

Western

The magazine of Missouri Western State University

Chocolate
Opportunity - page 14





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Missouri Western State University is an equal opportunity institution.

President's Perspective

Dear Alumni
and Friends,

This fall, I had the unique opportunity to host my predecessors on campus. Dr. Janet Gorman McCarthy attended the annual Convocation on Critical Issues in September and in October, Dr. M.O. Looney and Dr. James Scanlon helped us to celebrate our 40th anniversary as a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution during Homecoming. Talking with them was, for me, like taking a one hour seminar in the history of Missouri Western. These were the individuals who have touched, directed and transformed the lives of many students. Each had his and her own challenges, yet each preserved the academic integrity of Western so as to contribute to what is now our fifth straight year of record enrollment.

Today, our challenge is one of maintaining excellence during this time of decreasing budgetary resources. For fiscal year 2011, the governor has asked that state institutions of higher education not increase their tuition with the promise that our state appropriation would be reduced by as little as 5.2 percent. This would be the second straight year in which we are unable to raise tuition to meet the needs of educating our growing student population. Last January, we agreed to hold our tuition at its current rate for Fiscal Year 2010 with the promise that we would receive the same state appropriation as we did in Fiscal Year 2009. Some legislators have indicated that 5.2 percent may not be enough of a reduction.



Currently, our budget is based on state appropriations of which \$3.3 million is funded through federal stabilization efforts, \$2.7 million of our own reserves, and tuition and fees. In the next fiscal year, we will have to find a way of reducing our budget by at least 5.2 percent (approximately \$1.2 million) and begin reducing our use of cash reserves. In preparation for these challenges, we have already eliminated four administrative positions, suspended sab-

baticals for faculty, suspended awards for faculty, staff, and administrators; placed a hiring freeze on most open positions and reduced faculty pay for summer school.

Over the course of the next year, you will receive continued information from the university as to how Western is facing this current challenge. You will also receive suggestions as to how you, our alumni and friends, can assist us as we progress. As in the past, it will take all of us within the Western community to persevere as we continue on our mission of transforming the lives of students.

Robert A. Vartabedian

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Online on the rise

Western is developing several new on-line courses, according to Dr. Gordon Mapley, dean and executive director of the Western Institute. He said the university has been developing online courses for several years, but they continue to increase the number of offerings.

Incentives were provided last spring to 16 faculty members to develop new online courses. The incentives included release from teaching a course that semester, financial compensation for overload, a notebook computer, software related to development of online courses and training in the use of that software.

"We want to offer course opportunities for students at all stages of life, including full-time workers or those with full-time responsibilities," Gordon said. "Online courses serve time-bound, place-bound or financially restricted students."

Nine of the new courses developed in the spring were offered last fall and the remainder are being offered this spring. In total, 89 online courses were offered last fall, and of that number, 45 have been developed since Spring 2009, thanks to the incentives offered. The goal is to offer 125 online courses by Spring 2011.

"More and more, possession of a college degree is critical to employment with family-sustaining wages, and online courses offer an opportunity to those who cannot enroll in a traditional on-campus college course."

But Gordon said online courses will not replace on-site courses. "The goal is to provide citizens of the region with *additional* opportunities to obtain college credits and earn degrees." ■



Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, Dr. Janet Gorman McCarthy, president emerita, and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. visit at the 16th annual Convocation on Critical Issues' private reception. Robert, the featured Convocation speaker, spoke to a sellout dinner crowd of 500 Sept. 30 and a full arena Oct. 1 on "Our Environmental Destiny."

Article read around the world

For the second year in a row, research conducted by students and faculty members at Western is attracting international attention.

A research paper produced by a 2007 research team with subsequent work and in collaboration with students and faculty at Davidson College in North Carolina was published in July by the *Journal of Biological Engineering*. Science web sites around the world reported on the paper, which was accessed more than 13,000 times in the first four days after publication. At press time, it was still the most accessed article on the journal's web page.

Additionally, the paper was evaluated by Faculty of 1000 Biology, an online research service, and was rated as

"recommended reading and of interest to specialists."

The article, "Solving a Hamiltonian Path Problem with Bacteria," explains current research in genetically engineering *E. coli* bacteria, creating bacterial computers to solve a mathematical problem called the Hamiltonian Path Problem.

A team from Western and Davidson published work in the same publication in 2008, detailing their work to produce bacterial computers that could solve another classical mathematical problem known as the Burnt Pancake Problem. That article, too, was published worldwide and is the second most accessed article in the history of the *Journal of Biological Engineering*. ■

Alumna named provost and vice president

Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75, was named provost and vice president of academic and student affairs at Western last August after Dr. Joseph Bragin retired in June.

"Jeanne has earned the respect and trust of her colleagues," said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president. "She is a strong advocate of Western's mission of applied learning and understands well the important role the university plays in the community."

Jeanne started at Western as a faculty member in the department of nursing in 1977. She chaired the department in 1996-1997, and then served as dean of the College of Professional Studies from 1997 to 2004. Jeanne became assistant vice president for academic and student affairs in 2004 and has twice served as interim vice president, including the two months following the retirement of Joseph. She also served as interim dean of graduate studies.

"I'm honored and look forward to working with my colleagues in this new role as we continue to provide quality educational opportunities for our students," Jeanne said. "These are exciting times at Western, and not just for those of us on campus. Higher education is truly a team effort, and our excitement is shared by Western's alumni and supporters in the community."



Dr. Jeanne Daffron '75

Jeanne oversaw the student affairs division until a new vice president for student affairs, Dr. Esther Perález, began her duties Jan. 4.

As provost and vice president for academic affairs, Jeanne is responsible for organizing, coordinating and providing leadership for the academic programs of the university. She oversees the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Professional Studies, the Craig School of Business and graduate studies, as well as admissions, the library, the registrar's office, and the Western Institute.

Jeanne, a registered nurse, received an associate degree in nursing and a bachelor of science in psychology from Western, a bachelor of science in nursing from Northwest Missouri State University, a master of public administration degree with an emphasis in health policy and planning from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a doctorate in nursing from Texas Women's University.

Joseph began serving as Western's provost and vice president in 2006.

During his tenure, Western experienced record enrollment each of the three years he served as the university's chief academic officer. He oversaw the creation of Western's first graduate programs, and helped hood the first master's degree recipients during the spring commencement ceremony. ■



Create a legacy ~

Check out Western's new website to help you sort through all the information – missouriwestern.giftplans.org

- Explore the most popular options for creating your legacy
- Click on your age group to use the Life Stage Gift Planner tool
- Compare all the options to see which one best fits your needs
- Get a general idea of the benefits you may receive with a particular type of gift with the online gift calculator
- Find the answers to all your questions
- Learn about bequest language, check out the glossary of terms, and more!

Missouriwestern.giftplans.org will help you find your answers!

A foundation for great music

Western music students have the opportunity to have their musical performances heard around the globe and also gain experience in the music industry, thanks to the St. Joseph Music Foundation.

The Foundation is a nonprofit organization of musicians (or people who love music) that was started in 2005 to give area musicians an opportunity to come

listeners were outside of the United States. The 24-hour station is similar to European radio stations, Michael said, where all types of music are played on one station.

Any musician in the area is welcome to submit their work, and Anthony Glise, instructor of music at Western, encourages his students to do so. If the students' music is copyrighted, he said, they will receive a royalty from the station.

Western students also have an opportunity to complete an internship with the Foundation's radio station, and one student took advantage of that this past year. "For a student to come in real and live (on a radio station) is a great opportunity," Anthony said.

The Foundation also offers a chance for students to network with musicians who have a lot of experience. Students can learn from the pros, as the Foundation regularly holds masterclasses at the local Café Acoustic, where professional musicians share their techniques and answer questions.

"Those music students who have been involved in the Foundation have found it invaluable," Anthony said. "It's all about camaraderie and support."

Both Michael and Anthony say they want the Foundation to form more connections with Western's music department, including having a regular time slot on the web radio station devoted solely to Western performing groups.

One important partnership between the Foundation and the university is the International Guitar Festival, which will be held May 13-17 this year. The festival will feature four concerts, including the final competition, jam sessions after each concert and classes taught by the performers. The festival is unique, Anthony says, not only because attendees have an opportunity to meet with the performers and get to know them, but also because the performers stay with home hosts.

For more information about the Foundation, check out the Foundation's web site at www.stjosephmusicfoundation.org. The website for guitar festival information is <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/guitarfestival>. ■



Instructor of music Anthony Glise, introduces Nick Charles, called "Australia's virtuoso of acoustic roots guitar music," who held a masterclass for musicians at Café Acoustic in St. Joseph, Mo.

together. Michael Fuson, who attended Western for more than three years right after high school before moving out of state, serves as the Foundation's president.

One of Michael's first projects for the Foundation was creating a web-based radio station. Last year, there were almost 56,500 hits on the web site's station in one quarter, and about one third of those

"You can listen to music that comes directly from St. Joseph artists, and the more St. Joseph music we put on the air, the more St. Joseph is recognized nationally and internationally," Anthony said. According to Anthony, not only is an organization like the Foundation a rarity, but he knows of no other music foundation that has its own web radio station.

Brenda Lindstrom: *Semper Fidelis*

Two years ago, Brenda Lindstrom was sampling entries at the annual United Cerebral Palsy chili cookoff in the Civic Arena. "I walked upstairs and saw three Marines in a League uniform and beers in hand. I knew I'd found my home," Brenda, a Western student, said with a laugh.

Brenda joined the Marine Corps in 1992 and had planned on making it her career, but her plans were dashed when a knee injury ended her military service five years later.

The Marines she met at the cookoff were part of the Northwest Detachment #180 Marine Corps League and Brenda immediately joined the group. Last spring she was elected as the League's first female commandant. In the summer, she was appointed vice commandant of the western division of the League.

"They are an outstanding group of individuals," she said. "When I got out (of the Marine Corps), I felt I lost a part of myself. This detachment has helped me find my place in the world. It's exactly what I needed."

The League, the only one in northern Missouri, provides honor detail at veterans' funerals, usually about three or four a month. "Every veteran has earned it," Brenda said of the honor detail. "We feel strongly about providing it no matter which branch they served in; the inter-service rivalry ceases at that point."

The League has conducted opening ceremonies at the annual Freedom Festival in Skidmore, Mo., and serves as color guard for veterans' ceremonies and parades throughout northwest Missouri. There are currently 57 members, and Brenda would love to increase those numbers, especially with young Marines.

Brenda enrolled at Western after graduating from Savannah High School in Savannah, Mo., but only stayed a semester. After several jobs that included a stint in Houston, she joined the Marines and served as a military police officer. She said she wouldn't change her military experiences for anything.

"For anyone who hasn't stood on yellow footprints at 3 a.m. in boot camp with someone yelling at you, it's hard to explain," she says of what she learned in the military. "It's very hard to describe to someone why we do what we do, what drives us to carry on in the face of adversity."

She returned to Western in the fall of 2007 to work on a computer information systems degree and plans to graduate in December 2010.

"No matter where you go, if you see the eagle, globe and anchor (Marine Corps symbol), you know you have a friend and family." ■

\$450,000 grant

The Missouri Regional Center for Public Safety Innovation (MO-RCPI) at Western received a \$450,000 grant from the federal Department of Justice to continue its national training mission. Sen. Claire McCaskill announced the grant award.

MO-RCPI began delivering training to law enforcement officers across the country two years ago, after receiving a \$714,000 grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

"In the last 18 months, we've done more than 250 days of training from coast to coast," said Bryan Courtney '96, MO-RCPI director. More than 2,500 officers from more than 2,000 federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies have attended training sessions, including Gangs 101, Campus Crime Prevention, Counter Terrorism Awareness, and The Seven Habits for Highly Effective People for Law Enforcement, said Bryan.

Possible future training subjects include law enforcement officer suicide prevention, intelligence-led policing and reducing crime through traffic enforcement.

The RCPI also gives Western students applied learning and internship opportunities, Bryan said. Undergraduates have served as interns and student workers in the RCPI, and Bryan has been able to use his contacts with law enforcement agencies to place students in external internships locally and nationally. Those contacts can also help students start their law enforcement careers after graduation. ■

Editor's note

The photos that accompanied the article in the Fall 2009 issue about Western students who traveled to Ecuador were taken by Juan Miguel Espinoza. ■



We're moving! *Students who call for the annual fund's Phonathon want to let you know that we are moving the Phonathon from the fall to the spring – they will contact alumni in February and March.*





International student numbers grow

Huey Shi Chew is excited. In fall 2008, as the newly hired international student coordinator, she held an orientation for two international students who were new to Western. This past fall, she welcomed 16 new students, and three international students who started last spring helped her with orientation. With the fall enrollment, Western increased its international student population from six to 23, and the students represent 12 different countries. The university also welcomed its first international graduate student in the fall.

Huey Shi admits the numbers may be small, but she says the structures across campus are beginning to fall into place and she believes the numbers will continue to grow. In fact, an intensive English program was started last spring which will help attract more Asian students. Huey Shi explained that Asia holds the biggest share of international students, and they usually don't speak English.

How the current international students came to be at Western is as diverse as their backgrounds. Along with Huey Shi's efforts, the music department recruited six piano majors from South Korea. Two

Australian students were recruited by the athletics department – one for tennis and one for softball. Two students transferred from area community colleges, one from Afghanistan joined his friend who was already a Western student, and four are exchange students from European universities. The graduate student from Bangladesh, Sujoy Kumar Chowdhury, found Western online.

Last fall, Dr. Matthew Edwards, associate professor of music and director of keyboard studies, visited Yonsei University and Seoul Arts High School in South Korea to continue to develop relationships, as three of Western's current Korean piano students attended that high school. Additionally, this spring, Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, is planning to travel to China to wrap up an agreement with two universities for Chinese students to earn two years of college credit there and complete their degree at Western.

Huey Shi said the international students in the residence halls are bonding with each other and planning several activities together. She started a coffee hour for international students and international faculty, which has been a big hit. International students and faculty also got together for several activities in the fall. "I bring people together and they have all the ideas. They are making the plans," Huey Shi said.

As Western continues to attract more international students, she says her job is to continue to make sure the structures remain in place so they have a good experience here. "I'm building on that personal touch." ■

Above: Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, and cabinet members greeted new international students during their orientation.

Above right: Mi Ra Lee, HyeYoon Cho and Ahmad Shah Salimee helped with the new international students' orientation. Right: New international students tour campus.



Afghan student welcomes internationals

Ahmad Shah Salimee moved into his room in Logan Hall one day early this past fall so he could be on hand to greet the 16 newly arrived international students, answer their questions and make them feel welcome. The Afghanistan native has been a Western student since the spring semester 2009, so he knows how important it is to feel welcome on a foreign campus.

Ahmad Shah graduated from the International School in Kabul, where most of the students, he said, plan to enroll in American or European universities after they graduate. He found out about Western from the school's principal, Gail Goolsby, who is from St. Joseph.

He thinks going to an international school probably helped him avoid any culture shock when he arrived in St. Joseph, and language wasn't an issue,

either. Ahmad Shah knows English and the two native Afghan languages, Pashto and Dari; and, because he lived in Pakistan for several years as a child, he knows two Pakistani languages, Urdu and Hindi.

Ahmad Shah admits that he misses his family (he is the oldest of six children) and his home country, so the arrival of another Afghan student, Abdul Rashid Khalili, from his high school this past fall meant a lot to him. "I couldn't believe we were talking in our own language, I was so excited," he said. "I love having him here." The two are roommates in Logan Hall.

This past fall, Ahmad Shah, along with Hye-Yoon Cho and Mi Ra Lee, two students from Korea who had also arrived for the Spring 2009 semester, helped Huey Shi Chew, international student coordinator, with orientation for the new international students. "We tried our best to give them the feeling that they should know all the buildings. We tried to help them," he said.

Ahmad Shah had planned to major in business management at Western, but while dealing with delays in obtaining his student visa for several months, he got involved with an organization and attended some government meetings in Afghanistan. That made him change his mind and his major to political science. "Hopefully I can go back and get involved in government. I think I can help."

He said some students have been asking him questions about his home country, but he doesn't mind. "I really appreciate their questions and I appreciate their interest. I say to them, 'Don't feel like you're going to offend me. Ask me anything you want.'" ■



RPDC at MWSU

The Missouri Legislature recently allocated funding for a new Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) located on Western's campus, and Dr. Sherry Copeland was named its director. The center serves school districts in Buchanan, Clay and Platte Counties.

RPDCs work directly with school districts in their region to provide professional development to teachers and administrators. The legislature approved two additional centers to bring the number in the state to 11, and all are associated with campuses.

"There will be a very collaborative relationship between Western and this RPDC," Sherry said. "The university is taking a front and center role in the center." Most of the workshops for the area schools, she said, will be held on campus. ■

Fall 2009 enrollment numbers

Here are the figures from the four-week enrollment count for Fall 2009:

- Official enrollment figure – 5,735, a 3.6 percent increase from Fall 2008.
- Full-time students – 4,089, the first time Western has had more than 4,000 full-time students.
- Undergraduate – 5,665. Graduate – 70.
- Credit hours enrolled – 66,922, a five percent increase from last fall.
- First-time freshmen – 1,185. ■

Foundation welcomes new board members

At its October meeting, the MWSU Foundation elected four new members: Seth Wright, an attorney at Polsinelli Shughart PC, was elected to a two-year term; Dave Shinneman, president of Shinneman Management Company, to a one-year term; and Jennifer Kneib '89, branch manager of MetLife Home Loans; and Dirck Clark '85, chief business development officer at Heartland Health, to full three-year terms.

Thank you to retiring board members Loah Stallard, who served 12 years; and Todd Ehlert, who served three years. ■

The great Outdoor Semester

Sophomore Lindsay O'Neal sees the planet as a large puzzle, and she likes to explore how everything fits together and the role of humans in it. That was one of the reasons she decided to participate in Energy and Life, Western's Outdoor Semester, a multi-disciplinary program that included travel along with the classroom work.

For 13 days this past fall, seven students, four faculty members and one community member trekked from Missouri to Wyoming with stops in

Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota, touring several facilities to learn firsthand about wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric power, fossil fuels and nuclear power.

They also enjoyed beautiful landscapes, museums, a lot of wildlife (student Josh Swindler called bison "incredibly arrogant"), waterfalls and snow.

Dr. Ken Dangel, associate professor of geography, taught Sustainable Energy, one of the course requirements for the Outdoor Semester, and arranged the tours of all the

Ken said they even visited a coal mine in Wyoming that is St. Joseph's coal provider. "I hope students gained a better understanding of energy in general, what we're using right now and how that impacts the physical environment."

Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin, professor of English, said the trip taught the students about competing land use interests and a lot about nature and wildlife. She arranged the visit to Yellowstone National Park, which included spending an entire day with two biologists who helped the students observe wolves.

"It was awesome," Lindsay said. "We heard them howl. It was breathtaking."

Elizabeth's Environmental Literature class was also a required course for the Outdoor Semester, and students had the option to enroll in Fitness and Wellness, Writing and Research and Introduction to Psychology as part of the program, as well.

Student Kurt Morrison said one thing he liked about the trip was the variety of places that they visited, which included energy plants, museums and parks. "It was a great opportunity," Kurt said of the trip. "I have always been interested in renewable energy."

He said Yellowstone was a real treat, because they stayed in cabins with no televisions or distractions. "It was nice to be separated from the hustle and bustle of daily life for awhile."

"We wanted to help students understand our planet and our position on it," Elizabeth said. "They learned a great deal." ■

Outdoor Semester students and faculty pose for a photo in front of one of the many museums they visited on their "Energy and Life" travels.

"We wanted to help students understand our planet and our position on it."

- Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin

energy facilities. He likes that Outdoor Semester gives students the background in the classroom and then actual experiences on the trip.

"Energy is an area that a lot of people don't have a good understanding of, and I wanted to expand students' information. When they actually get to look at the facilities, it really puts things into perspective."



Encouragement: paying it forward

Two alumni, Rose Briscoe '92 & '95, and Teri White '01, became instructors in the criminal justice/legal studies department this fall and are great inspirations to their students.

"On the first day of class, I told my students that if they ever got discouraged, come and talk to me," said Rose, who teaches a Criminal Evidence class. "I said by the time I told them my story they'd be ready to get back up and try again."

Rose, a criminal defense attorney with the Missouri Public Defender System, knew she wanted to be a lawyer from the time she was seven years old, but she had no idea how difficult it would be to achieve her goal.

After earning an associate degree in legal studies and then a bachelor's in criminal justice from Western, she had to apply several times before she was admitted into law school because her Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score was lower than she had hoped. After five years

of applying, she was finally admitted into the Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., in 1999.

It was great news, but there was one little glitch - she received her acceptance letter when she was nine months pregnant. A short stint at Thomas Cooley told her it wasn't the right time, so she stepped out and re-applied three years later. She attended Thomas Cooley for a year, earned great grades and transferred to Washburn University School of Law in Topeka, Kan. By then a single parent, she planned to commute from St. Joseph, Mo., but that only lasted one semester before she had to drop out to earn some money. But Rose never gave up. She returned to Washburn and finally earned her degree in 2006.

"Students may not be able to see it at the moment, but all the challenges they are facing right now will make them better, stronger and smarter," she says. "How I got my law degree was the hardest thing I had to do in my life. But I did it."

continued on page 26

Rockhurst Agreement

Western and Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., have signed an agreement to allow graduates of Western's Steven L. Craig School of Business to more easily pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.

Western graduates who take advantage of this opportunity will be able to complete their MBA degree at Rockhurst's Helzberg School of Management in 30 credit hours if they meet the Helzberg School entrance requirements and enroll within one year of their graduation from Western. The program is commonly referred to as a "Fifth-year MBA."

"Our two schools share a commitment to helping our students understand business through a combination of theory and real-world experience," said Carol Roever, interim dean of the Craig School of Business. "With an undergraduate degree from the Craig School of Business and an MBA from the Helzberg School of Management, our graduates will be well prepared for the challenges of today's business environment." ■

Legal assistant program re-approved

This past August, the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates granted re-approval to the legal assistant program, and the term of approval is for a period of seven years. The program has been approved by the ABA since 1986.

The site team report stated the following: "Missouri Western State University has a strong Legal Assistant Program. It has dedicated administration and faculty that present an educational program for degree and certificate program students that meets ABA Guidelines provisions for general education and legal specialty courses. The Program has a good reputation in the local legal community and has a strong advisory committee."

Suzanne Kisson, JD, assistant professor, has been the legal assistant program director since 2006. ■

Campus Kudos

- **Dr. Nathanael May**, assistant professor of music and director of keyboard studies, served as artistic director for the soundSCAPE Composition and Performance Exchange, held in Pavia, Italy. The festival for new music was attended by 36 resident composers and performers from around the world. The festival concert series played to packed houses at 14 concerts over 11 days. Nathanael is one of the founders of soundSCAPE.
- **Dr. Durai Sundaramoorthi**, assistant professor of business, was awarded Best Research Poster at a Mayo Clinic Conference. Durai developed SIMNA, a simulation of nurse activity, which is the first of its kind for the purpose of evaluating different nurse-patient assignment policies.
- **Teresa Harris**, assistant professor of art, received an Award for Excellence at the 2009 National Juried Exhibition in Berkeley, Calif. Her work, "Upon Opening," was one of about 70 pieces selected from more than 900 entries. Her work was also on the cover of the gallery invitation for the exhibition.
- **Dave Tushaus**, associate professor of legal studies; and **Joanne Katz**, professor of legal studies; were awarded a \$74,807 grant from the US Election Assistance Commission for their college poll worker program.
- For the sixth year, **Rico McNeela**, associate professor of music, served as a performer, teacher and administrator for the 29th annual, eight-week Luzerne Chamber Music Festival in Lake Luzerne, N.Y. Rico served as the director of student chamber music for four weeks and was a member of the teaching and performance faculty for the entire festival. He has been appointed music director for the 2010 junior session orchestra. ■



Trading space

Western opened a door to Wall St. this fall when they converted a conference room in the Steven L. Craig School of Business into the Koenig-Simmons Trading Center. Designed to replicate a real trading room, a large-screen TV is continuously running a ticker of trading information, and 14 computers loaded with financial trading system software are giving students experience in what a trading room is really like.

Carol Roever, interim dean of the Craig School of Business, calls the room a “great convergence of energy,” because it was initiated by students, guided by faculty, and supported by alumni.

The alumni support came from two donors – Steven Koenig, who played football for Western in the 1980s, and Jeremy Simmons ’06, a managing director for Allied Business Group in Leawood, Kan.

Steven is managing director and co-head of Latin America Sales and Training for JP Morgan in New York, where he spends part of his workday in a trading room. He is a long-time Western supporter and visits at least once a year to lecture in the Craig School of Business.

Jeremy earned degrees in finance and economics from Western and wanted to support the trading room in memory of his brother, Jamie. Jamie was killed in a car accident when he was a freshman

at Western in 2006, and Jeremy and his family have been holding annual basketball tournaments to raise money in his memory. When Jeremy found out about the possibility of a trading room on campus, the family decided to support that. “The trading room could help hundreds of students each semester,” he said.

Jeremy said he took an applied portfolio management class in graduate school at University of Kansas in Lawrence, where 30 students managed a portfolio with real money. “It was the best class I ever had. I would love to see Missouri Western have a class like that.”

“It’s a great opportunity for students. Some bigger universities don’t even have this,” Steven said. “This will set Missouri Western apart. This is unique.” He added that the room will be a great recruiting tool for prospective students.

The software, Financial Trading System, offers a real-time environment where students trade with each other. Students manage portfolios using live data from financial markets and learn how to operate in a trading room environment. Carol said the room will be used by finance professors, investment classes and several other courses, including Introduction to Business.

She said students will learn the principles in the classroom, then go to the

trading center and immediately apply those principles. “It really captures what applied learning means,” she said.

Five finance students with a lot of initiative and vision was another converging factor, according to Carol. Two years ago, after attending a national conference for business students with Dr. Sangkyoo Kang, assistant professor of finance, the students returned to Western talking about establishing a trading room. They created a power point presentation for prospective donors and began writing letters. “They were so excited,” Carol said. “And Dr. Kang encouraged them.”

Larry Motley Jr. ’09, said he loved working on the trading room project, even though he knew he would graduate before it came to fruition. “But it was the most exciting time in my college career,” he said. “I truly enjoyed being a part of something so big; it was really special.” Larry said that in the future, he would love to see a student-managed investment fund at Western that uses real money.

“It’s awesome that we made it (the trading center) happen and made the university better for future students,” Larry said.

“Students can get an idea of what the market is about; I’m proud and honored to be a part of it,” Steven said. “I hope students will use it for years to come.” ■

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2009

Western inducted seven individuals and one team into its Athletics Hall of Fame during ceremonies Sept. 19: **Carl Butcher '72, LeAnn Martens-Francis '86, Dave Sego '77, Mike Solomon '81, Vince Thomson '86, Myron Unzicker, Cheryl Williams-Hobbs '88, and the 1973-74 basketball team.**

Carl, of St. Joseph, Mo., began his career at Western in 1980 and served as chair of the criminal justice/legal studies department for 15 of the 20 years he was here. He is a member of the Gold Coat Club Board and is a top fundraiser nearly every year. For 20 years, he ran the clock at every home football and basketball game. He also serves as the assistant chair for the Celebrity Golf Committee.

LeAnn, of Liberty, Mo., was a two-sport athlete whose volleyball career culminated with a second-team NAIA All-American selection in 1985. She finished with 491 kills and a career-high 278 blocks. She also received first-team

District 16 and All-CSIC honors her junior and senior seasons. Her team placed fourth in the 1983 NAIA national tournament and earned a seventh place finish in 1985.

Dave played third base in more than 50 games in three out of the four seasons for the Griffons. He hit 41 RBIs his senior season to go along with a .364 batting average on 56 hits. He finished his career with 110 RBI and 174 hits. Dave lives in Southlake, Texas.

In the two years he was a starting quarterback, **Mike**, of Columbia, S.C., threw for 27 touchdowns, 18 of those coming in his senior season. Mike led the Griffons to a 1979 Moila Shrine Bowl victory where his team scored 72 points and he was named bowl MVP. He continued his career into the NFL and in 1981, signed a professional contract with the Kansas City Chiefs. He played in the Northern California League where he led his team to the championship game in

1981. He signed with the Boston Breakers of the USFL in 1983.

Vince received second team NAIA All-American honors in 1984. He was an All-CSIC performer both of the years he played for the Griffons. In 1984, he recorded four sacks for a loss of 33 yards and had another five tackles for loss. The Kansas City Chiefs selected him in the seventh round of the 1985 NFL draft before he went on to play in the Canadian Football League for two years. Vince lives in Cleveland.

Myron has served as an athletic trainer for Western for 25 years. He also teaches in the physical education department. Myron earned his bachelor's degree in education from Northern Illinois University and his master's in physical education from Ball State University.

Cheryl, of Overland Park, Kan., exploded onto the scene for the Griffon volleyball club in 1986, her junior year. She accumulated 1,156 kills and 489 blocks in two seasons. She received second team NAIA All-American honors in 1986. The CSIC and District 16 named her to their first team during her junior and senior seasons.

The **1973-74 men's basketball team** put together a 25-6 record and the school's first appearance in the NAIA national tournament. The Griffons received the No. 13 overall seed in the tournament and won their opening round game against Monmouth, the school's first victory in the NAIA tournament. A day later, they lost to the eventual runner-up. Western set an NAIA attendance record (8,284 people) at the loss. ■



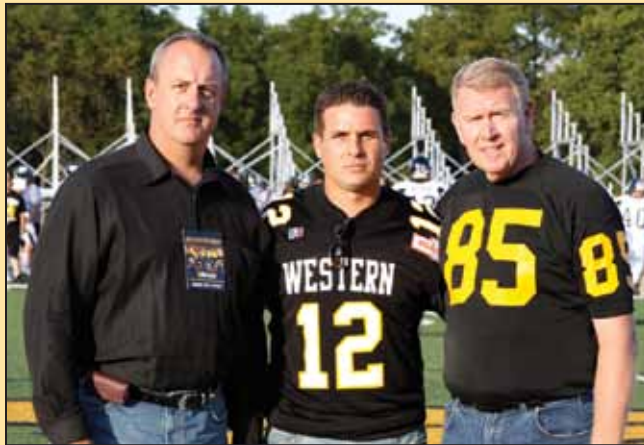
Members of the Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2009 include Vince Thomson '86, LeAnn Martens-Francis '86, Cheryl Williams-Hobbs '88, Myron Unzicker, Carl Butcher '72, Dave Sego '77, Mike Solomon '81, and below, the 1973-74 men's basketball team.



Fall Sports

Football

National rankings and setting records were the themes for the 2009 edition of Griffon football. As the 40th season unfolded and as the victories mounted, each game marked another milestone in the Griffon record book. In mid-October, the team was ranked No. 12 nationwide in Div. II and third in the NCAA Super Region Four.



In the Griffon's 49-7 home opener victory against Northern State, quarterback Drew Newhart threw five first-half touchdown passes, tying Kyle Westenberg's 2003 performance against Missouri Rolla. One week later, Drew was part of another record, this time the longest pass and play from scrimmage in school history, a 98-yard scoring strike to wide receiver Cedric Houston. A defensive record fell a week later as free safety Nate Bruto's 100-yard interception return for a touchdown broke open a close game and paced the Griffons to a 58-31 victory over Fort Hays State. A week later, it was the leg of place kicker Brad Beckwith providing the heroics. With the score tied at 34, Brad's school-record 53-yard field goal as time expired sent the Family Day crowd of 5,011 into a frenzy and gave the Griffons to a 37-34 victory over Washburn.

A heartbreaker 35-34 loss against Missouri Southern gave Michael Hill a career-high 143 yards rushing on 28

carries and Drew a career-high 383 yards passing.

The Griffons ended the season 9-3 overall, 6-3 in the MIAA and a seventh appearance in the Mineral Water Bowl, where they defeated Augustana College, S.D., 34-21.

At the end of the regular season, 13 Griffons received MIAA honors, with Cedric Houston, wide receiver, and Nathan Martin, offensive lineman, named to the first team. They were also named to the All-Super Region 4 second team. Junior Steven Jones, offensive lineman, was named to the CoSIDA Academic

All-America second team. Steven had earlier been named to the Academic All-District 7 first team, and Kip Peters, tight end, was named to the second team.

The Griffons are coached by Jerry Partridge '86.

Women's Soccer

A solid nucleus, plus added depth and some freshman speed have equaled some victories for the women's soccer team, finishing the season with six wins and going 4-3-1 at home. The Griffons boasted two of the top 10 point scorers in the MIAA: Abby Widrig ranked fifth in the league in total points with 16, including six goals and four assists. Jessica Martin



Above left: As part of several events taking place throughout the 40th season of Griffon football, three alumni participated in the pregame coin toss with current Griffon quarterback Drew Newhart prior to the Sept. 19 game against Washburn. Griffon Hall of Famers Tim Boender '84, MIAA all-time leading passer Kasey Waterman '02, and Zack Workman '74, pose for the picture following the toss. These three alumni appeared with Drew in all football promotional materials commemorating the milestone season. Above: An ariel photo showing the record crowd of 10,129 during the game against Northwest. Take note of the new visitor-side bleachers that now seat 2,200.

National championships in St. Joseph

Griffon athletics, in conjunction with the City of St. Joseph, is preparing for a championship spring when they host the 2010 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball and Softball National Championships. St. Joseph Civic Arena will serve as the site of the women's basketball championship March 23, 24 and 26, with the championship game being televised on ESPN 2. The softball national championship will be held at Heritage Park May 27-31 with the championship game being televised on CBS College Sports. For ticket information to both championships, log on to www.ncaasports.com. ■

MIAA basketball tourney March 4-7

Make plans now to support Griffon basketball as they head to Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium for the 2010 MIAA Basketball Championships March 4-7. The Griffon women will open action on Thursday while the Griffon men begin play on Friday. Game times will be determined by order of finish in the conference and will be available Feb. 28.

Last season, the Griffon men made an exciting run to the championship game. Tickets for the tournament will be available in the Western ticket office Feb. 1. To get your tickets, call 816-271-5904.

Watch your e-mail and griffonalumni.org for information on the annual alumni gathering that will take place around the tournament. ■

For tickets to any home athletic event call the athletics department at 816-271-5904. To stay up-to-date on your favorite Griffon teams, log on to the official website of Griffon Athletics at www.gogriffons.com.



Don't miss a minute of the exciting action this winter as Griffon Basketball gears up for another run through the MIAA Conference schedule. Check out the schedule at www.gogriffons.com. The Griffon men returned nine players from a team that a year ago made it to the championship of the MIAA Basketball Championships while the Griffon women return a strong nucleus and some key additions that should make this year's team exciting to watch. Get your tickets now by calling the athletics department at 816-271-5904. Ticket office hours are 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. ■

returned from a season-ending injury a year ago and ranked ninth in total points with 13, including five goals and three assists. With no seniors on this year's team, 2010 looks bright for Coach Jeff Hansen's club.

Volleyball

New head coach Cory Frederick began the rebuilding process for the volleyball team this past season. The team eclipsed their 2008 win total, won a tournament with a perfect 4-0 and ran off a six-match winning streak in the process.

Individually, outside hitter Kelli Sicner had an outstanding season. She was named to the All-Tournament Team in the Griffons' first three events of the season and led the Griffons in several statistical categories. Outside hitter Meghan Voelz also had a solid season and ranked second on the team in kills and total attacks.

For the second straight season, the volleyball team did their part in raising awareness for breast cancer research with

the second annual PINK OUT game in October. The first 200 fans in attendance received a free Griffon volleyball pink t-shirt. Members of Western's student-athletes advisory committee sold pink ribbons for a \$1 donation with all proceeds being donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research.

Women's Golf

The women's golf program, under the direction of third-year head coach Cathy Habermehl, made great strides during the fall season. The team finished in the top 10 in all six of their fall events, including second-place finishes at the Bearcat Invitational in Maryville and the Avila Invitational in Kansas City. Sisters Lexi and Casi Webb led the team in individual stroke average at 84.1 with sophomore Kristin Cooley right behind them at 84.2. The team returns to action this spring with the highlight event being the MIAA Conference Golf Tournament at Shoal Creek Golf Club in Kansas City April 19-20. ■

dark sweet wa
nd alert my sen



Seth & Kelsey & the chocolate factory

Death by chocolate? Quite the contrary. Seth Lyons '08, and his fiancé, Kelsey McFarland '08, have brought a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory (RMCF) store back to life in Silverthorne, Colo., thanks to a Western benefactor and an innovative class in the Steven L. Craig School of Business.

It's all part of the Craig School of Business' focus on entrepreneurship, and it started when Steve Craig, who pledged \$5.5 million to Western to establish the School of Business, found out about an RMCF that was closing in Silverthorne last year. He thought it would offer a great opportunity for a student in the School of Business to reopen the store, so he began working with Greg Pope, RMCF's senior vice president, franchise development.

Western students who graduated in the fall of 2008 or were planning to graduate the following May were notified that they could enroll in an Applied Entrepreneurship course that could ultimately result in one of them having an ownership opportunity with Steve in the RMCF franchise.

"Organizationally we were very excited about the opportunity," Greg said. "It was a way to see if a program like this could work."

Seth, a business finance major, was one of four who took the class in the spring semester of 2009, taught by Rick Zimmer, instructor of business, and Dr. Faye Smith, professor of business. Seth had been working in management at a local auto parts store and planning to go to law school, but he always thought that one day he would like to be an entrepreneur, so he decided to take the class. The class visited the Silverthorne site for the store in March, and after the visit, he and Kelsey, who graduated with an economics degree, decided they would move out there if given the opportunity.

Seth was selected, and currently, Seth, Kelsey and Steve own an LLC that owns the RMCF franchise. The store, in a large strip mall right off Interstate 70, also sells ice cream and coffees along with the chocolate goodies. Seth and Kelsey create about half of the chocolate products right in the store.





"We are so pleased that Steve Craig's vision and his confidence in our students created a unique opportunity for our students," said Carol Roever, interim dean of the Craig School of Business.

Steve said the ownership opportunity for Seth and Kelsey includes something very unique – their alma mater's willingness to stay involved with them and support them.

"Rick and the rest of the faculty are making themselves available for Seth and Kelsey so they are not overwhelmed right out of the box," Steve said. "I don't know of any other university that does that."

Carol noted that the department has assigned Rick as a faculty mentor for Seth and Kelsey. Seth said he appreciates the university's support and to return the favor, he hopes to hire a Western student as an intern.

The class taught him a lot, Seth said, but nothing could have prepared him for the amount of work it took to get the business open by Labor Day. "Kelsey has been great. I don't know if we have ever worked that hard before."

The chair of the Craig School of Business Advisory Council, Dave Shinneman, did understand what Seth and Kelsey were going through. Dave said he opened seven different McDonald's restaurants throughout his career and he knows what it takes to get a new store opened.

So Dave drove 12 hours from St. Joseph, Mo., to Silverthorne to help stock shelves,

open boxes and work 12 hours a day doing whatever needed to be done to help a fellow entrepreneur. "He helped us out a lot; we appreciate it," Seth said.

"They are two great young people. I think they have what it takes to make it a success," Dave said of Seth and Kelsey. "They understand the time it takes to be successful."

"Business is going well," Seth said. "We're very excited."

Death by chocolate? Quite the contrary. More like Kelsey and Seth by chocolate. ■



Seth Lyons '08, and Kelsey McFarland '08, right, make fudge; and left, show off the merchandise in their Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Middle photo: Greg Pope, Tom Payne, owner of several Subway restaurants; Seth, and Steven Craig, pose for a photo on Western's campus. Greg, Tom and Steven selected Seth for the franchise opportunity.



*D*an Nicoson, executive director of the Foundation, is watching the economy closely these days, paying attention to interest rates and state funding and the economy's impact on charitable giving. He says nonprofit organizations like Western are in somewhat of a tough spot.

"In the last two years, the economy has left more people feeling like they're not in a good position to give, but decreasing state funding makes the university's needs greater than ever."

For fiscal year 2009 (ending June 30, 2009), Western received a five and a half percent increase in state appropriations from

the previous fiscal year, but for fiscal year 2010, there was no increase in appropriations.

No-strings giving

Additionally, the Foundation's endowment fund lost \$324,249 in fiscal year 2008, and in fiscal year 2009, the fund lost \$1,408,992. Dan said Western's Foundation has fared better than many universities throughout the economic downturn since it has a fairly conservative investment policy. For example, he said that about 50 percent of the Foundation's investments are in stocks, so they have taken a lesser hit than university foundations that have a larger percentage of their funds in stocks.

That's why undesignated funds are so important to the Foundation in the current economy, Dan said. "Undesignated funds are essential in tight budgetary times. We try to see what the needs are on campus that donors have not designated funds for."

Those funds allow the university to respond to needs that were not necessarily anticipated at the beginning of the fiscal year. For example, a department may call and say they have an opportunity to buy a large budget item at a great price, and the Foundation may be able to partially fund it for them. The Foundation uses undesignated funds for those types of purchases if someone has not specified a donation for that purpose.

"Our prime responsibility is to make sure a restricted donation is used according to a donor's designation. We take donor restrictions seriously and make sure they are met," Dan said. "That is why undesignated funds, because of their flexibility, are so valuable throughout the year."



Al Purcell, chair of the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors, said he likes that undesignated funds support students and faculty to travel to conferences and seminars to not only learn, but to present their research.

If you look at the Foundation's figures, the total amount of undesignated dollars looks pretty good – \$3,550,452. But Dan explained that of that total amount, only 37 percent – approximately \$1,328,725 – is available for the Foundation to use each year. The balance, 63 percent, includes fixed assets, such as mineral rights, where only what is generated by the total can be spent; reserve funds, and pledges receivable, which is money pledged by a donor but not received by the Foundation yet.

In an effort to increase undesignated funds and encourage consistent and regular giving, the Foundation established the Western League for Excellence in 2005. Dan said by enrolling, League members say they intend to make an annual undesignated gift at a certain level. Members are recognized in the Foundation's annual report and are complimentary guests at the annual Foundation appreciation dinner each spring. Currently there are almost 350 members; Dan would like to see membership at 500 (the current list of members starts on page 18).

Al and his wife, Annie, are charter members of the League. "We believe the university is a vital asset to the community. When we can provide

Vaselakos gift benefits Western

Ten years after his death in 1999, the MWSU Foundation received a gift from the charitable remainder trust of John Vaselakos, valued at approximately \$500,000. John established the trust with the stipulation that the trust terminate 10 years after his death and that the Foundation receive 50 percent of the fund value. The gift is undesignated.

John, who was born in 1926, was an avid supporter of Western. He was a member of the Foundation Board of Directors and one of the founders and charter members of the athletics department Gold Coat Club. He was a contributor to Leah Spratt Hall and the capital campaign in 1995. John also served on the campaign for the lighting project of Spratt Memorial Stadium and the committee to finance the clock tower. One of Western's residence halls was named in honor of his wife, Betty, and him when it was completed in 1995.

John and Betty, who died in 1994, were honorary members of the Heartland Health Foundation and were active in the American Cancer Society, St. Joseph

Safety Town, the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, Ronald McDonald House, Boy Scouts of America, St. Joseph Symphony and Camp Quality.

He and his brother, Pete, began the McDonald's restaurant franchise in St. Joseph, Mo., in 1963 and eventually owned three restaurants in the city. John retired in 1990.

"We are grateful for the generosity of John Vaselakos," said Jerry Pickman '85, director of development. "Supporters like him are very important to Western."

"John and Betty Vaselakos are two wonderful examples of the tremendous community support that Western has enjoyed since its earliest days as a junior college."

- Jerry Pickman '85,
director of development

Jerry noted that a charitable remainder trust like the one John established is a good giving tool for people in certain circumstances. In a charitable remainder trust, the donor sets aside a certain amount of money in a trust, and the trust will pay the donor or designated beneficiary an annual income for the rest of their lives or for a set amount of years.

"There are a lot of advantages to it," he said, explaining that the donor gets a tax deduction, it takes the money out of their taxable estate and it can be funded with stocks.

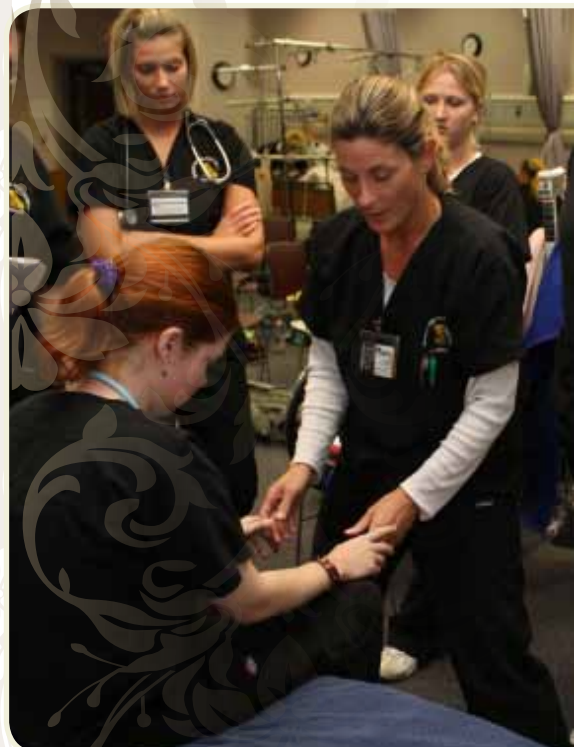
"John and Betty Vaselakos are two wonderful examples of the tremendous community support that Western has enjoyed since its earliest days as a junior college." ■

financial support for students and faculty, the whole community benefits," Al said. "And the League gives the Foundation consistent support they can count on."

"When we started the League, we were implementing a program that is a staple at most colleges and universities," Dan said. "Annual giving clubs are common in the higher ed world."

Undesignated funds are so essential to the university that one of the goals of Achieving Greatness, Western's capital campaign, was \$1 million for emerging needs.

"We are really appreciative of those who have stayed the course and continued to give in these economic times," Dan said. ■



Western League for Excellence Members

No-strings giving



The Western League for Excellence is an honorary society of donors to the MWSU Foundation in support of Western's mission. Contributions to the League are undesignated and provide the Foundation with the flexibility to meet current needs of the university. Members of the Western League for Excellence have expressed an intent to contribute at a certain level each year and are recognized in divisions according to their level of contributed support. The following roster contains the names of those individuals and businesses who are current members of the League as of June 30, 2009.

** Denotes Charter Member*

† Denotes Deceased

Lifetime Members

Michael D. DePriest, M.D. and Barbara A. Braznell*

Founder's Circle - \$5,000 or more

Gray Manufacturing Company, Inc.*
Joseph L. and Anne R. Gray*
Pete and Staci Gray*
Hillyard Companies

Regent's Circle - \$1,000 - \$4,999

Altec Industries, Inc.*
Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Baltezor*
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City*
R. Dan and Dale Boulware
Brown Transfer & Storage/Brown Mannschreck Business Systems*
Dr. and Mrs. Dan L. Colgan*
Commerce Bank*
Dan and Chris Danford*
Mr. Jerome F. Downs
Ellison Auxier Architects*
Bob and Susan Fay*
Karen Fulton*
Phyllis and Bill Gondring*
James T. and Karen M. Graves*
Phil and Linda Holmes*
Dr. Sangkyoo Kang
Carole Kleeman Tuttle*
S. Chris Looney*
Carlos and Carol Moya*
Dan and Linda Nicoson*
Jerry and Shannon Pickman*
Brent M. Porlier - Porlier Outdoor Advertising Co.*
Annie and Al Purcell*
Jim and Lauren Scanlon*
Emil Sechter*
St. Joseph News-Press/St. Joseph Cablevision*
U.S. Bancorp Foundation
Jane Urquhart
Bob and Laurel Vartabedian

Greg and Joleen VerMulm*
Zack and Mary Workman

President's Circle - \$500-\$999

Stephen J. and Nancy R. Briggs*
Drs. W. Steven and Evelyn Brooks*
Bill and Joy Cole
Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Cotter*
John and Deb Ellis
Marc K. Evans
Richard and Sharon Evers*
Jane and Lyman Frick*
Kevin and Esther George*
John and Karen Grace
Edward H. Haffey
Leila D. and Carroll C. Hicks*
Ralph and Norma Hiller
Jason and Tara Horn*
Bob Keener
Linda Kerner*
Mel and Kay Klinkner
Ronald S. Koozer*
Colleen A. Kowich
Lowell and Leslie Kruse*
Kirk and Lorna Lawrence*
Patt and Sherri Lilly*
Morton, Reed, Counts & Briggs*
Deena R. Murphy
James and Jeanne Murphy*
Nodaway Valley Bank
George Richmond*
J.L. Robertson
Joyce Rochambeau*
Jim and Carol Roever*
Rupp Funeral Home*
Charles and Margaret Salanski
Brad and Lisa Scott
St. Joseph Plbg. & Htg. Inc.
Larry R. Stobbs
Jon Styslinger
Dennis and Sherry Thompson*
James M. and Kathy Thompson*
UMB Bank*
Ralph and Jan Young

Cabinet's Circle - \$250-\$499

Al J. Mueller Construction*
Ted and Shelly Allison
Christine E. Awender
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bangerter*
Cheryl and Ross Bilby*
Dr. Brenda Blessing*
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Bragin
Dr. Michael and Mrs. Luann Cadden*
Citizens Bank & Trust
Gary and Mary Jean Clapp
Clifton Gunderson, L.L.P.*
Jeanie C. Crain*
Steve and Patty Culver*
Jeanne and Don Daffron*
Frank and Mary Beth Davis
Todd and Patty Eckdahl*
Daniel O. Eckhoff*
Susie Evans
John David Foster
Richard and Eva Gilmore*
Dr. Judith Grimes*
Stan and Doris Hall*
Steve and Marcy Hamilton*
Mark and Vicki Hargens*
Hausman Metal Works & Roofing, Inc.*
Daniel J. Heckman II
Kent and Janice Heier
Kayla and Jeff Hinton*
Neal G. and Diane K. Hook*
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hopkins
Roger and Debby Ideker*
Dan and Jennifer Kellogg*
Denise Kiehnhoff*
Larry and Carolyn Lawson
Janet Leachman*
Rebecca Mackoy*
Keith and Corky Marquart*
Joe and Jean Mazur
Shane and Jennifer McDonald*
Bill and Judy McMurray*
Jerry and Sandra Mogg*
Larry and Cherryl Morrow
Timothy P. Murphy M.D.*

Murray and Adriana Nabors
Nancy Pilgram*
Mike and Becky Poland
Robert and Terry Pritchett
Jim Summers Jr / Prudential Summers
Realtors*
Zachary D. Ramsay*
James and Eileen Reynolds
Roberts Roofing Co., Inc.
James H. Roth
Rep. and Mrs. Martin Rucker
Ralph and Lisa Schank
Tyson and Kim Schank*
Thomas and Julia Schneider*
Robert and Kim Sigris*
Larry and Melody Smith
St. Joseph Area Chamber of
Commerce
Staci Thornton*
Terrence P. Turner
Bruce and Mary Vaughan
Katherine and Ben Vineyard*
Jamie M. Waldren C.F.P.*
Mr.† and Mrs. John Waldron*
David A. Weber
Beth M. Wheeler*
John and Donna Wilson
Michael D. and Allene Wright*
Stephen and Barbara Wurtzler*
Chuck and Bobbi Zimmerman*

Dean's Circle - \$100-\$249

Dr. Jimmy and Janice Albright
James W. and Melinda M.
Allaman*
Dr. and Mrs. Wm Andresen*
David C. and Sharon Ashley*
Darrel D. Ashlock
Aaron Babbitt
David E. Bahner*
Jim Bargar*
D. Craig Barnes
Jeffery K. and Beverly A. Barnes
Tom and Angie Beam*
Lorrie Beck*
Robert Bergland
Calvin and Mary Ann Bibens*
George Bishop*
Vern Boswell
Donna Jean Boyer*
Mike and Susan Bracciano*
Charles and Pam Brock III*
Norman R. Brosi
Donald R. Brown and Janet Kay Waller
Brown
Drew and Charlene Brown*
Charlene (Riemen) and Bill Bunten
Charlie and Patti Burri*
Candy D. Burton, D.V.M.
Robert and Judith Butler*
Susan and Jim Carolus
Sally and Bill Carpenter
Dr. David (Rocky) Cathcart*
Craig and Michelle Cebulko*
Michael Chiao

Terry and Tracy Christie
Dirck and Tracey Clark*
Janice Clark
Tim and Susan Conard*
Justin Copeland*
Lori Cordonnier
Jeannetta R. Danford*
Ed and Mona Dastmalchian*
Larry and Linda DeShon
Rui and Roberta Dias*
Pat Dillon
Dillon Company
Donald W. Wood & Assoc., Inc.
Don and Mary Eggebrecht
R. Todd and Nancy Ehler*
Mary Elder*
Karen and Chad Elifrits*
Jerry and Sherry Enyeart
Jolene and John Errante*
John Fabsits
Travis and Julie Fiedler*
Carl and Esther Firkins
Kevin P. Fisher
Gini Fite
Joseph P. and Jane E. Fitzgerald
Don and Joan Folks
Tony Franklin (Karen)*
Tralucia Franklin*
Dr. Joseph Friedman*
Matt Gilmour*
Ronald E. Goodman
Diane and David Gorcyca
Lucas M. Gorham
Sam and Lesley Graves
Rosalie Guyer
Cathy and Mike Habermehl*
Halbert Jewellers, Inc. (Karen Read)*
Karen M. Hamlet
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Hansen*
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Hartenbower*
Mrs. Bonnie L. Hartigan in memory of
Dr Leonard Hartigan*
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Hatten*
Jim and Cindy Hausman
Judith Hausman*
Larry and Sherry Hausman*
Randy Hawkins*
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Hayward
Cort Hegarty*
Richard and Cindy Heider
Scott and Kathy Hillyard
Landon S. Hoecker*
Michael and Jennifer Holden*
Heidi H. Hornaday*
Phil and Ronda (Knadler) Houghton*
Marilyn D. Hunt*
J Franklin Gallery - Jeannie Franklin
John and Cheryl Jarrett
Mr. and Mrs. James Jeffers*
Jerry and Linda Myers Shelter Insurance
Brent and Tara Johnson
Martin and Leslie Johnson*
Sidney and Jean Johnson*
Kendy and Jason Jones*
Tom and Eleanor Kalin

Dave and Rita Karleskint
Katherine's Distinctive Gifts*
Mr. and Mrs. E. Keeran King*
Ellen Kisker*
Randy Klein
Jennifer and Kyle Koch*
Larry and Marcy Koch*
Larry and Sharon Kosek*
Theodore M. Kranitz
Scott and Andi (Rittman) Lassiter
Geraldine Lawhon*
Tim and Roxanna Lawing*
Dr. Catherine L. Lawson*
Dr. Larry L. Lawson*
Nancy Lear
Dr. Ken and Maribeth Lee*
Jeff and Kelli Linch*
Greg and Laura Lindsteadt
Faye Litvak
Gregory D. Mason
Dr. Michael and Christina Mastio*
Don C. Matthews
Miss Barbara Ann and Miss
Marilyn E. Maxwell*
Steve and Risa McCamy
Howard and Beth McCauley*
Ms. Eleanor T. McDonald†
Dr. and Mrs. Wallace McDonald*
Hervey and Thea McGaugh*
Stephen T. and Jerri F. H. Michaels
Midwest Federal Savings & Loan
Irene Mooney
Phil and Judy Mullins*
Joseph Murray
Bill and Roseanne Mytton
Marvin Nelson
Elaine and Evan Noynaert*
Carl G. Nurski
Richard A. Optican*
Dean and Judy Ousley
Doug Paden
Nick Parker
Beverly A. Payne*
Bill and Mary Ann Penniston*
Robert and Marcia Permut*
Steve and Jeannie Pitluck*
Mrs. J. Gordon Pray*
Charlene Rainey*
Cris and Kim Ray*
Jason and Natalie Redmond
Melissa Rewinkel
Dr. Carol Reynolds*
Robert L. Ricklefs
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Robaska*
Louanne Robreau*
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Nicholas J. Saccaro
Joe Salanky
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Sanders*
Dr. and Mrs. Harry J. Sauer Jr.
Lee and Toni Sawyer*
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Schaa†
Mary Ann and Leo Schmitz*
Steve and Rhonda Schram*

Dr. and Mrs. Bob Scott
Terry and Marlene Seiter
Travis and Jenny Sherlock
Donald N. Silcott*
Bob and Kay Simpson*
George J. Slahorek
Charlene and Bob Slater*
David Slater
Lyle and Fredda Smith
St. Joseph Electric Supply
Company, Inc.*
Don and Loah Stallard*
Merrill M. Steeb*
Stephen W. Stilwell*
Brett and Kylee Strough
Bob and Mary Helen Stuber
Roger Swafford
John and Gene Teeter
Roy and Lana Tewell
Tom and Cristina Tewell
Robert and Marcie Thedinger*
Gary and Connie Thompson
Ann and Creath Thorne
Bette L. Tolbert*
Nellie M. Turner
Royal and Karen Turner
David W. Tushaus*
John and Kathy Wallace*
David and Jill Waller*
Karen M. Waller
Tom and Lynn Watkins
Tim and Kim Weddle*
Sean, Curtis and Carolyn Whithers
Steve and Cindy Black Whitlock*
Mr. and Mrs. Scott E. Williams
Tom and Tracey Williamson*
Ken Wilson
Richard S. and Lavon L. Wilson
Joyce Winston*
Nannette and Rudy Wolford*
Sharon L. Wright
Michael Zeorlin





From the Alumni Association President



Gregory VerMulm '89

Dear Fellow Alumni,

When I finally sat down the evening of Saturday, Oct. 17, I was enthusiastically exhausted. Why? Because, between 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14 and 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, more Missouri Western alumni than ever attended at least one of the 14 events planned during Homecoming. And those were only the alumni events; the students had a jam-packed schedule of their own, and many alumni attended some of those events as well.

This was truly a Homecoming to remember. From celebrating alumni and faculty accomplishments, to celebrating our Junior College days, to celebrating another football victory over the Mules

of Central Missouri – the passion for all things Griffon was everywhere. We went back in time to '69 and came away with a spirit that I hope will propel us through our centennial in 2015 and beyond.

I look forward to future alumni events and future Homecomings where we can come together, share a story, pay homage to our past and open new pathways to the future. We are Missouri Western alumni, each of us, and we are all Faithful, Proud and True.

Gregory VerMulm '89

President

Missouri Western Alumni Association

Black and gold and red all over

Western's Alumni Day at Arrowhead was a huge success, drawing one of the largest crowds ever at an event sponsored by the Alumni Association, according to Colleen Kowich, director of Alumni Services. Her office sold 265 game and tailgate tickets to alumni and friends for the Kansas City Chiefs home opener Sept. 20.

It was also St. Joseph Day at Arrowhead, so alumni shared their tailgate with St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce Diplomats and Buchanan County employees for a total of 350 tailgaters.

"The food, the crowd, the game, it was all a lot of fun," Colleen said. "Only one thing would have made it even better – a Chiefs victory."

Colleen said she plans to make Alumni Day at Arrowhead an annual event. "Now mark your calendar for Alumni Day at the K," she said, referring to the annual tailgate and game when the Royals and Cardinals meet up. Last year it was in St. Louis, and this year it will be held in Kansas City in June. ■



Alumni and friends of all ages enjoy Alumni Day at Arrowhead. Visitors to the tailgate included KC Wolf and Denny Thum, president of the Kansas City Chiefs, who is pictured above with Greg VerMulm '89, Alumni Association president.



Homecoming 2009

Back in Time to '69

“Fourteen events in 96 hours; this year’s Homecoming had something for everyone,” said Greg VerMulm ’89, president of the Alumni Association. “And everyone had a great time.” Several new events, he said, were added to the Homecoming lineup this year as part of the 40th anniversary celebration of the campus.

One special event was the dedication of a plaque commemorating the St. Joseph Junior College building at 10th and Edmond. The Junior College was located at that site from 1933 to 1969, when the present campus opened. Dr. M.O. Looney, Western’s president from 1967 to 1983, was a special guest at the dedication. The plaque unveiling was followed by a tour of the junior college, now an apartment building, and a tea at the YWCA Terrace Room.

Another former president, Dr. James Scanlon, was also honored as part of Homecoming 2009. A portrait of his wife, Lauren, and him was unveiled in Scanlon Hall, Western’s newest residence hall.

The St. Joseph Alumni Chapter also hosted a new Homecoming event Wednesday of Homecoming week – “Alumni Night at the Museum,” a wine and cheese tasting at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art. Another new event was held on Saturday – a Post-parade Party for alumni, students and employees, and their families, on campus.

This year, there were a number of groups that hosted reunions – marching band, Greeks, VIPs, Baptist Student Union – and all alumni were invited to Norty’s Bar & Grill in St. Joseph Friday evening.

In addition to the new events, the annual events were also held throughout Homecoming week. The Alumni Awards Banquet honored five alumni, a faculty member (see p. 22) and Alumni Association scholarship recipients in front of almost 200 on Thursday, and the third annual Run to the Max was held pre-parade to benefit Big Brothers, Big Sisters on Saturday. And of course, the parade and victory over the University of Central Missouri offered fun for everyone on Saturday, as well. ■



Above, top: President Emeritus Dr. James Scanlon displays a gift from Scanlon Hall's staff at the Oct. 14 ceremony unveiling a portrait of his wife, Lauren, and him that will hang in the residence hall named in his honor. Above: Kayla Kelder and Luke Akers were crowned 2009 Homecoming Queen and King at the football game.



Drs. James Scanlon and M.O. Looney, Western's former presidents, are pictured with Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western's president, by the new plaque that was dedicated Oct. 16 on the former Junior College building at 10th and Edmond. Editor's note: More photos and an article about the Junior College will be in the Spring 2010 issue.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Five alumni and a faculty member were honored at the 27th annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet during Homecoming.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

RICHARD DURST '72

Richard graduated in 1972 with a bachelor of fine arts in theatre. He earned a master of fine arts in scenery design from the University of Oklahoma. In 2006, he was selected as the eighth president of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, a liberal arts institution with an enrollment of approximately 4,200.

Prior to his appointment at Baldwin-Wallace, he served as dean of the College of Arts and Architecture at the Pennsylvania State University.

Richard has provided national leadership for several fine arts professional organizations and was executive director of the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. He is a past president of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology and the International Organization of Designers, Theatre Architects and Technicians. He is considered an international authority in theatre set design and the role of theatre in colleges.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

BRENT PORLIER '82

Brent graduated with a bachelor of science in business administration in marketing in 1982. He is the owner and president of Porlier Outdoor Advertising, a St. Louis-based company he started in 1988 that maintains more than 440 billboard faces in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois.

Brent is a member of the Western League for Excellence; he also served on Western's Alumni Association St. Louis Chapter Steering Committee from 2006-2009, and this past spring, he participated in the President's Leadership Summit on campus. He contributed billboard space to Western and was instrumental in the development of the new Faraon Street entrance sign. Brent is also a frequent lecturer for the Steven L. Craig School of Business.

He is active in many nonprofit organizations within the St. Louis area, including the Childcare Center at Marygrove, the St. Patrick Center and the St. Louis Crisis Nursery.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

DIRCK CLARK '85

Dirck graduated from Western with a bachelor of science in business administration in 1985 and is currently the chief business development officer at Heartland Health in St. Joseph.

He has been a member of Western's Board of Governors since 2004 and recently completed his second term as chair of that board. As chair, Dirck played a pivotal role in securing the agreement that made Western the home of the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp.

Along with his Board of Governors seat, he serves as policy council chairman of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce Board, as chair of the Pony Express Council for Boy Scouts of America, is a board member of the Missouri Biotechnology Association, and is a member of the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors. Dirck is also a member of the Western League for Excellence and the Gold Coat Club.

He holds a master's degree in health-care administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

FRANK THOMAS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Frank was hired as a member of the Western music department in January 1971 and retired this past spring as the director of choral activities.

Frank has been a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator at contests and festivals throughout the Midwest and was the artistic director of the St. Joseph Community Chorus from 1980 – 2009.

Frank earned a bachelor of music education and master of music education in choral conducting and voice from Wichita State University. He has done doctoral work in conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and additional work at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J.; and the Oberlin Institute of Vocal Performance Pedagogy in Oberlin, Ohio.

In 1995, he was named Artist of the Year by St. Joseph annual Mayor's Arts Awards, and in 2001, he was the recipient of the Luther T. Spayde Award from Missouri Music Educators Association for lifetime achievement and significant contributions to choral art.

HERB '35, AND PEGGY IFFERT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

CHARLIE '55, & PATTI (WILSON) '55, BURRI

Charlie and Patti have been avid supporters of Western since their junior college days.

In 1966, Charlie was hired as the college's first athletic director and held that position until he retired in 1984. When he was hired, Charlie served as chair of the physical education department, and basketball and golf coach.



Patti helped start the college's Faculty Wives Club and served as its first president. The group later became Missouri Western Women, which was a predecessor to the MWSU Ambassadors, which she also helped form. Today, Patti serves on the executive board of the Ambassadors.

Both Patti and Charlie have served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Charlie formed the Gold Coat Club and was named a lifetime member when he retired. He currently chairs the Hall of Fame committee and serves on the Celebrity Golf Classic committee.

Patti served on the 2009 Junior College Reunion Committee and on the newly formed Junior College Alumni Steering Committee. Charlie still actively participates in the Gold Coat drive each year, and they are also members of the Western League for Excellence.

After graduating from St. Joseph Junior College, Charlie and Patti earned bachelor's degrees, both in education, from Northwest Missouri State University. Both later earned master's degrees, Charlie in educational administration and Patti in guidance and counseling.

Charlie is a member of three Halls of Fame – National Association of College Directors of Athletics; National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and Missouri Western Athletics Department. ■

To see the criteria for the Distinguished Service Awards, or to nominate someone for an award, go online to www.missouri-western.edu/alumni, and click on "Alumni Recognition."

2009 Alumni Association award recipients are Patti (Wilson) '55, and Charlie '55, Burri in the front; Frank Thomas, Richard Durst '72, Brent Porlier '82, and Dirck Clark '85.

FAITHFUL, PROUD AND TRUE

We didn't have to look very far to choose this issue's *Faithful, Proud and True* alumni – Charlie '55, and Patti '55 (Wilson) Burri, the 2009 recipients of the Herb '35 and Peggy Iffert Award for Outstanding Service to the University. Their support and dedication to Western throughout the years has been exemplary! ■



Alumni making a DIFFERENCE, not a PROFIT

In 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were more than 1.64 million nonprofit organizations in the United States, and in 2006, employees of nonprofit organizations accounted for 8.1 percent of wages paid in the U.S. Below are profiles of just six of the many Western alumni who have chosen careers that make a difference – careers in the nonprofit field.

Sue White '86

When Sue White was a student more than 20 years ago, one of her professors wrote a comment across a returned paper – “You have the spirit to move people.” She has never forgotten that.

Today, as the vice president of operations/chief operations officer for the YMCA in Arlington, Texas, she hopes that comment is still true.

When Sue earned her leisure management degree, she thought she wanted to work in a corporation's wellness program, even though she was completing an internship with the local YMCA. One interview with a corporation told her that the YMCA was really where she wanted to be, and she has had a career with the nonprofit organization since she graduated.

“When you're in a nonprofit, you're tied to a mission and you love it,” she said. “My personal mission aligns with the YMCA. I like being in an organization where you really do change lives.”

Lisa (Salmons) Umphrey '87 & '92

Lisa Umphrey not only works for a nonprofit company, but the mission of her employer is to help other nonprofit organizations.

She works for Meliora Partners, Inc., out of Marshalltown, Iowa. Five out of the seven company employees travel full time, training and consulting with mostly Community Action Agencies across the country. Lisa, who works out of her home, is the travel coordinator for the company in addition to performing some consulting for the company. “The more you work with them (Community Action Agencies), the more you see the good work they do and the work they do with families,” she said.

Although she didn't plan it that way, Lisa has worked for nonprofits throughout her career. When she graduated with an executive secretary degree in 1987, she began working full time for Western, eventually for President Dr. Janet Gorman McCarthy, until 1999.

“Missouri Western is an awesome place. It's cool to see how it's grown and changed.”

John Fabsits '04

If you ask John Fabsits what he does in his position as senior district executive for the Great Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America, his response is typical of someone working in the nonprofit field: “What don't I do?” But he quickly adds that the varied job duties, which include serving as Cub Scout summer camp director at Camp Thunderbird, are what makes the job enjoyable.

John became a Cub Scout when he was eight years old and earned the Eagle Scout award when he was 15. He has worked for the council in mid-Missouri since 2005.

“It's a profession with a purpose. I know that what

I'm doing is providing experiences for youth,” he says. John loves when he hears about a scout who chose a career because of a merit badge he earned as a youth, but his greatest reward is when he sees a scout become an Eagle.

“There is a lot of pride there. The Eagle Scout Award is the only thing from your youth you keep on your resumé.”

Alicia Falter '07

If you knew Alicia Falter when she was a student at Western, you may have guessed she would have pursued a career in the nonprofit field. Not only would her major have provided a clue, but also her co-curricular activities. The social work major works for the Full Employment Council in Kansas City, Mo., helping urban youth find jobs or further their education.

At Western, Alicia was involved in the social work student organization, the campus activities board and the student Habitat for Humanity group. “I had a great experience. The extra-curricular activities helped me in my job because they made me willing to take the lead on projects.”

And why did she choose the nonprofit field? “It's great job satisfaction. I like helping people,” she said. “I feel like I accomplished something at the end of the day.”

Continued on pg. 26



FINISH!

Go to sleep
knowing you made
a difference today –
EVERYONE WINS!

Filed late report
to funding group –
lose a turn

Board member
forgets meeting –
go back 2 spaces

Helped a teen
find a job – go
ahead 3 spaces

Volunteer gets sick –
go back one space

Family learns
about wellness –
take extra turn

Boy earns
his Eagle
Scout
Badge – take
an extra turn

Called out
in the middle
of the night –
go ahead one
space

Tough economy
for nonprofits – go
back 1 space

Generous donor
found – go ahead
1 space

You inspired
someone today –
go ahead 3 spaces

Grant comes through
– advance 2 spaces

Everyone
likes new
mission
statement –
take an extra
turn

Welcome to the
**NONPROFIT
WORLD!**

WINTER 2010

Alumni making a DIFFERENCE, not a PROFIT



Jean '73, and Bill '74, Brown

Whether it's funding cycles, grant applications, being called out at all hours, or helping those in need, Jean and Bill Brown have seen firsthand every facet of what it's like to work for a nonprofit agency. They have both worked for nonprofits their entire careers.

"It's been a good career for us," Jean said. "I think we've made a difference where we've been."

Bill, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Western and a master's from University of Central Missouri, has served the Family Guidance Center in St. Joseph for 31 years and has been the supervisor of crisis intervention services for the past 11.

"I like that I've had a lot of variety," Bill said, who even had a program segment on mental health issues on KQ2, a local television station, for five years.

Jean, who has a bachelor's in social work from Western and a master's from West Virginia University, worked for Family Guidance Center for 22 years and has been the director of the YWCA in St. Joseph since 1995. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Alumni Association in 1989.

Jean said she has always enjoyed developing programs to meet people's needs. In the early 1980s, she helped develop a sex education program where the parent and child were taught together, and it brought her national attention. That program was the first of its kind in the country, and she was interviewed on 20/20, Good Morning America and many more programs. She trained other teachers, and the program is now being used all over the United States.

The couple said there have been a lot of challenges throughout their nonprofit careers, including periods of low funding and great demands on their time as they raised their two children, Abby '02 and Adam '06.

"We see a lot of pain, a lot of hurt," Jean said. "There's always more work that can be done."

"You get into this (field) wanting to help people, and then you are faced with realities. But you can still find some of that vision in nonprofits," Bill said. "You get to help a broad spectrum of people in need." ■

Encouragement: paying it forward

continued from page 9

As a student, Teri White '01, had planned to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a legal studies emphasis and find a job as a paralegal, but her professors had other ideas. They saw her potential, she says, and encouraged her to think about law school.

Teri graduated at the top of her class at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law and went to work for the law firm of Shook, Hardy and Bacon in Kansas City, Mo. Today she works in the Products Liability Defense's tobacco unit.

"Taking legal studies here really does prepare you for law school," she says. "It's a great advantage. My ranking in law school had a lot to do with the legal studies program at Western."

This past fall, when Teri returned to Western to teach an evening class she was surprised at how nervous she felt on the first day of class. "I was scared before the first class and didn't even think about enjoying it, but as I drove home afterwards I thought, 'Wow, I really loved that.'"

Now she plans to encourage the students in her class, just as her professors did for her. Some of her students have a lot of responsibilities, such as children or a full-time job, but Teri hopes she can be a role model for those who think they can't reach their goals.

She was married with a child when she transferred to Western and then had another baby as a student. While she was in law school, her third child was born.

"You just have to keep giving it everything you've got. Know who you are and know you're capable of doing a lot more than people think you can do." ■

1950s

WILLIAM GONDRING, MD MS '56, was selected as one of the section editors for the first ever internationally published Foot and Ankle Instructional Course Lectures, published by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society. His second publication, Tarsal Tunnel Outcome Surgery Series, was selected in the *European Foot and Ankle Surgery* journal.

1970s

JOSEPH L. BLILEY '74, moved to Kansas City, Mo., after living 33 years in the San Francisco Bay area. He says he would like to hear from fellow classmates. His email is djjoepither@gmail.com.

STEPHEN O. BUHMAN '75, won the Southern Illinois University (SIU) 2009 Lindell Sturgis Public Service Award. Stephen is a producer-visual media for the university and received the award for his coverage of storm-related damage and commencement ceremonies at SIU in May 2009.

CHRIS (KILLEN) DANFORD '78, was awarded Missouri Secondary School Counselor of the Year for 2009. She has served in the St. Joseph School District as a teacher and counselor for 24 years and has been a counselor at Central High School for six years.

1980s

RODDY BARNES '88, opened for "Saffire/The Uppity Blues Women" at the Missouri Theater in St. Joseph, Mo., this past fall. He tours and performs nationally and internationally as a solo act and also with one of the founding members of Saffire.

1990s

TAMMY (WILSON) STEINKAMP '90, is the coach of the Savannah High School girls golf team that won the 2009 Missouri State Championship.

RON BLAKELY '93, is the district administrator for the District 2 office in Cameron, Mo., for the Missouri Department of Corrections.

TAMELA (TAMI) MURDOCK '92, was promoted to nurse liaison for Integrity Home Care in the Home Health Division.

MITCH BARNES '98, is the principal at Braymer High School, Braymer, Mo.

TIMOTHY WARE '98, was promoted to the rank of sergeant with the St. Louis County Police Department.



DONNA (GAMBLE) WOOD '99, and her husband, Jud, announce the birth of a daughter, Delaney Jane, born June 11, 2009.

2000s



CHRISTIN (YELLIN) MUSSER '02 & '05, and her husband, Jeremy, announce the birth of a son, Remington Scott, born May 29, 2009. He joins a big sister, Addisyn Ruby.

DARIN CAMPBELL '03, and KRISTEN HANK '04, were married July 11, 2009. The couple resides in Platte City, Mo.



Potter Hall potter

Art students had an opportunity to watch a professional artist at work up close this summer when Robert Wiedmaier '75, set up a temporary studio in Potter Hall. He recently moved to the Kansas City area and was looking for a new studio when Jim Estes, professor of art, offered him a room next to the ceramics studio until he found what he needed.

"It's been enjoyable. I like interacting with the students," Robert said. "It's nice to work in a different environment than you're used to because it makes you look at things differently."

He said he's been creating pieces so long that it was interesting when students would ask him about his particular technique, something he usually doesn't have to think about.

Jim noted that Robert uses the same clay, glazes and equipment as students use in the ceramics classes here, so when the students see Robert's creations, they realize that it's not the

materials that make the beautiful finished product, but skill. "Advanced students have really benefited from seeing him work. They are able to see the attention to detail and the craftsmanship, and they see what really good work is."

When Robert was an art student, the ceramics studio was in an old house on the east side of campus and Potter Hall was a lot smaller. But one thing was the same when he returned this summer – Jim was still teaching.

The artist estimates that he makes 800-1,000 pieces per year, which he sells at art fairs all over the country. Each piece takes several weeks to complete.

"It's a great experience for the students to see someone who has made a livelihood out of their art," Jim said. "The students appreciate his work even more when they realize what it takes to make a living at it. It's a tough profession." ■

2000s continued



PAULA (WHITE) '04, and ERIC '06, JESSEN announce the birth of a son, Parker Lane, born Sept. 30, 2009.

DAVOYA HUDSON MARSHALL '04, graduated from Keller Graduate School of Management with a master's in project management.

JILL (TUDEEN) TALBOT '05, and her husband, Preston, announce the birth of a daughter, Lillian Grace, born June 8, 2009.

ADAM ARNOLD '06, is a state conservation agent for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation.

KATIE SHERMAN '07, and Colin Mascal were married June 27, 2009. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo., and Colin is working on his master's in applied arts at Western.

RYAN VANDEL '07, and Jenna Owens were married May 30, 2009. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

KELLI MCBEE '08 and NICK OLDHAM '08, were married Aug. 1, 2009. The couple resides in Jefferson City, Mo.

ALLISON DUNGAN '08, and David Johnson were married May 30, 2009.

JARED NUCKOLLS '09, and Kelly Massa were married July 18, 2009. Kelly is an instructor at Western. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

In Memory ...

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

MARTHA J. (RICHARDS) BLIZEWSKI '44, Delafield, Wis., April 4, 2009.

JOHN E. DUKE '74, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 25, 2009.

DONALD D. FOLKS '48, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 18, 2009.

MIKE HIRTER '92, St. Joseph, Mo., July 18, 2009.

EFFIE R. (VESTAL) HULL JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 23, 2009.

LT. COL. JOHN N. HUTTON '35, Gower, Mo., Aug. 25, 2009.

ELEANOR E. (MASON) PITNEY MINOR '36, Monroe City, Mo., Sept. 23, 2009.

DAVID L. REYNOLDS '81, Amazonia, Mo., Aug. 10, 2009.

IRETTA L. ROTH '30, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 7, 2009.

FRANCES E. (LANDIS) SAMPLE JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 20, 2009.

COL. AUSTIN K. THOMAS JC, St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 24, 2009.

JENNIFER HOLLAND '07, earned a master's degree in public administration – health and human services from Upper Iowa University, Fayette. She is currently working on her doctorate in education – leadership and curriculum from the University of Phoenix, Kansas City. She is a licensed massage therapist and is program manager at the Massage Therapy Training Institute in Lawrence, Kan.

JACEY JOHNSTON '07, and Jesen Merle were married Sept. 20, 2008. The couple resides in Plano, Texas.

NIKOLE LOUBEY '07, and Kaleb Caudle were married Sept. 27, 2008. The couple resides in St. Joseph, Mo.

HOLLIE SCHINDLER '07, and Clint Keith were married Jan. 3, 2009. The couple resides in Kansas City, Mo.

KRISTIN JAGO '08, and Mike Elder were married Feb. 7, 2009.

JAKE JOHNSON '09, and Melissa Steadman '09, were married May 9, 2009. The couple resides in Arizona.

MATTHEW MCCUBBIN '09, is the owner of Cubb's Contracting in St. Joseph, Mo. ■

Tell us what's new!

Name _____ Maiden _____ Class of _____

Spouse _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

What's New _____

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

Submit your news online at www.missouriwestern.edu/magazine/alumnote.asp or Alumni Services Office, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.

ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 10 Alumni/Student Networking Luncheon on campus. For more information or to participate, call 816-271-5646.

February 3 Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Norty's Bar & Grill, St. Joseph, Mo.

February 16 Griffs on the Bayou III, 6 p.m., Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks, St. Joseph, Mo. Call 816-271-5646 to RSVP.

March 3 Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Norty's Bar & Grill, St. Joseph, Mo.

March 4-7 MIAA Basketball Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. Watch for information about an alumni gathering!

April 7 Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Norty's Bar & Grill, St. Joseph, Mo.

April 17 Senior Fair on campus, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come meet the soon-to-be alumni!

May 5 Western Wednesday, 5:30 p.m., Norty's Bar & Grill, St. Joseph, Mo.

May 21 Wine and Cheese Pairing, Stonehaus Winery, 6-9 p.m., Lee's Summit, Mo. \$10 per person. Appetizers, wine tasting and a class on wine and cheese pairing. Call 816-271-5646 to RSVP.

The Kansas City Chapter is planning a family bowling night; watch griffonalumni.org for details!

Attention, St. Louis-area alumni - watch your mail for an invitation to the "Spirit of St. Louis" event this spring!

Watch for more information about Alumni Day at the K in June - St. Louis Cardinals vs. Kansas City Royals. Western alumni will be there for the tailgate and game!

For more details on all events, check out griffonalumni.org or call 816-271-5646.



Get your Western gear online!

- Barnes & Noble campus bookstore - missouriwestern.edu, click on "Bookstore" in the A-Z search.
- Bulldog Land, Inc. - gospiritgear.com
- Dream Weaver - gogriffongear.com
- Lid's - lids.com



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Campus Changes

There's lots of excitement at Western lately, with construction ongoing and new things popping up all over campus! Just this fall, new visitor-side bleachers were added to Spratt Memorial Stadium, a new fountain was installed in a campus pond (the first of three), a sculpture was unveiled by Potter Hall and a new entrance sign was installed at the Faraon Street entrance. Remington Hall will open for classes this month, construction continues on the recreational facility for Western and the Kansas City Chiefs summer training camp and the renovation of Agenstein Hall has begun. ■

