and Wine Tent
- The Balloon Dude
- Food, Fun and Prizes
- Kickball Tournament
- Campus Tours
- Department Open Houses
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Craig School of Business
 - English, Foreign Languages and Journalism
 - Shoulder and Neck Massages by the Student Physical Therapist Assistant Club

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day!

Sunday, May 19

- Junior College Reunion, 11:30 a.m., Spratt Hall Enright Rooms, 214/216
- Centennial Video Project – help us capture your memories on film!

May 11 | Commencement, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Both ceremonies are followed by a reception for new graduates and their families, sponsored by the Alumni Association.



July 4-13 | Missouri Western Playhouse presents "Miss Saigon" in the Potter Hall theater. Purchase tickets at westernplayhouse.com or call 816-271-4452.

July-August | Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp at Missouri Western. The Chiefs website will have all the information: kcchiefs.com.



Alumni in the Bleachers

June 15 | Alumni Night at the Mustangs, Phil Welch Stadium, St. Joseph.

June 29 | Alumni Night at Sporting KC, Kansas City, Kan.



Don't miss an event!

Visit missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events.asp or call 816-271-5646 for more information, to make reservations or to purchase tickets.

MILITARY ALUMNI SERVE COUNTRY AND STATE

In 2011, when Col. Michael Pankau '84, took over as commander of the 139th Airlift Wing Missouri Air National Guard at Rosecrans Memorial Airport in St. Joseph, he was following in the footsteps of fellow alumnus, Brig. Gen. Stephen Cotter '78, who commanded the 139th from 2003 to 2009.

When Steve became the assistant adjutant general – Air for the Missouri Air National Guard in 2010, he was joined less than a year later by fellow alumnus, Brig. Gen. Gregory Mason '89, who became the assistant adjutant general – Army for the Missouri National Guard in 2011.

Steve and Mike also both served as commander of the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center in St. Joseph for two-year stints.

All three alumni are proud members of the United States National Guard and proud to be alumni of Missouri Western.



Brig. Gen. Stephen Cotter (Retired) '78



Brig. Gen. Gregory Mason '89



Col. Michael Pankau '84

BRIG. GENERAL STEPHEN COTTER (RETIRED) '78

When he enrolled as a student at Missouri Western, Steve Cotter was working for a flying service in St. Joseph, and wasn't sure what he wanted to do for a career. A pilot took him up for a ride, and he loved it. Then the owner of the flying service offered to give him flying lessons, and Steve knew what his career would be.

He flew full-time for the National Guard before going to work for Trans World Airlines in 1988. After a six-month deployment with the Guard in 1991, he was offered a full-time position as a pilot with the Guard. Steve served on several military tours and deployments, including serving as aircraft commander, C-130, for the 1632nd Tactical Airlift Squadron in the United Arab Emirates.

"I've been all over the world. I couldn't see myself sitting behind a desk," Steve said. "I never thought a boy from Savannah, Mo. would be exposed to so much. It was a constant source of fascination."

Steve earned a master's degree in aero science technology and also graduated from the Air War College.

After commanding the 139th Airlift Wing, Steve served as Chief of Staff for the Missouri Air National Guard at the Missouri Joint Force Headquarters in Jefferson City, Mo. Steve retired from the National Guard this past winter, so he has time to enjoy hunting, fishing and working in his small vineyard.

"Missouri Western is the epitome of what an institution of advanced learning should be," Steve said. "When I went to the Air Force pilot training, I was competing with guys from top universities, and I was competitive. I realized that I had the same educational foundation that they had had."

BRIG. GENERAL GREGORY MASON '89

Greg Mason was working full time as a Missouri Highway Patrol officer and a member of the National Guard when he enrolled at Missouri Western, so most semesters, he was a part-time student.

After earning a criminal justice degree, he continued his career with both the Highway Patrol and the National Guard. He retired from the Highway Patrol in 2008 after 30 years of service.

"I've had two great careers," Greg said. "It's rewarding to serve my country and the citizens of the state."

As Steve had done, Greg served as Chief of Staff for the Missouri Army National Guard for the Joint Force Headquarters in Jefferson City, Mo., before being named assistant adjutant general.

Greg was deployed several times throughout his career, and he served as the senior intelligence officer for the 35th Engineer Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2007-08.

He was appointed to Missouri Western's Board of Governors in December 2012.

Greg earned a master's in public management from Park University and a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army College, but he fondly remembers his *alma mater*.

"My time at Missouri Western was great. The teachers were great and it provided a good basis for me," Greg said. "Missouri Western gave me a good background and foundation to go further."

COLONEL MICHAEL PANKAU '84

Mike Pankau came to Missouri Western with one goal in mind: earn a degree so he could join the National Guard and start flying. As soon as he graduated with a psychology degree, that's just what he did. He has spent his entire career in the National Guard, and today he is the commander of the 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Memorial Airport in St. Joseph.

"There's never been a time that I questioned why I did this," he said. "It's a perfect fit for me. I get to go flying anytime I feel like flying."

He commands approximately 1,100 military members at Rosecrans, which includes members of the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and some active duty military.

He attended the Air Force undergraduate navigator training and served as a navigator on the C-130 Lockheed aircraft. He served on many military tours and deployments over the years, including director of operations for the 4410th Airlift Squadron in Saudi Arabia and mission commander for the 180th Airlift Squadron in the Middle East.

"I've always been proud to be a Missouri Western alumnus," Mike said. "It's a great place to get your start." He said he worked a lot off-campus, but he enjoyed attending athletic events whenever he had a chance.

He completed Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College, and earned a master's in aero science technology. ■



LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHIES

Three alumni with careers in the Missouri National Guard recently shared their leadership philosophies:

Brig. Gen. Stephen Cotter: My management philosophy is "people first." I've learned that people can accomplish amazing things if given opportunity, trust and guidance (expectations). I always stress excellence as the expectation.

Ret. Brig. Gen. Gregory Mason: Work with folks, not as their supervisor. They work better with you rather than you over them. You get the most done when you are shoulder to shoulder. Also, leading by example is crucial.

Col. Michael Pankau: I keep my eye on the details but I let supervisors supervise and commanders command. I was mentored and hopefully I am passing along some of that knowledge. My psychology degree from Missouri Western has helped me more than I ever realized.

1970s

Chuck Sinclair '72, joined Pro Serv Business Systems as an account executive.

Richard Allen '75, is on the executive committee of a child advocacy group known as F.A.C.T. It serves three counties in the St. Louis area. Richard has enjoyed 33 years of public school employment, 21 in administration, and 18 of those in the central office in Washington, Mo. His wife, Barbara Dakan-Allen '82, taught 28 years in elementary public schools. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in January.

Dennis Atkins '77, was named executive director of Disabled Citizens Alliance for Independence in Viburnum, Mo.

Dan Danford '78, is now a registered financial advisor for the NFL Players Association. He has met a series of criteria prepared by the NFLPA. Dan is the Principal/CEO of the Family Investment Center in St. Joseph, Mo.

1980s

Charles Bruffy '81, director of the Kansas City Chorale, won a Grammy Award for Chorale Performance at the 2013 Grammy Awards ceremony in February. Charles and the Chorale won the award for the 2012 recording "Life & Breath – Chorale Works by René Clausen." This is Charles' third Grammy.

Laura Osborn '85, is a partner in B2B CFO, a national virtual firm. She is a CPA and is a member of the Missouri State Society of CPAs.

1990s

Dave Gall '94, joined Pro Serv Business Systems as an account executive.

2000s

Jeff Jungers '00, southeastern district sales manager for Yamaha Golf Car Company for the past seven years, was named 2012 Salesman of the Year for the top overall sales and management performance.

Jason West '00, is a clinical assistant professor of exercise and sports science at the University of Tulsa. He graduated in August 2012 as a 2nd Lt. in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and received the Honor Graduate Award. He and his wife, Ginger (Overton) West '99, have three children: Joey, Emma and McGwire.

Becky Kendrick '01, is the director of human resources at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Mo.

Dennis Merritt '01, was named director of the St. Joseph School District's Hillyard Technical Center.

Stacy Williamson '02, was elected state vice president of the Missouri State Teachers Association at the state convention in November 2012. She is currently the president of the Greater Kansas City Region of MSTa and the president of the North Kansas City School District Community Teachers Association of MSTa.

Kathleen Randall '03, received the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association at its annual convention in Indianapolis. The CSP is the speaking profession's international measure of speaking experience and skill, and fewer than 10 percent of the speakers who belong to the Global Speakers Federation hold this designation.



Dustin '05, and Blair (Lehr) '05, Holcumb announce the birth of a daughter, Kennedy Noel, born Sept. 21, 2012.

2010s

Blake Maulsby '10, and Brittani Dixon were married Aug. 7, 2012. The couple resides in Milan, Mo.



Amanda (Scott) McQuerry '10, and her husband, Scott, announce the birth of twin girls, Ava Kristine and Ella Jean, born Sept. 29, 2012.

Brittany (Enyeart) '11, and Justin '11, Simpson announce the birth of a daughter, Jordan Nicole, born Oct. 26, 2012.

Letters to Home

Griffon alumni ... Did you ever write letters home when you were in college? Did you keep them? Do you know where they are now? Maybe you lived locally and kept a diary or journal? The Alumni Office is collecting Letters to Home as part of our Centennial Celebration. Help us teach a new generation of students about life at St. Joseph Junior College in the '40s – '60s and about Missouri Western in the '70s – '90s.

*Send copies of your letters or diary/journal submissions to:
Colleen Kowich, Director of Alumni Relations,
Missouri Western State University,
4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.
No names will be used without permission.
We look forward to reading your Letters to Home!*



Alumni Authors

Mark Lawhon '81 & '98, has published his second book, "Literary Leaves." Mark said his new book contains "nearly everything in this work, from biting satire, social commentary, historical analysis and philosophy," written in both prose and poetry.

Mark, a retired educator, published "Classic Concerts of the 1970s: The Encores Continue" in 2004. Dr. Daniel Trifan, professor of history at Missouri Western, wrote the foreword. Both books are available on Amazon Kindle. He is working on a third book of photographs.

Tim Houline '86, published a book with co-author Terri Maxwell, "The New World of Work: From the Cube to the Cloud." Tim is the CEO of Working Solutions, a virtual agent and technology solutions provider in Dallas. He has authored multiple articles and white papers covering a wide range of

subjects including Top Traits of High Caliber Agents, Platform as a Service and Contact Center Security – Moving to the Cloud. He is a speaker at industry conferences, business summits and schools. Tim's book is available on Amazon.com.

Brent Anderson '93, published his first book, a children's story, in 2012.

"One evening in December 2007 I was in the kitchen drying dishes, humming along to the song 'We Three Kings' on the radio. I thought, 'What if it was wee three kings?' The thought captivated me," Brent said. And that became the title of his book.

When the book was published in September 2012, Brent decided to donate all proceeds of sales from his book in the month of November to three charities, ShowHOPE, Croatian Relief Services and Cirrus House, Inc., where he works.

He plans to do it again this coming November.

Brent said the creation of the book became a family project, with his wife, Joylene, and his children, Caleb, Abigail and Faith. They all learned a lot about writing, editing, publishing and marketing, and each of the children created an illustration for the book.

"Wee Three Kings" is available at Amazon.com as a paperback and e-book.

Greg Gildersleeve '93, published a novel for young adults, "The Power Club," and it is available through Amazon Kindle. Greg, who lives in the Kansas City area, is an adjunct professor at a community college. In 2005, Greg published his own comic book, "Gold Dust." He then took his love of superheroes and expanded it into "The Power Club." ■

| PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE |

continued from pg. 1

To be successful with this mission, we have established collaborative relationships with business, industry, government and nonprofit organizations in St. Joseph and throughout the region. These partnerships are not only beneficial for our students, but also for our community and state by providing outreach services, specialized workforce training, degree completion opportunities and economic development.

Missouri Western's success can't be taken for granted. I ask you to support our efforts here and in Jefferson

City – because if you live, work or own a business in St. Joseph or the surrounding area, a strong hometown university is probably the surest way to ensure the continued vitality of this region.

Please consider an investment in Missouri Western as an investment in the St. Joseph area's future. We believe, as Longworth reflected, that we are essential to the community's success. Your continued support – moral and otherwise – is crucial to our continued success as well. We cannot do it alone. ■

Drive with pride!

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



First Alumni Association president dies

John Philip Beihl '57, passed away Nov. 15, 2012 in Bonita Springs, Fla., where he'd resided the past 10 years. John was the first president of the Missouri Western State College Alumni

Association in 1970. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1959 and received his LLB from the University's School of Law in 1961. He retired after 40 years

from the Brown, Douglas and Brown Law Firm in St. Joseph, Mo. His wife, Sandra, graduated from Missouri Western in 1995. ■

In Memory

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

JoEllen L. Abbott '07, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 26, 2012.

Stacy L. Anderson '01, Faucett, Mo., Dec. 14, 2012.

Velma L. (George) Bunse, St. Joseph, Mo., Nov. 9, 2012. Velma had served as chair of the Advisory Board of Secretarial Science at Missouri Western.

Dorothy J. Dilley, Elwood, Kan., Dec. 16, 2012. Dorothy had been employed as a custodian at Missouri Western.

Rhonda Gayle (Hancock) Ingham '83, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 27, 2012. Rhonda served as an administrative assistant at Missouri Western for 29 years.

Joseph Kadera '48, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., Dec. 23, 2012.

Lyle Wayne Neff JC, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 10, 2012.

Melissa N. (McBrien) Pittam '70, St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 24, 2012.

Juan C. Rocha '50, Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 13, 2013.

Lorraine E. (Gould) Sisk '76, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 6, 2013.

Kevin M. Young '81, St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 27, 2013.

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____ Alum's Birthday _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ email _____

What's New _____

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

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



Dance!

Dance!

Dance!

Students who love to dance, want to learn how to dance, or want to teach dance will be happy to know that Missouri Western now offers a dance minor.

Suzanne Ryan Strati, who has been dancing since she was three years old and continues to teach at the Kansas City Ballet School, was hired as the instructor. She said she was excited to be back in a university classroom where she can integrate academics with dance training. Classes for the first semester this spring included Jazz, Tap and Beginning Dance.

Dr. Susan Carter, associate professor of music who helped set up the courses for the minor, said people on campus and in the community have been talking about a need for a dance minor for several years, especially with the resurgence and popularity of the musical theatre program. She said students who tried out for this past season's musicals, "Annie" and "Sweeney Todd," realized that it's not enough to be able to sing; they need to be able to dance, too.

"That sent quite a few students to the dance classes," Susan said.

Suzanne will also choreograph future musicals.

She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Fine Arts in Dance Choreography from the University of Iowa. Prior to joining Missouri Western, she had taught modern dance for the Lone Star Ballet's summer intensive program, and was an instructor at the Culture House Performing Arts Academy. ■



Missouri Western State University

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Art meets math and science

Brent Collins says the two sculptures he created for Remington Hall are meant to resonate with both scientists and mathematicians, since those departments are housed in the hall.

“Music of the Spheres,” about six feet in diameter, is a bronze, approximately 1,800-lb. sculpture and graces the lawn on the north side of Remington Hall. “Evolving Trefoil,” a fiberglass resin sculpture, is suspended from the ceiling of the Remington Hall atrium.

The outdoor sculpture, cast by Reinmuth Bronze Studio in Eugene, Ore., was placed on a stainless steel base in January, and the indoor sculpture arrived in February.

“Evolving Trefoil” weighs about 400 lbs. and fits inside a 12-ft. diameter sphere. It was constructed by David Lynn of Nova Blue Studio Arts in Seymour, Mo.

The sculptures were funded by the Remington/Agenstein halls construction and renovation project that was completed in December 2010.

The two sculptures join “Galileo’s Vision” (top left), created by Jim Estes, professor emeritus, that is near the south entrance of Remington Hall. ■

