

WINTER 2009

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University



An emphasis
on **entrepreneurism**
page 16



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WESTERN MAGAZINE

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President's Perspective



For 93 years, Missouri Western State University has been in the business of transforming lives. It is, one could argue, what we do best. We are an institution of students who pursue their dreams by working hard in college to acquire meaningful knowledge, enjoy a good life, and better provide for their families. We are an institution of students who often hold down multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. We are an institution of students who routinely and resolutely give back without expectation of return. And, we are an institution of students who take none of this for granted.

Perhaps you recognize yourself in that description. Perhaps you, like me, were a first-generation college student. Perhaps Missouri Western somehow transformed your life. I have discovered in just the few short months that I have been your president that this is what distinguishes Missouri Western from other institutions. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and other individuals recognize the need to return to future generations what they themselves received.

Missouri Western is in a very good place. We are on the verge of becoming a great university, but we still have work to do. In Buchanan County alone, nearly 20 percent of our children live below the poverty level. Ten percent of our elderly live below the poverty level and our average weekly income is more than \$200 less than the national average. We can, however, and we will continue to reach out to the lives of those around us. We will continue to affect positive change in our community, and we will continue to affect positive change in the many lives that we touch.

Robert A. Vartabedian
President

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ON THE COVER:

Steve Craig, who donated \$5.5 million to establish the Steven L. Craig School of Business, invited three entrepreneurs to Western to make presentations with him at the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Summit. The four business leaders also spoke to more than 200 Western students and met with faculty from the School of Business to discuss the school's strategic plan. Pictured with Steve (standing) and Carol Roeveer, interim dean of the School of Business, are Shawn Askinosie, Tom Payn and David Hinkle. Photo by Eric Callow '97, Double E Images.

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Want to be your own boss? Then check out these entrepreneurs – five alumni and one student – and their experiences.



A call to leadership

How is Western preparing its students to be leaders in their communities? Departments across campus are supplying the answers.

When admissions reorganized the registration and orientation process last year, 20 students were given the opportunity to participate in an intensive leadership program and serve as registration leaders. Students met each

Edge, the three-day freshman orientation in August, those students were in charge of the Griffon Edge group leaders. They also made presentations at the orientation.

“We looked for students who were genuinely in it to help other students,” said Tyson Schank, ’04, of admissions. “We looked for mentors, and that’s exactly what those 20 were.”

and registration, I would have been completely lost.”

Emily Crane, a sophomore from Palmyra, Mo., said she enjoyed learning facts about Western and getting to know the fellow registration leaders. “It gave me a lot of leadership opportunities, too,” the history secondary education major said.

Through the student development office, juniors and seniors who qualify have the opportunity each spring to participate in the Barbara Sprong Leadership Challenge, but Duane Bruce ’99, associate dean of student development, believes opportunities to learn leadership skills shouldn’t be limited to upperclass students. So last fall he developed and implemented the Emerging Leaders program for new students, and recruited applicants at the registration days last summer. Sixteen completed the program last fall.

“I want to get students involved from the moment they’re on campus,” he said. “If we get them engaged right away, they will be our future leaders.”

The Emerging Leaders program began with an overnight retreat last September, and five two-hour weekly sessions included guest speakers covering topics such as Understanding Leadership, Social Justice and Community Issues, and Diversity. Three current student leaders on campus assisted Duane in the program.

“The program focused on equipping students with the tools they need to become the leaders of campus clubs and organizations as upperclass students,” Duane said.

He also revived a program that he participated in when he was a student at Western – the Presidents Leadership Council, known as the Prexy Club.



Wednesday for two-and-a-half hours for six weeks, learning everything from how to make new students feel comfortable to Western’s values and its alma mater.

Kristen Neeley ’05, new student experience coordinator for admissions, trained the students for the summer registration programs. Then, for Griffon

Sophomore Dionte Hollins, from Chicago, says he remembers being a new student, and he became a registration leader because he wanted to help others make the adjustment to college. “I had fun when I came here, and I wanted to show other people how much fun they can have. But without Griffon Edge

New VP – Mel Klinkner

When Mel Klinkner was a senior at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, he received job offers from both IBM and Ouachita, and said he thought a lot about the choice between the academic and corporate worlds.



Mel Klinkner

"I just loved the academic environment. I picked higher ed and I never looked back."

Mel continued his higher education career when he became Western's

vice president for financial planning and administration last fall.

"I'm excited to be here. I think it's a great opportunity," he said. "Where the president will lead Western made it a very easy decision to come here. I am impressed with him and his experience."

Prior to joining Western, Mel was the fiscal director for the housing and food services division at Purdue University in Indiana. He had also previously served as the chief financial officer at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

Along with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ouachita, Mel earned a master's degree in management from Baker University in Kansas.

One of his strengths is a strong financial background, but he feels his team-building skills are important as well. "I hope I can bring the strength of developing a cohesive team that can do good work for the university. If you have a great staff, whatever the challenge may be, you can work together to come up with creative decisions."

He said his responsibility is to make sure the university is allowed to use its resources in the most effective way possible to attain its aspirations.

"There's a lot of potential for Western; everyone feels that way."

Mel and his wife, Kay, have two grown children. ■



Left: Registration leaders participate in a game as part of their leadership training. Above: Diane Hook '90, teaches a workshop, "How to Lose an Employer in 10 Seconds," at the annual Leadership Lexicon for students. She taught the workshop with John Hickman '91.

Each month, he gathers the presidents of student clubs and organizations together to discuss issues they face and figure out ways of working together.

This spring, Western is participating in a national multi-institutional study of leadership, and all students will be invited to fill out an online survey regarding leadership development at Western. Duane hopes to use the

results to develop programs and make appropriate changes to current leadership programs.

"Anybody can become a good leader," said Duane. "Some may be better speakers, or better organizers, but you can learn those skills if you're disciplined and if you have the right instruments." ■

Retirees Dick Boutwell, Max Schlesinger and Rich Crumley visit at a gathering on campus for retirees last fall. Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, is encouraging Western retirees to meet regularly on campus and plan activities.



How Western spent its summer vacation...

Ah, summertime. At Western, that usually means more available parking spaces and work on projects around campus, but it also means out-of-the-ordinary class offerings and the Summer Research Institute. Summer 2008 was no different.

Of Buddhism and Shakespeare

The seventh annual Summer Research Institute (SRI), as always, offered a variety of research projects for 10 teams comprised of a faculty member, Western and high school students. Topics ranged from studying the decaying process of pigs to identifying and isolating a bacteriocin, and researching college newspaper websites.

The tried and true theatre saying, “the show must go on,” seemed to take on new meaning for the team researching the often debated question, *Did Christopher Marlowe write Shakespeare’s works?*

Don Lillie, assistant professor of theatre, wrote a play, “Marlowe: Murder by Allegory,” that addresses just that question, and senior Daisy Buntin and Central High School student Audrey Hughes conducted research on Marlowe and Shakespeare. Seven actors, with Daisy as director, were preparing to perform scenes from the play at the public SRI Symposium in July. But in June, Don underwent emergency heart surgery.

“I passed information from my hospital bed and the students did a very good job,” he said. “We knew the show must go on.”

Daisy was unfazed, and the show was indeed performed as planned. “It’s a very unique experience as a director to work with the playwright and have the playwright as a resource,” she said. “The play has a lot of potential. It’s a good show. All of us were excited to work on it for the first time.”

Stress wasn’t supposed to be part of Don’s research, but it was the focus of another research project led by Dr. Russell Phillips, instructor of psychology. His team, which included Western student Lisa Hietbrink and high school students Hillary Turner, Bishop LeBlond; and Robin Ussher, Cameron; researched how Buddhists use religion to cope with stress.

The team interviewed Buddhists across the country (more than 750 completed an online survey), learning about specific ways they cope. “I felt like I was being taught by a wise individual every day,” said Russell.

“I enjoyed it a lot. We got a lot of insightful replies,” said Hillary. “One told me that instead of studying meditation, we should be practicing it ourselves.” ■

Workers renovated Logan Hall this summer, the last of the three original residence halls to be updated. Along with Potter Hall changes (see p. 5) and Remington Hall construction (see p. 15), summer construction projects included a new information desk and remodel of the first floor of Blum Union, and a renovation and reconfiguration of the Student Development Offices on the second floor of Blum Union.



Theatre faculty find new home over summer

“It’s all about collaboration.”

That, according to Deny Staggs, assistant professor of theatre, was the main thrust for three theatre faculty members to move to Thompson E. Potter Hall, home of the music and art departments.

Deny said about four or five years ago, faculty in the three departments -- art, music and theatre -- started talking about collaborating on projects in order to share resources and expertise. “Each program was developing entities that were interactive-media oriented, and we were all asking for the same software and materials. It became critical to have faculty and students (from all three departments) in the same building to interact.”

The development of a new master’s program that began last fall, master of applied arts in integrated media, became the true catalyst for the move. Deny said faculty members for the master’s program are from the art, journalism,

music and theatre departments, and will co-teach most of the courses.

So last summer, the art gallery on the second floor became theatre faculty offices, the second floor costume shop became a multi-media filmmaking lab, the space below the stage became the costume shop, and Potter’s front lobby was renovated for use as an art gallery.

The real jewel of the collaboration is the lab, which contains 15 G5 Mac pro editing stations with Final Cut Studio, Adobe production suite and Maya software. Students also have access to two full HD editing suites and a Pro Tools HD-3 recording studio, including full surround sound. Western also purchased two self-contained programmable sound booths.

“The improvements are a good sign that Missouri Western is committed to new technology and staying state-of-the-art. Nothing in the region rivals that lab,” said Deny. ■



The new art gallery in the lobby of Thompson E. Potter Hall. The original art gallery on the second floor has been converted into offices for theatre faculty who moved to Potter Hall last summer.

Griffon Edge

More than 950 new students participated in an afternoon of service as part of the Griffon Edge orientation program in August.

The students, part of the largest Griffon Edge ever, performed service projects throughout the community.



Summer Corrections

A whirlwind tour of juvenile correctional facilities may not be everyone's idea of a great summer vacation, but it proved to be an incredible learning experience for eight students in Dr. Greg Lindsteadt's Juvenile Corrections Critical Assessment Tour this past summer.

The four-week class, dubbed the "Shawshank Tour," included time in the classroom, but Greg, assistant professor of criminal justice, and his students

"I was upset and shocked. There's no comparison between boys' and girls' facilities. It was space age for the boys and pioneer for the girls."

- Penni Richey,
a criminal justice major

also visited nine facilities in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, logging more than 1,600 miles. The group visited five male facilities, two female

facilities and two coed facilities, spending three to five hours at each location.

"It was a 'dream class' that has been in the back of my mind for a long time," said Greg, whose background is in juvenile corrections. "The goal was to expose students to the differences between states and between facilities."

Differences, indeed. The students, who happened to be all women, may have been surprised at the different philosophies from state to state, but they were taken aback at the differences in the physical facilities for boys and girls.

"I assumed everyone would be funded the same in the same state," said Brittnei Williams, sophomore criminal



Students in Dr. Greg Lindsteadt's Juvenile Corrections Critical Assessment Tour pose outside one of nine juvenile correctional facilities they visited last summer.

justice major. But in the same state, she said, the girls were in an unfinished facility, and the boys "had everything you could think of. It was really an eye opener."

"I was upset and shocked," said senior Penni Richey, a criminal justice major. "There's no comparison between boys' and girls' facilities. It was space age for the boys and pioneer for the girls." Before the class, she said, she wasn't sure if she wanted to work with juvenile girls, but the tour changed her mind. Working with girls is now one of her career goals.

Tiffany Witton, a senior psychology major, said she learned a lot by shadowing psychologists at each facility on the tour, especially about the philosophy of each state toward juvenile facilities. Some states focus on rehabilitation and some focus on custody.

"I realized I wouldn't want to work in states that don't focus on treatment," she said.

One reason the class was so successful was the cooperation from the facilities, Greg noted. All were willing to spend a lot of time with the students and allow them to shadow employees. Some facilities even allowed them to take photos, which is usually prohibited.

The tour was funded by the MWSU Foundation, the study away office, the criminal justice and legal studies department, and the College of Professional Studies. Greg also received funds from the states they visited.

"I couldn't have done a practicum anywhere and found out the things I learned on this tour," said Penni. "I wish it could be offered to everyone interested in going into that field. People would see what they were getting into." ■

Partisanship on parade

The campus and community enjoyed a lively exchange of opinions and barbs last fall when well known political strategists Mary Matalin and James Carville were guest speakers at a sold-out dinner and a full arena at the 15th annual Convocation on Critical Issues.

Timing for the couple's appearance couldn't have been better, said Dan Boulware, one of the sponsors and a former Board of Regents president. Not only was it five weeks before the presidential election, but right in the middle of the collapse of several financial institutions. "I've been wanting to have Mary Matalin and James Carville speak here for years," he said. "But this year was perfect."

The couple met in 1991 when she was working for George H.W. Bush's campaign and he was working for William Jefferson Clinton's campaign. Between the two of them, they have worked for every president over the last 25 years.

They had several words of advice for both the college and high school students in the audience. "It's a myth that Washington is complicated," said Mary. "You can understand anything

that goes on there; you just have to read about it and watch it."

"Be involved, make a contribution," James reiterated. If you get involved in the political arena, he told them, "every day you'll wake up with a feeling that what you do really matters. I love every minute of it. It's fun."

Both speakers addressed how they deal with being married to someone with such opposite views than their own. "I just don't listen to him," says Mary. "I don't read his books, I don't watch him on TV."

"I would rather be married to someone who thinks passionately and differently from me than be married to someone who has no opinion or passion," says James.

"But we haven't changed each other's minds on a single issue," Mary added. ■

Editor's note: Both speakers praised Western's Convocation series, noting that the university has a national reputation for being a great place to speak. Both Mary and James said that Western received high praise from both former Convocation speakers and their speakers bureau.



NEWS Briefs

Western signs agreement with MCC

Western and Metropolitan Community College (MCC) in Kansas City, Mo., signed a transfer agreement that allows students to make a seamless transition from MCC to Western. The dual admission agreement is the first of its kind for Western.

The agreement allows MCC students to apply for admission to Western at the end of their first year or when they have earned 24 credit hours with the intent to transfer at the end of their second year or earlier. While at MCC, students will have their transcripts forwarded to Western each semester so that the university's academic advisors can tell students how their community college courses will transfer well in advance of their arrival on Western's campus.

In addition to the articulation agreement, dual admission students will receive Western student identification cards, allowing them to attend athletic events free of charge and giving them access to Western's library, fitness center and other student services and university programs. ■

Northland location grows

Western's location at Tuileries Plaza in the Kansas City Northland continues to grow. Venny Pruitt, Northland education coordinator, said that although they have only been at this location since 2006, they are quickly outgrowing the facility.

"We are maxed out, but it's a good problem," she said. They received applications for the education program for Fall 2009 a year in advance, and people are asking about 2010 and 2011.

This spring, a graduate program, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), will begin, and more program offerings are in the works.

"The interest is out there," Venny said of the possible program offerings. "We want to serve students and the community." ■

DR. ROBERT A. VARTABEDIAN WAS INSTALLED AS WESTERN'S FOURTH PRESIDENT AT AN INSTALLATION CEREMONY OCT. 17.

The ceremony was part of two days of inaugural activities that included a forum with students, a luncheon for delegates and special guests, a reception, and an inaugural ball at the St. Joseph Country Club.

A formal procession of more than 200 faculty, staff, and retirees; and collegiate, organizational, alumni and student delegates, all in academic regalia, commenced the installation ceremony in the arena. Alumni who had received the Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award since it was initiated in 1983 served as alumni delegates.

Dr. Sue Park, dean emeritus of West Texas A & M University and an associate of Dr. Vartabedian's, gave an address at the ceremony.

Sue noted that she worked with Dr. Vartabedian for more than 20 years and has kept in touch with him ever since. In describing Western's new president, she said,

WESTERN INSTALLS *Robert A. Vartabedian*

"You should be prepared for innovation, involvement and integrity – and that makes a pretty good package."

Dirck Clark, chair of the Board of Governors; Dr. James Scanlon, president emeritus; and Dr. Joseph Bragin, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs; presided over the installation of Dr. Vartabedian.

"Those of us whose lives have been transformed by higher education have a huge responsibility to, in turn, transform others," Dr. Vartabedian said in his inaugural address. "Given our transformational mission, it is particularly important that this university is sensitive to and involved with assisting our community, and in tangible ways.

"To me, this represents our goals of community service and applied learning at their best."

Dr. Vartabedian is the fourth president since Western became a four-year institution in 1969. ■



Marty Ayers, Photography



Outstanding employees recognized

Last fall, Western honored seven faculty members, 19 staff members, and three administrators for their noteworthy contributions to the excellence of the university.

The **Governors Distinguished Professor Award** 2008 honorees include **Dr. Benjamin D. Caldwell**, associate professor of chemistry and department chair, area of distinction: teaching; **Dr. Brian Cronk**, professor of psychology, area of distinction: service; **Dr. Melissa A. F. Daggett**, assistant professor of biology, area of distinction: teaching; **Marsha Dolan**, associate professor of nursing and coordinator of the health information technology program, area of distinction: teaching; **Dr. Reza G. Hamzaee**, professor of economics, area of distinction: scholarship/creative activity; **Dr. Stephen G. Morris**, assistant professor of philosophy, area of distinction: scholarship/creative activity; and **Geo Sipp**, associate professor of art, area of distinction: scholarship/creative activity.

The **Outstanding Staff Award** 2008 honorees include **Clint Barnes**, physical plant; **Angela Beam**, financial aid; **Rick Brown**, instructional media center; **Elaine Bryant**, student services; **Noël Cross**, history, philosophy and geography; **Stacey Dasta**, business office; **Rick Dyson**, library; **Amy Foley**, recreational services; **Darcy Groce**, college of professional studies; **Sherri Hartley**, accounting services; **Diane Holtz**, university advancement; **Scott Johnson**, campus printing and design services; **Peggy Leland**, Craig School of Business; **Jennie McDonald**, academic and student affairs; **Carey McMillian**, accounting services; **Jake Noyd**, instructional media center; **Victoria Sample**, biology and chemistry; **Tay Triggs**, center for multicultural education; and **Buzz Verduzco**, athletics.

The **Outstanding Administrator Award** 2008 honorees are **Jan Aspelund**, director of human resources; **Dr. Cindy Heider**, assistant vice president for academic and student affairs; and **Patsy Smith**, associate director of athletics. ■

Vice President-elect Joe Biden speaks to an enthusiastic full house in the old gym in the M.O. Looney Complex while on the campaign trail in October. The Republican candidates were also invited to speak on campus during the campaign, but they declined.



Campus Kudos

- Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology, and Dr. Jeff Poet, associate professor of mathematics, are co-authors of an article published in *Science* magazine titled, "Undergraduate Research: Genomics Education Partnerships." The article describes a consortium of colleges and universities led by Dr. Sarah Elgin of Washington University that is offering undergraduate students opportunities to work on cutting edge analysis of DNA sequence data, contributing to an original research project. This spring, students in Todd and Jeff's Bioinformatics course are participating in the project for the third time. *Science* Magazine is the flagship journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has a circulation of over one million and is widely considered the most prestigious science journal in the country.
- All 46 students who received a bachelor of science in nursing degree in May 2008 passed their licensure exam and are now registered nurses. The state and national averages for students passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) is around 85 percent, and Western has historically been at or slightly above that average. But recent changes enabled the nursing department to get better results this year, including the addition of a class specifically designed to prepare students for the NCLEX-RN.
- Carol Roever, associate professor of business and interim dean of the Steven L. Craig School of Business, received the 2008 YWCA Women of Excellence Woman in the Workplace award. Rosalie Guyer, A+ programs coordinator, was also nominated for the award. ■

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2008

Western inducted six individuals into its 2008 Athletics Hall of Fame last fall:

Mike Cornelious '91, played forward for the Griffon basketball team and was the MIAA's Newcomer of the Year during the 1989-90 season, scoring 539 points. He finished his career with 1,153 points, which ranks him eighth all-time in Western history. He also led the Griffons to the MIAA tournament championship in 1990 and two consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, which were the first in school history. Mike is as an educational assistant in St. Paul, Minn., and the City of St. Paul's recreation leader.

Tony Franklin '83, was a running back on the football team during his first three seasons and linebacker his fourth. During the 1982 season he was the CSIC Defensive Player of the Week five times and was the NAIA District 16 Defensive Player of the Week four times. In 1983 he was Western's Most Valuable Defensive Player and the Most Improved Player. After graduation, Tony signed to play in the USFL with the Boston Beakers.

Tony is managing partner - general manager for Anderson Auto Group in St. Joseph, Mo.

Baseball player **Dave Lau '89**, ranks first all-time in home runs in a season with 12. He ranks second all-time in career home runs (23) at Western and finished his career with a .316 batting average and 102 RBIs in 132 games. He also had a slugging percentage of .579, an on-base percentage of .482 and a fielding percentage of .964 while playing catcher. Dave had 20 career doubles and seven triples to go with 50 walks.

He is currently the athletic development and special events coordinator at Western.

Rick Leahy has been an avid supporter of Griffon athletics for almost 40 years, working many athletic events and overseeing many upgrades to technical operations at Western's athletic venues. He served Western from 1970-2008.

In 1977, Rick was the consultant on the installation of the first Spratt Memorial Stadium sound system. In his 38 years at Western, he has provided technical support for live radio broadcasts for athletic contests, including the NCAA post-season tournaments. He has also assisted on numerous sound system upgrades to Spratt Stadium and the Looney Complex.

Deena Murphy '85, was a two-sport athlete at Western - softball and basketball. She was a four-year starter and two-time all-American at second base and was the starting second basemen for the 1982 NAIA national champion softball team.

Deena finished her senior season leading the team in runs scored, walks and stolen bases. She finished her career with 143 hits, which ranks her eighth all-time, and she had a batting average of over .400 during the regular season in 1985. Deena is currently a director of financial planning and analysis with IntegriGuard, in Omaha, Neb.

Rodney Stephenson '81, was an outstanding running back for the Griffons, rushing for 2,780 yards in his career. Rodney led the Griffons for two seasons as he rushed for 1,298 yards in 1979 and 655 yards in 1981. He carried the ball 546 times and scored 172 career points while wearing the black and gold. Rodney was named to the honorable mention NAIA all-America team in 1981.

Rodney currently resides in Las Vegas, Nev. ■

Western receives \$100,000 for endowed scholarship fund

Beavers Inc., a national heavy construction association, recently presented a check for \$100,000 to Western to create an endowed scholarship fund for construction engineering technology students. The Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship was given by the Beavers Charitable Trust, which distributes funds to higher education institutions that offer engineering and construction management programs.

Al Landes, vice president, Herzog Contracting Corp. of St. Joseph, Mo., was president of Beavers Inc. last year, and the president each year has the opportunity to select an institution to receive \$100,000. Al chose Western.

"We consider this an investment," said Al. "Missouri Western has a philosophy that 'we're here to create a product that the industry can use.'" He noted that many employees at Herzog have earned their engineering technology degrees from Western.

"Without Al, this would not have happened," said Dr. Virendra Varma, chair of the engineering technology department. "We are very grateful to Al and Beavers Inc. for making this scholarship available to students." He added that this is the largest donation the department has ever received.

Preference for the scholarship will be given to an upperclass student who is majoring in construction engineering technology and has a career goal of working in the heavy construction industry, which includes bridges, dams, highways and railroads. ■



Jamie and John Stuck and their children, Lauren and Austin, try out a video bicycle race game that was one of the activities for G.A.M.E. On Griffs, a health and wellness program offered by Western last fall.

G.A.M.E. On Griffs

The Looney Complex was the place to be for health and fitness last fall when the nursing and the health, physical education and recreation departments teamed up to host G.A.M.E. On Griffs, a 12-week health and wellness program for parents and children.

"We recognized this as an opportunity to provide kids information about healthy lifestyles and fitness," said Dr. Stephanie Corder, assistant professor of nursing and one of the coordinators of the program. "The program focused on exercising and making healthy choices. We wanted the participants to have a really good time and realize that exercise can be fun and make you feel good."

The free program was for children between eight and 13 and a parent, and 30 teams participated. Swimming, hiking, learning a fitness technique called Nia, scavenger hunts, Frisbee golf, Dance Dance Revolution, Wii™, video game bicycles and more were all part of the weekly sessions. The teams were given pedometers to take home and were encouraged to walk together, and they were also required to do homework for the program.

Jamie Stuck and her husband, John, both decided to participate in the program so that both their children, Lauren, 11, and Austin, nine, could attend. She said that although her two

children ride bikes and stay pretty active, the family all seems to go in different directions. G.A.M.E. On Griffs gave them an opportunity to get fit together. "We wanted to get active as a family, and we had a great time; it was a blast," Jamie said. "This is one of the best things we've been to, especially with the kids."

Lauren Stuck said she really enjoyed the program, too, especially the scavenger hunt across campus. However, on the evening they learned Nia, she said it was okay until her parents started dancing. "That was embarrassing."

G.A.M.E. stands for "Goal Accomplishment through Mentoring and Exercise," Stephanie explained, and Western students in the two departments served as mentors, each working with one team throughout the entire program.

Health and exercise science major Christian Sandoval said he enjoyed serving as a mentor in the program. "I like kids and I want them to be healthy," he said.

Along with Stephanie, other faculty members involved in the program were Dr. Bill Russell, assistant professor of physical education; Diana King, assistant professor of nursing and a pediatric nurse practitioner; and Dr. Justin Kraft, assistant professor of physical education. The program was funded by a grant from the Heartland Foundation. ■

NEWS Briefs

Enrollment on the rise

Enrollment at Western is at an all-time high. The official Fall 2008 numbers show a total undergraduate enrollment of 5,470 students, setting a record for the fourth consecutive fall term. With 65 graduate students, the total number of students at Western is 5,535, an increase of 3.3 percent from last year.

The undergraduate headcount is almost three percent above last fall's number of 5,319. The number of full-time students is 3,825, a 5.5 percent increase over last year. Undergraduates are taking a total of 63,032 credit hours this semester, and the first-time freshman class is up nearly three percent this fall to 1,132.

Western's graduate programs are experiencing growth as well. The number of graduate students grew from 41 last fall, the first year Western offered graduate degrees, to 65 this year. ■

New graduate program approved

Western recently received approval for a new graduate program – the master of applied arts in written communication, and coursework will begin in Fall 2009.

The program includes a core of courses in media, organizational communication, and data analysis, explained Dr. Mike Cadden, chair of the English, foreign languages and journalism department. It blends traditional classroom study of composition theory, English education, and technical communication programs with practical experience in the production and evaluation of written texts in workplace and classroom settings.

The degree offers two options – writing studies and technical communication. The writing studies option is aimed at teachers, grades four -16, and the technical communication option is for business and industry professionals.

For more information, go online to missouriwestern.edu/eflj. ■

Sports Wrap

After a tough start, the Griffon football team ended its regular season 6-5 and was invited to play in the 43rd annual Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, Mo. That game was the Griffons' fifth post-season appearance in six years.

The Griffons played three top 10 teams: #6 Northwest Missouri State, #7 Pittsburg State and #10 Minnesota-Duluth. The Griffons were defeated in all three games, but led two of the three in the fourth quarter.

At the Wendy's Hall of Fame game, 5,589 fans were treated to free t-shirts, skydivers and fireworks as the Griffons hosted Pittsburg State. The 2008 Hall of Fame class was inducted at halftime (see class on page 10), with the evening concluding with a fireworks spectacular.

For the first time in school history, the **women's soccer** team began the season 1-0, defeating East Central Oklahoma 4-2 in the Inaugural MWSU Drury Inn Soccer Classic at Spratt Memorial Stadium. The four goals in a game were also a record. The nucleus



looks strong for the future as the squad will only graduate four players off this year's team.

The **volleyball** team promoted breast cancer awareness during October. The team held promotions at all five home contests, including "Bring Your Daughter to the Game," where all mothers and daughters were admitted free, and "Pink Out," where the first 275 fans received a free pink Griffon volleyball t-shirt.

When the team played in a tournament in St. Louis, the St. Louis alumni chapter

hosted a reception after one of the games.

Coach Jim Perry's **golf** team, coming off their seventh consecutive NCAA Super Regional Tournament appearance, was off to a great start in their quest for their eighth straight bid as they won the Pasta House Drury Invitational. The Griffons won the title by two shots over Truman State in the 12-team field. Two Griffons finished in the top 10 individually in the 69-player field: freshman Logan Gilliland of Chillicothe, Mo., fifth place; and junior Caleb Carter of St. Joseph, Mo., tied for sixth. ■

Facility improvements in the works

The timetable for the renovation of Western's athletic facilities has been moved up, thanks to an approval of a \$6.3 million bond by the Board of Governors. The bond will be paid back through Max Experience student fees, which amounts to approximately \$400,000 per year.

"Having outstanding facilities creates pride in a university," said Athletic Director Dave Williams. "It is an essential component of recruiting students and student athletes."

Immediate plans include upgrading the visitor side of Spratt Memorial Stadium. By fall 2009, there will be 2,000 bleacher seats there, and Dave said they are also working on placement of a

permanent building for restrooms and concession stands.

The next project involves building a new home locker room near the stadium, and the current locker room in Baker Family Fitness Center will be used by the visiting team and women's soccer. "The location has not been determined, but it would most likely be completed in time for the 2010 season," Dave said.

Other renovations for the stadium include a new concourse area, luxury suites and enhanced press and coaches boxes.

The bond package also includes \$1.2 million for a new spring sports complex, starting with a baseball diamond on

campus. Currently the team plays at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph, Mo. It has not been determined where the complex will be built. "It's difficult deciding where it will go," Dave said. "We don't want to make a mistake and put a field where we want a residence hall or academic building in the future."

Students approved a \$5 per credit hour Max Experience fee in 2006 to pay for upgrading athletic facilities and providing other student benefits related to athletics. The fees have already paid for the new turf on Spratt Stadium and a new arena floor.

"There's been great excitement," said Dave. "It's been a long time coming." ■

Outstanding Achievements

Griffon softball coach **Jen Bagley** was inducted into the Hall of Fame at her alma mater, University of Minnesota-Moorhead, for her outstanding career on the field.

Jen was the most dominant pitcher in Dragon softball history; she was a four-year starter and anchor of a pitching staff that led the team to NAIA national tournament appearances in 1995 and 1996. She was named to All-NSIC teams in 1995 and 1996 and also lettered in golf.

Jen is entering her eighth season at the helm of the Griffon softball program. She has accumulated 192 wins in her seven seasons and guided the Griffons to the NCAA Central Regional Tournament in 2005, 2006 and 2007, appearing for the first time in school history in 2005.

Former tight end **Gijon Robinson '07**, became the first Griffon ever to appear in a regular season NFL game. He started at tight end for the Indianapolis Colts as they took on the Chicago Bears on NBC's Sunday Night Football Sept. 7. He also started in the first three out of four games.

Robinson played for the Griffons from 2003-2006 and was a First Team All-MIAA selection, was a member of the MIAA Championship Team in 2003 and competed on three Griffon teams that made postseason play. For more information on Gijon's career, pull up his player page at www.colts.com.

Three Griffons - two football players and one women's soccer player - were honored as MIAA Player of the Week for outstanding performances this past fall. Sophomore quarterback **Drew Newhart** of Cameron, Mo., was recognized as the offensive player of the week for his performance in the Griffons' 38-27 victory at Northern State on Aug. 28. In the game, Drew was 19 of 22 through the air throwing for 304 yards and three touchdowns. Senior place kicker **Dustin Strickler** of Bellevue, Neb. was recognized as the special team player of the week for his performance Sept. 20 against Pittsburg State. Dustin connected on all four extra points and booted two field goals (39 and 42 yards).

Griffon soccer player sophomore **Jenna Weis** of St. Louis was named MIAA Defensive Player of the Week for her efforts during the week of Sept. 25. Jenna faced 29 shots during games at Northwest Missouri State and at home against Missouri Southern, stopping all but one.

Congratulations to **women's athletics** for raising more than \$5,000 for the YWCA Choices Program for middle school girls, and women's athletics. They held a Walk for Women's Athletics last fall, and more than 200 participated. ■

**Follow the
Griffons on iTunes!**

**Download iTunes at
apple.com/itunes/downloads
and use search term
"Western Athletics."
Don't miss the action!**



**MIAA BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT
MARCH 5-8, 2009**

**Municipal Auditorium,
Kansas City**

**Tickets available Feb. 1 at
816-271-5904 - game times
determined on March 1
Alumni Event Information:
www.griffonalumni.org**

Senior kicker Dustin Strickler kicked the game-winning field goal with less than 10 seconds left for the second time in as many weeks, helping the Griffons to a 33-32 win over Truman State Nov. 8.



Western kicks off

capital



Recording artist Deana Carter performs at "Premiere Night at the Missouri Theater," Western's capital campaign kickoff.

are the trustees, and the trust is administered by US Bank Wealth Management.

Both gifts will be used to support activities in the new science and mathematics facilities (see next page).

Those gifts are in addition to a \$5.5 million pledge, the largest individual gift in Western's history, from Steven Craig of Newport Beach, Calif., to establish the Steven L. Craig School of Business; and a \$5 million pledge from Wes and Patsy Remington of St. Joseph, Mo., to support the construction and renovation of Agenstein Hall, as well as an addition to be named Remington Hall.

The campaign has also received a \$150,000 gift from the W.T. Kemper Foundation and \$100,000 gifts from the Thanksgiving Fund, the Goppert Foundation, the Beavers Charitable Trust and others. Additionally, Western employees contributed more than \$200,000 to the campaign last spring. The gifts bring the total amount pledged or contributed during the advance phase of Achieving Greatness to just over \$13 million.

"It's turning out to be an amazing campaign," Dr. Vartabedian told the guests at the kickoff. "It is a very noble cause in terms of the lives we transform with your support."

The campaign's initial celebration goal is \$15 million, three times larger than any

A reception, concert and exciting announcements were all part of "Premiere Night at the Missouri Theater," Western's kickoff for the public phase of its capital campaign, Achieving Greatness.

"Etch this evening in your memory," Dan Nicoson, executive director of the MWSU Foundation, told the audience of nearly 450 at the historic downtown theater. "Tonight we premiere Western's largest and most ambitious campaign ever."

Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, announced two major gifts that evening: a \$1 million pledge from a graduate who wishes to remain anonymous, and a \$250,000 pledge from the Leah Spratt Charitable Trust. Joyce Rochambeau '47, and Rene Rochambeau-McCrary

**Achieving
Greatness**
A CAMPAIGN FOR MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



campaign

previous capital campaign at Western. The campaign goals include \$7.5 million for the Remington and Agenstein Halls project; \$1 million for scholarships; \$5.5 million for the school of business; and \$1 million in undesignated funds to meet future emerging needs. Money raised beyond that initial goal may be used for athletic facilities, fine arts facilities and resources, library acquisitions and other needs.

Achieving Greatness is the private fundraising component of the \$53 million Beyond Excellence initiative launched last October. Beyond Excellence is a strategy to develop state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and other resources for Western. The initiative will receive \$38 million in public funds: \$30 million from the state's Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative for the Agenstein and Remington Halls project; \$2.5 million from the federal Department of Economic Development for construction of the Christopher S. "Kit" Bond Science and Technology Incubator; and \$5.5 million from a bond issue for improvements to athletic facilities.

"We're very thankful for the gifts we've already received, and we'll be working hard to seek broad-based community support for the final \$2 million toward our goal," Dan said.

In addition to hearing about the success of Achieving Greatness, guests enjoyed a free, hour-long performance by award-winning recording artist Deana Carter. ❧

Wing in Remington Hall named for

Leah Spratt

Last fall, the Board of Governors voted to name the east wing of the first floor of Remington Hall in honor of Leah Spratt. Remington Hall is the nearly 60,000 square-foot addition to Agenstein Hall that is currently under construction.

"The Spratt family has been very generous to Western for many years," said Dan Nicoson, Foundation executive director. "This is a fitting tribute to a tremendous community benefactor."

The Leah Spratt Charitable Trust pledged \$250,000 to the Foundation's Achieving Greatness capital campaign, a five-year effort to raise at least \$15 million. Leah Spratt, the trust's namesake, was a 1921 graduate of St. Joseph Junior College and a graduate of the University of Missouri. She taught for one year before joining the family business, Spratt Realty and Investment Co. Leah received Western's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993.

The Remington Hall wing is not the first campus structure to bear the Spratt name. Leah Spratt Hall, dedicated in 1997, houses the Western Institute, university advancement, the honors program, several classrooms and the Kemper Recital Hall. Western's football facility, Spratt Memorial Stadium,

is named for Leah Spratt's brother. Elliot "Bub" Spratt was an avid Griffon supporter whose gift made construction of the stadium possible.

The Board also approved a number of other naming opportunities in Remington and Agenstein Halls as part of the capital campaign.

Commemorative opportunities include the naming of a chemistry studies center, biology studies center, or equipment fund for \$1 million; the three-story glass atrium connecting Remington and Agenstein Halls for \$500,000; the west wing of the first floor of Remington Hall for \$250,000; the greenhouse or one of three lecture halls for \$100,000; one of 28 laboratories for \$50,000; and one of eight classrooms for \$25,000.

"Giving a gift in honor of someone special who has touched our lives in a meaningful way is a truly gratifying experience," Dan said. "This construction project provides several opportunities for lasting tributes to mentors, family and friends." ❧

Campaign Goal: \$15 million
Pledges to date: \$13.4 million

*The construction
of Remington Hall,
an addition to
Agenstein Hall, is
well underway.*



An emphasis on **e**ntrepreneurism

"We want to inspire people to do great things and create a phenomenal business school. We want to develop a curriculum around teaching and training people to start businesses."

That is the goal of Steve Craig, and the impetus behind his \$5.5 million gift to Western last spring to establish the Steven L. Craig School of Business.

"The gift will transform our whole program," said Carol Roever, interim dean of the Craig School of Business. "It means we have resources to think and do more than we ever have before."

Faculty members in the school of business met last fall to begin a strategic planning process, "Dream It, Build It." Dr. Faye Smith, professor of business,

conducted the session. The planning session asked two questions – what do we want to be as a school of business; and, how do we embrace an entrepreneurship focus? The school of business has now created mission and vision statements and a set of values.

Carol said the concept of entrepreneurship will be "fused" in the curriculum because of Steve's interest in entrepreneurial activities. The department has always had an entrepreneur class, she said, but the gift from Steve offers the opportunity to think beyond that class.

She said four teams emerged from the planning day last fall and have been meeting to create ideas for "innovation labs" that would teach elements of entrepreneurship. Faculty members from the entire school of business will determine which innovation lab ideas to pursue.

Additionally, Steve invited three entrepreneurs to campus in November where they spoke to participants of the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Summit and to more than 200 students, and met with school of business faculty to discuss its strategic planning.


"The school of business has really embraced the concept of entrepreneurship," said Steve. "They are working diligently to create a culture of entrepreneurship. The donation is the beginning of developing a business school that turns out leaders who are entrepreneurs." He noted the fundamentals of relevant business knowledge are essential for entrepreneurial success.

"It's very exciting," said Faye, referring to the future direction of the school of business. "I think it's going to be challenging, but as a challenge, we're up to it."

Carol noted that some strategic planning was already underway before Steve's gift, as part of the school's accreditation goal. The \$5.5 million gift, she said, will demonstrate to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) international accrediting body that Western has the resources available to earn accreditation. **e**

Faculty members in the Craig School of Business participate in a strategic planning exercise.





With Steve Craig's entrepreneurial focus in mind, we asked five alumni and one student to share their experiences as entrepreneurs.


For Steve Craig, entrepreneurship bloomed at a young age. He said his neighbor owned the Nighthawk Café at 25th and Frederick in St. Joseph, Mo., and he would often ask Steve to help. By working at the café and asking questions, he says, he learned about how small businesses operate, and that planted the first seeds of Steve's dream of owning his own business. He was eight years old.

"I was very fortunate," Steve said. "I got a chance to know what owning a business was like at a young age."

And what did the eight year-old do with his business knowledge? By age 10, he was buying candy wholesale and reselling it at a profit; by 12 he opened his first fireworks stand, and at age 16, he was operating three stands. "By the time I graduated from high school, I had enough to pay for college," he said.

In 1995, he founded Craig Realty Group of Newport Beach, Calif., and today serves as its president and CEO. The company specializes in the development of upscale

factory outlet centers and currently owns, operates and manages retail development in six states.

"My goal is to create a culture of entrepreneurship at Western by giving students the tools to set out on their own course to accomplish their dreams." 

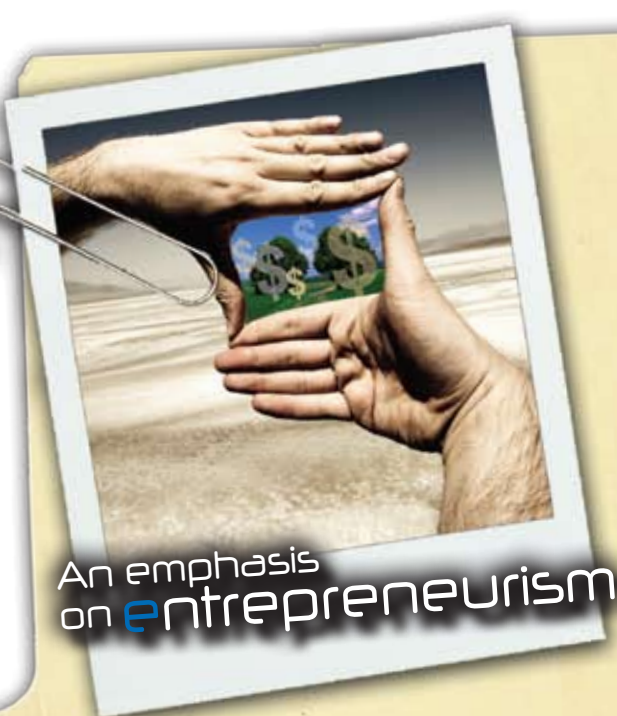


Alumnus reflects on owning his own business

Dan Danford '78, never really set out to be an entrepreneur. After graduating from Western with a marketing degree, he began working in the trust department at a local bank and found his niche in retirement funds.

"I began to notice that people with money tended to be people who owned their own businesses," he says. "The people I was helping knew how to make money. I learned from the best and the brightest."

After several years in banking, Dan founded a trust company with three others and after 10 years there, he went out on his own. Today he is principal and chief executive officer of Family Investment Center in



An emphasis on **e**ntrepreneurism

St. Joseph, Mo. The 10-year-old company has six employees and manages close to \$65 million for approximately 400 clients.

"It's harder than it looks; there's a lot to do," Dan says of owning a business. "There are a lot of benefits, but it's a 24 hour-a-day job. Even when you take your family on vacation and you're lying on the beach, you're still thinking about work."

But along with the challenges, he says, is the satisfaction of helping his clients, watching his employees succeed and seeing his company grow.

As a successful business owner, he has also found that he has the ability to make a difference in the community and be somewhat of a "change agent." Dan serves on several community boards, including Western's Board of Governors. He has



written two books and several magazine and newsletter articles, and presented at local, regional and national workshops and conferences.

"We've been blessed," Dan says of his experience as an entrepreneur. "I'm surrounded by good people. That helps a lot." **e**

Larry Motley: student/soldier/entrepreneur

In 2003, Western student Larry Motley was working full time at a job that made him feel like he was "simply a number," and he didn't like that feeling. He decided to start his own company, UHMC LLC, specializing in heating and cooling, plumbing and appliances even though he was only 22 years old.

"My folks actually owned their own business when I was growing up, so I kind of had that entrepreneurial spirit and business sense already," he says.

Larry, who is also a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves, says his military experience convinced him that the best way to run his new company was to follow the example of the military. "Contrary to belief, the military is very conscious about taking care of their people. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and esprit de corps," he says. "I wanted to start an organization that when people woke up in the morning, they looked forward to coming to work and belonging to something great."

That business model seems to have worked for him. A deployment to Iraq in 2004 and 2005 kept his Cameron, Mo., business in a holding pattern, but since 2006, it has nearly doubled in size and revenue. Larry currently employs nine people and is planning to expand again this spring.

"The best part of what I do is having a positive impact on people's lives," he says. "I absolutely love knowing that I am providing customers a unique in-home service experience, but also creating career opportunities for my employees."

And although helping employees grow in their careers is one of his greatest joys, personnel issues are also the greatest challenge. "You are dealing with a myriad of different personalities," Larry says. "The most important

lesson I have learned being in business and leading soldiers is that how you deal with people and manage those relationships is the single biggest challenge we have as leaders, but also the most rewarding."

Larry, a double major in business administration/finance and economics,

says he likes taking the skills and tools he's learned in his classes at Western and applying them to his business. "I like having a living, breathing organization that I can apply them in. It's like having my own laboratory. I apply techniques, and what works, I keep. What doesn't, I set aside."

Larry plans to graduate this spring and continue on to graduate school to earn an MBA.

"Every day I get to deal with something new and I thrive on that. I do not do my best work with monotony." **e**

Sandwich lures siblings into entrepreneurship

"If you had told me five years ago that I'd be running a sandwich shop, I would have told you that you were crazy." So said Chad Robertson '00, who owns Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches in St. Joseph, Mo., with his sister, Kristin Duke '94. The siblings, along with their spouses, Nicki '03, and Chris, purchased the franchise and opened the shop last summer.

Chad's resumé doesn't really read like a sandwich owner's — a nursing degree from Western and a master's degree in hospital administration from University of Missouri — Kansas City, a nurse manager at Children's Mercy and a stint at Cerner Corporation, both in Kansas City, Mo. "I thought I'd be in hospital administration my whole life," he said.



Kristen graduated with a psychology degree and had been an at-home mom for her two children for the past eight years when her husband starting talking about a great sandwich shop near his



workplace in Kansas City. Chris told his wife and brother-in-law that not only was the food good, the shop — Jimmy John's — was always busy.

"We just thought we'd check it out," said Chad. "We said 'we'll take it as far as we can,' but we never hit a wall. Two weeks later we were meeting at Jimmy John's corporate headquarters."

The result? A new career they love.

"I enjoy coming in. I love our staff," said Kristin. "I smile the whole time I'm here. It doesn't feel like a job sometimes." Chad agreed, adding that he likes working with the more than 40 high school and Western students they've hired.

Along with their spouses who help out, Chad and Kristin's retired parents can often be found on duty as well, and both say that working with family is another benefit.

They have been pleased with the support of the community and are happy they took the chance to become entrepreneurs. "There's a new challenge every day," said Kristin. "No day is the same." **e**

Alumnus enjoys career in billboards

For Brent Porlier '82, it's always been about billboards and finding great spots to display them. Brent was already working for a billboard company in St. Joseph, Mo., when he took a leave of absence to complete his degree in marketing at Western. One week after graduating, he and his family moved to Arlington, Texas, where Brent went to work in the company's offices there.

His job entailed developing new billboard locations, a task that has remained his favorite. "That's what I've always enjoyed doing and I still enjoy doing," Brent says. "That's what I love to sink my teeth into."

A promotion and a move to Ohio followed, and then he went to work for another company in St. Louis. At age 29 and a father of three girls, he decided to start his own company, Porlier Outdoor Advertising. "I didn't necessarily do it for the money. I wanted more time on the weekends for my family and more flexibility with my schedule."

And for the most part, that worked out, but Brent says there are still times that he wishes he had found a better balance between getting the company going and spending time with his family.

Today he maintains 440 billboard faces in Missouri, Illinois and Kansas, and the company has nine employees.

His advice for someone thinking about owning their own business? "They need to be really honest with themselves as to why they want to do it. It wouldn't hurt to sit down and on paper create a list of pluses and minuses. But they have to be honest with themselves. And finally, ask themselves how committed will they be seeing things through tough times."



"I've been able to keep doing what I'm good at," Brent said. "I've been doing it for 29 years, and I love it as much as I did when I started." **e**

Accountant loves working with clients

As an accountant and owner of HTA (Healthcare, Tax and Accounting) Solutions, of St. Joseph, Mo., Lori England '91, said there is a skill that is very important in her business that you really can't teach in a college class: the ability to care for others.

"My clients are not just a tax return. They are human beings and I want the best for them. I try to put them on a pedestal. Being successful is caring about others. You need to listen to people and actually hear what they are saying," Lori says.

That philosophy, plus long hours and a lot of hard work, are probably the reasons Lori's client base has doubled in the past year and a half.

Lori started her business in Omaha, Neb., and moved to St. Joseph in 2005. Along with working with clients' tax returns, payroll and accounting systems, a contract with Indian Health Services takes her all across the country where she reviews

hospitals on Native American reservations.

"I had a great education at Missouri Western, but all of the sudden when a business is all yours, there's a shock factor," she says. "But I'm glad I tried it. I would rather have tried it than say I wish I would have."

Lori recently passed the elder care specialist certification and says she wants to expand her business and work more with elderly clients, helping them evaluate and choose their medicare coverage and insurance policies.

"I love what I do," she says. **e**

From the Alumni Association President

Faithful, Proud and True.

This phrase, taken from our Alma Mater, is one we incorporated into the new vision statement for the Alumni Association. That vision statement reads, in part, "As Western alumni, we strive to be faithful, proud, and true to our alma mater, its current students, to one another and to our communities."

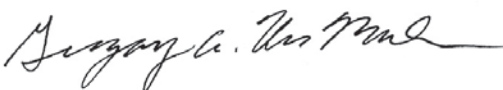
During Homecoming, we acknowledged four alumni, one faculty member, and one couple for their accomplishments and for remaining "faithful, proud and true" to Missouri Western. Please take a moment to read of their accomplishments on pages 22 and 23.

As part of our faithful, proud and true vision, we will begin a new feature in the Western Magazine. We will profile alumni who through their acts show that they are faithful, proud and true Missouri Western alumni. Perhaps you know of a graduate who routinely suggests to high school students that they check out Missouri Western during their college search. Or, perhaps you know of an alumnus or alumna that you see at alumni events whom you would like to recognize. Anyone who attended SJJC, MWJC, MWC, MWSC, or MWSU is eligible to be profiled. Remember, anyone who completed at least 12 credit hours is considered an alum.

If you would like to nominate or suggest someone for this profile, please e-mail a brief statement regarding the individual to the Alumni Office at mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu, mail to Alumni Services Office; 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507, or contact me at gregv@griffonalumni.org.

I look forward to reading your submissions. Until then, I remain ...

Faithful, Proud and True,



Greg VerMulm '89
President

Gregory VerMulm '89



It's directory time!

The Alumni Services Office is working with Harris Connect to produce "2009 Alumni: Today," a directory of alumni names, addresses and more. In March, Harris Connect will send out an email inviting alumni to fill out an online information questionnaire so they can be listed in the directory. Postcard mailings will begin in April with the option for alumni to call directly to Harris Connect with their updated information.

"This publication is an outstanding resource for alumni to not only connect with classmates, but to use as a career networking tool," said Colleen Kowich, director of alumni services. "I hope we will have a great response."

Throughout the information-gathering and publishing process, Harris Connect will be the contact for any questions. Their contact information will be included in all the correspondence alumni will receive.

Planned publishing date for the directory is November 2009. ■

Alumni and their families gathered at Horseshoe Lake Drive-In in St. Joseph, Mo., for the third annual Alumni Night at the Drive-In in September. Along with the movies, the Alumni Association hosted several children's games for the participants.



Homecoming 2008 – Star Spangled Griff

It was hard to believe it was actually Homecoming since we weren't battling the elements. Oct. 18 was warm and sunny, and several thousand gathered for both the parade and the Homecoming game, where the Griffons beat Emporia State, 28-21. Whitney Smith, represented by Alpha Sigma Alpha, was crowned Homecoming queen and for the first time, there was a tie for king – David Wyble of Phi Delta Theta and Bryan Smith of Alpha Phi Alpha.

The Western Institute and Alumni Association co-hosted an open house at the Downtown University Center in the morning since the center is located one block from the parade route. Music, crafts for children, refreshments and tours of the facility were all part of the open house, and many community members participated. ■



2008 Homecoming parade.



Alumni events aplenty!

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and the regional alumni chapters in Kansas City, St. Joseph and St. Louis held meetings last fall to make plans for several alumni activities in the coming year.

On Jan. 17, the St. Joseph chapter will host an Alumni Basketball Reunion to coincide with the home basketball game. The annual Mardi Gras party will again be held at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood & Steaks, downtown St. Joseph, on Feb. 24. Ideas for future events in 2009 include weekend activities, roller skating and the Alumni Night at the Drive In again this fall.

The Kansas City chapter is planning a "Backpack to Briefcase" networking

event for students, and events for new graduates. They also plan to continue the alumni gatherings at area restaurants and bars. The Kansas City chapter hopes to work with Operation Breakthrough throughout the year as a service project. Operation Breakthrough is a group that helps children who are living in poverty develop to their fullest potential by providing them a safe, loving and educational environment.

The St. Louis chapter has changed "Western Wednesdays" to "Western Weekends," and will host an event each quarter in 2009. The first one is Friday, Jan. 23. They will also continue to host Backpack to Briefcase events for current students from the St. Louis area, where

alumni will review resumés and assist students with networking.

The Alumni Association will also host free receptions for graduates and their families following each commencement ceremony May 9. Plans are also underway for the Cardinals/Royals game May 23 in St. Louis.

Keep an eye on www.griffonalumni.org for details and information about all upcoming alumni events. Griff Gab, the weekly alumni e-newsletter, contains information about events, also. Send an email to mwalumni@missouriwestern.edu to get on that list! ■

Awards Banquet 2008

MORE THAN 150 WERE IN ATTENDANCE as four alumni, one faculty member, two longtime volunteers and Alumni Association scholarship recipients were honored at the Alumni Association's annual awards banquet Oct. 16.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

George Hayward
CLASS OF 1974

George, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1974, is the president of Lake Road Warehouse Co. in St. Joseph. Additionally, for the past 17 years, he has been an official for the National Football League, traveling across the country as a head linesman in charge of the chain crew.

In 2007, George had the distinct honor of being selected to officiate at Super Bowl XLI in Florida, Indianapolis Colts vs. Chicago Bears, a high point of his career. Last year, he was selected to officiate in the NFL Pro Bowl.

As a Western student, George began officiating for intramurals and youth football teams in the community. After graduating from Western, he continued officiating, working his way up from high school, to Division II collegiate, to Division I, and finally to the NFL.

"I'm very honored," said George. "And I'm lucky that Western became a four-year college when I was a senior in high school so I could go here." ■



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Chris Danford
CLASS OF 1978

Chris, a 1978 graduate of Western with a bachelor of science degree in elementary and special education, is the counseling department chair at Central High School in St. Joseph. She earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Northwest Missouri State University.

In addition to her counseling duties, Chris serves on the Leadership and Professional Development committees at Central and is the faculty sponsor for three student groups. She is also very active in the community, having served or currently serving as a board member for the CENTER, the Cotillion, Peace Unlimited, InterServ, Community Development Block Grant Committee, Allied Arts Council and the Northwest Missouri and Missouri State Counselor Associations.

"I'm very humbled and honored to receive the award," said Chris. "I had extraordinary teachers. My education at Western was first class and I was more than prepared to teach when I graduated." ■



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

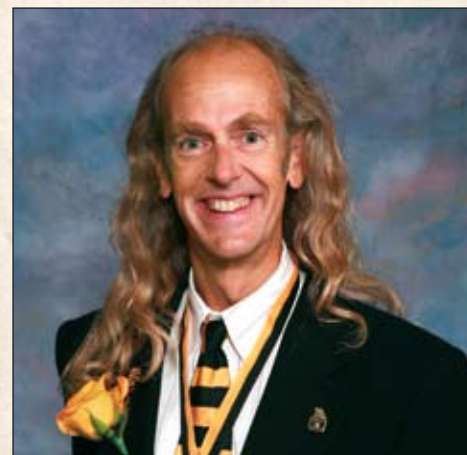
Daniel Kellogg
CLASS OF 1982

Dan graduated with a bachelor of science in business administration in management and marketing. He earned his juris doctorate from the University of Missouri, Columbia. "As I headed down to Mizzou, I realized I was blessed to have gotten to do more hands on learning (at Western). I had smaller classes and professors who got to know you," said Dan.

He is currently a circuit judge for the 5th Judicial Court for Buchanan County. Prior to that, he served as an associate circuit judge, an assistant prosecuting attorney and an associate at a Kansas City, Mo., law firm.

Dan is active in St. Joseph's community theatre, appearing in many productions in a variety of roles. He also serves on several boards and volunteers at a local elementary school. Dan was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and served as its president.

"I've had the privilege in my career to do what I can to help my community," he says. ■





DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Cheri Kempf
CLASS OF 1985

Cheri earned an English degree with a public relations emphasis and is the owner and pitching instructor at Worth Club K, a national training facility for softball players. Since she opened Club K in 1991, she has taught and trained thousands of athletes at her main facility near Nashville, Tenn., and at several satellite locations.

Cheri, a member of Western Athletics Hall of Fame, has consulted with the Amateur Softball Association and the United States Olympic Committee to develop universal standards by which to teach fastpitch pitching, and she is a popular television analyst for college and professional softball. She has been seen and heard on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, Fox Sports, the YES Network, Cox Sports Television and Comcast Cable Network.

Cheri is the author of "Softball Pitching Edge," and the inventor of two softball training devices – the Spin Right Spinner and the Powerline Mat.

"As a student-athlete, I was in the right place, size-wise, and I liked being in my hometown so my family could see me play," said Cheri, who played softball, tennis and basketball as a Western student. "I'm very happy to get the award." ■



DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Carol Roever
INTERIM DEAN, STEVEN L. CRAIG
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Carol has taught at Western since 1986. In her current position as interim dean of the Steven L. Craig School of Business, she guides 33 faculty and staff members. Under her leadership, internship opportunities for business students have increased by more than 500 percent.

Carol earned a bachelor of science in communications from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and a master's in organizational communication from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. At Western, Carol created the Global Viewpoint class and has taken more than 125 students on six international trips through that class. She also served as a visiting professor for one semester at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey.

"I'm grateful to the administrators and colleagues who supported me and our programs," said Carol. "If I've been successful it's because I received great support."

Carol was named the YWCA's 2008 "Women of Excellence Woman in the Workplace" award and she received an outstanding teaching award from the Association for Business Communication. She has also received several teaching awards from Western. At the banquet, she told the alumni in the audience, "You challenge us and make us better, and we appreciate your loyalty to Missouri Western." ■



HERB & PEGGY IFFERT AWARD for Outstanding Service to the University

Stan and Doris '51 Hall

Stan and Doris Hall have been active supporters of Western for many years. Doris is beginning her 12th season as a volunteer in the football office. The players know they can count on Doris for a listening ear and to see them off to away games. "I consider myself a surrogate grandmother to the football team," Doris said. Stan and Doris can be found at all the home football and basketball games, as well.

Doris has also served on the planning committee for the St. Joseph Junior College Reunion for the past two years, and is a member of the MWSU Ambassadors.

Stan has been a board member of the Gold Coat Club (athletic boosters) for 20 years, and served two years as president. He also served two terms on the MWSU Foundation Board for a total of 12 years, including two years as president.

Both Stan and Doris said they felt very honored to receive the award, especially since they were friends of the Ifferts. ■

Alumni Association awards scholarships

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Alumni Association Scholarships are based on merit, requiring a minimum 3.5 GPA, or a combination of merit and need, requiring a minimum 3.0 GPA. Preference is given to students who have completed at least one semester of college, and the scholarships may be used to cover the cost of tuition, books and other educationally related expenses. Thirteen students received the scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Ethan Anglemyer '11, from Odessa, Mo., majoring in biology/health science
- Kelsey Breckenridge '10, from Cameron, Mo., business management major
- Chelsea Caldwell '11, elementary education major from Edgerton, Mo.
- Bianca Hill '11, sophomore nursing major from St. Louis
- Kelsey Kieber '10, accounting major from St. Joseph, Mo.
- Kenton Kinney '09, from Trenton, Mo., criminal justice major
- Traci Kordick '10 is a junior nursing major from Bridgewater, Iowa
- Whitney Korthanke '09, nursing major from Robinson, Kan.
- Millicent Montemurro '09, physical education major from St. Joseph, Mo.
- Joshua Ralston '11, music major from Atchison, Kan.
- Gene Ryals '10, from Independence, Mo., marketing major
- William Shoemaker '11, electronics and computer engineering technology major from Marcelline, Mo.
- Douglas Wallace '11, accounting major from Cameron, Mo. ■

ALUMNI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Twelve students received the Alumni Family Scholarship for 2008-2009. Recipients of this scholarship must be an incoming freshman and a son or daughter of a Western alum. They must have a 3.0 GPA out of high school, demonstrate financial need, and be involved in at least four extra-curricular activities throughout their high school career.

- Grant Adkins '12, from Camden Point, Mo., computer information systems major. His mother, Deanna Atkins, is a 1989 graduate.
- Hillary Black '12, St. Joseph, Mo., is undecided about a major. Her father, Jeffrey, graduated in 1983.
- Hollie Cluck '12, pre-professional major from St. Joseph, Mo. Her mother, Davona Cluck, is a 1985 graduate.
- Jesse Davis '12, from Brookfield, Mo., is majoring in criminal justice. Her mother, Judy, is an alumna.
- Ashton Drake '12, from St. Joseph, Mo., is undecided about a major. Her father, James, is a 1993 graduate, and her mother, Sheena, is a 1991 graduate.
- Celeste Hass '12, is from Liberty, Mo., and a business management major. Her mother, Susan Hass, is an alumna.
- Amanda Miller '12, is majoring in business with an emphasis in marketing, and she is from St. Joseph, Mo. Her mother, Lisa Miller, is a 1987 alumna.
- Sarah Noe '12, is from Gower, Mo., and a music major. Her mother, Janet Abbott, is a 1988 graduate.
- Kristi Owens '12, from St. Joseph, Mo., plans to major in elementary education. Both her parents are alumni – Kevin graduated in 1991 and Joni in 1992.
- Alexander Reno '12, from Cameron, Mo., is undecided about a major. His mother, Jennifer Reno, graduated in 2000.
- Hillary Stark '12, from St. Joseph, Mo., is a music/piano major. Her mother, Cami Stark, is a 1990 graduate.
- Blake Thorne '12, from St. Joseph, Mo., wants to be a physical therapist. His mother, Allison Thorne, is an alumna. ■

1940s

WILLIAM ALLEN '40, celebrated his 90th birthday on Aug. 8, 2008. He was a prisoner of war during World War II for more than three years.

1960s

ROGER SWAFFORD '68, is the public relations and marketing director at Western. He joined the staff July 1, 2008. He earned his master's in education from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and his MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University.

1970s

GARY HARGRAVE '73, was recognized for 30 years of service to M & I Bank, St. Joseph, Mo.

CONNIE (MILLER) HEARD '74, is director of workforce development for Mo-Kan Regional Council. She leads the Dislocated Worker Program at the Missouri Career Center.

BILL BRICKEY '76, is vice president of business development for Wachovia Securities, LLC in St. Louis.

SGT. ALAN WALTON '79, retired in August 2008 from the Missouri Highway Patrol after 28 years of service.

1980s

CHARLES BRUFFY '81, was named artistic director and conductor for the Kansas City Symphony Chorus. He is also conductor of the Kansas City Chorale and the Phoenix Bach Choir.

JOYCE (NOLAN) CAIN '84, earned a specialist of education in educational leadership degree from William Woods University.

DENNIS CONOVER '85, is the manager of Orscheln Farm & Home in Maryville, Mo.

CHRIS BALL '87, is assistant head football coach/co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach at Washington State University in Pullman.

ANNE MARIE (JUNG) KULIG '87, is an associate professor with tenure as a faculty librarian at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, N.H.

LT. GREGORY MASON '89, retired after 29 years with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He was the assistant director of the human resources division.

1990s

ROB '92, and STACIA (HELLERICH) '92, STUDER announce the birth of a son, Satchel Robert Henry, born Jan. 21, 2008. They also have a daughter, Tatum.

JIM BROWN '93, is administrator for the alternative school and solution classes with the Raymore-Peculiar (Mo.) School District.

JANICE KING '94 and Kent Heier were married Aug. 2, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

TERESA (MEADE) SHIRRELL '94, and her husband, Kevin, announce the birth of a daughter, Maggie Olivia, born Aug. 19, 2008. Maggie is the couple's second child, and the family resides in Savannah, Mo.

TAMMY KARR '96, is the director of human resources at Snorkel International, Elwood, Kan.

CHRIS '97, and LINDSAY (EULINGER) '99, BERRY announce the birth of a son, Casey, born July 11, 2008. Casey has two siblings, Conner and Cooper.

KYLE HURST '97, and Keli Sears were married Sept. 15, 2007. The couple resides in Olathe, Kan.

KIM (PARKE) SMITH '97, is a corporate accounting business analyst with Farmland Foods in Kansas City, Mo.

DENISE (FRICKE) BALLANCE '98, is a major in the U.S. Army Reserves and an Army civilian serving in the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

KYLE SINCLAIR '98, recorded two holes-in-one within two weeks' time last spring. The first one was at a benefit tournament where he won a 2008 Cadillac.

DEBBIE PACKARD '99, is the elementary and middle school library media specialist at Lathrop R-2. She is completing her master's degree in library science at the University of Central Missouri.

BRIAN WEESE '99, and his wife, Jamie, announce the birth of a daughter, Elaina, born July 11, 2008.

2000s

JESSICA (NOELLSCH) BOLGER '00, earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Northwest Missouri State University.

BETH (ARCHER) '00, and CHANEY '00, CATHCART announce the birth of a daughter, Kendall Leigh, born July 4, 2008. Kendall has a sister, Claire Elizabeth, born Sept. 2, 2005.



ANDREA (DICKERSON) '00, and MICHAEL '01, STEPHENSON announce the birth of a son, Cooper Michael, born Jan. 2, 2008.

2000s continued

AMY (MCCREADY) HART '01, graduated from North Central Missouri College with an associate's degree in nursing. She is an RN at Northwest Medical Center in Albany, Mo.



GUY JOHNSON '01, and his wife, Sharona, announce the birth of a daughter, Breckin Marie, born June 19, 2008.

JOHN T. CASEY '02, received his master of arts in education from Baker University. He was also selected as the 2007 WalMart Teacher of the Year.



LASHANDRA (ACKLIN) '02 and LEE SHEPARD '04, announce the birth of a daughter, Serenity

Marie, born May 6, 2008. She joined a brother, Nathaniel. LaShandra also earned a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Friend's University.

HEATHER SCHENECKER '03, and Dustin Crist were married May 17, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

LYDIA (DIAL) CLATT '04, and her husband, Casey, announce the birth of Carter Dee, born Sept. 28, 2007.

JENNIFER FRY '04, and Jeffrey Ritter were married June 13, 2008. They have a daughter, Alexis Leann.

ANNETTE HUNTHROP '04, is a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso in west Africa.

JILL NESSLAGE '04, and her husband, Fred, announce the birth of a son, Nicholas Charles, born June 20, 2008.

NICOLE SALFRANK '04, and Randy Stockman were married Sept. 1, 2007. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

LARRY TAYLOR '04, was named 2008 1st Team All-Mexican LNBP League and 2008 All-Mexican LNBP Guard of the Year. Larry plays basketball for the Marineros de Cozumel team, and they won the northern division regular season championship.

BROOKE (ATHA) BELL '05, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of a daughter, Jasey, born March 2, 2008.

BECKY JACKSON '05, married Robert Plumley March 15, 2008. The couple resides in Camdenton, Mo.

MORGAN LAIRD '05, was promoted to the rank of captain in the U.S. Army on July 4, 2008, while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

JULIE SPARKS '05, and Timothy Garrison were married April 12, 2008. The couple resides in Jefferson City, Mo.

KACI TIMMONS '05, and Bryson Byergo were married June 21, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

LUKE GORHAM '06, is working on a master's in higher education administration at University of Missouri – Kansas City. He is working as a graduate assistant in the department of student life.

KRISTIN HEIDBRINK '06, is events manager for the Missouri Lottery in Jefferson City.

Western remembers Larry Dobbins

“He was my colleague and truly my friend.” That was how Don Lillie, assistant professor of theatre, described Dr. Larry L. Dobbins, who died unexpectedly July 21, 2008.

Larry joined Western in 1971 as a theatre professor and director and later taught humanities courses. He retired in 1997, but continued to teach humanities courses part time.

“He was brilliant, without a doubt,” said Don. “But he was demanding and intolerant of lazy.”

Dr. Phil Mullins, professor of philosophy, remembers Larry as a well

liked and gifted teacher. “He was able to present complex material and get people’s attention when they thought they didn’t like it. He was a very, very good teacher and he was extremely popular with students.”

Tom Geha '90, said that every time he visited St. Joseph from his home in Los Angeles, he met Larry for lunch. “Over the years, he went from being my teacher to my mentor. I’m honored to have known him.”

In the early 1980s, Larry directed as many as three plays a year, and Phil said Larry had very high standards for

his students and himself. “He did some absolutely incredible productions. He produced good quality work and was respected for it,” said Phil. “Larry was extraordinarily good at taking sophisticated material and opening it up for students.”

Tom agreed. “He was a meticulous director. He was a great actor and that carried over into his directing.”

“He was a great guy,” said Phil. “I miss him.”

Larry and his wife, Connie, were married 36 years. ■

Making a difference in Africa

Chris '99 & '07, and Alicia (Stutterheim) '98 Johnson are fulfilling a dream that began more than 15 years ago when they were students at Western. After spending four months in Los Angeles participating in cultural and theological training, the couple and their two children, Keaton and Quinn, left for Cameroon in West Africa in June, and have signed on for a three-year commitment to serve as missionaries there.

Chris said when he was dating Alicia, who spent her childhood years in Madagascar, she shared her dream of one day serving overseas for a nonprofit organization.

"I was interested, but I had reservations at first," said Chris, whose 1999 degree is in exercise science. "I didn't think it was for me. But as time passed, I began to see the world through new eyes and realized that maybe I was meant to do this."

In Madagascar, Alicia's mother was a nurse and her father (Keith Stutterhiem, professor emeritus of engineering technology) was a water engineer. "This experience taught me that not everyone is as fortunate to have opportunities for education and employment. I felt moved to do what little I can to help," she said. "We really felt a calling from God to work with people in situations of poverty."

But after graduating from Western, marriage, kids and careers seemed to put the missionary dream on hold.

A 10-day mission awareness trip to Guatemala in 2003 brought it back to the forefront, and Alicia and Chris began researching mission organizations. They selected Lay Mission Helpers, a Catholic-Christian organization that sends missionaries all over the world and frequently works with families.

"Then Chris decided that if we were really going to do this, he needed to go back to school and get his nursing degree - at Missouri Western, of course," Alicia said. "So he graduated in December 2007, and we headed to Los Angeles."

In Cameroon, Chris works for the Diocesan Health Co-ordination Office and spends his days traveling to 15 different health centers in area villages and towns assisting nurses and providing educational opportunities. His charge from the Bishop of Kumbo is to reorganize the way the clinics are maintained and bring a more Western culture standard to them.

Alicia, who was working as a bankruptcy attorney in Kansas City, Mo., before they committed to the mission, is teaching English and literature at a secondary school that her sons attend. She hopes to establish a school newspaper while she is there.

Learning the language, Lamnso, presented the biggest challenge. "Knowing Spanish and French does not help," says Alicia. So the family posted sticky notes all around the house to try to learn the language.

"Language is the big key to gaining acceptance and understanding with the people," said Chris. "Most of the patients know that I am trying, and they appreciate the effort. It helps me earn credibility and respect from them."

The family lives in a cinderblock house that used to be a convent, and it contains electricity (flashlights are kept handy; there are occasional outages) and hot water (as long as you shower first thing in the morning or at night). Cell phone coverage and a local Internet café are close by.

"In general, we're comfortable," said Alicia. She does admit that she misses her washing machine and dryer since she has to wash their clothes by hand. "But when we start to complain, we remember how many Cameroons are still living without electricity and running water."

Chris and Alicia say they miss their family and friends most of all. Chris said he tried to attend a few Griffon home games each year, so he misses that and the Kansas City Chiefs, too.

"But we have everything we need," said Chris. "A nice house to call home, electricity, indoor plumbing, new friends, a sense of adventure and of course, each other." ■



MICHAEL A. MCCOY '06, and his wife, Kristina, announce the birth of a daughter, Abigail Marie, born Jan. 1, 2008. The family resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

JAYME SCHLAKE '06, is a health and physical education teacher and junior high and high school volleyball coach at Tarkio R-I High School in Tarkio, Mo.

STACY (LAWRENCE) DOWNING '07, and her husband, Bart, announce the birth of a daughter, Rebecca Grace, born July 9, 2008.

KATIE HEARD '07, and Clint Schweder were married April 26, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

JUSTIN MCCARTHY '07, is the head baseball coach at Central High School in St. Joseph, Mo.

AMY TINKER '07, is an intake and eligibility coordinator at Tri-County Mental Health Services, Inc. in Kansas City, Mo.

MINDY (NANCE) '08, and ANDREW '08, WEBSTER are teaching in the Tarkio, Mo., R-I School District. Mindy is a second-grade teacher. Andrew is the high school football coach and teaches high school physical "education."



All alumni who send in a baby announcement for the Alumnotes (with or without a photo!), will receive a "Future Griffon" bib! (Supplies are limited!)

In Memory ...

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

LARRY E. DOBBINS, St. Joseph, Mo., July 21, 2008. Larry was a professor in the theatre department for 26 years (see article on p. 26).

RUTH DRIMMEL '43, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 10, 2008.

BETTY LOU JACKSON, JC, St. Joseph, Mo., June 28, 2008.

JAMES HUNTERMARK, Leavenworth, Kan., Oct. 22, 2008. Jim taught in the psychology department for 28 years (see below article).

HELEN ELAINE MAXWELL '54, St. Joseph, Mo., June 3, 2008.

ALLEN SALSBUURY '78, Kearney, Mo., Sept. 16, 2008.

DR. HARRY SAUER '54, Rolla, Mo., June 17, 2008.

MARTHA A. (MOYLES) THOMPSON '29, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 1, 2008.

LINDA S. (FILKIL) TJARKS '75, Wichita, Kan., Oct. 10, 2008.

JAMES V. WEEDIN '40, Belle, Mo., Jan. 31, 2008.

JAROLD WELKER RUCH '49, Warsaw, Mo., Aug. 8, 2008.

In memory of Dr. James Huntermark

Dr. James Huntermark, assistant professor of psychology, passed away unexpectedly Oct. 22 at his home in Leavenworth, Kan. Jim, who joined Western's faculty in 1980, was teaching four classes in the fall semester.

"He had a kind and gentle soul," said Dr. Phil Wann, professor of psychology and department chair, at Jim's memorial service that was held on campus. "He would do anything to help a student."

In evaluations, Phil said, Jim's students described him as "caring, understanding, always willing to lend a hand, pleasant and a great teacher."

"He went above and beyond what you would expect from a teacher. He was a remarkable teacher," said Rebecca Lehman, senior psychology major.

Jim earned a bachelor of arts from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, a master's from Marshall University in

Huntington, W.Va., and a doctorate from the University of Arkansas. His academic specialties included sensation and perception, and learning and motivation, but his passion was animal behavior.

Phil noted that Jim's bachelor's degree was in social work, and that he had the "heart of a social worker. He was compassionate and always willing to listen." ■

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____

WHAT'S IN YOUR OFFICE?

We recently asked some faculty and staff members to share interesting items or conversation pieces that reside in their campus offices, and we came up with quite a collection:

Howzit what?

Linda Garlinger, career services director, has a beautiful vase of flowers on her desk. To the untrained eye, there's nothing special about the vase. But Linda says any time someone from the military is in her office, they immediately recognize the vase as a 105 Howitzer shell casing. Linda fired the shell when she toured the Marine Corps Artillery Battery in Quantico, Va.

Soda in any other language would taste as sweet...

Her Middle Eastern soda can collection has become a teaching tool for global marketing, says Beverly Payne, instructor of business. She likes to point out to students (who always comment on the cans when they come in her office) that the brand and logo of the drinks is easily identifiable, even though the words are foreign.



And I don't mean the Louisville Slugger kind...

If you ever visit the office of Dr. David Ashley, professor of biology, be sure to look up and enjoy his bat collection – stuffed bats, paper bats, cute bats, realistic bats and even a bat kite cover his entire ceiling. Each Halloween, family members give him a new one to add to his collection, he says. David teaches caving classes at Western and has seen plenty of the live variety when he takes his students cave exploring.



Outdoor indoors

When Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin, professor of English, starts talking about Western's Outdoor Semester, her excitement is obvious, and her office decorations reflect that excitement. Elizabeth has been involved in the Outdoor Semester, a multidisciplinary program where students spend 12 weeks in the classroom and 12-14 days traveling through the western United States, since its inception in 1995. Her office contains sweetgrass, feathers, maps, videotapes, photo albums and many more souvenirs.

The Doctor is in

"If I ever want to hang my 'shingle,' I'm ready," says Dr. Teddi Deka, professor of psychology, probably the only person on campus in possession of a large, bright orange neon sign. Students always ask her to light up her sign, a gift from a family member when she earned her doctorate. "I rarely light it up, but people get a kick out of it when I do."



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Robert A. Vartabedian

October 17, 2008



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